Tools for reflexivity and innovation platforms

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**Reflect** – Looking back and thinking about what happened, what does it mean, how to proceed?

**Reflexive**- Challenging rules, practices, assumptions, modes of thinking, of ‘others’ and self.
Reflexive M&E v’s Traditional M&E

REFLEXIVE M&E
• Indicators are not static
• Process indicators predominate in short term
• Focus is on change
• Design may change based on reflection about original assumptions
• Impact is important

TRADITIONAL M&E
• Static indicators as part of logframe
• Output and outcome indicators predominate
• Focus in on achievement of predefined goals
• Structure of project is set in the design and can be modified but not radically changed
• Impact is important
Reflexive Monitoring in Action (RMA)

- Monitoring is an integral part of platform activity.
- Flexible selection of tools: the challenges of the moment determine the best monitoring tool to use.
- Every monitoring activity encourages reflection and learning aimed at system innovation.

“We do not learn from experience …we learn from reflecting on experience.”
John Dewey
Role of the Monitor

- Role and function distinct from that of facilitator
- Advise on dynamic composition of the platform to meet evolving needs
- Retain focus on unresolved problems and long term ambitions
- Maintain the learning history
- Seize opportunities for reflection
Monitoring Tools

Tools available to the RMA monitor...

- Causal Analysis
- Diary/Log book, Participant Profile, Google Analytics, SNA
- Timeline and Learning History
- Farmer Field Days
- Dynamic Learning Agenda
- Most Significant Change
Causal Analysis

- Objective is to find causes that you can treat rather than just symptoms.
- Ask “Why?” five times
- Cause-Effect Diagram supports brainstorming of causes
- Causes may be circular (vicious spirals and virtuous circles)

http://syque.com/quality_tools/tools/TOOLS03.htm
Timeline or Learning History

- Monitor collects data to put together a timeline showing which events happened when.
- Participants write down their key moments of learning or change (highs and lows) in key words on post-its.
- Each participant can share three key comments by placing their post-it on the timeline.
Data collection and Analysis

data documentation tools

- Event log
- Participant Profile
- Meeting minutes
- periodic reflections of people engaged in key functions
- Audio-visual records of the major events
Data collection and Analysis

data reporting tools

• Google Forms
• Google Drive
• Dropbox
• Wiki

GF Auto-generated Results

Date of events and number of participants in Uganda Platforms

Profile of platform participants in Burundi
Data collection and Analysis
data analysis tools

- Descriptive statistics
- Statistical Analysis
- Text Analysis
- Social Network Maps
- Mind Mapping
- Econometric Analysis
- Spatial modelling
Most Significant Change (MSC)

1. Identify no more than 3 types of change you would like to document.

2. Collect stories from platform members and end users and shortlist the best stories.

3. Select story reviewers from amongst your donors and those whom the platform seeks to influence.

4. Reviewers decide on best story and discuss why it is significant.
Example MSC Question

‘Looking back over the last month, what do you think was the most significant change in the quality of people’s lives in this community?’

More information

This module is associated with an elearning module on ‘Understanding, Facilitating and Monitoring Agricultural Innovation Platforms’ available at: http://learning.ilri.org/course/detail/24
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