Training of Trainers on Multi-Stakeholder Platform Facilitation, Gender and Data Management

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The [Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation](#) (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-in-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

Africa RISING appreciates support from the American people delivered through the USAID Feed the Future initiative. We also thank farmers and local partners at all sites for their contributions to the program and the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#).

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Objectives of the training

- To build capacity of Africa RISING multi-stakeholder innovation platform technical committee members on basic concepts of multi-stakeholder engagement for scaling
- To familiarize Africa RISING scaling partners with basic concepts and techniques of gender mainstreaming in their scaling work
- To enhance the knowledge base of Africa RISING contact persons in quality scaling data collection and management

Expected outcomes

- Technical committee members knowledge on innovation systems, scaling and multi-stakeholder's innovation platform facilitation enhanced
- Actions plans developed on establishing multi-stakeholder platforms at the zonal level in each scaling region
- Mutually understood data collection format and data quality management mechanism developed
- Partners have a basic understanding of gender analysis and the minimum standards of collecting sex-disaggregated date
- nutrition mainstreaming and capturing project impacts better understood

Introductory and opening addresses

20-21 November 2019, Addis Ababa- Africa RISING organized a training of trainers on Multi-stakeholder platform facilitation, Gender, Data collection and management for the representatives of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR regional government offices including extension, NGOs, Universities, Research and CGIAR centers with total number of 70 participants have attained the training.

Speaking at the event Dr. Kindu Mekonnen African RISING Ethiopian Highlands program coordinator welcomed the participant and made a short presentation on what Africa RISING is doing in the Ethiopian Highlands. In his welcoming remark, Dr. Kindu acknowledged the great coordination, collaboration and commitment of the crop and livestock experts and NGO support to go for Africa RISING new technologies scaling. He recognized that it would have been impossible to go for scaling without the project partners' involvement and support. He also urges the participant to be active on the training, feedbacks and take valuable lessons.

Day one: Multi-stakeholder platform facilitations
Presenter: Million Gebreyes

Key points
Agricultural Technology Vs Agricultural Innovation

Technology: Conventionally it means

Innovation: Its meaning encompasses

Participatory Technology Development

The role of extension in innovation systems

Group discussion

In the afternoon four of the regions and the site coordinators made discussions to on the following and come up with possible solutions

What are multi-stakeholder innovation platforms?

- Joint planning of activities, implementation, and M&E

- Coordination of activities at Zonal level (resource mobilization, etc)

- Identifying best bet technologies for wider scaling,

- Experience sharing/learning from each other/Knowledge sharing

- Work on seed system development to minimize seed shortage and facilitate scaling (with especial focus to animal feed seed)

- Responsibility sharing among member organization,

- Creates strong networking and develops a sense of ownership,

- Avoid confusions and creates transparency among actors

Potential stakeholders mapping

- Zone administration
- Zone Agriculture and NRM office
- Zone livestock resource development office
- Zone cooperative office
- Zone women, children and youth office
- woreda Agriculture and NRM
- woreda Livestock resource development
- Research woreda cooperative office,
- Research woreda women, children and youth office
- Unions
- Seed producer's cooperative
- Universities
- Credit and Saving association
- Representatives of flour factories
- Farmers

Technical Committee Members Nominated from

- Zone Agriculture and NRM office
- Zone livestock resource development office
- Research Center representative
- University representative
- Africa RISING research woreda Agriculture and NRM office contact persons

       ○   Africa RISING research woreda Livestock resource development office contact person

How to bring the new partners on board

       ○   First, we planned to contact them in person (AR site coordinator and two TC members) to assess their willingness to work in collaboration with Africa RISING project,

       ○   Then, we will organize a small forum on which we will share AR project objectives, innovations, and scaling approaches, MSIP importance, etc and collect their feedback

       ○   Learn from them and identify our future areas of collaboration,

       ○   Involve them in Africa RISING MSIP meetings,

       ○

Discussions and feedback

Following a though discussion within the regional site coordinators and partners for each site from separate regions (Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray), each site presented a draft work plan to all the participants and discussions were made on the following questions.

- Duplications of efforts have been seen in within NGO's Universities and research institutions
- The extension system is not well organized to integrate multi-stakeholder innovation platform
- We need a system to implement national multi-stakeholder innovation platform
- We need to have a common ground with crop and livestock development scaling alignment

Day two Data Quality: From Concept to Report

Presenter: Birhan Abdulkadir

Key points

- Data Quality Meanings
    Anything that alters/changes the ability of data to reflect the 'truth'.
    A perception or an assessment of data's fitness to serve its purpose in a given context.
    A measure, or set of measures, that give an organization an indication of the level of confidence it can have in the data that is used in its operational and strategic decision-making process.
- Good data is our most valuable asset, and bad data can seriously harm our business and credibility.
- Dimensions of Data Quality Checks: Measurement or assessment of records, datasets, database, etc. in order to understand the quality of data.
    - Consistency: No matter where you look in the database you will not find any contradiction in your data
    - Accuracy: The information your data contains corresponds to reality
    - Completeness: All available elements of the data have found their way to the database
    - Auditability: Data is accessible and it's possible to trace introduced changes.

- Orderliness: The data entered has the required format and structure.
- Uniqueness: A data record with specific details appears only once in database.
- Timeliness: Data represents reality within a reasonable period of time

- Sources of Data Quality Issues: Potential problems await at all stages of the process (from planning/design of project to reporting)
- Data Quality Assessment Processes
    - Identify which data items need to be assessed for data quality
    - Evaluate which data quality dimensions
    - Define values or ranges, representing excellent, good or bad quality data based on the weightings
    - Apply the assessment criteria to the data
    - Analyze the results and determine if data quality is acceptable or not
    - Identify in relation to the dimension, the possible source of the data quality issue
    - Take corrective actions e.g. clean the data and improve data handling processes to prevent future recurrence
    - Repeat the above on a periodic basis to monitor trends in data Quality

Presentation Title: **Africa RISING M&E Data Requirements**

Presenter: Birhan Abdulkadir

Key points

- Monitoring
    - A continuous function that uses the systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing development intervention
    - Routinely collects data on indicators, compares actual results with targets
    - Document learning's generated through monitoring
- Evaluation
    - The systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project, including its design, implementation, and results.
    - It determines the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability.
    - Assesses specific causal contributions of activities to results
- Where monitoring and evaluation happen?
- What changes do we expect to monitor? "So, what?"
- Africa RISING Vision of Success: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
- Our beneficiaries
    - Direct beneficiaries: Households directly testing AR SI innovations under the supervision of AR researchers through mother-baby trials or other participatory approaches.

- Indirect beneficiaries: Farmers exposed to AR innovations, without directly engaging in the testing of SI innovations under the supervision of AR researchers.
  - Scaling beneficiaries: Households benefiting from SI innovations(s) that are being scaled up by the development partners.
- Minimum monitoring data requirement
  - Data for monitoring research activities: i.e., detailed geographic and household identifiers, household-specific innovations being tested, dates when households joined the program, Partner organizations involved.
  - Data for monitoring scaling activities: i.e., basic information about innovations being scaled up, development partners in charge of the scaling, the total number of households that benefited from scaling-up activities (disaggregated by the type of AR innovation, gender of beneficiaries (e.g., gender of the household head or individual beneficiary as applicable), reporting period.
- Contents of Africa RISING Data Collection Tools
  - T1_AR Techs-Practices Approach
  - T2_DegreeTrainings
  - T3_non-degree_Trainings
  - T4_Events
  - T5_AfRISING_#HHs
  - T6_Partners_Scaling_#HHs
- Group Works
  - Group Work 1: Hands on Data Collection Tools: Discuss on the contents of the templates
  - Group Work 2: Partners' M&E Data Collection Strategy: How will your Organization integrate (collect, compile & share data, etc.) the Africa RISING M&E needs?, a) Refer to your organization data collection processes, b) Data collection tools: which data tools do you have? Are there common data in both tools? c) Are there additional data required by Africa RISING? How will you integrate additional data for Africa RISING?

Discussions and Feedbacks

- Translate the data collection tools into local languages for ease of data collection and distribute the printed version of the templates.
- The data tools of local partners are found in alignment with the Africa RISING templates. There is no conflict of interests if AR template to capture the original data at kebele & woreda levels.
- Considerations on partitioning of Others column in to two or more columns, because cooperative/ union, and BoA admins are important stakeholders. Tigray team recommends adding youth (disaggregate by gender) next farmers reached.
- Available templates can capture off-season activities and Belg season at Bale.
- The data collection is continuous work. Documenting all the efforts of all stakeholders are used to track our progresses and extracting lesson learns, and simultaneously acknowledgement of the partners. Regarding the donor requirements, the 2019 reporting is already closed. However, the partners are requested to populate the data at hand into the new templates.

- A new template will be developed to capture the feedbacks of beneficiary on the SI technologies, the assistances they get, etc. from systematically drawn samples. Similar template will also be developed to document the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of AR technologies disseminated in collaboration of local partners.

Presentation title: Integration of Gender in the Africa RISING project

Presenter: Annet Mulema

Key points

This session aimed at creating awareness about the difference between gender and sex, and gender stereotypes that influence one's perception or attitude about a particular type of person.

SEX is the biological difference between men and women.

GENDER refers to the socially given attributes, roles, activities, and responsibilities connected to be a female or a male in a given society

Gender analysis

Participants were introduced to the different categories that matter when doing a gender analysis and the importance of a gender analysis. The key gender analysis aspects are including:

- Gender division of labor- the allocation of particular tasks to a particular gender

- Distribution of resources and benefits – Who has what? Differences in the resources one has makes for social differences in benefits and between people, genders, social groups etc.

- Access and Control- Access refers to the opportunity to use something and being able to define and decide on its use. Whereas having control is being able to define and decide on its use.

- Institutions/social norms - Institutions are formal structures that exist in society e.g. government bureaus, banks, while social norms are informal institutions: e.g. patriarchy, religious acceptance, marriage**.**

- Women's empowerment agency and power

Indicators used to measure women's empowerment in agriculture are categorized into three categories i.e. intrinsic, instrumental and collective agency. The details can be accessed at https://weai.ifpri.info/versions/pro-weai/

The Africa RISING project needs to move beyond measuring reach, to measuring benefit and empowerment**.**

- Enabling environment -e.g. Laws, policies, regulations and institutional practices.

At the end of the theoretical presentation, participants practiced using gender analysis tools which where populated with data from a case study. The gender analysis tools that participants practiced using were: 24-hour clock, activity profile, and access and control

profile. Other critical aspects covered where the minimum standards for collecting sex disaggregated data, who to interview, and the importance of context.

Sex-disaggregated data

Sex-disaggregated data are information that is collected about males and females

Gender-disaggregated data are analytical indicators derived from sex-disaggregated data on social and economic attributes

Intra-household data – data with specific information regarding individuals living within the same household

Closing remarks

The closing remark was given by Kindu Mekonnen, Africa RISING program coordinator in Ethiopia highlands. He emphasized the following points.

- Multi-stakeholder engagement   is very important mainly for the agricultural sector as Africa RISING has limited scope, we have to work together to form the national Multi-stakeholder platform
- We want you to include integrate gender in all the project activities and consider its important role to enhance development.
- Please also integrate the key data sharing principles and the African RISING templates in your regular work.

Finally, Dr. Kindu expresses gratitude for all who participated in the training four regions of Ethiopia and he also thanked the team who help this training to be successful.