Postharvest management in Sub-Saharan Africa (PHM-SSA)

Progress 2014 & Key Challenges

Steering Committee Meeting

15 Dec. 2014
Raphael Dischel
- Institutional anchorage & collaboration betw. partners
- M&E and baseline
- Gender as integral focus
- Capacity building concept
- Outcome 1
- Outcome 2
- Outcome 3
- Conclusions 2014
- Key challenges
**Milestone 2014**: Collaboration between main partners and local partners is further consolidated by fostering joint activities, continuous feedback processes and the use of synergies at all levels.

- Generally, the collaboration between HSI-AFAAS-FANRPAN in the countries was intensified and shows improvements.
- More frequent bilateral exchanges betw. HO HSI – partners through skype helped align ideas and coordination.
- Key events were organized back to back with mutual participation of all partners: Validation workshops of studies, planning meetings – creating synergies and saving costs.
- FANRPAN node in Benin (hosted by PASCiB) is operational and shows good dynamics after only one year.
- Good example: Close cooperation betw. HSI-AFAAS in Benin!
Milestone 2014: Collaboration between main partners and local partners is further consolidated by fostering joint activities, continuous feedback processes and the use of synergies at all levels

- Building of national PHM networks is taking time… AFAAS country forum networks do not exist yet.
- Presence and involvement of AFAAS & FANRPAN focal persons in the intervention areas remained weak (only 1-2 visits in 2014)
- Tight schedules for joint visits hindered full participation of partners in field visits and events (esp. Mozambique)

Key challenge:

→ Coordination of national activities reg. trainings, curriculum developm. and dissemination materials does not work well.
→ Split of responsibilities betw. HSI for OC1, AFAAS for OC 2 is not efficient / productive.
Milestone 2014: Baseline survey conducted and validated in both countries and project database established.

- Baseline studies conducted and validated in Benin & Mozambique, database in each country established.
- Good quality of baseline studies, sound data, useful findings for implementation
- Development of an overall M&E system is in progress

- Baseline study in Benin did not sufficiently include the target beneficiaries of the project. E.g. Savalou/Benin: > 50% of households have > 5 ha
  → Selection of beneficiaries (maybe even zone) needs to be corrected
**Gender as integral focus**

**Milestone 2014**: Gender included as integral part of the project; gender explicitly tackled in policy studies/briefs, assessment of PHM technologies and in the development of dissemination tools.

- A webinar on «Gender roles in PHM» was organized with participation of all consortium members. It fostered the joint understanding of gender roles in grain PHM chains.
- Small local survey of traditional gender roles in PHM conducted in Benin (working hours of ♀ + ♂ per PHM step)
- Gender roles analyzed in pre-storage technology assessment in Moz. (Evaluation of drying + threshing techn. by HAFL student)
- Gender roles considered in nat. PHM policy analysis (2 studies)

- How to translate findings on gender roles into specific measures? (e.g. are gender specific tools & contents for dissemination needed?)
**Milestone 2014**: Capacity development concept for the PHM-SSA project elaborated for coherent production of training / dissemination materials, and capacity building of different actors.

- Overall capacity dev. concept was elaborated for general guidance to all consortium partners.
- For pilot activities (outcome 1) capacity development plans were elaborated.
- So far, there is no comprehensive & detailed capacity development plan that includes all identified levels.
- Finding suitable trainer of trainers is a challenge (esp. In Mozambique as IIAM is not a reliable partner).
Milestone 2014: Participatory evaluation of improved trad. Granaries, super/triple bags and metal silos conducted in the pilot areas of both countries. Target: 180 families in each country, including 50% women.

- Benin: … households validated improved clay silo; … : conic wooden granary; … triple bags: Prototype metal silos of different size produced
- Mozambique: validation protocole developed, 216 households from 12 communities selected, 50 metal silos produced

- Validation of PHM practices at a larger scale is behind schedule in both countries (1 year). Validation in Mozambique did not start yet.
- First metal silos produced = sub-standard (not soldered, not hermetic, different format etc.)
- «Basekt of PHM technologies» needs that is promoted by the project needs further specification
Outcome 1

Milestone 2014: Traditional + improved pre-storage technologies (e.g. drying, grading, transport) assessed in the pilot areas of both countries, constraints and best practices identified in a gender sensitive way.

- Mozambique: assessment of improved drying and threshing with 63 farmers (planned: 144), considering work split \( \frac{\text{♀}}{\text{♂}} \): Drying in grain on cement platforms or plastic sheets reduces losses significantly. Small mechanical thresher = good potential, e.g. as an ambulant service.

- Benin: 72 farmers validated conical wooden granary, improved clay silos and triple bags (PICS). Good results for clay silos & PICS, but wooden granaries not convincing.

- Timing of harvest: most crops remain in the field for a long period

- Transport field – house: often long distances, by hand, losses on the way, contamination…

- What implication will the introduction of improved drying/threshing practices have on women work load?
Outcome 1

Milestone 2014: Key partners and entry points of local/national input supply chains for traditional silos, triple bags / super bags, metal silos and drying technologies identified; partnerships established.

- Study on metal silo input markets in Mozambique: Costs = 100$ / 700 kg; input supplier identified & first tinsmith artisans trained
- Pilot with warehouse receipt system in Benin: 169 producers, 68 t of grain stored over 6 months, link to local MFI, ~ 17’000 US$ credit.
- Market linkages betw. Triple Bag supplier (Niger) & local trader(s) in Benin were established. Import of ZeroFly bags ongoing.

- Which business model for new PHM technologies may work?
- Lack of MFI, esp. in Mozambique: How can farmers & artisans have access to finance to invest in new PHM technologies?
- Transport for supply metal silo/metal sheets is far and expensive!
- Dissemination needs to base on good practice examples: so far not existent -How to create sufficient evidence with limited means?
**Milestone 2014**: Sensitization campaign on importance of PHM conducted in each pilot area through broad radio coverage, leaflets and demonstrations.

- Partnerships with radios & farmer organizations were established to conduct broad awareness campaigns in both countries
- Didactic videos on cowpea PHM were translated in 5 local languages; A proposal for a video on maize PHM was submitted to Access Agriculture (Benin).
- First sensitization activities were realized through local radio programmes and demonstration sites (silos, drying, etc.)

**Delay in implementation…**

- The first sensitization campaign in Moz. was postponed to 2015
- Main sensitization activities in Benin were postponed to 2015, a few activities carried out in 2014 (radio dissemination).
**Outcome 1**

**Milestone 2014**: 1000 farmers trained in improved PHM practices in each country, using crop-specific PHM training curricula, the FFS approach, identified RAS approaches and first training materials.

- Farmers who participated in pilots received training on the use of PHM technologies and improved postharvest handling.

**Activity delayed by one year**... Reasons:

- Dependency on training tools → There are delays in the planning, conceptualization and production of training and dissemination materials (no material produced yet)

- Insufficient evidence from the pilot activities since validation of PHM technologies has started only partly.
Improved maize drying in grain on cement platforms, Nampula/Mozambique
**Milestone 2014**: Synthesis of existing PHM experience and good practices (own / other initiatives) at nat./reg. level documented in posters, brochures etc. and brought in at events and trainings, AFAAS platform, the new CoP.

- Nat./reg. studies on existing RAS in PHM were finalized + validated → Basis to define basket of dissemination tools
- Existing RAS tools / materials that are used in Benin (Savalou, Atacora) were compiled and compared.
- There is a wealth of field studies, factshets etc. on PHM in Benin which can be built on (but very limited material in Moz.)

- Studies on existing RAS approaches remained at a general level, providing only a weak basis to specify key tools for the project.
- There is an important delay in the development of dissemination tools
- The AFAAS PHM virtual platform is not yet very dynamic.
Milestone 2014: At least three RAS approaches and tools for dissemination of PHM related topics developed and applied in first capacity building activities of farmers, extensionists and private actors.

- The draft contents of first training curriculums and materials were elaborated in workshops (both countries)
- A manual on PHM trainings is in elaboration (Moz.)
- 20 artisans trained in improved clay silo construction
- Use and production of didactic videos in local languages in progress (cowpea/maize).

- No specific RAS approaches developed yet
- Production of curriculum and training materials is delayed
- No trainings conducted yet
Milestone 2014: Private actors identified in each country who will include advice on PHM topics in their service (embedded services, e.g. input suppliers, traders); actor-specific contents for trainings and dissemination tools elaborated.

- Collaboration with some local traders (e.g. Triple bags), input suppliers (e.g. metal sheet importer in Moz.)
- First linkages to micro-finance institutes established in Benin (warehouse receipt system)
- Partnerships with mobile phone operator(s) for cash free money transfer are being established (Mozambique).
- First artisans trained in the prod. of improved clay silo & metal silo
- Very weak local markets for input supplies (esp. in Mozambique): only a few traders and local agro-shops – How to promote PHM-technologies & services as a business?
- Development of training contents delayed
Milestone 2014: First Training-of-Trainer workshops conducted for extension workers and private enterprises in each country.

- A training cascade was defined for three actor groups:
  1) Extension services
  2) Input suppliers, financial services
  3) Media (social (animators))

- Manuals for training /awareness building material were elaborated

- No Trainings-of-Trainees conducted so far (activity depending on curriculum development)
Traditional «Etatapo» drying methodology, Nampula, Mozambique
Outcome 3

Milestone 2014: Main policy gaps in national PHM policies identified, considering gender roles / relations (national PHM policy studies), findings compared to field realities and key policy messages defined.

• Key findings from national policy studies:

  Benin: a need to set up a permanent PHM M&E system to guide PHM interventions; dev. of an inventory of promising technologies by categories of farmers & differential targeting of beneficiaries of PHM technologies (small to large farmers, traders); set up an extension system to foster their adoption.

  Mozambique: need to create a national PHM working group with broad representation under MINAG; design of standalone strategic policy documents on PHM, aligned with other regional policies; consider gender roles in PHM; increase participation of smallholders in PHM analysis; collect sound, coherent data on PHL in Moz. and establish database.

• Challenge to translate the findings of the national studies to a language which is comprehensible to a less specialized public…

• How to link the policy work at the national level better with the implementation work and the realities in the field?
Outcome 3

Milestone 2014: Policy brief elaborated for each country on identified key topics; briefs published and brought in to key decision makers.

- Policy brief papers elaborated based on national policy studies (English), addressing need for action in PHM
- Policy briefs are translated to national language (in progress); «translation» of key messages to a broader public foreseen in 2015.
- Standard procedures and requirements for publications of the project such as policy briefs need to be defined better (feedback process, reference to the project and SDC).
- Use of policy briefs as awareness creation and advocacy tool in policy dialogues, events, web platforms is pending.
Milestone 2014: Existing national frameworks for food standards /norms analysed and gaps related to PHM identified in both countries, proposal for inclusion of PHM in existing frameworks developed.

- Studies on national food standards / norms related to PHM were conducted (draft report available, final report by end 2014)
- Findings discussed and validated during a broad stakeholder consultation in both countries, including broad media coverage.

- Food norms and standards are a very technical topic: How to bring messages down to the operational level of local grain value chains?
- How to create early benefits, e.g. increased awareness of farmers/local traders in the practical application of standards?
Milestone 2014: Policy related messages on relevant PHM topics, based on evidence from the field and further research, compiled in a virtual database and accessible to project partners.

- An open access database at FANRPAN level is under construction
- Ad interim, relevant PHM documents can be shared via the FANRPAN hosted AfriCAN portal.
- Use of social media: Twitter campaign during FANRPAN regional dialogue. Broad roll out of social media activities in 2015.

- High costs for an independent platform ⟷ include it in the FANRPAN website
- How to best stimulate contributions to and the use of the new open access database? Within the project & for other stakeholders?
- How to link it best to the new FAO-hosted Community of Practice on PHM?
Milestone 2014: Findings from policy analysis, studies and experience from pilot activities brought in during national and regional events of relevance.

- A broad range of national stakeholders was consulted to draw conclusions from nat. policy studies (Benin: 35, Moz: 52) and study on food norms.
- Project results and findings were prominently brought in and discussed at a PHM side event of the FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogue in Madagascar (Oct. 14)
- Findings from RAS studies brought in at RUFORUM conference (July 2014) and National Extension Meeting in Mozambique.
- Participation in and contribution to regional events should be more result oriented (beyond showcasing the project)
- How to make sure that recommendations of the policy analysis reach the level of implementation?
The basket of “good PHM practices” was further specified: improved clay granary (Benin), triple/super bags, metal silo, drying in grain (platforms, plastic).

There is a potential for metal silos in Mozambique (affordability, availability of raw material), however it will be a long way to go until basic, self-sustained market structures are developed.

There are some promising options of local financial services which the project will further explore: warehouse receipt system (Benin), mobile-based money transfer (Mozambique).

Potentials and shortcomings of national PHM and food standards policies (Benin, Mozambique) were addressed, propositions to improve them were made and brought in during broad stakeholder consultations.

The project is still in the early phase of building evidence of good practice examples in the pilot zones. Validation of PHM practices at a broader scale is delayed by one year.

Some awareness creation activities started in the pilot zones (radio, f2f events in districts, demonstration), didactic tools such as videos under elaboration…
However, there is a **substantial delay in the development of dissemination tools and curriculums**, and the systematic **capacity building** through trainings and use of PHM specific RAS tools.

**Gender** was included as a **transversal topic** at all levels (validation of PHM technologies, policy analysis, RAS), but needs to be further enhanced to address gender roles & relationships consistently.


Different **linkages to other projects** were created, e.g. Agricultural vocational programme Benin (PAFPAA, SDC funded), C4CP regional programme W-Africa (USAid), Food security and agribusiness project Mozambique (SAAN, HSI own project), CTA funded PHM policy programme (implemented by FANRPAN), GPFS programme of FAO/IFAD/WFP etc.
1. Lack of operational capacities of AFAAS in the countries
The AFAAS networks in Benin/Moz. (country forums) are not yet institutionalized. AFAAS focal persons work on their own. AFAAS country forums lack the capacity to implement project activities and administrate fiduciary funds.

2. Difficult coordination of capacity building activities (national)
The split of responsibilities in the implementation of dissemination materials, curriculums and trainings betw. HSI and AFAAS proved inefficient. Lack of coherent approach was lacking, roles unclear. Considerable delays due to lack of operational capacities at AFAAS level.

3. The project resources are not adequate vis-à-vis the expected results
The available human resources are not sufficient to ensure implementation of planned activities and ensure high quality, especially at the national level 50% HSI coordination, 20% AFAAS, 20% FANRPAN). The creation of sound evidence and broader dissemination in African countries requires staff!
4. Collaboration between FANRPAN-AFAAS-HSI at national level needs to be enhanced (work as one project)

At the national level, HSI, AFAAS and FANRPAN largely worked independently, with limited overlaps and linkages. There was only little presence and involvement of AFAAS & FANRPAN focal persons in the project activities in the intervention areas. More joint planning and implementation of activities is needed to act as one project.

5. Pro-active sharing of results and mutual consultation

Active sharing of results, resources and links among the colleagues of the consortium improved, but remained limited. Usually, project resources & inputs are only provided upon explicit request from the coordinator. It should be mandatory for each partner to actively share results and consult the other partners (for publications even SDC).

6. What are suitable business models for new PHM technologies?

Finding viable business models for new PHM technologies – triple bags, metal silos, etc. – is a big challenge! Lack of private actors who could “embed” services, absence of input markets, a widespread receiver mentality (created by former projects and government programmes...).