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1. DIMELT

1.1 DIMELT, in partnership with Agribusiness Systems International (ASI), an affiliate of ACDI/VOCA, engaged external consultants to review the Nutrition-Sensitive Intervention (NSI) Selection Tool. After finalization, this web-based tool will guide development practitioners in agriculture through the process of identifying, designing, and implementing NSIs.

1.2 As part of ATONU’s technical assistance services, two initiatives were supported in August:
- A concept note to support the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD’s) Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) on rice and cassava in Nigeria was developed and submitted to IFAD for consideration. The concept note seeks to address the gaps in the VCPD design by promoting nutrition-sensitive interventions, to achieve VCPD’s overall goal of helping the poor to overcome poverty-related food and nutrition insecurity.

1.3 Impact Assessments:
- A Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) was signed with Harvard Chan School of Public Health to conduct NSI impact assessment. The study design is a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) in which two intervention arms are being compared to a control
arm. The baseline data will be collected during the last quarter of 2016 (October to November) and will be followed-up with collection of data at mid-line and end-line after 18 months.

2. POCTA
In the month of August, POCTA focussed mainly on the recruitment of gender and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) consultants and advertising for the positions of ATONU field assistants and national coordinators for Ethiopia and Tanzania. The consultants will support ATONU activities on the development of the nutrition-sensitive interventions content and also approaches of engaging ACCG households in the areas of nutrition and hygiene, women empowerment and gender.

ATONU field assistants will support the delivery of nutrition-sensitive interventions at community levels. The field assistants will be village-based, with each village having one assistant. Staff recruitment is in progress and interviews for field assistants and zonal coordinators will be held in September in Dodoma, Tanzania.

In Ethiopia the recruitment for the ATONU National Coordinator will be done in partnership with ILRI and interviews are scheduled for end of September, while recruitment of field assistants will take place soon after.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CD)
CD, in partnership with POCTA, finalised the recruitment of SBCC and gender experts for Ethiopia and Tanzania.

CD is working on a consultant to develop a resource mobilisation strategy for FANRPAN.

4. PACK
4.1 Social Media: Tweet Reach Snapshot for #ATONU (Current) • 49,201 accounts reached (a total number of estimated unique Twitter users that tweet about #ATONU) • 246,433 impressions (total number of times tweets about ATONU were delivered to twitter streams or tweet has been delivered to the twitter stream of a particular account).

4.2 FANRPAN Communication Strategy
PACK has hired a consultant to develop a FANRPAN Communication and Advocacy Strategy in line with the 2016-2023 Strategic Plan. A draft strategy is expected early October in time for the FANRPAN Board Meeting.

4.3 ATONU Learning Engagements
4.3.1 Dr Lindiwe Majele-Sibanda, ATONU Director, attended two ATONU-related learning events in Johannesburg, South Africa. The first was the AGRA Roundtable Discussion on Drought Resilience held on 18 August. Southern Africa is experiencing the worst drought witnessed in 35 years, with widespread crop failures exacerbating chronic malnutrition. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has projected that almost 40 million people could face food insecurity by the peak of the coming lean season, between January and March 2017, when the effects of the drought are expected to peak. The roundtable’s discussions were through the lens of resilience programming—how to anticipate crises such as Southern Africa’s current drought and prepare the people on the ground for the worst impacts—to ensure that it is embraced by most development initiatives.
The second event was as an inspirational key note speaker at Mary Scholes, a high level internship programme at University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the Wits Rural Facility on 22 August. The session was under the theme of “Challenges of feeding the world into the next 50 years”.

4.3.2 Dr Simbarashe Sibanda, ATONU Managing Director attended the 2nd congress of the World Public Health Nutrition Association and a post congress workshop on Food Systems: Policy Research Workshop convened by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Cape Town 30 August – 3 September. The theme of the second congress was “Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition in a Globalised World”. The congress tackled issues related to the double burden of malnutrition, that is, undernutrition and obesity, in both developed and developing nations, with many practical examples from the “south”. The one-day meeting on Non-Communicable Disease Research Meeting was to facilitate sharing of experiences among researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America and selected developed countries and explore opportunities for collaborations in food systems research in low- and middle-income countries.

Some emerging lessons and examples for ATONU included potential research areas for ATONU, especially on coherence of nutrition and food security policy environment in the three focal countries.

5. Operations and Systems
(i) The Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) negotiations with Harvard were completed and signed off.
(ii) The finalization of CIP budgets as per agreed work plan and the Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) negotiations with the CIPs are ongoing. The organisations include:
   - International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
   - Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and
   - Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)
(iv) The recommendations from the review of FANRPAN internal IT environment to ensure FANRPAN’s readiness for system implementation were completed.
(v) The implementation process on the new automated finance system (Serenic Navigator) commenced on the 29th of August and is scheduled to go live on 23 November 2016.

ATONU Related Events
- **10-11 October 2016**: FANRPAN Board Meeting
- **26-28 October 2016**: Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, Accra, Ghana