In this Issue

- Work Packages updates
- Gender, Environment and Monitoring & Evaluation
- Calendar
- Resources
- Related Events

Work Packages updates

DIMELT/ POCTA

Nutrition-Sensitive Intervention (NSI) Research Designs:
During January and February, the DIMELT/POCTA team engaged biometricians in the development of research designs and methodology for two pilot projects. The biometricians have conducted background assessments, including Skype meetings, with DIMELT/POCTA teams. The team focused on two projects: Tanzania’s Sesame Value Chain project and Ethiopia’s African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) project. The team of biometricians comprise: Stephen Young (NRI); Charles Opondo (LCIRAH); Benedict Kazuzuru (SUA); and James Kakande (AfrII). The team is supported by Nilupa Gunaratna from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Baseline Study Design: The DIMELT/POCTA team engaged in the design of the Baseline Study data collection tools. The draft questionnaire has been circulated to other members of the Consortium for comment.

Ethical Clearance Application: As part of meeting the requirements for the Baseline Study, the DIMELT/POCTA team, coordinated by LCIRAH, has embarked on assembling relevant documents for presentation to the Ethical Committees of the respective countries.

Project Impact Plan (PIP): The DIMELT/POCTA team finalized the PIP for the Sesame Value Chain project. This plan illustrates the anticipated pathways for measuring impacts of prioritized NSIs along all the results levels.

Results Framework: The DIMELT/POCTA team reviewed the draft Results Frameworks and Work Plans for each of the pilot projects. Comments from the CMs were received and are being incorporated.

FANRPAN/ATONU Monitoring and Evaluation System: The FANRPAN DIMELT team has commenced the process leading to the development of the Automated/online M&E System. A concept note for the scoping review for this System is currently under development. The System is expected to be functional by June 2016.

What is Next?
1. Develop six-month work plan, with activities, LOE, generic team composition and timelines, for the period March – Sept 2016.
2. Allocate personnel from consortium members to different activities based on competency from past performance and availability.
3. WPMs to liaise with CMs regarding preferred team members and LoE. CMs to provide daily rates for selected personnel for use in budgeting.
4. WPMs to work with Finance to compile the budget for each output and related activities, broken down by consortium organization and share with the respective consortium members for their feedback or comments.
5. Upon agreement on the six-month work plan and budget, a draft contract to be developed and sent to each consortium member organization for sign-off.
PACK

Communication and Advocacy Strategy
The development of the communication and advocacy strategy has been delayed in order to facilitate alignment with the forthcoming FANRPAN Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The alignment will integrate the ATONU communication strategy into the FANRPAN institutional framework and programming. The draft strategy is expected to be ready May 2016. The activities for the PACK work package will continue as per work plan.

ATONU webpage
FANRPAN has engaged a website developer for the revamping of the FANRPAN website, including the ATONU webpage. Work on the ATONU webpage has begun and should be completed by April 2016.

Social Media:
Tweet Reach Snapshot for #atonu
- 43,111 accounts reached (total number of estimated unique Twitter users that tweets about #ATONU were delivered to)
- 351,412 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)

Gender, Environment and Monitoring & Evaluation

GENDER

Gender Strategy
The gender strategy has been finalized following comments received from the foundation. The Gender Working Group has further developed a two paged implementation guidelines document to assist the work package teams in implementing components of the strategy.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Sustainability
The environmental sustainability strategy is in the process of being finalized. The team is working on including an assessment of the social dimensions, as instructed by the Steering Committee. The strategy will be ready for submission to the foundation 01 March 2016.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

FANRPAN will develop a robust and sustainable Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (PMERL) System. This automated System will include an efficient, stable, secure, expandable and interoperable functions. For ATONU, the System will be used to provide quick analysis of trends and comparisons against indicator targets, as well as clear definition of tools for the collection, entry, and analysis of data (baseline and bi-annually/annually). The System is anticipated to be fully functional by September 2016.

Calendar

ATONU Reporting and Meeting Calendar

24 -25 February 2016: Meeting between the foundation and FANRPAN, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ATONU 2016 Sub-grantee Financial Reporting Dates

Final Report for entire sub grant term:
To facilitate budget re-allocation and approval by the foundation, CMS are requested to submit financial reports previously due on 31 March 2016 by 15 March 2016 or earlier where possible.
RESOURCES

Literature:

• Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Programming: A Nutrition-Sensitive Approach for Market-Based Agricultural Projects by Mercy Corps

• Nutrition and Gender-Sensitive Agriculture Mapping Tool by SNV and KIT

• The All-Party Parliamentary Group – Agriculture and Food for Development http://www.appg-agdev.co.uk/


• The Emergency Nutrition Network’s quarterly publication Field Exchange brings together operationally-focussed research and field experience on topics important to those working on nutrition. The current edition, out now, focusses on nutrition-sensitive programming, and so could be useful to operational agencies working on ag-nutrition linkages. This edition includes 25 field articles on a range of experiences with nutrition-sensitive programming and research from different sectors, initiatives and contexts, along with relevant research, views and news. The link to the edition online is at www.ennonline.net/fex

• New IARC report urges action against widespread mycotoxin contamination in developing countries. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has released a Working Group of report, summary and press release in the past week. The Expert Working Group comprised of world-leading experts was convened by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF -http://www.gatesfoundation.org/ ) to review the health effects of aflatoxins and fumonisins. The well-structured and comprehensive IARC report, titled “Mycotoxin Control in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”, posted at http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/pdfs-online/wrk/wrk9/IARC_publicationWGR9_full.pdf

• Recently published special issue of the Journal of Development Studies on “Farm-Level Pathways to Improved Nutritional Status” This is a collection of 8 studies (the majority of them using African data) and is available at: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fjds20/51/8

RELATED EVENTS

• Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) Annual Forum Planning – April 12-13, 2016


• The Agriculture, Nutrition & Health (ANH) Academy invites the global community of ANH researchers and users of this research to the first ANH Academy Week to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 20-24 June 2016. The ANH Academy Week will be an annual event, expanding on the successful history of the five Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) conferences and events and activities by CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) and Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Action (IMMANA). The ANH Academy Week programme will feature contributions from a diverse set of ANH Academy partners and with the oversight of an International Steering Committee, including:

1) Conference on Agri-Health Research. The call for abstracts is now open

2) Learning Labs (training workshops) offered by ANH Academy partners

3) Events led by ANH Academy partner organisations

4) Opportunities for networking

• Call for abstracts: A call for abstracts for those willing to present at the Research Conference is now open. Abstracts can be submitted by 28 February 2016.

• More: http://tinyurl.com/hvzlmua