The First Issue!

Welcome to the first issue of our internal newsletter – “The Insider”. As discussed in Kampala in 2015, the PACK team would develop a monthly internal newsletter beginning 2016. Through this newsletter, we aim to improve the internal communication among the consortium members by sharing activities of the work packages and resources that can augment our efforts within ATONU. It is our hope that everyone will embrace this initiative and improve future editions. Please feel free to contribute with comments for improvements and information we can share. E-mail: fanrpan-atonu@fanrpan.org

DIMELT/POCTA undertake missions to Tanzania and Ethiopia

When were the missions undertaken?

The missions were undertaken to the four pilot projects during the following periods:

- **Sesame:** 29 November – 4 December 2015
- **NAFAKA:** 7 – 12 December 2015
- **LIVES:** 6 – 17 December 2015
- **ACGG:** 9 – 17 December 2015

What were the objectives of the missions?

- Review findings from the desk studies and conduct field visits
- Meet with project staff and a sample of beneficiaries to collect location-specific data and/or information to better inform Nutrient Sensitive Interventions (NSIs) and research design
- Clarify the relevance of and prioritise the suggested Nutrient Sensitive Interventions (NSIs) for the two projects in each country
- Develop project impact pathways, results framework and indicators for different level results (impact, outcomes and outputs) for each project
- Further elaborate the prioritized NSIs: define research protocols, work plans and budgets
- Engage and build trust with project staff prior to implementation of the NSIs
- Build awareness and understanding of project staff about ATONU and nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Identify and involve relevant stakeholders that will support implementation of the NSIs
- Develop an indicative budget for each intervention and pilot project
- Discuss and agree on next steps for Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Which project stakeholders were met?

The DIMELT/POCTA Teams met with national and local project personnel and partners in different project sites in the two countries Ethiopia and Tanzania.
Ethiopia:

- Livestock and Irrigation value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES): The regions visited included: Lume and Dugda in East Shoa, Oromia; Mecha and Andrassa in West Gojjam; and Wukto in Tigray
- The African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG): The regions visited included Axum (Axum Agricultural Research Centre; and households in Debeza Kebele in Tay Maychew Wareda) and Oromia (households in Modjo and Melkassa Nutrition Research Unit and Debre Zeit Poultry Research Unit)

Tanzania:

- Sesame Value Chain project: Due to logistical reasons, the visits were limited to Majengo and Indagire Villages of Babati District
- NAFAKA Staples Value Chain Activity (NAFAKA). There was no site visit for this project. Instead, the team met with local project personnel at the project headquarters in Morogoro

A brief outline of the work undertaken by each of the teams

The joint missions to Ethiopia and Tanzania accomplished the following:

- Met with project staff and a sample of beneficiaries to collect location-specific data and/or information to better inform NSIs and research design
- Clarified the relevance of the NSIs previously identified in Kampala for the Tanzanian projects, including their further review, prioritization, and eventual selection for each of the projects
- Developed project impact pathways, reviewed/developed results frameworks, and selected key impact-level indicators
- Initiated the process of further elaboration of the prioritized NSIs
- Engaged and built trust with project staff for each of the projects
- Created awareness and understanding of project staff about ATONU and nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Identified and involved relevant stakeholders anticipated to support the implementation of the NSIs.

What are the steps being undertaken to complete the outstanding mission activities?

- Finalize Frameworks, especially Frameworks 3 and 4
- Finalize NSI Concept Notes and Work plans for each project
- Finalize NSI results frameworks and M&E plans for each project
- Develop baseline survey instruments for each project
- Submit applications for Ethical clearance with the various national and partner institutions
- Develop baseline design (to produce sample frame, draft protocol, survey tools and logistics)
- Conduct baseline study, including: Identification of enumerators; Training of enumerators; Finalisation of survey instruments; and Pretesting of survey instruments in the field
- Roll out implementation of NSIs

What are the pipeline activities for the next steps?

In order to complete the designs of the proposed interventions, the following activities are in the pipeline:

- Identification of the sampling frame for each of the projects
- Calculation of the sample size for each of the projects
- Selection of the households – for both control and treatment
- Identification of the appropriate experimental households, including assorted combinations and cluster randomization
- Budgeting will only be undertaken once the designs of the NSIs are completed, and the sample size and experimental plots/households identified.

Any interesting/unanticipated outcomes during the fields visits?

- There was observable willingness to participate in the ATONU interventions by the targeted smallholder farming households as well as local public institutions and NGOs
- Building consensus among members on appropriate criteria for selection and prioritization of NSIs took longer than anticipated. There were divergent views on approaches among the team members.
- There were high expectations from ATONU by some community members.
ATONU Reporting and Meeting Calendar

2016 Steering Committee Meeting Dates
Note - Meetings are convened on a needs basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 – 29 January 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Feb. / 1 – 2 March 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 – 30 March 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 – 20 April 2016</td>
<td>Face to face meeting *</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 – 27 May 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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<td>27 – 29 June 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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<td>27 – 29 July 2016</td>
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<td>29 – 31 August 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 – 30 September 2016</td>
<td>1700 – 1830 hours PTA time</td>
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ATONU 2016 Sub-grantee Financial Reporting Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target, Milestone or Reporting Deliverables (Report Type)</th>
<th>Investment period</th>
<th>Due by:</th>
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ATONU-related Events Calendar

- Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) Annual Forum Planning – April 12-13, 2016
- ICT and Agriculture Mini Conference: ATONU has been invited to present its case and to participate in panel discussions at the ICT and Agriculture Mini Conference in February 2016 in East London, South Africa. Core focus areas include how ICT can be harnessed to enhance the lives of rural women and children in the agricultural sector. The conference will also look at the potential contribution of ICT to capacitate small and emerging farmers, as well as the extent that ICT can help to increase agricultural productivity and improve rural livelihoods.

Living Land Programme, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation SABC 2, South Africa, March 2016

a. ATONU has been invited to provide input for the popular Living Land television programme regarding aspects of nutrition, especially the mitigation and alleviation of protein deficiencies in rural African communities. This particular episode will feature the fascinating topic of harvesting and farming with insects as a source of high quality organic protein. Living Land is screened weekly on SABC2 in South Africa and concentrates on promoting, uplifting and educating African farmers and rural communities.

b. In the second opportunity to participate on SABC2’s Living Land programme, ATONU will provide input for an episode that features the Lungisa Indela Village in rural KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. This village provides residential care for orphaned and vulnerable children. In this model village about 600 children are placed in a family environment with a trained foster mother to care for them and a school to educate them. The village also produces some of its own food by practising conservation agriculture.

ATONU-related Media/Communication Opportunities

Internship content management and social media for the e-Agriculture Community of Practice - FAO

e-Agriculture is currently looking for an intern for a six-month internship with the e-Agriculture Community of Practice. Interns have to be less than 30 years old. The internship will be based in Rome, Italy at FAO. The internship can either start in February or in July. The deadline for applications is 22 January 2016. You can find the terms of reference and instructions on how to apply through the following link:

Applications and requests for more information can be send to info@e-agriculture.org

Sharing Resources

The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses (IYP)!
The IYP 2016 aims to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses, such as lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas, as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition. The Year will create a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, better utilize crop rotations and address the challenges in the trade of pulses. Visit the International Year of Pulses Website to find great news and events, resources, recipes and more:

Bringing African voices to the table around global hunger & food security

Food and agriculture policy might not sound exciting, but just spend a morning with Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda and you might change your mind.