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1. ATONU reflection and learning meeting

The ATONU team and partners convened a successful reflection and learning meeting from 17-19 September 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim of the 3-day meeting was to draw lessons from the implementation experiences and impact of the ATONU Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions. Presentations and discussions covered the following:

i) Background to the ATONU project
ii) ACGG project and its relationship to ATONU
iii) Development of ATONU frameworks (tools) and selection of nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs)
iv) Implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions
v) Process monitoring of field implementation
vi) ATONU human stories of change
vii) Results of impact evaluation in Ethiopia and Tanzania
viii) Outputs from ATONU: publications, frameworks, tools and manuals
ix) How can we use the research results for policy engagements?
x) Presentation of results from sponsored MSc student projects

1.1 Participants

The meeting was attended by ATONU partners, comprising staff from FANRPAN, ILRI, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Addis Continental Institute of Public Health, Tanzania Livestock Research Institute, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Ethiopian institutions who work in the area of agriculture-nutrition and food systems, ATONU sponsored Masters students and program officers from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. On day 1 there were 24 participants, 34 on Day 2 and 20 on Day 3.
Participants at the ATONU reflection and learning meeting held 17-19 September 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1.2 Meeting programme and emerging lessons

**Day 1: Monday 17 September 2018**

The first day of the meeting was attended by 24 delegates. Dr Siboniso Moyo, ILRI DG’s representative in Ethiopia, gave the welcome address. In the address she gave a background on the ATONU project and expressed her regard for the reflection and learning meeting as an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and lessons of the project. FANRPAN’s CEO, Mr Munhamo Chisvo gave the opening remarks.

A Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Senior Programme Officer, Shelly Sundberg, spoke about *Improving the Impact of Food systems on nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia*. In her address she highlighted the vision guiding the Foundation’s nutrition work as well as the Nutrition and Agricultural programmes’ development strategies. In addition, she spoke about the challenges to nutrition in low to medium income countries and closed by highlighting prioritized research questions in light of future trends in food systems.

*From left: Dr Siboniso Moyo (ILRI DG’s representative in Ethiopia), Mr Munhamo Chisvo (FANRPAN CEO) and Shelly Sundberg (Senior programme officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) during the opening session of the ATONU reflection and learning meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
Emerging lessons from Day 1

The following lessons emerged from proceedings of the first day:

i) Working with existing agriculture projects to integrate nutrition is challenging – better to start at design and planning stage.

ii) Sustainability of interventions need agricultural extension officers to be trained in nutrition.

iii) Governments and investors should consider adopting the approach used in gender and women empowerment for nutrition – no project to be implemented without a nutrition component.

iv) When selecting projects for integrating nutrition, consider opportunities for optimizing project benefits beyond traditional agricultural objectives, theory of change and whether project has room for flexibility in reallocating budget for nutrition.

v) For sustainability of interventions, work with government development and other local institutions.

vi) Men engagement is key for women empowerment.

vii) Engagement and involvement of local leadership enhances project acceptance and participation by the rest of the target members.

viii) Understanding the context/environment (people, culture, production and productivity systems) facilitates NSI delivery.

ix) Use of diverse and complementary approaches to deliver NSIs reinforces messages

x) Building local communities of practice enhanced peer learning.

xi) Understanding context-specific food, nutrition, agriculture and market systems is key when promoting dietary diversity.

Day 2: Tuesday 18 September 2018

The second day of the meeting was attended by 34 delegates. The day began with a recap of the proceedings of the first day that was delivered by Prof Simba Sibanda, the Managing Director of ATONU. This was followed by a show of videos of human stories of change from both Ethiopia and Tanzania. The highlight of the day was the presentation of the impact evaluation results from both countries. This was complemented by the presentation on outputs of the ATONU project. Mr Munhamo Chisvo closed the session by giving a presentation on how we can move from Research Evidence to Policy.

Dr Nilupa Gunaratna presenting the findings of the impact evaluation in Ethiopia

Prof Joyce Kinabo presenting the findings of the impact evaluation in Tanzania
During the afternoon session, three Masters students presented their research results. Below are the images of the students and the titles of their dissertations.

### Agnes Kandonga: Impact of processing methods on micronutrients retention and anti-nutritional Factors elimination in selected local green leafy vegetables

### Benson Sanga: Gender dynamics and decision making on food consumption and financial expenditure among smallholders farming households in central and southern-highland zones

### Fetene Nega: Assessment of the outcomes of promotion of nutrition education on dietary diversity among women and child in Tigray regional state selected rural kebele

**Emerging lessons from Day 2**

i) Behaviour change takes time. Any project with an SBCC aspect needs time to realize a significant change in behaviour among the target group.

ii) It is important to incorporate nutrition objectives at the agricultural project design stage.

iii) Consider the effect of the number of pathways and NSIs to ensure that these are synergistic, do not overwhelm the household and can be handled well by the implementers.
vi) Are we doing enough formative research to inform interventions?
   a. Consider what communities need and what they are capable of doing.
   b. Context is key. Design context specific interventions. (culture, tradition, availability of foods, seasonality etc.)
   c. Consider cultural and intra-household barriers to consumption of certain foods/food groups

vii) Projects that seek to improve dietary diversity should move away from prioritizing specific foods but rather have a food group approach to keep options open for use of the available foods in each food group at any given time.

viii) In impact evaluation there is need for more specific indicators that would measure what the project supported and aimed to improve.

ix) Use rigorous data analysis to draw lessons on what did not work well.

x) Agricultural projects and programmes need to function well in order to support NSIs. E.g. a breakdown in seed supply would affect vegetable production and consequently, consumption.

xi) Need to consider ways of making NSIs sustainable beyond the life-span of the project, starting at project design stage.

xii) There is need for a strategy for evaluating sustainability. This should be built into M&E.

xiii) Fulfil the promises made to beneficiaries. If for any reason, some promises cannot be met, it is important to give the beneficiaries feedback and propose possible solutions and the way forward.

xiv) Feedback to beneficiary communities, government bodies as well as stakeholders that were consulted at the start of the project, is critical for buy-in and sustainability.

xv) Capacity building through graduate and research fellowships is a good way to get young professionals into the ag-nut space and to grow the community of practice.

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Day 3: Wednesday 19 September 2018

Day 3 was attended by 20 delegates and began with presentations from three remaining Masters students. Below are images of the Masters students and the titles of their research.

Tsion Yemane: **Commonly used processing methods on kale** *(Brassica Carinata)* **in rural parts of Ethiopia; Effect on proximate, mineral and beta carotene composition and optimization of the process for the nutrient retention**
The last session was a meeting of the FANRPAN team with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and Harvard research teams to discuss and agree on outstanding data analysis and report writing.

Finally, the research teams discussed progress on the publications that were proposed during the project stocktaking meeting in March 2017.

2. AGRIDEAL magazine volume 4

The Fourth volume of the magazine was published in September 2018. This latest volume focuses on FANRPAN’s Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture thematic area and features the flagship project, Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU).

AGRIDEAL volume 4: Improving food systems for nutrition
AGRIDEAL is a publication targeting stakeholders in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector focusing on different programmes.

The AGRIDEAL magazine series is a periodic magazine that features different areas of FANRPAN’s work. FANRPAN’s former board member, Lynette Chen, launched the first volume of the magazine in 2012 during FANRPAN’s Annual Regional Policy Dialogue in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The first volume of AGRIDEAL highlighted the milestones of the Women Accessing Realigned Markets (WARM) project that focused on the plight of women farmers who have no voice in the development of agricultural policies designed to improve their productivity.

The second volume was published in 2013 and focused on the Limpopo Basin Focal Project. The issue featured five stories that provided an overview of the Limpopo River basin; its agriculture, water and development challenges; and how the Limpopo Basin Development Challenge is working to improve integrated management of rainwater within the basin. The magazine includes an interview with CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) Director, Alain Vidal.

The third volume of the magazine was published in 2015 and was in support of the UNFCCC COP21 and FANRPAN used it to advocate for Africa’s unified position on agriculture under the banner of Climate-Smart Agriculture. It reaffirmed the message of the need for considering Climate-Smart Agriculture in all climate change negotiations, especially the UNFCCC COP21.
3. Upcoming events

**FANRPAN Annual High Level Policy Dialogue: Transforming Africa’s Agriculture**

*Maputo, Mozambique, 20 – 22 November 2018*

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network and partners will be convening a three-day high level regional policy dialogue in Maputo, Mozambique from 20-22 November 2018. The main focus of the 2018 high level food and nutrition security policy dialogue will be to unpack the contributions from the partner organisations, and in the process, establish the patterns and relationships between and amongst the different factors, including those that impact agriculture and nutrition, with a view to establishing policy options that support national, regional and continental transformation. The 2018 Regional Policy Dialogue will be convened through a collaborative partnership between The Food, Agriculture and Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and Mandela Institute of Development Studies (MINDS).

3.1 Objective of the dialogue

The organizing institutions/agencies are keenly aware that agricultural research often fails to provide appropriate policy responses to critical issues characterizing policy discourse and development. It is against this backdrop that this high-level policy dialogue is tailored to achieve the following:

- Sharing of best practices, and the interface between nutrition and agriculture.
- Providing a platform for discussing scaling up the engagement of women, the youth and children, and how they interface with the agricultural value chain.
- Providing a platform for dialogue on policies that promote a Climate-Smart and Nutrition-Sensitive agricultural transformation in Africa

3.2 Policy dialogue format

The 2018 High Level Food and Nutrition Security Policy Dialogue for Africa will consist of plenary and parallel sessions featuring of evidence from multi-country studies, as well as a field visit.

3.3 Dialogue participants

The dialogue is expected to bring together about 150 – 200 delegates from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), local and international NGOs, policy makers from developing countries and their advisors, research community, private sector organisations, and farmer representatives.