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1. ATONU end-line evaluation

The ATONU project implemented a package of nutrition-sensitive interventions (NSIs) in Ethiopia and Tanzania from the beginning of 2017 to April 2018. The implementation period has now come to an end and we are now assessing the impact of NSIs. The end-line data collection process has been completed in both Tanzania and Ethiopia. Sokoine University of Agriculture led the data collection process in Tanzania and Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health led the data collection in Ethiopia. Data analysis is now in progress and will be followed by preparation of impact evaluation reports by 31 August 2018.

2. ATONU stories of change

2.1 Mr Yayaw Tarekegun

Mr Yayaw Tarekegun and his family in Tsion Teguaj, Amhara Ethiopia
Yayaw Tarekegun is a husband to Mulu Muche, an ATONU beneficiary from Tsion Teguaj kebele in Amhara Region of Ethiopia. Yayaw was an active and regular participant at ATONU social behaviour change communication (SBCC) group sessions. Asked about his motivation for participating in ATONU activities, Yayaw’s response was:

“As a family, we all wanted to be healthy. When I heard that ATONU would be teaching us about how to eat for better health, I decided to attend to hear for myself. When Mommina (ATONU field assistant for Tsion Teguaj) taught us about budgeting, I knew I would not miss a session. The best thing that I learnt from ATONU is that I, as a man, can do everything that my wife can do, except giving birth. For a very long time, our culture as the rural community has been that even when a wife is pregnant she should fetch water for the household, carry the water pot on her head while carrying a baby on her back and then when she gets to the homestead, she would still need to take some of the water and kneel on the floor to wash my feet. Since ATONU, I have learnt a lot about helping our women with work. Now I do not let my wife go to fetch water. I fetch water myself and carry it back on a donkey’s back. I no longer allow my wife to wash my feet or do heavy work while pregnant.”

2.2 Mrs Yezbua Mengie

Mrs Yezbua Mengie is an ATONU beneficiary from Tsion Teguaj in Amhara Region of Ethiopia. She had this to say about what she learnt from ATONU:

“ATONU taught me about food groups. Mommina (ATONU field assistant for Tsion Teguaj) taught us that there are six food groups and that we should eat at least 4 of the six food groups. Before ATONU I would prepare two different kinds of Shiro (legume dish) for the same meal thinking that they were different foods but I have since learnt that this is one food group, both made from legumes. Now that I know about the different food groups, I include vegetables, meat and milk, then for carbohydrates I include injera or bread. Now I take dietary diversity so seriously that if we do not have different food groups in the home we sell some of
the surplus food from the garden and farm and buy other foods from the market. The change in our health motivates me to act on this new knowledge”.

3. Web-based framework for selecting nutrition-sensitive interventions

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and partners developed a web-based tool “ATONU’s Nutrition-Sensitive Intervention (NSI) Selection Tool”. The tool assists development practitioners working in the agriculture sector to integrate NSIs into their existing and pipeline agricultural development projects. For ease of application, this tool takes development practitioners through a step-by-step process of identifying and selecting appropriate nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions. The updated online tool is accompanied by a User Guide.

Apart from assisting with the selection of appropriate NSIs, the FANRPAN-ATONU Team is readily available to help with the design, implementation and evaluation of appropriate NSIs for agricultural development projects. The tool is available online in English (NSI Selection Tool).

4. Upcoming events

4.1 ATONU Project Reflection and Learning Workshop, 17-19 September 2018

The ATONU Project field implementation ended 30 April 2018. ATONU will, therefore, convene an end of project reflection and learning meeting on the 17th to 19th of September in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting will be attended by the Gates Foundation – who funded the ATONU project, ATONU partners, ATONU-sponsored MSc students and local agriculture-nutrition practitioners.

4.2 AGRIDEAL 4 magazine launch

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.

The Fourth volume of the magazine will be launched in September 2018. This volume will focus on FANRPAN’s Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture thematic area and will feature the flagship project, Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU).