

AgriFoSe2030

Agriculture for Food Security 2030

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice



END OF PHASE II PROGRAMME WORKSHOP REPORT

13th & 14th November 2023

Nairobi, Kenya

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The AgriFoSe2030 (**Agriculture for Food Security**) programme targets the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 - “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” in low-income countries. The programme synthesizes and translates existing science into policy and practice, and develops the capacity to achieve food security using a Theory of Change approach. AgriFoSe2030 Nairobi Workshop held at Park Inn by Radisson Nairobi on the 13th and 14th of November 2023, had a focus on outcome harvesting across the 17 projects in the programme, the approach was to identify and capture tangible changes in behavior influenced by an intervention and tracking how a project, or initiative plausibly contributed to them. The workshop brought together the AgriFoSe2030 programme team, Project teams from across the 17 projects in Sub Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia, and development practitioners.

2.0 BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To contribute to the sustainable intensification of smallholder farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia for improved food and nutrition security.
- To collaborate with policymakers and practitioners to jointly frame problems, generate new knowledge, and make that knowledge relevant to specific contexts.
- Training and capacity building with researchers and other stakeholders through exchanges, courses and workshops to increase their capacity to synthesize, analyze and communicate science.
- To achieve high-quality synthesis and analysis on smallholder farming systems that are relevant to policy and practice and tailored for key actors.
- To co-create innovative platforms and knowledge networks that connect scientists, practitioners, policymakers and others for knowledge exchange and action at multiple scales.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE AGRIFOSE NAIROBI WORKSHOP

The objectives of the workshop included:

- Foster knowledge exchange and networking among project teams involved in the programme.
- Harvest and showcase the outcomes of the AgriFoSe2030 programme.
- Reflect on the changes realized through the projects and their impact.
- Discuss the lessons learned from the programme and their implications for future research and development initiatives.
- Strengthen collaborations with stakeholders and improve the profile of the programme in the media

4.0 WORKSHOP OPENING REMARKS

The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Cecilia Onyango - Deputy Programme Director AgriFoSe2030 whose opening address served to create an atmosphere of positivity, followed by opening remarks by Prof Sofia Boqvist, Programme Director AgriFoSe2030. She outlined that preparations for the workshop had commenced in nine months ago and it had taken diligent planning for the workshop to be currently happening. She remarked that the reports from the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 tracking by FAO indicated that the planned goals were far from being achieved and that the bigger picture would see discussions and activities in the workshop contributing towards closing the gaps in this mission.

She encouraged participants to enable an environment that would foster knowledge exchange and networking, especially given that this was the inaugural full in person meeting for all players involved in the programme. She urged that there be a collaborative objective to think through all the 17 projects from South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa that would be presented and discussed in-depth with the lens of how to ensure sustainability should there be a funding close post Phase 2, this especially being the end of Phase 2 final workshop. Ceciliias and Sofias welcome notes were appreciated by the teams present and the programme then segued into the main workshop agenda.

5.0 WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARIES

5.1 Quickfire Briefs – Projects and Courses:

The workshop commenced with quick fire summary overview briefs of both the projects and the courses within the Agri-FoSe2030 programme. This being the first time that all the programme players from all the geographies were meeting physically for the first time, it was imperative that the different teams provide an overall briefing and status of their project and course objectives and current achievements.

Projects:

The projects clustered in four different challenges presented their updates as follows:

Challenge 1- Improving Access to Safe and Nutritious Food

| Project | Quick Fire Brief Updates |
|--|--|
| Empowering Women to Increase their Incomes through Milk Value Addition in Western Uganda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 24 women trained on milk production safety, small-scale value addition and cosmetics production ■ A local milk processing facility has been built for processing and packaging of milk products ■ Culture change has been triggered with a change of attitude from the hitherto patriarchal dissent to interest and support |
| Improving market access and scaling up trading of safe and nutritious edible insects by women and youths in Zimbabwe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of edible insect-based products and cook books ■ Food safety training was conducted for stakeholders as well as new insect safety standards established ■ Construction of an edible insect marketing facility, as well as determination of volumes traded in different markets ■ Characterization of insect suppliers undertaken, as well as the linkages of collectors/aggregators to transporters/traders, eliminating middlemen ■ Development and introduction of a digital marketing app |
| Smallholder goat production in Laos – improving quality of extension services and access to markets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local govt has a better understanding on improvement of goat yield as a goal to increase the farmers' income generation. ■ 129 Farmers are adopting new techniques on goat feeding, and have better awareness resulting in good health and high productivity. ■ 11 Farmers groups have developed successful plans and the groups are to be maintained. ■ Extension officers have greater confidence to support the farmers. ■ There is better understanding of the existing opportunities/constraints to connect goat farmers to markets, with consumer groups seeking for affordable, safe and nutritious food. |
| Application on Black Soldier Fly (<i>Hermetia illucens</i>) rearing technology as a tool to improve environment safety, sustainability and rural development in South of Vietnam: Emphasis on aquaculture production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The government is in the process of policy making for working with the farmers in aquaculture ■ The farmers have taken up a learning by doing approach to adopt to the new practices ■ Training of trainers programme was held for knowledge transfer for onward transference to the ground |

Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialization policies to local contexts in West Pokot-Kenya

- A successful exchange visit to Bungoma County by the West Pokot team and a subsequent training session county staff and 40 farmers group management
- Mindset change has been observed towards government incorporating farmers' views, representation in county meetings, prioritizing funding and capacity development for farmer group training.
- Reorganization of the West Pokot County budget to avail some funds that enabled farmer and county officer training. Policy makers are beginning to appreciate women groups as key actors in the sustainable livelihood space

Challenge 2- Agricultural Productivity and Ecosystem Functions

Project

Quick Fire Brief Updates

Agro-ecological practices for restoring Parklands – co-producing science-based skills and knowledge for increased agricultural productivity in Burkina Faso

- Awareness creation of agroecological practices, their constraints and advantages, social, economic aspects and regulations implications
- Synergetic agroecological actions and co-learning with farmers experienced
- Innovation platforms created with farmers, extension agents and traditional chiefs
- Engagement of decision makers for agroecological policies
- Knowledge base created on productivity, trade-offs, constraints and opportunities of markets and value chains

Science-based and co-produced transformative rangeland management practices – how to deal with encroachment of unwanted woody species (TRAMAP Kenya)

- Training of training programmes efficiently undertaken with 14 ToTs trained on camel husbandry, health and welfare, 40 ToTs trained on fodder value chain, and 50 ToTs trained on Acacia reficiens control
- Peer-to-peer learning on camel and fodder production was undertaken
- Two (2) manual camel, fodder are currently in co-production phase
- The co-infusion of Science and Indigenous knowledge was put in place in the knowledge transfer, with co learning as an efficient pathway
- Handbooks were issued for onward reference and training

Promotion of sorghum-cowpea intercropping systems in smallholder farming systems in South Africa for increased food and livelihood security and climate change adaptation

- There has been increased farmers' knowledge and skills in climate smart farming
- There has been attitudinal change and positive motivation, towards the rotational system
- Increased production of sorghum and cowpea crops has been recorded
- Farmers have moving to larger areas to market the crops, increasing market presence

Participatory analysis of the conventional-agroecological intensification continuum for increased productivity and sustainability in the coffee-banana systems - Mt Elgon region of Uganda

- Farmers informed of and can seek information on improved practices, credit and market opportunities across the entire value chain.
- Farmers aware of environmental, social, and economic sustainability aspects in crop production
- Extension/community officers are able and willing to support farmers and the project has a network of over 544 multidisciplinary stakeholders for consultation and engagement
- Researchers better able to engage and design outreach activities for positive transformation
- Information has been customized into local languages and Eco/Social/Environmental sustainability taught
- Introduction of Farmer/Field excursion days has raised practical awareness

Sustainable rice-straw management (RSM) for improving farmer livelihoods and low environmental footprint in rice-based production systems

- There is increased awareness amongst rice farmers and rice straw users on the benefits of rice straw management instead of burning
- Wide adoption of rice straw mushroom production and animal feed to improve productivity, quality and profit
- Establishment of mushroom and cattle producer groups with an advocacy objective to encourage rice straw management and abolish burning
- ToT conducted for extension workers with updated capacity for on the ground training and farmer technical support
- Government policy discussions ongoing around the environmental and commercial potential of advanced rice straw management technologies

Challenge 3- Science-based Innovation and Extension

Project

Agricultural biologicals: Identifying hurdles of use of biologicals by a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) analysis of stakeholders in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa

Quick Fire Brief Updates

- Comprehensive surveys conducted by 120 Researchers to establish KAP, covering 115 Agro-dealers and
- Interview sessions held with 600 Smallholder farmers, 12 Policy-makers and regulators as well as 14 Manufacturers, importers, exporters
- In-depth understanding of the status on the ground established including:
 - Limited research outputs on agricultural biologicals with major focus currently on bio-pesticides and bio-controls
 - Limited awareness among smallholder farmers with some variations between countries
 - Companies hampered to serve smallholder farmers due to logistical challenges, and absence of incentives and economies of scale
 - Limited number of biologicals products in SSA
 - Positive attitude noted from interviewed stakeholders towards use of biologicals
 - There are gaps despite the progress noted in regulating biologicals in the region with the potential for South-South cooperation identified.

Functions in extension service pathways – Kenya, Sri Lanka and Laos

- Research conducted on extension service structures through desk top reviews, focus group discussions (farmer reps) and key information interviews (govt and farmer group leads) yielding the following findings:
 - The research-extension-farmer linkages and feedback loop in all three regions are weak and need strengthening
 - Extension systems especially in Kenya and Sri Lanka are top down and there is disjointed info from government to farmers
 - Policy is unfortunately not informed by science and is driven by other external factors
 - Transfer of scientific knowledge is insufficient and Farmers, Policy makers, researchers and extension service providers need to work in alignment

Digitalization of Extension Services in the Southeast Asian (SEA) - Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines

- Research interviews conducted to establish awareness of DES and barriers of using DES and key stakeholder meeting held at Quảng Trị province to discuss the survey results.
- A workshop on “Digital transformation in agricultural extension: Opportunities, challenges and solutions” was held with leaders of the provincial department of Agriculture and Rural Development, leaders of provincial agricultural extension centers from five provinces, representatives of agricultural service centers, provincial farmers’ association, and scientists from agricultural universities and research institutions.
- A two-day training was organized by the DES research team with the participation of 53 extension staff from commune and provincial levels with to raise awareness on digital agriculture and extension services.
- Training on formation of virtual chat groups to connect extension workers and farmers’ chat boxes were formed to enable information exchange
- A series of articles have been thematized and a DES monograph published
- An Agri journal paper featuring case studies from 937 households, is under review

GenSens (Gender-sensitive village extension training) in Tanzania

- Informed approaches in use based on the study and literature review to determine factors preventing successful extension services reaching women
- Awareness creation and empowering village agricultural agents to have more gender sensitive approaches owing to the very masculine nature of extension services on the ground
- The barrier to access that women face are slowly dissipating through the encouragement of village agricultural workers to work with women
- Sensitization of the Ministry of Agriculture and on the ground training has influenced more gender positive attitudes

Challenge 4 - Smallholder Agriculture within Transforming Food Systems

Project

Quick Fire Brief Updates

Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialization policies to local contexts: West Pokot-Kenya

This project is done in collaboration with Challenge 1 and is presented above.

Mapping knowledge-, practical-, and policy-level challenges to increase the role of smallholder farmers in e-commerce of fruit products in Vietnam

- Comprehensive primary and secondary survey study was conducted from government data, as well as consumers, collectors, wholesalers, and retailers to determine fruit consumption, trading, production, marketing and sales trends
- Successful workshop held with key policy players, research and agroforestry bodies to share research results, evaluate policies on e-commerce and collect stakeholder feedback on promotion of fruit and vegetable e-commerce vending
- Training courses on e-commerce to help small-scale farmers respond to market and consumer needs, for quality and safe fruit were conducted

Governance of food systems for improved nutrition and food security in Nakuru and Kisumu Counties, Kenya

- Advocacy for inclusive food systems and the spread of the benefits of local and governmental collaboration has seen a positive change on the ground
- Peer to peer learning is in place and inter farmer visitations are taking place
- A partnership with FAO has seen the preparation of a production manual that has already been issued to the county govts
- Demos for the production and prep of vegetables using traditional methods have been conducted and taken positively

Resilient Urban Food Systems in Uganda (RUFUS Uganda)

- A series of participatory workshops, field visits and training sessions were conducted and different stakeholders exchanged knowledge, skills, expertise and experiences
- The production of critical actor and food flow maps, capacity needs assessments, gaps, risks and vulnerabilities, and peer-to-peer knowledge needs occurred
- Advocacy for, awareness and appreciation of the value of smallholder farmers to the area's food system was delivered incentivizing smallholder farmers to formally registering as groups towards decision making influence
- Further small holder farmer training was informed by the needs including best agronomic practices, access to credit, group formation dynamics and governance topics
- Training sessions led to the need for exposure, with the identification of role models for visits, agricultural shows for attendance by both leaders and farmers.
- The publication of a manual on climate smart and resilient urban farming to guide small holder farmers was accomplished

5.1.2 Courses:

An update on the courses that were conducted and the experiences and outcomes was shared during the quickfire session.

5.1.2.1 Trainings and courses conducted:

1. Policy analysts mentoring programme
2. Systematic Review Course
3. Translating Science into Policy and Practice

5.1.2.2 Training/course formats:

All courses and trainings mainly targeted AgriFoSe project participants. The Policy analysts mentoring programme was hosted by University of Nairobi, the Systematic Review Course by University of Nairobi and Nong Lam University, and the Translating Science into Policy and Practice course by Kyambogo University and Nong Lam University.

The programmes were run both as online virtual training sessions for the courses that were cutting across various geographies as well as in person lectures on the ground.

5.1.2.3 Programme Objectives:

The 3 main courses had various objectives to be accomplished including

- Transfer of knowledge of how to translate quality scientific research outputs into on the ground practice for agricultural and rural transformation
- Influence of agricultural and related policies based on the utilization of already existing and emerging scientific evidence.
- Building the capacity of young scientists in universities and research institutes to engage with policymakers to synthesize and communicate their scientific data & research findings
- Review of programme materials and acquaintance with systematic review work, application of learnings in close-to-reality situations and assessments of possibilities and limitations
- Exploration of transfer of learning programmes for onward transmission by local institutions to wider audiences on the ground

5.1.2.4 Outcomes/Lessons

- The mentorship programme recorded a growth in mentees' confidence and valuable networks established amongst both the mentees and mentors creating a useful mentor-mentee nexus
- There was transfer of knowledge and skills both upward and downward with both mentees and mentors learning key lessons and sharing insights
- An understanding of the mindset and matters of importance to policy makers in order to secure buy in was established, with improved research-to-policy communication skills
- There is need for inclusion of policy training in graduate curriculum in the universities to institutionalize mentorship, and the trainer of trainers approach used as a sustainable model
- Return on investment for scientific research is important to ensure that utilization of research outputs is felt tangibly by all stakeholders both in academia, government and on the ground
- Research needs to adopt a policy relevant culture, including mandatory policy briefs preparation and likewise policy needs to be research based, calling for continuous engagement and collaboration
- The online sessions provided for learnings gleaned from different countries and relatable sharing that adds value to the cause

- A blend of both online and physical learning sessions is recommended to surmount the challenges of internet access, low commitment levels to virtual programmes, limited interaction and programmatic activities/exercises, better relationship building between facilitators and participants
- Knowledge transfer to participants indicated conduct a literature search and write systematic review report was achieved with anticipation that attained skills will be implemented in future research
- Resolutions to transfer the programmes to local participating universities for self-administration to participants to meet high demand and cover a wider scope more sustainably with a view to scaling to other academic institutions was agreed upon (already in progress at UON and KyU)
- Communication and awareness, including the use of social media and the technique for 'newsification' of research works for policy maker attention was introduced and is to be explored for more impactful engagement, as evidenced by the science day exhibition held with pitches that attracted the Ugandan President's attention through skills acquired



6.0 RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES



Participants had an in-depth workshoping and brainstorming session in groups for outcome harvesting around translation of research to action, the capacities built cross cutting issues and differences, AgriFoSe contribution and proposed next steps for continuance.

Moderator led guiding questions were discussed in the different groups with information flow from the different projects shared and batched. The discussion summaries and key points were discussed in plenary with contributions from each table.

OH: Research translation capacities

What capacities have we collectively built?

Step 1:

- Review the capacity outcomes
- Discuss in your group:
 - *What capacities did the teams bring?*
 - *What did you have to develop?*
 - *How did you develop capacities for cross-cutting issues?*

20 mins

Step 2:

- Observe patterns and clusters
 - *What are common themes in your group?*
 - *What are the key differences?*
 - *Why do you think this is?*

20 mins

Step 3:

- Discuss:
 - *How far did AgriFoSe contribute to these?*
 - *What more is needed for you to continue to work with science translation?*

15 mins

Participants had vibrant discussions bringing forth observations and learnings from the different experiences and acknowledging both harmonious and disparate elements from the projects. The main synthesized presentation areas shared in plenary were wrapped around three key parameters:

- Similarities and differences observed?
- Patterns within regions and the rationale?
- AgriFoSe's role in continued capacity strengthening?
- Team inputs into continued capacity strengthening?

This voyage of discovery led to various important points emergent as both observations and insights around: capacities that have been collectively built, changes and outcomes influences and why these are important, ways of working that have been useful, as well as learnings picked from peer sharing, in form of five main categorized recommendations as follows:

6.1 Local contextualization

- Stakeholder mapping is of key importance with the different stakeholders associated with the projects both directly and indirectly schemed out with the linkages and dotted lines, needs and dynamics assessed
- All project leads and players need to be very familiar with the geographical area and the nuances and characteristics on the ground
- There is need to get into the space of the local community and familiarize with their culture and ways of being ahead of initiating any projects
- The formal and informal governance structures need to be appreciated and initiatives worked inline with key influencers and resource persons whose authorities are in place
- There is need for flexibility in scheduling project activities to fit stakeholder expectations and understanding which on the ground may differ from the original project timelines
- The availability of key resource persons and stakeholders relevant to projects to meet with project leads may require careful arrangements based on their competing interests
- There is need for an abundance of patience as well as high level persuasion skills to get buy in from relevant parties including government

6.2 AgrifoSE's Impact

- The funding was very important for the projects without which the transformative changes witness would not have been possible
- The regional meetings amongst the different teams and challenge leaders were very useful for discussions, reporting and action planning
- The effective project management, coordination and communication from AgriFoSe, leading to well and effectively run projects has seen tangible outcomes and project management observatory learning from project teams for best practice transfer
- Teamwork from the different challenge groupings has let to positivity building, pushing and supporting each other, and healthy competitiveness towards achievement of goals and learning successes
- The training programs run provided very useful revelations and learnings for up skilling and onward transference to the ground for practical uptake
- There was significant personal and professional development – capacity building from the projects and development for the stakeholders and the team members with interactions from natural scientists, social scientists, leaders, behavioral change agents, project ambassadors, government officials and other parties

- AgriFoSe lives up to its values and ethos and has been supportive of woman in science extending positive grace period for maternity leave absence during the project
- The learning, internalization, knowledge and uptake of the Theory of Change was very important and has contributed significantly to not only a mindset shift, but to doing and reporting things differently, with high level of detailing and visualization in the statements across the ToC continuum, and strict timelines spurring implementation with an outcome-oriented rewarding end game
- Feedback was noted on the somewhat restrictive nature of the ToC model to fit approaches and applications within specific reporting outcomes rendering spontaneity and out of the box thinking impaired

6.3 Key Partnerships/Alliances

- Engagement of local stakeholders as key partners in the co production of knowledge and planning, co ownership of project requirements and co application of project activities has led to the successes observed
- Working with the communities and engaging them within the process of the project and not restricting interactions to only data collection generated significant goodwill, built up credibility and community immersion as an important part of the whole process.
- Adaptability to change on the ground with the adjustments to rally stakeholders, encourage teamwork and working together towards impact and changemaking and creating linkages and stakeholder working pools
- Acknowledgement of the need for local partnerships as researchers and research knowledge is not holistically sufficient and requires complimentary efforts from users and recipients has been critical for positive outcomes
- Constant communication and continuous and sustained contact through different means, has proven mandatory for stakeholder buy in, participation and engagement
- Interdisciplinary research is necessary beyond the specific subject area with players coming in and contributing from different fields of expertise collaboratively needs continuance with the current and future projects
- Multi/inter disciplinary approach as well with different professionals and other key players creating diversity in the team with representatives from diverse backgrounds and interests contributing problem solving approaches to the group members
- Knowledge generation, development and transfer across stakeholder groups was observed including –getting problem statements from observations, transmitting results of the project as well as getting from ground up inputs from stakeholders for uptake

6.4 Hindsight Reflections – Areas for consideration:

- Intensification of the needs assessment phase with more time and resource allocation to enable these come out very clearly ahead of undertaking project activities, to enable change planning that is felt with high impact at the ground from the baseline to the outcome
- If the emergent cross cutting issues were identified and made more intentional at the start of the project, there would have been a more systematic way to address them and close the learning and adjusting time gap
- There is an overarching lesson on the impact pathway with regards to timeline mapping with the real change on the ground that requires a longer-term observatory period, for the outcome noting of new policy development, adaptation by farmers from new knowledge to actual practice, and the sustenance of support engagements calling for longer term project planning in Phase 3
- The focus on aligned and equally important goals in addition to SDG2 like addressing poverty that was consistently an emergent theme through all projects with small holder farmers and other stakeholders keen on the outcomes of improved livelihood, poverty reduction and eventual eradication through the projects

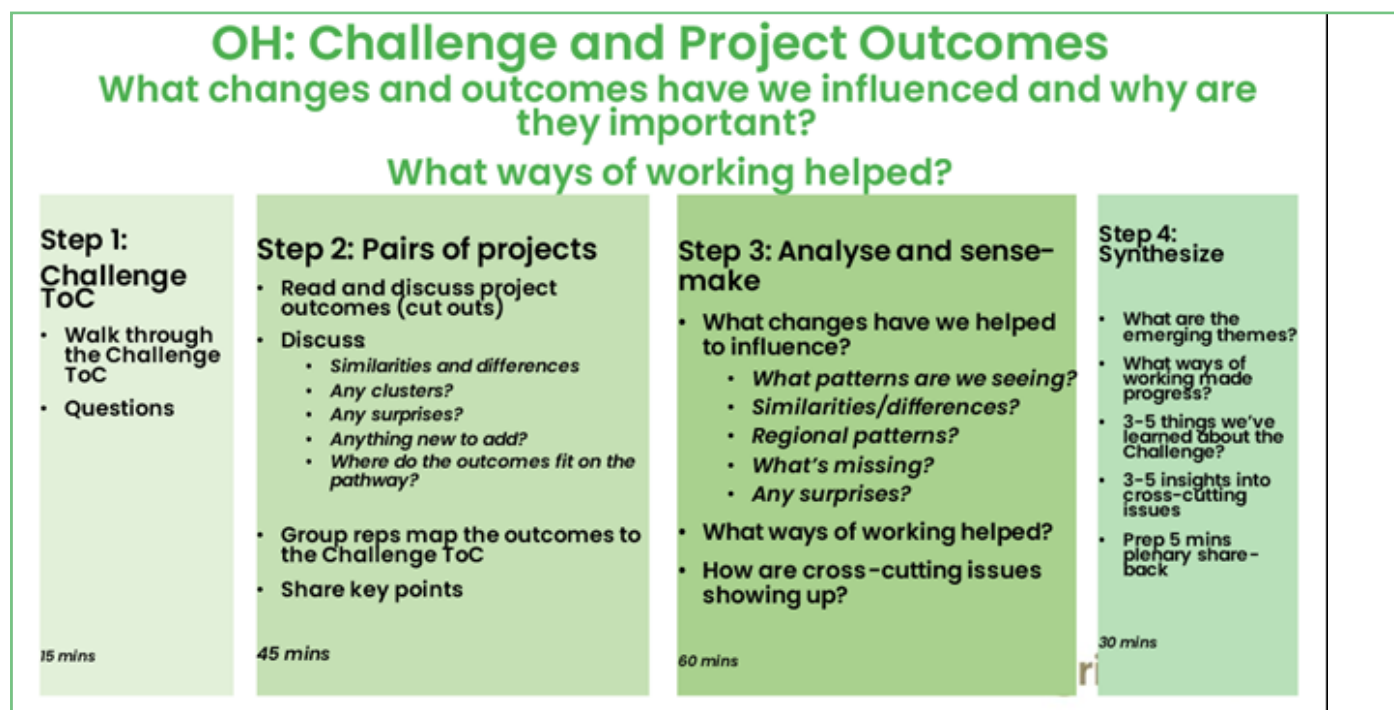
- The need for a wider variety of AgriFoSe Monitoring and Evaluation tools including specific trackers for stakeholder meetings, action documentation logs and reports, creative gender equity quota achievement methodologies, including women only activities, and task mapping
- Advance assessment of possible trade offs for researchers working towards research for impact versus pure research for academia, given that the ToC model does not map directly into the academic research structure, including the time heaviness required for ToC. Complimentary alignments need to be pre drawn for visibility and intentional application at the start, including the listing of journals interested in applied research and the works produced
- The added value of learning from different countries' experiences, project to project comparative interactions, discussions on obstacles and strategies for circumvention, and gains on the ground although not initially planned for, has had great benefits and needs to be part of the next phase planning
- More opportunities to be created by AgriFoSE to document the on the ground experiences with a framework for documentation shared with the project team members to use for ongoing continuous capture for updating into a portal and onward publication

6.5 Awareness Creation and Media Management

- Researchers within the projects and their counterparts have acquired useful communication skills to conduct stakeholder engagement and buy in activities and to transfer the intent and objectives of research activities to non-scientific audiences
- There has been a transformation in the practice of communicating science with a shift from the research knowledge sphere to the community engagement and output sphere, changing the view on research and new research, not only to publish but to impact lives on the ground
- The experiences with media by the different projects in seeking for popularization of the project work has led to different proposals for better outcomes including:
 - Acknowledging that the media have their own priorities and the timing in each case would need to be carefully studied to determine if they need to be invited at the beginning or after high impact has been achieved
 - There is value in sitting with media professionals and especially the journalists to go through the proposed communication and where possible agree on the writ to be published to avoid misrepresentation
 - To avoid the sometimes experienced journalist – researcher interaction fatigue, writing out the stories in advance in applicable formats to reduce their effort, and sending these in will reduce the content seeking efforts and create more probability of getting published.
 - Engaging with the communication teams from county governments and other relevant bodies is an avenue to be explored for mutual benefit
 - Active seeking for live radio and TV interviews on the different challenges has been noted to be an avenue for factual communication

7.0 PROJECT OUTCOMES + CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

A focus group discussion by participants grouped into their different challenges to participate in an outcome harvesting activity with the specific focus on the changes that have been influenced, the importance of these and the ways of working that delivered the end result was held as the tail end activity of the first day. This required for the teams to walk through the challenge ToC parameters and recap the original planning, walk through the observation of the happenings across the different projects, analyse similarities and differences as well as any alignments, theme, trends and inclinations of note. The same format of moderator led guiding questions and discussions were conducted across the four challenge groups and summary reports of the outcomes of the discussions shared in a plenary session by each table representative.



There were intense discussions with Challenge groups opting to adopt different working methodologies to customize discussion formats including: project groups separately discussing outcomes and recongregating to align on cross cutting issues; project teams internalizing different projects from the challenge as assigned and reporting on behalf a completely different project from their own, bringing out highlight and confirming presentation accuracy from the owners; as well as project teams within a challenge group systematically listening to project reports all together and contributing to the discussions and learnings. The main summarized presentation areas shared in plenary were anchored on the following aspects:

- Ways of working successes and areas of positive influence
- Discerning projects' points of parity and point of divergence
- Challenge based cross cutting issues, themes and lessons

7.1 Challenge 1

7.1.1 What worked:

- Capacity building for the different teams both inputs to the project team members and the stakeholder on the ground
- Stakeholder involvement was a winning strategy from end to end across projects
- Interpersonal skills worked beautifully with communication within the team enhancing working relations
- Active seeking for change stories within the projects and reporting them across the period
- The mindshift created by attending the translating science into policy and practice course was transformative

7.1.2 General Aspects:

- Community engagement as an area of focus was important across all projects
- The need to take into consideration gender related aspects was very key for progress
- A focus on production continuance and harvest sustenance by farmers post production
- Challenge is looking at practical issues Marketing/Production/poverty/Livelihoods
- Climate change issues and the impact and effects continue to be at the bedrock of all the projects
- The risk elements of looking into project sustainability and how transfer to communities will happen

7.1.3 New Observations:

- Community engagement as an area of focus was important across all projects
- The need to take into consideration gender related aspects was very key for progress
- A focus on production continuance and harvest sustenance by farmers post production
- Challenge is looking at practical issues Marketing/Production/poverty/Livelihoods
- Climate change issues and the impact and effects continue to be at the bedrock of all the projects
- The risk elements of looking into project sustainability and how transfer to communities will happen

7.2 Challenge 2

7.2.1 What worked:

- Ensuring the local players involved in the projects are very well grounded on subject matter and thus have the capacity for continuity of project activities
- Peer to peer and social learning including exchange visits, model farms, demos, farmer field days, and visits as well as the different approaches for a learning and extension worked well across the different projects
- Multistakeholder engagement and dialogues, engagements to discuss common agenda, systems and structure to approach the entire challenge not in a siloed format was very helpful for all
- Upping the community voice – cocreation, design, mapping and learning and the deliberate move to marry science and indigenous practices produced positive results

7.2.3 New Observations:

Local advocacy was felt beyond the Sorghum - Cow peas project scope, involving the positive outcome of smaller plots not requiring the water use license thus providing access to formal markets for fresh produce.

7.3 Challenge 3

7.3.1 What worked:

- The inclusive approach to agricultural extension work, with the deliberate efforts to involve women audiences as well as to include discussion on biologicals worked positively
- The collaborative approach and engagement with different stakeholders, with a view to understanding them and getting to the right ones brought impact
- The teaching of the uses of digital tools to make sure extension is extended at different capacities, created a wider audience than the traditional methods
- Mapping the support required for the delivery of extension services, including players not in the mainstream extension chain and roping them in for added reinforcement has been important.

7.3.2 General Aspects:

- The outcomes of the projects have seen great achievements and have all come very far in the short term even as longer-term gains are awaited
- The linkages between the farmers, the different main challenge and specific project objectives, and having the same understanding from top to bottom has created harmony and positivity
- Extension work being very policy-oriented needs the merger between research and policy to ensure that the on the ground activities are accepted by the local administration
- The ratio of ratio of extension officers to farmers in all geographies remains direly insufficient for the knowledge, skills and technical training needed for effective uptake of project activities

7.3.3 New Observations:

- The engagement of politicians to get buy in and to add a louder voice by riding on the project in Kenya led to wider acceptance and awareness creation and support
- Involvement of agro dealers in the stakeholder groups for attention and dissemination has been a winning formula especially with the challenges of limited resources

7.4 Challenge 4

7.4.1 What worked:

- Capacity building and training on extending policy into practice served to convert the methodologies on the ground from academic to practical, leading to better understanding and acceptance
- Looking through the entire chain from production to waste from the beginning caused a holistic overview and mapping of discussions, needs and action planning
- The exchange programmes provided a very practical learning method with peer to peer sharing and knowledge transfer, positive outlook and encouragement
- Looking into formal and informal governance issues towards transforming food systems and working these around for positive change was helpful
- Advocacy around the projects, raising voices, acknowledging the link to poverty reduction and improved capacity building did much for project progress

7.4.2 General Aspects:

- Owing to the governance aspects that are normally multi-pronged and sensitive, there was delay and it took quite some time for project acceptance leading to the project team members having to manage their timeline expectations
- Power relations amongst governance players with every stakeholder have their own power relations needs causes the need for sensitivity in communication and management all through
- The changes in governments, at all levels and the political changes in situ affecting institutions and offices throws project activities into a new wave, requiring new change management strategies ahead of project continuance
- Flexibility and responding to needs on the ground as they emerge including family dynamics of female farmers responding to capacity building opportunities accompanied by children/spouses to balance domestic roles

7.4.3 New Observations

- The ToC framework required detailed documentation of observations and changes however small, causing important information to be noticed and recorded and adding to the impact mapping for the challenge goals
- Realities of governance status on the ground versus planning has required for stakeholder management which is time consuming leading to less focus on resilience planning and more on getting inception buy in, across the projects

7.5 Cross Cutting Emergent Themes/Insights

7.5.1 Project Administration

- Collaborative work with different countries and institutes has been very useful as they are at different levels.
- Engagement with the associations over and above the farmer groups as they are structured, partnerships to be considered. Contacts to be shared and value added as more muscle is given in these spaces
- Linkages between the challenges needed – how they dovetail into each other.

7.5.2 Socio -Economic/ Cultural/Environmental Aspects

7.5.2.1 Environmental

- The impact of the projects on bio diversity both in terms of on the ground as well as new and emerging products has been of note
- There needs to be advance bio mapping in the project inception, planning and launching phases to ensure nothing gets left behind in this sphere and is reported and documented
- The projects all dovetail into climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience areas, and these too needs more work in terms of acknowledgement of the roles played and the outcomes
- Climate players as stakeholders need to be roped into projects for partnership and synergistic activities

7.5.2.2 Poverty Reduction

- The projects linking directly into improved nutrition bringing down domestic costs, income stability upping, and other household empowerment factors needs to be acknowledged
- The role of farmers as decision makers in the market, improvement of market knowledge and dynamics and the improved capacity of farmers as market actors, makes for direct economic contribution
- Farmer groupings and other local stakeholder groupings that have been inspired by the projects has increased market power and access to new livelihood resources
- Technological innovations, the use of tech to for further reach and impact has created avenues for better farm practices, leading to better crop management and reduction in failure, increasing household farm yields
- The emergent and resulting business cases that have spun off the projects now need to be well defined in advance for mapping and specific support

7.5.2.3 Gender Dynamics

- Male Capture of projects on the ground where there is a gender drive for inclusion is a constantly emerging issue and needs socio cultural attention for progress to be noted
- Quite a number of gender issues arose and resolutions found with the projects whilst in progress even though they were not built from the get go, and these have been documented
- The project will need to think more deliberately and strategically in advance about probable gender dynamics for the remaining stretch and propose solutions
- Some gender issues anticipated come out and play out differently on the ground and there is need to adapt to change as and when necessary
- Cross project identification of gender gaps in advance to enable brainstorm on how best they can be dealt with would be helpful

8.0 MEDIA SHOWCASE /PROMOTIONAL EVENT

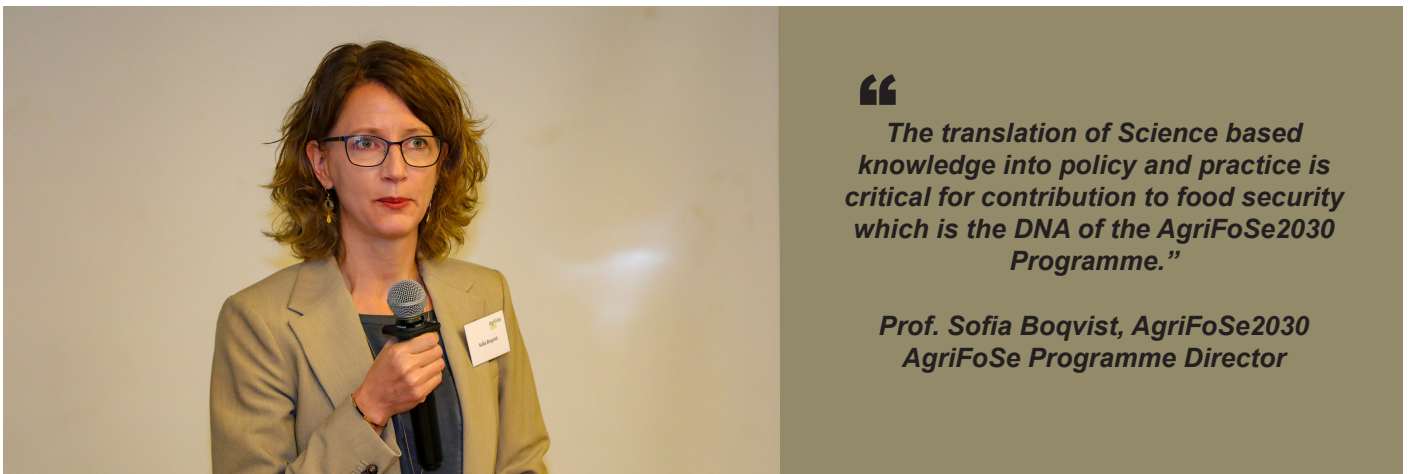
Topic: The Relevance of Capacity Building for Science Translation in Attaining SDG2 and Agenda 2063

Event Objective:

The objective of this event was to raise awareness about the AgriFoSe2030 programme, its way of working through capacity building and practical change projects, as well as how it deploys its theory of change methodology for guiding activities and measuring outcomes. The event also presented an opportunity for researchers and project members to showcase their work, practically demonstrate new approaches and ideas and share knowledge with the media, invited stakeholders and relevant agricultural and government sector actors.

“If you want to go fast you go alone but if you want to go far you go together.” African Proverb was very aptly shared by Prof. Ceclia Onyango, University of Nairobi AgriFoSe2030 Deputy Programme Director which describes the work dynamics of the AgriFoSe2030 programme.

Prof. Sofia Boqvist presented an exposition of the AgriFoSe2030 programme and reiterated that Food Security is a significant challenge that affect millions of people all over the world. She linked this to a report recently released by FAO indicates that most of these Food and agriculture related SDGs are far from being achieved and progress that has been made have stagnated, making the AgriFoSe2030 programme very relevant today and emphasized that researchers need to address how science-based knowledge and solutions can be translated to policy and practices for the small-holder farmers and increase food security.



Dr. Joseph Karugia, Principal Scientist, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) spoke on - The Relevance of Capacity Building for Science Translation in Attaining SDG2 and Agenda 2063. He averred that the world is not on track to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2 and emphasized that food systems hold the key to ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. To enhance science and research capacities, Dr. Karugia suggested strengthening research cooperation between scientific communities and indigenous people’s knowledge communities, increasing spending on food system science, and strengthening science-policy interfaces.

“
Building on my experience and the reflections working with the interface of science and policy, science needs to be at the table when decisions are being made, and science must have something to offer. We need to manage the tension between literature and science for impactful success”

Dr. Joseph Karugia, Principal Scientist, International Livestock Research Institute



Prof. Eli Katunguka Rwakishaya (Vice Chancellor, Kyambogo University) tackled - The Role of Universities and Researchers in Translating Science to Policy and Practice. As universities seek funding from the government the relevance of university research must be demonstrated including:

- Universities producing research that is not only based on academic advancement but impactful toward community development and policy influence
- Researchers need to identify community problems in partnership with them to generate need based scientific solutions
- Understanding the policy development landscape in the local, national, and international sphere to inform research.
- Consider the interests of the different stakeholders and actors in the research process including buy in of social and political influencers
- Investing in researcher capacity building to write understood policy briefs



With the AgriFoSe2030 programme there is appreciation to use science-based evidence for policymaking in universities. With the increased network, collaboration and funding this initiative is promoting food security.”

***Prof. Eli Katunguka Rwakishaya,
Vice Chancellor, Kyambogo University***



Prof. John Demesi Mande (UON) Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University of Nairobi) spoke on - The Role of University Alliances in Promoting Evidence-Based Research, and outlined that universities are well aligned with the mandate of science-based research citing that the UON strategic plan is aligned to global and national frameworks. He encouraged that:

- Institutions have a focus on research, innovation, and enterprise, and a framework to develop and ensure research proposals go through a vigorous validation process
- Universities research should also transition beyond peer-to-peer- reviews through to policy briefs as espoused by the AgriFoSe2030 programme is
- Joining research networks both at the regional and global scale to develop researchers’ capacity to co-create and learn on a larger scale
- Researchers should demonstrate a footprint at the regional and national level to show impact and also demonstrate how they influence different value chains.



Universities need to embed within their strategic frameworks a specific alignment with translation of academic works into on the ground implementation. The University of Nairobi Strategy for example is aligned to the SDGs to achieve this.”

Prof. John Demesi Mande, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University of Nairobi)



9.0 PANEL DISCUSSION

A well moderated panel discussion to delve further and augment the presentations made and to provide critical insights into the AgriFoSe programme tenets was led by Prof Cecilia Onyango that included the following panelists Paul Mukwaya and Nothando Dunjana (AgriFoSe2030 Project Team) and Irish Baguilat- AgriFoSe2030 Advisory Board



The panelists shared on the model that has set the AgriFoSe2030 programme apart, including the focus on improving the livelihoods of small holder farmers, capacity building in the multi-level actors within the programme, and provided the researchers with soft skills to enable them to dialogue and negotiate their research to the specific audiences. They shared the relevance on the AgriFoSe2030 Model to Researchers to translate research to Policy being an opportunity to communicate and be heard by the necessary audience within the nation and region's geographical reach, this is by attracting specific media houses that amplify their research in a way the message intended is relayed.

Closing remarks were made by Ulrika Åkesson, Lead Policy Specialist, Environment and Climate Change – Sida and Embassy of Sweden, Kenya who urged each stakeholder involved to take on accountability for bridging the gap between science and research to policies and practice and for universities to provide attention and funding so that science outreach researchers are recognized. Decision makers were called to evidence-based decisions, and practitioners to implement sustainable practices through extension services.



“

How can the lessons learnt in the AgriFoSe2030 initiative be disseminated to enable further learning? The discussions have contributed to the march toward the change we want to see.”

*Ulrika Åkesson, Lead Policy Specialist,
Environment and Climate Change – Sida and
Embassy of Sweden, Kenya*

10.0 AWARENESS CREATION - PRESS BRIEFING

Present for the press briefing were media houses, Radio Dormancy and Nation Media Group. The participants present Prof. Sofia Boqvist, AgriFoSe2030 Programme Director, Prof. John Demesi Mande (UON) Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University of Nairobi), Mr. Stephen Muchiri, Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation and Dr. Jeninah Karungi, Associate Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, Makerere University.

The discussions shared include;

- The AgriFoSe2030 focus on stakeholder involvement in promoting food security, and that partnerships and co creation are a major step to inclusivity and creating tangible solutions
- How politicians can be involved in the research-to-policy process including aligning research into government strategies, creating necessary networks in the political sphere for buy in communicating research in a language well understood by politicians.
- Matters affecting African agriculture including misallocation of funds, climate change and natural disasters, and the need to address this through a focus on adaptation, with farmers serving as producers to aid in transition and bring about change.
- The role of youth in agriculture with a need for mindset change with the demonstration that agriculture is a worthwhile endeavor. Developing markets, adding value, reviewing production costs, adjusting technology, and tailoring media messaging for youth consumption would yield results

11.0 PROJECT EXHIBITIONS

The exhibitions at AgriFoSe2030 workshop presented the wonderful opportunity to practically showcase the different projects and to have personalized engagements with the different audience groups present. This was an inaugural experience for the 17 projects from Sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia to have in-depth engagements with each other and a cross cutting wider group. The exhibitions at AgriFoSe2030 were a showcase of the different projects, providing a unique opportunity for knowledge sharing, practical testing and tasting, and collaborative possibility discussions among researchers and stakeholders. This marked an important milestone in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and addressing food security challenges in these regions.

12.0 RETROSPECTIVE INSPIRED - FORWARD VISION CASTING

The lessons learned discussion session to draw lessons across all challenges and projects was curated in an innovative format to draw conversation, and with it observations and matters of note. Albeit there already being lessons learned outputs springing spontaneously from the previous discussions, this round table format was successful.

The discussion sitting structured around the 'World Café' model sought to elicit from participants a review of what they would do more of, less of and differently on the projects, were they to go back in time and with the knowledge and experiences they now have.

Different tables with facilitators to guide the discussions served as different café stops where members would sit discussed during a timed period and then move on to the next café, meet new people and discuss a new topic. The choice of topic tables to sit at for discussion was left at the discretion of the members choice. The mood and theme for the world cafes was one of listening, contributing and having great conversations. The hosts were tasked with creating summaries from the discussions and participants were to endeavor to have at least 3 conversations at three table cafés.

A detailed report of the Media Showcase event will be availed on the AgriFoSe2030 website

A short video highlighting the great works of AgriFoSe2030 programme was played. The information is available on the AgriFoSe2030 YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/live/_FRlIKV_eYM?si=Psm8QgGbOjXM6K9M

There were six main topics for conversation as captured in the guiding slide below:

World Café conversations

Advice to your future selves –
Knowing what you know now, what would do less of, more of or do differently...?

Topic 1: Cross-cutting issues?


Topic 2: Stakeholder engagement?

Topic 3: Interdisciplinarity?

Topic 4: Co-production?

Topic 5: Engaging larger institutions?

Topic 6: Working with ToC process?



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Robust, animated and invigorating discussions were witnessed from participants who had numerous pointers towards lessons learnt. A summary of these contributions are captured here below:

12.1 Cross Cutting Issues

- It is of critical importance to have a clear understanding contexts even better, as these vary across projects and people, call this for the conducting of additional needs assessment and mapping
- An understanding of gender dynamics would aid the project objectives significantly. This calls for deliberate conversing with community members in advance, putting more focus on women and targeting marginalized groups
- There are cross cutting issues overlaps, case in point gender and climate overlaps that need to be assessed and planned for from the beginning. Landowners for example in the project areas are men with the mandate for land use change decision making that is not inclusive
- More time allocation for the projects would be beneficial as surveys and needs analysis take a significant amount of time, access to resources for application of the work on the round also presents time consuming challenges
- A broader outlook needs to be placed on project objectives from a cross cutting front. Case in point would for example to look at marginalized groups a sub category front including, varieties of marginalized women, the youth child headed households, disability afflicted households and other such to expand the stakeholder base
- The need to contextualize both tradeoffs and synergies earlier was singled out as an area if catered for from the get go would have eased the project journeys

12.2 Stakeholder Engagement

- The element of truly knowing and understanding the stakeholders, and ensuring to select and engage the right ones is vital, because wrong selection bleeds time and goodwill. The need for more thorough stakeholder analysis before a project begins is key
- It is important to take into consideration working with already existing and well-established local organizations to identify key individuals and groups that would constitute open minded change agents, would be resourceful and of value to the projects
- The need to manage stakeholder expectations from the onset is important. The risk of over promising resulting in a disparity in expectations is live, and the project outcomes are not assured. The strategy would be to promise learnings, knowledge transfer and networks
- There is need for continuous stakeholder engagement pre, during and throughout the project life cycle without dropping the communication lines, including provision on progress and feedback
- Power dynamics between stakeholders is a significant factor influencing project activities and these need to be identified. On the ground stakeholders and project teams need to be empowered on how to handle power differences from a social, economic and political space
- Governance and institutional players mapping as a key stakeholder across all projects would have been beneficially, being gatekeepers and critical access points towards buy in, engagements, approvals, participation and necessary authorizations
- Customer relationship management guidelines to support effective stakeholder management that needs to be systematically undertaken need to be introduced in the planning stages to ensure that there is relationship maintenance and stakeholder to stakeholder engagement even sans the research teams

12.3 Inter disciplinary

- The multi-disciplinary approach adopted by each project from a broad perspective was very beneficial allowing for wider views and incorporation of new ways of thinking within and across projects and challenge groups
- The elimination of silos within projects needs to be taken into consideration to root out working disparately within the same project and running different aspects with no or limited visibility
- The different proposals that need to be prepared for purposes of getting elements of the project undertaken, partnerships secured, resources unlocked, permissions and authorities granted, need a multi-disciplinary approach including coopting of the different disciplines needed
- There is need for better team mapping from the start related in relation to the different disciplines needed for project execution. The mapping needs to be structured against the ToC requirements to enable advance planning
- Managing team expectations is paramount, for even with excellent team work different expectations may lead to unnecessary emergence of differences. There is need for due respect between the different disciplines, approaches, methodologies and ways of working
- The expected research outputs need to be spelled out in advance, through inception meetings and agreements, as different disciplines have different script publication channels that need to be enumerated for active documentation works

12.4 Co Production

- There is need to make less assumptions from a theoretical perspective and strive to find out matters on the ground as best possible
- It is important to be more on the conservative side and reduce over ambitiousness in project design and promises to manage team and recipient expectations
- More attention needs to be paid to pre – project design from an inclusive perspective to ensure the planning part is comprehensive to enable giving way to actualization based on well thought out and co-created plans
- Involving inputs from the ground in co production would engage power relations that have impact on projects, ensuring inclusion and winning over gate keepers and influencers all round

12.5 Engaging Larger Institutions

- **Identification**
 - Identification of the large institutions of relevance to the projects right from the start
 - Identification of the specific individuals working there that need to be engaged
- **Planning**
 - Allocation of more time from project inception towards penning perceived collaborations with large institutions that will be needed
 - Mapping the probabilities of the proposed partnerships and where to place efforts to secure relevant ones
- **Formalization**
 - The engagements need to be documented and formalized as best possible to ensure the partnership exists beyond discussions
 - The formalization of documentation will ensure a feeling of co-ownership and buy in through document signing sessions and official involvement
- **Clarification**
 - The specific roles and responsibilities for the different stakeholders in large institutions need to be spelt out with clear guidelines of what they are supposed to do.
 - Expectation setting and clear rules of engagement for each player is encouraged
- **Communication**
 - From inception communication tailored for larger institutions needs to be developed and carried out
 - Beyond the key project players involved, there needs to be more dissemination of information amongst other colleagues within and without the project
- **Scaling**
 - Large institutions are an avenue for scaling up, and this needs deliberate planning to ensure the opportunities are clear and transferable
 - The number of large institutions to be engaged needs to be limited based on value and impact as involvement with too many takes too much time and the scaling up agenda requires serious and committed stakeholder groups

12.6 Theory of Change Process

- ToC is a demanding, time consuming and relatively complex model to engage with especially for those new to the process. Having clarity in the beginning and managing expectations of teams who need to work with it, will create a more embracing atmosphere
- Once the understanding and clarity hurdle has been surmounted it is acknowledged as a useful tool that allows for project ideation, concept building, application, documentation and change mapping that is high value and high impact
- Including more stakeholders in the understanding and workings of the ToC at an earlier stage from the grassroots would be important going forwards to bridge the disconnect gap in collection and collation of change elements
- The Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Tools within the framework, work well and will continue to be useful even beyond the project lifespan
- These MEL tools would need to be applied in a more participatory manner, including awareness and engagement forums with participants in the projects and on the ground with demos and practice ahead of the need for real works


13.0 SUSTAINABILITY REFLECTIONS

In this session led by Isabel Vogel, various project teams from the AgriFoSe2030 initiative contributed to the reflection on how the projects can be sustained post programme. She encouraged participants to share their thoughts on how they believed the programme outcomes would be carried on sustainably. The participants offered a range of viewpoints on the topic, outlining different approaches and concepts used that guarantee the AgriFoSe2030 program's sustainable future.

Three main guiding discussion areas as outlined in the slide below were used to frame discussions:

Sustainability

- **What opportunities do you see to continue to extend and build on your project?**
- **What opportunities do you see to adopt and apply the AgriFoSe model in future work?**
- **What institutional structures and processes are needed?**





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- The theory of change is a framework that made it possible to execute organizational and social change by outlining assumptions, solutions, and results. Smallholder farmers and other stakeholders will continue to collaborate in their food systems as a result of the capacity building that was made possible. It also assisted with the planning, executing, and assessing of interventions
- The AgriFoSe2030 courses, such as Theory of Change and Systematic Review, have been adopted by program participants, including the University of Nairobi and Kyambogo University. These courses will have a lasting effect on researchers at these universities and due to the courses being offered online, they will have a greater impact within the region. Planning has commenced for smaller spin off programmes that can be locally delivered in form of talks and lecture sessions with guest speakers /trainers drawn from the project teams
- In Zimbabwe the Education 5.0 research and communications engagement initiative has new pillars on innovation and industrialization, and every academic institution is to participate. The ToC model is important for members in academia to learn to enable fulfilment of the govt mandate. Project team members involved will advocate for this learning as resource persons are already in place
- The Linkages to partners created during the project implementation have provided opportunities to fundraise and collaborate to continuously create change. Future partnerships for joint bids for proposals will provide enhanced viability for grant winning
- Researchers can package policy briefs well from the mentorship program provided during the programme. This information can be used to mentor other researchers. The information acquired will be useful to researchers going forward. There is market readiness from researchers who have to produce policy briefs that can be run through the already existing division of research in the universities

- Teaching at an individual level is already enhanced, for better delivery with the merger of research and communication elements. Participants for the mentorship programme have secured approval from the advocacy through the DVC at Jaramogi University to the Vice Chancellor, rendering an initiative to institutionalize mentorship that will run independently
- The previous identified gaps of academicians and other science related technical teams working in silos, with programmes hitherto having researchers on their own, practitioners alone, communication professionals aside, politicians unbriefed, policy makers under informed, policy oriented researchers working apart and other key technocrats in parallel efforts, have been bridged by having multifaceted teams pulling together and working in one accord that translates into sustained positive outcomes going forward
- Collaboration created among institutions in the region and around the globe will lead to the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise, fostering innovation and addressing complex challenges collectively. By establishing these linkages, a network of diverse perspectives and experiences will enhance the ability to tackle issues from multiple angles and find comprehensive solutions beyond the programme
- Integrated into the county development plan is the West the Pokot project, an initiative aimed at providing more food security and healthy livelihoods for pastoralists. Moving forward the county government will support pastoralists and provide a lasting solution as currently espoused in their 5-year development plan
- The soft skills acquired now allows enablers and change-makers to effectively convey their ideas and perspectives, fostering understanding and collaboration among individuals. By utilizing these communication skills, they can build trust and create a safe space for open discussions, ultimately paving the way for positive transformation and impactful change
- AgriFoSe2030 projects have demonstrated the feasibility and impact of innovative agricultural solutions, attracted investors, and influenced policy-making decisions, leading to increased support for sustainable agriculture initiatives.
- The theory of change helped engage in the cultural grounds, especially in the patriarchal society, by challenging traditional gender roles and norms. It provided a framework for promoting gender equality and empowering women, by addressing the root causes of discrimination and advocating for social and policy changes, and with women empowerment, the works will progress
- The black soldier fly project in Vietnam is exploring the possibilities of setting up frameworks for export once the challenge of feeds sourcing for the larvae is solved. There is a plan to get the local authorities to support the export company
- The AgriFoSe model of involving multistakeholders in projects provide a risk mitigation framework given that if some eventually drop off, there will be others in place to carry on sustainably owing to the already transferred training, curriculum developed and on the ground learning. Extension workers particularly will be in a position to carry on with dissemination and impact building works
- The University of Daresalaam using the ToC model and other learnings has submitted a proposal in response to the call for provision of communication of science and technology for agriculture and food security, that required evidence of existing projects, and await proposal feedback with a view to upscaling AgriFoSe projects
- Translating Science into policy and practice course at Kyambogo University was fully inclusive with involvement from end-to-end planning by the local team including participant recruitment. The institution was mentored, and implementation was done through top management for buy in, including drawing attendance from politicians, serving to settle in the programme fully
- There are ongoing discussions between Kyambogo University in Uganda and University of Daresalaam on possibilities of knowledge transfer for the translating science into policy and practice course to enable self sufficiency
- The model for migration of programmes to the local universities that involves interdepartmental inclusion and cohesion, institutional politics management, simulations and immersive demos, top management engagement across institutions by AgriFoSe leaders and university leaders to validate seriousness, and using already existing course delivery platforms has been workable across board and will continue to be used for onboarding other learning institutions

14.0 IMPACT REPORTING - AGRIFOSE SDG ACTIVITY IMPACT MAPPING

While SDG 2 on eradicating hunger has been the main emphasis of the AgriFoSe2030 program, several SDGs, such as SDG 1 on poverty reduction, SDG 4 on education, SDG 5 on gender, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 13 on climate change, and SDG 17 on partnerships, have also been significantly impacted by the programme in numerous ways vide the projects on the ground.

| SDGs 2030 | AgriFoSe Impact Reporting |
|---|--|
| <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>  <p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> | <p>The main focus of the AgriFoSe programme with is anchored on food security which forms the overarching vision and mandate from which each challenge draws its objectives, goals and sub tasks. All activities in the programme are geared towards interventions in the food and agriculture sector</p> |
| <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>  <p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> | <p>A main theme on poverty reduction, underscores all the AgriFoSe projects, with the rider to hunger eradication being bound to poverty reduction and ultimate eradication. The outcomes of the projects have had a direct impact on economic empowerment and improving livelihoods.</p> |
| <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>  <p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p> | <p>The education and capacity building interventions from the AgriFoSe programme has served to provide quality education and knowledge empowerment for the audiences across the different projects. The ToT model that works towards sustainability speaks directly into provision of lifelong education</p> |
| <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>  <p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> | <p>Gender inclusion has been a cross cutting theme through all the AgriFoSe programmes, with activities and initiatives towards women empowerment through the entire chain from production to waste management, enabling households to turn around vide these infusions of control</p> |
| <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>  <p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> | <p>The AgriFoSe projects have led to the creation of new opportunities, new production and processing facilities, new markets, new skills and vocations all providing possibilities and options for application of decent work and income generating avenues for different stakeholders</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  | <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> | <p>The environmentally sustainable works introduced and carried out during the AgriFoSe projects are aligned with the global call for climate action. The waste reduction, pollution control, biodiversity conservation and growth, land use optimization, and climate advocacy interventions are all in motion</p> |
| <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  | <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p> | <p>Key local, national, regional and global partnerships have been created and sustained throughout the AgriFoSe programme with a view to harnessing synergies and entrenching collaborative successes, with sustainable development forming key missions.</p> |

15.0 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The two-day workshop discussions came to a remarkable close, being the culmination of two days of reflections, brainstorming and action planning. Participants were appreciated for their contributions, high engagement and commitment to the process.

The closing remarks were made by advisory board member Ms. Ingrid Oborn with a summarized six-point call to action to:

- 15.1** Re-language the term capacity building within the AgriFoSe programme environment, given the acknowledged high impact outcomes of co-learning, co-creation and co-implementation. The programme has seen players develop great capacities and implement them in one accord
- 15.2** Ensure that there is determined effort to scale beyond the individual small farmer interventions to curating deliberate and value adding partnerships with farmer unions and associations, conglomerations of bigger groupings of agro-institutions as well as global level bodies involved in the AgriFoSe areas of intervention and impact
- 15.3** Advance local inclusion within the leadership and governance structure within AgriFoSe to enable succession planning for sustainable growth in similar tandem to having Cecilia Onyango from Kenya as the deputy Head of Programme has lifted the profile of the entire initiative and there is a call to action for a shift of leadership and by extension ownership within the challenges
- 15.4** Press on with the already existing model of trans disciplinary research, witnessed across the various projects that will allow for practical and useful outcomes for users on the ground as the main target and to continue to push for the translation of research to policy and practice that needs wider embracement
- 15.5** Contemplate the high existing demand on the ground beyond the foreseeable impact sphere of the AgriFoSe programme, thus calling for the maintenance of already carefully developed AgriFoSe networks and partnerships to enable continued programming post and beyond AgriFoSe's existence
- 15.6** Amalgamation of the key focus on the original programme mandate on SDG2, with the emergent cross cutting themes that pivot on the other SDGs that have been assimilated inter and intra programme including gender, poverty, bio diversity, climate change adaptation, resilience/mitigation and others

16.0 CERTIFICATION AND APPRECIATION

The workshop ended on a high note with the awarding of certificates to the challenge and project leaders, and teams in recognition of their contributions and inputs, as well as a group photography session for the different teams within the programme to serve a confirmatory reminder of the inaugural workshop. The team was treated to a closing dinner and dance performance to end the workshop in grand style.



17.0 PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP EVALUATION SURVEY:

A workshop evaluation survey was administered to participants post workshop to provide candid feedback on their experience of various aspects. The survey questionnaire covered the initial base questions of country of origin, institution worked for and the days attended, and then progressed into four main areas:

- Motivation for attendance, clarity of workshop objectives, and if these were assessed as met
- Aspects of the event journey map from pre-event communication to the specific event programme activities
- Hospitality logistics including venue, catering, comfort and hygiene
- Qualitative feedback on what participants liked, areas for improvement and proposals for inclusion in future events

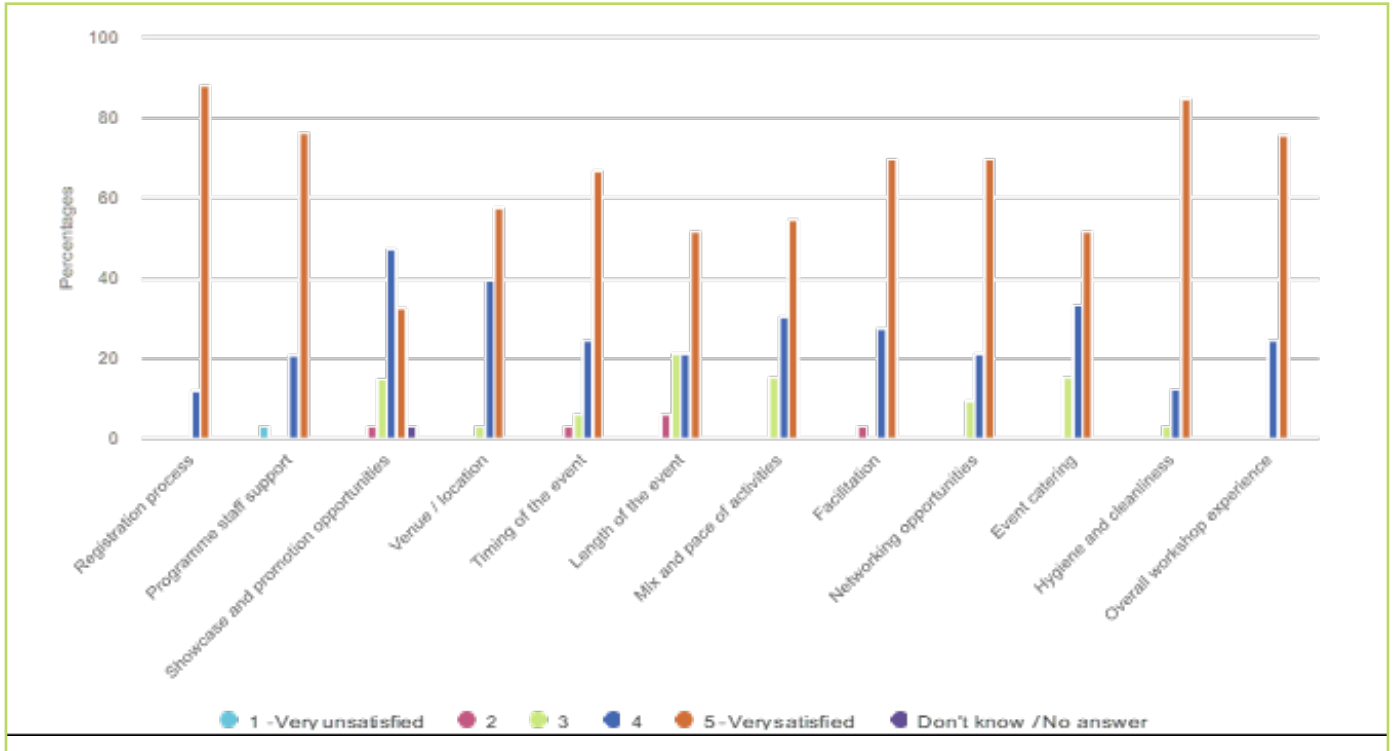
17.1 Workshop Objectives:

97% of the participants indicated that the workshop objectives were clear, with 74% responding that they were very satisfied with the event meeting these objectives, 21% were satisfied and 3% respectively were both unsatisfied and very unsatisfied.

The main motivations for attending the workshop were polled with a multiple response option and feedback recorded as Networking opportunities (94%) Learning and knowledge exchange (91%) Project and product showcasing / promotion (76%), Building relationships with future collaborators (85%) Developing new collaborations and projects(74%) as well as other reasons cited as visiting the continent to observe modes of theories and principles implementation, sourcing valuable input for AgriFoSe projects reporting as well as updates from other groups at (9%)

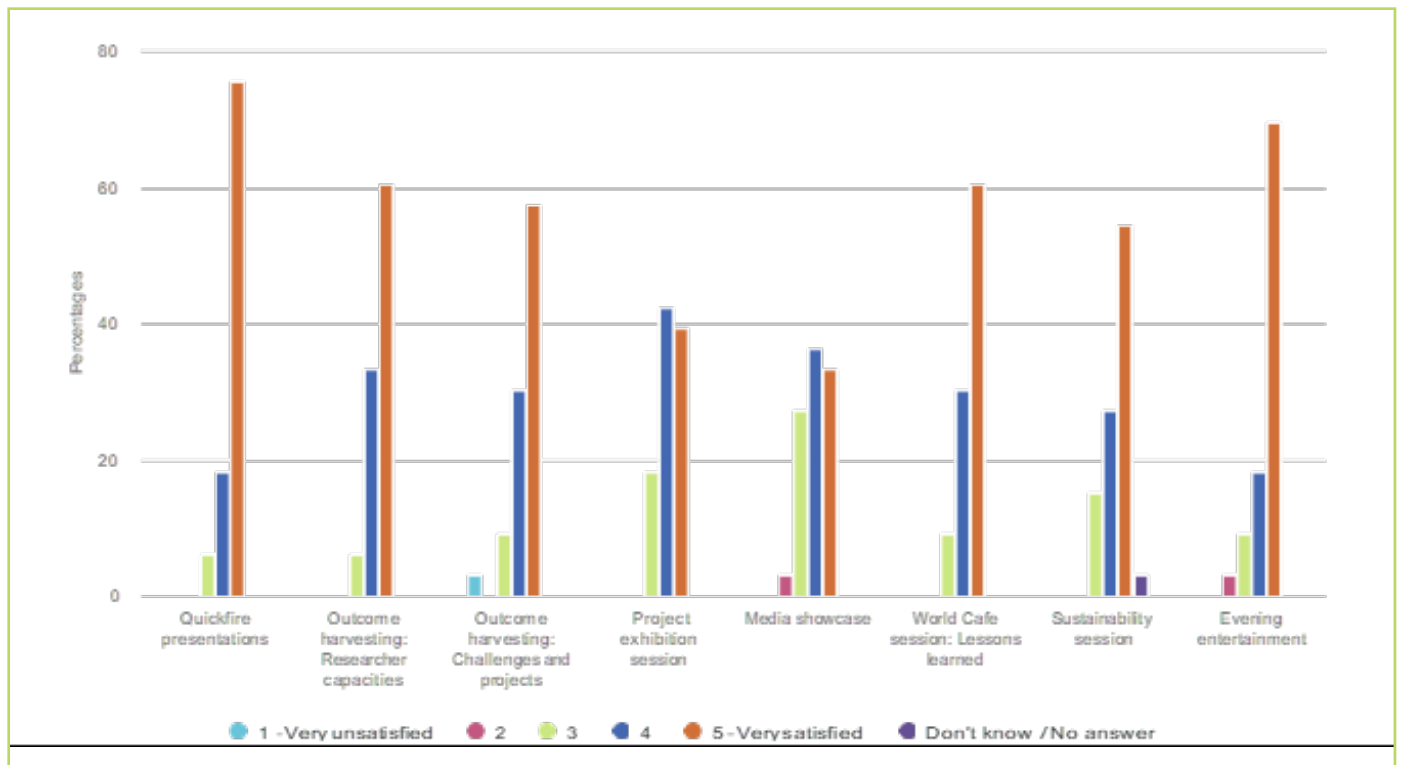
17.2 Workshop Communication, Flow and Hospitality:

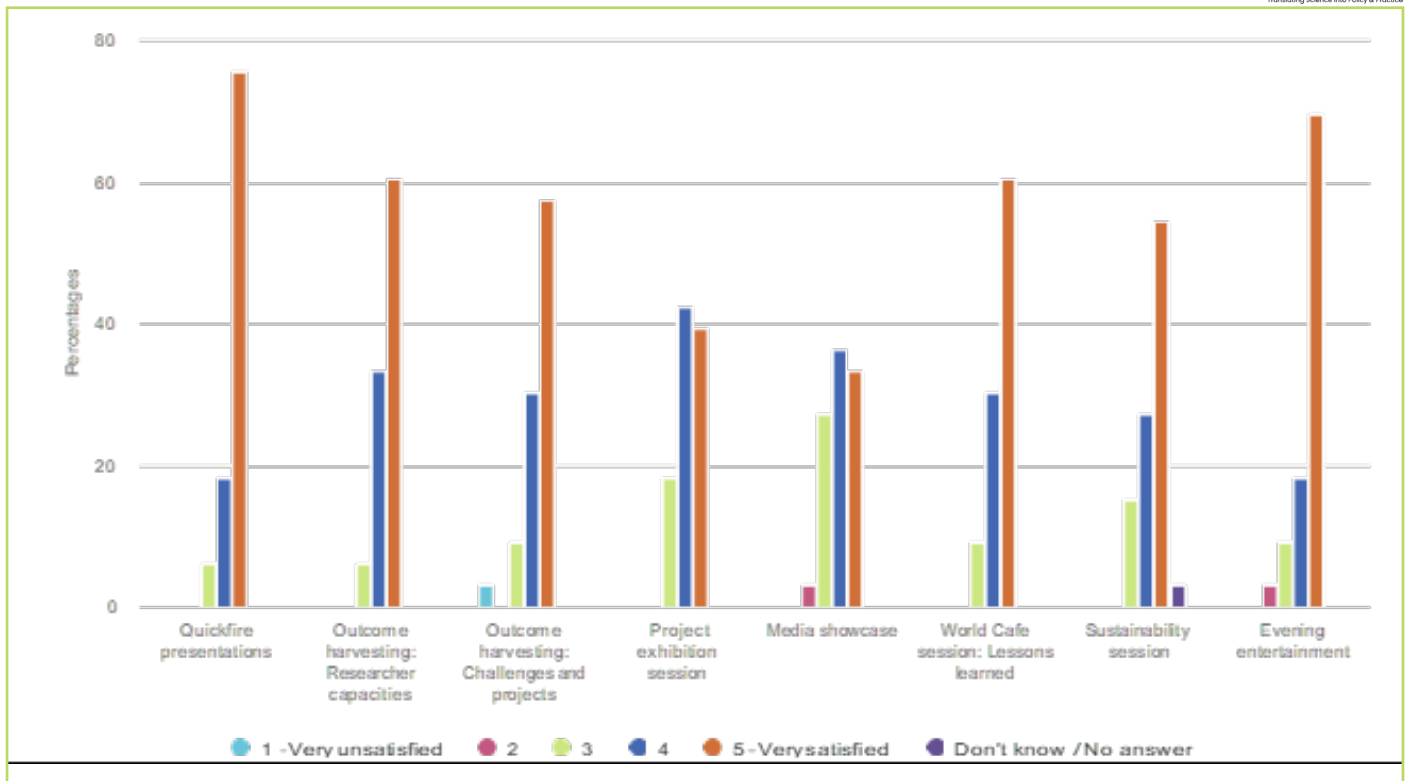
Prevent communication was deemed to be helpful with feedback realization of 76% indicating it was very helpful, 21% helpful, and a total of 3% fair and 6% unhelpful. The various workshop activities including programme events flow, support and hospitality aspects were rated as follows:



17.3 Workshop Programme:

Satisfaction levels with the end-to-end specific workshop sessions was sought from participants with the following feedback provided





17.4 Qualitative Feedback – Positive Aspects and Areas for Improvement

Respondents were requested for their comments on what they liked, areas for improvement noted, general feedback, as well as proposals for inclusion in future workshops. The numerous qualitative responses are batched into main highlights below:

17.4.1 Positive Aspects:

- Opportunities to show case progress, and learn from others' activities achievements
- Networking opportunities, meeting stakeholders, and expansion of contact persons
- Very structured and interactive programme that was well facilitated with great knowledge sharing
- The atmosphere of openness and communication, that facilitated sharing of experiences
- Event was well organized and planned and the time management was efficiently executed

17.4.2 Areas for Improvement:

- The programme was tightly packed with limited time to fully explore some discussion areas, the exhibitions and quick-fire sessions; allocation of an additional day would have been helpful
- More opportunity for interactions between projects, as well as showcasing projects through field visits
- Inclusion of more of the policy makers and private sectors actors in the workshop
- The meeting room space was limited, a bigger conference hall would counter the limitations
- Opportunities for more choice in the meals as well as other sampling other dining facilities
- The SIANI session was less engaging and found participants fatigued after an intense two days
- More drawing out of participants with language barrier from not having fluency in English
- Inclusion of local tours to enable incoming guests' appreciation of landmark sites/spots and the local culture and its people

17.4.3 Proposals for Future Workshops:

- To have project beneficiaries (communities) present to tell their stories of change
- Workshop to cover 3 full days and to include a afield learning visit
- Invitation of more policy makers and more relevant speakers and inclusion of more project team members to attend
- Attention to cross cultural aspects to include the diverse participants

There was overall consensus with multiple entries from participants in the general feedback section that the workshop was excellent, very well organized, value adding, impactful, a great learning and information exchange forum, and overall rewarding and enriching. Commendations for the organizers for putting together the event were whole heartedly expressed.

WORKSHOP PICTORIAL





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