



Communities of practice in Africa RISING phase II

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Background

- USAID re-emphasized the Africa RISING **Program** character: need for a program proposal
- Split in 3 regional project for budgetary reasons
- USAID requests maximization of cross-country and cross-region learning, synergies for impact at scale
- Needs harmonization of approaches and principles while considering site specific differences



Efforts in phase 1

- Framework document
- PCT
- Program Comms team
- Common branding and templates
- Joint learning events
- Exchange visits

Synergy enhancement in phase 2

- Common research questions in 5 areas
- SI indicator framework
- Common engagement standards
- Program-wide analyses, e.g. *ex-ante* and *ex-post* evaluation of innovations
- **Coordinated Communities of Practice**



What are CoPs?

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a passion for something that they know how to do and who interact regularly **to learn how to do it better.**



Elements of a CoP?

- self-organizing group, balance between formal and informal structure, hierarchy not important, exists beyond organizational borders, creates interlinkages, certain priority to members, bottom-up engagement, has a coordinator/manager
- thematic orientation that is of interest/relevance to the members, expect to improve own practice
- based on practical experience and questions, members share their experience and jointly look for answers to their questions, reality check of own practice



- members have a passion for the CoP because they see a professional benefit out of it
- organizations of the members are committed, define the thematic focus and expected results



Potential AR CoPs

Need to emerge from enthusiasm and motivation

- Livestock
- Nutrition
- Integrated Soil Fertility Management
- Land and Water Management
- Research design
- Big research questions
- ?

Already in place: Communication, Gender



Thank You

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