



An introduction to Africa RISING phase 2 Program-wide approaches

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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 across the projects while considering site specific differences



Phase 1 efforts towards program character

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

Synergy/impact enhancement in phase 2

- Program proposal
- Common engagement standards
- 5 common research questions
- Gender included in R-in-D activities
- **SI indicator framework**
- **Typologies for tailoring research and targeting scaling**
- **Program-wide analyses**
- **Communities of Practice**
- **Shared capacity development strategy**
- **Enhanced communication and knowledge sharing**



Indicator framework for SI

- AR mandate is to provide pathways out of hunger and poverty through sustainable intensification of farming systems
- Sustainable ag intensification has various dimensions: Productivity, Economics, Environment, Social, and Human conditions
- How can we measure the trajectory of SI in these domains?
- Indicator framework has been developed by a group of scientists from different institutions, incl. Africa RISING
- Africa RISING is adopting this framework in phase 2
- It is a set of indicators for each domain with appropriate metrics and methods for measurement
- It allows measuring change in the 5 domains at different scale (plot/field, farm, hh, landscape/admin unit) and assessing intervention trade-offs and interactions between scales



Typologies

- AR deals with heterogeneous farmers in different landscapes
- For impact at scale these heterogeneous farmers need to be clustered (typologies):
 - ✓ not all innovations are suitable for all farmers (tailoring)
 - ✓ it allows selection of representative farms to work with
 - ✓ it helps in scaling out innovations (targeting)
 - ✓ it allows predicting the effects when larger numbers of farmers within a typology adopt an innovation
 - ✓ it allows re-designing farms for optimal performance



Program-wide analyses

- Across countries, IFPRI will undertake analyses of different SI interventions to support research adaptation, targeting, scaling, innovation adoptability, decision making, *ex-ante* impact assessment, ...
 - ✓ *Ex-ante* and *ex-post* evaluations of interventions
 - ✓ Returns and risks associated with technologies
 - ✓ Determinants for technology adoption
 - ✓ Technology diffusion studies
 - ✓ Linkages between crop diversity and dietary diversity
 - ✓ Farm-level trade-offs between organic and inorganic N fertilizers
 - ✓ Bio-economic modeling
 - ✓ others



Communities of Practice

- Better coordination and capitalization of existing expertise across the projects in phase 1 could have yielded more science outputs, more cross-site learning, more streamlined activities across countries and partners
- CoPs bring together scattered people with a common interest in improving what they are doing
- Following consultations in ESA and ET within participation from WA, PCT is suggesting 5 **initial** CoPs to advance our science and achieve our goals



Capacity Development

- Cap dev of program and partner staff is an enabler in achieving the program's objectives
- In phase 1 no strategic approach to capacity building: hands-on training of farmers and extensions staff, graduate students
- The higher requirements in phase 2, esp. towards development outcomes, need a coordinated strategy for capacity building at different levels and in new/additional areas, based on a thorough needs assessment
- M&E of capacity development as part of overall M&E



Communication and knowledge sharing

- To be re-oriented to meet the evolving needs:
 - ✓ support to scaling
 - ✓ support to global knowledge bases
 - ✓ delivery of more outputs and outcomes
- Communication with:
 - ✓ actors on the ground to allow informed decision making
 - ✓ policymakers to influence development
 - ✓ media and development partners for scaling
 - ✓ program partners for enhanced learning, greater efficiency
 - ✓ donor



Thank You

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