

## Validation Workshop Summary

Held on June 28, 2017 at Southern Ridgeway Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia

A validation workshop was held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at Southern Sun Ridgeway Hotel in Lusaka. Various stakeholders from the agriculture and nutrition sectors were invited for the event. The meeting was opened by IAPRI executive Director Mr Chance Kabaghe who emphasized the need for stakeholders to reflect and come up with workable solutions on the high rates of malnutrition in Zambia and whether the right tools were being used to measure the impact of the interventions. He stated that it was unacceptable for Zambia to rank the second highest in the world after Haiti in terms of undernourishment according to the recent FAO report.

After the opening remarks, Dr Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka, the INGENAES Project Manager at IAPRI outlined the objectives of the meeting as follows:

- Provide an overview of INGENEAS collaborations with IAPRI
- Receive feedback from the projects on the study conducted by IAPRI
- Build a better understanding of the relevance and use of the measurement tools
- Establish a consensus on common measurement tools and opportunities for tool improvement

Before the presentation of the findings, Edey Kuyper, the INGENAES Project Coordinator at the University of California Davis gave an overview of the INGENAES project and the collaboration with IAPRI. Other than Zambia, the INGENAES project was implementing activities in Bangladesh, Nepal, Honduras, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Tajikistan. This presentation was followed by an overview of INGENAES activities in Zambia by the nutrition coordinator in Zambia, McDonald Mulongwe. Among the activities INGENAES is carrying out in the country, is advocating for the development of the national Food Based Dietary Guidelines.

The findings of the analysis of tools used in Zambia to measure the impact of agricultural extension interventions on gender and nutrition were later presented by Dr. Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka. Key findings were the key findings from the study;

- Most organizations are using appropriate and internationally approved tools to measure the impact of agricultural extension on nutrition outcomes and gender equity. Commonly used measurement include Agriculture Index (WEAI), Women Asset Ownership, Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), Individual Dietary Diversity Score (IDDS), Women Dietary Diversity Score (WDDS), Children's Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Hunger Scale (HHS) and various anthropometric measures
- Not all project staff understood the measures used – mostly only M&E staff

- Dependent on external organisations for impact assessment such that there was low appreciation and understanding of the measurements
- Tendency to measure only some sub-components of the tools e.g WEAI making it difficult to obtain complete information to measure women empowerment
- Tendency to focus more on activity indicators and less attention to impact indicators

After the presentation, the stakeholders provided the following reactions given that much of the conversation was based on their own findings:

i. Challenges in using some impact measuring tools

- Some measurements are costly: For example gender indicators, particularly the use of the complete WEAI, are very time intensive and expensive. Also, focusing on all components of women empowerment in a project may be too costly. This is what leads to many projects employing the partial use of tools such as the WEAI.
- Difficulties in obtaining adequate sample size for analysis: For example, where nutrition interventions dealt with children less than two years of age, it was difficult to have a sample size big enough for significant data because of year to year variations in the number of children who fall under this category.
- Respondents giving false information: For example for information on child feeding, the care givers typically report what they think they should have fed the child (what they think the enumerator wants to hear) based on the messages they receive from the service providers on what 'the right thing to do' is rather than what the child has been fed. This makes it difficult to collect the correct data.
- The stakeholders reported that project staff cannot do the impact evaluation on their own as they require external evaluators for an objective assessment and is sometimes the requirements of the donors so the focus continues to be on activities. It is from these activities that the impact is measured, which may not necessarily be the best way to do it.
- M&E components of the project are sometimes underfunded during project design making data collection very difficult. This can be seen in poor implementation because of poor project design.

The stakeholders posed the following questions/queries about the findings:

ii. Questions/suggestions

- The study should define the study method more clearly stating who the target was in the organizations for interviewing
- Why the paper focused only on impacts leaving out input, output and outcome indicators?
- Should cost effectiveness not focus only what the project wants to achieve?
- How did the research conclude that impact indicators were not being measured by the projects?

- Cost data on the various indicators could be obtained from consulting firms as main stream organizations may not have the proper breakdown for the nature of the information required for the paper
- There is a need to train all staff in basic M&E
- Basic indicators by the use of tools such as before and after pictures can help in showing impacts. Impact evaluation does not necessarily need 'big tools' to carry out M&E. A more 'down-the-line' activities can be done
- Other tools that can be used in impact evaluations by projects can be success stories
- Blanket indicator recommendations to serve as a guideline for data collection may be a challenge because of the differences in project timelines<sup>1</sup>.
- It would be helpful if calls for donors were revised to facilitate better M&E components in projects under consideration
- Consider a qualitative component M&E data collection

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<sup>1</sup> The implications of this comment are that making a toolbox or guidelines may not be necessarily helpful to the stakeholders as they do not see the need for it.

Time (AM)	Activity	Responsible
08:30-9:00	Registration	IAPRI
09:00-09:10	Opening Remarks	Mr Chance Kabaghe Executive Director - IAPRI
09:10 – 09: 30	Objectives of the Workshop	Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka
9:30 – 10:00	About the INGENAES project and Activity 4.2 (Partnership with IAPRI)	Edye Kuyper
10:00 – 10:15	Overview of other INGENAES nutrition activities in Zambia	McDonald Mulongwe
10:15 – 10:30	Discussion	Moderator
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break	
11:00 – 11:30	Global Overview of Measures and collaborations with IAPRI	Edye Kuyper
11:30 - 12:00	Presentation of the findings of the analysis of indicators	Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion and Feedback	Moderator
12:30 – 12:45	Project next steps	IAPRI
13:00	Lunch	

## **ANNEX I: WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

**Validation Workshop on Analysis of Measures of Gender and Nutrition of Agricultural Extension Interventions**

**Venue: Southern Sun**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**

Director of Ceremonies: Ballard Mutale Zulu

**ANNEX 2: LIST OF ATTENDEES – INGENAES VALIDATION WORKSHOP,  
SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL, RIDGEWAY**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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7	Harvest-Plus	Esther Zulu	Research Manager SUN Fund	ezulu@cgiar.org	097 850 6508
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24	Natural Resources Development college	Nchimunya Mbewe	Acting Head of Department	ncmbewe@gmail.com	097 741 7938
25	NutriAID Trust	Peter Manda	Chief of Party		097 784 5766
26	Pan African Radio	Ashton Bundu	Journalist		096 557 7058
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