

Methodological Workshop on PARI Investment Research Cluster: Targeting Investments in Innovations and Framework Conditions

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Policy Studies Institute (PSI)



Background

The Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) is a partnership initiative entrenched in the bigger initiative tagged “One World – No Hunger” (SEWOH) of the German government. It aims to secure and enhance investments in the Green Innovation Centers (GICs) promoted by the GIZ, in a sustainable way through a dedicated cooperation between research and application. PARI essentially conducts necessary action research to tease out information and generate knowledge that can inform actions appropriate to trigger innovations in African countries.

Since 2018, PARI changed its research implementation strategy from country-based research to the research cluster mode. Five thematic research clusters (RC) were proposed: (RC1) Targeting investments in innovations and framework conditions; (RC 2) Mechanization and skill development for productivity growth, employment and value addition; (RC3) Digitalization in agriculture, food and nutrition; (RC4) Enhancing opportunities for the youth in the rural economy; and (RC 5) Improving the policy context and contributing to evidence-based policy processes. The 4 overarching goals to be addressed by the clusters include: 1) Food and nutrition security (food availability, and access; nutrition improvement); 2) Job creation; 3) Income improvements (in agriculture and other rural opportunities; and, 4) Raising the attractiveness of rural areas to reduce migration.

FARA is co-leading the research cluster 1 on investment opportunities with ZEF. Three countries viz; Ghana, Ethiopia and Tunisia are participating in the research implementation alongside specific studies by FARA and ZEF staff. Accordingly, FARA organized a two-day workshop with its partners to discuss and agree on the different studies and harmonize the methodology.

The workshop was convened to achieve the following objectives

- i. Present and discuss the expected scientific outputs from the outputs of the research cluster
- ii. Outline the needed research methodology for each country
- iii. Develop harmonized tools for the different tools for the different surveys

The reports highlight key issues from country proposals, harmonized methodologies, tools, resources and timelines agreed upon for submission.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	AREA OF SPECIALISATION
Zaneta Kubik	ZEF/Germany	Agric Economics
Meriem Oueslati Zlaoui	INRAT/Tunisia	Rural Economy
Prof. Oluwole Fatunbi	FARA/Ghana	Farming Systems, Agronomy
Dr. Paul Boadu	FARA/Ghana	Agricultural Economics
Mr. Benjamin Abugri	FARA/Ghana	Knowledge Management
Dr. Richard Ampedu	CSIR-STEPRI/Ghana	Agricultural Economics
Dr. Rose Omari	CSIR-STEPRI/Ghana	Interdisciplinary Food Scientist

Tigabu Degu	EDRI/ Ethiopia	Quantitative Economics
Gebeyehu Manie	EDRI/Ethiopia	Applied Economics
Labaran Tito	FARA/Ghana	-
Richard Asare	FARA/Ghana	-

OPENING REMARKS (Prof. Oluwole Fatunbi)

The meeting began with opening remarks by Dr. Oluwole Fatunbi, the Lead Coordinator for the African Component of the Program for Accompanying Research in Innovation on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. Yemi Akimbamijo and the Director of Research and Innovation, Dr. Irene Annor Frempong. He expressed a warm welcome to all participant and underscored the importance of the meeting methodology meeting in ensuring common understanding, coherence, discuss any possible challenges and developed action plan for effective delivery on the project. This was followed by presentations by participants, sharing their country experiences and proposed approach to the project. The highlights of the presentations are given below:

Presentation 1: Investment Opportunities for Job Creation in Post-Harvest and Market Linkages for Sustainable Food Systems (Dr. Paul Boadu)

Highlights

The youth occupy a larger proportion of the African population. Youth unemployment remains a major bottleneck in the development of many African Counties. The situation is further exacerbated by the unattractiveness of the youth to the Agricultural sector due to numerous factors including lack of infrastructures, limited access to resources including land and credit facilities, limited market access among others. He emphasized that by addressing those challenges, more jobs can be created for the youth thus help improving their livelihood. Our abilities to transform job from the production sector of the food systems to the other components of the food system will help develop the sector thus create more jobs for the youth along value chains.

The study seeks to identify investment opportunities and leveraging points for job creation focusing on post-harvest of selected country priority commodities/crops based on available and projected data; and purpose mechanisms to promote rural-urban market linkages to stimulate further production and rural development.

Among the 7 study countries, data has been collected from three; Ghana, Nigeria and Togo and effort are being made to reconcile the data and structure them for analysis.

Key issues Raised

- The concept note is focused only on crops and does not include livestock or other agricultural value chains
- There is the need to highlight some factors in the food system (Storage, Export logistics)

Presentation 2: Employment Potential of the Food Sector (Zaneta Kubik)

Highlights

Food system contributes a major share of employment in developing countries. Food system is a catalyst for economic transformation and development. To fully leverage on the potential of agriculture it is important to invest in the development of the food sector.

The research seeks to estimate the potential of food sector to create decent and inclusive employment. The research activities will aim at creating jobs, improving productivity, and improving access to jobs. More specifically, the study seeks to estimate the potential for the food sector to create decent and inclusive employment. The study is expected to address the triple job challenge: expanding job creation (more jobs), raising labor productivity and earnings (better jobs), improving access to jobs (inclusiveness of jobs). Thus, providing understanding food system dynamics to estimate how investments and other interventions in the food sector will impact the quantity, quality and inclusiveness of jobs. She indicated that the study will use firm level survey data and adopt appropriate micro-econometrics analysis to address the objectives of the study.

Key issues that were raised for discussion and consideration after the presentation were:

- There is the need to narrow the scope of the food sector to make data collection easy.
- Due to time and the high cost of primary data collection, specialization should be done to select a specific value chain
- Need to take to account indirect employment that are done by the organizations to fully determine the rate of employment and the potential of generation of jobs

Brief overview of approach by Ethiopia: Dr. Tigabu Degu

He emphasized the food sector in Ethiopia play an important role in job creation especially for women. He added that due to the informal nature of the food and beverage industry in Ethiopia, the approach to the study will take an exploratory form. Available secondary data sources such as those conducted by the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) in Ethiopia will be used.

Brief overview of approach by Tunisia: Dr. Meriem Oueslati Zlaoui

She indicated the food and beverage sector in Tunisia is well organized as such a more systematic approach can be adopted to collect the necessary data for the study. She added that the team will liaise with the appropriate authorities to gather the necessary data for the study.

Brief overview of approach by Ghana: Dr. Rose Omari

In her submissions, Dr. Rose, mentioned that employment growth in the food sector appears to be much faster, especially for women, than that of farming and even though the direct employment effects might be relatively small, the indirect and induced effects on job creation are expected to be substantial. She added that the team will work with the various agencies in Ghana, including the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to gather the necessary data for the study.

DAY 2

The second day of the meeting began with a recap of proceedings from the previous day. The was led by Dr. Richard Ampadu who facilitated the meeting. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to crafting the methodology for the study. Following several deliberations, the meeting agreed on the following approach for the study.

Issues	Approach/focus
Study focus	Food and beverage processing industries/activities in the study counties
Data collection	<p>Step 1: thorough literature review and data collection available data. The data collection should be based on secondary data available to determine what information is available to inform further steps. The data should be disaggregated by age and gender, where possible. The age distribution may be country specific and based on data structure.</p> <p>Step 2: Ten (10) Focus group discussion (FGDs) and Key informant interviews (KII) should be conducted. Structured guide questions were to be designed facilitate the discussions/interviews</p> <p>The institutions/businesses to identified should e categorized into:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Employment AgenciesInvestment institutesAgro processing firms

Issues	Approach/focus
	<p>FGD's will be done with workers from the same company (6-8 persons) and they should be randomly picked from each departments of the firms. Capturing of information based on gender and youth should be prioritized. There should be a variation of the interviewers selected based on the quality of work and inclusiveness (Low skilled or High skilled). Focus should be given to production workers and the lines in production for the FGD</p> <p>Sampling guide: Four (4) main strata to be used as sampling guide for the data collection discussed are outlined below. Each stratum contains categories for the selection of the samples.</p> <p>Strata 1: Selection of business/enterprise based on ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foreign owned ▪ Domestic owned ▪ Joint ventures ▪ State owned <p>Strata 2: Selection of business/enterprise based on size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Micro ▪ Small / Medium ▪ Large <p>Strata 3: Selection of business/enterprise based on the type of product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capital intensive ▪ Labor intensive <p>Strata 4: Exporting firms</p>
Indicators	<p>The indicators of interest should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital to labour ratio • Labour • Labour
Concept note	<p>The concept note of the study should be revised to incorporate the changes discussed</p>

Deliverable Milestone

Date	Info
<i>May 31, 2019</i>	Submission of qualitative data from desk research
<i>June 30, 2019</i>	Survey to be done using secondary data
<i>End of September</i>	Submission of first draft for peer review

Closing Remarks

The meeting was brought to an end at 14:00 with a closing remark from Professor Oluwole Fatunbe. He expressed his gratitude to all participants from Ethiopia, Tunisia, Ghana and ZEF on behalf of FARA, and urged all country partners to devote the needed attention to the project and respect the agreed upon action and timelines.