

FoodSTART+ PROGRESS REPORT



Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific FoodSTART+ PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT

27 November 2015 to 31 December 2016

Submitted by the
INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTER

to the
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



Progress Report

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Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific (FoodSTART+)

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DISCLAIMER

The authors accept full responsibility for the contents of this report. The report does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission or IFAD.

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ACRONYMS

AAIGA	Agriculture, Agribusiness and Income Generating Activities
ACPoR	Annual country programme review
CHARMP2	Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resources Management Project
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIP	International Potato Center
COSOP	Country strategic opportunities programme
CRP-RTB	CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas
EU	European Union
FBS	Farmer business school
FishCORAL	Fisheries Coastal Resources and Livelihood Project
FoodSTART+	Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific
HARIIP	Hunan Agricultural Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project
HH	Household(s)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INREMP	Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
Megha-LAMP	Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
R4D	Research for development
RTCs	Roots and tuber crops
SOLID	Smallholder Livelihood Development Project
SRDP	Sustainable Rural Development Project
TAP	Technical Advisory Pool
ToR	Terms of reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
VSU	Visayas State University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific (FoodSTART+) project is a 3-year research grant funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Fund (IFAD). Implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP), together with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and in close collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (CRP-RTB), FoodSTART+ aims to enhance food resilience among poor households (HH) in upland and coastal communities of the Asia-Pacific region through the introduction of roots and tuber crops (RTC) innovations, primarily within the framework of IFAD investments. The project's objectives are to (1) identify gender-responsive needs and opportunities through vulnerability assessments among food-insecure RTC-producing and consuming HH; (2) design and implement innovations that enhance food resilience with partners and local stakeholders; and (3) develop and validate effective partnership strategies with IFAD investment projects in promoting RTCs for food security at scale.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

The project has five outputs:

- Output 1: Subnational geographic target areas combining food vulnerability with significant RTC production and use are prioritised and mapped
- Output 2: Effective, mutually beneficial, research-for-development (R4D) partnerships identified, established, and monitored
- Output 3: Gender-sensitive RTC innovations that respond to 10–20-year climate-change scenarios and expressed needs of stakeholders are identified
- Output 4: R4D actions to promote RTC innovations implemented and monitored and the results documented
- Output 5: Field-based best practices, outcome stories, and success factors are documented and disseminated to support IFAD, CIP, CIAT, and wider national and regional policy development.

Funding for the five outputs of FoodSTART+ comes from two sources: a larger grant from the EU (€1,830,551) and a smaller grant from IFAD (US \$200,000). These are complemented by co-financing from CIP (\$100,000). The small grant provided by IFAD focuses on applying and extending partnership models with IFAD investment projects which have emerged from earlier FoodSTART experiences, which includes the operational activities concerning the identification, establishment, and monitoring of R4D partnerships in Output 2. The EU large grant, on the other hand, covers Outputs 1 and 3–5. In view of delays in the approval process for the larger EU-funded component of this project, and in agreement with IFAD grant manager, additional activities of Output 1 involving site selection, identification of partner investment sites, and the conduct of scoping studies were funded by the smaller grant, though they are reported here as envisaged in the Agreement.

ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST ACTIVITIES/TARGETS

Output 1

Activity 1.1: Scoping studies (6), based on research sites/investment projects identified in proposal

Six scoping studies conducted in five countries were completed in the early part of the reporting period and submitted as drafts during the inception workshop in February 2016 (these studies were initiated through revised arrangements of the IFAD smaller grant, as indicated above). The six studies were carried out by teams comprising FoodSTART+ staff and IFAD investment project staff. The scoping studies were conducted in the five target countries with identified investment projects as

follows: Hunan Agricultural Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (HARIIP) in China; Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) in India; Smallholder Livelihood Development Project (SOLID) in Indonesia; Fisheries Coastal Resources and Livelihood Project (FishCORAL) and Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project (INREMP) in the Philippines; and Sustainable Rural Development Project (SRDP) in Vietnam. In all cases stakeholder meetings were held to feedback the main results of the scoping studies to farmers and officials who had provided information, receive reactions and inputs from them, and refine the recommendations accordingly. The scoping studies were edited during the year. The seventh scoping study was initiated towards the end of the reporting period in Myanmar, led by FoodSTART+ and implemented by a Burmese consultant working with local officials and farmers. The report is due by end of March.

Activity 1.2: Development of RTC-suitability maps based on climate and land use change scenarios

This component is led by the CIAT-Asia team that already developed a mapping proposal/work plan. However, with the delayed contract signing of the EU component between CIP and IFAD which led to further delay in signing the subcontract with CIAT (signed late 2016), implementation was put on hold. Suitability maps are yet to be done and will be pursued in the second year of project implementation.

Activity 1.3: Cross learning from previous FoodSTART project facilitated

The project was launched on 2 February 2016, and was attended by FoodSTART+ staff, IFAD country representatives from Philippines and Vietnam, and IFAD investments project staff from Philippines, China, and Indonesia. The launch included a key session and panel discussion about the successful collaboration in northern Philippines between the first phase of FoodSTART and the IFAD investment project known as the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resources Management Project (CHARMP2). The IFAD country program officer for Philippines; the Agriculture, Agribusiness and Income Generating Activities (AAIGA) Coordinator for CHARMP2; and FoodSTART staff who were actively involved in the first phase partnership with CHARMP2 participated in the panel. A video of the CHARMP2-FoodSTART collaboration was shown.

A planned cross visit by a delegation from the IFAD SOLID project in Indonesia for October 2016 was postponed at the last moment by the Indonesian team because of issues within the SOLID project organisation.

Activity 1.4: Literature review and assessment of approaches to food vulnerability and resilience conducted

The delay in contract signing of the EU component caused the literature review on food vulnerability and resilience to be postponed; however, Ms Nadezda Amaya, consultant, was hired in late 2016, and the report will be ready by March 2017.

Output 2¹

Activity 2.1: Participation in relevant country COSOPS and investment project scoping and design missions

FoodSTART+ staff contributed to various relevant country strategic opportunities programme (COSOPS), investment projects supervisions missions, and IFAD country offices activities. The objective was to promote the prioritisation and incorporation of RTCs for increased food resilience. These included contributions to an IFAD country office review and supervision mission of Megha-LAMP in India; participation in a supervision mission of SOLID in Indonesia; and multiple contributions to IFAD country activities in the Philippines, including the annual country programme review and evaluation meeting/workshops related to the IFAD Philippines country strategy.

¹ This is a brief update of most of the activities that were undertaken as part of the IFAD small grant project and reported on in May 2016.

Activity 2.2: Rapid review of appropriate partnership mechanisms and modes of collaboration with IFAD investment projects conducted

A major achievement of FoodSTART+ in its first year of implementation has been the establishment of partnerships with the six IFAD investment projects in the five target country sites. Owing to exchange rate fluctuations affecting the dollar value of the budget which was used to determine operations, reductions in the scope of the project led to China being reclassified as a secondary site and requiring additional sources of funding to FoodSTART+ to support collaborative activities. During initial interactions with the targeted investment projects, discussions were held about the most appropriate partnership options and arrangements that could be established for the proposed collaborations. The results of these discussions were brought to a special session on partnership arrangements held during the inception meeting in February 2016. This discussion provided the basis for three types of partnership arrangements: embedded (India and probably Vietnam); neighbourhood (Philippines), and provisional (Indonesia). Briefly, the embedded mode involves posting a staff to be based in the offices of the investment project in the area of its operation, to be the active promotor and facilitator of partnership interactions. The neighbourhood mode involves locating the promotor and facilitator of the partnership in an institutional setting with ready physical and collaborative access to investment projects. The provisional mode involves the location of the FoodSTART+ staff in Indonesia close to the headquarters of the SOLID investment project, whilst management decisions are ongoing regarding collaboration.

Activity 2.3: Workshops in target sites to agree on mutually beneficial partnership and engagement process for FoodSTART+ implementation

Five stakeholder workshops were held in the different sites to identify and prioritise collaborative opportunities for FoodSTART+ and the investment project to work together towards more effectively reaching the goals of the investment project. Either directly within the stakeholder meetings or in separate workshops held between FoodSTART+ and investment project personnel, the basis of the partnership was also discussed and defined. As a result of these workshops and meetings, six annual collaborative action plans were developed.

Activity 2.4: Evolving partnerships monitored

FoodSTART+ began the adaptation of the “Partnership Health Check-up”, originally developed by CIP in sub-Saharan Africa. This monitors organisational contributions to partnerships, the degree of mutual support, transparency and accountability, and overall partnership efficiency. This will be implemented over the second year of the project.

Activity 2.5: Technical working group established and operationalised to advise and contribute to design and conduct of Outputs 3–5

FoodSTART+ has formed a pool of experts, called the Technical Advisory Pool (TAP), to provide technical advice on project implementation. The TAP was formed and first convened during the inception meeting in February 2016. At present, six specialists participate in the TAP, covering a range of thematic areas. Members have provided a range of specialist inputs to investment projects during the year, including acting as resource persons for the stakeholder meetings to contributing to training sessions.

Output 3

Activity 3.1: Design of efficient and effective assessment process and instruments, based on previous FoodSTART experience and the increased focus on the dynamic aspects of food security (vulnerability-resilience in time)

The assessment process has been variable between different sites. In Philippines, in both investment projects, stakeholder and action plan development workshops did not identify the need for further assessments but, rather, decided that the collaboration with FoodSTART+ should move directly to

support training and implementation of farmer business schools (FBS) (see Activity 3.3). In India, assessments were discussed as part of the preparation of the action plan between Megha-LAMP, FoodSTART+ staff, and TAP members. FoodSTART+ staff and TAP members developed the methods and tools for potato and cassava value chain assessments. In Vietnam, initial discussions indicate the likelihood that complementary assessments will be carried out for better understanding of socio-economic, food, and agriculture issues at the commune level in order to design value chain action plans for each commune. These plans will be confirmed in early 2017. In Indonesia, no decisions have yet been taken.

Activity 3.2: Implementation of assessments in focus sites

A potato value chain study was undertaken in Meghalaya, India, to analyse the entire chain and identify major constraints and areas where interventions could significantly increase returns for potato producers. This information will be used to identify Megha-LAMP interventions. Most data collection was completed by December 2016, with the report expected by March 2017. A FoodSTART+ TAP member facilitated a data collection training workshop in November 2016 in Shillong, India, ahead of data collection. The FoodSTART+ staff based in Megha-LAMP led data collection, together with a team of Megha-LAMP staff. A study of agricultural practices for cassava and sweetpotato in Quang Binh (SRDP site) in Vietnam was conducted by two students from University of California–Davis and Dickinson University (both in the USA) from June to August 2016. The study looks at the gaps between existing agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture for cassava and sweetpotato. The report will be available in early 2017.

Activity 3.3: Assessment reports that identify needs and opportunities for enhancing food resilience of focus site communities

A potato value chain study report will be available by March 2017 to determine detailed actions to strengthen the potato sector in Meghalaya as part of the Megha-LAMP project.

This activity includes reporting on cross visits between sites. FoodSTART+ staff and partners from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam participated in a cross learning field visit in Eastern Visayas, Philippines (devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013) prior to the project launch and inception meeting in 29–31 January 2016. The purpose of the visit was to learn from RTCs initiatives implemented in Philippines through the emerging partnership between FoodSTART and an IFAD investment project (FishCORAL) (see Annex 7).

Output 4

Activity 4.1: Stakeholder consultations in focus sites to develop action plan for implementation of innovations based on assessment results (compatible with work plans of investment projects)

As an integral part of the six scoping studies completed during the reporting period, stakeholder workshops were held to review the results of the studies and draft proposals for prioritised follow-up actions. Inputs from stakeholders resulted in revised plans and priorities and helped strengthen buy in for their implementation. Action plans from these validation workshops were further reviewed and refined during the FoodSTART+ inception meeting in February 2016, and in mini-workshops by FoodSTART+ staff and investment projects.

Activity 4.2: Action plan implementation

Actions will be implemented in the second year based on the action plans developed with investment projects (Activity 4.1), some on-going assessment activities (see Activity 3.1), and several capacity-building activities (Activity 4.3).

Activity 4.3: Capacity building of investment project implementers

During the reporting period, capacity building of investment project and partner staff has focused on value chain methodology, including assessment tools and value chain development approaches, and the introduction of the FBS approach to help investment projects achieve their objectives in increasing incomes and livelihood of target beneficiaries. Seven capacity-strengthening events related to these topics have taken place during the period—four in Philippines and three in India. Planned hands-on training in value chains in Indonesia and capacity building in value chains and FBS through a cross-site visit by SOLID staff to northern Philippines were both put on hold owing to SOLID internal management issues.

As part of cross-regional sharing of FBS methodology between IFAD grant and investment projects, a one-day orientation workshop was held in Quito, Ecuador, for staff of a CIP-led IFAD grant project operating in three countries of Latin America (IFAD-Andes). The workshop, held on 14 November 2016, was given by Christopher Wheatley, FoodSTART+ TAP member and senior FoodSTART+ value chain advisor. The workshop was also attended by government agriculture officers, non-governmental organisations, university faculty, and producers' groups linked to an IFAD investment project. The workshop led to the discussion and plans for potential application of FBS in the IFAD-Andes project.

Activity 4.4: Monitoring and evaluation plan developed and implemented

A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan has been drafted by FoodSTART+ staff and will be shared with investment projects during the 2017 FoodSTART+ partners' meeting (scheduled for May 2017). During the meeting, coordination with the M&E systems of relevant investment projects through a number of means, including data collection, will be explored. We plan to support investment project partners to monitor changes in food consumption, gender norms, and HH capacity to ensure food security over time. Specific tools include progress indicators, gender checklist, resilience indicators, and partnership health check-up.

Output 5

Activity 5.1: Communications and engagement plan developed for target audiences

A communications and visibility plan has been drafted and will be shared with the investment projects during the 2017 FoodSTART+ partners' meeting. FoodSTART+ site is already included in IFAD-Asia portal.

Activity 5.2: Cross-site synthesis by project coordination unit with Technical Working Group

To be implemented.

Activity 5.3: Knowledge product development and publication

The “most significant change” methodology was adopted for the evaluation of CHARMP2 and will result in knowledge products (book and video) to share lessons on FBS use and benefits thereof for FoodSTART+ partners and other interested stakeholders.

Activity 5.4: Implementation of communications and engagement plan

Under implementation.

Activity 5.5: Seminars/workshops for policymakers

To be implemented.

GENDER

Gender is receiving high priority in all areas of implementation of FoodSTART+. To ensure that gender issues are considered at all stages of implementation, a gender checklist has been developed by Nozomi Kawarazuka, TAP member and RTB gender specialist based in Vietnam. It has been pilot tested

in India, Indonesia, and Philippines with FoodSTART+ staff there. On the basis of feedback discussed during the team meeting planned for February 2017, a refined version will be rolled out during the partners' meeting. This will be integrated into the FoodSTART+ gender strategy, a draft of which has already been developed by the TAP gender specialist and shared within the team. The full strategy and checklist will be shared more broadly during the partners' meeting in May 2017, for proposed adoption in the investment projects.

PARTNERSHIPS

As already described, a whole Output 2 of FoodSTART+ is dedicated to the elaboration of different models of partnership between the grant project and the targeted IFAD investment projects and their development and monitoring. A paper describing the partnership development experience with IFAD investment projects during the first phase of FoodSTART is being finalised.

An important partnership being developed in FoodSTART+ is with the CRP-RTB. Both CIP and CIAT are members of that CRP, and there are good opportunities for cross-learning around technology issues, especially integrated pest and nutrient management in India and postharvest issues in Vietnam and possibly Myanmar. It is also proposed that RTB will be represented on the FoodSTART+ Steering Committee.

EC/IFAD VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES

A communications and visibility plan as well as various briefs on FoodSTART+ have been prepared. FoodSTART+ site is already included in IFAD-Asia portal.

CONCLUSIONS (INCLUDING PRIORITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD)

Good progress had been maintained in most of the outputs anticipated for implementation during the first year. Owing to a delay in signing the agreement between IFAD and CIP for the EU component, there was a corresponding delay in signing the sub-agreement with CIAT, which put on hold follow-up actions to scoping studies in Vietnam and Indonesia as well as the Geographic Information System work. Furthermore, SOLID in Indonesia is reviewing its collaborative arrangements in light of the limited period left to complete the project.

The priority for the next period is for India and Philippines to move to implementation of actions as follow on from the scoping, assessment, and capacity-strengthening activities, and for Indonesia and Vietnam to move to assessment, capacity strengthening, and action.

In all cases, we expect more attention to the project's communication and visibility through publishing of results and communicating progress and achievements. More details can be found in Annex 22.

1. BACKGROUND

FoodSTART+ builds on and expands the scope of the Food Security Through Asian Root and Tuber Crops (FoodSTART) project supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Fund (IFAD). The project is being implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP), together with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and in close collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (CRP-RTB), from 2011 to 2015. One of the major achievements of the FoodSTART project is the generation and systematisation of evidence on the contribution of root and tuber crops (RTC) to the food security of low-income male and female agricultural producers and consumers, with particular focus on indigenous peoples. More important, the project developed and promoted methods, tools, and best practices for IFAD investment projects to better target and facilitate impact at scale for outcome-focused RTCs innovations. One such tool is the food security framework, which focussed on food availability, access, and utilisation during operationalisation. FoodSTART+ aims to expand upon this focus to include the analysis of the dynamic, cross-cutting aspect of vulnerability/resilience, and the capacity of communities and households (HH) to adapt through the use of an approach to food security/resilience. With the growing recognition of climate change impact on food systems and food security, bridging the gap between security and resilience is critical. Hence, by drawing upon FoodSTART's knowledge base, the project aims to provide a more robust RTC-based food security model with which to go to scale. The overall purpose of FoodSTART+ is to promote the role of RTCs in reducing food vulnerability and enhancing resilience of poor male and female agricultural producers and consumers in the Asia-Pacific.

1.1 PROJECT GOAL

The overall project goal is to enhance food resilience among poor HH in upland and coastal communities of the Asia-Pacific region, through the introduction of RTC innovations, primarily within the framework of research-for-development (R4D) partnerships with IFAD investments.

1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project objectives are to (1) identify gender-responsive needs and opportunities through vulnerability assessments among food-insecure RTC-producing and consuming HH; (2) design and implement innovations with partners and local stakeholders that enhance food resilience; and (3) develop and validate effective partnership strategies with IFAD investment projects in promoting RTCs for food security at-scale.

1.3 PROJECT COMPONENTS/OUTPUT

The FoodSTART+ project consists of two funding sources: a larger grant from the European Union (EU) (€1,800,000) and a smaller grant from IFAD. The project comprises five outputs (see Table 1). Of these outputs, the IFAD smaller grant was expected to cover the operational activities only of Output 2—*Identification, establishment, and monitoring of effective and mutually beneficial R4D partnerships*. This output ensures the establishment and effective functioning of the R4D partnerships, primarily between FoodSTART+ and the IFAD investment projects. The EU larger grant, on the other hand, covers Output 1—*Geographical targeting based on scoping studies and mapping of food vulnerability as well as RTC production and use*; Output 3—*Identification of gender-sensitive RTC innovations responding to prioritised needs and opportunities*; Output 4—*Implementation of R4D actions to promote identified RTC innovations*; and Output 5—*Documentation and knowledge product development to support IFAD, CIP, CIAT, and wider national and regional policy development*. Annex 1 presents the full logframe of FoodSTART+.

Table 1. FoodSTART+ project outputs, activities, and indicators

Outputs	Activities		Indicators/targets
	EU Large Grant	IFAD Small Grant	
Output 1: Subnational geographic target areas combining food vulnerability with significant RTC production and use are prioritised and mapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct scoping studies • Develop RTC suitability maps • Cross-learning from previous FoodSTART project • Literature review and assessment 	Selection of 5 research (focus) sites linked to IFAD investment projects, for development of R4D action in subsequent outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 scoping studies completed* • 5 benchmark sites selected and investment project partners identified for future collaboration • 1 regional map and 5 detailed maps of focus site areas • 1 launch meeting • 1 literature review on food vulnerability/resilience
Output 2: Effective, mutually beneficial, R4D partnerships identified, established, and monitored		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in relevant country COSOPS and investment project scoping and design missions • Rapid review of appropriate partnership mechanisms and modes of collaboration with IFAD investment projects • Workshops in target sites to agree on mutually beneficial partnership and engagement process for FoodSTART+ implementation • Monitoring of evolving partnership via annual “partnership health checks” involving project coordination unit and partners • Establishment and operation of a technical working group (TWG) to advise and contribute to the design and conduct of Outputs 3–5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 IFAD country COSOPS and investment project design missions that prioritise or incorporate RTC food resilience (in collaboration with IFAD country programmes/offices) • 3 partnership mechanisms reviewed • 2 high-potential partnership options selected for pilot testing • 4 comprehensive partnership/collaboration agreements or contracts with IFAD investment projects and other partners • 3 “partnership health checks” completed with positive results • Feedback from 3 investment project supervision missions on status of project partnerships • 1 terms of reference (ToR) for the TWG agreed and implemented • Minutes of 3 meetings of the TWG, with recommendations • Input from TWG of 3 Aide Memoire of supervision missions
Output 3: Gender-sensitive RTC innovations that respond to 10-year climate change scenarios and the identified expressed needs of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of assessment process and instruments increased focus on the dynamic aspects of food security (vulnerability-resilience in time) • Assessments implementation in focus sites • Assessments report identifying needs and opportunities for enhancing food resilience 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 workshop producing 1 report with assessment process guidelines and specific instruments used (number to be determined in a workshop, depending on process) • 5 assessments completed • 5 assessments analysed and reported
Output 4: R4D actions to promote RTC innovations implemented and monitored, and results documented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultations to develop action plan of innovations based on assessment results • Action plan implementation • Capacity-building of investment projects • M&E plan development and implementation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 stakeholder consultations completed and 5 action plans developed • 5 action plans implemented with detailed sub-indicators developed and monitored • At least 5 capacity-building events held (1/ focus site) & 2 cross-learning visits conducted • 1 M&E plan developed, with development indicators agreed upon for each investment project
Output 5: Field-based best practices, outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of communications and engagement plan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 communication plan developed and implemented • 1 publication containing cross-project

Outputs	Activities		Indicators/targets
	EU Large Grant	IFAD Small Grant	
stories and success factors are documented and disseminated to support IFAD, CIP, and wider national and regional policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-site synthesis by coordination unit with TWG • Knowledge product development and publication • Implementation of communications and engagement plan • Seminars/workshops for policymakers 		<p>synthesis/ analysis developed from 2 workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 hard copy of the cross-project synthesis/analysis available per site (i.e. 5), at least 2 project-wide publications are made; and at least 10 additional, topic-specific briefs produced; all publications made available online • Participation in at least 3 IFAD country-level meetings per focus site and in relevant RTB and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CRP-CCAFS) meetings (total of 5) during the life of the project • 5 country-level, cross-sectoral workshops/ seminars targeting policymakers are conducted

* Note: Revisions on project outputs due to budget reductions, 6 scoping studies.

1.4 PROJECT LOCATION AND PARTNERS

FoodSTART+'s core target countries are Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Vietnam; the first three countries are former FoodSTART target sites. This new project, however, targets new provinces/states to which RTC innovations and best practices in food security research and development could be adapted/out-scaled. In Vietnam, joint CIAT–CIP grant projects (2009–2013) have collaborated with IFAD investment projects on RTC value chains. China was originally a target site but, because of exchange rate changes leading to a reduced dollar value budget, project outputs had to be revised; the Hunan, China, location was reclassified from being a primary target site to a supplementary site that will be considered should external funding for FoodSTART+ from other donors become available. Moreover, there is already significant in-country funding for the development of RTCs for income and livelihoods in China. Following discussions of the Steering Committee during the meeting's launch in February 2016, Myanmar was included as the supplementary target site for the project (see Fig. 1 for the project location and IFAD investment project partners). For more details on the FoodSTART+ project, see Annex 2 for the project brochure.

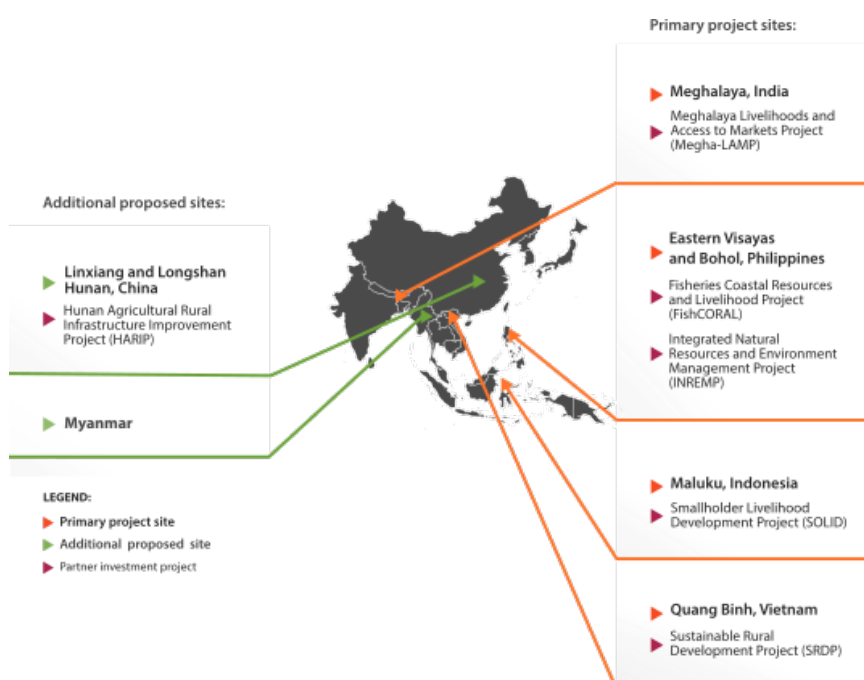


Figure 1. FoodSTART+ implementation sites and IFAD investment project partners.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 PROJECT EXPENDITURE BY YEAR

Project expenditure is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Project expenditure

Total Project Budget (€)	Year			Total Expenditure
	1	2	3	
Funds received	512,870			512,870
Expenditure	346,379			346,379
Balance	166,491			166,491

2.2 BRIEF COMMENTS ON EXPENDITURE

During the reporting period, CIP executed 68% of expenses with respect to the first advance received, leaving a cash balance of €166,491 available for the next period and a carry-over of €337,448 from the first year. This was due to the delayed signing of the agreement between IFAD and CIP for the EU component, resulting in slower implementation during the first half of the year. The sub-agreement with CIAT was correspondingly delayed, resulting in delayed implementation in Vietnam and Indonesia.

In the first category of salary and allowances, the execution rate was 76%, mainly due to the late hiring of some staff which was pending the signing of the agreement.

For the consultancy line the execution rate reached 64% with respect to the budget of the first year. Anticipated consultancies in Vietnam and Indonesia were not carried out during the year.

The low execution of operating costs is partly due to the delay in establishment of the site operations of FS+ staff.

The lack of execution of the contribution line is due to the delay in signing the sub-agreement with CIAT until almost the end of the year, on account of the delayed signing of the main agreement between IFAD and CIP.

2.3 PHYSICAL PROGRESS BY COMPONENT/OUTPUT AGAINST TARGETS

Table 3 outlines the project accomplishments for all outputs, with percentage of completion shown for each activity, from 17 May 2015 to 31 December 2016. Further information on FoodSTART+ cumulative achievements is detailed in Annex 3.

Table 3. Accomplishments of FoodSTART+, by outputs and activities, 17 May 2015–31 December 2016

Output/Activity	Indicators*	Accomplishments/ Outputs	Completion (%)
		Descriptions	
Output 1. Subnational geographic target areas combining food vulnerability with significant RTC production and use are prioritised and mapped			
1.1. Six scoping studies produced, based on research sites/investment projects identified in proposal	6 scoping studies completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed 6 scoping studies with IFAD investment partners in five countries. The completed studies included HARIIP in China, Megha-LAMP in India, SOLID in Indonesia, FishCORAL and INREMP in the Philippines, and SRDP in Vietnam. These studies were conducted and completed between September 2015 and January 2016.Additional scoping study in Myanmar starting September 2016, due to finish in March 2017. Because of IFAD-approved reduction in activities caused by exchange rate changes, total scoping studies were reduced to 6. Indicators have been exceeded.	100
1.2. RTC suitability maps developed based on land use and climate change scenarios	1 regional map and 5 detailed maps of focus site areas produced	This is also part of the EU component, but to advance with the project, the mapping proposal/work plan has already been prepared by CIAT-Asia team. However, with the delayed contract signing of the EU component, implementation was put on hold. Suitability maps are yet to be done and will be pursued in the second year of project implementation.	5
1.3. Cross-learning from previous FoodSTART project facilitated	1 launch meeting conducted	The project launched on 2 February 2016, which was attended by FoodSTART+ staff, IFAD country representatives from Philippines and Vietnam, and IFAD investments project staff from Philippines, China, and Indonesia. It included a key session and panel discussion about the successful collaboration in northern Philippines between the first phase of FoodSTART and the IFAD investment project known as the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resources Management Project (CHARMP2). The IFAD country program officer for the Philippines, the Agriculture, Agribusiness and Income Generating Activities (AAIGA) coordinator for CHARMP2, and FoodSTART staff who were actively involved in the first phase partnership with CHARMP2 participated in the panel. A video of the CHARMP2-FoodSTART collaboration was shown. A planned cross-visit by a delegation from the IFAD SOLID project in Indonesia for October 2016, was postponed at the last moment by the Indonesian team because of issues within the SOLID project organisation.	100
1.4. Literature review and assessment of approaches to food vulnerability and resilience conducted	1 literature review on food vulnerability/ resilience	Implementation was pushed back due to the delay in contract signing of the EU component. A consultant was hired in late 2016, and will complete this work by March 2017.	50
1.5. Five research (focus) sites linked to IFAD investment projects are selected, for development of R4D action in subsequent outputs	5 benchmark sites selected and investment project partners identified for future collaboration	Completed the selection of the benchmark sites in five countries, with the selection of the six IFAD investment projects (i.e. HARIIP, Megha-LAMP, SOLID, FishCORAL, INREMP, and SRDP) as FoodSTART+ partners.	100
Output 2. Effective, mutually beneficial, R4D partnerships identified, established, and monitored (small grant component, with staffing contributions from the EU grant)			
2.1. Participated in relevant COSOPS and investment project scoping and design missions	3 IFAD country COSOPS and investment project design missions that prioritise or incorporate RTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philippines: Participated in the April and November 2016 meetings and workshops for country strategy and programme evaluation conducted by the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation, as an input to COSOP for the Philippines. Participated in the IFAD annual country programme review (ACPoR) in Philippines in January 2016, where presentations and discussions on previous COSOP were included.Indonesia: Participated in the SOLID supervision mission in October 2016, where importance of RTCs was highlighted/ recognised. Participated in breakfast with IFAD event in November 2016, focussing on mainstreaming nutrition on	50

Output/Activity	Indicators*	Accomplishments/ Outputs	
		Descriptions	Completion (%)
	food resilience (in collaboration with IFAD country programs/offices)	<p>agricultural programming. This event is followed by an IFAD workshop on nutrition-sensitive value chain in Indonesia conducted in early December 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India: Participated in the IFAD country office review for Megha-LAMP in August 2016. Contributed to and participated in the Megha-LAMP supervision mission in September 2016. 	
2.2. Rapid review of appropriate partnership mechanisms and modes of collaboration with IFAD investment projects conducted	<p>3 partnership mechanisms reviewed</p> <p>2 high-potential partnership options selected for pilot testing</p>	<p>Partnership mechanisms with IFAD investment partners are currently being established and piloted the country sites. A FoodSTART+ project staff is now based in Megha-LAMP in India and a FoodSTART+ project staff is now based with a research partner organization (VSU) in the Philippines, to work with two investment projects (FishCORAL and INREMP). CIAT hired a FoodSTART+ senior Indonesian development specialist to work with SOLID main office to build collaboration in Indonesia, in a different model. We hope that a memorandum of understanding between CIAT and the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Development, which is in final review on some related ministries, will allow implementation of research collaboration next year (2017) to work for SOLID. The details of these different partnership arrangements will be further elaborated in the next year of project implementation. The Vietnam model is still to be elaborated.</p>	30
2.3. Workshops in target sites have agreed on mutually beneficial partnership and engagement process for FoodSTART+ implementation	<p>Four comprehensive partnership/ collaboration agreements or contracts with IFAD investment projects and other partners signed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 6 action plans prepared during the inception meeting in February 2016 (see 4.1) have been reviewed and validated by the IFAD project teams and, in most cases, via mini-workshops between project teams and FoodSTART+ staff (Philippines, India, Vietnam). A draft collaboration agreement elaborated with SOLID in Indonesia has been used as a model to develop a generic collaboration agreement by CIP. An adapted version is under review by government officials in India. An alternative collaboration model is under consideration in Vietnam. In support of the FoodSTART+ implementation as a research partner organization in the Philippines, a memorandum of understanding was signed with VSU. 	30
2.4. Evolving partnerships monitored	<p>3 “partnership health checks” completed with positive results. Feedback from 3 investment project supervision missions on status of project partnerships conducted.</p>	<p>FoodSTART+ has adapted the “partnership health check-up” tool, originally developed by CIP in sub-Saharan Africa, for use in FoodSTART+. This monitors the contributions to partnerships; the degree of mutual support, transparency, and accountability; and overall partnership efficiency. The tool will be tested during an FS+ team meeting in February 2017, and put into practice with partners during the year.</p>	20
2.5. TWG established and operationalised to advise and contribute to design and conduct of Outputs 3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One terms of reference (ToR) for the TWG agreed and implemented. Minutes of 3 TWG meetings with recommendations. Input from TWG of 3 Aide Memoire of 	<p>The TWG—now known as the Technical Advisory Pool (TAP)—was formed and first convened in the inception meeting conducted in February 2016. A ToR was developed during the meeting (see Annex 17). The TAP brings together expertise in RTCs, value chains, climate change, climate smart agriculture, food processing, and rural development. TAP expertise has been deployed on three occasions in India, once in Vietnam, and three times in the Philippines (see narrative in section 2.5).</p>	35

Output/Activity	Indicators*	Accomplishments/ Outputs	
		Descriptions	Completion (%)
	supervision missions		
Output 3. Gender-sensitive RTC innovations that respond to 10–20 year climate change scenarios and expressed needs of stakeholders are identified			
3.1. Design of efficient and effective assessment process and instruments, based on previous FoodSTART experience and the increased focus on the dynamic aspects of food security (vulnerability-resilience in time)	1 workshop, producing 1 report with assessment process guideline and specific instruments (number to be determined in workshop, depending on process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable process across different sites. In Philippines, in both investment projects, stakeholder and action plan development workshops decided that no assessments were needed but that the collaboration with FoodSTART+ should move directly to support training and implementation of farmer business schools (FBS) (see Activity 3.3). In India, assessments were discussed between LAMP and FS+ staff and TAP members as part of the preparation of the action plan. FS+ staff and TAP members developed the methods and tools for potato and cassava value chain assessments. In Vietnam, no decisions on assessments have yet been taken owing to delays in moving beyond the scoping study. In Indonesia, no decisions have yet been taken. 	40
3.2. Implementation of assessments in focus sites	5 assessments completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potato value chain study is currently being conducted for Megha-LAMP in India. One TAP member facilitated the start-up training workshop in November 2016, in Shillong, India. The study will be completed in early 2017. A gender checklist for introducing new RTC technologies to men and women prepared which intendeds to help FoodSTART+ staff and partners ensure that gender is adequately addressed in their action plans and interventions. 2 students conducted a study in Quang Binh, Vietnam, on gaps between existing agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture for cassava and sweetpotato. Reports are being finalised. 	10
3.3. Assessment reports that identify needs and opportunities for enhancing food resilience of focus site communities	At least 5 capacity-building events held (1/focus site) and 2 cross-learning visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In support of the potato value chain study, an orientation to conduct the study for Megha-LAMP staff in Shillong, India, was held in November 2016. Staff from SOLID-Indonesia and HARIP-China, as well as CIP and FS+ staff, made cross-visits to the Central Philippines to visit FishCORAL sites prior to the inception workshop in February 2016. A proposed cross-visit by staff of SOLID-Indonesia was organised to northern Philippines to visit CHARMP sites. The Indonesia team postponed the visit shortly before implementation owing to internal management review. 	10
Output 4. R4D actions to promote RTC innovations implemented and monitored and results documented			
4.1. Stakeholder consultations in focus sites to develop action plan for implementation of innovations based on assessment results (compatible with work plans of investment projects)	5 stakeholder consultations completed and 5 action plans developed	The results of the scoping studies (see 1.1) were presented and discussed during 8 stakeholder validation workshops in late 2015–early 2016. These included 2 in China, 1 in India, 1 in Indonesia, 2 in Philippines, and 2 in Vietnam. Actions plans developed during these validation workshops were further reviewed and refined during the FoodSTART+ inception meeting in February 2016, resulting in 6 annual collaborative FoodSTART+/IFAD investment projects action plans. Some of these action plans were further improved in mini-workshops attended by FoodSTART+ staff and investment projects (see Activity 2.3 for more details).	75
4.2. Action plan implementation	5 action plans implemented with detailed sub-indicators developed and monitored	Pending implementation	0
4.3. Capacity building of	At least 5 capacity	The following completed capacity-building activities on value chain and FBS for investment projects were facilitated by	25

Output/Activity	Indicators*	Accomplishments/ Outputs	
		Descriptions	Completion (%)
investment project implementers	building events held (one per focus site) and 2 cross-learning visits	<p>TAP members and FoodSTART+ staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megha-LAMP: (1) Value Chain Training and FBS workshop on 3–17 June 2016, and (2) Gender-responsive proposal completed for TAP expert contribution to organic potato production practices in Meghalaya (will involve external funding source). • INREMP: (1) Learning workshop on Value Chain and FBS on 20–21 June 2016; (2) Training of Facilitators on FBS on 3–7 October 2016; (3) FBS market matching and refresher course on 22–23 November 2016; and (4) FBS are being piloted in INREMP sites in Bohol. • FishCORAL: (1) Training/Workshop on Developing Value Chains and Improving Livelihood in Coastal Communities on 19–23 September 2016. 	
4.4. M&E plan developed and implemented	1 M&E plan developed, with development indicators agreed with each investment project	Draft M&E plan prepared.	10
Output 5. Field-based best practices, outcome stories and success factors are documented and disseminated to support IFAD, CIP and wider national and regional policy development			
5.1. Communications and engagement plan developed for target audiences	1 Communications plan	Draft communications plan prepared. FoodSTART+ site is already included in IFAD-Asia portal.	10
5.2. Cross-site synthesis by project coordination unit with TAP	1 publication of cross-project synthesis/analysis developed from 2 workshops	To be implemented.	0
5.3. Knowledge product development and publication	At least 1 hard copy publication per site (i.e. 5) plus at least 2 project-wide publications, also available online. Additional short topic-specific briefs (at least 10) will be produced for online publication.	Detailed evaluation completed of FBS achievement and impact during FoodSTART first phase in CHARMP2, using the “most significant change” methodology. This will provide lessons for FBS use in second phase.	10
5.4. Implementation of communications and engagement plan	Participation in at least 3 IFAD country-level meetings per	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in ACPOR, COSOPs, IPGN, and Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement in the Philippines. • Participated in CCAFS meeting in December 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam. 	10

Output/Activity	Indicators*	Accomplishments/ Outputs	
		Descriptions	Completion (%)
	focus site country, and in relevant RTB and CCAFS meetings (total 5) during lifetime of the project		
5.5. Seminars/workshops for policymakers	5 country-level cross-sectoral workshops/ seminars targeting policy makers	To be implemented.	

*Owing to exchange rate reductions, IFAD approved revision of some of the indicators. Most recent indicators shown here.

2.4 PROGRESS BY COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS REALISED SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF PREVIOUS REPORT

2.4.1 Output 1. Subnational geographic target areas combining food vulnerability with significant RTC production and use are prioritised and mapped

Six scoping studies completed, based on research sites/investment projects identified in proposal

Six scoping studies were conducted and completed between September 2015 and January 2016, by the FoodSTART+ project team in partnership with the IFAD investment project teams. Although this was not an original component of the small grant funding for FoodSTART+, in agreement with IFAD grant manager part of the costs were included in the small grant in order to enable the project to advance in the face of delays in processing the EU funding. The scoping studies were conducted in the five original target countries, with scoping studies of two investment projects in the Philippines. In all cases stakeholder meetings were held to feedback the main results of the scoping studies, receive inputs, and refine the recommendations. Scoping studies reports were completed in October 2016, and are now being edited for publication. The reports will be published online, and briefs summarising key findings and recommendations are currently being prepared (see Annexes 4a and 4b for the draft reports of Vietnam and Philippines, respectively). An additional scoping study in Myanmar, FoodSTART+ supplementary site, was started in September 2016, and is expected to be finalised in March 2017. FoodSTART+ conducted the study without an IFAD investment project partner, but as a contribution to potential new investment projects as the country opens up further to ODA (see Annex 5 for the ToR of the scoping study). The major RTC focus is potato and cassava, with sweetpotato and elephant foot yam as minor crops. Table 4 summarises information on the six completed scoping studies.

Table 4. Summary information on completed and on-going scoping studies

Country	Geographic Target	Investment Project	Agro-ecology	RTCs
India	State of Meghalaya	Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP)	Upland	Potato, sweetpotato, cassava, taro
Indonesia	Province of Maluku	Smallholder Livelihood Development Project (SOLID)	Coastal	Cassava, sweetpotato
Philippines	Eastern Visayas Region	Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood Project (FISHCORAL)	Coastal	Sweetpotato, aroids
	Bohol Province	Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project (INREMP)	Upland	Sweetpotato, cassava, yam
Vietnam	Provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh	Sustainable Rural Development Project (SRDP)	Upland & coastal	Sweetpotato, cassava
China	Hunan	Hunan Agricultural Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (HARIIP)	Upland	Potato, sweetpotato
Myanmar	South Shan State	None	Upland	Potato
	Ayeyarwaddy State		Coastal (delta)	Cassava

RTC suitability maps developed based on land use and climate change scenarios

The CIAT-Asia team, in charge of the mapping component, has already prepared a “Technical proposal on spatial assessment of RTC resilience” for FoodSTART+ (Annex 6 for the proposal). However, with the delayed contract signing of the EU larger grant, implementation was put on hold.

Cross-learning from previous FoodSTART project facilitated

During the project’s launch on 2 February 2016, which included FoodSTART+ staff, IFAD country representatives from Philippines and Vietnam, and IFAD investment project staff from Philippines, China, and Indonesia, a key session and panel discussion was held on the successful collaboration in northern Philippines between the first phase of FoodSTART and the IFAD investment project known as CHARMP2. The IFAD country programme officer for the Philippines, the AAIGA coordinator for CHARMP2, and FoodSTART staff who were actively involved in the first phase partnership with

CHARMP2 participated in the panel; a video of the CHARMP2-FoodSTART collaboration was shown (see Annexes 8 and 9).

A planned cross-visit by a delegation from the IFAD-SOLID project in Indonesia for October 2016, was postponed at the last moment by the Indonesian team because of issues within the SOLID project organization.

Literature review and assessment of approaches to food vulnerability and resilience conducted

The conduct of the literature review on food vulnerability and resilience was postponed due to the delay in contract signing of the EU component. However, Ms Nadezda Amaya, consultant, was hired in late 2016, and the report will be ready by March 2017.

Five research (focus) sites linked to IFAD investment projects are selected, for development of R4D action in subsequent outputs

Exploratory visits to all the target IFAD investment projects in the five countries were conducted from May to June 2015 by the principal investigator, marketing specialist, and senior research associate of the CIP–FoodSTART+ team, together with members of the CIAT-Asia team for Vietnam and Indonesia (see Annex 10). These visits and subsequent communications have resulted in the final selection of the benchmark sites in India, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and China and confirmation of the six IFAD investment projects (i.e. HARIIP, Megha-LAMP, SOLID, FishCORAL, INREMP, and SRDP) where FoodSTART+ will seek to build R4D partnerships. Owing to exchange rate fluctuations and consequent reduction in the EU budget for the project, these plans are under review. (Annex 11 describes the investment project partners.)

The partnerships with IFAD investment projects were formalised during the FoodSTART+ inception meeting on 1–2 February 2016, in Manila, Philippines, with the preparation of collaborative 2016 action plans.

2.4.2 Output 2. Effective, mutually beneficial, R4D partnerships identified, established, and monitored (mainly supported via the IFAD small grant, with additional contribution from the EU grant, mainly staff time)

Participation in relevant country COSOPS and investment project scoping and design missions

FoodSTART+ staff contributed to various relevant COSOPS, investment projects supervisions missions, and IFAD country offices activities (Table 5). The objective was to promote the prioritisation and incorporation of RTCs for increased food resilience.

Table 5. FoodSTART+ contribution to COSOPS, supervision missions, and activities of IFAD loan projects and country offices

Country	Activity/Date	FoodSTART+ Staff Involved	FoodSTART+ Contribution and Recognition
India	IFAD country office review for Megha-LAMP (Aug. 2016)	Handerson Chulet, Research and Development Officer	
	Megha-LAMP supervision mission (15–29 Sept. 2016)	Handerson Chulet, Research and Development Officer	CIP scoping study and partnership with Megha-LAMP acknowledged. As a results in the Aide Memoire, it was agreed to “launch action framework of activities under FoodSTART+ crops wise after finalisation of the scoping study”. (Source: Aide Memoire. Sept. 2016. Megha-LAMP Supervision Mission: 15–29 Sept. 2016)
Indonesia	SOLID supervision mission (17 Oct.–1 Nov. 2016)	Haryanti Koostanto, Research Associate	Aide memoire notes the capacity of CIAT-FoodSTART+ programme to assist with some aspects of both production and processing of RTCs (Source: Aide Memoire. Nov. 2016. SOLID Supervision Mission: 17 Oct.–1 Nov. 2016)
	Breakfast with IFAD (29 Nov. 2016)	Haryanti Koostanto, Research Associate	Contribute/support to IFAD mainstreaming nutrition on agricultural programming

Country	Activity/Date	FoodSTART+ Staff Involved	FoodSTART+ Contribution and Recognition
	IFAD workshop on nutrition sensitive value chain (1 Dec. 2016)	Haryanti Koostanto, Research Associate	Participated in workshop to provide input in develop and test an approach to how to design nutrition-sensitive value chains
Philippines	ACPOR (26–28 Jan. 2016)	Christopher Wheatley, Senior Marketing Specialist Arma Bertuso, Senior Research Associate	ACPOR as an opportunity to create linkages between IFAD investment and grant projects.
	Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation CGIAR grant meeting (19 Apr. 2016)	Arma Bertuso, Senior Research Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FoodSTART partnerships with CHARMP2 and RaFPEP-IRPEP • CIP FoodSTART contributed to CHARMP2 in FBS and enterprise development
	Philippines Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation National workshop (16 Nov. 2016)	Arma Bertuso, Senior Research Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBS as an innovation and scaling up through investment projects (CHARMP2) • <i>(Source: Philippines Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation Report. Nov. 2016)</i>
	Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's decentralisation approach and experience (9 Apr. 2016)	Arma Bertuso, Senior Research Associate	IFAD Philippines country office as a case study on decentralisation

Rapid review of appropriate partnership mechanisms and modes of collaboration with IFAD investment projects conducted

The FoodSTART+ project is learning and building on the experiences of FoodSTART in developing partnerships with IFAD investment projects. A paper on the experiences of FoodSTART on partnership building with investment projects, entitled “Research for Development (R4D) partnerships for going to scale”, was prepared by the team for inclusion in the FoodSTART end-of-project report in 2015. An edited version of this paper is under preparation for publication. In addition, a brief on good practices with a highlight on partnerships was also prepared for the ACPOR meeting in the Philippines held last January 2016 (Annex 12).

The FoodSTART+ and IFAD investment projects annual action plans for 2016 were developed during the inception meeting in February 2016. Partnership mechanisms with IFAD investment partners are currently being established. This is based on earlier experiences during the implementation of the FoodSTART project (2011–2015). This will be pursued in the succeeding years of project implementation.

Learning from FoodSTART experience, various partnership mechanisms with IFAD investment partners were established to ensure close collaboration in the four target countries (Table 6).

Table 6. Partnership mechanisms/models with IFAD investment projects

Country	Name	Position	Gender	Location
India	Handerson Chulet	Research and Development Officer	Male	Megha-LAMP Shillong, Meghalaya (embedded)
Indonesia	Haryanti Koostanto	Research Associate	Female	Jakarta (close access to SOLID head office, provisional)
Philippines	Guada Marie Babilonia	Research Assistant	Female	VSU; Leyte, Eastern Visayas (close access to field sites of both target investment projects, neighbourhood)
Vietnam	To be hired	Research Assistant		Proposed to be embedded with investment project

During initial interactions with the targeted investment projects, discussions were held about the most appropriate partnership options and arrangements that could be established for the proposed collaboration. The results of these discussions were brought to a special session on partnership arrangements held during the inception meeting in February 2016. This discussion provided the basis

for three types of partnership arrangements: embedded (India and probably Vietnam); neighbourhood (Philippines), and provisional (Indonesia). Briefly, the embedded mode involves posting a staff to be based in the offices of the investment project in the area of its operation, to be the active promotor and facilitator of partnership interactions. Thus a staff hired by FoodSTART+ currently holds office in Megha-LAMP in India. The neighbourhood mode involves locating the promotor and facilitator of the partnership in an institutional setting with ready physical and collaborative access to investment projects. In the Philippines, the research assistant hired by FoodSTART+ is seconded to a national research organisation partner, Philippine Rootcrop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops) based at VSU, which is geographically and collaboratively close to both investment projects. The provisional mode used in Indonesia reflects the on-going discussions and negotiations with SOLID. The FoodSTART+ staff is based close to the national headquarters of SOLID in Jakarta to facilitate interaction with its leadership. The implementation of the partnership arrangement will take place in Vietnam in early 2017. Delay has been due to late signing of EU agreement and consequently of the agreement with CIAT.

Workshops in target sites to agree on mutually beneficial partnership and engagement process for FoodSTART+ implementation

The scoping studies (Activity 1.1) have been conducted in the investment project sites, in partnership with the IFAD investment project teams. Five stakeholder validation workshops were held to present and validate the findings/results of the scoping studies, and to gather feedback from different stakeholders on the reliability of the data and information gathered by the team. These stakeholder workshops also aimed to present and prioritise opportunities in RTCs to help identify potential innovations and to define areas of collaboration between and among stakeholders and investment projects. Annex 13 presents the guidelines of the stakeholder validation workshops conducted as part of the scoping studies; Annexes 14a and 14b are selected stakeholder validation workshops reports (Philippines, India). The action plan developed in the workshops was presented and further developed by the investment partners during the FoodSTART+ inception meeting on February 2016. As a result, six annual collaboration action plans by investment projects were developed in the said meeting. Annex 15 refers to the FoodSTART+ and IFAD investment projects collaborative action plans for 2016.

Evolving partnerships monitored

FoodSTART+ began the adaptation of the “partnership health check-up”, originally developed by CIP in sub-Saharan Africa (Annex 16). This monitors organisational contributions to partnerships, the degree of mutual support, transparency and accountability, and overall partnership efficiency. An initial presentation was made by the project coordinator during the inception meeting. The tool is being refined and the project team is reviewing the process of implementing these partnership health check-ups for FoodSTART+. This will be pursued over the second year of the large grant project.

TWG established and operationalised to advise and contribute to design and conduct of Outputs 3–5

FoodSTART+ has formed a pool of experts (i.e. the TAP) to provide technical advice on project implementation. The TAP was formed and first convened during the inception meeting in February 2016. Annex 17 presents the ToR of the TAP. At present, six specialists participate in the TAP, covering a range of thematic areas indicated in Table 7.

Table 7. Current participation in TAP

Name	Education Background	Field/Work Experience	Nationality/Gender
Dr Christopher Wheatley	PhD Horticulture MSc Food Industry Marketing and Management	Value chains, marketing, project design	British (Male)
Dr Julieta Roa	PhD Social Sciences (interdisciplinary) MSc Public Affairs in Strategic Planning and Policy	Value chains, RTCs, policy issues	Filipino (Female)

Name	Education Background	Field/Work Experience	Nationality/Gender
Dr Julian Gonsalves	PhD International Sustainable Agriculture	Climate change, climate smart agriculture; schools and nutrition	Indian (Male)
Mr Sudhir Chandra Nath	MSc Development Management	Rural development	Bangladeshi (Male)
Dr Gerry O'Brien	PhD Food Science	Food safety, nutrition	British (Male)
Dr Nozomi Kwarazuka	PhD International Development; MSc Development Studies	Gender and nutrition	Japanese (Female)

The TAP members have also been requested to help conduct some activities in the project sites. The activities were as follows:

- *FoodSTART+ and FISHCORAL Stakeholder Validation Workshop in Tacloban, Philippines* (Dec. 2015): Julie Roa presented the results of the scoping study and helped conduct the workshop; Chris Wheatley co-facilitated.
- *FoodSTART+ and INREMP Stakeholder Validation Workshop in Tagbilaran, Philippines* (Dec. 2015): Julie Roa presented the results of the scoping study and helped facilitate the workshop.
- *World Root Crop Congress in Nanning, China* (Jan. 2016): Sudir Chandra Nath participated in the congress and presented a poster on sweetpotato which was a result of FoodSTART (first phase) and BRAC collaboration.
- *FoodSTART+/CIAT-Asia and SRDP Stakeholder Validation Workshop in Vietnam* (Mar. 2016): Chris Wheatley helped facilitate the SRDP workshop.
- *FoodSTART+ and Megha-LAMP Stakeholder Validation Workshop in Meghalaya, India* (Mar. 2016): Julian Gonsalves helped facilitate the workshop, provided information on climate change, particularly on resilience and vulnerability, and also advised on inclusion of schools in the programme and improved marketing of RTCs.
- *Megha-LAMP Value Chain Training and Farmer Business School Learning and Planning Workshop in Meghalaya, India* (June 2016): Chris Wheatley and Julie Roa were resource persons and facilitators of the training workshop on value chain and FBS approach.
- *INREMP Value Chain and Farmer Business School Approach Learning Workshop in Tagbilaran, Philippines* (June 2016): Chris Wheatley and Julie Roa were resource persons and facilitators of the training workshop on value chain and FBS approach.
- *FishCORAL Training/Workshop on Developing Value Chains and Improving Livelihood in Coastal Communities in Tacloban, Philippines* (Sept. 2016): Julie Roa was a resource person and facilitator of the training workshop.
- *INREMP Training of Facilitators on FBS in Bohol, Philippines* (Oct. 2016): Julie Roa was a resource person and facilitator of the training workshop.
- *Megha-LAMP Orientation for the Potato Value Chain Study in Meghalaya, India* (Nov. 2016): Julie Roa was a resource person and facilitator of the workshop.

2.4.3 Output 3. Gender-sensitive RTC innovations that respond to 10–20 year climate change scenarios and expressed needs of stakeholders are identified

Design of efficient and effective assessment process and instruments, based on previous FoodSTART experience and the increased focus on the dynamic aspects of food security (vulnerability-resilience in time)

The assessment process has been variable between different sites. In Philippines, in both investment projects, stakeholder and action plan development workshops decided that no assessments were needed but that the collaboration with FoodSTART+ should move directly to support training and implementation of FBS (see Activity 3.3). In India, assessments were discussed as part of the

preparation of the action plan between Megha-LAMP and FS+ staff and TAP members. FoodSTART+ staff and TAP members developed the methods and tools for potato and cassava value chain assessments. In Vietnam, no decisions on assessments have yet been taken owing to delays in moving beyond the scoping study. In Indonesia, no decisions have yet been taken.

Implementation of assessments in focus sites

Potato value chain study in Meghalaya. One of the activities in the collaborative action plan with Megha-LAMP was the conduct of a potato value chain study. It aimed to analyse and depict the entire potato value chain in Meghalaya—including input supply, production, and marketing (plus any processing)—and identify major constraints and areas where interventions could significantly increase returns for potato producers. This information will be used to identify Megha-LAMP/MBMA activities along this value chain. The study is currently underway. One TAP member (Julie Roa) facilitated the start-up training workshop in November 2016 in Shillong, India; the FoodSTART+ staff and consultant will continue to collect and analyse the data and write the report; the study will be completed in early 2017. Annex 18 presents the ToR of the potato value chain study.

A **gender checklist for introducing new RTC technologies** to men and women which intends to guide FoodSTART+ staff and partners to ensure that gender is adequately addressed in their action plans and interventions was prepared by one of the TAP members (Annex 19). The gender checklist was circulated and commented by FoodSTART+ staff.

A **study on agricultural practices for cassava and sweetpotato** was conducted by two students in Quang Binh (SRDP site) in Vietnam from June to August 2016. The study aims to look into the gaps between existing agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture for cassava and sweetpotato. The students are Kate Wilkins, a master's student at University of California–Davis, and Nguyen Nam, undergraduate student at Dickinson University. The report will be available soon.

Assessment reports that identify needs and opportunities for enhancing food resilience of focus site communities

As mentioned above, a potato value chain study for Megha-LAMP is underway. Prior to the conduct of the study, the Megha-LAMP staff went through an orientation training for the fieldwork of the study on 23–26 November 2016, in Shillong. Reports are also due for the study of agricultural practices in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam.

Included within this activity are carrying out and reporting on cross-visits between different target sites.

2.4.4 Output 4. R4D actions to promote RTC innovations implemented and monitored and results documented

Stakeholder consultations in focus sites to develop action plan for implementation of innovations based on assessment results (compatible with work plans of investment projects)

As part of the scoping study, eight stakeholder validation workshops were conducted from late 2015 to early 2016. As reported in Activity 2.3, during the workshops the scoping study results were presented and validated, in order to identify potential opportunities and innovations on RTCs that could be potentially exploited by investment projects and other stakeholders. Table 8 provides details of these workshops implemented in five countries, and the investment projects that co-organised the event. Action plans from these validation workshops were further reviewed and refined during the FoodSTART+ inception meeting in February 2016, and in mini-workshops by FoodSTART+ staff and investment projects.

Table 8. Stakeholder validation workshops with investment projects

Country	Investment Partner	Date/Location	Lead Person Involved
China	HARIIP	January 13, 2016 Linxiang County	Kaiyun Xie, CIP-China Project Manager Arma Bertuso, FoodSTART+ Senior Research Associate
		January 15, 2016 Longshan County	Li Hong Mei, Consultant, Hunan Agricultural University Huang Bojun, HARIIP Project Manager
India	Megha-LAMP	March 7, 2016 Shillong	Gordon Prain, FoodSTART+ Principal Investigator Anantharaman, Consultant Julian Gonsalves, FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool Shri. E. Shanpru, MDBA Officer on Special Duty/Megha-LAMP
Indonesia	SOLID	January 11, 2016 Jakarta	Haryanti Koostanto, FoodSTART+ Research Associate, CIAT Dindo Campilan, CIAT-Asia Regional Director and FoodSTART+ Steering Committee Hasanuddin Rumra Ibrahim, SOLID Coordinator (January-March 2016) Zakky Mochamad, SOLID Coordinator (until December 2015)
Philippines	FishCORAL	December 8, 2015 Tacloban City	Arma Bertuso, FoodSTART+ Senior Research Associate Julie Roa, FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool Divina Villaber, FoodSTART+ Researcher Christopher Wheatley, CIP Marketing Consultant and FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool Viodela Canillas-Pen, FishCORAL Region 8 focal person
	INREMP	December 15, 2015 Tagbilaran, Bohol	Arma Bertuso FoodSTART+ Senior Research Associate Julie Roa FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool Divina Villaber, FoodSTART+ Researcher Ivy Joy Rodemio, INREMP Bohol M&E Officer
Vietnam	SRDP	January 21, 2016 Quang Binh	Brice Even, CIAT Value Chain Specialist Nguyen Thi Hieu, Research Assistant Christopher Wheatley, CIP Marketing Consultant and FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool
		January 22, 2016 Ha Tinh	Brice Even CIAT Value Chain Specialist Nguyen Thi Hieu, Research Assistant Christopher Wheatley, CIP Marketing Consultant and FoodSTART+ Technical Advisory Pool

Action plan implementation

Implementation of action plans will take place in Philippines and India early in 2017, based on the results of the assessments (4.1) and the capacity building (4.3). This process is somewhat delayed in Vietnam and Indonesia and will be initiated later in 2017, following planned capacity-building events and possible assessments still to be determined.

Capacity building of investment project implementers

To help investment projects achieve their objectives in increasing incomes and livelihood of target beneficiaries, FoodSTART+ is partnering with them to build the capacities on **value chain and FBS approach**. Table 9 lists the trainings and workshops co-organised with investment projects in India and Philippines. (See Annex 20 for the proceedings of the value chain and FBS workshop in India.)

Table 9. Value chain and FBS-related capacity-building activities

Country/Investment Partner	Activity	Date (2016)
India Megha-LAMP	Value Chain Training Course	13–15 June
	FBS orientation workshop	16–17 June
	Value chain assessment refresher	23–26 November
Philippines FishCORAL	Training/Workshop on Developing Value Chains and Improving Livelihood in Coastal Communities	19–23 September

Country/Investment Partner	Activity	Date (2016)
Philippines INREMP	Learning workshop on Value Chain and FBS	20–21 June
	Training of Facilitators on FBS	3–7 October
	FBS market matching and refresher course	22–23 November

Beyond FoodSTART+ in Asia, the FBS methodology was also shared with CIP–Ecuador through a one-day orientation workshop facilitated by Christopher Wheatley, FoodSTART+ TAP member, on 14 November 2016 in Quito. The workshop was attended by CIP staff, agriculture government officers, NGOs, academe, and producers’ groups. The workshop led to the discussion and plans for potential application of FBS in Ecuador, particularly in an on-going IFAD grant project (IFAD-Andes).

The **FBS approach** is used by the investment projects as an approach in helping project beneficiaries increase income and established enterprises. In Philippines, INREMP started piloting six FBS in Bohol, through their people’s organisations in December 2016 (Table 10).

Table 10. FBS pilot implementation with INREMP

Location (Village/ Municipality)	Peoples Organisation	RTC Commodity	Product Development (proposed)
Lundag, Pilar	LETMULCO (Lundag Eskaya Tribe Multipurpose Cooperative)	Sweetpotato	Chips, candies, pie, fries
San Vicente, Pilar	NMSVA (Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa San Vicente Association)		
San Carlos, Danao	SCARED (San Carlos Association for Rehabilitation of Environmental Denudation)	Sweetpotato	Ketchup, jam
San Miguel, Danao	SMART (San Miguel Association Resource Team)		
Conception, Danao	CLEAP (Concepcion Livelihood Environmental Association Project)	Cassava	For fresh market, feeds
Ilaya, Inabanga	ISFA (Ilaya Sustainable Farmers Association)	Taro	For fresh market, starch

One TAP member, Nozomi Kawarazuka, facilitated and completed the **gender-responsive proposal for expert contribution to organic potato production practices** to be implemented in Meghalaya. The study will involve external funding source.

M&E plan developed and implemented.

An M&E plan has been drafted by FoodSTART+ staff and will be shared with investment project during the 2017 FoodSTART+ annual meeting (scheduled for May 2017).

2.4.5 Output 5. Field-based best practices, outcome stories, and success factors are documented and disseminated to support IFAD, CIP, and wider national and regional policy development

Communications and engagement plan developed for target audiences

A communications and visibility plan has been prepared and will be shared with the investment projects during the 2017 FoodSTART+ annual meeting. FoodSTART+ site is already included in IFAD-Asia portal.

Cross-site synthesis by project coordination unit with The TWG

To be implemented.

Knowledge product development and publication

CHARMP2 engaged FoodSTART+ in the evaluation of FBS achievement and impact during FoodSTART first phase in CHARMP2 sites. The “most significant change” methodology was adopted for the

evaluation and will result in knowledge products (book and video) to share lessons on FBS use and benefits thereof for FoodSTART+ partners and other interested stakeholders.

Implementation of communications and engagement plan

Knowledge sharing is important for the FoodSTART+ project. The relevant meetings of IFAD where FoodSTART+ participated include the following: (1) Annual Country Programme Review: Philippines (26–28 Jan. 2016, Baguio); (2) IFAD Philippines Gender Network (26–29 July 2016, Dipolog City); and (3) Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement (25–26 Nov. 2015 and 17–18 Nov. 2016) in Quezon City, Philippines. Aside from IFAD events, FoodSTART+ (senior research associate) also participated in the CRP-CCAFS 2nd Annual Progress Reporting and Coordination Meeting for the CCAFS projects and climate smart village implementation in South-East Asia (30 Nov.–2 Dec. 2016) in Hanoi. Prior the meeting, FoodSTART+ staff joined the workshop on “Gendered adaptation strategies in response to climate change: case studies in South-East Asia”. A presentation was made on gender in FoodSTART+, highlighting the main lessons about the role of women and men in RTCs livelihood in upland and coastal communities in the Philippines, from the FoodSTART+ scoping study, and the importance of linking women and men to markets through the FBS approach, with gender and climate change perspectives. (See Annex 21 for the “Gendered roles in root crops livelihood in coastal and upland communities in Philippines: CIP- FoodSTART+ ” presentation.)

Seminars/workshops for policymakers

To be implemented.

2.4.6 Difficulties encountered and measures taken to resolve problems

The major challenge faced by FoodSTART+ in its first year of implementation is related to the delay in the approval of the EU-funded component of the project. This resulted in **delayed project start-up of FoodSTART+**. Since the two components are fully integrated, the delay required some adjustments in the smaller IFAD grant project, including funding of the scoping studies. Financial implications of these adjustments are addressed in a letter accompanying the financial report.

Owing to the delayed initiation of the EU component of the project, the **recruitment of the project coordinator was deferred**. It was not possible to hire the project coordinator due to funding constraints. To ensure that the project is being coordinated efficiently, a coordination team led by CIP’s principal investigator, with assistance from the senior marketing consultant and senior research associate of FoodSTART+, have assumed the responsibilities of the project coordination.

Owing to the delayed project start-up, the **signing of sub-grant agreement with CIAT was also delayed**, affecting implementation of some activities in Vietnam and Indonesia. Collaborative activities planned with the investment projects were affected, implying the possible loss of interest from investment projects (i.e. SRDP).

Another challenge faced by the project is the **reduction of project funds due to exchange rate losses (weakening of the Euro vs USD)**. Target project sites and activities were trimmed down, due to the reduction of project funds. The current core target sites are four countries, with China being reclassified as a secondary site.

As for project implementation, there is still **uncertainty surrounding naming of a technical task manager of FoodSTART+**. To date, FoodSTART+ is still waiting for the official information from IFAD on the project’s task manager. Some decisions on project implementation, such as final composition of the Steering Committee, are still pending. Many of these issues will be addressed during the partners’ meeting in May.

A challenge on partnerships with investment project is the **high dependency on investment projects** to implement the collaborative action plans. Some activities were affected due to procedural delays in

decision making of the projects (i.e. Megha-LAMP), less interest and cooperation attitude (i.e. SOLID and SRDP), and fund availability in their current work plan/budget and timeframe of the projects (i.e. INREMP and FishCORAL). However, FoodSTART+ staff maintained regular contacts, follow-up, and adjustments with the investment projects to address these issues.

3. INNOVATIONS AND THEIR SCALING-UP/ADOPTION

Grant and investment projects partnership mechanisms

One innovation being developed by FoodSTART+ project is the establishment of an innovative partnership model, whereas a grant project with a research focus supports and collaborates with IFAD investment projects. The partnership arrangement includes "embedding" a grant project-funded research assistant into an investment project (i.e. FoodSTART+-funded researcher seconded to Megha-LAMP in India) and locating a FoodSTART+ researcher with a national research programme (VSU in the Philippines) working closely with IFAD investments. This ensures maximised collaboration and streamlined activities with multiple investment projects.

Adaptation and scaling up of FBS

The FBS approach, a participatory action learning approach to support farmer groups' participation in, and benefit from, agricultural value chains, has generated interest among the IFAD investment projects for adaptation and scaling in the implementation of their own projects. The FBS curriculum is now being adapted in two IFAD investment projects (Megha-LAMP in India and INREMP in Philippines), with a possibility of out-scaling by CIP in Ecuador.

4. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC GOODS

Owing to the delays of FoodSTART+ project start-up and financial constraints, there are no public goods produced yet. However, the FoodSTART project (considered the first phase of FoodSTART+) still has materials due for publication, namely:

- Research for Development (R4D) partnerships for going to scale: Root and tuber crops (RTC) experience with IFAD on Asian food security 2011–2014 (*in press*). A working paper. Drafted by Chris Wheatley, Gordon Prain, Dindo Campilan, and Arma Bertuso.
- Technology of Sweetpotato storage and processing and its value chain research in Sichuan, China (*in press*). Prepared by Dr Xie Jiang of Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
- Farmer Business Schools in a Changing World: A gender-responsive and climate-smart manual for strengthening farmer entrepreneurship (*forthcoming*). Learning from FBS implementation with investment projects in FoodSTART (phase 1): the FBS curriculum was improved and modified to integrate gender and climate change perspectives. Prepared by FoodSTART project team.

5. GENDER ISSUES

Gender is receiving high priority in all areas of implementation of FoodSTART+. To ensure that gender issues are considered at all stages of implementation of FoodSTART+, a gender checklist, developed by Nozomi Kawarazuka, TAP member and RTB gender specialist based in Vietnam, has been developed and pilot tested in India, Indonesia, and Philippines with FS+ staff in these locations. On the basis of feedback discussed during the team meeting planned for February 2017, a refined version will be rolled out during the partners' meeting. This will be integrated with an FoodSTART+ gender strategy, a draft of which has already been developed by the TAP gender specialist and has been shared within the team. The full strategy and check list will be shared more broadly during the partners' meeting for proposed adoption in the investment projects.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

FoodSTART+ project has been designed to work in conjunction with IFAD investment projects. The project has been initially implemented in five countries, involving partnerships with six IFAD investment projects (May 2015–early 2016). As mentioned above, and owing to budget reductions, the project now works on four core countries as primary sites and two countries as secondary sites. Aside from investment projects, FoodSTART+ also closely works with the IFAD country offices in the project sites and with research partners (i.e. VSU). FoodSTART+ maintained contact with CHARMP2, a FoodSTART (phase 1) partner. (See Annex 11 for more details on the IFAD investment project partners.)

7. EC VISIBILITY ACTION

To increase awareness on FoodSTART+ and the EC/IFAD visibility, the project has a dedicated section in the IFAD-Asia portal (see link: <https://asia.ifad.org/web/718-foodstart>)

8. CONCLUSIONS

Despite the delay in finalizing the EU contract and releasing funds, CIP and CIAT have begun to implement FoodSTART+ by widening the original scope of IFAD smaller grant so as to not lose momentum and to maintain commitment to the investment projects.

Next year's work plan for both the small (Output 2) and large grant component (Outputs 1, 3–5) is outlined in Annex 22.

LIST OF ANNEXES

Number	Title
1	FoodSTART+ log frame
2	FoodSTART+ project brochure
3	FoodSTART+ cumulative achievements
4a/b	Scoping study report draft (Vietnam, Philippines)
5	Myanmar ToR scoping study
6	Technical proposal on spatial assessment of RTC resilience
7	Field visit itinerary to Eastern Visayas in Philippines, January 2016
8	Project inception meeting proceedings
9	Project launch proceedings
10	Exploratory visit report
11	IFAD investment projects information
12	Brief on best practices of FoodSTART presented in ACPOR
13	Scoping study validation workshop guidelines
14a/b	Stakeholder validation workshop reports (Philippines, India)
15	6 FoodSTART+ and IFAD investment projects collaborative action plans for 2016
16	Partnership health check-ups
17	ToR of Technical Advisory Pool
18	ToR potato value chain
19	Gender checklist
20	Value chain and FBS workshop India
21	CCAFS Gender workshop presentation on gender work in RTCs and FoodSTART+
22	FoodSTART+ Year 2 work plan