RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Dryland Systems

CGIAR

Implementation report on "Innovation Platform and Convergence"

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Innovation Platform and convergence

Innovation Platform meeting of stakeholders of CRP-DS project of Vijayapura centre was organized on 17th April, 2015. Pre-season planning interaction meetings with farmers, stakeholder institutions and stakeholder NGO was organized at Nandihal, Balaganur, Mannur and Utnal villages under the chairmanship of Dr. Anthony Whitbread, Research Program Director, RDS, ICRISAT and Dr. T. Ramilan, Site Coordinator from 2nd to 4th June, 2015. Entire technical programme for 2015-16 was finalized after considering the feedback from farmers and other stakeholders.

Proceedings of the Innovation Platform Meetings in Bijapur (karnatka)

1. Introduction

Dryland Systems is one of the CGIAR's Consortium Research Program (CRP) in South Asia which is coordinated by ICRISAT. In South Asian region, different action sites in western Rajasthan (*Barmer, Jodhpur,* and *Jaisalmer* Districts), Andhra Pradesh (*Anantapur*, *Kurnool* Districts) and in Karnataka (*Bijapur* District) are selected in collaboration with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARSs), NGOs, Government line departments and Private sectors as the consortium partners. One of the strategies to speed up the implementation process is to establish local the innovation platforms.

In this regard the innovation platform for Bijapur was established following the meeting at University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad (UASD) in Bijapur on 9 July 2013. The present meeting which was organized in the same venue and hosted by UASD is the first meeting in 2014 and the key objectives were to update key local partners on: the results of the baseline study, achievements of on farm demonstration in 2013 Rabi season, preliminary results of the feed resources assessment, the results on soil sample analysis and on 2014 activity plan. Details of the agenda, slides of the presentations and lists of participants are annexed.

As detailed on the agenda, the process of the meeting involved: inaugural/opening section, recapitulation of the overall Consortium Research Program (CRP) on dryland system, technical presentations and discussions and finally group work and discussion on the outcome of the group work. The following sections highlights key issues emerged in each of these sections.

2. The opening section

The overall process was facilitated by Amare Haileslassie (ICRISAT/ILRI). He first recapitulated the Dryland System (DS)-CRP in context of Bijapur and specifically underlined the Terms of References (TOR) of the innovation platform which was endorsed during 2013 meeting. This was followed by a welcome addresses by Dr. J.M. Srvad, Chief Scientists AICRP-DLA RARS, Bijapur (Karnataka); Dr. S.B Devoranavadgi UASD , Dean of the College of Agriculture Bijapur and Dr. SS Guledguda Associate Director of Research (Regional Agricultural Research Station- Bijapur). Each of the speakers emphasized the overall trends in climate change in Bijapur, challenges farmers are facing and also the role that DS –CRP and partners can play to mitigate potential impacts. The speakers mentioned also the historical perspectives of the CRP and their active engagement from

the beginning and their commitment to support the program particularly in the areas of capacity building, technical backstopping to local implementers and hosting and facilitation of the innovation platform.

3. Technical presentations on achievements and 2014 plans

3.1. Highlights on the baseline survey , vulnerability mapping and adoption strategies

The key results from the baselines survey, vulnerability mapping and adoption strategies were presented by Dr Krishna Reddy, Kakumanu of IWMI. The work is a joint activity of IWMI, ICRISAT and ILRI and the support from partners –UASD was acknowledged. The major objectives of the work, according to the speaker, were:

- Creation of the baseline data in the study areas which can be later used to analyse the system and to evaluate the project impact
- Study the perception of CC and decision making in both male and female farmers
- Map the vulnerability at household level and examine the level of coping strategies adopted by them
- Investigate the impact of different adaptation strategies in reducing the vulnerability
- Quantification of risk premium in technology adoption and factors associated to enhance adoption

Details on key information on baseline data, major shocks encountered by farmers, differences in perception of shocks by gender, adaptation strategies followed by farmers, and vulnerability map under current scenario and with potential adaptation strategies were presented and slides of the presentations are annexed to this report

3.2. Feed resources assessment and technology prioritization

Following this Mr Gurumurthy presented ILRI/ICRISAT and BAIF joint work on feed resources assessment. The key objectives of this work according to the speaker were:

- To identify major problems and potentials related to livestock feed sourcing and feeding practices.
- In consultation with the community to identify and prioritize feed technologies that fit most different farm typologies
- To demonstrated selected priority technologies on farms and build farmers capacity through farners field days

Key issue that emerged from this work is that:

- Available feed resources are not efficiently used and chaffing is not commonly practiced hence wastage of the fodder resources is more and the overall shortage of BIOMASS
- Animal are getting diet for just to meet the maintenance requirement in terms of DM, PROTEIN & ENERGY (only ND Cows) and shortage of biomass for animals is met by purchasing of crop residue (mainly Sorghum Straw) from outside throughout a year

The speaker also highlighted the possible solutions identified by the farmers (annexed in the report) and some of these options will be demonstrated on selected farms.

3.3. Preliminary results of seed testing

The speaker, Dr. Maheshwar Shivashankar from AICRP-DLARARS, Bijapur (Karnataka) acknowledged that this is the joint work of ICRISAT/ILRI and IWMI and the idea of seed testing was emerged from the last innovation platform meeting. He illustrated the cropping patterns of the DS action villages in Bijapur Nandihal, Mannur and Balaganur. He also stated that lack of improved varieties is one of the major causes of the yield gap in the District in general and the action villages in particular. There the major objective of the seed test was partly to address this gap.

The demonstration was on half acre on about 40 farms during Rabi season. The Chick pea variety tested was (JG-11). The speaker highlighted that in all farm plots the performances of the JG-11 was by far exceeding the farm seeds. Integrating improved varieties with balanced soil nutrient and agricultural management can potentially narrow down the current yield gap. All the slides are annexed to this report.

3.4. Results of soil sampling and analysis and activity plan for 2014

Dr Amare Haileslassie of ICRISAT/ILRI has mentioned that over year of cultivation of land and insufficient and unbalanced nutrient input depleted soil nutrient and this has impacted the overall performances of crop production and productivity. ICRISAT's experience indicates that balanced nutrient input positively impact not only the crop performances but also the livestock sector through improved availability and quality of feed resources from agro-byproducts. The major objective of the soil sampling, analysis and fertilizer recommendation was therefore to addresses those gaps.

The speaker highlighted the methods used (over all sampling approaches), the mean values of the different soil parameters analysed, the proportion of sample fields that are deficient is macro- and micro nutrient and recommendation by crop and strata(rain fed or irrigated). The presentation is annexed to this report.

In this session Dr Amare further shaded light on the activities planned by the CGIAR centres and partners to be implemented in 2014 in action villages. The proposed activities include land and water management, balanced nutrient input, feed quality assessment, diversification through improved crop varieties and tree species, value chain and capacity building of the stakeholders.

4. Discussions

In this session what appeared as a key issue was the number of projects (Bhoochetana, Bhoochetana Plus and CGIAR-DS) which are currently operating in Bijapur and how they can complement each other? What are the similarity and differences? In his reply to the point raised Dr Amare mentioned that those projects are different and also similar. They are different because they are initiated by different body and also financed by different institutions. They are similar that their goal is the similar: reducing poverty, enhancing resilience of small holder farmers.

Representatives from the line depart of agriculture asked the role their department can play in supporting this initiatives and sharing experiences. Dr Amare replied that their role can be in terms of the supply of the micro-nutrient, organic fertilizer and also engaging their experts in capacity building using these demonstration and more importantly in out scaling of the promising technologies.

5. Group work and concluding remarks

The facilitator divides the participants into two groups and provided them with the following two points to discuss on.

- What are the points and mechanisms of convergences for robust implementations and follow-up of technologies in the DS systems
- How can we improve the role and contribution of this innovation platform to build resilient DS

After one hour of discussion the key findings from each of the group was presented. Some of the key outcomes of the group include: the need for more close collaboration with the different line departments. For convergences to come more advocacy of the program might be needed. This needs to be accompanied by the display of success stories. According to the group there are number of opportunities that the different institutions can converge. As entry point the program can make use of some of the facilities provided by the line department, for example planting material for fodder and trees and also tools for land preparation. With regard to the improvement on the role and contribution of innovation platform it was suggested to hold the next meeting right in the action villages so that we everybody will have better understanding of the action sites. Secondly five minutes time slot need to be provided to the member to share their experiences and what they think is innovative. Thirdly communication between members is also suggested as important and therefore list and addresses of the members will be shared.

Finally Dr Amare thanks all the participants for their support and active engagements and the meeting adjourned

CGIAR Research Program to Improve Productivity and Resilience of the Dryland Production Systems

Innovation Platform Meeting for the Dryland Systems (CRP1.1)-BIjapur, South Asia

RARS, Bijapur RARS, Bijapur RARS, Bijapur

10/06/ 2014

Day 1: 10/06/14			
Time	**Activity**	**Chairperson/facilitator**	**Rapporteur**
9.00-10:00	Registration: Mr Adinarayana, ICRISAT		
10:00-10:30	— Welcome address (Suresh C.Alagundagi) — Introduction to the program (Dr Amare Haileslassie ICRISAT/ILRI) — Introduction of participants (Dr Amare Haileslassie ICRISAT/ILRI)	Suresh C.Alagundagi Chief Scientist AICRP-DLA RARS, Bijapur (Karnataka) and Amare Haileslassie (ICRISAT/ILRI)	Dr Maheshwar Shivashankar
10.30-12:45 **(Presentations: 15 min each- coffee and tea will be served on spot)**	- Highlights of finding from baseline survey : assessment of vulnerability and adaptation (Dr Krishna Reddy, Kakumanu (IWMI-IN) - Highlights of feed resources assessment and priority interventions (BAIF/ Dr Amare Haileslassie ICRISAT/ILRI) - Progresses made onseed testing (Dr Maheshwar Shivashankar) - Preliminary Results of soil sampling and analysis (Amare HaileslassieILRI/ICRISAT) - Activities planned for 2014 Kharif and Rabi cropping seasons (Amare HaileslassieILRI/ICRISAT)	Suresh C.Alagundagi Chief Scientist AICRP-DLA RARS, Bijapur (Karnataka) and Amare Haileslassie (ICRISAT/ILRI)	Dr Maheshwar Shivashankar
12:45-13:45 Lunch break	- Lunch break		
13:45-15:00 **group d**iscussion on key issues	- What are the key elements that should be considered in institutionalizing CPR management and use - What are the points and mechanisms of	Suresh C.Alagundagi Chief Scientist AICRP-DLA RARS, Bijapur (Karnataka)	Dr Maheshwar Shivashankar

	convergences for robust implementations and follow-up of technologies in the DS systems - How can we improve the role and contribution of this innovation platform to build resilient DS	and Amare Haileslassie (ICRISAT/ILRI)	
15:00-15:45	— Feedback frome group wok (five minutes each) -		
15:45-16:00	Summary of the meeting and vote of thanks (Amare Haileslassie ICRISAT/ILRI); Dr Padma Latha- RARS)		

Annex Lists of participants and Platform memebers
CRP Dryland Systems 1st Local Innovation Date: 10-06-2014

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Dryland Systems

The CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems aims to improve the lives of 1.6 billion people and mitigate land and resource degradation in 3 billion hectares covering the world's dry areas.

Dryland Systems engages in integrated agricultural systems research to address key socioeconomic and biophysical constraints that affect food security, equitable and sustainable land and natural resource management, and the livelihoods of poor and marginalized dryland communities. The program unifies eight CGIAR Centers and uses unique partnership platforms to bind together scientific research results with the skills and capacities of national agricultural research systems (NARS), advanced research institutes (ARIs), non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors to test and develop practical innovative solutions for rural dryland communities.

The program is led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

For more information, please visit

drylandsystems.cgiar.org

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