

Guidelines for Facilitators of the F2F Meeting

Dear Facilitator,

Thank you for agreeing to become a Facilitator for the Face-to-Face Meeting in Tashkent, 16-17 October. Although we have full confidence in your capabilities to facilitate such meetings, we would like to share with you some guidelines to discuss at our meeting on 13 October 2009 so as to make the process uniform and more useful.

I. Matrix Table on Researchable Issues

A Matrix table on the researchable issues has been prepared based on the Regional Review on Agricultural Research for Development and the CAC e-Consultation process. The table is attached for your ready reference in ANNEX 1. The highlighted key issues are summarized with respect to improving the livelihoods of:

- (i) Households of *dehkon* Farmers
- (ii) Households of Small Farmers
- (iii) Households of Small to Medium Farmers
- (iv) Households of Large Farmers
- (v) Pastoralists
- (vi) Sustenance Smallholders in Mountains
- (vii) Fisherfolks
- (viii) Forest Dwellers

Under each category of farmers, commodity areas/crops are listed which are important for improving their livelihoods.

Also, for each category of farmers, the researchable issues are grouped into (A) Issues that relate to commodity areas, and (B) Issues that are cross-cutting in nature. These are summarized as follows:

(A) Issues relating to Commodity Areas

The issues highlighted in this category are important objects for development and are considered important by participants for improving productivity and production of different commodity areas and crops starting from the input through output level, at output/post-harvest level, for participation in markets, at consumer level, and at institutional level. The commodity areas considered important for different categories of farmers [households of *dehkons*, households of small farmers (<5 ha), households of small to medium farmers (5-50 ha), large farmers (<50 ha), pastoralists, sustenance smallholders in mountains, fisher folks and forest dwellers] in the region include field crops (cereals, pulses and potato), fruits, herbs, nut crops, vegetables, floriculture, livestock (small and large ruminants, poultry, rabbits), inshore fisheries and medicinal plants and non-timber forest products. The facilitator may add a crop/commodity if desired. Different issues under objects for development are categorized as follows:

a. Researchable issues at input level

These include the following:

Seed/breeding management:

- Crop: Access to quality seeds of improved varieties
- Animal: Insemination service, controlled breeding, embryo transfer

Land management:

- Crop: Land tenure
- Animal: Ownership, tagging

Soil management:

- Crop: Composting, fertilizer, salinity, micronutrients, etc.; Conservation agriculture; Crops diversification
- Range/Pasture: Sustainability, water harvesting, degradation; Grazing management

Health management:

- Plant/Farm: Pest and disease spread, monitoring, surveillance
- Animal/Herd: Disease surveillance, monitoring, vaccination, preventive care

Water management:

- Farm/community:
Structure & systems of irrigation & drainage, equipment, monitoring
Equity/access, water-users associations

Knowledge management:

- Individual/household/community:
Access to new knowledge, ability to share knowledge
Knowledge intermediaries, extension & advisory services

Labour management:

- Women/individual/household/community:
Role of women
Farm machinery, equipment

b. Researchable issues through output level

These include the following:

Productivity increase at whole farm/production system level:

- Whole farm studies, modeling, simulation
- Availability of improved technology
- Seed improvement
- Integrated pest management
- Organic agriculture

c. Researchable issues at output/post-harvest level

These include the following:

- Post-harvest product management
- Processing
- Packaging
- Storage
- Transport

d. Researchable issues for participation in markets

These include the following:

- Institutional issues
- Market information
- Food safety, labeling
- Retail packaging
- Export market research

e. Researchable issues at consumer level

These include the following:

- Super market needs
- Consumer preferences
- Acceptability

f. Researchable issues at the institutional level

These include the following:

- Land tenure
- Constraints to agricultural production
- Livelihoods and poverty analysis
- Input market management and participation
- Water access
- Output market management and participation
- Financial support loans
- Involvement of private sector in agriculture
- Taxation

B. Cross-cutting issues

A number of cross-cutting were highlighted by the participants that are very important in achieving the desired progress. These include the following;

Investment in agriculture and agricultural research
Change in agricultural research systems (including need for young researchers)
Change agricultural extension systems
Changes in agricultural education systems
Capacity building in research infrastructure and capabilities
Developing effective linkages (networks), partnerships and collaboration
Protecting land (including rangelands) and water degradation
Protecting agro-biodiversity
Climate change
Desertification
Protecting forest degradation and afforestation
Aral Sea problem

II. Rating of the Researchable Issues in the Matrix Table

The researchable issues in the matrix table have to be rated on a 1-9 scale, where 1 = Not important; 3 = Less important; 5 = Moderately important; 7 = Important; and 9 = Highly important (Most important). Please ensure that all the columns are to be rated against different categories of farmers and the commodity areas.

III. Prioritization of Researchable Issues

Please do understand that the researchable issues are to be prioritized to focus research on a 1-3 Priority rating scale, where 1 = High priority; 2 = Moderate priority; and 3 = Low priority. This is important to understand the importance of each of the researchable issues. Further prioritization could be attempted among the high priority issues to ascertain priorities among them.

IV. Time Frame for the Priorities to Make Impact

It is important for us to know about the time frame that a particular researchable issue may have an impact on the subjects for development. Therefore, we need to ask the participants about the time frame in which these priorities may make impact, say in 5, 5-15 and more than 15 years.

We shall provide you with a suitable table to assist you tabulate all the three, importance, priority and time frame to make impact at our meeting on 13 October 2009.

V. Topics Included under Group Session 1

The researchable issues in Group Session 1 will be discussed in the following seven different groups:

1. Researchable Issues to support Dekhon Farmers
2. Researchable Issues to support Small Farmers
3. Researchable Issues to support Small to Medium Farmers
4. Large Farmers including Agroforestry
5. Researchable Issues to support Mountain Farmers
6. Researchable Issues to support Pastoralists and Livestock production
7. Researchable Issues to support Forest dwellers

VI. Topics Included under Group Discussion 2

The researchable issues under the Cross Cutting Issues will be discussed in the following seven groups:

1. Investments in Agriculture and Agricultural Research and Change in Agricultural Research and Innovation Systems including capacity development
2. Change in Agricultural Education, Extension and Advisory Services including information and knowledge sharing through ICT
3. Linkages, partnerships and collaboration at national, regional and International levels
4. Biodiversity
5. Climate Change, Land and Water Degradation
6. Agroforestry and Afforestation

7. Market-oriented, Economic and Social research for agricultural development

Please do let us know if you have any doubts about this process by 15 October so that we are all clear about the process for Group Discussions during the meeting on 16-17 October.

In summary, at the F2F Workshop, we are looking at within each group:

1. The importance of researchable issues
2. The priority to focus research for the important researchable issues
3. The time frame in which the research may make impact.