ASTI–ReSAKSS SIDE EVENT:

The critical role of agricultural science and technology in reaching CAADP targets:
Enhanced impact through joint outreach by Country SAKSS and ASTI focal points

With the establishment and operation of country SAKSS platforms in selected African countries the quality of agricultural policy design and implementation is improved through the facilitation of well-informed agricultural sector planning, review, and dialogue processes. Country SAKSS nodes assist in generating information to fill certain knowledge gaps; in timely disseminating policy-relevant knowledge; and in strengthening local institutional and human capacities in support of the formulation and implementation of national agriculture investment plans (NAIPs).

Despite substantial evidence that investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) has had a substantial impact on agricultural growth and poverty reduction over the past five decades, the current NAIPs often omit agricultural research investment as a priority area. Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI)—another long-standing program under the IFPRI umbrella—collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on institutional developments, human capacity, and financial resources in agricultural R&D in Africa (and developing countries worldwide). In recent years, ASTI has stepped up outreach of its indicators and analysis in order to ensure that its key outputs and findings better inform policy and decision making processes. This included the building of strong dissemination/advocacy partnerships with key regional policy institutions and policymakers. ASTI data and analysis are widely and frequently cited in influential reports by a variety of development partners and play an important role in informing regional policy processes. However, ASTI’s impact at the country level has been lagging behind, largely due to the fact that linkages between ASTI country focal points, responsible for in-country data collection and dissemination, and policymakers are weak or nonexistent.

Objectives of side event:
This side event aims to bring together country SAKSS nodes and ASTI focal points of selected African countries (proposed Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Tanzania)

- to familiarize country SAKSS with ASTI and ASTI focal points with ReSAKKS, find common grounds and synergies between both programs, and discuss ways to better integrate the implementation of both programs at the country level;
- to share past experiences with in-country outreach and communication of key ASTI and ReSAKSS messages for increased policy impact;
- to identify common country-level stakeholders of ReSAKKS and ASTI; discuss how both projects can work better together to target key policy messages to stakeholders; and identify how in-country outreach and communication can be better coordinated on the long run.
The side event will be organized as follows: 10-minute overview presentations on ASTI and Country SAKSS, followed by a 40-minute roundtable discussion with ASTI and SAKSS representatives to discuss benefits and potential modes of collaboration. Finally, the floor will be opened up to a wider audience for a further 30-minute discussion.

**Facilitators:**
- Nienke Beintema, ASTI
- Geodfrey Bahiigwa, ReSAKSS

**Presenters:**
- Gert-Jan Stads, ASTI
- Joseph Karugia, ReSAKSS-ECA

**Panelists:**
- Dejene Hailegiorgis Fessese, ASTI Ethiopia
- Zena Habtewold Biru, SAKSS Ethiopia
- Gatete Aimable, ASTI Rwanda
- Claude Bizimana, SAKSS Rwanda
- Deogratias Lwezaura, ASTI Tanzania
- Sophia Mlote, PAPAC (SAKSS) Tanzania