Building capacity, fostering learning, and technical support for agriculture public expenditure analysis

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Side-Event: Towards Strengthening Agriculture Public Expenditure Analysis for Improved Decisions and Learning
Background

• The Maputo Declaration (2003) committed to improved levels of public expenditure in agriculture and promoted a continent-wide approach focusing on comprehensive policy/investment objectives and guidelines

• The World Bank, NPCA, and BMGF, through the Strengthening National Comprehensive Agricultural Public Expenditure Program (SNCAPE) — has supported Ag PE analyses in 17 countries and mobilized over 100 public expenditure experts and practitioners

• How to strengthen the capacity for public expenditure analysis created through SNCAPE, foster learning, and continue to support Ag PERs – a network of experts?
How will the network be supported?

• The SNCAPE program will close by April 2016
• The network of experts may be supported by the proposed Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support CAADP (Malabo Facility) implementation
• Consultations are ongoing to design the Malabo Facility:
  • technical support for countries on important topics such as climate smart agriculture (CSA), data, and policy analysis;
  • finance a central CAADP coordination unit at AUC and NPCA;
  • support efforts by African countries to obtain access to additional investment funding.
• The network of experts may be placed at the central CAADP coordination unit
• The unit will serve as conduit for financing and include a lead technical expert on Ag PER drawn for an external organization with proven expertise on Ag PER
What would be the role of network of experts?

1. **Virtual Technical Assistance Service Agency**: providing experts to country ministries and agencies to carry out public expenditure analysis and related technical assistance.

   - **In-Country Support**: "Deploy an Expert" modality will provide in-country technical assistance.
   - **Virtual Helpdesk**: "Ask an Expert" online modality will provide real-time technical help.
What would be the role of network of experts?

2. **Knowledge and Capacity Building Platform:** supporting country stakeholders to participate in knowledge exchange, capacity building activities, fostering partnerships and solutions

- **Building Capacity**
  - Training courses;
  - Setting up a professional association; peer review mechanisms

- **Improving Knowledge Tools**
  - Developing and improving related curricula and training courses in universities

- **Creating Solutions**
  - Developing and standardizing methods, systems, tools, etc.

- **Sharing Knowledge**
  - South-South exchanges; online forums and blogs; email list serve
## What to do in the next 3-4 months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Main partners</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forming the Ad Hoc Committee</td>
<td>FAO/MAFAP, World Bank, Gates Foundation, IFPRI/ReSAKSS, NPCA</td>
<td>September 1-3(^{rd}), 2015</td>
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<td>Preparing a proposal for the Network of Experts (virtual working sessions)</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Committee</td>
<td>September – November 2015</td>
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<td>Organizing the Consultation Workshop</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitting Project Proposal to Malabo Facility</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Committee</td>
<td>January 2016</td>
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What to consider in the proposal?

Working sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee may focus on the following areas:

- **Detailed description of activities**: what exactly will the network be involved in?
- **Logical framework of results chain**: what will each activity contribute to – outputs, outcomes, and expected impacts?
- **Costs of each activity and sources of funds**
- **Implementation arrangements**: who will do what and sequencing of activities?
- **Governance and oversight arrangements**: who will manage the network?
- **Sustainability beyond the Malabo facility**: how will financial and institutional sustainability be ensured?
What are your thoughts?

• What is needed at the country level to make agriculture public expenditure analysis more useful?
  • Linking expenditure to sector outcomes – what systems are needed?
  • Identify under-funded sub-sectors?

• What would countries learn from interacting and sharing knowledge with each other?
  • Identify common needs and priorities to underpin priorities for network of experts or community of practice

• What added value would countries get from ‘expert support’?
  • Identify priority needs and objectives of the Expert Network/Community of practice

• How best would these needs be met and managed?
  • Identify types of activities and services provided; the members, users, working arrangements, governance structure, leadership; as well as a tentative lifespan / initial calendar of activities
Thank you!
What expectations should we place on the network?

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<th>6 Key Functions</th>
<th>Network of Functions Approach</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community-Building</td>
<td>Promotes and sustains the values and standards of a network of individuals or groups</td>
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<td>Filtering</td>
<td>Filtering allows the organized and productive use of information, providing decision-makers with a valuable support service</td>
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<td>Amplifying</td>
<td>Amplification can be used to disseminate a message or idea, and can also be part of a two-way process of communication and feedback</td>
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<td>Learning and Facilitating</td>
<td>Helps members undertake their activities more efficiently and effectively, acquire new knowledge and develop practical abilities</td>
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<td>Investing and Providing</td>
<td>Offers a channel to give members the resources they need to undertake their activities and connect thematic experts together, etc</td>
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<td>Convening</td>
<td>Brings together members from different nationalities. Attention needs to be paid to issues of audience demands and communication</td>
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“Networks are built on the relationships and interactions of their members, we cannot and should not claim to be able to create them in the same way as we create projects or organizations”

– Hearn and Mendizabal, ODI 2011
What can we expect from a community of practice?

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<tr>
<th>What are they?</th>
<th>What do they do?</th>
<th>How to they work?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share a common topic of interest</td>
<td>Enhance connectivity and strengthens relationships amongst peers</td>
<td>Flexible modalities (face-to-face, virtual, regional, country, community levels)</td>
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<td>Motivated to share work-related knowledge</td>
<td>Energize professional networks</td>
<td>Interact on a regular basis</td>
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<td>Gain value, learning and knowledge from exchange</td>
<td>Share experiences, lessons learned, best practices</td>
<td>Formal or informal arrangements</td>
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<td>Generate new ideas</td>
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<td>Lead coordinator for management purposes</td>
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<td>Capture and share knowledge</td>
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“Communities of practice are groups of people who share a passion for something they do and who interact regularly to learn how to do it better”
– Etienne Wenger, 1991
Some inspiring examples...

Climate & Development Knowledge Network

- Policy and practice
- Climate negotiations
- Disaster risk management
- Climate finance

Aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development

Green Growth Knowledge Platform

- Fuel Subsidies in Nigeria: There are better ways to help the poor (and the economy and the environment)

Offers practitioners and policymakers the policy guidance, good practices, tools, and data necessary to support the transition to a green economy
Technical Assistance

- 3-12 months / > 1 year services in response to demand from countries

Roster of Experts (RoE)

- Technical Assistance
  - Remote Expert Assistance
    - Connects country teams to an extensive network of low emission development strategy (LEDS) professionals to provide virtual consultation and advice
... Digital Solutions

Civic Hackathons

- offer developers and coders the opportunity to design new software and hardware for the social good, working with/for government and citizens

- potential for being used to develop or optimize software for Ag PE data collection, analysis, use and systemization