ASTI and ReSAKSS: Reaching common stakeholders through better-coordinated communication and outreach

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What is ASTI?

- Collects institutional, investment, human resource capacity, and research output data from agricultural R&D agencies in developing countries worldwide.
- Established in 2001; led by IFPRI.
- Large network of national, regional, and international partners.
- ASTI’s objectives are to provide high-quality, up-to-date datasets on agricultural R&D; to conduct ongoing analysis of its datasets; to disseminate the results of its analysis to promote advocacy and support policymaking; and to build national and regional capacity for data collection and analysis.
ASTI’s data procedures

- ASTI conducts national surveys of agricultural research organizations in close collaboration national focal points at NARIs.
- Focal points distribute surveys to all agencies known to conduct agricultural research in a given country.
- Three types of surveys: government and nonprofit agencies; higher education entities; private for-profit entities.
- Survey process partially automated through ASTI Data Management Portal.
- ASTI/focal points perform data checks and follow up on inconsistencies and omissions.
ASTI outputs

• Country factsheets
• Regional and global reports
• Online datasets and tools
• Analytical assessments
• Seminars and presentations
• Press releases/media outreach
• ASTI website (www.asti.cgiar.org)

ASTI indicators

• Institutional arrangements
• R&D spending by cost category
• Funding sources
• R&D staff by degree, gender, and age
• R&D focus by commodity and theme
• Output indicators
Interactive representation of data

Compare key indicators of up to 5 countries

Download data on the spot

Links to publications, institutional profiles, regional benchmarking tool
- Offers more granular data than previous ASTI data tool
- Graphing/mapping tool to be added this month
- Structure allows for additional indicators/elements later on
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.
Improving country-level uptake of ASTI outputs

- Country-level uptake of the ASTI data and analysis—although increasing—still falls short in many countries.
- Weak (or nonexistent) linkages between ASTI country focal points and policymakers.
- ASTI, including the national focal points need to work closely with specialized advocacy partners who can engage directly with key stakeholders.
- These advocacy partners can play a key role in ensuring that ASTI remains an important input in monitoring progress of regional initiatives, including the CAADP agenda.
- Need 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.
Thank you