



SIDE EVENT # 4: ReSAKSS Country eAtlas: Advanced Data Exploration Tool to Enhance Country Data and Knowledge Management in Africa

Venue: OMANYE II

Organizer: Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

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Presenter:

Mohamed Ahid, Senior Research Assistant, West and Central Africa Office, IFPRI
(*Demonstration of Country eAtlas*)

Panelists:

Ousmane Badiane, Director for Africa, IFPRI

Charles Nhemachena, Agricultural Economist, ReSAKSS-Southern Africa

Maurice Taondyande, M&E Specialist, ReSAKSS-West Africa

Paul Guthiga, Senior Policy Analyst, ReSAKSS-Eastern and Central Africa

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Abstract & Objectives:

The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) has been developing a web-based mapping platform, called ReSAKSS Country eAtlases, that brings high quality and highly disaggregated data on agricultural, socio-economic, and bio-physical indicators from different sources into a centralized, user friendly, and highly interactive system. The eAtlases can be viewed as a GIS-based mapping tool to help policy analysts and policymakers access and use highly disaggregated data at subnational levels to guide agricultural policy and investment decisions. The eAtlases serve as an important tool for policymakers, analysts, and other stakeholders by (i) providing an online, highly interactive, and dynamic data environment rich with standard pre-processing and essential data analysis tools, (ii) assembling in one resource data from a variety of domains necessary for effective policy design and targeting, and (iii) ensuring broad access to high quality data to facilitate inclusive review and dialogue processes.

This online system allows for the direct access, browsing, basic manipulation, and download of these data records with minimum computing and expertise needs. It also provide a set of online capabilities for visualization and qualitative and quantitative exploration of agricultural, socioeconomic, and basic biophysical and climate data. In doing so, the eAtlases reduce the workload of data users and address the limited network bandwidth and latency characteristics of Africa.





The eAtlases have the potential to serve all state and non-state actors involved in policy planning, implementation, and monitoring; policy analysis, review and dialogue; and design and targeting of agricultural and other investments. The eAtlases will be geared towards countries in Africa, where internet network issues and technology resources can be a challenge and in particular users with limited resources and or time or whose investigators may not wish to invest in resources for data preparation and preprocessing.

The main objectives of the side event are to:

- Introduce the eAtlas platform and its associated tools to the ReSAKSS Annual Conference participants;
- Raise awareness on the highly disaggregated data available in the ReSAKSS country eAtlases;
- Offer an opportunity for country Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) to share their experiences on how they are managing and maintaining their country eAtlases. This also will offer space in which the SAKSS nodes can interact with diverse groups of actors attending the conference.

