

ZAMBIA-RESEARCH INTO USE (Z-RIU)

NOTES ON PROGRAMME WORK PLAN FOR 2009 TO 2011

Introduction

The Zambia-Research Into Use (Z-RIU) programme was established in November 2008. In earnest, implementation of activities commenced in the first quarter of the year 2009/2010 following set up of activities and the development of the Implementation Plan (IP) and the work plan.

However, following the Mid Term Review (MTR) and the subsequent Technical Review (TR), the urgent need to act on the recommendations arose. From the TR, the main programme wide recommendations were for:

- 1) a new lean and decentralized focused organizational structure.
- 2) an unambiguous repositioning of the programme as a research project

New Research Design

Z-RIU is contributing to addressing the RIU main research question - *What configurations of actors, policies and institutions, under what circumstances and at what point in the innovation trajectory that allow agricultural research to contribute to innovation and development.* Six innovation narratives, each with its own hypothesis and research question, have been identified to be explored to help investigate the main research question. These include:

- **Poor user led innovation.** Poor farmers and consumers should be at the centre of the innovation process as they have superior knowledge of their production and social context.
- **Public-private partnership led innovation.** The private sector has not played an adequate role in public agricultural research and allied activities and partnership between public and private sectors could drive innovation relevant to the poor.
- **Capacity development led Innovation.** The rate limiting step in technical change is not technology development or promotion *per se*, but the level innovation capacity.
- **Opportunity led innovation.** Opportunities presented by large markets of poor people as well as new markets for poor producers are leading the emergence of new types of innovation processes and products.
- **Investment led innovation.** Financial resources are a key incentive for innovation and are increasingly used to help encourage the development of new partnership configurations around specific problem areas and research products.
- **Research communication led innovation.** Research products need to be processed into forms suited to different audiences and made accessible through data bases

In terms of the Zambia-RIU, there was a revisit of the primary purpose of the Country Programme (CP) and work plan so that these were put in line with RIU main research question.

Zambia- Research Into Use Programme/ Statement of ambition/December 2009

Programme Outputs

Being a research project, RIU's primary aim is to accumulate, evaluate and communicate evidence on how research outputs can be delivered to its users. To achieve this purpose, Z-RIUP has two outputs in line with those of the overall RIU:

- 1) *Promotion*: Enhancing the demand for and putting into use Conservation Agriculture (CA) related outputs of RNRRS and other research for the benefit of the poor,
- 2) *Learning*: Generating evidence about getting CA research into use and sharing lessons/ supporting policy dialogue.

Work Plan for 2009-2011

The new CP direction entailed the need for the CP work plan to be revisited. Therefore in line with the programme outputs, there are **five activity areas** for which milestones and tasks have been identified in the new work plan. Four (activities 1, 2, 3 and 5) of these relate to output 1 but also contribute to output 2, and the remaining (Activity 4) relate to output 2 (See attached work plan).

The five areas of activities explored through implementation of the Z-RIU work plan, are based on 4 of the 6 innovation narratives to which these sets of activities contribute. These four innovation narratives include 1) Capacity development led innovation; 2) Public private partnership led innovation; 3) Research communication led innovation and; 4) Investment led innovation. However, it must be noted that in practice these innovations do overlap.

Five areas of activities

- 1) **Capacity development led innovation activities** - Support capacity strengthening of Platforms/Learning Sites' (LSs) in Monze and Chipata, to increase stakeholders' participation, interaction, and co-learning/sharing of experiences and best practices in increasing demand/use of appropriate Conservation Agriculture (CA) related RNRRS and other research outputs.
- 2) **Public private sector partnerships led innovation activities** - Facilitate value addition (adaptation) to key identified and selected initiatives/mechanisms that strengthen linkages, promote private sector participation, and reduce risks and barriers to demand/use of CA related RNRRS and other research outputs by the poor (farmers).
- 3) **Research communication led innovation activities** - Strengthening awareness creation about CA related RNRRS and other research outputs and their appropriate application, at learning sites (LSs), platforms and to wider audience for informed articulation of demand and enhanced use (adoption), as well as informed participation/contribution to related policy dialogue/formulation.
- 4) **Research communication led innovation activities** - Support learning and policy enhancing interventions through analysis of accumulated evidence, documentation and dissemination of information/lessons on how to enhance demand for CA research outputs.

- 5) **Investment led innovation activities** - Using the flexibility fund to address key bottlenecks in the input and output markets to increase value addition and market opportunities in the rice value chain. (Contributing to Output

The implementation of the foregoing five activity areas of the work plan is intended to contribute to achieving the CP envisaged ambition.

Summary CP Envisaged Ambition

Through this work plan Z-RIU envisages to achieve the following:-

By the end of the programme in 2011, RIU in Zambia will impact more than 25,000 households in five districts (including three additional districts planned for expansion by January 2009) both directly and indirectly. RIU in Zambia will therefore contribute to the improvement of livelihood of at least 150,000 people who will benefit once these 25,000 households are reached through various RIU interventions.

There will be two levels of achievements namely at household level and intermediary (or institutional/organizational/service provider) level. Z-RIU envisage to achieve the following by the end of the programme:

1. Household level

- Under platform activities and learning sites RIU in Zambia expects to increase the use of CF/CA technologies and practices among at least 1000 households directly and 24,000 households indirectly through stakeholders.
- Under communication activities, more than 50% (45,000)¹ of the estimated total number of households in Monze and Chipata will be reached through innovative radio programmes on local community media outlets.
- These households will have increased awareness about various CF technologies, practices & processes, their application and sources of technical support.
- Over 1000 beneficiaries will have accessed animal draft power and expanded CF portions in their fields through the voucher system
- In addition, the support to the rice value chain will benefit at least 3,000 households (18,000 beneficiaries).

2. Intermediary level

There are more than 56 represented intermediary stakeholders at district and national level. The number is set to increase with the planned expansion to 3 other districts.

Stakeholders at intermediary level will benefit from;- improved innovation capacity, increased business opportunities, lesson learning from the interventions, improved mechanisms for private sector participation, improved coordination and harmonization among others

Flexibility fund initiative

Z-RIU is implementing the Flexibility fund initiative to support the rice value chain in the remote Northern corridor of the country to address the major bottlenecks. Through this initiative Z-RIU estimates to benefit an additional 3,000 households, translating into about 18,000 beneficiaries.

Through this initiative households will benefit from; improved accessibility to critical inputs at the right time; improved value addition to rice produce through processing and better packaging; linkages and access to organized and better markets; better prices for rice produce and; increased household incomes and food security

In addition a number of service provider institutions and other value chain actors will benefit from the value addition that will result from this intervention.

Country Team Staff

The CP Staffing will remain lean with three positions led by the **Country Coordinator**. Then the NPF will be replaced by a **National Programme Officer**, while the NMLC has been replaced by the **Programme Assistant – Facilitation**. There is also going to be a **Research Fellow (RF)** attached to the programme.

Conclusion

There is now a clear direction for the RIU in general and for the ZRIUP in particular following the rationalization. It is hoped that the revised work plan has adequately addressed issues that are key to the required CP repositioning. The Country Team (CT), with the support of the CRT, will ensure that programme implementation remains in line with the primary purpose of RIU.

ZAMBIA RIU STATEMENT OF AMBITION

Zambia RIU has an ambition to scale up use of Conservation Framing/Agriculture (CF/CA) research outputs with a view to enhance environmentally friendly agriculture among the largest producers of the staple food crop in the country. About 96% (1,170, 050 out of 1,216,287) of the staple food growers are small scale farm households in Zambia. These are responsible for about 7, 020,300 people. RIU Zambia intends that all its activities benefit about 270,000² people by 2011.

This will be achieved through four areas of intervention as follows:- 1) *Support to platforms (fora of stakeholder institutions/organization) and learning sites*; 2) *support to the communication of CF/CA research outputs using alternative media (community radio stations)*; 3) *enhancing mechanisms that support private sector participation in the promotion of CF such as the voucher systems and*; 4) *support to learning and policy enhancing activities* . In addition Z-RIU is working on supporting the rice value chain actors to enable farmers to add value to the product, offer competitive prices and access better markets.

By the end of the programme in 2011, RIU in Zambia will benefit more than 45,000 households in five districts (including three additional districts planned for expansion by January 2009) both directly and indirectly. RIU in Zambia will therefore contribute to the improvement of livelihood of at least 270,000 people who will benefit once these 45,000 households are reached through various RIU interventions.

From the combination of the aforementioned interventions, there will be two levels of achievements namely at household level and intermediary (or institutional/organizational/service provider) level. RIU in Zambia envisage the following achievements by the end of the programme:

1. Household level

- Under platform activities and learning sites RIU in Zambia expects to increase the use of CF/CA technologies and practices among 25,000 households through stakeholders. The Platform Activities aim at increasing practical understanding of CA so that the farmers can adapt and adopt the principles to their local situations.
- Under communication activities, more than 50% (45,000)¹ of the estimated total number of households in Monze and Chipata will be reached through innovative radio programmes on local community media outlets.
- These households will have increased awareness about various CF/CA technologies, practices & processes, their application and sources of technical support.

The envisaged capacities to be gained by the households will be in terms of the following:

- Households will be more aware of the available CF/CA technologies, practices and processes and how they can best be applied for optimal results
- Small scale farmers will by the end of the programmes have increased capacity to apply CF/CA by properly practicing the following:-
 - ✓ Converting from conventional ploughing to one or more reduced tillage methods
 - ✓ Improved crop residual management for cover

¹ A combined population of small scale households in Monze and Chipata where the communication of CF/CA research outputs using alternative (community) media (radio stations) is being implemented is estimated to be 94,879 (CSO, 2008/09). Radio coverage in all the community radio stations goes far beyond the borders of the districts in which they are located, and so the numbers to be reached will be much higher the given estimates. Radio Sky FM reaches about 2,000,000 people, Radio Chikuni about 500,000. In Eastern Province, radio Breeze reaches about 1,000,000.

² CSO estimates that 1 household has an average of 6 members.

- ✓ Early land preparation in the dry season in readiness for planting rains
- ✓ Accurate application of basal nutrients and in the right place
- ✓ Early planting at the first possible opportunity (first planting rains)
- ✓ Early and regular weeding to exhaust the weed bank
- ✓ Crop rotations with legumes – diversify cropping base
- There would also be enhanced appreciation and use of CF among the 45,000 households in targeted areas
- Lead farmers will be able to support other farmers with basic technical knowledge in CF/CA sustainably
- Extension workers from both government and other stakeholder institutional actors will benefit from the pool of trainer of trainers (TOT) being developed in targeted districts for sustained promotion of CF/CA
- Over 1000 individuals will benefit from the draft power through the voucher system both directly and indirectly (draft power hire services)
- Farmers will have diversified their crop production to include more legumes crops for subsistence and commercial purposes
- Households will have increased yields (productivity) and production
- Households will have improved food security and incomes
- Beyond 2011 there would be long term benefits including:-
 - ✓ Further enhancing soil fertility and resilience to climate change
 - ✓ Harnessing nature to manufacture free ‘fertiliser’
 - ✓ Providing an alternative carbohydrate source to complement maize
 - ✓ Enhancing dietary intake by provision of extra vitamins & minerals gained through crop diversification
 - ✓ Positioning farmers to respond to future challenges and opportunities

2. Intermediary level

There are more than 56 represented intermediary stakeholders at district and national level. The number is set to increase with the planned expansion to 3 other districts.

- Z-RIU is working with these stakeholders in CF/CA at service provider level. Through the platforms and the NIC, represented stakeholders will benefit by way of sharing experiences, co-learning and harmonizing the way information about CF/CA and related technologies is disseminated to farmers thereby significantly reducing the distortions. This will improve efficiency and assist in enhancing the confidence of farmers in CF and ultimately

contribute to its adoption. There will also be a coordinated approach to the promotion of CF/CA in targeted districts.

- Currently there are 17 stakeholders at national level that have influence on government and would support changes and formulation of policies to make them conducive to CF/CA implementation in Zambia. These also represent influential institutions such as ministry of agriculture, GART, CFU, ZNFU, civil society and media.
- As a way of ensuring sustainability, local organisations are engaged by PANOS Institute Southern Africa (Z-RIU lead partner on communication) in the dissemination of CF/CA information dissemination. This will help to improve on the content development for airing to the audience. Currently most media houses do not give much time to development and scientific issues. Much of the time is given to politics and entertainment. By 2011, it is envisaged that these media houses will have started developing content that contribute to development of local areas. Six radio stations have been targeted for this programme: Radio Sky FM (Private commercial), Radio Breeze (Private Commercial), Radio Chikuni (religious community), Radio Kasempa (community) and Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation radio one (Public station).
- Private sector actors will have identified business opportunities in the supply of various CF inputs including implements, seed materials and agro-chemicals
- RIU in Zambia also envisage to see an emergency of animal draft power hire services in targeted areas by the end of the programme following the roll out of the CF/CA input (including Animal Draft Power- ADP) voucher mechanism. . The oxen are meant to benefit about 6,000 individuals through the ox hire services. Whereas the owners of the oxen will run the draft power services as a business, the other beneficiaries will hire to increase on the area ripped for planting their crops under CF/CA.
- Effective mechanisms that enhance private sector participation such as the voucher system will be lobbied and advocated for in the distribution of farmer input support by government (public private partnerships).
- The voucher system will also benefit the local institutions that will be involved in the organisation and provision of oxen and other inputs for sale. Capacity will be built to be able to support local farmers.

3. Flexibility Initiative

- RIU in Zambia is also working on rolling out support to rice producers in the remote Northern corridor of the country to address the major bottlenecks in the rice value chain using the flexibility fund. A snap study planned for commissioning in January 2010 will look at the rice value chain in the area to ascertain the theory that the lack of value addition and limited linkages to the mainstream markets has stifled the growth of this sub-sector which is critical for both food security and incomes among local people.
- The fund will support local institutions to be able to support smallholder households to improve on their rice processing and packaging for the market. This will enable the farmers to add value to their produce, access better markets, offer competitive prices on the market and ultimately increase household incomes.
- Through this initiative RIU in Zambia estimates to benefit an additional 2,500 households, translating into about 15,000 beneficiaries.