



FIRST PLATFORM WORKSHOP ON POST-HARVEST

WORKSHOP REPORT

Oasis Hotel, Morogoro
10th - 11th December 2008

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This report documents the proceedings and outcomes of the first platform workshop on post harvest which was held at Oasis Hotel, Morogoro on 10th and 11th December 2008. The report provides details of plenary discussions, group discussions as well as individual comments from participants.

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1. SETTING THE SCENE

1.1 Opening

The workshop was opened by Ms. Pamela Lwakabare, the National Process Facilitator for Research Into Use programme in Tanzania. On behalf of the RIU Tanzania programme, Ms. Lwakabare started by welcoming participants and thanking them for attending the workshop. As she indicated, this shows their commitment towards finding concrete solutions and creating a way forward for a stronger platform and agricultural sector for Morogoro and Tanzania as a whole. She pointed out that RIU hopes that the two day discussions will generate productive solutions for challenges identified. She also clarified that participants should be free and very open in their discussions and they should ask questions whenever they feel that they have not understood what was discussed. After delivering the welcome remarks, she then invited Jürgen Hagmann who was the lead facilitator of the workshop to continue with the introduction process.

1.2 Getting to Know Each Other

1.2.1 Introduction of the Facilitation Team

Jürgen started by greeting the participants and introducing himself, he then indicated that in facilitating this workshop he will be working with a team of two people. And he asked each person in the facilitation team to introduce themselves.

Jürgen Hagmann

Jürgen is the team leader and process facilitator for PICO-Team (People Innovation and Change in Organisations). PICO-Team is a group of organisations in Africa, Latin America and Europe which supports people and organisations in their efforts to bring about change and innovations for sustainable development. PICO deals with issues of farmer organisations, local/rural organisational development and economic & enterprise development, Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) and transforming of agricultural research organisation/system as well as institutions for higher learning. Jürgen has been involved with the RIU programmes for the past one and a half years. He is supporting the RIU teams/programmes in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda as well as other countries in terms of facilitation.

Pamela Lwakabare

Pamela is part of the Research Into Use team in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The country team comprises of the Country Coordinator, National Process Facilitator and National Monitoring and Learning Coordinator (NMLC). Pamela is the National Process Facilitator for the team; she is particularly involved in providing support for the platforms through facilitating all key activities, and ensuring that the platforms run as smoothly as possible towards achieving their goals.

Robert Mgeni

Robert is the National Monitoring and Learning Coordinator (NMLC) for RIU Tanzania team. He is mainly involved in coordinating the operations of monitoring and evaluation activities of RIU Tanzania, and tracking the programme's progress towards its 2011 results as well as ensuring that the lessons learnt, experiences and outcomes of the programme are shared with all stakeholders.

1.3 Setting the Agenda and Facilitation Principles

After the introductions from the facilitation team, Jürgen specified to the participants that this workshop is supposed to be very interactive, he indicated that there will be no hierarchies and that all participants are in the workshop for same purpose, which is to find solutions to challenges in agricultural activities in Morogoro region. He then described to the participants the key facilitation principles that will ensure an environment that will allow free interaction by the workshop participants and facilitators. The key facilitation principles were divided into two groups i.e. core values and rules for table interaction as presented below.

1.3.1 Core Values

The core values for the workshop included

- **Informality** – participants should have a productive but relaxed informal meeting, and they should call each other by first names and avoid the hierarchies.
- **Open dialogue** – the facilitator specified that this meeting has no chairman, so there will be no one way communication during the discussions, but there will be free participation and open discussions for all participants.
- **Ownership** – although the meeting is organized by the RIU secretariat, participants were encouraged to own the meeting and give their inputs so as to have positive and realistic outcomes.
- **Inclusiveness** – everybody was encouraged to contribute, and the facilitator will work to ensure that is achieved and the quiet participants are given a priority to speak up. Also participants were requested to encourage the quiet ones to speak and contribute.
- **Openness, accountability and Transparency** – in this workshop there are no secret agendas, participants should feel free and open up and bring everything on the table.
- **Appreciation of any contribution** – participants should feel free to ask questions when they don't understand and present their views so that after the meeting nobody should go home with unanswered questions.
- **Constructive Controversy** – participants don't have to agree on all issues, the differences and different stand points on issues are accepted and respected.
- **Creativity** – participants were encouraged to think beyond the box and find new and innovative solutions for the problems they face. Participants were urged to review previous solutions that have not worked and come up with better suggestions for solving their problems.
- **Honesty and political incorrectness** – participants were encouraged to speak the truth as it is and be very upfront but in a positive way. All issues should be brought out in order to find solutions.

1.3.2 Rules for Interaction at the Tables

After discussing the core values, Jürgen and Robert presented the rules for interaction at the tables. Participants were required to

- Move from tables and sit on a new table every half day with new people.
- Observe the groups and notice who is not speaking or contributing, encourage the quiet participants to speak up and present their views.
- Have self control and check their talk to make sure that they don't deny others a chance to speak.
- Ensure that nobody is presenting the group work more than once, all group members should get a chance to present.
- Avoid long speeches, everybody should get to the point and stick to the workshop objectives.
- Think individually first and then discuss in groups.

1.3.3 Participants' Introduction

In order to create an atmosphere for free interaction, it was necessary for the participants to get to know each other beyond names and where they come from. The facilitator requested the participants to sit at the table with people whom they don't know and after that they used 15 minutes and followed the guidelines in the box to lead their interaction.

After the table introduction, the participants were asked to introduce themselves by their names and the organisations they represent to the larger group, so that those who were not part of table discussion groups would know who the other participants are.

Participants Introduction Guidelines

- a) Sit at the table with people whom you don't know well
- b) Find out from each other
 - Who you are and what you do
 - What you are really proud of in your personal and professional life
 - If you are the president, what would you do to boost agriculture in Morogoro?
- c) Agree together
 - What should happen in this workshop?
 - What should not happen in this workshop?

1.3.3.1 Participants Responses, Expectations and Fears

After introductions, the participants gave their responses to what they would do to boost agriculture in Morogoro if they were the President of Tanzania. The following are responses from the participants

- To ensure that there is availability of farm inputs and implements in villages all year around and at affordable prices so as to enable the poor small scale farmers to be able to buy them or rent the services.
- To completely eliminate the post harvest losses in Morogoro region, and make Morogoro the National and regional maize and rice warehouse
- To strengthen infrastructure systems to ensure that all roads going to major production areas are accessible by farmers and all citizens all year around
- Strengthen irrigation systems
- To ensure that small scale farmers become more advanced

Expectations and Fears

This part presents the last exercise in the introduction of the participants; it presents the participants expectations of what should happen and what should not happen during the workshop.

What Should Happen

- We should find effective strategies of reducing post harvest losses for farmers in Morogoro
- After the workshop we should have learnt new techniques in post harvest management e.g. in harvesting, processing, storing and marketing the products
- All the agreements reached through this meeting should be implemented
- We should respect the ideas and inputs from all participants

What Should Not Happen

- Disrespect for participants and their opinions
- Misunderstandings among participants
- Avoid empty promises and political talks with no actions
- Forming strategies that will not be implemented

Before presenting the agenda for the two days, Jürgen expressed his appreciation, indicating that he is very positive after hearing that participants are ready to commit themselves to implement workshop consensuses. He added that, this is the key spirit for platforms, we should work and find problems we face, find their solutions and the means of solving them without waiting for the government or someone else to do it.

1.3.4 Agenda and Objectives of the Workshop

After the participants got to know each other and knowing their expectations in the workshop, Jürgen presented the agenda and objectives of the workshop. He indicated that the exercise will go on for two days. The majority of day one discussions were structured around providing the participants with an overall understanding of RIU activities, innovation platforms and the progress that has been made prior to the workshop. Also participants used the first day to identify gaps and bottlenecks that inhibit effective coordination and efficiency in their agricultural activities. Day two discussions were focused on setting goals and targets of the platform, identifying priority areas and strategies for intervention, and organising the interim platform.

Agenda

Time	Day 1 – Wednesday 10 th December 2008	Day 2 – Thursday 11 th December 2008
Session 1 8:30 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening ▪ Setting the scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting goals and targets for the platform
Session 2 11:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarification of Process and Platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritizing areas for intervention ▪ Concrete strategies and actions
Session 3 14:00 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of bottlenecks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitments for the next three months ▪ How to organize ourselves as a platform
Session 4 16:00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bottlenecks ▪ Solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop evaluation

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop aims to establish an innovation platform and make it functional; the specific objectives of the workshop were,

- To clarify the concept of innovation platform and how it works
- To clarify what we want to advance together and what we benefit for everyone
- To identify the bottlenecks, why things do not work/happen
- To come up with solutions and strategies on how to overcome the challenges
- To come up with clear actions and commitments for everyone
- To agree on how we interact as a platform
- To agree on the way forward

2. ABOUT RESEARCH INTO USE (RIU)

The Research Into Use (RIU) programme is a DFID UK funded programme that recently commenced in Tanzania with the aim of enhancing demand for and the use of research outputs. The RIU will establish and strengthen linkages between information providers and users, and support activities focused at overcoming constraints to agricultural innovation in the Eastern Zone (Morogoro, Tanga, Coast and Dar es Salaam Regions). The management and implementation of RIU activities in Tanzania is carried out by MUVEK Development Solutions Ltd, while the management of the Innovation Challenge Fund is done by Economic Development Initiatives Ltd (EDI-Africa). The National Innovation Coalition (NIC) is the overall organ responsible for decision making and overall supervision of implementation of the RIU Tanzania programme. The NIC is made up of the key actors in the agriculture sector in Tanzania who have the necessary experience in different areas in the sector. In RIU structure, the Innovation Platforms are the actual site of the implementation of RIU programme's innovation activities on the ground. The innovation platforms will be networks of partners, working on a common theme and using research knowledge in ways it has not been used before to generate goods and services that will benefit those in need.

2.1 About Innovation Platforms

In explaining the overall concept of a platform to the participants, Jurgen started by asking the participants if they have ever seen an African funeral fail. He used this example to describe the efficiency of the social system in coordinating and implementing all necessary activities, and how all members of the community take different roles and deliver what they had committed themselves to. This coordination and linkage resembles the concept of an innovation platform, where every member of the society takes a particular role and each person focuses to deliver so as to meet the ultimate goal.

RIU defines an innovation platform as a network of partners working on a common theme and using research knowledge in ways it hasn't been used before to generate improved goods and services for the benefit of the poor. Innovation Platforms involve the concept or system of working together as a group focusing on specific area of opportunity so as to address major challenges that affect the system. This is done by bringing together different stakeholders to find innovative solutions for the challenges or bottlenecks that prevent the system from functioning efficiently. In such a system, actors need to be as disciplined and as committed as possible towards the cause, and they have to work hand in hand with each other to ensure that the final goals are achieved.

2.1.1 Understanding How Innovation Platforms Work

The key steps towards forming and understanding an innovation platform and how it works include:

1. Identifying a problem or an opportunity with a high potential for impact. For example there could be a disease threatening the crops and food production, and if such a problem is addressed, a huge impact will be made, and this can be a drive to create a platform.

2. Formulating an innovation challenge which defines clearly the scope and focus of what you want to do i.e. how to eradicate the problem.
3. Identifying the functions required to make the system work efficiently.
4. Identifying the actors who can deliver the identified functions well.
5. Inviting the promising actors to a first meeting, and analyse blockages and first actions.
6. Following up the actors with their commitments and support them to deliver the promises.
7. Holding a second meeting to learn and plan the way forward

2.2 RIU Innovation Platforms

RIU has recently launched three innovation platforms namely, Draught Power/Farm Mechanisation Platform, Post-harvest Platform and Dairy Platform. The challenges identified for each platform include, how to enhance farm productivity of small holder farmers through increased access to and capacity to utilise draft power opportunities in Kilombero, Kilosa, Ulunga & Mvomero Districts (Draught Power/Farm Mechanisation). How to maximise the income of small holder farmers' from rice and maize markets through better grain quality and reduced post harvest losses in Morogoro region (Post-harvest Platform); and how to use the income opportunities in the dairy sector through enhancing production, processing and marketing of milk in the small holder sector in Tanga (Dairy Platform). Members of the three platforms were identified through a functional analysis and stakeholder mapping process which took place in October and November 2008. Through this process 11 functions were identified for each platform as well as actors expected to fulfil these functions.

As part of the innovation process, the RIU program is conducting a system analysis process from 8th to 13th December 2008 in Morogoro and Tanga Regions so as to identify blockages and challenges that are preventing the system from functioning effectively. The system analysis exercise is carried out through a series of workshops such as this one which aims to form and conduct the first three platform meetings as well as identify specific solutions for the discussed challenges. Through these platform meetings, RIU is expecting the members of the platform to come up with action plans for the identified goals, and strategies so as to meet the identified challenges.

Comments and questions

Why did RIU select a platform for post harvest while the biggest problems are in production and infrastructure? Why was rice and maize selected for Morogoro region?

Pamela: Problems faced in production will be dealt by another platform. We held a meeting on 8th and 9th December with the Draught Power/Farm Mechanisation Platform and this is where issues of production will be addressed. Rice and maize were selected as main crops for the Post Harvest Platform because during the selection, the team considered the major crops that farmers deal with and also the major crops are mostly needed and used in the market. We also looked at the capacity and economic situation of the farmers in the area. These reasons helped in determining the need for the Post Harvest Platform for rice and maize.

3. POST HARVEST PLATFORM

3.1 Innovation Challenge, Functions and Actors

In this part the facilitator read and elaborated the main innovation challenge of the platform, the functions required to meet the challenge and the actors involved in undertaking each the function as presented on the table below. Participants were then asked to give their inputs on the functions as well as on the actors who play an important role in the function but may not be represented in the table.

A. The innovation challenge		
How to maximise the income of small holder farmers' from rice and maize markets through better grain quality and reduced post harvest losses in Morogoro region?		
B. Functions Required to Meet the Challenge		C. Actors Involved in Undertaking the Functions
1	Farmers who are well organized for input /output markets & extension activities.	Mwiwata, TCCIA, Local Community Unit, World Vision, RUDI, Technoserve, SUA Institute of Continuing Education
2	Adequate supply of good quality, accessible & affordable packaging, also in remote areas	Morogoro Packages Manufacturers, Polythene & Raffia Bags producers, Agro Wholesalers, Weight & Meas. Ag.
3	Reliable and timely supply of appropriate and affordable pesticides and fumigation services.	Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute, Agrochemical dealers, Fumigation Companies
4	Provision of competent advisory services on post harvest pesticide management.	SUA Pesticides Management, Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute, LGAs
5	Supply and promotion of innovative, appropriate technology for shelling, de-hulling, grading etc.	Morogoro Canvas, Intermake, Demacoe, Tanrice Dakawa, Morogoro Rice Plot Cluster, SUA Dept. of Agric. Eng., Min. of Agric. Mech Dept
6	Facilitate access to improved storage facilities (including warehouses) at an acceptable distance from the produces.	Local Gov. Authorities, Warehouse Research System, RUDI, SACCOS, AMSDP, BSK Engineering
7	Provision of reliable transport facilities from farm to warehouse to market throughout the year.	ASAS, Abood, Mohamed Enterprises, Regional and District Transport Officers, Small Transporters
8	Development and maintenance of rural roads which are functional throughout the year	TANROADS, LGAs
9	Provision of effective credit and savings facilities accessible particularly to smallholder farmers in their area.	SACCOS, SCULT, RFSP, NMB, FBME, PASS
10	Active Linkages to innovation sources to enhance performance & respond to different challenges	ZIELU, Ilonga Research, SUA, Katrin, Intermake
11	Searching and linking to viable markets including qualifying to supply these	Kibaigwa, SGR, AMCOS, Tandale, Kariakoo

Participants' Inputs on the Innovation Challenge, Functions and Actors

- In function 4, private companies such as BAYER and By-trade should be added as actors
- In function 8, Community Based Rural Roads Representatives should be added as actors as they play a very big role in the construction and maintenance of rural roads in their respective communities
- In function 9, actors such as CRDB Bank, SELF, Mfuko wa Pembejeo

3.2 Gaps and Bottlenecks that Inhibit Efficient Functioning of the System

Participants were divided into four groups and in each group they were asked to analyse the 11 functions required to meet the challenge in the post harvest platform and come up with major gaps and bottlenecks that prevent the system from functioning efficiently. The participants were also asked to present solutions that would help to eliminate each gap or bottleneck identified. All contributions were written on cards and presented to the larger group by one representative from each group. Below are the responses,

Task Guideline

Question 1: Analyse functions in the system: What are the major gaps / bottlenecks within each function which inhibit the smooth functioning of the system?

Question 2: What needs to be done to overcome the gaps/bottlenecks?

Function 1: Farmers who are well organized for input /output markets & extension activities	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Farmers have limited knowledge for organising and running farmer groups	Provision of knowledge on how to organise, manage and run farmers groups as well as the benefits for having strong farmer groups
Farmers groups which are present at the moment are very unstable	Strengthen the capacity of present farmer groups and associations by using experienced cooperative experts to provide advise during their formation
Farmers SACCOS have been mushrooming in villages but they are very weak/unsustainable	Strengthen farmer SACCOS through reorganisation and redefinition of their goals and objectives All SACCOS with same objectives should be joined to create a strong SACCOS
Most farmers SACCOS are short lived due to bureaucracy, unaccountability, corruption and lack of a clear vision and representation	Eliminate the unnecessary bureaucracy within SACCOS, enhance accountability within farmer SACCOS The process of forming farmer SACCOS should be more participatory and involve the key beneficiaries
Lack of adequate extension services in the villages	Strengthening extension services through increasing the budget for extension services
Function 2: Adequate supply of good quality, accessible & affordable packaging, also in remote areas	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Packaging materials are very expensive	Use of special experienced agents for selling packaging materials at affordable prices
Lack of guiding standards for packaging, and limited knowledge and understanding packaging by farmers e.g. standard volume or weight per bag	Sensitise farmers on the standard measurements for packaging of crops e.g. weight, volume etc
Materials are not accessible throughout the year due to poor infrastructure especially roads that connect villages where the production is done	Strengthening the infrastructure system by prioritising the repair of roads that go to main production areas

Function 3: Reliable and timely supply of appropriate and affordable pesticides and fumigation services	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Pesticides are very high, therefore farmers cannot afford them	Increase the number of agents to stimulate competition and lower the prices Reduce the tax for pesticides so as to lower prices
Low quality of pesticides in the market	Responsible authorities should regulate and control the quality of imported pesticides
There is very limited knowledge on appropriate use of pesticides by distributors and users	Provide information and knowledge on the appropriate use of pesticides to distributors and users
Business licences for pesticides traders are not issued on time and the channels for accessing the licences are very corrupt	Responsible authorities should eliminate the bureaucracy in issuing business licences
Poor infrastructure especially roads going to the villages thus areas are not accessible throughout the year	Strengthening the infrastructure system by prioritising the repair of roads that go to main production areas
Function 4: Provision of competent advisory services on post harvest pesticide management	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Distributors and users of pesticides have very limited knowledge on the appropriate use of pesticides.	Provision of information and knowledge on the appropriate use of pesticides to distributors and users by extension officers and other experts
Lack of sufficient pesticides experts in the manufacturing industries	Employ qualified and competent workers in pesticide manufacturing industries
There is very poor communication between manufactures and users of the pesticides, no instructions are given on how to use pesticides e.g. measurements and to mix and spray etc	Improve both interpersonal and indirect communication between pesticides manufacturers and users Manufacturers must provide written user friendly instructions on each product in the market
There is little knowledge on how to use pesticides to protect the crops while they are still of the farm, i.e. pre-harvest period	Extension officers and researchers should introduce "shamba darasa" (farm classes) system for farmers
Function 5: Supply and promotion of innovative, appropriate technology for shelling, de-hulling, grading etc.	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Lack of knowledge on the appropriate technology to use in post harvest activities	Provision of adequate knowledge and advice on technologies available and their use in different post harvest activities
Limited knowledge and understanding on availability of processing machines in the market	Improve communication between suppliers and users of processing machines
Lack of access to tools, and modern processing machines to small scale farmers especially those in remote areas	Improve communication between suppliers and users of processing machines
Low quality of available machines	Owners of small scale industries should be educated on quality and standards of the machines
High prices for the machines and spare parts, as a result farmers cannot afford to buy them or buy the services from other service providers because of high prices set	Government should provide subsidies on high quality machines and remove taxes on materials used for making processing machines

Manufacturers and distributors of processing machines are not very well known by the farmers	Manufactures and distributors should advertise their goods and services through the media, and community based campaigns and meetings
Function 6: Facilitate access to improved storage facilities (including warehouses) at an acceptable distance from the produces	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
There are very few storage facilities and those that are available are very old and in bad condition and hence not used by farmers	Construction of new storage facilities close farmers and old warehoused should be renovated and utilised.
The costs for construction and renovation of storage facilities are high	The community should be involved in the construction and renovation process so as to reduce costs
Farmers do not take their crops to storage facilities due to lack of knowledge on the importance of storing their crops	Sensitise and motivate farmers to take their crops to storage facilities to avoid loses Councils should increase the number of extension service officers in villages to should educate farmers on benefits of storing their crops
Function 7: Provision of reliable transport facilities from farm to warehouse to market throughout the year	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Lack of/unreliable transportation from the storage facilities to the market Insufficient vehicles for transportation of crops	Individual and farmers groups should be given loans to buy vehicles under simple terms and interests
High costs of transportation	The government should control transportation costs of the crops Farmers should organise themselves and transport their crops at the same time to reduce costs
Increase in operation costs especially fuel and spare parts	Responsible authorities should control the unstable prices of fuel and spare parts in the market The government should revise the taxes on fuel and spare parts to reduce the costs
Instability in the production of crops, i.e. sometimes farmers don't have enough crops to transport to the market and sell at a profitable price	Stabilise the production of maize and rice so as to increase the quality and quantity of crops for the market
Function 8: Development and maintenance of rural roads which are functional throughout the year	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Poor infrastructure especially roads going to the villages thus production areas are not accessible throughout the year	Strengthening the infrastructure system by prioritising the repair of roads that go to main production areas
High costs for construction and maintenance of roads	Prioritise the maintenance of roads, Local authorities should ensure that roads are fully constructed before the construction companies to another area, Farmers and other community members should be involved in construction of roads in farm areas to reduce costs, Introduce community groups for monitoring the construction of roads

Function 9: Provision of effective credit and savings facilities accessible particularly to smallholder farmers in their areas	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Financial institutions are mainly concentrated in urban areas therefore their services in rural areas are very limited	Financial institutions should introduce their services in rural areas so as to increase access to farmers
Farmers are unable to access loans due to lack of organisation into formal groups Financial institutions do not give loans to individual farmers	Farmers should strengthen their SACCOs as well as farmer groups and associations to be able to access loans from financial institutions Farmer should establish their own banks
Farmers don't have the knowledge on how to access loans	Cooperative officers should provide information to farmers in the villages on how they can access and utilise loans and financial services
Unfavourable terms and conditions for loans for farmers	Revise conditions and terms for loans for farmers
Farmers have inadequate knowledge, experience and education in financial management	Farmers should be trained on simple financial management procedures
Function 10: Active Linkages to innovation sources to enhance performance & respond to different challenges	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
High breed seeds are not easily accessible and do not reach the farmers at the right time	The government should sponsor research centres to produce high breed seeds
There is a limited number of agricultural officers for providing advisory services to farmers in rural areas	The government should employ more agricultural officers and send them to rural areas
Agricultural inputs are not easily available to farmers in villages	The government and other stakeholders should reach the farmers with agricultural inputs at the right time
Function 11: Searching and linking to viable markets including qualifying to supply these	
Gaps / Bottlenecks	Solutions
Lack of a joint market and platform that links together all rice and maize farmers at the District level	Introduce a joint market and platform for linking rice and maize farmers from the community level to the District level

Why are these problems not solved?

After the group presentations, Jürgen asked the participants to give reasons as to why these problems have not been solved yet. Among the reasons given included

- The poor coordination system in maintenance and repair of roads in the Districts, Wards and Villages, where by the budget for construction and repair is very low, therefore roads are constructed by priority and they are never fully constructed as a result they become destroyed and impassable during the rainy season.
- Poor quality of construction therefore the roads don't last very long.
- The community is always waiting for the government to solve each and everything; as a result there is no motive or effort for self organisation to solve problems.

3.3 Goals and Targets for the Platform

After identifying bottlenecks and possible solutions for the 11 functions which are required to meet the challenge in the post harvest platform, day two discussions focused on identifying goals and targets for the platform in the next two years. Jürgen invited the participants to analyse what exactly they want to achieve as a platform in the next two years and at what level. Using the task guideline in the box, participants used 10 minutes to discuss in groups, and they were requested to come up with three main but realistic achievements they should reach by year 2010. Then members of each group prioritised their targets for the next two years. The responses are presented below.

Task Guideline

In your groups, discuss what exactly you want to achieve by 2010.

Identify three main but realistic achievements we should reach by 2010

Prioritise the targets for the next two years

3.3.1 Goals of the Platform

The described goals of the platform include

- To wipe out high loses of grain and money in post harvest management of rice and maize, and ultimately improve the income for small scale farmers
 - Higher productivity per unit area
- To improve the quality of rice and maize, in order to enhance marketability and make Morogoro the best rice producing area in Tanzania
 - Better access to markets through having improved infrastructure

3.3.2 Targets of the Platform by 2010

The targets identified fell into three groups as presented below

Technology and advice for post harvest management

- Strengthen extension services to ensure rice and maize farmers get appropriate advice
- Ensure that all farmers at the Ward level have access to modern processing, packaging and grading technologies
- Strengthen the production and distribution of high quality seeds for rice and maize through Dakawa, Katrin and Ilonga Centres
- Ensure that every farmer has reliable access to high quality seeds all year around near their areas

Strengthening farmer groups, organizations and partnerships between actors

- Strengthen farmer groups which are present at the moment
 - This will enable farmers to access financial services e.g. loans and farm machinery services more easily and at affordable prices
- Form new farmer groups, there should be at least one sustainable farmer group per village
- Strengthening partnerships between different stakeholders involved in agricultural activities especially those involved in post harvest activities

- Form a union for distributors of agricultural inputs and farm machinery dealers in the region by 2010

Strengthen infrastructure

- Strengthen roads especially rural roads going to major production areas so that they are accessible throughout the year
- Strengthen telecommunication systems and market systems
- Strengthen the warehouse systems and build new silos at least in each Ward

3.4 Prioritizing Areas for Intervention

3.4.1 Main Thrusts to Work on Immediately

After defining goals and targets for the next two years, the participants were required to prioritise areas for immediate intervention, with guidance from Jürgen the group came up with three thrusts which are to be implemented immediately, these included:

1. Technology and advice for post harvest management
2. Strengthening farmer groups and organizations for economies of scale (bulking) input, output marketing
3. Strengthen infrastructure to enable effective post harvest management

3.5 Concrete Strategies and Actions

Once the three main thrusts were identified, the participants were required to identify concrete strategies and actions to be implemented in order to achieve the above. Participants were divided into three groups according to the three thrusts. After that participants used the guidelines presented on the box to lead their discussions. Results from these discussions are presented below

Task Guideline

Form three groups according to the three thrusts

1. Within your thrust what exactly do you want to achieve by 2010?
2. What are the actions/strategies, how will you get there?
3. For each action/strategy, how do you go about, i.e. concrete steps
4. Which of these actions can be done, how, without resources from outside, where do you require external resources / investments?

3.5.1 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2: POST-HARVEST PLATFORM

Thrust 1: Technology and advice for post harvest management					
Objective 1: To improve the quality of rice and maize, so as to enhance their marketability and make Morogoro the best rice and maize producing areas in Tanzania					
Strategy	Activities	Timeframe	Required Inputs	Source of Funds	Responsible
1.1: Data collection on seeds and production of high quality seeds	1.1.1: Identify all areas where seeds are produced, taking into account the quality, time of production and how they are produced	January – February 2009	Production costs	Internal	Katrin – Mwembe Dakawa – Chilosa Ilonga – Mkangwa
	1.1.2: Identify the quantity/amount of seeds needed by farmers	January – February 2009		Internal	Kilosa – Chilosa Ulanga – Germanus Kilombero – Brian Mvomero – Felix
1.2: Increasing the availability of quality seeds and ensuring their timely distribution to farmers (from Dakawa, Katrin, ASA and Inlongo, to Kilombero and Ulanga centres)	1.2.1: Identify areas where farmers need seeds	January – February 2009	Distribution costs	Internal & External	Ulanga – Germanus Kilosa & Mvomero – Mushi Kilombero – Bosco
	1.2.2: Identify different producers and distributors in the region, how many, where are they? their capacity etc	January – February 2009	Transport	Internal	Katrin Dakawa Ilonga
	1.2.3: Identify amount of seeds to be distributed	January – February 2009		Internal	Ulanga, Kilosa, Kilombero, Mvomero
	1.2.4: Identify the best time of the year for distribution (all year around)	January – February 2009		Internal	Ulanga, Kilosa, Kilombero, Mvomero
	1.2.5: Identify the best means for distribution	January – February 2009		Internal	Ulanga, Kilosa, Kilombero, Mvomero

Strategy	Activities	Timeframe	Required Inputs	Source of Funds	Responsible
1.3 Advice to farmers on the production and use of appropriate seeds	1.3.1: Ensure presence and availability of advisers in seed production areas	February – March 2009		Internal & External	Seed and agricultural specialist (researchers and extension officers)
	1.3.2: Advice farmers on the best and appropriate methods of planting seeds i.e. planting and different types / ways of planting	February – March 2009		Internal & External	Researchers Extension officers in Ulanga, Kilosa, Kilombero, and Mvomero
	1.3.3: Advice farmers and seed distributors on the best ways of storing seeds	February – March 2009		Internal & External	Extension workers, researchers
	1.3.4: Provide advice on harvest	February – March 2009		Internal & External	INTERMECH, Extension workers, farm implements officers
	1.3.5: Provide advice on processing of rice and maize, assess the available machines and their capacity	January – March 2009		Internal & External	INTERMECH, farm implements officers, researcher, farmers
1.4 Enhance availability and use of farm implements and tools for harvesting	1.4.1: Advice and enhance the availability and use of machinery or tools for harvesting.	February – March 2009	Training, innovation, and production of tools inside the country	Internal & External	Researchers, Wakulima Engineering, INTERMECH, Farmers
	1.4.2: Advice and enhance the availability and use of efficient processing tools taking into account the existing constraints such as lack of tools for grading, packaging and recycling of “post-harvest remains” (masalia ya mazao)	January – March 2009		Internal & External	Researchers, Wakulima Engineering, INTERMECH, farmers, Ulanga (Wilson, Aquilina, Kimbunga), Kilosa (Umoja wa Madereva Kilosa), Kilombero (Brian), and Mvomero (Meta, Ranjili)
	1.4.3: Packaging – timely availability of quality packaging materials	January – March 2009		External	Ulanga (Germanus, Wilson, Kimbungo), Kilosa (Faharani), Kilombero (Bosco), Mvomero Mushi, Mbiki)
	1.4.4: Storage – introduce silos close to farmers	January – March 2009		External	Ulanga (Kimbungo, Wilson, Buyole), Kilombero (Bukulu), Mvomero (Kimei, Mganga, Sosa)
	1.4.5 Transportation - reliable transport from the farms to the silos, from the silos to the processing areas and finally to the market	On going		Internal & External	Platform members, Transporters

Thrust 2: Strengthening farmer groups and organisations for economies of scale (bulking) input and output marketing

Objective 1: Form, link and strengthen rice and maize farmer-groups and associations and ensure that there are at least two groups in district by 2010

Strategy	Activities	Timeframe	Required Inputs	Source of Funds	Responsible
2.1: Identify existing groups that are involved in maize and rice farming.	2.1.1: Identify the groups by number, activities, and areas of operation from the village level to Ward level	January 2009		Internal	DALDO
	2.1.2: Present the statistics findings to RIU	January 15 th 2009		Internal	Platform members
2.2: Raise the group's awareness on post harvest activities with relation to maize and rice	2.2.1: Sensitisation of farmer groups on harvest and post harvest activities of rice and maize	January – March 2009		Internal and External	Community Development Groups Platform members
	2.2.2: Sensitise and raise awareness of DALDOs, DED, VEO, & Chairman of the Municipal / District Councils on RIU, the post harvest platform, its aims	January – March 2009		Internal and External	Platform members,
	2.2.3: Disseminate information about the platform to the Ward Counsellors Forum	January 31 st 2009		Internal and External	DALDO
	2.2.4: Hold sensitisation meetings with municipal councillors	February 2009		Internal	DALDO
2.3 Sensitisation and awareness raising on modern and quality farming methods,	2.3.1: Provide training and materials on modern and quality farming methods good governance and accountability in farmer groups as well as means of accessing loans, and saving	On going		External	Platform members, Community Based groups
	2.3.2: Creating training manuals	On going	Stationary	External	
	2.3.3: Training on good governance and accountability to the farmer group leaders	On going	Trainers	External	CORPs, CBWs
	2.3.4: Increase availability of loans and encourage savings culture	On going		External	Cooperation, SACCOs, other Banks
	2.3.5: Training on gender and how women can be involved in post harvest activities	On going	Trainers	External	Community Development Groups, CORPS
	2.3.6 Conduct participatory monitoring and evaluation for all stakeholders engaged i.e. trainers, & trainees	March 2009		External	Platform members

Thrust 3: Strengthening infrastructure to enable effective post-harvest management					
Objective 1: Establish three silos and a warehouse receipt system for each district by 2010					
Strategy	Activities	Timeframe	Required Inputs	Source of Funds	Responsible
3.1: Sensitisation of farmers about the crop warehouse receipt system	3.1.1: Conduct meetings in the villages where maize and rice is highly produced	January – February 2009		Internal	Community Development Officer, Cooperatives Development Officer, DALDOs, Engineers, Platform members
	3.1.2: Find and register all farmers who are willing to join the warehouse receipt system	January – February 2009		Internal and External	DALDOs, Cooperatives Development Officer, Platform members
3.2: Training of individual members of farmer associations on how to receive, store and sell farm produce to silos	3.2.1: Carry out training sessions for all farmers who registered in the warehouse receipt system	February – March 2009	Trainers, Stationary, Transport	External	Platform members,
3.3 Increasing cereal and grain storage capacity by building at least three silos and renovating at least three such facilities per district	3.3.1: Identify specific areas where new silos can be built	January - February 2009		Internal and External	Local citizens, Local Government, Donors and other stakeholders
	3.3.2: Identify silos which will need renovation	January - February 2009	Renovation costs	External	
	3.3.3: Raise funds from different stakeholders including financial institutions, donors and the District Council for infrastructure development	February – March 2009	Human resource	Internal and External	Platform members, Local citizens,
	3.3.4: Involve the community in contributing to the construction costs through provision of manpower and some of the locally available construction materials (bricks, sand, gravel, water, etc.)	On going	Construction costs	Internal and External	Platform members, Local Government, Community members, Farmer groups and associations

Objective 2: To make all roads connecting the main production areas accessible throughout the year by 2010					
Strategy	Activities	Timeframe	Required Inputs	Source of Funds	Responsible
3.4: Renovation of roads in major production areas	3.4.1: Identification of important roads in the production areas	January – February 2009		Internal	Transporters, TANROADS Local Government, Community Development Officers, Platform members
	3.4.2: Sensitisation meetings to farmers on the importance of renovating roads in the villages	February 2009		Internal	Community Development Officers, Platform members
	3.4.3: Training on basic road construction and renovation practices to farmers	February – march 2009	Trainers,	Internal and External	Engineers, Community Development Officers, Platform members
	3.4.4: Involvement of the community in construction and renovation of roads in production areas	On going	Construction costs	Internal and External	Community Development Officers, Platform members

3.6 Individual Commitments for the Next Three Months

Following the completion of the strategic framework and action plans for the three main areas, participants made individual commitments where by everyone described what they will do in the next three months. They answered four main questions indicating what they want to achieve, what they will do and how they will do it, when they will do and with whom. Commitments for all platform members are presented below.

Thrust 1: Technology and advice for post harvest management

No	Name & Place	What I want to achieve	What I will do to achieve this, and how	When I will do it	With Whom
1	Wilson Solly TEAM LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer advice on implementation of the discussed programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitise farmers on the plan to use better farming methods for rice and maize, so as to get better harvest for the market 	December 2008 – March 2009	Farmers, the Local Government and the private sector
2	Yakubona Ng’hwabo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise farmers in Ulanga to use better seeds when planting for better harvest especially for maize and rice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in conjunction with agricultural officers and researchers to provide the advice 	December 2008 - March 2009	Researchers in the district Agricultural Officers
3.	Ephata B. Metta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to my group members about RIU and the advantages of working as a group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure I organise and form a union for farmers and other agricultural experts 	January – March 2009	Agricultural experts
4.	Brian Samuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve our processing tools and unite all farmers in need of the tools for collective demand of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and analyse data from all owners of processing equipment in the district 	January - March 2009	Extension officers, stakeholders, traders of farm implements and DALDOs
5.	Daniel N. V. Chilosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data about farmers within the district who are in need of seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise farmers on the use of better quality seeds 	December 20 th 2008 – February 17 th 2009	Stockists, Extension officers and researchers
6.	Omary Mpurumuka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to create market for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise and advise farmers to sell their commodities at an agreed price 	On going	Factories, Policy makers
7.	Godfrey S. Mwembe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise all farmers to use high quality seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sell quality seeds to farmers in need (The first farmer to buy 	December 2008 - January 2009	Rice Research Coordinator

No	Name & Place	What I want to achieve	What I will do to achieve this, and how	When I will do it	With Whom
			from my shop will be offered 10 kg of free seeds)		
8.	Beatus Ligogoderi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide farm inputs advisory services to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer training to farmers buying inputs so that they can be able to control diseases that attack their crops. Ensure fair pricing of farm inputs 	December – March 2008	Traders in farm inputs and colleagues
9.	Temu Felix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure farmers get better seeds, pesticides and control post harvest losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect all information/ statistics on farming and data on harvesting and processing machinery in the district, as well as the needs of farmers 	January 2009 - February 2009	Agricultural officers at the ward and village levels and traders in farm inputs
10.	John Bosco Mvunjapole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of better seeds during planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure distribution of better seeds in Kilombero using agents 	December 20 th - 30 th 2008	Extension officers, seed producers and farmers
11.	Thomas O Mushi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet rice and maize farmers and inform them about this platform, find out more about the locally available seeds and convince farmers to unite for a common goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit and talk to the farmers 	January and February 2009	Stockists, researchers, ASA, East Africa Seeds Co. and sellers of farm machinery in Mvomero
12.	Germanus Msonti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure farmers get high quality seeds and at the right time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buy the high quality seeds and sell them off to farmers 	December 15 th 2008 – March 2009	Researchers from Katrin, Ilonga and Mkindu
13.	Akwilina L Siri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is enough seeds for planting rice and offer good quality rice to the market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold meetings with farm groups and inform them about this platform so that we can put together plans for the next planting/harvesting season 	January - February 2009	DALDO and Board Members
14.	Nasib Salum Kimbunga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement all that I have learnt in this platform so as to overcome the challenges we face in our community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convince farmers to use better seeds and methods of planting so that they can provide the best produce in the market 	January – March 2009	Lupiro Farmers Group

Thrust 2: Strengthening farmer groups and organizations for economies of scale (bulking) input, output marketing

No	Name & Place	What I want to achieve	What I will do to achieve this, and how	When I will do it	With Whom
1.	Georgia Mwebesa TEAM LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the formation and strengthening of farmer groups especially in the rice and maize sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire from the department of agriculture about the maize and rice producers and later visit them 	From 15 Jan to 30 Feb 2009	DALDO and the local government
2.	Yeremia Daudi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support farmer groups by sharing information on modern farming methods especially maize farmers and also inform them about credit and savings opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise meetings with members of different farmer groups to educate them about modern farming methods and credit & savings opportunities 	December 2008 - February 2009	Farmer groups, Individual farmers, SACCOs Members, and Board Members
3.	Said Mbega	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate fellow small scale farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate and work together with the small scale farmer groups 	January - February 2009	Village leaders and agricultural experts
4.	Sadiq Ujima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise farmer groups in my area to follow and implement the strategies discussed in this platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit farmer groups 	January - March 2009	Leaders of farmer associations/groups
5.	Cuthbert Ernest Milaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information to other relevant stakeholders in my district on post harvest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up meetings with farmer groups and other actors in agriculture in the district 	January - March 2009	DALDO, extension workers, community & cooperative development officers
6.	Lucy Emmanuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform farmers about the warehouse receipt system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise farmers to join the system so that they can get the right prices for their commodities in the market 	December 2008 - February 2009	Members of the SACCO board
7.	Bryceson Chimile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise rice and maize farmers to form farmer groups so as to enhance their negotiation power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold meetings with farmers and share information and explore credit and savings opportunities 	January - March 2009	Maize and rice farmers
8.	Mustapha Kanunga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure farmers implement the strategies discussed in this platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer advice to farmers on how to implement the strategies 	December 2008 - March 2009	Farmers
9.	Anthony V Midodi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure maize & rice farmers unite & form strong groups to enable them act collectively in their activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen farmer groups so that they can be able to get better services 	January - March 2009	Maize and rice farmers and other experts in the sector
10.	Maximilian Simon Ndeketera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage farmers to join farmer groups and use high quality seeds when planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise meetings with farmer groups and provide information about platform and strategies discussed 	January - March 2009	Farmers

Thrust 3: Strengthen infrastructure to enable effective post harvest management

No	Name & Place	What I want to achieve	What I will do to achieve this, and how	When I will do it	With Whom
1	Daudi S Mfaume TEAM LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the information gathered from the platform with farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel around the district and meet farmers 	January - March 2009	Post-harvest Platform members
2	Serafina R. Egologolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure better harvest by encouraging farmers to follow the strategies discussed at the workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet farmers and ensure that they organise themselves and get reliable transportation for their produce at a good price 	January - March 2009	Post-harvest Platform members
3	Foya Hozembe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the community about the need to establish silos and a warehouse receipt system especially for rice and maize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the community on the importance of warehouse receipt systems especially to maize and rice farmers Organise meetings within the village and involve Regional leaders 	January - March 2009	Regional cooperative officer, leaders of the warehouse receipt system in the Mvomero village, Extension Officers in Kibati, and the community
4	Joackim Materu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information on credit and savings opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise farmers and share with them information gathered from the platform 	December 2008 - March 2009	Community development officer, cooperative officer, trade officers and Post-harvest Platform members
5	Anderson Y Chiduli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information gathered from the workshop to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold meetings with farmers within the district 	December 2008 - March 2009	Post-harvest Platform members

3.7 Organising the Platform

After the individual commitments, the participants officially formed the Post-harvest Platform to advance the goals and objectives that they have set forward. The interim platform has three sub-groups which are divided according to the main thrusts. In each group, one member volunteered to be the coordinator, so the interim team has three coordinators (Wilson Solly – Thrust 1, Georgia Mwebesa – Thrust 2, and Daudi Mfaume – Thrust 3). The coordinators will lead the team until the next platform meeting in March 2009. They will be responsible for the following tasks and functions

- Facilitate communication with groups and outsiders example, policy makers
- Ensure there is regular communication among members
- Collect and combine statistics from the platform members
- Lead the implementation of agreed activities
- Monitoring and coordinating all platform activities
- Give the platform report and feedback on its activities
- Link communication between platform members

4. INNOVATION CHALLENGE FUND

RIU will launch an Innovation Challenge Fund which will support organisations, groups and qualified individuals to implement innovative activities to address challenges faced by farmers in the Eastern Zone and/or that will promote the demand for research knowledge from farmers in several thematic areas (known as platforms) over the next two years.

The Challenge Fund will support activities that are in line with the goals of the RIU and the Innovation Platforms, as well as activities that put research into use, i.e. utilise research outputs to address platform challenges, and activities that are innovative, i.e. Introduce a research output example in a new geographical area, or, to solve a new challenge.

Funded Activities should aim to

- Facilitate the mobilisation of farmers to form well organised groups that are able to take full advantage of their combined demand (Economies of Scale) in order to access inputs, outputs and farm services (Dairy, Post Harvest or Draught Power Platforms);
- Sensitize farmers on the benefits of joining farmers groups, associations and cooperatives (Post Harvest Platform);
- Introduce, distribute and provide advice on appropriate technology (harvesting, grading, pest control, storage, shelling, de-hulling, packaging and bag sealing) for individual or groups of farmers that will increase the quality of maize and rice products and decrease post-harvest losses (Post Harvest Platform);
- Facilitate the self organisation of milk producers and processors (Dairy Platform) and maize and rice farmers groups (Post Harvest Platform) for effective advocacy and lobbying of local and national government;
- Strengthen or create markets for milk and milk products through public awareness raising and sensitisation activities particularly targeting youth (Dairy Platform);
- Increase the daily milk production level from 5 to 10 litres per dairy cow through the introduction of new feeds, farmers' education, breeding techniques and disease prevention strategies (Dairy Platform).

Call for Concept Notes

A call for concept notes will be sent out on 17th December 2008 inviting interested parties to propose activities that will meet the goals identified during the recent platform meetings as presented above. The call for concept notes will be published in both English and Kiswahili newspapers and will be sent to all platform and NIC Members (along with the Concept Note form and Instructions to Applicants). In addition, copies of the concept note form and instructions to applicants will be available from: DALDOs through DED Offices, Research Centres in Morogoro and Tanga, Tanga Dairy Cooperatives (TFDA and UWATA), EDI and Muvek Offices, www.edi-africa.com/RIU or by emailing RIU@EDI-Africa.com.

The Concept Note Format

The concept note is very short simple format that asks applicants to provide: Contact Details; A summary of the proposed activity and the research output that they intend to use; and, A profile of their relevant skills and experiences.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are invited from:

- Tanzanian or non-Tanzanian individuals, groups, networks or organisations from either public, academic, private or non-government sectors with a real commitment to utilising research outputs.
- Applicants may submit Concept Notes individually or as part of a consortium;
- Both knowledge holders (i.e. researchers who have research outputs that will address the identified problems) and implementers (i.e. individuals and organisations with the ability to implement the proposed solutions).

The Selection Process

The deadline for receiving Concept Notes is 16th January 2009, after which a screening process by the Fund Manager will begin. Concept Notes passing the screening round will then be forwarded to a selection committee. The Selection Committee is likely to include representation from the NIC, Platforms and independent assessors. The RIU Country Team and Fund Manager will also provide guidance and support to the Selection Committee. Short-listed Applicants (no more than 5 per platform) will then be invited to prepare a more detailed proposal. The proposals will then be reviewed by the selection committees. Selected projects are likely to start in early March

5. NEXT STEPS

After the presentation on the innovation challenge fund, the participants and the RIU team led by Jürgen discussed the immediate next steps that will follow after this workshop. The following came out of the discussions.

What	When	Who
Implementation of work plans	From now onwards	Platform Members
Call for challenge fund	17 th December 2008	RIU Team
Workshop documentation	19 th December 2008	RIU Team
Write up on platform	10 th January 2009	RIU Team
Distribution of Seeds	15 th January 2009	Group 1 Members
Deadline for challenge fund	16 January 2009	RIU
Meeting for Challenge Fund	February 2009	RIU
Next meeting	Mid March 2009	RIU Team / Platform Members

6. WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND CLOSURE

6.1 Workshop evaluation

In order to evaluate the workshop, Jürgen asked the participants to discuss at their tables and evaluate the overall workshop using the guidelines in the box. The following are the responses from the participants.

What we liked most in this workshop

- The facilitation process was very open and informal which made the participants very comfortable during the discussions.
- The examples used by the facilitator were very good and they helped to illustrate what needs to be done in relation to the platform activities.
- The idea of forming a platform to advance the needs and efficiency of the small scale farmers.

What we didn't like most in this workshop

- The time was very limited, and there was a lot of information that platform members needed to understand more clearly. The next meeting should take at least three days to ensure that all issues are explored.

Looking at the platform future, we feel...

- The platform will bring a lot of changes and successes to the small scale farmers, communities, the government and the agriculture sector in Tanzania.
- The platform will motivate farmers as well as communalities to adopt the culture of self organisation and solving problems within the community with less reliance on the government.

6.2 Closing

On behalf of the facilitating team, Jürgen thanked all the participants for actively engaging in the process and bringing all the issues out. He indicated that he has enjoyed working with the group and it was very inspiring to see the determination to overcome the challenges in the sector, and if the determination continues the future for agriculture and small scale farmers looks very promising. He also informed the participants that the next meeting in March will evaluate what has worked and what hasn't worked with reference to the targets set and the platform members can work together step by step to find solutions and ensure that the platform reaches its goals.

Also on behalf of the RIU team Robert thanked all the participants for attending the workshop and for effective collaboration before and during the workshop. He indicated that the RIU team will hold a second workshop with the platform in March 2009 to share the results and progress made. He concluded by wishing all participants success in their professional and personal life as well as in implementing their individual commitments.

Guideline for Workshop Evaluation

Please discuss at your table and present through one person

1. What did you like most in this workshop?
2. What didn't you like about the workshop?
3. Looking at the future of the platform. How do you feel?

6.3 Appendix 1: List of Participants: Post Harvest Platform

No	Participant's Name	Title and Organisation	Contacts	Telephone
1	Nasibu Salumu Kibunga	Mwekahazina, Lupiro Farmers Group	PO Box 311, Ifakara	0784443743
2	Maximilliam Simoni Ndeketera	VEO, Lupiro/Mahenge	PO Box 311, Igota/Ifakara	0787 992505
3	Anthony Vistorian Midodi	Katibu, Lupiro Farmers SACCOS	PO Box 3, Mahenge, Ulanga	0784 702169
4	Mustadha Kanungila	Vijana Farmers Group	PO Box 484, Ifakara	0755053685
5	Sadiq Ujuma	Shirikisho la Wakulima Kilombero	PO Box 454, Ifakara	0784714775
6	John Bosco Mvunjapole	Muuzaji wa Pembejeo, Kilombero	PO Box 536, Ifakara	0784226208
7	Anderson Chiduli	Umoja wa Dereva	PO Box 65, Kilosa	0784658868
8	Beatus Ligoderi	Mwuzaji wa Pembejeo, Ifakara, Kilombero	PO Box 41, Ifakara	0784359167
9	Wilson W Solly	Meneja Masoko, Luhombelo Processing Co. Ltd	PO Box 58, Mahenge Wilsonollya@yahoo.com	0787087156
10	Omary Mpurumuka	Meneja Mkuu, Luhombelo Processing Co Ltd	PO Box 58, Mahenge	0782057345
11	Germanus Msontt	Wakala wa Pembeo Ulanga	PO Box 3, Mahenge, Ulanga	0784784476
12	Lucy Emmanuel	Mvomero SACCOS	Po Box 602, Morogoro	0782727441
13	Akwilina L Siri	Ulanga Teachers SACCOS	PO Box 40, Mahenge	0784325353
14	Saidi Y Mbega	Mvomero Alduct farmers Group	PO Box 5, Mvomero	0787993904
15	Thomas Mushi	Tom Agroservices	PO Box 62, Ikadizini tomusski2003@yahoo.co.uk	0784386516
16	Ephata Metta	Sokohuria La Mchele	PO Box 72, Turiani	0784396596
17	Brian T Samuel	Kilombero District Council	PO Box 554, Ifakara	0787651651
18	Godfrey Mwembe	Ari Katrin	POSTBAG IFAKARA gmwembe@yahoo.com	0784988989
19	Temu Felix	Mechanisation Officer, Mvomero	PO Box 1414, Morogoro felixtemu@yahoo.co.uk	0754574692
20	Georgia G Mwebeja	MVIWATA	PO Box 3, Ulanga	0786086243
21	Foya Hozaniel	Mufugo wa Mvomero	PO Box 663, Mvomero	0784322411
22	Shehemisa Kuzima		PO Box 3, Mahenge, Ulanga	0713264230
23	Daniel S Pangani	Kilimo/Mifugo (Mvomero)	PO Box 663, Mvomero	0784891498
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