

From Africa to Asia and Back Again: Testing Adaptation in Flood-Based Farming Systems Project

Draft Annual Meeting Agenda: 28 to 30 April, 2016, the Netherlands

The annual meeting for the project: Africa to Asia and Back Again: Testing Adaptation in Flood-based Farming Systems will be held in the Netherlands in the period 28 to 30 April, 2016. Project leaders from the four target countries (Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen and Pakistan) and the three implementing partners (ICRAF, MetaMeta and SPNF) will come together and deliberate in a participatory setting.

Priority impact areas

The seven priority impact areas that will be discussed are as summarized below.

- 1. Internship programme: nurturing young talent** (Discussion to be led by *Ms. Letty Fajardo Vera, MetaMeta and Mathijs kool, SPNF*)
 - Qualities required to be effective mentor/supervisor
 - Coaching the interns to develop professional and personal skills
- 2. Capacity development – strengthening existing capacities and producing new FBFS cadres** (Discussion to be led by: *Dr. Maimbo Mabanga Malesu, ICRAF*)
 - Reflections on 2015 FBFS leadership Course and plans for 2015.
 - Other proposals for user-tailored (farmers, professionals, policy makers) trainings and knowledge and experience sharing events within and among the target countries
- 3. Knowledge Products** (discussion to be led by *Dr. Abraham Mehari Haile, SPNF*)
 - Spate irrigation design Guidelines
 - General guideline on FBFS
 - Shared practical notes
 - Journal Articles
- 4. Solution-oriented research themes**
 - Field water management, managing soil moisture and soil fertility (Discussion to be led by *Associate professor Abu Obeida, Sudan country spate project leader*)
 - Water governance and conflict mitigation (Discussion to be led by *Mr. Allahbakhsh, Pakistan country spate project leader, and Karim Nawaz, SPNF*)
 - Improvement of flood water diversion and distribution efficiency (Discussion to be led by *(Mr. Tesfaalem, Ethiopia country spate project activities coordinator and Abu Obeida)*)
 - Seed exchange, milk churners and related low-hanging fruits (Discussion to be led by *Karim Nawaz and Matthijs Kool, SPNF*)
 - Soil Mulching and canvas model (Discussion to be led by *Associate professor Sharafaddin, Yemen country spate project leader*)
- 5. Strengthening partnership with farmers for high impact on the ground** (Discussion to be led by: *Dr. Eyasu Yazew Hagos, Ethiopia country spate project leader*)
 - Establish core team of farmers to be integral part of country project staff.
 - Identify joint research, capacity building and related activities.
 - Map approaches for effective engagement.
 - Outline of facilities in place/needed.

6. Communication products

- A Project promotional video based on footage from the four target countries: (*Discussion to be led by Abraham Abhishek, MetaMeta*).
- SPNF Newsletter, brochures, posters ...(*Discussion to be led by Matthijs Kool, SPNF*)

7. Strategic direction (*Dr. Frank van Steenbergen, MetaMeta*)

- Reflections on the 2015 achievements and challenges, and lessons learned.
- Where do we want to be by project-end (2008) and what is follow-up agenda?
- Spate Irrigation Network Foundation - how and in what direction should it evolve?
- Canvas model

Responsibility sharing

The project team who will lead the various priority focus areas are expected to:

- Prepare a short background document (elaborate bullet points would suffice)
- Make introductory presentations in their preferred format (oral with or without power-point, poster ...)
- Harness inputs from the discussions and compile a summary report (two to three pages would be sufficient).

¹Outputs

All major issues discussed and decisions made will be captured in three output documents:

- Annual meeting report (compilation of all the individual reports for the 7 priority impact areas). This to be ready within two weeks following the meeting.
- 2015 project progress report - the existing draft will be, as necessary, enriched with new insights. To be finalized within a week after the annual meeting.
- 2016 work-plan and budget – to be agreed upon all during the annual meeting.

The Schedule

- Thursday 28 April, 2016:
 - Welcome remarks (*Dr. Frank Van Steenbergen, Dr. Maimbo Mabanga Malesu*)
 - Introductory remarks (*all country project leaders*)
 - Priority impact areas 1, 2 and 3
- Friday 29 April, 2016:
 - Introductory remarks by Dr. Abdelkader Kedir, Academic Vice President, Mekelle University
 - Priority Impact areas 4, 5 and 6
- Saturday 30 April, 2016:
 - Priority 7 and finalizing 2016 work plan and budget
- Saturday evening
 - social evening with refreshments

¹ MetaMeta as the overall project coordinator is willing to take the lead in preparing these output documents