

LANSA RESEARCH UPTAKE REFLECTIVE PRACTICE STORY

Grabbing an opportunity for research uptake

*Using a new strategy to combine research uptake
with stakeholder capacity strengthening*

Networking with Afghanistan stakeholders began in 2015 when research work started with policy landscaping and stakeholder mapping. Research uptake efforts began with online engagement to start with. In the absence of a RU lead for Afghanistan, the Research Uptake Manager based at MSSRF initiated and maintained the stakeholder engagement database. The uptake and capacity strengthening workshop for Afghan agriculture scientists from Afghanistan National Agriculture Science and Technology University (ANASTU) organised with MSSRF support in New Delhi, India in April 2016 was the first direct stakeholder engagement.

These scientists further engaged with the LANSAs-FAO three-week online global knowledge-sharing dialogue on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum in June-July 2016.



Workshop in progress

Afghanistan-India relations – boon for LANSAs

The Indian government is actively engaged in capacity strengthening of Afghan nationals. LANSAs got an opportunity to connect through the offices of CAG member, Professor M S Swaminathan who was involved in the establishment of the first agriculture university in Afghanistan. The Vice Chancellor of ANASTU - an important stakeholder, is represented on the LANSAs CAG since 2014. LANSAs research uptake team maintains stakeholder relations with ANASTU keeping the representative abreast of LANSAs work in Afghanistan through the LANSAs South Asia e-Newsletter.

Thus when an opportunity to build capacity of faculty members from ANASTU arose, LANSAs organised a workshop and adopted a new strategy combining research uptake and capacity strengthening to bring maximum benefit.

Building capacity for Afghan stakeholders

The one-day workshop took place at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi, India. The scientists from ANASTU were at IARI for trainings involving specialised courses as part of the Government of India's initiative to develop capacity of the faculty at ANASTU. The workshop was aimed at shaping understanding of nutrition while looking to stimulate and sensitise the agriculture scientists to consider how agriculture can help address the problem of undernutrition in Afghanistan.

Pre and post workshop assessment revealed a mean increase of forty three per cent in confidence and knowledge from baseline level; sixty three per cent of the participants expressed need to strengthen agriculture systems to tackle undernutrition in Afghanistan during the pre-survey; post-survey results showed that ninety per cent were confident that agriculture for nutrition is possible in Afghanistan. Overall the participants agreed that since Afghanistan is agriculture-dependent, research on nutrition-sensitive agriculture ideas from LANSAs will help ANASTU to promote the need for agriculture to impact nutrition. There were also request from participants to be connected to courses and other such workshops facilitated by LANSAs in the region.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Sixty three per cent of the participants expressed need to strengthen agriculture systems to tackle undernutrition in Afghanistan

Key Contacts: For further information

Sangeetha Rajesh, LANSAs RU Manager
sangeetha.lansa@gmail.com