

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE STORY

From online to direct engagement

Research Uptake responds to stakeholder needs in Afghanistan

Supported by [MSSRF](#), LANSAs Research Uptake was initiated for the first time in Afghanistan in 2016. Due to perpetual security issues in the country, LANSAs research began much later in [Afghanistan](#) than it did in the other three LANSAs focus countries ([Bangladesh](#), [India](#) and [Pakistan](#)).

Afghanistan agri-nutrition stakeholders are introduced to LANSAs

In 2015, research work began on mapping the policy landscape and the interrelationships among key organisations in agriculture and nutrition in Afghanistan. This allowed for interactions with select policy influencers in the agriculture-nutrition arena. LANSAs lead researcher for Afghanistan based at [LCIRAH](#) periodically shared details of stakeholders with whom LANSAs work was discussed and minutes of meetings. With no assigned RU person for Afghanistan, the LANSAs Research Uptake Manager based at [MSSRF](#) took responsibility for uptake efforts and engagement with Afghan stakeholders.



LANSAs work shared at the Knowledge-sharing Multi-sectoral Stakeholder Dialogue in Kabul in April 2016

A stakeholder database was created for Afghanistan, and all engagement activities were recorded in the Uptake Stakeholder Engagement Log maintained by the LANSAs RU team. These stakeholders were also added to the LANSAs South Asia e-Newsletter database with their consent, and began to receive the e-newsletter every quarter. Several stakeholders from Afghanistan acknowledged receipt of the e-Newsletter and appreciated being connected to the important work being done in the region. There were requests to be kept abreast of work in Afghanistan and remain connected with LANSAs.

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This encouraged RU to invite these stakeholders to participate in the LANSAs-hosted [e-discussion](#) on FAOs Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Global Forum in 2015. Thus, formal stakeholder engagement with agriculture-nutrition influencers began in May 2015 with personalised email invitations being sent out to the LANSAs Afghanistan stakeholders.

Responding to stakeholder needs

Several stakeholders registered for the e-discussion, and many participated and expressed their happiness not just to be connected but also to be able to network with similar stakeholders from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and around the world. There were requests to participate in more such discussions online. Acknowledging stakeholder-requests for more LANSAs-based engagement, the Research Uptake Manager and the research lead for Afghanistan coordinated with Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) based in Kabul to organise a stakeholder engagement event.

LANSAs was able to make the right connections and with in-depth planning amidst security scares and visa issues, and with plenty of cooperation from AREU, the first LANSAs [knowledge-sharing multi-sectoral stakeholder dialogue](#) took place in Kabul in April 2016. LANSAs research was presented at the half-day event to a host of government officials from key ministries in Kabul and from the provinces of Bamiyan, Badakhshan, Kandahar and Nangarhar and representatives from national and international NGOs.

LANSAs research lead for Afghanistan and the Research Uptake Manager were interviewed by Afghan television channel ([Tolo News](#)) and the same was broadcast in primetime news hour the very night of the event.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Acknowledging stakeholder-requests for more LANSAs-based engagement a stakeholder engagement event was organised in Kabul.

Sustaining stakeholder participation in Afghanistan for LANSAs

LANSAs continues to engage with stakeholders in Afghanistan through the LANSAs [South Asia e-Newsletter](#) and encourages stakeholder participation at every opportunity. This ongoing process witnessed excellent stakeholder contribution on the LANSAs-FAO [three-week online global knowledge-sharing dialogue](#) on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum in June-July 2016 with Afghanistan accounting for 9% of the ninety-four contributions from 16 countries.