

Accordingly, a half-day workshop was conducted by Sangeetha on 10 August, 2017 to orient the Directors and senior staff of MSSRF on the concept of research uptake, RU strategies and activities adopted by the LANSA in India, and how RU is different from just research communication and dissemination.

Research Uptake is a priority for the LANSA Research Consortium Programme, and the guiding model has been ODI's RAPID Framework. In the inception phase of LANSA, stakeholder mapping and landscaping exercises were undertaken in India to assess the political context, external influences and stresses on policy, available agriculture-nutrition research evidence, and links for networking and advocacy. LANSA also adopted the ROMA model to gauge outcome mapping and document stories of influence. Under LANSA, the India Country RU Strategy was then drafted and action plans drawn-up keeping in mind the policy environment at the national level and for the States of Odisha and Maharashtra – where the MSSRF-led Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) study under LANSA is ongoing. The tailor-made strategies and activities of research uptake, communication and dissemination since 2013 in India, have built a strong relationship with agriculture-nutrition stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Research Uptake is priority for the LANSA Research Consortium Programme, and LANSA's experience is helping to mould the strategy, document and also plan future action points for the communications agenda of MSSRF.

Customised [research products](#) based on LANSA evidence contributed to creating stakeholder-ownership towards research findings from the MSSRF-led FSN study, and policy as well as practice uptake became possible. LANSA Research Uptake products such as research briefs, policy briefs, leaflets, stories of influence, stories of RU reflective practice, etc., were shared and discussed. Successful examples of research-to-policy and research-to-practice from India were shared at the workshop and researchers at MSSRF working with the LANSA programme spoke of their experiences with research uptake. Tentative strategies of how MSSRF could adapt the RU approach to gain better momentum in the science-policy space, and the research uptake tools and M&E processes available with LANSA were also presented to the group. Challenges and lessons learned were also reflected upon, and a hands-on exercise on 'Making an elevator pitch' was organised for the participants.

The Results

The successes under LANSA encouraged MSSRF, the Consortium lead and partner in India, to consider how RU experiences under LANSA could guide and benefit the Foundation's communication and research uptake strategy starting from 2018. The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation is strategising and restructuring to streamline research uptake for the Foundation, and LANSA's experience is helping to mould the strategy, document and also plan future action points for the communications agenda of MSSRF. Strengthening the capacity of researchers at MSSRF to understand, integrate and perform research uptake is high priority, and the Foundation has already worked out a five-year plan in this direction.

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