

India Reflective Practice Story

Purposeful, regular engagement with relevant stakeholders has a favourable impact

The Concept

Engaging with stakeholders is at the heart of LANSAs research uptake strategy, and it is the resulting engagement with consumers of LANSAs research at so many levels that has led to one such stakeholder recommending LANSAs MSSRF work in India for the Odisha Environment Congress Award in December 2015.



Certificate and Memento awarded by OEC 2015 recognising LANSAs work in Odisha, India

Since 2013-14, engagement at the India country level has mainly focused on stakeholder interviews, events and capacity strengthening workshops. From 2015, research uptake introduced several online platforms for stakeholder engagement.

With the MSSRF Farming System for Nutrition study in India being the only action research study for the LANSAs programme, engagement with agriculture-nutrition stakeholders at various levels is paramount to make research findings more visible and in the process receive acceptance from users of research evidence. Thus, periodic meetings with these stakeholders and technology experts have built a strong bridge between scientific research and societal uptake.

The multi-platform strategy has proved successful in keeping the momentum of stakeholder engagement in India.

The Challenge

Recognising LANSAs MSSRF for work done in advancing nutrition in India was a welcome surprise for researchers and research uptake, and we were curious to understand processes leading to the Award announcement. The challenge was in connecting the dots.

Research uptake became aware of the Award though the various email exchanges between the Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) and LANSAs programme manager, Bhavani R V, and noticed that a LANSAs stakeholder by name Ashok Kumar Sahoo was copied in the emails. Sahoo is Nodal Officer, NAIP – World Bank Project Monitoring Cell, Directorate of Research at OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and has been a very active LANSAs stakeholder from the outset of the programme in India. Research uptake then made attempts to unravel the role played by this stakeholder.

The Approach

Since 2013, MSSRF has conducted periodic agriculture nutrition stakeholder engagement and capacity strengthening activity, as well as facilitated several technology platform exchanges and meetings in Odisha State.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The multi-platform strategy has proved successful in keeping the momentum of stakeholder engagement in India



Agri-nutrition stakeholders participate in the knowledge exchange roundtable dialogue at Bhubaneswar, Odisha in November 2015

These stakeholders have contributed to refining the FSN study and were kept informed through face-to-face meetings, informal discussions during conferences, workshops, etc.

As a research uptake initiative, the LANSA India E-newsletter was launched in February 2015 as a Quarterly to keep the stakeholders in India abreast of progress in MSSRF research under the LANSA programme. LANSA social media channels were also used to disseminate research work and for online campaigns.

Sahoo has always engaged with LANSA evidence on a periodic basis, and was an energetic participant at the MSSRF LANSA stakeholder capacity strengthening workshop in April 2014 and the recent November 2015 Agri-nutrition knowledge sharing dialogue in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He had contributed immensely to drawing up advocacy and strategic plans to prioritise nutrition in the agriculture-policy landscape for Odisha state.

Having been in touch with Ashok Kumar Sahoo over the last two years, an email to him clarified his connection to the OEC and LANSA's award.

He explained that he is on the Board of the Odisha

Environment Congress, and to quote him: “I sincerely understand that MSSRF has nicely initiated LANSA and I put all my energy to convey the Board of Odisha Environment Congress to recognise and felicitate in the current event.”

The Results

LANSA research in MSSRF has received an Award for work done to advance the nutrition agenda in India and thus work under Farming System for Nutrition feasibility study is now recognized and acknowledged in Odisha State. This is a proud moment indeed! It is also recognition of the different research uptake efforts to bring LANSA work to the agriculture-nutrition stakeholders. The reflective practice story is a good example of how purposeful and regular engagement with relevant stakeholders can have a favourable impact for LANSA work in the country.

Another commendable outcome from the Odisha Environment Congress is the recommendation for Odisha State Government to set aside five percent of GDP toward “nutrition focused and nutrition-sensitive interventions” to tackle micronutrition deficiency in the State.

Key Contacts: For further information

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Web Links:

<http://lansasouthasia.org/article/lansa-felicitated-work-done-advance-nutrition-0>

<http://lansasouthasia.org/content/farming-system-nutrition>

<http://lansasouthasia.org/blog/meeting-minds-agri-nutrition-stakeholders-prioritize-nutrition-india>