

# LANSA RESEARCH UPTAKE REFLECTIVE PRACTICE STORY

## RU Regional Reflective Practice Story

*Collaborations for new platforms of engagement to meet stakeholder needs and preferences*

### Research Uptake at LANSAs

Research Uptake activity in LANSAs countries in the initial phase was largely through events such as workshops, consultations and meetings, also conferences and emails.

When in November 2014, LANSAs team at MSSRF was invited to partner in an interactive regional online webinar on the future role of biofortification post-Kigali hosted by HarvestPlus, the experience was new and equally satisfying and it turned out to be the best starting point for several such online collaborations aiming at effective stakeholder engagement.

The Webinar was led by champions in their fields – Howrah Bouis, Director HarvestPlus and Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Founder MSSRF and LANSAs Consortium Advisory Group member, and this strategy had a compelling effect on the level of participation.



*Rice farmer in Koraput district, Odisha, India*

### Research Uptake in practice

Learning from the above experience, and recognizing the immense potential the online web medium can prove for LANSAs work in South Asia, the Research

Uptake team initiated and coordinated LANSAs's first online interaction with agriculture-nutrition stakeholders.

The 3-day South Asia 'Markets for Nutrition Knowledge-sharing Online Dialogue' in February 2015 using the Eldis Community online platform opened up a space for LANSAs research under Pillar 2.2 to be introduced and be received by stakeholders across South Asia.

Peer learning, knowledge sharing and networking became an apparent success, but more importantly, LANSAs was able to develop the value-chain-nutrition-food-policy approach further to include input from relevant stakeholders.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

*Online consultations are proving to be excellent value for money and an effective research uptake approach*

The LANSAs research uptake team in Bangladesh (BRAC), India (MSSRF), Pakistan (CSSR), and at IDS worked together to ensure a meaningful dialogue, playing a crucial role in identifying, registration, coordination and troubleshooting during the dialogue with valuable support from the Eldis team at IDS.

This event also marked the first time stakeholders in Afghanistan were contacted for a LANSAs engagement activity and they made several important contributions to the discussion.

Research Uptake and researchers were happy with the output from the 'Markets for Nutrition' dialogue promoting that LANSAs should use the online medium for effective stakeholder engagement.

LANSA then collaborated with FAO's Global Food and Nutrition Security Forum for a three-week long interaction with prominent stakeholders on innovations in successful examples of pro-nutrition agriculture interventions. Global level multi-sectoral stakeholders contributed and a total of 52 responses were recorded.

Their input helped in framing LANSA's second Responsive Window calling for formative research proposals from the four LANSAs focus countries.



*Sangeetha Rajeesh at FAO International Workshop, Rome in December 2015*

## Research Uptake affecting change

The Research Uptake Strategy drafted in the inception phase of LANSAs has been adapted to meet stakeholder needs and preferences over the last two years.

LANSA research analysis is making it apparent that the four LANSAs countries share the same burden of undernutrition and have potential to leverage agriculture in their countries to combat the problem of undernutrition. Agriculture-nutrition stakeholders enthusiastically received this message and shared their experiences during the online dialogues facilitated by LANSAs research uptake!

Feedback from stakeholders expressing not just gratitude for the opportunity to exchange knowledge across borders, but also the chance to have peer learning and witness experts share experiences and challenges, leave alone the networking result.

Online consultations are proving to be excellent value for money and an effective research uptake approach, particularly in bringing together a cross-section of stakeholders in the agri-nutrition space given the political tensions in the region.

Organising a cross-country stakeholder event in a physical space is very challenging.

Collaborations with agri-nutrition networks on a global level is another takeaway from these online dialogues, and a good recent example is that LANSAs Research Uptake was invited by FAO Food and Nutrition Security Forum for an International workshop in Rome in December 2015 to present our various stakeholder engagement activities and achievements at the regional level.

FAO is impressed by LANSAs stakeholder engagement strategies, also recognises that the South Asia region is opening up the nutrition-food-policy dialogue space and is actively considering working along with LANSAs to reiterate this importance.

### Key Contacts: For further information

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#### Web Links:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/forum/discussions/fsnforum-workshop>

<http://lansasouthasia.org/article/call-proposals-formative-and-feasibility-research-studies>

<http://lansasouthasia.org/blog/what%E2%80%99s-next-biofortification-south-asia-post-kigali>