

CREATING LINKAGES BETWEEN RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND MEDIA

Agricultural Productivity for Household Level Food Security

Convening Report - Pretoria, South Africa 29 June 2011



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1. Introduction

In October 2010, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) gave a grant to the Southern Africa Trust to implement a project aimed at creating linkages between research, advocacy and media. In the initial implementation of the project, a scoping study and a baseline survey were conducted from the end of March 2011 to the middle of April 2011.

During the month of June 2011, the Trust convened a series of meetings at both national and regional levels. The first regional meeting that brought together leaders and practitioners from media, research and advocacy from the six project focus countries was held on 7 June 2011. The purpose of this regional meeting was to provide further information about the project concept including the proposed strategies as well as proposed project implementation arrangements and to share the emerging findings of the scoping study and the baseline survey conducted between March and April 2011.

This report summarizes the deliberations of that meeting held in Pretoria. Participants were drawn from media, research and advocacy organisations working in the area of food security including farmer association from the six project focus countries.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss the strategies and scope of the Trust's project on creating linkages between research, advocacy and media organisations including project implementation arrangements to inform project implementation;
- Share experiences on collaborative policy advocacy interventions and work on food security including successes and constraints and how these have been addressed.
- Discuss and identify priority policy advocacy issues related to agricultural productivity for household food security that research, advocacy and media organisations in the different countries could begin to collaborate on at country level.

2. Opening session

The facilitator welcomed all participants to the meeting and gave an overview of the meeting programme.

In his opening remarks, Themba Mhlongo, who is the Head of Programmes of the Southern Africa Trust referred to a colloquium that was held in Dar es Salaam in October, 2010 co-convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Trust and hosted by the Foundation for Civil Society on linkages between research, advocacy and media. The colloquium focused on learning from practical experience in building these linkages for effective pro-poor policy work. Also discussed at the colloquium were the challenges and successes in linking the work of the three constituencies. At the colloquium, participants further explored and discussed concepts and strategies for how their work could be integrated.



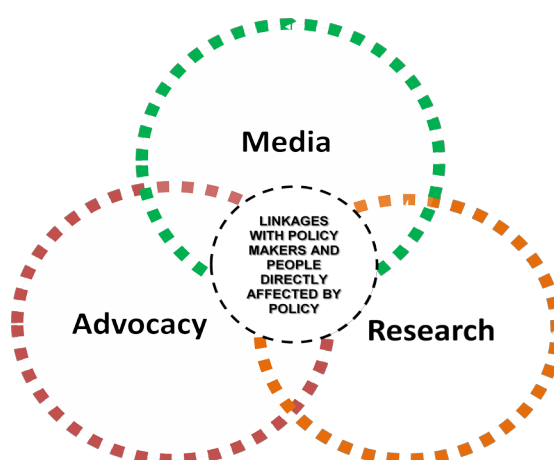
discussion further at national levels.

The discussion at the colloquium confirmed that there are weaknesses in relationships between the three groups. The participants agreed that strong linkages between these groups are necessary for both pro-poor voice in the development of policies and more accountability for implementation of those policies. One of the recommendations of the colloquium was that national level dialogues similar to the colloquium be held to take this

The project envisages the convening of regional thematic discussions and this meeting is one of the regional thematic convenings focussing on agricultural productivity for household level food security.

3. Project Overview

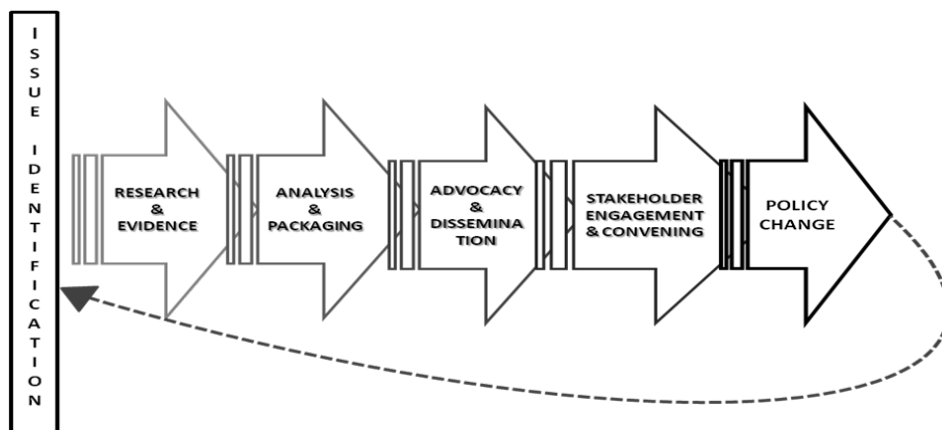
In the second session of the meeting, Lusungu Kanchenche, of the Southern Africa Trust, gave an overview of the project. This aims at creating opportunities and platforms that build innovative, scaled-up, more coherent and value-adding working relationships between different types of critical non-state actors including researchers, civil society advocacy groups, platforms of affected people, and the media and policy makers. The purpose of the project is to create and strengthen cooperation and linkages between research, advocacy, and media partners for more effective policy advocacy in six countries. These countries are Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Ghana and South Africa. Also presented were the project outcomes, proposed strategies and proposed project implementation arrangements. Key project stakeholders are represented in the diagram below.



The project thematic areas were also presented as follows:

- Agricultural productivity for household-level food security,
- Resource mobilization and better allocation and distribution of resources (optimizing financing for development),
- Delivery of basic and social services, and
- Inclusive, participatory, and transparent governance for better development results (cross-cutting).

Also presented as part of the project overview, was a value chain diagram (below) illustrating the value-adding relationships that are required amongst research, advocacy and media amongst the three constituencies to achieve better policy outcomes. It was clarified that the diagram is a simple illustration of these value-adding relationships, collaboration, and coherence about which the project is..



In the discussion following the presentation, questions were asked regarding proposed lead organisations, incorporation of issues raised during national convenings, the timeframe, project implementation arrangements and relationships, the scope of the project, the pace of the project, and next steps.

On lead organisations, participants wanted to know whether national lead organisations had already been identified in all the six countries. In response, the Trust informed participants that participants in some of the country convenings had identified these. On incorporation of issues raised during national convenings, the Trust informed the meeting that these issues had been noted but they would be compiled and used to inform project implementation in each of the six countries and overall. Participants also raised the issue of timeframes for delivery of the project. It was clarified that this was a three-year project but that the implementation time would respond to the needs of partners at national level.



A concern was raised about the slow pace of project implementation and suggestions were made regarding how to move things forward and to what the key priorities should be. Proposals for moving forward and prioritising included building of relationships and prioritising of themes in the countries. In relation to project implementation arrangements, participants wanted clarity on what the relationship between the Trust and implementing organisations would be in the various countries and most specifically whether the Trust would be a partner in implementation. It was clarified that the aim of the Trust is to influence policies and that through partnership agreements with civil society organisations would be keen to see that the work of civil society organisations contribute to this and to ensure that knowledge is shared. One of the observations made by the participants was that the project outcomes were very ambitious which was acknowledged by the Trust. The Trust however assured participants that its own experience has proved that they can be achievable.

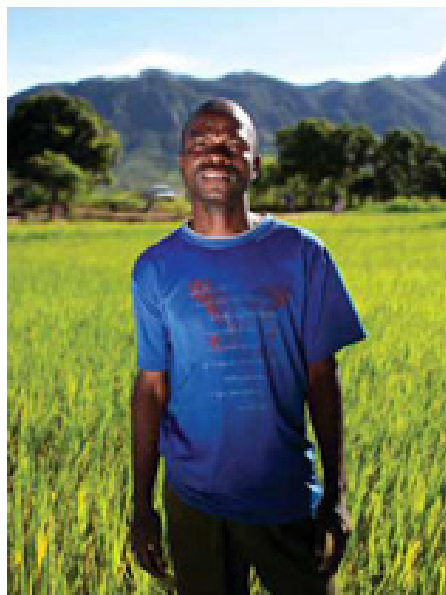
4. Collaborative Work: Some Country Experiences

The third session of the meeting involved sharing of experiences of collaborative work by three organisations from three countries. This included how successful the collaborative work was, lessons learnt doing collaborative work and how these challenges were addressed. The three organisations were Network of Researchers and Research Users of Uganda (NURRU), the Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers Federation (ESAFF) and the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) in Malawi.

The Network of Researcher users of Uganda

Sharing experience in Uganda, David Obot, of the Network of Researchers and Research Users of Uganda (NURRU), on research that was conducted on paddy rice growing in eastern Uganda. The background to the research was that paddy rice growing was undertaken since 1942. Over the years, there had been fluctuations in production and failures. Later, Chinese experts were brought in to conduct research and improve production. Although there was capacity within the community, there was limited support. During the good times, households benefited but there was no support and promotion from government. The findings of the research were disseminated but the research did not however result in change in policy nor did it improve the lives of people in the area and no significant gains were made. In addition, issues raised in the findings were not addressed. What also transpired is that rice production is not a focus of policy change. In terms of knowledge, it is the affected people know more than the researchers do.

The Uganda case was a classical example of the disconnect between research, media and advocacy, and how this limits the impact of pro-poor policy change. The research organization in the Uganda case tried to do everything – from conducting the research and coming up with findings to turning it into policy brief and seeking to engage policy makers on the research recommendations to conducting media/communication work through a press conference. In the course of discussion it became clear that a framework that ensures complementarity between research, media and advocacy would have resulted in more impact. Advocacy organizations would have been better placed to reduce lengthy research output in academic form to a more accessible popular style. Similarly, the advocacy groups would have been better placed to build mass support for the recommendations and engaging policy makers to effect policy change.



Media's involvement was also left until the very last minute. Suggestions were made that researchers and advocates should engage media at the very beginning to sensitise them on the issues and build support. Effective media involvement and support would have most likely built

greater public awareness of the issues and put pressure on policymakers to pay attention and effect the recommended policy changes.

The case was also demonstration of how research did not bring on board other players. The other lesson learnt was that there is need for conscious and joint planning and building strong relationships around a common understanding amongst stakeholders not only of the research question, but also the research process. Further that clearly no one constituency can influence policy by itself but that there was need to consider who else needs to be involved in the research and to mobilise communities and affected people as well as involve media and government.

East and Southern Africa Farmers Forum (ESAFF)

Joe Mzinga, of the Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers Forum (ESAFF) shared their experiences on how they linked with research, media and advocacy. The approach they took was a combination of campaigning and advocacy that they defined as a process of identifying the problem finding the solution and then marshalling support to address the problem. They however recognised that it was important to have evidence in order to do this “no research, no right to speak” – which should inform with figures and the environment using media as a partner or tool to amplify the campaign. One of the key issues identified was that there was marginalisation of small-scale farmers in policymaking, its implementation as well as related monitoring processes. To address this, ESAFF brought together farmers to speak with one voice, increased their awareness of major agricultural policies and knowledge and identified appropriate platforms taking into account critical timing. In this process of campaigning and advocacy as well as knowledge generation, ESAFF learnt a number of lessons. These were:

The three stakeholder groups research, media and advocacy are inseparable and critical for policy transformation and change;

- It is important to take a multi-layer approach as the issues in agriculture and food security are linked from the international, regional, national and household level;
- There is a need to set aside resources for monitoring and documentation of policy implementation;
- There is a need for motivation, training, mentoring and coaching of small scale farmers which are critical success factors in household food security;
- Internal good governance for building credibility and respect amongst key players is important for small-scale farmers’ organisations.



Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)



Tamani Nkhono-Mvula of the Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET) shared with participants CISANET's experience during the development of Malawi's national biotechnology policy. The background was that Malawi had practised biotechnology for some time in the form of tissue culture and fermentation but not much was known about genetic engineering. During the food crisis in Malawi in 2000 and 2001, biotechnology was high on

the media agenda. Malawi accepted genetically modified food from the World Food Programme (WFP) at a time when other countries in the region had rejected it. The WFP were required to mill the food before giving it to communities so that they could not use it as seed. The media took the issue out into the public domain raising concerns and bringing to attention developments within government such as the Bio Safety Act that was passed to allow the country to use genetically modified food. These developments prompted civil society to request government for a clear and precise policy on genetically modified food to ensure legislation and control on importation, experimentation and production of genetically modified foods.



The civil society campaign was aimed at providing smallholder farmers with a voice during the development of the policy. It was also aimed at helping in enhancing understanding of genetically modified foods and their effects on agricultural productivity. Part of the campaign involved training conducted by CISANET, Action AID and PELUM for journalists to assist them on how to report on genetically modified foods and on food security in general. They also conducted a workshop to

present research findings to the press. This was an example of how powerful media can be in putting issues of public interest on the agenda and how a policy advocacy issue can then be picked up by policy advocacy organisations and researchers resulting in policy makers taking action. A national policy on biotechnology was subsequently approved in 2008.

The following were the key lessons from this experience:

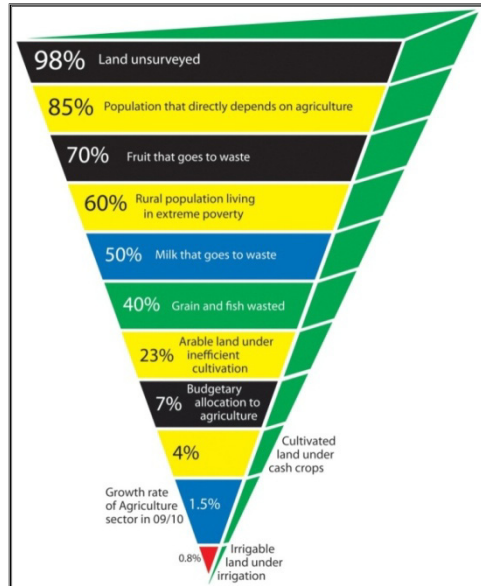
- The power of media to provide a forum for people to discuss matters of common interest, ask questions and get clarification from experts;
- How issues of significant and common interest and concern can galvanise research, advocacy and media to work together;
- Among other things, media needs technical capacity to report better on advocacy work and the responsibility of research and advocacy organisations to inform them;
- Research and advocacy organisations need to package and deliver their work in a timeless manner to make it newsworthy.

- Reducing information and knowledge gaps and facilitating collective conversations as done by CISANET the advocacy organisation in this case, through training workshops for journalists and other stakeholders helps galvanise linkages between different constituencies and promotes collaboration.

This experience was also a demonstration of how policy advocacy issues can be raised and stimulated by any one of the three constituencies and how once the issue is raised the three worked together to take the issue further along with people directly affected to engage with government.

5. Assessing the State of Agriculture – The Inverted Pyramid Model

Using the diagram below in the form of an inverted pyramid, Joachim Buwembo who is a Knight Development Journalism Fellow leading a project to improve coverage of poverty and development issues in Tanzania presented a snapshot of the state of agriculture in Tanzania based on research undertaken providing key statistical findings.



Highlighted in the pyramid were statistics on the proportion of unsurveyed land; the proportion of the population in Tanzania that depends on agriculture; products that go to waste including milk, grain, fish, fruit; the proportion of the rural population that live in extreme poverty; the proportion of arable land under inefficient cultivation; percentage of budget allocation to agriculture; proportion of land under cash crops;

growth rate of agriculture sector; and, the proportion of irrigable land under irrigation.

The pyramid model can be generalised to represent the state of agriculture in all Sub-Saharan African countries. The overall policy approach for Africa is to turn the pyramid upside down, that is reduce the size of unsurveyed land to less than 1% and increase irrigable land under irrigation to almost 100%. This would make it possible for Africa to solve the food security issues. It was agreed that this was useful way of presenting and communicating research findings as well as in engaging stakeholders such as policy makers and media and in the identification of priorities.



6. Priority Issues in Agricultural Productivity – Country Experiences and Observations

In breakaway groups, participants were asked to discuss agricultural productivity in their countries including key issues and challenges encountered and how they propose to take policy advocacy work on this and reported in plenary.

Tanzania Group (joined by a participant from Kenya)

The Tanzania group identified the following as priority issues in agricultural productivity in Tanzania:

- Post harvest handling
- Access to land, ownership and utilization
- Budgetary allocation to agricultural production
- Climate change

Concerning collaborative frameworks and ways of working, the Tanzania group recommended that the following:

- Shared a vision between various players including media, research and advocacy as well as policy makers and those affected by policy issues.
- Set up a national platform bringing together all interested stakeholders around agriculture and food security.
- Develop partnership agreements –MoUs
- Define and agree on roles and responsibilities

On how to take forward the implementation of the project and with regard to timeframes for next steps in Tanzania, the Tanzania group agreed the following as a way forward:

Activity	Time frame	Responsible institution
Set up a planning committee	July 2011	Lead organization
Share vision	August 2011	Planning committee
Mapping of key actors	Aug-Sept 2011	Planning committee
Convene stakeholders' meeting	Sept 2011	Lead organization
Project design	Oct-Dec 2011	Task Team

Malawi Group

The Malawi group identified the following as main challenges in agricultural productivity in Malawi:

- Weak linkages between research, extension and farmers. This leads to issues of use of low yielding varieties;
- Low levels of inputs used by small scale farmers

- High losses in storage and processing because of lack of infrastructure
- Unfavourable climatic conditions including issues related to dependence on rain fed agriculture

In terms of collaborative frameworks and ways of working, the Malawi group recommended that the next steps should be an appointment of a coordinating institution to take a leading role. The Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET) was identified to take this lead. The group also proposed that the further steps should be the establishment of a sub-committee of the six-country steering committee at national level to include research, media and advocacy. The further step would then be for the national lead organisations together with the sub-committee, to develop an operational plan to address the identified issues as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan.

Ghana Group

Priority issues in agriculture and agricultural productivity in Ghana were identified and grouped into three categories. These were issues threatening the current situation, government budget and trade issues. Specific points under these categories and priority issue areas were identified as follows:

- **Harmonisation and Policy**
 - Lack of policy coordination and harmonization across sectors – Ministry of Trade promoting trade liberalization without protecting the interests of small-scale farmers.
 - Climate issues : There is currently no climate change policy in Ghana)
- **Government Budget**
 - Inadequate extension service provision for small scale food farmers
 - Need for increased investment by government to the agriculture sector
 - Eleven percent of the government budget is currently allocated to agriculture. However, it is not clear how and where this is spent.

On collaborative frameworks, the Ghana groups identified the following:

- Build linkages with Parliament for research –implying research relevant to parliamentary needs;
- Create alliances with the private sector – e.g. Association of Ghana Industries;
- Leverage research capacity of academic institutions to increase evidence-based input to policy development;
- Using new media e.g. In particular social media for wider dissemination of information to communities.



Uganda (together with South Africa)

Participants from Uganda worked with one participant from South Africa. Issues for Uganda and South Africa were identified separately. For South Africa, the challenges were grouped into three categories. These were pre-production, production and post harvest handling as follows:

- Pre-production
 - Poor quality seeds available and used
 - Low use of agricultural technology
 - Low use of inputs (fertilisers etc)
 - Issues of land tenure
- Production
 - Lack of extension services
 - Loss of farm labour because you move to the cities in search of “greener pastures”
- Post harvest handling
 - Food storage
 - Food processing
 - Value addition
 - Infrastructure
 - Drying and sorting

For Uganda, priority issues and challenges were identified as follows:

- Lack of access to land
- Low levels of productivity for small scale farmers
- Increasing access to financial resources.
- Strengthening fragile organisational groups
- Overcoming recapitalisation challenges

Collaborative frameworks for Uganda and South Africa were discussed collectively. It was recommended that the national lead convening organisation organises a national partners’ meetings to share the findings and recommendations of the present convening and agree on priority issues. The group recommended to:

- Have a lead organization in the thematic area
- Convene a meeting for the national partners from the media, advocacy and research groups to give them feedback from this convening to validate priorities and identify 1-2 issues of focus for 1 year(hope to have one focus per year)
- Generate existing facts about the chosen area and identify gaps and proceed to commission research around the issues
- The organizations from the three sectors will meet to reflect and shape the process.

On the way forward, the group recommended that the national convening organisation should organise a national partners' meeting to share what has been agreed on the above.

7. Closing and Next Steps

The Southern Africa Trust thanked participants for being open and frank in the discussions. Participants requested that the Trust should provide ample notice of convenings to allow time for organisations to prepare adequately. The Trust will ensure that the concerns raised are addressed as far as possible.

Concerning next steps, it was further clarified that issues would be taken forward at country level in all countries and that in some of the countries' lead organisations had already been identified to coordinate this. There was however the issue of flow of resources to enable the process to proceed. With respect to this, the Trust informed the meeting that terms of reference for the national lead organisation would be circulated in due course and that would be the beginning of agreeing a process of making this possible.



Annex 1: List of Participants

No	Name	Position	Organisation
1	Lawrencia Ahema Adams	Programme Manager	STAR , Ghana
2	Ibrahim Issah Alkabal	Coordinator	Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition, Ghana
3	Peter Evans	Consultant	Independent Consultant , Ghana
4	Michael Boadi	Project Coordinator	Public Agenda , Ghana
5	Peter Ngoma	Consultant	Lowellpark Consulting Group / Economic Association of Malawi
6	Tom Mboya Were	Programme Director	Kenya Community Development Foundation , Kenya
7	Mike Mervin Banda	Regional Coordinator	MEJN, Malawi
8	Tamani Nkhono -Mvula	Director	CISANET, Malawi
9	Elles Kwanjana	Training Manager	NASFAM, Malawi
10	Rabbecca Theu	National Governing Council Executive Member	MISA Malawi, Malawi
11	Mathews Madola	Head of Department	Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD), Malawi
12	Bernard Kindoli	Policy and Development Manager	Foundation for Civil Society, Tanzania
13	Joseph Mzinga	Regional Coordinator	ESAFF-Tanzania
14	Stephen Dominic Lyimo	Principal Agriculture research Officer	Selian Agricultural research Institute, Tanzania
15	Arthur Larok	Executive Director	NGO Forum, Uganda
16	Nancy Mugimba	National Coordinator	ESAFF- Kenya
17	Agnes Kirabo	Chief Executive Secretary	Uganda National Farmers Federation, Uganda
18	Bernard Tabaire	Directors Programmes	African Centre for Media Excellence, Uganda
19	Joachim Buwembo	Development Journalism Fellow	International Centre For Journalism , Uganda
20	David Obot	Executive Director	Network of Ugandan Researchers and Research Users (NURRU), Uganda
21	Mercia Andrews	Director	TCOE, South Africa
22	Sheryl Hendriks		University of Pretoria, Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Development, South Africa
23	Carol Welch	Programme Officer	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
24	Briggs Bomba	Coordinator	Zimbabwe Alliance
25	Joachim Buwembo	ICJ Fellow	International Centre for Journalism
26	Themba Mhlongo	Head of programmes	Southern Africa Trust

27	Lusungu Kanchenche	Programme Operations Manager	Southern Africa Trust
28	Lydia Moyo	Grantmaking Coordinator	Southern Africa Trust
29	Katiana Ramsamy	Project Coordinator	Southern Africa Trust
30	Benjamin Seitlhamo	Project Coordinator	Southern Africa Trust
31	Jabulile Ndinisa	Office Manager	Southern Africa Trust
32	Tazona Sitamulaho	Programme Administrator	Southern Africa Trust

Annex 2 : Concept Note

Regional Convening

Achieving Pro-Poor Policy Outcomes in Agricultural Productivity Through Collaboration

Research, Advocacy and Media

29 June 2011, Pretoria

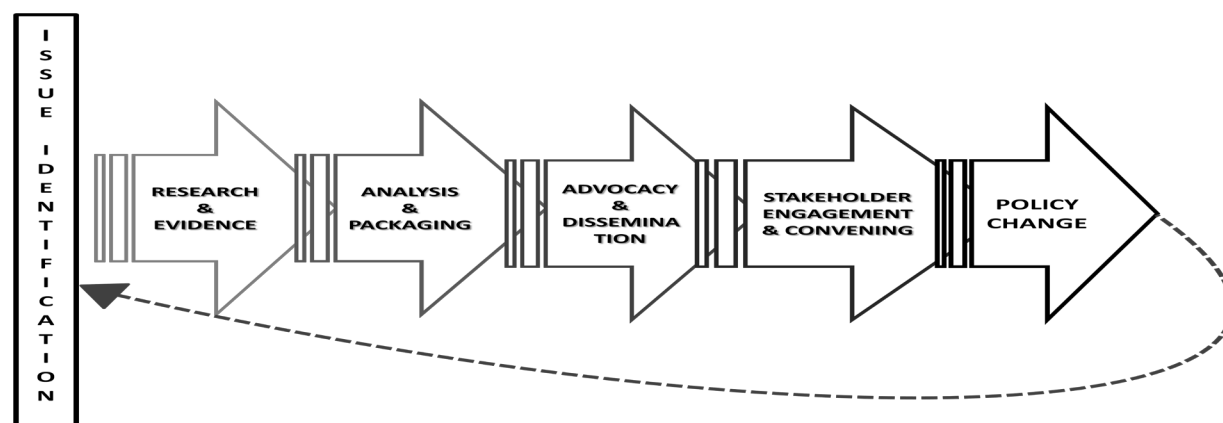
Achieving better pro-poor policy outcomes requires effective and sustained policy advocacy and interventions. This includes better coherence and strong linkages between the different initiatives and different pro-poor policy advocacy civil society formations. More scaled-up, coherent, and value-adding linkages, and alliances between the different types of organisations and groups, including researchers, civil society advocacy groups, platforms of affected people, the media, conventional non-governmental organisations, trade unions, faith-based organisations, women's and youth platforms, and the private sector is a key strategy for optimising social capacities for poverty reduction in Africa thus enabling the region to in a sense "walk on three legs".

Although many organisations and initiatives are implemented to support research-based and campaigning civil society formations in Africa on specific thematic including in agriculture, such joined-up policy advocacy initiatives amongst civil society formations have not adequately materialized coherently and effectively. The different groups often advocate on divergent issues, at inopportune and disjointed times, to the wrong forums and policy makers, in an uninformed way or without sufficient public support (especially from groups of people directly affected by the issues they advocate on), without a well considered advocacy strategy, with insufficient media visibility, and sometimes with contradictory policy development "asks". Often, this happens because the advocacy groups are not networked with each other, do not adequately communicate their work to each other, and may not be aware of each other and the resources they offer each other for better quality and more effective policy advocacy outcomes. The result is a fragmented and diluted civil society policy advocacy environment in Africa.

There is therefore a need to create both opportunities and platforms to build innovative, scaled-up, more coherent and value-adding working relationships between the different types of civil society formations doing policy advocacy work, including researchers and think tanks, civil society campaigning and advocacy groups, platforms of affected people, the media, non-

governmental organizations, and to link them with access to the appropriate policy makers. A value-chain between the different types of civil society formations for more effective policy advocacy outcomes needs to be developed amongst research, advocacy, and media. However, such an innovation in collaborative relationships requires additional partners as demonstrated in the model below illustrating the need for value-adding links.

Figure 1 : Policy change advocacy value chain¹



Each of the arrows in the diagram represents a function of a different type of core organizational competence that is required for more effective civil society policy advocacy. The first is the development of research-based evidence on specific poverty issues, followed by the translation of research into policy-relevant advocacy materials for use by a broad range of groups, broad-based information dissemination, mobilization, and active engagement with governments; and the convening of policy dialogue platforms involving diverse state and non-state actors.

There is in general the expectation that one civil society partner organization could adequately perform the full spectrum of functions in the policy advocacy chain. This is rarely, if ever, possible and often results in weak policy advocacy initiatives by civil society organizations that focus more on one dimension of the above advocacy functions than the others and very often fails to deliver the expected policy change and government accountability outcomes. It also generally weakens the development of the civil society sector as a whole by pitting different types of organizations against each other in a competition to perform the same functions rather than drawing on the unique strengths of each different type of organization in a coherent whole. Instead, policy advocacy outcomes can be more effective by creating a chain of value adding linkages between different types of partner organizations whose unique

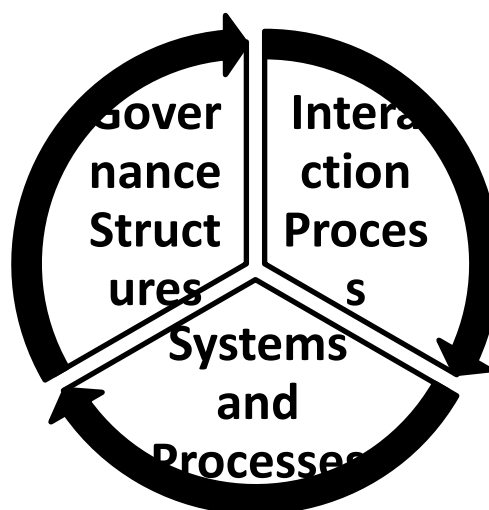
¹ Southern Africa Trust, 2010

strengths in a particular dimension of the policy advocacy chain can be harnessed for more effective policy change outcomes.

Effective working together between such different organisations with different ways of working requires competencies and use of working strategies such as collaboration. Collaboration as a strategy for working together is described as a means of producing something joined and new, from interactions of people or organisations, that leverages on their knowledge and resources². *It is a process in which autonomous or semi-autonomous actors interact through formal and informal negotiation, jointly creating rules and structures governing their relationships and ways to act or decide on the issues that brought them together; it is a process involving shared norms and mutually beneficial interactions*³. These interactions are facilitated by relationships that are established and maintained by the people and organisations participating in the collaboration.

The quality of the relationships that are established in collaborating is determined by three main factors. These are trust, reciprocity and mutuality. Literature on collaboration identifies three key elements of collaboration. These are the interaction process, governance structures and, systems and processes (Figure 2).

Figure 2 : Elements of Collaboration



² Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, Fact Sheet 5, Key Elements of Collaboration, 2010

³ Thomson, A M, Perry, J L, and Miller, T K, 2007, Conceptualising and Measuring Collaboration, Indiana University, Bloomington, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory.

The interaction process refers to the engagement between collaborating partners including how they communicate with each other. Collaboration requires governance structures that enable collaborating partners to work together most effectively and important for them to be able to negotiate and collectively solve problems as well as jointly set working rules and procedures for involvement, decision-making and contributions⁴. What is important however is to ensure that the arrangements enable innovation as well as participation. Collaborative relationships and action occur within broader systems and participants are part of broader systems that must be taken into account in collaborative work for it to be effective.

Although collaboration has many benefits, it is important to acknowledge that it has its challenges. One of the challenges in collaborative relationships is conflict. It is therefore important for individuals and organisations to have conflict management competencies and for collaborating partners to have a conflict mediation arrangement as part of the governance structures.

The Southern Africa Trust has convened this meeting to provide a platform for research, advocacy and media organisations and organisations working on agriculture to engage on the important issue of working together in order to achieve shared objectives and in particular around the area of agricultural productivity for household food security. The convening will also be an opportunity for participants to share their experience in collaborative work.

Meeting Objectives

- Review the project implementation strategies;
- Discuss the findings and the recommendations of the recently completed scoping study and baseline survey;
- Consider thematic and national coordination arrangements;
- Share experience on the state of collaboration on agricultural productivity for household food security including the constraints and obstacles and how these have been addressed; and
- Discuss and identify priority policy advocacy issues related to agricultural productivity for household food security around which research, advocacy and media organisations in the different countries could begin to collaborate.

⁴ Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, Fact Sheet 5, Key Elements of Collaboration, 2010

Annex 3: Event Evaluation

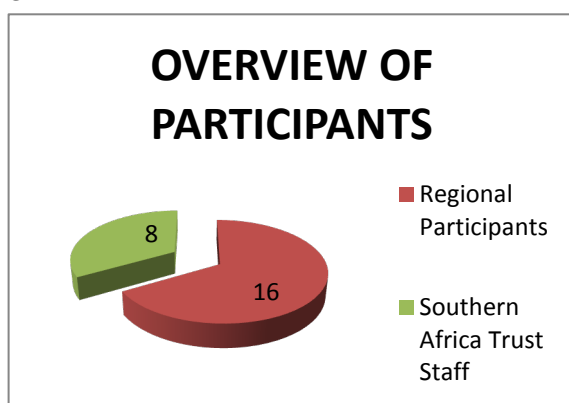
Evaluation report for the Regional Convening on linkages between Research, Advocacy and Media Work for Pro-Poor Policy Development and Accountability - 7th June, 2011.10.10

The Trust hosted the Regional convening on 7th June, 2011 at the Balalaika Hotel in Johannesburg. The objectives of the convening were as follows:

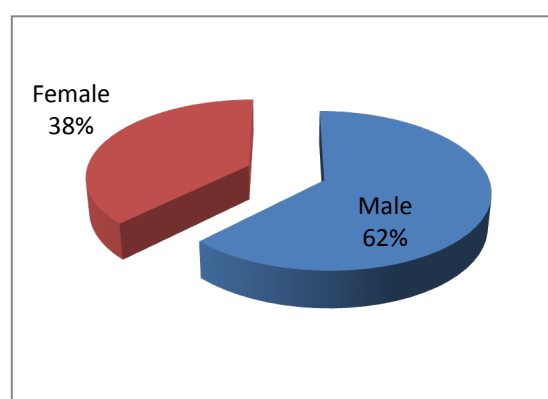
- Review the project implementation strategies
- Discuss the findings and the recommendations of the recently completed scoping study and baseline survey
- Inform the preparation of country convenings following this initial regional convening
- Consider recommended potential project partners, including national lead partners

The convening was attended by 24 members including 8 members from the Trust (Graph 1). Of this, 9 or 38% were women and 15 or 62% were men (Graph 2).

Graph 1: Overview of Participants Gender



Graph 2: Overview of participants by Gender



Participants then evaluated the event by answering questions such as rating the achievements of the objectives for the convening as well as the content, process facilitation, learning, approach, venue and planning.

The results from the evaluation forms have been captured below are presented in graphs with comments captured directly from their responses.

The evaluation was in two sections. Section A (which participants were asked to rate the logistics, planning, facilitation process and whether they had learnt anything new) and Section B (which participants were rating achievement of objectives of the convening)

SECTION A:

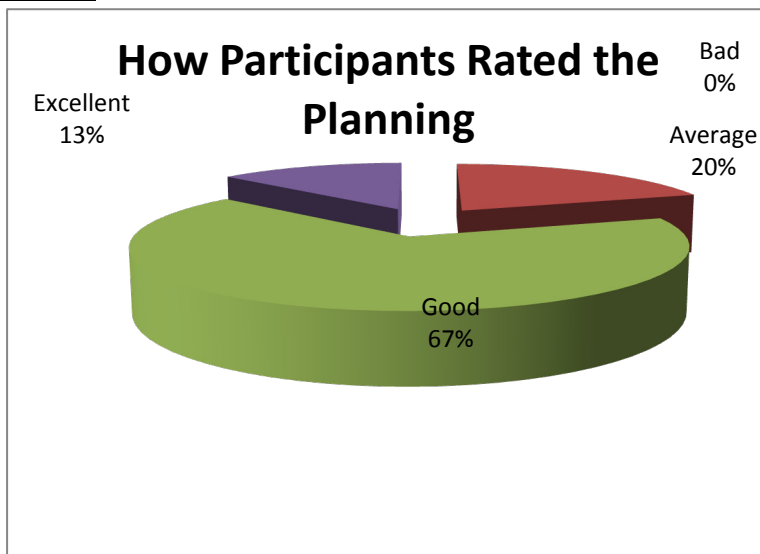
A four level scale rating was used as follows:

"Bad"	"Average"	"Good"	"Excellent"
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Planning

On planning done for the convening from their experience as participants, **67%** said it was good, **13%** said excellent, and **20%** said average. None said bad (see Graph 3 below)

Graph 3



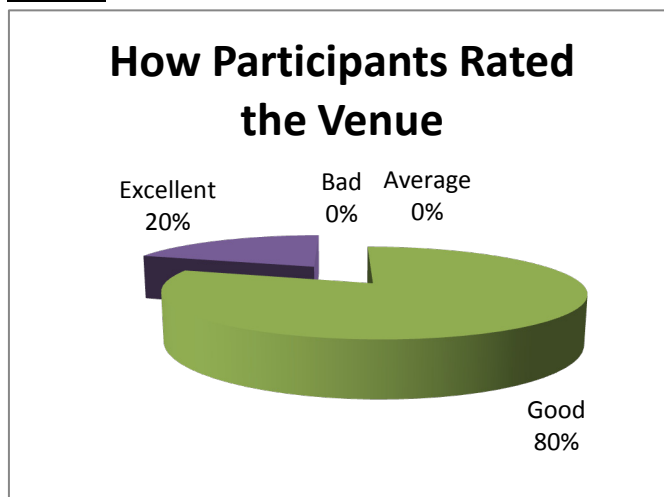
Participants Comments

- A longer notice period would have been more helpful
- Participation was high and the information given was relevant
- Information about the meeting could have been shared earlier
- Always room for improvement
- Okay

Venue

On the facilities and venue, **80%** said **good** , **0%** said **average** and **20%** said **excellent**. None rated **bad** (see Graph 4 below)

Graph 4



Participants Comments

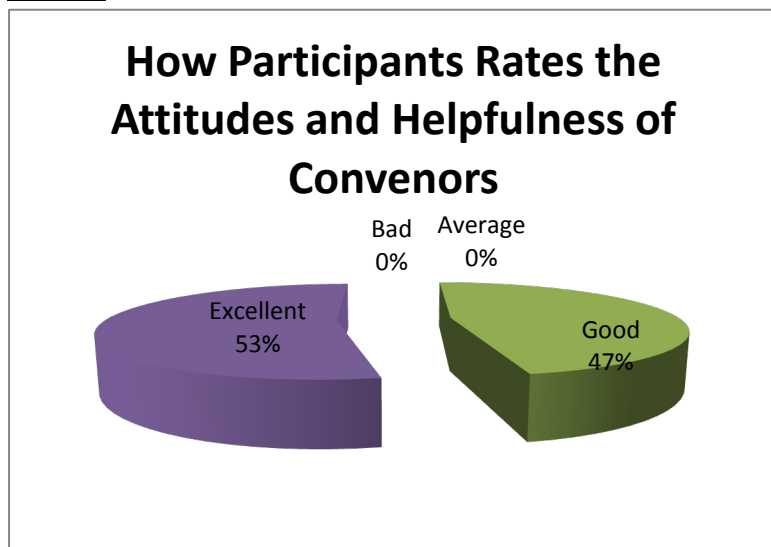
- The facilities were excellent
- Need to make access to internet
- Always room for improvement

- The facilities were excellent
- Need to make access to internet

Attitudes

With regards the attitudes, availability and helpfulness of the conveners, **47%** rated **good**, **53%** rated excellent, **0%** rated **average**. None rated **bad** (see Graph 5)

Graph 5



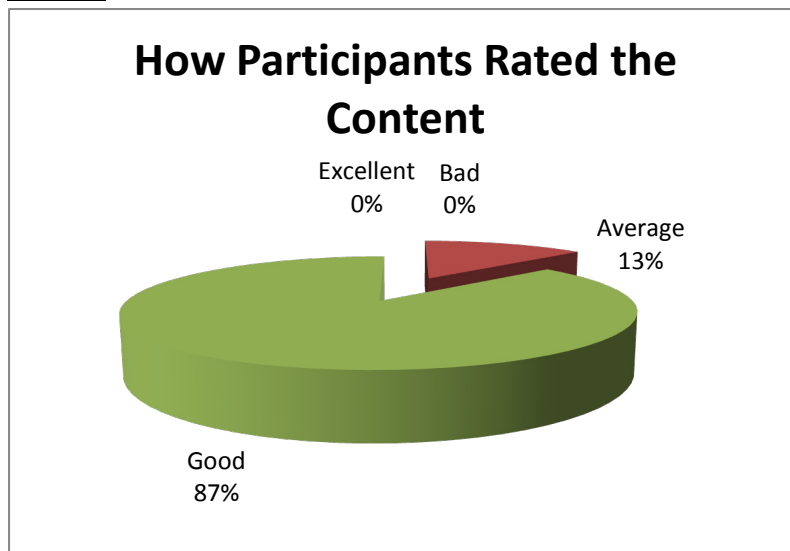
Participants Comments

- Based on Dr Mhlongo what SAT wanted to achieve was to explain the process and the rest will be done at country level
- They were receptive to ideas; a bit over defensive
- Provided all the information needed
- Always room for improvement
- Very open to differing views which enriched the process
- They are quite open and calm even when there are obvious pressures in the room
- Emphasized honesty and showed humility in accepting criticism

Content

With respect to quality of the event based on content, **87%** rated **good**, **13%** rated **average** and **0%** rated **excellent**. None rated **bad** as illustrated in graph 6

Graph 6



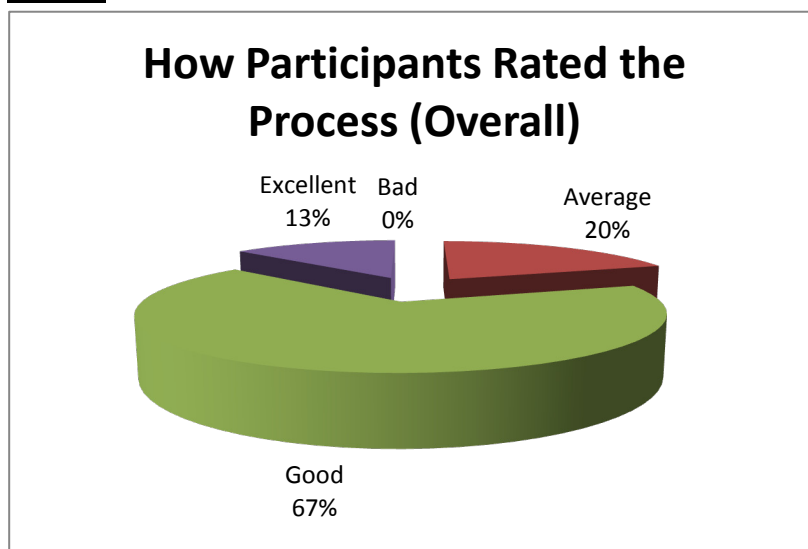
Participants Comments

- The scoping study was not very clear but information generated is valuable
- Always room for improvement
- Objectives of the meeting were achieved
- We could benefit more by having more documents
- Not much as it needs to be discussed at country level

Process

On how the participants experienced the process used to facilitate the event, **67%** rated **“good”**, **13%** rated **excellent** and another **20%** rated **average**. None rated bad (see graph 7)

Graph 7



Participants Comments

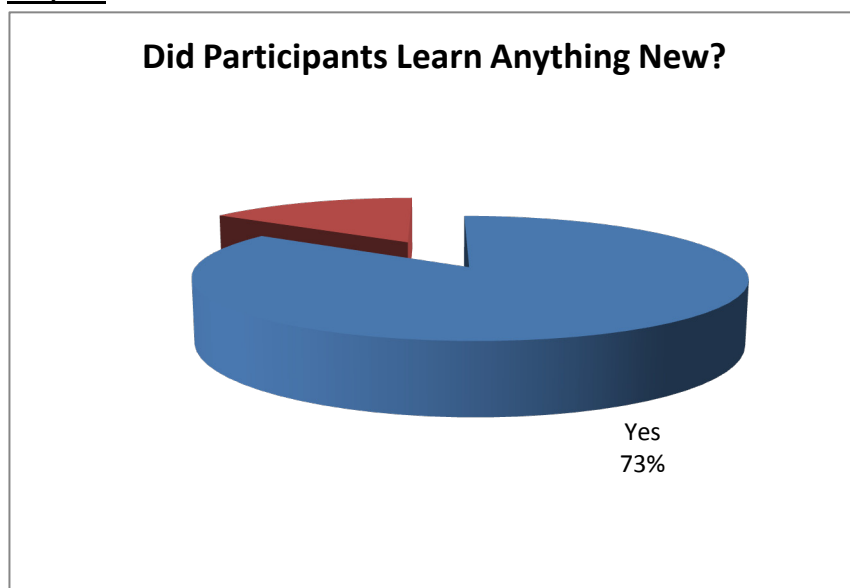
- I think the timing constraints limited "participation" in deciding on a process, but I like the "doing" model best!
- Participants' views were taken into account
- Facilitator (CDRA) conducted the facilitation services very well

- Very good process
- Always room for improvement
- Not the usual pressure workshop that leaves everyone stressed up
- I think the timing constraints limited "participation" in deciding on a process, but I like the "doing" model best!

Learning

The question on whether the participants have learned anything new, **73%** rated "yes" and **13%** rated "no", while another **13%** did not respond (see graph 8)

Graph 8



Participants Comments

- Learnt about situation in other countries
- Being a new employee to KCDF and in the field of grant making, meeting was invaluable
- A lot of common challenges and best practices
- Comparative knowledge of what's working and/or not in countries
- Need to provide adequate information, ownership
- Honestly, I got little new information
- Indeed I did not attend Tanzania meeting, I learned a lot.
- The outcomes of the baseline and how it has reinforced expected outcomes and researches on the ground from a self assessment perspective
- Perspectives from the three groups on some potential solutions to the challenges
- Very interesting baseline and scoping study most of which confirms CIVICUS' Civil Society evaluations
- Learnt about situation in other countries

SECTION B:

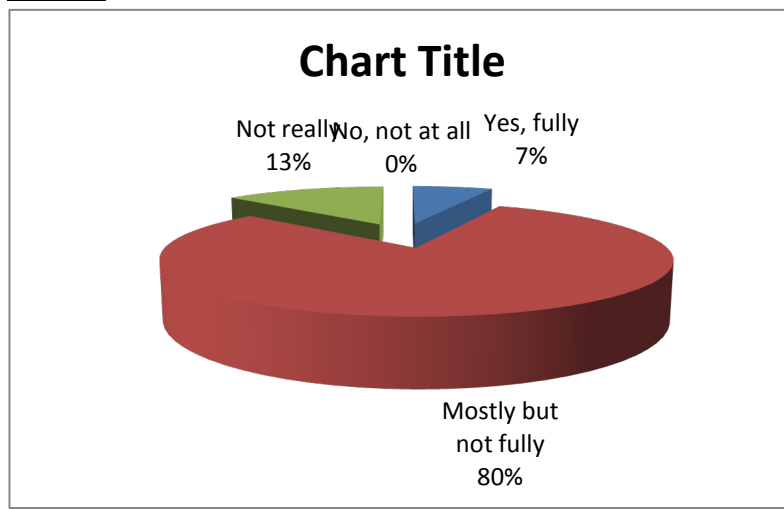
In this section of the form, participants were asked to rate the achievements of the objectives of the convening. The following four level scale was used:

Yes, fully	Mostly but not fully	Not really	No, not at all
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Objective 1: To discuss the project implementation strategies.

7% of the participants rated **“yes, fully”** and 80% rated **“mostly but not fully”** , while 13% rated **“not really”** or **“no, not at all”**. See graph 9

Graph 9



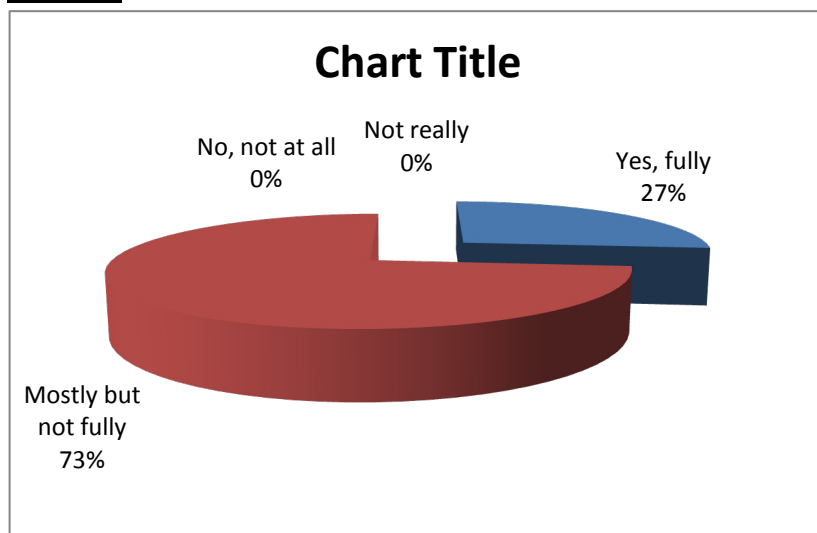
Participants Comments

- I feel that too much caution was built into the discussions and that led to useful, but sometimes lengthy deliberations
- The report will tie the gaps identified in the plenary
- The project document not shared
- We did not get a comprehensive full picture of the project
- As we were attending the meeting for the first time we need to go back to our respective bodies and seek mandate
- A little details that could have clarified project implementation were missing

Objective 2: to discuss the findings and the recommendations of the recently completed scoping study and baseline survey.

27% rated **“yes, fully”** and 73% rated **“mostly but not fully”** and 0% rated **“not really”** while none rated **“no, not at all”** as illustrated on Graph 10.

Graph 10



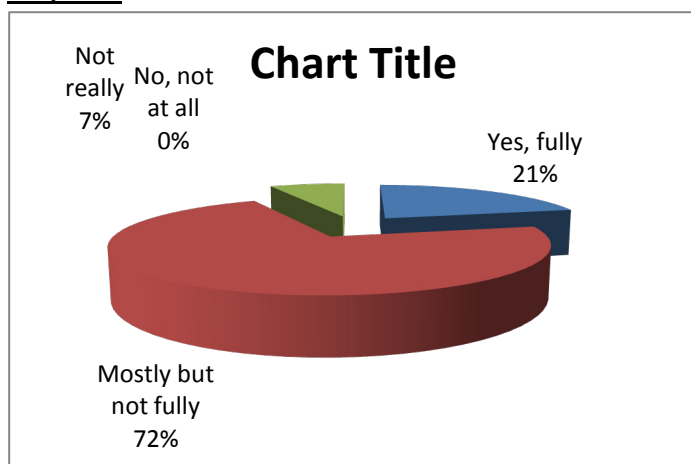
Participants Comments

- The presentation was rushed and materials not in the pack
- Although it was almost too much info to process
- A full report of the scoping study was not provided for in depth scrutiny, only a summary was provided
- The time was short and there were many issues on the table
- More need to be done - no business as usual
- Recommendations did not come out clearly from the report
- Perceptions portrayed a good picture but the situation on the ground may paint a different picture

Objective 3: To discuss project implementation arrangements including country and thematic coordination.

21% rated **“yes, fully”** and 72% rated **“mostly but not fully”**. None rated **“not really”** or **“no, not at all”** (see graph 11)

Graph 11



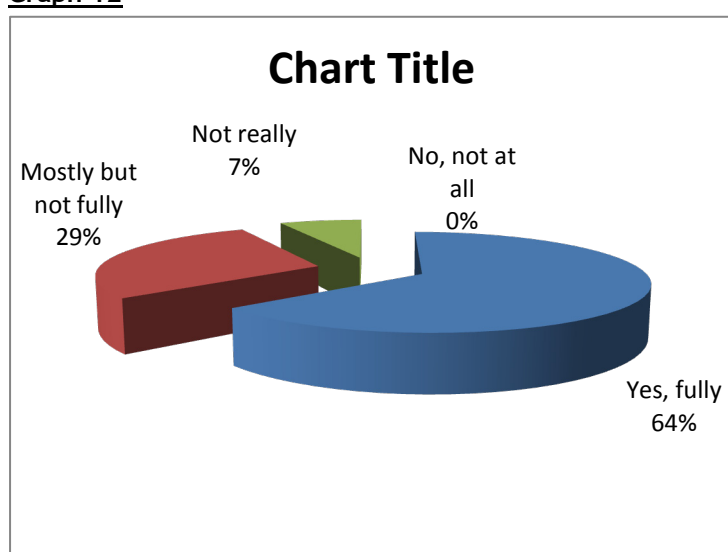
Participants Comments

- It's quite clear what is expected of the country convenings and with a little content focus, we should be good to go
- What is required from lead organisations in setting up the meetings
- Room for fine-tuning through bilateral meetings vs. case by case issues
- Provide the terms of reference for the country meetings
- More info is needed
- Will support in the national meeting and provide support if required
- Not sure about the agenda of these meetings; the goal posts seemed to shift a bit

Objective 4: Inform the implementation of the overall project for sustainability purposes.

64% rated **“yes fully”**, **29%** rated **“mostly but not fully”** and **7%** rated **“not really”**. None rated **“no, not at all”**. (See Graph 12)

Graph 12



Participants Comments

- Most lead organisations were unprepared to lead. A sign that this discussion was not concluded
- Everyone has to get involved
- Agreed justification for proposed interim
- For Uganda it was reasonable as we play an important convening role as a programme objective
- Excellent tool for proactively accepting different perspectives / critiques on approach, etc
- Most lead organisations were unprepared to lead. A sign that this discussion was not concluded

Summary:

Graph 13 below shows the overview of the rating of achievement of objectives. A small proportion indicated negative response of “not really” and neither indicated “no, not at all”. This rating indicates a level of unsure understanding of the project.

Graph13

