

Guideline to Establish District Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs)

1-Introduction

Multi-stakeholder platform is a process that bring multiple actors together to participate in participatory discussion, collaborative decision making on specific issues to focus on and what actions need to be taken. They are representatives from different organizations including relevant public authorities, private sector organizations, farmer groups and community leaders and other institutions.

Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) specifically in PICSA aim to improve value chain governance by enhancing coordination and strengthening relationships between actors in selected value chains. Stakeholder engagement and coordination approach includes consultation and identification of priority areas, opportunities and challenges, development of mutual understanding, definition of key roles and collective actions. Under output 2.1, the indicators of 125 and 314 of multi-stakeholder platform consultation workshop or meetings are expected to be organized during the lifetime of PICSA project, respectively. The objective of each workshop will be varied depending on specific purpose and it is assumed that private investors are interested in investing in business opportunities by strengthening the linkage with PICSA farmer groups along with conditions promoted by the AEIF component. Thus, there is the necessary to understand the mechanism and process of MSPs to ensure that different stakeholders/actors would have clear roles to bring equitable benefits.

2-Objectives of this guideline

The objectives of this PICSA's MSP guideline are:

The overall objective is to address the constraints or bottleneck in value chain leading to create or improve benefit of different actors who are acting in the value chain.

The specific objective is to improve livelihood of farmer groups who participate in agricultural activities supported by PICSA. MSP events are expected to create and improve market linkages through participation of potentials private enterprises and relevant stakeholders acting in the value chain.

3-Value Chain development through MSPs

Value Chain development through MSPs is a process-oriented approach. The main measured output is the number of events organized in the framework of multi-stakeholder platforms including MSP meetings (314 expected) averaging to 9 organized events per district and year. The promotional events, sub-group meetings, bilateral and multilateral meetings between VC actors; informal visits to VC actors with the purpose of coaching or information collection are not to be counted. The target value is at least 1,000 events over the lifetime of the project.

4-Identify commodities and relevant stakeholders

4.1 Identifying commodities

Market assessments for the 15 SRIWMSP schemes, consultations with local government (province and district) and results from village consultations inform an initial selection of two commodities (or commodity groups with similar biophysical features; e.g. vegetables, or dry season grain crops) in each district. This aims for the selection of value chains with a positive impact on the target group. Relevant commodities are ranked, based on (i) potential for competitiveness; (ii) potential for expansion (price or produced quantity); (iii) added value for the target group; (iv) potential for scaling; and (v) cross-cutting issues (nutrition, gender, vulnerable groups, environment, climate impact).

4.2 Identifying relevant stakeholders

After selecting the commodities, PICSA will support the POIC to identify potential Business Partners (input suppliers, buyers and financial institutions) and to assess the potential volume of business transactions for each commodity. Then, Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) are convened at district level.

Example: the MSP consist of relevant stakeholders within a value chain, including:

	Types of stakeholders	List of Stakeholders	Roles in Value Chain
1	Farmer groups representatives		
	1) Vegetable production group	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
	2) Rice production group	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
2	Agro-enterprises/ processing enterprises		
	Enterprise A	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
	Enterprise B	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
3	Government representatives		
	1) Rep. of DAFO	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
	3. Rep. of DICO	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
4	Private sector organizations		
	1) Rep. of vegetable trade association	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
	2) Rep. of rice trade association	1. Ms..... 2. Mr.....	
5	Business partners		
6	6-Input suppliers		
		1. Ms..... 2. Mr..... 3. Mr.....	

7	7- Traders	1. Ms..... 2. Ms..... 3. Mr.....	
8	8- Consumer representatives	1. Ms..... 2. Ms..... 3. Mr.....	
9	9-Financial institutions	1. 2.	
10	10-Etc		

5-Setting items to discuss during MSPs

Various topics will bring to discuss during MSPs meeting to develop or improve Value Chain, including (as examples):

- Improved networking, coordination and cooperation for tangible results;
- Achieved higher producer prices;
- Improved market transparency, trade contracts or product branding;
- Seek advice for address particular issues.

6-Outcomes of MSPs

Outcomes of MSPs are difficult to predict, as they depend on the initial context, commitment of participants, skills, coordination and commitment of facilitation and the scope of feasible improvement options that can be identified. Possible outcomes are:

- Improved market transparency and market information e.g. by providing transparent information on price and traded volumes;
- Improved linkages between VC actors in terms of number and quality. New partnerships may evolve and existing ones may be strengthened;
- Joint and coordinated action, e.g. group and cooperative formation, involving business associations;
- Promotion and lobbyism towards the government and its role in providing enabling framework conditions for trade and commerce;
- Mutual understanding between VC actors and conflict resolution resulting in a broader feeling of ownership of developed activities.

Upon completion of the VC Analyses, Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) assemblies are convened on district level. An MSP assembly consists of relevant stakeholders within a value chain, including farmer representatives, farmers and private sector organizations, government representatives, traders, processing enterprises, input suppliers, consumer representatives and financial institutions.

For the first MSP meeting, previously identified actors (Step 1) are invited. The following points are on the agenda:

- Introduce and explain the MSP concept, including the project related activities; discuss scope and expectations;
- Present and verify the Commodity Value Chain Analysis, using discussion to add further details and viewpoints;
- Discuss about participants' viewpoints on challenges and opportunities for positive intervention; add information from VC Analysis and context, where necessary;
- Prepare and rank lists of challenges, fields for improvement and potential interventions;
- Pick possible interventions with good potential and feasibility, and identify related key stakeholders who will involve in implementation; and
- Plan for follow-up action involving key stakeholders: formation of sub-groups, contact with actors interested in further support.

7-Value Chain Analysis (VCA)

The Agro-Enterprise Investment team will, based on existing information and in-depth interviews with stakeholders, prepare a concise Value Chain Analysis (VCA) including mapping of value chain actors, processes, the added value at each link, and an initial identification of challenges and opportunities. During the first plenary meeting of the MSP, focus is on presenting, verifying and discussing the VCA to develop and rank potential interventions and to identify applicants for the Agro-Enterprise Investment Facility, etc.