

Supporting Inclusive Planning of country projects financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

Summary of Experiences, Lessons and Challenges in Asia



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A donor's review...

First, its targeted funds go to countries where the best ideas come from and where the government is committed to progress in the agricultural sector;

Second, it aims for transformational change, not just another set of projects;

Third, it is evidence based, focused on continuous improvement, monitoring and evaluation, and impact assessment;

Fourth, it's inclusive in both in design and execution – NGOs, farmers, and the private sector are all involved;

Fifth, it is transparent in its operations and accountable for results.

GAFSP Funded Projects in 4 Asian Countries

Country/ Supervising Entity	Target Number of Beneficiaries	GAFSP Funding (US Dollars)	% of Women Beneficiaries
Bangladesh/WB/FAO	1,076,750	50.00 million	20%
Cambodia/ADB	1,410,00	39.10 million	50%
Mongolia/WB	130,000	12.50 million	50%
Nepal/WB/FAO	660,000	46.50 million	No data

GAFSP Funded Project Components

Country	Title of Project	Components
Bangladesh	Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.research extension-farmer 2.technology promotion and improved seed; 3.improved crop and water management 4.training and capacity building of farmers' groups

Country	Title of Project	Components
Cambodia	<p>1. “Emergency Food Assistance Project” US\$ 24.5 million</p> <p>2. “Climate Resilient Rice Commercialization Sector Development Program” US\$ 14.6 million</p>	<p>1.strengthening technology and adoption of higher yielding technologies;</p> <p>2.improving the efficiency of agricultural land use;</p> <p>3.reducing transfer and transaction costs in farmer to market linkages;</p> <p>4.better managing price and weather risk;</p> <p>5.improving nutrition of vulnerable groups through home gardening and health care training;</p> <p>6.institution building and capacity development of pertinent government agencies</p>

Country	Title of Project	Components
Mongolia	Integrated Livestock-based Livelihoods Support Project (ILBLISP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.improving livestock productivity and quality 2.enhance access to domestic and regional markets; 3.improving household food security and resilience by diversifying on-and off-farm activities and processing; 4.increasing the capacity and effective decision-making by actors involved in program implementation and management.

Country	Title of Project	Components
Nepal	Agriculture and Food Security Project in Nepal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.relevant technologies to boost productivity and climate resilience of agriculture; 2.enhancing local availability of improved seed and livestock breeds; 3.improved management and husbandry practices and use modern inputs; 4.improving water conservation and use, including for domestic purposes; 5.supporting local infrastructure and value-chain development; 6.enhancing livelihood options for wage labourers and landless farmers; 7.increasing access to protein and micro-nutrient rich foods; 8.use of nutritional supplements and behaviour change communication.



Supporting Inclusive Planning of country projects financed by the GAFSP

Objective:

To support membership-based producer organizations representing small farmers to actively participate and provide an effective contribution to the national design phase of the investment projects financed under the public sector financing window of the GAFSP initiative.

Undertaken in 4 countries in Asia that includes Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia



Four Steps Implementation

Step 1 is “ensuring FO involvement in the institutional setting of the country’s design process.”

Step 2 is “choice of in-country FOs to benefit from the grant.”

Step 3 is “national FOs to prepare a proposal for their involvement in the design phase.” and

Step 4 is “ FO involvement in the GAFSP project full design.”



Step 1-3 was undertaken by AFA

Step 4: small grants through AsiaDHRRA to the following FOs/NGOs under Step 2 of the Process:

1. Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) for Cambodia
2. All Nepal Peasant Federation Association for Nepal (ANPFa),
3. Action Aid Bangladesh for Kendrio Krishok Moitree (AA-B-KKM) for Bangladesh, and
4. Adventists Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) for Mongolia.

The Results

1. Four national farmers platforms were formed for GAFSP in-country engagement (FOs, CSOs, and others support groups, e.g. media, religious organizations).

- encompassing the whole range of agricultural issues, but food sovereignty as top priority, and stronger farmers organizations, participation and governance as accompanying agenda

Country	Platform
Bangladesh	Formed a solidarity group of farmers organizations in Bangladesh led by Kendrio Krishok Moitree (KKM) and national CSOs and especially FOs from selected districts of Bangladesh, namely Kurigram and Patuakhali (6 union based farmers' alliance of KKM (180 village-based farmer organizations, their members)
Cambodia	Formed a platform of national farmers organizations and national CSOs
Mongolia	Formed a loose "coalition" of FO & CSO organizations at the national level that includes NAMAC.
Nepal	9 different national farmer organizations Forestry groups, Fishery groups, Human rights groups at the national, central and local organizations.

2. The FO/CSO platforms have achieved varying levels of influence in Nepal, Cambodia and Bangladesh on the project objectives, type of interventions, targets and possible levels of engagement and participation in the implementation of the projects.

Activities include a) building FO/CSO platform, b) capacity building on constructive engagement, c) target areas visits, farmer-level consultations, d) profiling of FOs, and e) engaging government thru consultation workshops, dialogues aimed at providing info, feedback and suggestions in the project design.



3. The project contributed to increasing realization of FO leaders on the need to work together. It provided an opportunity for a “warmer” working relationship between and among different FOs, between FOs and government and other stakeholders.

- Indicative of setting aside historical divides among FOs.

Facilitating Factors

1. The GAFSP design itself that calls for FO/CSO participation, and provisions of Annex 3/GAFSP Guidelines. Membership of CSO representatives in GAFSP Steering Committee. Though non-voting members, they were able to exert some influence in the SC.
2. Growing recognition of the larger portion of FOs on the need to become stronger (individually and as coalitions) in influencing programs and engaging government. Committed FOs and leaders.

Facilitating Factors

3. IFAD's support for national FO platforms through the MTCP has boosted the possibility of project's chances of success at the formation of national FO platforms for GAFSP engagement.

5. Increasing openness of governments for constructive engagement with FOs. Exposure to regional/global processes e.g. FAO-APRC, CFS

6. Strategic regional link of AFA and AsiaDHRRA with the ADB and FAO utilized to facilitate involvement and participation of FOs in the 4 countries.

Hindering Factors

1. Overall unpreparedness among FOs to engage with government and/or inability to act as a united front. Weak capacity, attitude, paradigm.
2. Absence of government mechanism for FO engagement/participation, lack of transparency and inadequacy of capacities among government officials to engage FOs (e.g. coordination among government agencies, understanding FO/CSO landscape).

Hindering Factors

3. Inadequacy of information regarding the processes already undertaken by government related to GAFSP projects. Some GAFSP projects approved before the parallel IFAD/AgriCord FO/CSO support came in.

4. Unstable/changing political context in the country impacts on FO/CSO involvement in GAFSP and other public programs.

5. Inability/constraint of lead institutions e.g. WB, FAO, ADB to translate “progressive decisions” of global SC to action at national level implementation.

Lessons

1. Government openness not maximized due to weakness of FOs themselves. If no strong demand from FOs, government will proceed business as usual. Success hinged on FO capacity, attitude, and paradigm. Engagement has to be anchored on trust, social capital, and solidarity.
2. There is a tall order for FOs - a strong governance system and a recognition to unify ranks to strengthen its voice. In broad-based coordination platforms, clarity of roles and responsibilities among partners essential.



Lessons

3. Integrate efforts. Think/move beyond GAFSP and utilize new unities and GAFSP and similar experiences to influence, engage government on policies, program, budget allocation, and participate in the implementation of other government agricultural programs.

Lessons

4. FO participation requires financial support, especially at the early stages. The small but strategic support from IFAD/AgriCord was crucial in the engagement process. It needs to be sustained.
5. Timely implementation of the project could have facilitated greater achievement of target objectives. IFAD/Agricord support came only in the second quarter of 2012. GAFSP Project processes and preparations were already undertaken in 2011.

Project Timelines (based on GAFSP Public Sector Window: Project Implementation Update, January 2012.

Country	Project Title and Supervising Entity	Status as of December 9 2011	Effectivity	Latest Milestones as of December 2011
Bangladesh	IAPP – World Bank	Implementation	September 12, 2011	Project Launch in Dhaka, November 27, 2011
	IAPP Technical Assistance, Component, Capacity Development in Agriculture and Food Security Programmes - FAO	Implementation	November 2011	Needs assessment mission in November and December 2011
Cambodia	“Emergency Food Assistance Project” US\$ 24.5 million - ADB “Climate Resilient Rice Commercialization Sector Development Program” US\$ 14.6 million - ADB	Preparation	Beginning third quarter of 2012	SC approved change in implementation modality in December 1, 2011
Mongolia	Integrated Livestock-based Livelihoods Support Project (ILBLISP) – World Bank	Preparation	June 2012	Preparation Mission December 2011
Nepal	Agriculture and Food Security Project in Nepal – World Bank	Preparation	TBD	Project Concept Note Review on December 19, 2011



Call to action for FOs/CSOs

1. Influence the utilization of available budget for capacity-building included in the GAFSP Projects in 4 countries. Demand for due participation and access to information.
2. Broaden, strengthen, enhance existing FO platforms beyond GAFSP projects and mobilize needed human resources, capacities and financial resources from various partners. Use MTCP2 opportunities.
3. Pursue capacity building and learning on constructive engagement/dialogue. Deepen engagement processes with strong participation of local FOs and members

Call to action for FOs/CSOs

4. Timely and inclusive dissemination of information to help FOs undergo “preparedness” processes. Strengthen communications system and link up national processes with regional/global and vice versa.

5. Continuous monitoring of GAFSP implementation through national FO/CSO platforms and effective participation in GAFSP Steering Committees/Working Groups. Explore the Private Sector window and build capacities along this engagement.



Thank You

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