

Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

Swaziland

JSR BUILDING BLOCKS/BEST PRACTICES	BEST PRACTICES	PRACTICE IN PLACE? (Yes/No)	WHAT IS THE CURRENT PRACTICE IN THE COUNTRY?
Existence of a JSR Steering Committee (SC)	SC provides strategic direction for the establishment and operation of the JSR. It is usually chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and includes as members leading donors and 3-4 other representatives of key stakeholder groups	Yes	<p>The Steering Committee (SC) is led by the Ministry of Agriculture with support from other ministries i.e. Finance, Economic Planning and Development and Environment and Natural Resources. Non-state actors are also involved through civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the Council of Churches and the Swaziland Farmers Association.</p> <p>Active involvement of senior government officials such as Under-Secretaries and Principal Secretaries, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Agriculture during the 2015 JSR assessment is commendable.</p>
Existence of a JSR Secretariat	Secretariat coordinates activities and operations of the JSR and JSR SC. It can be made up of core staff from the Planning & M&E Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture	Yes	<p>JSR Secretariat was established under the leadership of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. A key role of the Secretariat is to facilitate the JSR process among all key stakeholder groups.</p> <p>The Permanent secretary was very hands on in the appointment of the JSR secretariat.</p>
Existence of JSR Terms of Reference (TOR) for the JSR	TOR to lay out JSR objectives, state and non-state stakeholders and their roles, roles of the SC and Secretariat, operating principles, structure and frequency of JSR meetings and follow up and implementation of actions, etc.	Yes	The country customized and modified the TORs to meet the needs and demands of the sector. The roles given to the secretariat and the consultants are clearly defined.

	TOR may also need to be developed consultants hired to conduct JSR studies.		
Resources are mobilized	Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR.	Not yet	Strengthening the Secretariat will help enable it to canvass for resources from both state and non-state actors.
Steering Committee/Secretariat invites a broad and inclusive group of state and non-state actors/stakeholders to participate in JSR	A key aspect of the JSR is that it allows broad group of state and non-state stakeholders to influence overall policies and priorities of the sector by assessing how well they have implemented their commitments stipulated in the CAADP compact, NAFSIP, and related cooperation agreements such as under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.	Yes	All key stakeholders in the agriculture sector were invited to the JSR assessment inception and report validation meetings. There is need to better publicize meetings among all key stakeholders ensure their attendance.
Existing agricultural policy dialogue and review processes; data quality and analytical capacities are assessed.	An assessment of any existing agricultural policy dialogue and review processes, data quality, and analytical capacities and tools and networks and any existing knowledge systems is key to identifying any gaps and coming up with ways to fill gaps and enhance capacities, tools, and processes through the JSR	Yes	Reviews were carried out during the JSR assessment. There is need to strengthen analytical capacities and improve data quality.
JSR Studies/Analysis Conducted	Consultants may need to be hired and supervised by the SC to conduct JSR studies. Consultants can come from think tanks, universities, or private companies and should work closely with staff from the Planning Unit, and the JSR SC and Secretariat.	Yes (the JSR assessment)	The Assessment report was comprehensive in its analysis and issues covered. It was well received by the Ministry of Agriculture and the other stakeholders.
JSR Review Team Established	Team made up of a multi-stakeholder group (state and non-state actors) with technical expertise to review and comment on various JSR	Yes (during the JSR Assessment)	A Review Team was constituted during the JSR Assessment. Future Review Teams need to be made more inclusive.

	studies and reports and ensures outputs of reviews are implemented.		
JSR Report Prepared	Preparing evidence based on relevant high-quality studies and reports on the JSR content areas. To be an effective mutual accountability process, the JSR Report will need to be grounded in high quality data and analysis as well as transparency and inclusive stakeholder participation.	Yes (the JSR assessment)	The JSR Assessment Report provided a blueprint for future JSR reports.
JSR Meeting Conducted	Organize meeting over 1-3 days, using various formats (plenary, small groups, field visit, etc.) to allow stakeholders discuss/verify the evidence and recommendations presented in the JSR Report. This can be done at different levels (national and sub-national). The process should assist in identifying sector priorities and policies and specific actions for the different stakeholders to put in place. These would be captured in a JSR Aide Memoir.	No	No JSR meeting has been held due to lack of resources and the retirement of some of the senior Ministry officials.
There is follow up on JSR Meeting Actions	Closely monitor and ensure implementation of recommendations and decisions of the JSR meeting (embodied in the JSR Aide Memoir). Groups that meet more regularly such as the Agriculture Sector Working Group can help with follow up and monitoring. The monitoring forms the basis of the next JSR cycle.	No	Lack of resources have hampered follow up on JSR actions following the JSR assessment.
JSR experiences are shared with other countries	As many countries are still setting up JSR, it is essential to share lessons learned, best practices, and experiences to further strengthen country JSRs. Forums such as the CAADP PP and ReSAKSS Annual	Yes	The country's JSR experience has been shared during the ReSAKSS Annual Conferences which bring countries to deliberate on progress made in strengthening mutual accountability processes.

	Conference provide an opportunity to do this.		
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