

Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

Uganda

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	Uganda's Agriculture Sector Working Group makes up the SC for its Joint Agricultural Annual Review (JASAR). The SC is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The SC includes MAAIF, other agriculture line ministries, donors, and non-state actors (NSAs).
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	The country has a JASAR secretariat which coordinates activities and operations of the JASAR. It is made up of staff from the Directorate of Planning and M&E within MAAIF.
Existence of JSR Terms of Reference (TOR) for the JSR	<p>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.</p> <p>TOR may also need to be developed consultants hired to conduct JSR studies.</p>	Yes	TOR for JASAR exist and they are comprehensive. However, in practice the review is dominated by MAAIF performance reporting. Some areas (such as public expenditures, outcome and impact performance, development partners' performance and non-state actors' performance) are not reviewed in detail. MAAIF invites selected institutions to make presentations on topical issues.
Resources are mobilized	Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR.	Yes	JASAR is funded by both MAAIF and donors. However, resource mobilization for the

			JASAR remains a challenge. MAAIF and donor resources to support JASAR are not always available in a timely manner due to competing priorities. Capacity of the M&E unit is limited in terms of staffing and analytical capacity.
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	The 2015 JSR assessment showed that participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector and broad representation of farmers in the JASAR process were inadequate. The country has started addressing these challenges; the 2016 review had more involvement of NSAs.
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	No	<p>Until recently, the reviews have not focused on dialogue and review of policy processes. JASAR has mainly been reporting on the performance of various government ministries and parastatals. After JSR assessment, the country has committed to improve on this area and plans are underway to implement the changes gradually during subsequent reviews.</p> <p>Although, MAAIF input and output data are considered to be of good quality, most available survey data are not up-to-date and do not capture all the required outcome and impact indicators that ought to be reported on during the reviews.</p>

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.	No	The link between JASAR and studies conducted in the sector is weak. The JASAR focuses on output performance of the Ministry against its annual plans and budgets. The JASAR SC does not undertake any JSR related studies.
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 studies and reports and ensures outputs of reviews are implemented.	Yes	The JSR Secretariat and technical working groups are largely comprised of MAAIF staff, with limited multi-stakeholder involvement. The two groups largely review performance reports of MAAIF and its agencies. Solicited papers are not reviewed in advance of the JASAR workshop.
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.	NO	No JASAR reports have been prepared so far. Each year there has been a production of the proceedings of the JASAR meetings. No special studies have been conducted specifically for the JASAR. A MAAIF performance report is prepared by ministry staff and is based on ministry data and 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	Yes	JASAR takes place for about 1 to 2 days. The meetings are normally big with over 300 participants. The agenda is often packed and does not allow ample time for discussions. Starting in 2016, Uganda has implemented zonal meetings which are expected to reduce the number of participants in the national meeting.

	put in place. These would be captured in a JSR Aide Memoir.		
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	MAAIF has not regularly reported on the progress of implementing JASAR Actions to top policymakers and the Agriculture Sector Working Group. It has also not explicitly indicated in its Ministerial Policy Statement how JASAR Actions will or have been incorporated into the agriculture sector work plan and budget.
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 Conference provide an opportunity to do this.	Yes	Uganda's MAAIF has printed and uploaded some of its JASAR workshop reports and annual performance reports to its website. It has also participated in regional and continental meetings such as the ReSAKSS Annual Conference to share its experience on JASAR with other countries.