

Rwanda SAKSS

Progress Report for 1 May to 31 August 2011¹

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Since May 2010, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has been providing support to the Government of Rwanda in the establishment and operation of the Rwanda-SAKSS to inform the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of agriculture and rural development policies and programs in Rwanda in general, and the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA II) in particular. A Rwanda-SAKSS Coordinator was recruited to establish and operate the SAKSS Node, which is based at the Directorate of Planning and Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal resources (MINAGRI) under the supervision of the Director and guidance of the Permanent Secretary. The establishment of Rwanda SAKSS has proven to be a valuable addition to policy, planning, implementation and monitoring evaluation in the agricultural sector ([see annual report](#)).

The overall goal of Rwanda-SAKSS to provide strategic analysis and operational information for stakeholders (both state and non-state actors) involved with agricultural and rural development in Rwanda, leading to greater growth and faster poverty reduction. The main objective of Rwanda-SAKSS is to provide data collection and analytical support for review of progress in implementation of PSTA-II and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Together, the above objectives will contribute to the following outcomes:

- a. The availability of timely and relevant information to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation needs of PSTA-II as illustrated by their demonstrated use in key review and dialogue fora in the country (e.g. Joint Agricultural Sector Review and other Mutual Accountability processes).
- b. The satisfactory operation of a well integrated PSTA-CAADP M&E system as illustrated by: (i) regular collection, documentation, and processing of data on the M&E indicators for use in ATORs at the national (by Rwanda-SAKSS), regional (by ReSAKSS-ECA) and continental (by ReSAKSS-AW) levels; and (ii) timely publication and ready availability as well as accessibility of the above indicators and related monitoring reports.

This document presents progress made in 1 May-31 August 2011, against the workplan for the year which is presented next.

WORK PLAN

Tasks	Delivery Date	Description of Deliverable
1. 2011 Agricultural Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data collection for feature topic (agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 31 August 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on selected indicators of agricultural productivity• Database on PSTA-II and CAADP M&E core indicators [actual up to 2010]

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productivity) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection on PSTA-II and CAADP M&E indicators • Analysis & write-up on feature topic (agricultural productivity) • Analysis & write-up on ATOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 September 2011 • 15 September 2011 • 30 November 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on agricultural productivity, including analysis of successful and failed agricultural projects • Report on status and trends in PSTA-II and CAADP M&E indicators
2. Technical Assistance (TA) to MINAGRI and other agricultural policy analysis units and review processes in the country	End of month report on activities and outputs, and challenges	Via technical working groups, committees, projects, etc., report on nature of assignments and accomplishments
3. Capacity Strengthening of MINAGRI and other agricultural policy analysis units in the country	End of month report on activities and outputs, and challenges	Report on purpose, topic and tools used for capacity strengthening activities; and number of people trained by institutional affiliation, gender, etc.
4. Communications via Rwanda-SAKSS newsletter, policy briefs, seminars, etc. to inform implementation of PSTA-II and CAADP	End of month report on activities and outputs, and challenges	Communication products that are integrated with the ReSAKSS website, but independently managed and continuously updated by Rwanda-SAKSS-SA with knowledge products, news, events, and other information relevant to PSTA-II and CAADP implementation in the country
5. Occasional analysis and papers		Research topics, tasks, deliverables and delivery dates shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be agreed upon with PS and Director of Planning and Policy, MINAGRI; • fall within the mandate and competence of Rwanda-SAKSS; and • not compete for the resources allocated for other tasks and deliverables cited above.

PROGRESS

1. Annual Trends and Outlook Report

The month of May 2010 was devoted to the 2010 report revision based on ReSAKSS-ECA comments whereas the remaining months were dedicated to the preparation of a dissemination workshop for the report in Rwanda among the stakeholders. The workshop is planned to take place in Kigali on 14 September 2011 (see workshop program in Appendix 1).

Data collection for the 2011 Trends report has already started with the government budget for the financial year 2011/2012. Expenditures by development partners and the private sector are also being analyzed.

2. Technical Assistance

Much time for this task has been devoted to the following activities:

2.1 Assessment of the agricultural statistics system in collaboration with NISR

The SAKSS Coordinator is leading a MINAGRI team that works closely with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) on improving the agriculture statistics system, as a result had several meetings with an AfDB mission to Rwanda on the following. The need expressed of setting up a network of agricultural statistics partners becomes a key activity of the country SAKSS to taking part in the improvement of the agricultural statistics system. For the country SAKSS, this involves the participation of its Coordinator to ensuring capacity strengthening of MINAGRI in providing the expertise needed.

The Government of Rwanda, through the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) requested AfDB's technical assistance in order to help "*assessing the current agricultural statistics system including staffing in various institutions, quality and relevance of statistics produced*". The mission was undertaken from 26 July to 05 August 2011 and had regular working meetings with major agricultural data producers and users, including the Rwanda SAKSS node in the Planning Unit, MINAGRI with a main purpose of building the capacity of MINAGRI to produce regular, high quality, sustainable, harmonized and cost-effective crop production statistics for food security monitoring, programme evaluation, national accounting and other purposes, within the limited resources constraints.

With regards to the main outcomes of the meeting, the country SAKSS would have to plan in the coming months the following, and not limited to:

- Take part in the preparation of the agricultural survey (2012-2013) in collaboration with NISR;
- Seek technical assistance to MINAGRI staff in agricultural census undertaking and methodological preparation of the agriculture census and integrated survey system;
- Be in a technical committee in charge of creating Sectoral Working Groups (SWGs) which should operate at a strategic or planning level with respect to statistical coordination;
- In connection with the usual crop assessments that are annually conducted by MINAGRI, review the methodology, especially regarding the sampling method, the sample size (about 2,500 households), area measurement, crop production estimates, etc.

2.2 Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System - round 3 data collection

The SAKSS Coordinator is a member of a technical team preparing the Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System (FNSMS) survey. Responsibilities of the team include the preparation of the work plan, field work, training of enumerators and supervisors, debriefing and data analysis as well as report writing.

The FNSMS survey tracks and reports household food and nutrition insecurity by conducting trend analysis and early detection of emerging food security and nutrition concerns. Two previous rounds have been conducted in September 2010 and March 2011. The third round of FNSMS survey will be conducted from 4 to 20 September 2011.

MINAGRI is the leading agency in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government, NISR, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, FEWSNET, and World Vision Rwanda. The

objectives of the FNSMS are to provide timely and relevant information for decision-makers on the food and nutrition situation of households in Rwanda on key questions:

1. Is there a food security / nutrition crisis posing immediate or short-term risks to lives and/or livelihoods?
2. Is there a need for more thorough assessment? If yes, when, where, which focus?

2.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E unit in MINAGRI, in collaboration with the SAKSS Coordinator, is developing a new M&E framework for the ministry to track progress in implementation and outcomes of EDPRS and PSTA II. As the PSTAII ends in 2012, the SAKSS Coordinator was requested to develop ToRs for designing the PSTA III.

2.4 Public Expenditure Review [PER] in the Agricultural Sector

Rwanda SAKSS is coordinating, on behalf of MINAGRI, a group of consultants undertaking the PER in the Agricultural Sector in Rwanda from 2008 to June 2011.

The PER helps to analyze the extent to which policy priorities are effectively implemented in practice through budget allocation in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending. In a general sense, the PER involves analysis of the extent to which policy priorities are effectively implemented in practice through budget allocation in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending. In specific terms, the consultants are undertaking a systematic analysis of the available data sets on allocation and management of Agricultural sector expenditures covering the period January, 1st 2008 up to June 30th 2010.

Apart from reviewing the inception report, the SAKSS coordinator provides support to consultants on the report structure and facilitates the group in reviewing relevant documents and organizing interviews with MINAGRI and other stakeholder officials.

3. Capacity Strengthening Activities

Much time has been devoted to other activities including the following:

3.1 SAKSS and MAF planning meeting, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, July 19-21, 2011

The SAKSS Coordinator participated in the planning meeting for establishing and strengthening strategic analysis knowledge support systems and mutual accountability platforms, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, 19-21 July 2011 and gave a presentation on existing accountability mechanisms in Rwanda.

The meeting had the following objectives:

- Discuss countries' experiences and expectations in undertaking M&E and accountability related initiatives;
- Develop strategies for providing coordinated support to countries in operationalizing and strengthening M&E and accountability systems;
- Select additional countries for SAKSS and mutual accountability-support; and
- Develop a roadmap for providing support to countries in the establishment/strengthening of country SAKSS and of mutual accountability mechanisms.

3.2 Visit of IFPRI Staff on the Convergence Agenda project

Rwanda SAKSS completed and sent a data set of 505 household and 30 community level CS-PRO files to IFPRI at the end of April 2011. The data will be used by IFPRI/Rwanda SAKSS for a study entitled: “Households social expenditures and agricultural productivity: Evidence from Rwanda²”.

IFPRI staff members, Tsitsi Makombe and Samson Dejene travelled to Kigali, Rwanda in late May to clean the data while they had access to hard copy questionnaires. With the help of the country SAKSS coordinator, they checked for coding errors, made necessary corrections, generated new codes when necessary, checked for duplicates, missing data, outliers and various inconsistencies in 505 household and 30 community level data.

Tsitsi Makombe stayed in Rwanda for 2 weeks to finalize the cleaning of all household survey data and the clean data files in STATA format along with DO and LOG files have been made available to the project team via the project web space.

3.3 Participation in a conference call with IFPRI on the Convergence Agenda project

Participants included researchers from Gottingen University, IFPRI-Dakar & Washington DC staff and country representatives (Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tanzania).

The agenda included:

Updates by country on village and household surveys, Government expenditure data available and cleaned data posted on basecampHQ.com.

Planned activities for rest of year. This will be the primary focus of the Dakar meeting to generate a set of project deliverables as well as a clear plan of how teams and individuals should move forward with their analyses. It was suggested to develop a common methodology that could be followed by each country team for a set of general papers (developed into a monograph), and then give researchers the freedom to develop papers topics that are of particular interest to them.

Logistics and preparations for the Dakar meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 11-12 October 2011 and will take place at IFPRI-Dakar Office with the following goals:

- Discuss papers that are currently being considered and/or are already drafted
- Refine methodologies for those papers and others planned

Spend more time on deliverables on the first day when all members are in attendance

3.4 SAKSS Network

² Brief description of the study: When analyzing human capital investment (health and education) much emphasis has been put on external efforts while farmer’s own social expenses are overlooked. However, households are also a relevant unit of analysis for assessing the cost of investment in human capital and these investments decisions entail negotiations between household members. Unlike previous studies, we introduce into the household agricultural production framework explicit human capital production functions that account for households own health and education expenses. To account for direct and indirect effects as well as endogeneity issues, we intend to use a structural equation model which is fit to handle complex relationships among variables.

Through the Agriculture Sector Working Group meetings, contacts are regularly made to build partnerships with in-country stakeholders, especially those who can be part of the SAKSS Network.

5. Occasional Papers and Statistical Analyses

A paper on soil testing and adoption of innovation among coffee producers in selected areas of Rwanda is being prepared by the SAKSS Coordinator given the literature available in MINAGRI. This is in line with the MINAGRI planning unit to avail statistical analyses and also falls within the mandate and competence of the country SAKSS. Results will have implications for development of a sound agricultural policy in Rwanda. This activity will require financial resources for the paper publication in November 2011.

Appendix 1

Validation Workshop of the 2010 Trends and Outlook Report

**Lemigo Hotel, 14th September, 2011
Program**

Time	Activity	Responsible
8:30-9:00	Registration of participants	Protocol
9:00-9:15	Welcome remarks and introduction of meeting objectives	MINAGRI, ReSAKSS-ECA
9:15-9:35	Africa-wide CAADP M&E framework	Stella Massawe (ReSAKSS-ECA)
9:35-9:55	Rwanda CAADP and Agriculture M&E	Claude Bizimana (Rwanda SAKSS)
9:55-10:15	Agricultural policy and strategy and level of their implementation	John Kalisa (Office of the Prime Minister)
10:15-10:35	Questions and Answers	Workshop facilitator
10.35-10.50	Health Break	Protocol
10:50-11:10	Agricultural growth, trade performance, investment trends and opportunities	Felicien Usengumukiza (National University of Rwanda)
11:10-11:30	Poverty, hunger, food and nutrition security and agricultural investment, growth, poverty, and hunger linkages	John Rwirahira (Institute of Policy Analysis and Research)
11:30-11:50	Questions and Answers	Workshop facilitator
11:50-12:45	Group task: Review and validation of the report (specific guidelines to be provided)	Workshop participants
12.45-14.00	Lunch	Protocol
14:00-15:00	Group Presentations and feedback	Workshop participants
15:00-15:20	Compilation and Dissemination of Agricultural Statistics in Rwanda: Lessons, Challenges and opportunities	Sebastien Manzi (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda)
15:20-15:40	Questions and Answers	Workshop facilitator
15.40-15.55	Health Break	Protocol
15:55-16:25	CAADP ME under the SAKSS framework	Joseph Karugia (ReSAKSS-ECA)
16:25-16:45	Summary of the key messages	Paul Guthiga (ReSAKSS-ECA)
16:45-17:00	Closing remarks	MINAGRI, ReSAKSS-ECA