**PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY FOR APPLIED POLICY RESEARCH WITH IMPACT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRCI, LESSONS, AND NEXT STEPS**

Washington, DC (Ronald Reagan Building, Polaris ABC)

March 6-8, 2024

**Virtual Option: https://msu.zoom.us/j/93507697285**

**Meeting ID: 935 0769 7285**

**Passcode: prci**

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| **OVERVIEW OF MEETING STRUCTURE** |

* DAY ONE: Opening and big picture
  + Videos from partners and interactive sessions on partner accomplishments
  + Presentations on internal assessments
  + Moderated panels
  + Group work distilling initial lessons
* DAY TWO: Under the Hood: PRCI components and research
  + Closer look at how PRCI was structured and how it operated
  + Research results
* DAY THREE: Big picture: What have we learned for future program design?
  + Recap of past two days
  + Work groups: meet, report out, discussion

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| **DAY ONE: Opening and big picture overview of PRCI’s central mission** |

7:30 Registration and breakfast

8:45 Opening (45 min)

* + Dr. Emily Weeks, Senior Policy Advisor and PRCI AOR, REFS/USAID
  + Ann Vaughan, Deputy Assistant Administrator, REFS/USAID
  + Prof. Titus Awokuse, Associate Dean for International Studies and Programs, MSU
  + Video presentations from three African Centers for Policy Leadership

9:30 PRCI: Objectives, approach, lessons, and preview of the next two days (David Tschirley) (20 min)

9:50 Interactive overview of centers’ experience in PRCI: Gallery Walk and plenary session, with break in middle

* + Video Montage from other African and Asian centers (5 min)
  + Structured Gallery Walk (60 min)
  + BREAK (30 min)
  + Plenary session: what common themes emerged from the gallery walk? (30 min)

11:50 PRCI’s central mission: Strengthening institutional capacity for policy research with impact

11:50 Part I: Results of internal assessments (60 min) (***Moderator: David Tschirley, MSU)***

11:50 ***PRCI Assessment: Learning from Centers’ Perspectives*** (30 min)

* + - Assessment of the Policy Impact Capacity Advancement (PICA) Program (Africa) (John Bonnell and Cait Goddard) (10 min)
    - Self-Assessment by Asian centers (Suresh Babu (IFPRI) (10 min)
    - Networking: ANAPRI self-assessment of the impacts of PRCI (Tinashe Kapuya, ANAPRI) (10 min)

12:20 ***PRCI Assessment: Learning from Policy Makers’ Perspectives*** (15 min)

* Results of first- and second round of surveys and interviews of policy makers (Mywish Maredia, MSU) (15 min)

12:35 Discussant from USAID (5 min): Amy Davies, USAID

12:40 Q & A (20 min)

1:00 Lunch

2:15 Part II: Moderated Panel Sessions (45-minute panels)

2:15 Panel 1: Have internal processes, attitudes, and activities changed in your organization? How? Why? (ISRA-BAME, EPRC, PiLAF, ANAPRI)

***Moderator: John Bonnell (MSU)***

3:00 Q & A (10 min)

3:10 Panel 2: How has the external engagement of your center changed and what impact do you believe it has had on policy processes in your country? (Kasetsart, IIDS, EPRC

* + - * + ***Moderator: Kristin Davis (IFPRI)***

3:55 Q & A (10 min)

4:00 Discussant from USAID (5 min)

4:10 Breakout Groups: What have we learned so far? What might be the implications for future design of programs like PRCI?

* + Groups of ~ 10
  + A note-taker will deliver notes to PRCI leadership for input into final day session

5:30 Close and transition to Social Hour

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| **DAY TWO: Under the Hood: PRCI components and research** |

7:00 Breakfast

8:45 Takeaways from yesterday and overview of the day ***(David Tschirley)***

9:00 PRCI Components

9:00 Gender: Has PRCI successfully enabled greater gender mainstreaming? What are needed next steps? (60 min)

* + Presentation on results of an outside assessment (IFPRI) (10 min)
  + Perspectives from female researchers: Moderated panel of African and Asian female researchers (40 min) ***(Moderator: Elizabeth Bryan)***
  + Q & A (10 min)

10:00 PRCI’s Technical training program: Co-training (or training-of-trainers) approach: How did it work and what are next steps?

10:00 Presentation on survey of participants and interviews of center leaders (Africa)

(Veronique Theriault) (10 min)

10:10 Presentation on Asia training (Suresh Babu) (10 min)

10:20 BREAK

10:50 Moderated panel with African and Asian researchers (30 min)

11:20 Q & A (10 min)

11:30 PRCI Components, cont’d

11:30 STAAARS+

* Introduction (David Tschirley, 5 min)
* STAAARS+ structure, objectives, and accomplishments (Kelsey Schreiber, 10 min)
* Research presentation: Domestic or imported: An analysis of rice demand in Senegal. Ndeye Fatou Faye, ISRA-BAME (10 min)
* Q&A (5 min)

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Climate Change Research and Policy Engagement

1:15 Research (***Moderator: David Tschirley)*** (40 min)

* + - Modeling Climate Change for Policy Action (Thurlow, IFPRI) (10 min)
    - Agrifood supply chains and African farms’ sustainability and climate resilience (Reardon, MSU) (10 min)
    - Assessing value chain CSi and business models for scaling (Boughton, MSU) (10 min)
    - Q & A (10 min)

1:55 Evidence-informed engagement on climate change policy: The Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) (***Moderator: Nalishebo Meebelo***)

* + - Moderated panel (40 min)
      * Antony Chapoto, ANAPRI (Africa)
      * Suresh Babu, IFPRI (Asia)
      * James Thurlow, IFPRI (Global/modeling for policy)
      * Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063

2:35 Discussant from USAID (5 min): Emily Weeks

2:340 Q & A (10 min)

2:50 Break (30 min)

3:20 More on shocks: Policy responses to shocks in food, fuel, and fertilizer prices in Africa ***(moderated by TBD)*** (35 min)

* Study results: Timeline, categorization, and assessment of policy responses (Ayala Wineman, MSU) (10 min)
* Study results: Deeper dive on fertilizer and soil health policy responses (Emmanuel Makiwa, ANAPRI) (10 min)
* Discussant (5 min): Zachary Stewart, USAID (Virtual)
* Q & A (10 min)

3:55 Food systems and nutrition: Research under the Center for Nutrition Buy-in (40 min) ***(Moderator: TBD from USAID/CFN)*** (35 min)

* + Presentation on Large-scale food fortification (Lilian Kirimi, Tegemeo) (10 min)
* Presentation on Food environments and individual diets: Evidence from Kenya (Ayala Wineman, MSU) (10 min)
* Presentation on The spread of wholesale markets and wholesalers in the supply chain of nutritious millet in Senegal (Ndeye Fatou Faye, ISRA-BAME) (10 min)
* Discussant from USAID/CFN (5 min)
  + Q & A (10 min)

4:40 Asia Research and discussion (45 min) (***moderator: Suresh Babu***)

* + Orachos Napasintuwong, Kasetsart University, Thailand: Thailand’s Cassava Industry: Challenges Towards Sustainable Development
  + V. Viengsavang, IIC, Laos: An analysis of cassava value chains in Laos and regional participation
  + Pulasthi Amarasinge, IPS, Sri Lanka: An analysis of climate change impacts on Sri Lankan agriculture
  + Q & A (10 min)

5:25 Wrap-up

5:30 Close

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| **DAY THREE: Big picture: What have we learned for future program design?** |

7:30 Breakfast

8:45 What have we learned? What are the implications for design of locally-led strengthening of institutional capacity for food security policy research with impact?

8:45 Recap of the past two days (10 min) (David Tschirley)

8:55 Video Montage from Centers: What is unique about PRCI, and what can be improved?

9:00 Work groups: Develop guidelines for:

* Programmatic design by donors
* Operational procedures by US-based and local partners to drive stronger, more transparent partnerships and sustainable capacity strengthening

10:10 Report out by groups (20 min)

10:30 Discussion

10:50 Closing panel: What does it mean for USAID and its partners to “stay the course” on localization and local capacity strengthening for strong policy research and engagement? (***Moderator: David Tschirley, MSU***)

***Panelists: Representatives of USAID (Jessica Bagdonis), IFPRI (Suresh Babu), MSU (Saweda Liverpool-Tasie), ISRA-BAME (Astou Camara), ANAPRI (Nalishebo Meebelo), Kasetsart (Orachos Napasintuwong)******, and RIS (Prof. Mohanty)***

12:00 Closing – Dr. Kristy Cook, Acting Division Director, REFS/PAE/SP, USAID