



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy,
Research, Capacity, and Influence**

Period Covered: 10/1/2020 – 03/31/2021

April 30, 2021



Summary of Workplan Progress

During this reporting period, PRCI consolidated its new programming mix initially developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, held a consortium-wide learning event to assess successes and challenges, and identified and began pursuing key objectives for the remainder of the program. Key highlights for this reporting period include:

1. **ReNAPRI conference and PRCI learning session:** ReNAPRI held its annual conference as planned, though entirely as a remote event. Entitled “The Great Reset: Embedding Resilience into African Agriculture”, the conference focused on rebuilding resilient value chains post-COVID, on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, and on setting the agenda for the Abuja II summit focused on soil health and farming productivity. PRCI held a successful learning event linked to the conference featuring CPL successes with policy influence. The fuller set of aspects included in PRCI’s original Annual Lab Consultation (ALC) design should be possible to implement in 2021 as both events will take a hybrid approach, with hopefully substantial in-person participation complemented by remote participation.
2. **Consortium-wide learning event:** Following the ReNAPRI conference, the Lab held a consortium-wide learning event on December 18 to review the first year, identify what worked, what did not, and what needed to be done differently, and establish over-arching emphases for the second year. Key emphases moving forward were **sustainability** (to be pursued through a training-of-trainers approach in all aspects of the Lab’s work), **leveraging** of PRCI training materials for broader impact, and **peer-to-peer learning** at several levels. Progress was made in concrete actions to promote each of these emphases, with more detail to be reported in the annual report. The session also reviewed approaches to **context monitoring**, which is key to adequately understanding the impact of PRCI activities. The approach to this monitoring was finalized near the end of this reporting period. See Annex A for the agenda and a summary of workshop outcomes.
3. **Major expansion of ReNAPRI’s policy footprint:** This is seen in two ways. First, ReNAPRI was named one of three institutional leads for the upcoming Abuja II summit, and its research will feed directly into that summit. Second, it will lead the preparation of AGRA’s 2021 African Agricultural Status Report focused on value chain resilience and its presentation at the annual AGRF in September, 2021.
4. **Covid survey:** PRCI implemented the first round of the COVID-19 survey (for which it had received a buy-in) and neared completion of an analytical paper from that round. As the period ended, the second round was heading to the field. During the remainder of this year, PRCI will focus on local engagement in producing policy briefs and engaging local policy makers in “building back better” from the COVID shock.
5. **Mozambique buy-in:** PRCI received a \$175,000 buy-in from the Mozambique mission, engaged with a local analyst to produce a joint analysis to guide mission programming, and presented the work to the mission on March 31. Lab leadership is currently in discussions with the mission about follow-on funding.

6. **Continued technical training:** PRCI continued to develop its ambitious [technical training agenda](#), with new modules for the Core Center program and follow-on to the Trade Flow Analysis training in Asia.
7. **Completion of the full PICA process with one CPL:** CPEEL in partnership with DAERD completed its [institutional planning process](#), formed a new unit (PiLAF) that will carry forward the center's engagement in food policy, and held its first major stakeholder engagement events in the planning of its research and outreach strategy, which will initially focus on the poultry sector. As this report is being written, we are nearing completion with EPRC and ISRA-BAME.
8. **Launching of R2P:** PRCI launched its [Research-to-Policy program](#) in December. This has had important effects for centers and in spurring links between ReNAPRI and CPLs. For Cohort 2, the program will start at the very beginning and should ensure fuller integration of a policy strategy into each effort.
9. **Nearing completion of Cohort 1 research:** The Lab neared completion of its first cohort research program, with papers shared with all teams on March 26 in preparation for peer review sessions a month later.
10. **Expansion of Asia work:** The Lab greatly expanded its work in Asia during this period. Following the trade flow analysis training that ended in September of last year (prior to this reporting period), the lab began work planning, contracting, and research activities with centers in Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The Lab engaged with IIDS and the KISAN II project in Nepal to support a policy training workshop that will lead into a policy priority setting workshop early in the next reporting period.
11. **ReNAPRI expansion and engagement with CPLs:** ISSER signed ReNAPRI Articles of Association on 15th October 2020 and is now a full member of the ReNAPRI network. CPLs participated in a ReNAPRI continental study of COVID-19 response and its impacts, and several sessions were held with CPLs and ReNAPRI that we expect will lead to joint activities in training, and potentially, research.
12. **Personnel changes:** John Medendorp took a new position with Purdue university but will remain engaged with PRCI through the ReNAPRI conference in November. John Bonnell joined the PICA team and will continue working with Cait Goddard.

Key challenges going forward

We foresee the following key challenges going forward:

1. **Ensuring sustainability, maximizing peer-to-peer learning, and promoting leverage (broader use) of PRCI training materials:** These were three of the key issues identified in the 12/18/20 consortium-wide stocktaking exercise. We have taken concrete steps to promote each of these elements, and because they tend to be inter-dependent (e.g. peer-to-peer learning improves sustainability of the effort and can directly leverage Lab training materials) we are optimistic that each will continue to improve. Yet constant focus is needed to ensure this.

2. **Deepening teamwork within the Core Center research program:** PRCI needs to continue to sharpen its messaging regarding the team approach we are seeking in the research. One way of doing this is that we will now refer to “stateside researchers” and “center researchers” rather than mentors and local researchers. We will also establish clear benchmarks for the second cohort and design presentations that require engagement of center researchers together with stateside researchers.
3. **Ensuring sufficient stateside researchers in the STAAARS+ and Core Center research programs:** The engagement required by stateside researchers is time consuming. Ensuring sufficient IFPRI, Cornell, and MSU staff to meet this need requires that the topics selected are of strong interest of both sides. We will for this reason experiment with a more team-based and iterative approach to defining topics in the second cohort so that these topics ensure active stateside engagement while being centrally relevant to the African and Asian centers.
4. **Obtaining buy-ins and associate awards:** PRCI to date has obtained \$375,000 in two buy-ins (COVID and Mozambique). A \$2 million buy-in from Nigeria had to be abandoned at the last minute due to a \$1 million limit, which was not initially understood; the mission is still allocating those funds to IFPRI and MSU with the same scope of work and in the same proportion as conceived under PRCI, but under a different contracting arrangement. Negotiations with the Nutrition Center on a possible buy-in continue. PRCI’s ability to generate a critical mass of high-quality research is heavily dependent on continued buy-ins, and its ability to influence policy at country level is enhanced under associate awards. We will continue to pursue buy-ins and associate awards at every opportunity.
5. **Spending rate:** PRCI’s spending rate through 2020 was well under budget due to several factors, primarily delayed invoicing from partners together with some measure of reduced spending on travel. Steps were taken to reduce the pipeline and we believe we are now on course to avoid any difficulty with unspent pipeline. In part, this will involve ensuring that contracts with our partners in Africa and Asia (including Renapri) are amended as soon as possible and that they spend at anticipated rates.

Status of originally programmed activities

This section uses the GANTT chart format of the Year 2 workplan to report on the status of originally programmed activities.

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
1.0	OVERALL COORDINATION			
	Research & technical capacity building			
	Institutional Capacity Building			
	Stock taking and planning	Jan. wk 2		
	Stock taking with CPL leadership	Mar wk1	Not done yet	Delays in BAME and EPRC have delayed the holding of this overall meeting. Targeting May.
	Internal meeting to discuss strategy	Jan. wk 4	Done in February	David Tschirley, John Medendorp, Suresh Babu and Xinshen Diao met in February and agreed that the PICA process would be presented at the KISAN II training in Nepal in early March, with follow-up to determine interest of institutions and the Nepal mission. This presentation was done and follow-up is ongoing.
	Consultative meetings (Second round)with KU and RIS engaged	Feb. wk 2	Completed	Meetings happened with KU on Jun 12, 2020; Dec 17, 2020; Jan 5, 2021; and Jan 28, 2021 and with RIS on Dec 20, 2020. A joint consultative meeting happened with KU and RIS and other country partners on December 22, 2020.
	Gender			
	Webinar(s) on gender research (3, date TBD) (2 DONE YR1)	Jan. wk 4	Completed	PRCI Core Center Technical Training: Integrating Mixed Methods in Research Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Elizabeth Bryan

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
				17 February 2021 https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-14
	IFPRI Gender Toolbox			
	Post on PRCI website	July wk 4	Not due	We believe this is on course for July as planned
	Influence			
	AGRA AGRF (every September)	Sep. wk 2, 2021	Not due	ReNAPRI is leading the 2021 AGRA African Agricultural Status Report (AASR) which will be presented at the AGRF.
	Annual RENAPRI Stakeholder Conference (every Nov)	Nov. wk 3, 2020	Completed	Held on November 18-20, 2020 with a PRCI side-event focused on successful CPL experiences with policy engagement. Session was very well received.
	Interactive policy landscape webinars with CPLs	Nov wk2 to Dec wk 2, 2020	Done	R2P sessions were held with all four centers involved in the research under cohort 1, with the additional two centers involved in STAAARS+, and with the CPLs together with ReNAPRI: CPEEL 11/30/20, SUA 12/10/20, BAME 2/8/21, and EPRC ??
	Overall coordination			
	Weekly check-in calls with USAID (each Wednesday)	weekly	Completed	Depending on availability
	Monthly ExComm calls (1st Friday every month)	Once a month	Completed	Depending on availability

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Monthly calls with ReNAPRI (2nd Friday every month)	Once a month	Completed	Depending on availability
	Monthly calls between PRCI director and CPL directors	Once a month	Partial	These calls have not been regularly held
	Other calls among ExComm members as needed		Done	
	Overview by ExComm as preparing semi-annual report	April wk 4	Not due	In Process
	Yearly "status check" in Washington (early January each year)	Jan. wk 1	Due	These have not been held, due to COVID disruptions. We need to revisit this with AOR and decide how to begin holding these.
	Stock-taking workshop, Y1/Y2 (Dec 18)	Dec. wk 3, 2020	Completed	A 3-hour stock-taking workshop was held on 12/18 with the entire PRCI ExComm and research mentors. The session was recorded and the transcript summarized. David Tschirley sent a synthesis email to all participants on 12/21 identifying key issues including sustainability, leverage, and peer-to-peer learning were identified and specific plans made to promote them. Finalizing the approach to context monitoring was also identified as a priority and was achieved just after the end of this reporting period, in April, 2021
	Stock-taking workshop, Y2/Y3	Sep. wk 4, 2021	Not Due	This will be held ahead of Year 3 workplan development to ensure full ExComm, research mentor, and African- and Asia partner input into that workplan
	Y2 Annual Report due (10/30/21)	Oct wk 4, 2021	Not Due	

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Y3 workplan due (10/30/21)	Oct wk 4, 2021	Not Due	
2.0	RESEARCH & TECHNICAL CAPACITY BUILDING			
	MAJOR MANAGERIAL BENCHMARKS			
	Coordination			
	Mtg: operationalizing ToT, leveraging Asia	Feb wk 4	Done	Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, Nicky Mason-Wardell, and David Tschirley held a meeting with directors and research directors of all three CPLs, together with Suresh Babu and Xinshen Diao.
	Mtg: feedback on Y1, input for Y2	June wk4/Jul wk1	Not due	
	Selection of Core Center cohort 2			
	Distribute template for proposals to ReNAPRI centers & CPLs	April wk 1	Not due	This has been postponed as we evaluate how to approach second cohort research topic definition to ensure best engagement among center- and stateside researchers (mentors)
	Proposals due	June wk 1	Not due	This has been pushed to July wk 1
	Decisions made on 4 topics and teams	June wk 4	Not due	Now July wk 4
	Selection of STAAARS+ cohort 2			
	Circulate call for proposals (July 1, 2021)	Aug. wk 2	Not due	On track

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Proposals due (August 15, 2021)	Aug. wk 2	Not due	
	Select Fellows, create researcher/mentor teams	Sept. wk 4	Not due	
	Research presentations (agrilinks?)			
	Core Center, 1st cohort	May wk 4	Not due	Two internal sessions were planned. First held April 23. Second pending, anticipated mid-May. Agrilinks presentation would require further preparation.
	STAAARS+, 1st cohort	May wk 4	Not due	
	Policy workshop, Nepal	Jan. wk 3	Completed	In-person and virtual Policy Analysis Training for Officers of the Government of Nepal from March 8-12, 2021. The training focused on theoretical as well as practical aspects of policy; review of agricultural policies in Nepal along with cases from India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nigeria; tools and techniques of policy analysis; rural revitalization; agricultural trade policies; Foreign Direct Investment in agriculture; and private sector engagement in market systems.
2.2	Core Center research & technical capacity building			
	1st cohort research			
	Draft of paper to all Core Center rsch teams	Dec wk 1	Partially completed March 26	Three of the four papers were shared on March 26
	Review by each research team incl mentors	Jan wk 1	Partial	Review teams consisting of center- and stateside researchers were formed, with 4-5 reviews per paper

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Presentation in joint rsch webinar, w/ feedback	Jan wk 2	Partial	Session 1 completed April 23 2021, Session 2 Pending
	Research paper version of paper completed	March wk 4	Due	Underway
	Submission to journal	May wk 3	Not due	Not due
	1st cohort technical capacity building,			
	Designing mixed methods research	Jan wk 4	Due	This is module 14 in the technical trainings - see https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-14 . The synchronous session associated with this training was held on Feb. 17, 2021, and was led by Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Elizabeth Bryan
	Giving effective research presentations	Feb. wk 3	Done	This is module 16 in the technical trainings - see https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-16-how-to-give-e . This was an asynchronous training only but the Core Center research teams have been instructed to consult the tips and implement them in their short research presentations for the peer review sessions, and are also getting peer feedback on their presentations. (This was done for SUA and EPRC on Friday, April 23 and will be done for BAME and CPEEL when their peer review session takes place.)
	How to write a journal article	March wk 2	Completed April 6	Module 15, see https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
				Training/module-15-article-writing . Session held Tuesday April 6 led by Tom Reardon
	Navigating the peer review process (joint with STAAARS+)	April wk 1	Moved up and completed during this reporting period (Feb 3)	see module 13 - https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-13-navigating-peer-review . This was synchronous and took place on Feb. 3.
	Grant proposal writing	May wk 1	Not Due	Original date was not workable for EPRC due to installation of new government. Rescheduled for June 9. To be presented jointly by Thom Jayne of MSU and Antony Chapoto of IAPRI.
	Selection of second cohort			
	Distribute template for proposals to ReNAPRI centers & CPLs	April wk 1	Not Due	We are reconsidering how to define topics for the second cohort. Overall process has been moved back by 4-6 weeks
	Proposals due	June wk 1	Not Due	
	Decisions made on 4 topics and teams	June wk 4	Not Due	
	2nd cohort research			
	Timeline and benchmarks announced	TBA		The benchmarks seen in the succeeding rows will be reviewed once teams are selected, announced as work starts, and reminders will be sent as deadlines near
	Mentors, teams refine proposals	July/Aug	Not Due	
	Research plan presentation	Aug. wk 4	Not Due	

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Regular meetings of center researchers & mentors	TBA	Not due	
	Full draft of paper to all Core Center rsch teams (12/15/21)	TBA	Not due	These dates to be reviewed then announced to all teams at outset and will guide all activities.
	Review by each rsch team incl mentors (12/15/21 - 1/14/22)	TBA	Not due	
	Presentation in joint rsch webinar, w/ feedback (1/15/22)	TBA	Not due	
	Research paper version of paper completed (end March, 2022)	TBA	Not due	
	Submission to journal (5/15/22)	TBA	Not due	
	2nd cohort technical capacity building			
	Mtg: operationalizing ToT, leveraging Asia	Feb. wk 2	Completed	A regional consultative meeting happened on March 4, 2021 to review key trade flow analysis concepts and get updates from country partners about the progress made on research for trade flow analysis paper and paper outlines. The meeting also addressed questions by country partners on trade flow analysis research papers and key concepts.
	Mtg: feedback on Y1, input for Y2	July wk 1	Not Due	We expect to hold these as originally scheduled
	2nd cohort needs assessment	July wk 1	Not Due	
	Second cohort technical trainings -	Starting August	Not Due	Dates will be reviewed once research teams are in place and 2 nd cohort needs assessment is conducted

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
2.3	STAAARS+ research & technical capacity building			
	Research			
	Intensive feedback workshop	Nov. wk 1	Completed	November 5, January 19.
	Research-to-Policy activity series (Danielle Resnick)	March wk 4	In progress	Initial sessions completed in March/April and teams are currently drafting their policy outreach plans. Workshops with all 4 STAAARS+ teams were held from late March to early April. The teams are now drafting their outreach strategies for an April 30th submission.
	Public research presentation (Agrilinks?)	May wk 4	In progress	Early planning stages, selecting target date
	Planning for STAAARS+ session at ReNAPRI conference	Sept. wk 4	In progress	Currently in discussion with ReNAPRI leadership regarding structure and content of STAAARS+ side event
	Technical capacity building		Completed	Full suite of technical capacity building activities has been completed with STAAARS+ Cohort 1.
	Grantsmanship workshop	Nov. wk 2	Completed	November 10
	Navigating Peer Review workshop	March wk 1	Completed	February 3
	Selection of Cohort 2			
	Structured reflection on Cohort 1 to prepare for Cohort 2 (May-June 2021)	June wk 2	Not Due	We expect these events to take place as scheduled
	Develop call for proposals (June 2021)	June wk 4	Not Due	

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Circulate call for proposals (July 1, 2021)	Aug wk 2	Not Due	
	Proposals due (August 15, 2021)	Aug wk 2	Not Due	
	Review proposals	Sept. wk 2	Not Due	
	Select Fellows, create researcher/mentor teams	Sept. wk 4	Not Due	
2.4	Asia activities, Special Topics rsch & technical capacity building			
	Research			
	Trade Flow Analysis Research	Ongoing	Due	Received trade flow analysis workplans and research paper outlines from all country partners between January-April 2021. Workplans were finalized in March-April 2021. Paper outlines are currently being reviewed.
	Value Chain analysis	March - May	Not Due	
	Technology policy	June - Sep	Not Due	
	Technical capacity building			
	Trade flow Training	Oct 2020 – Jan 2021	Completed	Conducted trade flow analysis training workshop over 3 days between September 14-28, 2020 for country partners and followed up with a regional consultative meeting which happened on March 4, 2021 to review key trade flow analysis concepts and get updates from country partners about the progress made on research for trade flow analysis paper and paper outlines. The meeting also addressed questions by

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
				country partners on trade flow analysis research papers and key concepts. Conducted a webinar (two sessions) on 'COVID-19 Policy Analysis and Responses in Thailand' in September 2020.
	Agriculture Policy Analysis Training	Jan – Jul	Rescheduled to July wk 4	
	Agriculture Policy Communication Training	Feb – Aug	Rescheduled to Aug. wk 4	
	Gender integration Training	Jan, April, July	1 st session completed as scheduled	PRCI Core Center Technical Training: Integrating Mixed Methods in Research. Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Elizabeth Bryan. 17 February 2021 https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-14
	Research and policy outreach			
	Policy workshop, Nepal	Jan. wk 3	Completed	In-person and virtual Policy Analysis Training for Officers of the Government of Nepal from March 8-12, 2021. The training focused on theoretical as well as practical aspects of policy; review of agricultural policies in Nepal along with cases from India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nigeria; tools and techniques of policy analysis; rural revitalization; agricultural trade policies; Foreign Direct Investment in agriculture; and private sector engagement in market systems.

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
3.0	INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (PICA)			
	MAJOR MANAGERIAL BENCHMARKS			
3.3	Design institutional capacity strengthening strategy for Asia			
	Internal meeting to discuss strategy	Jan. wk 4	Completed	In the second week of February, the PICA team and Asia team had an internal discussion to come up with strategies for implementing the PICA process in Asia
	Consultative meetings (Second round) with KU and RIS	Feb. wk 2	Completed	To begin with, a presentation was made on the PICA process at the Policy Analysis Training for Officers of the Government of Nepal held in March with the aim to explore interest in replicating the PICA process in other countries. Meetings happened with KU on Jun 12, 2020; Dec 17, 2020; Jan 5, 2021; and Jan 28, 2021 and with RIS on Dec 20, 2020. A joint consultative meeting happened with KU and RIS and other country partners on December 22, 2020.
3.2	Prepare & deliver PICA workshops & follow-ups			
	CPEEL			

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	PICA process completion & presentation of plan	Oct. wk 1	Completed	CPEEL/PiLAR made its plan presentation to the PICA team and David Tschirley on April 2, 2021. Final budget and workplan now being processed into amended contract to fully fund PiLAF activities.
	M&E Meetings	Intensive Nov/Dec 2020 then quarterly	Ongoing	Meetings originally began weekly post-PICA Process and are now occurring biweekly.
	EPRC			
	PICA process completion & presentation of plan	Dec. wk 2	Due	All PICA workshops have been completed but it has not yet been possible to schedule presentation and feedback session with David Tschirley. This needs to occur, and workplan and budget submitted, to amend contract and fully fund the activity.
	M&E Meetings	Intensive Jan-Feb then quarterly	Pending	These are pending as we work to finalize the presentation and feedback session
	ISRA-BAME			
	PICA process completion & presentation of plan	Feb wk 3	Due	PICA process was delayed due to change in ISRA DG and personnel changes within BAME. Process started March 4 and is scheduled in early May, with presentation and feedback session to be scheduled soon thereafter
	M&E Meetings	March/Jun/Sept	Due/Not Due	Will be intensive following completion then quarterly as with other CPLs
3.3	Stock taking and planning			
	Stock taking with CPL leadership	Jan. wk 2	Due	This will occur once the ISRA-BAME PICA process is completed.

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Internal meeting to discuss strategy	Jan. wk 4	Due	
	Second round with KU and RIS engaged	Feb. wk 2	Due	Initial meetings and a PICA presentation were shared. PRCI leadership needs to decide next step. This will depend on expression of interest coming out of the Nepal workshop
4.0	GENDER			
	MAJOR MANAGERIAL BENCHMARKS			
	Webinar(s) on gender research (3, date TBD) (2 DONE YR1)	Jan/Apr/Sept	Due/Not Due	PRCI Core Center Technical Training: Integrating Mixed Methods in Research Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Elizabeth Bryan 17 February 2021 https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-14
	IFPRI Gender Toolbox			
	Post on PRCI website	July wk 4	Not Due	
4.3	Pro-WEAI			
	Fundamentals module launched (DONE YR1)	March 2021	Completed	http://elearning.foodsecurityportal.org/login/index.php

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Other modules developed and launched	Feb/June	Due/Not Due	
4.4	Webinar(s) on gender research (3, date TBD) (2 DONE YR1)	Jan/Apr/Sept	Completed	PRCI Core Center Technical Training: Integrating Mixed Methods in Research Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Elizabeth Bryan 17 February 2021 https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/Technical-Training/Core-Center-Training/module-14
4.5	IFPRI Gender Toolbox			
	Update	June wk 4	Not Started	
	Post on PRCI website	July wk 4	Not Started	
4.6	Participation in PICA			
	EPRC	Dec wk 2	Due	
	BAME	Feb. wk 1	Due	
4.7	Participation in Core Center research & writing			
	EPRC	Ongoing	Ongoing	Elizabeth Bryan of IFPRI is one of the two stateside researchers (mentors) working actively with the teams
	SUA	Ongoing	Ongoing	
5.0	POLICY INFLUENCE			

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
5.1	Global Activities			
	Mid-term research conference	Early year 3	Will be delayed	We plan a conference for late Year 4 after second cohort research is finalized along with COVID work and climate change work that have been funded with buy-ins
	Near-end research conference	Mid year 5		Will consider a conference for late year 5
	ICAE, 2021			
	Various global events in which PRCI-supported researchers will participate			List will be provided in next annual report
5.2	Country Activities			
	CPL ongoing policy engagement at country level			Policy input requests and follow-up to them are being monitored as Custom Indicator 4 (Number of occasions when national/regional/global organizations/entities approach PRCI researchers/partners with requests for information, consultation, data, and presentations directly or indirectly related to PRCI support). These will be reported in the next annual report.
	Other Core Center ongoing policy engagement			
	Build outreach strategy into all research plans		Completed	This took place for Cohort 1 of Core and STAAARS+ teams under R2P though with a late start. It will be done from the outset for both during Cohort 2.
5.3	African Continental Activities			
	Core Center research feeding into Abuja II (date TBD)		Ongoing	PRCI is supporting ReNAPRI research that will feed into Abuja II. ReNAPRI is one of three organizations leading the preparation of Abuja II

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Core Center research feeding into regional value-chain upgrading (dates TBD)		Ongoing	This is part of ReNAPRI's research agenda supported in part by PRCI. This agenda was finalized in March 2020
	Core Center research feeding into AfCFTA (dates TBD)		Ongoing	ReNAPRI is in discussions with AUC-DREA regarding its role advising it on AfCFTA and other trade-related issues
	Engagement of Core Centers with AUC-DREA (dates TBD)		Ongoing	
	Engagement of Core Centers with AUC-DTI (dates TBD)		Ongoing	Discussions are ongoing between ReNAPRI and AUC-DTI about signing an MOU. Delay was due to elections at the AUC.
	Engagement of Core Centers with AfDB African Development Institute (dates TBD)		Ongoing	Dr. Anthony Chapoto of IAPRI made a presentation during an African Development Institute Webinar in May 2020. Discussions are currently ongoing between both organizations concerning further collaboration
	AGRA AGRF (every September)	Sept. wk 2		ReNAPRI is leading the 2021 AGRA African Agricultural Status Report (AASR) which will be presented at the AGRF. Research partially supported by PRCI will contribute directly to the report.
	Annual RENAPRI Stakeholder Conference (every Nov)	Nov. wk 3	Due	Held on November 18-20, 2020
	Re-SAKSS/Asia bi-annual conference (date TBD)			ReNAPRI to be advised/updated on this activity

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Other outreach activities as agreed with ReNAPRI leadership			CPLs shared their outputs with ReNAPRI centers and stakeholders during the ReNAPRI Annual Stakeholders Conference
5.4	With USAID			
	Yearly "status check" in Washington (early December each year)	Jan. wk 1		This has not been done. Need to review with AOR how to present PRCI to bureau leadership
5.5.	Research-to-Policy (R2P)			
	Research-policy influence materials prepared for online use	Nov. wk 1	Completed	These materials are available in English and French at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/policy-influence/
	Interactive policy landscape webinars with CPLs	Dec. wk2	Completed	These were conducted with the CPLs and SUA between December 2020 and February 2021.
	Development of outreach strategies	Jan. wk 2	Ongoing	The CPLs have each done two rounds of work on their outreach strategy documents.
	Presentation of outreach strategies for feedback and refinement	Jan. wk 4	Partial	The CPLs and SUA briefly shared their strategies during the April 15th R2P ReNAPRI event. More refinement is needed.
	Ensure cohesion of outreach strategies with strategic development plans, especially capacity building initiatives	Feb. wk 2	Not started	This needs to be a focus of the PICA team in consultation with Danielle Resnick and David Tschirley. Need meeting to discuss and agree way forward
	Follow-up meeting with CPLs to identify shifts in strategy and efforts towards implementation	April wk 4		To be scheduled

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Report meeting on progress with outreach implementation	July wk 4		We expect to do this as scheduled
	Interactive policy landscape webinars with first cohort of STAAARS+ fellows	Mar wk 2	Completed	Workshops with all 4 STAAARS+ teams were held from late March to early April. The teams are now drafting their outreach strategies for an April 30th submission.
	Presentation of outreach strategies for feedback and refinement (TENTATIVE)	April wk 4		
6.0	MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING			
6.1	Performance monitoring data collection - ongoing	Mostly yearly	Ongoing	We collect data for Custom Indicator 4 on policy and information requests on a quarterly basis, to avoid recall problems of yearly collection
6.2	Context monitoring			The Context monitoring plan was agreed by David Tschirley, Danielle Resnick, and Mywish Maredia in late April. We are currently reaching out to ReNAPRI and the CPLs to finalize details and plan collection of needed data. Danielle Resnick and Mywish Maredia will finalize the plan once these consultations are conducted.
	CI-1: index of quality of policy reform processes			
	Surveys in selected countries, years 2 and 5			
	CI-2: index of quality of institutional architecture			
	Surveys in selected countries, years 2 and 5			

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
6.3	Internal evaluation			
	2-way internal evaluation during ALCs (part also of learning agenda)			The fully remote setup for the 2020 ReNAPRI conference and the press of unplanned work responding to COVID resulted in a much abbreviated ALC this year. The ReNAPRI conference this year is expected to be a hybrid approach including substantial in-person participation. We plan to conduct a more full two-way evaluation this year.
	Mid-term LSCs by CPLs and, potentially, selected ReNAPRI centers			These have been put on hold as a PRCI requirement due to COVID. However, CPEEL/PiLAF conducted extensive LSCs as it planned its research and policy engagement strategy focusing on the poultry sector. This was a direct outcome of PRCI support. Not clear at this time if and when EPRC and BAME will hold LSCs, but the decision will be left to them as they pursue the plans they have laid out under PICA
	Other LSCs by CPLs as agreed during the PICA workshop			
6.4	Collaboration with external evaluators			TBD
6.5	Learning			
	Use of ME processes to address project learning key & thematic learning questions			Key elements will be: (1) Custom indicator 4 on requests for data information and perspectives; (2) CBLD-9 and the details of how improved performance is measured; and (3) the set of context indicators agreed in late April. All of this is brought together in the Annual Report. They should be organized in time to review during the late September stock-taking workshops that PRCI conducts to feed into the next year's workplan

	Activity	Due Date	Status	Comment
	Learning indicators customized to each CPL identified during PICA Workshops			This is being done as part of the PICA process with each CPL
	Report out during mid- and end of project conferences			TBD

Annex A: Agenda and Synthesis of December, 2020 workshop

PRCI Stock-taking and forward planning workshop

Friday, December 18; 9:00 – 12:00 EST

9:00 – 9:05 Opening

- Workshop objectives
- PRCI Objectives and goals
- Workshop agenda

➤ Dave Tschirley

Part I: Stocktaking (1 hour, 50 minutes)

9:05 – 9:15 PRCI from USAID’s perspective

- Where has PRCI excelled, where has it fallen short, what adjustments may need to be made

➤ Kristy Cook

9:15 – 10:55 Key questions to inform project learning and monitoring

➤ Dave Tschirley to moderate

9:15-9:20 Presentation of the TOC from the PRCI Enhanced Results Framework

9:20-10:00 Building research capacity

- What have we learned about what works for enhancing research capacity?
- What are our impressions about beneficiary (individuals/organizations) participation/satisfaction with our mentorship and training activities?
- To what extent are STAAARS+ fellows and Core Center researchers using the research tools and resources provided in those programs to improve their research? Are these resources being used broadly by all fellows and researchers (using data disaggregated by sex, age, and other categories)?
- How would we assess whether our research capacity efforts are sustainable?

- How do we ensure that the research that PRCI does “adds-up” to important new contributions to knowledge for improved food security policy?

5-minutes each, 30-minutes total:

- Nicky Mason-Wardell/Saweda Liverpool-Tasie
- Liz Bageant
- Thom Jayne
- Vero Theriault or Tom Reardon
- Elizabeth Bryan or David Mather
- Xinshen Diao on Asia

- Discussion (10 minutes)

10:00-10:25 Building institutional capacity

- What have we learned about what works for enhancing institutional capacity to do research that has policy impact?
 - What are our impressions about beneficiary (individuals/organizations) participation/satisfaction?
 - How would we assess whether our institutional capacity efforts are sustainable?

5-minutes each, 15-minutes total:

- John Medendorp
- Nalishebo Meebelo
- Suresh Babu on Asia

- Discussion (10 minutes)

10:25-10:45 Building outreach to influence local, regional, or global policy

- How do we ensure that PRCI’s research projects have policy relevance and influence?
- Are there ways to enhance the impact of our outreach by drawing on existing resources?

5-minutes each, 10-minutes total:

- Lulama Traub or Nalishebo Meebelo
- Danielle Resnick

- Discussion (10 minutes)

10:45 – 10:55 Wrap-up and summary

10:55 – 11:00 BREAK

Part II: Operationalizing the Learning Agenda (45 minutes)

11:00-11:45

11:00-11:30 From ME Indicators to a learning agenda about our Theory of change?

- We will present the existing agreed indicators embedded in the Theory of Change
- These indicators are for reporting. What complementary information do we need to ensure they “tell a story” and contribute to our learning? (the “L” in “MEL”)
- **Danielle** will present and we then open to discussion with Mywish moderating

11:30 – 11:45 Accounting for context

- ToC cannot be adequately tested without accounting for relevant context
- Danielle will present some options
- Mywish will comment
- Open discussion

Wrap-up

11:45-12:00

- Dave will present initial thoughts on where we go in year 2 and beyond based on the sessions
- Comments from the floor
- Formal write-up to follow

Tschirley, David

From: Tschirley, David

Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 3:19 PM

To: 'andy.agyeiholmes@gmail.com'; 'cbb2@cornell.edu'; Crawford, Eric; 'D.Resnick@cgiar.org'; 'e.bryan@cgiar.org'; 'erb32@cornell.edu'; 'eweeks@usaid.gov'; Jayne, Thomas; 'kcook@usaid.gov'; Liverpool-Tasic, Lenis; Longabaugh, Steven; Mason-Wardell, Nicole; 'mayieko@tegemeo.org'; 'mwayieko@gmail.com'; 'Medendorp, John'; 'ndibong2@gmail.com'; 'traubl@sun.ac.za'; 'PQuartey@ug.edu.gh'; Reardon, Thomas; 'R.MEINZEN-DICK@CGIAR.ORG'; 'S.BABU@CGIAR.ORG'; 'x.diao@cgiar.org'; Theriault, Veronique; Mather, David; Maredia, Mywish; cait.bheard; alphonse.akouyu@renapri.org

Cc: Monahan, James; Longabaugh, Steven

Subject: Synthesis from workshop

Hi, all. I want to extend my thanks to all of you for participating in the workshop on Friday. As usual, we got lots of great input, which we have worked to synthesize. Please note:

1. You should now all have access to the dropbox “PRCI Stock-taking and Planning Workshop”, which contains a folders for the full recording of the workshop, the presentations, and notes from Danielle and me
2. The file ChatTranscript-Commented&Organized&KeyPtsByDtFromRecording has what the name suggests – chat transcript put into Word and commented based on memory and the recording, then additional notes from the recording.
3. Danielle prepared additional notes including on the learning metrics – both files are in the Notes folder Feel free to look at any of this and listen to the recording if you wish. Without trying to reflect everything that was said – you have a pretty good capture in the written notes files - here are my key action-oriented takeaways from the session. Where relevant I’ve capitalized people’s names with requests or questions. I believe we should use the next several ExComm meetings to deal with some of these issues.

1. **Sustainability.** We have always to keep our eyes on how to improve sustainability. To do this, we need to:

- a. Continue applying our principles of action to work with centers to define and pursue their own achievable set of goals. Not particular person or persons implicated here other than all of us!
- b. Strengthen and extend how we apply a training-of-trainers approach to what we do. I see this at several levels:
 - i. In the technical training - STAAARS+, core center, and special topics. As we move into new phases in each of these, I'll be asking **LIZ and CHRIS, NICKY and SAWEDA, and SURESH and XINSHEN** to show how they'll be doing this
 - ii. In the institutional capacity building: Are we on course to institutionalize the PICA process in ReNAPRI? We may need additional thinking on this. Can **JOHN and CAIT** work with **ALPHONSE and NALISHEBO** to take stock of this and propose how to move forward?
 - iii. Resources and the ability to continue gaining them is one of the key elements of sustainability. As we move forward, I suggest that we need to be putting increasing emphasis on working with our centers to do this. For now we will do this through some training on proposal writing, but we need to become more purposeful and proactive in this regard moving forward.
2. **Leverage:** We need to extend the use within and beyond PRCI of all the technical training material we've developed and continue to develop. Actions:
 - a. **JIM MONAHAN**, can you please work with Nicky and Saweda and Nalishebo on how best to make the core center and special topics materials available through the ReNAPRI site? Please also work through **SURESH** (or at least keep him (and me) in the loop) to do the same on the KU site?
 - b. How else should we promote this?
3. **Peer-to-peer learning** at several levels. Levels are:
 - a. Among researchers. **LIZ and CHRIS** are already doing this in STAAARS+ so no major steps needed here. But we need to do more within the Core Center and Special topics programs. In part we can do this by learning from STAAARS+.
 - b. Among mentors: I'd like to see purposeful exchange of experience and strategies and lessons among mentors from STAAARS+ and Core Center programs. Here is where the important issues on testing conventional wisdom, how we do that, come in, among other issues.
 - c. Across institutions: I would love to see this happen across ReNAPRI and CPL centers as a group, as another step in strengthening those relationships. Also across the Asian centers and (eventually) across Africa and Asia.
4. **Use of narrative:** More systematic use of narrative to tell our story. **RUTH**, can you please share whatever documentation you have on the approach you spoke about within PIM? This will hopefully complement what we have already been putting into place around Indicator 4.
5. **IRB training:** In this discussion, one of the comments is that we need an inventory or landscape analysis of what exists. We know from Ruth that FHI360 no longer offers certification though they do provide training materials

<https://www.fhi360.org/sites/all/libraries/webpages/fhi-retc2/RETCTraditional/intro.html>).

- a. **MYWISH**, could you please reach out to **RUTH** and others you think relevant to propose next steps on this issue?
- 6. On a narrow but important matter, can **DUNCAN** and **JOHN** engage on floating and even promoting the idea with CPL leadership of instituting (or learning about what already exists in this regard) annual evaluations of researchers with a focus on professional development?
- 7. An issue that was not explicitly put on the table but which struck me as I was going through notes: **We need to figure out what needs to stay online and what needs to move to in-person** engagement as we move forward. Will be asking the leads of each activity to think about this and make proposals in an upcoming ExComm meeting. How we handle this will have a LOT to do with whether we come out of the pandemic being more effective (including cost-effective) than before, or not.
- 8. **Context monitoring**: Asking **DANIELLE** and **MYWISH** to consult and propose how to move forward here. The general sense we came out of the session with is that we should not be too ambitious in this area but that we clearly need to do something.

This is my set of takeaways and topics that I'll be wanting to take-up in the ExComm meetings over coming months. **Please let me know if you think I've missed anything** or any other suggestions you have coming out of the workshop.

Thanks again for all your hard and creative and great work,

Dave

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David Tschirley

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