

Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

Benin

JSR BUILDING BLOCKS	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	For the JSR assessment process in 2015, an inclusive SC was put in place. It was comprised of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAEP), Health Ministry, Finance Ministry, Development Ministry, the National Committee in Charge of Food and Nutrition (CAN), Civil Society (PASCIB), Producers Organizations (PNOPPA and CNAB) and the private sector (CCIB).
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	Secretariat is made up of MAEP's directorate in charge of policy programming and forecasting and is supported by the research unit in charge of agricultural policy analysis.
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. TOR may also need to be developed consultants hired to conduct JSR studies.	Yes	TOR have been developed.
Resources are mobilized	Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR.		The Benin Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) devoted some resources for JSR coordination but resources for conducting JSR studies were mobilized in an ad hoc Manner. Now that Benin has merged two of its agricultural sector reviews, negotiations are ongoing to get

			funding from the national budget.
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	A broad group of stakeholders including non-state actors are invited to the JSR validation workshop. Each stakeholder group is responsible for reviewing progress on the implementation of their own agricultural sector commitments.
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		Data are collected and analyzed by various government agencies.
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	JSR studies are planned but have not yet been implemented due to lack of resources.
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	There is an informal review committee chaired by PAPA.
JSR Report Prepared	Preparing evidence based on relevant high-quality studies and reports on the JSR content areas. To be an effective	Yes	A report is prepared under the leadership of the JSR Steering Committee and Secretariat.

	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.		
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.	Yes	In December 2015, a 2-day meeting was organized with all key stakeholders to validate the findings of the JSR Assessment Report.
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	JSR follow ups have not been conducted but are planned for the future.
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	The country's JSR experience has been shared in the context of the ReSAKSS Annual Conferences and ECOWAS Regional M&E meetings.