

Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

Ethiopia

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	Ethiopia has a SC for its Agriculture Sector Policy Investment Framework (PIF) Review, which corresponds to the JSR. The PIF has representatives from the ministry of agriculture and leading development agencies. However, there is considerable room for improvement of the non-state actors (NSAs) involvement in the PIF review processes.
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 Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group (RED&FS) Secretariat coordinates the review process. The Secretariat works closely with the planning department of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The secretariat is constrained by inadequate numbers of staff with sufficient skills for M&E and mutual accountability.
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	The SC develops TOR to guide the review process. TORs for consultants are also developed.

Resources are mobilized	Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR.	Yes	The government mobilizes resources (human and financial) including from donors to support operations of the JSR. Resource mobilization is fraught with challenges including slow the disbursement of commitments by donors which can hinder the review process.
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.	No	Engagement of NSAs in PIF reviews is limited. According to MoA, the government is keen to involve the NSAs but it has not been able to effectively do so due to the lack of well-organized apex groups representing the NSAs. The NSAs are urged to address this weakness. Although many development partners participate in mutual accountability processes through the RED&FS mechanism, several donors do not participate in PIF reviews.
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	Yes	Country conducts assessments of existing agricultural policy dialogue and review processes. There are recommendations to increase the scope of the JSR to include other emerging issues, like livestock, gender, and nutrition in PIF reviews.
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	Yes	PIF reviews and commissioned studies are conducted by consultants hired by the government and development partners. Consultants are supervised by the SC. Local consultants from national universities and national think

	the Planning Unit, and the JSR SC and Secretariat.		tanks are usually hired. Occasionally international consultants are hired.
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 a review team with technical expertise. However, the process would greatly benefit from improving resources of the review task team, and strengthening its staffing.
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.	Yes	Review reports are produced at both regional (local government) and federal government levels for all the flagship programs. However, having up-to-date and high quality data remains a challenge.
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	Annual PIF review meetings take 1–2 days. Not all stakeholders are effectively represented. PIF review meetings need more involvement of NSA and other stakeholders in the review meetings.
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	Yes	Each technical committee prepares annual action plans based on the review results. The plans are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

	forms the basis of the next JSR cycle.		
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	<p>The African Union Commission, which has a broad overview of JSR processes in other countries, is normally invited to the review meetings.</p> <p>MoA officials participate in regional and continental meetings such as the CAADP Partnership Platform, ReSAKSS Annual Conference, and ReSAKSS-ECA M&E meetings where JSR lessons and experiences are shared.</p>