

Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

Ghana

| JSR BUILDING BLOCKS/BEST PRACTICES | BEST PRACTICES | PRACTICE IN PLACE? (Yes/No) | WHAT IS THE CURRENT PRACTICE IN THE COUNTRY? |
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| Existence of Set Up 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 | <p>Usually this role is played by the Policy sub-group of the Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG). Attendance by private sector, farmer groups, and civil society organizations (CSOs) is usually weak although they are officially part of the ASWG.</p> <p>Gradually, the steering committee for the country's Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) has become more involved in the planning of the JSR. Steering committee meetings are attended by a wide range of stakeholders.</p> |
| 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 Secretariat has dedicated staff from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and is supported by key departments in the Ministry. |
| 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. | Yes | TOR are developed for each JSR based on the JSR theme. |

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| | TOR may also need to be developed consultants hired to conduct JSR studies. | | |
| Resources are mobilized | Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR. | Yes | The JSR is normally implemented with technical and financial resources from the government and development partners. Government financial support for the JSR needs to be improved. |
| 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 | Each year state and non-state actors participate in the JSR. Often, the share of government representatives participating in the JSR is disproportionately high. This has been formally noted through the 2014 JSR Assessment and it is expected that future JSRs will address the imbalance. |
| 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 | This was done as part of a Capacity Needs Assessment and the Joint Sector Review Assessment supported by ReSAKSS. |
| 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. | Yes | In the early years of the JSR, special studies were conducted in preparation for the JSR. However, in recent years existing independent studies considered to be of value to the sector were selected for presentation and to be used as a basis for the JSR's discussions. In addition, the Annual Progress |

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| | | | <p>Report (APR) which reviews the previous year's implementation of the agriculture investment plan is presented and discussed every year.</p> <p>A more comprehensive annual review of sector performance is needed as the APR tends to focus more on activities of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A systematic way of reviewing stakeholders' activities in the previous year is also needed.</p> |
| 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. | No | A Review Team was constituted in the early years of the JSR but this has not been the case in recent years. |
| 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 | An Aide Memoire and/or full workshop report are prepared after each JSR. |
| 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 | Yes | Since 2008 Ghana has held a JSR (with the exception of 2016). |

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| | specific actions for the different stakeholders to put in place. These would be captured in a JSR Aide Memoir. | | |
| 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. | Yes | There has been a low level of follow up, and some issues have come up over many years as needing attention. A lot of improvement is needed in this area. ReSAKSS has provided technical support for follow up through the Ghana Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS). |
| 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 | Given Ghana's fairly long history conducting successful JSRs, other countries have visited Ghana to learn from its process and experience. |