

Rwanda-SAKSS Coordinator: Claude Bizimana

Reporting Period: April 2010-May 2011

SECTION A: REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST GOALS &/or JOB DUTIES

General

The core responsibilities of the Coordinator of the Rwanda SAKSS are mainly to establish a Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node for monitoring and evaluation of CAADP investment programs, as well as for informing the design, monitoring, and evaluation of agriculture and rural development policies and programs in Rwanda in general.

This position is based at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and supervised by MINAGRI Permanent Secretary and Coordinator of ReSAKSS-AW, DSGD, IFPRI.

My work during May 2010-April 2011 aligned with the functions described above and as well as with the duties set by the Directorate of Planning and Policy of MINAGRI where the node is currently placed, which include monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of agricultural programs; formulation of sector strategies; production of reports for the agricultural sector and work with partners.

In general, my work went well given constraints. I believe that my involvement in MINAGRI activities was much greater than what has been outlined in my TOR. I have made available a literature on agricultural investment, growth and trade performance, poverty and hunger linkages and therefore serving as a benchmark of 2010.

Rwanda SAKSS has established and maintained institutional relationships with some data providers and users to the extent where focal points in those institutions have had opportunities to be trained in various topics in collaboration with ReSAKSS-ECA.

The table below gives much more details on the performance against each goal:

Goal/Task/Duty	Performance/Achievement	Remarks/constraints
1. Establish a Strategic Analysis & Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node for M&E of CAADP investment programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Directorate of Planning and Policy of MINAGRI serves as the host of the country SAKSS node.• The country node provides technical support to MINAGRI for M&E on agricultural sector policies and investment.• In close collaboration with ReSAKSS-AW and ReSAKSS-ECA, the country node is preparing a proposal to be submitted to USAID-Rwanda for funding. This will support to facilitative technical support activities for M&E the strategic analysis component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The country node is expected to be made up of 3 components: node, network and advisory body. A lot still has to be done on the last component.• Outputs/deliverables and the monitoring system during the period reviewed were not always clear.
2. Establish and maintain institutional relationships with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In collaboration with selected stakeholders, Rwanda SAKSS node has now focal points in the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duties performed well given financial and

<p>Rwandese data providers and users and international researchers and other stakeholders</p>	<p>institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MINECOFIN¹ ○ NISR² ○ IPAR³ ○ NUR⁴ <p>In collaboration with ReSAKSS-ECA, the country node has availed trainings to focal points of the above mentioned institutions and some staff of MINAGRI on different topics including: agricultural statistics, GIS for agriculture M&E and agricultural policy analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, the Rwanda SAKSS Coordinator worked closely with ReSAKSS-ECA to ensure consistency with other countries in the region in specific indicators, analysis, M&E framework and report writing. • Collaborative research project with IFPRI, Gottingen University (Germany) and Universities in Burkina Faso and Tanzania on optimizing expenditures on social services to maximize their impact on labor productivity in rural areas. The country node Coordinator has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitated a review and compilation of secondary data on social services and public expenditures on these services at the central and local government levels in Rwanda ▪ Organized and hosted a field launch workshop in June 2010 in Rwanda including, facilitating visits by IFPRI staff ▪ Facilitated the implementation of survey to collect village level primary data on social services, employment, and agricultural production activities including: selecting and training enumerators, overseeing collection of survey data, facilitating visits by IFPRI staff to survey locations, and supervising survey data entry and cleaning. 	<p>staffing constraints.</p>
<p>3. Prepare an annual flagship trends and outlook country report for Rwanda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Annual Trends and Outlook Report focusing on status of agricultural growth, performance, policies, trade, sector investments, poverty, hunger and other CAADP targets and goals has been prepared and a dissemination workshop is planned for end of July 2011 with the support of ReSAKSS-ECA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On track
<p>4. Make information in the SAKSS holdings available to other researchers and policy analysts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the activities of the country node is to assemble information on government policy and strategy documents as well as government budget, expenditure and public investment related to agriculture. <p>The following have been posted on the ReSAKSS website under Rwanda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vision 2020: Rwanda's policy document ○ Agriculture Sector Investment Plan ○ EDPRS: Medium framework for achieving the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a collection of spatial data sets and design a library database system to manage the information is still a challenge for the country node. • This task needs to be

¹ Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

² National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

³ Institute of Policy Analysis and Research

⁴ National University of Rwanda

	<p>country's long term development aspirations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSTA II : Strategic plan for the transformation of agriculture in Rwanda - Phase II ○ Public expenditure 2020/11: Contains a detailed state expenditure by budget agency, ministry, program and sub-program. <p>A list of an extensive collection of data and reports is available in the country node library and some are shared with stakeholders on demand.</p>	strengthen for the coming year
5. Provide analysis of the data sets compiled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge products have been produced for dissemination and outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two briefs on GoR spending on agriculture for FY 2010-11 and GoR expenditure analysis are being reviewed for publication on the ReSAKSS website. ○ A manuscript on land rental markets in Rwanda has been published.⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide strategic knowledge products should be the main objective of the country node but given ToRs of both the node & the position and the staffing constraint, it is almost not feasible.
6. Technical Assistance and Capacity Strengthening activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The SAKSS Coordinator is providing support to the Planning and Policy of MINAGRI on various assignments. ● The SAKSS Coordinator is a member of three steering committees, the Agriculture Sector Working Group and participates actively in meetings at national and regional levels. ● The SAKSS Coordinator made presentations on various topics regarding the country status on CAADP implementation and mutual accountability mechanisms in place meetings at national, regional and continental levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Duty executed beyond what was outlined in my ToRs

Technical assistance and capacity strengthening activities

In this task, I served as a member in three steering committees, namely the third Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey chaired by NISR, the Household Enterprises' Survey chaired by MINECOFIN and the National Human Development Report chaired by UNDP⁶.

I am a member of the Agriculture Sector Working Group, I participated actively in meetings, conferences and workshops at national and regional levels and I made presentations on various topics regarding the country status on CAADP implementation and mutual accountability mechanisms in place.

⁵ Bizimana, Claude (2011). Determinants of land rental markets: Theory and econometric evidence from rural Rwanda. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics* Vol. 3(4), pp. 183-189. (Available online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/JDAE>)

⁶ United Nations Development Programme

The country node was in a position to send two agricultural statisticians from the National university of Rwanda and the National institute of Statistics of Rwanda to the Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-V) held in Kampala, Uganda; one representative from MINAGRI to the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) training at ILRI, Nairobi-Kenya; and two representatives from the Private Sector Federation and the National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda to a training workshop on agricultural policy analysis in Nairobi-Kenya.

In general, I feel that all these activities have added to MINAGRI in general and to the country node in particular because it created a cooperative work environment with the aim of increasing the institutional relationships with stakeholders.

It was empowering to be able to serve as a member of steering committees with staff from other government institutions and Development Partners and I was able to voice MINAGRI viewpoints as key stakeholder and beneficiary of these studies.

I have attended workshops on different themes –policy analysis and knowledge systems, mutual accountability, trade- in an effort to increase my knowledge of relevant topics that I may not come across on a daily basis.

I also served as direct supervisor to two young professionals and two interns hired to follow the implementation of activities in relation to M&E in MINAGRI. This has contributed to my professional development to a great extent, because it has given me opportunities of planning, guiding and implementing of actions in particular situations that arise in the workplace.

In addition, my role as the country SAKSS coordinator has added to my professional development simply because of the frequent exposure to staff at different levels of decision making whether nationally, regionally or at continental level.

Annual Trends and Outlook Report, Occasional analyses and papers

In collaboration with ReSAKSS-ECA, the country node compiled information on past research and relevant data sets on agriculture and rural development in Rwanda. I prepared a trends and outlook country report focusing on status of agricultural growth, performance, policies, trade, sector investments, poverty, hunger and other CAADP targets and goals.

The country node assembled statistical information related to government budget, expenditure and public investment in agriculture with implication on the Maputo Declaration of 2003. Two briefs will be sent shortly for publication on the ReSAKSS website.

An article entitled “Determinants of land rental markets: Theory and econometric evidence from rural Rwanda” was published in the *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*. The topic is seen as important especially at the stage where land reform is taking place in Rwanda.

SECTION B: LOOKING FORWARD

Reference to the country TORs especially on generating policy research and analysis, I would like to acquire more skills and knowledge on capacity strengthening, knowledge management and M&E of agriculture and rural development to be able to help MINAGRI and local partners to undertake strategic analysis to help fill knowledge gaps relating to policy and investment for agriculture.

Reference to my TORs, two core responsibilities from last year that I was unable to achieve was increasing my skills and knowledge in GIS and network setup and communication. I would like to have training in these areas.

I would also like my work time to be more equally distributed between different tasks and outputs of the country node. As shown by reports on outputs/deliverables, a greater proportion of my work has fallen under ad hoc activities from MINAGRI and the production of the annual trends and outlook report. The key objective for 2011/12 would be to balance this and improving the efficiency of how I complete all my core responsibilities.