

ASWG Backward Looking Annual Review
3pm – 4:45 pm, Thursday 12th December, 2013
CICA Meeting Room, MINAGRI

MINUTES

1. Opening

Chair PS Ruzindaza (MINAGRI) opened the meeting and welcomed participants. New participants introduced themselves to the groups. Co-Chair Diego Zurdo (EU) also welcomed participants, stressed the importance of the backward looking review and asked that participants give feedback to see how activities can be improved and how we can add further value to activities. The review is both a summary and a way to communicate achievements internally, among DPs and external stakeholders.

PS Ruzindaza noted that 2013-2014 is the first fiscal year of implementation of PSTA III and EDPRS II, both with ambitious targets. He further stressed that the ASWG is a forum to share and gain diverse expert inputs from different institutions so as to build strategies which can help the sector to achieve its targets. He encouraged the ASWG to contribute to new focal areas such as nutrition, the further development of existing programmes to increase crop productivity, value addition and the improvement of recurrent activities such as monitoring and evaluation.

2. Annual Review Presentation

DG Rurangwa (MINAGRI) introduced the agenda for the annual review, and presented key findings on:

- *2012-2013 performance summary including sector growth*
- *EDPRS/CPAF target achievement*
- *Policy action achievement*
- *Budget execution*
- *2013-2014 priorities*

Details are included in the presentation attached (Annex II).

3. Participant Comments:

- The EU noted that the budget for agriculture overall differed from the annual report draft. It was explained that this was an updated figure, but that all figures were still draft. The EU also noted that the new soil protection baseline and assessment methodology was a positive development, but that the actual physical soil protection achievements during FY 2012/13 need to become more prominent and be more specified in the annual report.
- USAID noted that private sector development was highlighted as a priority action. They asked how new policy actions recognize this and whether traditional exports such as tea and coffee are also included. PS Ruzindaza noted that the new export promotion sub-working group, the agricultural delivery unit and the new PSTA III prioritized private sector development, particularly for horticulture.

- DfID noted that MINAGRI had performed well regarding its overall budget execution but asked how and why MINAGRI obtained extra funds for the over-execution of the development budget. DG Rurangwa noted that with budget revisions, high cost programmes may require extra funding, for example to purchase inputs. He also noted that full implementation of the CIP was of critical importance for productivity.
- PS Ruzindaza noted that the budget submitted to MINECOFIN originally for CIP was not fully funded. However, at the time of the budget revision further funds were received by MINECOFIN. CIP is a priority and costly programme that improves farmers' lives, and this was recognized by the provision of additional funding.
- The World Bank noted that the overall quality of the annual report was good but that some improvements could be made. The units for graphs should always be included as well as summaries of RAB and NAEB activities during the concerned fiscal year. The World Bank further suggested that projects should be discussed in the annexes, an organogram could also be included in the annex. The policy targets or M and E could also be included, and a list of studies conducted throughout the financial year.
- The Swiss Embassy discussed the potential for nutrition programmes and whether orange flesh sweet potato was considered. PS Ruzindaza noted that the orange sweet potato was included in a pilot programme in the Northern province, and that other programmes, particularly those focusing on preventing malnutrition during the first 1000 Days period, were also under implementation.
- USAID asked about calorie indicators related to poverty. The PS noted that this could be discussed at a different session.
- The EU noted that the project section of the annual report was a major part but that it was still not clear how projects contributed to targets of PSTA II or ASIP. A summary could therefore be included with the total number of beneficiaries and budget execution for each project disaggregated by PSTA 2 (Sub-) Programme.

PS Ruzindaza asked for further inputs as to how we can deliver and implement better over the next financial year. How we can improve aid coordination to achieve targets?

- The World Bank noted that the IFPRI CAADP studies suggest that the high targets may not need to be accomplished in order to still achieve the poverty reduction and growth targets of EDPRS II.
- USAID also asked that for each target, one should consider which resources are going into achieving these, e.g. how much government and how much donor funding. A robust monitoring and evaluation system is also of utmost importance, with a good database and knowledge management framework.
- BTC noted that innovation was important, but it is also essential to repeat, scale up and replicate what works well.
- DfID noted that the M and E draft for PSTA III still has five year targets, but not annual targets. As such it will be difficult to measure annual performance. PS Ruzindaza noted that this

planning exercise was now underway. Outputs will be shared when finalized, perhaps by the time of the next ASWG meeting.

- A representative of Avignam Rwanda noted that it is important to highlight the links and integration between export promotion, value addition and investment. This could be further strengthened in the report.
- The EU congratulated the ASWG for the achievement of the policy actions last year and suggested that the 2013-2014 policy actions and targets be considered in the annual report.
-
- The EU further encouraged the ASWG members to participate actively in the sub-working groups according to their interest and core expertise and reminded members of the importance to report regularly off-budget activities to the Ministry so as to enable MINAGRI to track all contributions to PSTA 3 targets. The EU also called for the results of studies, assessments and evaluations to be shared routinely with MINAGRI. The permanent ASWG agenda items of 'Any Other Business' and 'Show & Tell" should be deliberately harnessed by members to share good practices and key lessons learnt.

Co-Chair Diego Zurdo thanked all participants for their comments.

4. A.O.B.

1. World Bank – Benchmarking Agriculture

The World Bank has created a set of indicators related to doing business in agriculture which will be tracked in ten pilot countries, including Rwanda.

2. World Bank, USAID and FAO – CAADP II Studies

Two background studies are in the final stages, the first considering growth and poverty reduction, the second considering competitiveness. There is a large amount of information for the sector within the results, and final reports will be available in January.

4. Meeting Closing

Co-Chair Diego Zurdo summarised participant comments, particularly the need to scale up successes and strengthen monitoring and evaluation. He thanked members for their contributions.

Chair PS Ruzindaza noted that going forward the report for the meeting will be shared and sent to MINECOFIN. He thanked all members and wished them a happy new year.

5. Signatures:

Acting Chair DG Raphael Rurangwa
MINAGRI Planning



Co-Chair Diego Zurdo
EU Head of Section

Annex I: List of Attendees

NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION	EMAIL
Chair Ernest Ruzindaza	MINAGRI	Permanent Secretary	ruzindazaernest@yahoo.fr
Co-Chair Diego Zurdo	EU	Head of Section	diego.zurdo@ec.europa.eu
Aparupa Chakravari	Avignam Group	Associate	aparupa.chakravarti@avignam.com
Raf Somers	BTC SPAT II	Co-Manager	somers.raf@gmail.com
Pater Muvana	CHAI	Agricultural	pmuvara@clintonhealthaccess.org
Douglas Kigabo	DFID	Economist	d-kigabo@dfid.gov.uk
Tarik Kubach	EU	Programme Officer	tarik.kubach@eas.europa.eu
Martin Drevon	IFDC PREFER	Market Advisor	mdrevon@ifdc.org
Pascal Furaha	JICA	Junior Programme Manager	PascalFuraha.RW@jica.go.jp
Julia Downer	Mennonite Central Committee	MCC Aid/SALT	julia.downer@gmail.com
Matt Gates	Mennonite Central Committee	Food Security and Ag. Coordinator	matthewgates@rwanda.mcc.org
Aimable Rusingizandekwe	MINAGRI	Decentralisation	airus73@yahoo.fr
Bertrand Dushimayezu	MINAGRI	Agri Statistician	bertrand.dushimayezu@gmail.com
Didace Rushgasiki	MINAGRI	Planning and Budget	rushidida@yahoo.fr
Faustin Mutabazi	MINAGRI	M&E Specialist	festom76@gmail.com
Helen Parker	MINAGRI	Economist	parker.minagri@gmail.com
Raphael Rurangwa	MINAGRI	DG Planning	rurangwa.raphael@gmail.com
David Dushimimana	MINECOFIN	Infra Expert	david.duchimimana@minecofin.gov.rw
Fabien Tuyisnege	NCCR	Supervisor & Auditor	tuyisengefabien@yahoo.fr
Frank O'Brien	RDCP II/ Land o Lakes	COP	frank.obrien@idd.landolakes.com
Eugene Kanyomolekwe	SDC	NPO	eugene.kanyomolekwe@eda.admin.ch
Katarina Jenny	SDC	Directrice Adjointe	katharina.jenny@eda.admin.ch
Poppy Walton	Send a Cow	Programme Officer	poppy.walton@sendacowrwanda.org
Daya Bragante	UNECA	Food Security and Env	dagiomar@yahoo.fra , dbragante@uneca.org
Howard Batson	USAID	Snr Ag Advisor	hbatson@usaid.gov
Terhi Majanen	USAID	Acting EG Director	tmajanen@usaid.gov
Mark Austin	World Bank	Team Leader	maustin@worldbank.org
Valenz Mwumvaneza	World Bank	Rural DVT Specialist	vmwumvaneza@worldbank.org