

Annex

Template for proposal submission **Improving CGIAR Effectiveness through Knowledge Sharing (KS)** **A project of the ICT-KM Program of the CGIAR**

Call for proposals for pilot activities to support institutional and scientific knowledge sharing

Note: the proposal must not exceed 4 pages and should be sent to ks@cgiar.org by Tuesday 15 May, 2007 at 13:00 GMT.

Contact Information – Project Leader

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Project Details

Title of Proposal	Safe food despite wastewater irrigation: A Knowledge Sharing approach.
Area (please include one area: KS in Research; Institutional KS; Virtual Team)	KS in Research
List of staff/partners and expertise working on the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abubakar Bakang, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana (Sociology) • Gordana Kranjac-Berisavljevic, University of Development Studies (UDS), Tamale, Ghana (Engineering) • Juliana Dennis, Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD), Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana (Agronomy) • Philip Amoah, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Accra, Ghana (Public Health Specialist)
Project Duration using Grant Funds (in month)	18 months, USD 30,000
Country(ies) of Implementation / Languages used or needed for virtual team projects	Ghana/English, Twi, and Dagbani (local languages of Ghana)

PROBLEM DEFINITION: Describe the specific challenge you will try to address and why it is significant. Include causes of the problem and estimates of the number of people affected in your target area.

The project would support two other projects which address the challenge of food safety in a multi-stakeholder context. Throughout sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) most vegetables produced in urban and peri-urban areas which are typically consumed raw are irrigated with polluted water.

Several studies as recently summarized in the overview of Obuobie et al. (2006)¹ have shown that current measures of health risk protection failed to protect especially the poor. The authors stress this on the example of Ghana’s capital city of Accra, where every day more than 200,000 urban dwellers are at risk from consuming raw vegetables irrigated with wastewater. Two Challenge Program on Water and Food projects on safeguarding public health in waste water irrigated vegetables (CPWF 38 and 51)² developed low-cost interventions at the farmer, market and household/food vendor levels and quantified their possible positive impact. Two new projects supported by WHO, FAO and IDRC aim to test the implementation and institutionalization of these interventions. All of these projects intend to foster close collaboration with the end-user to increase the adoption and institutionalization potential of the interventions, but unfortunately appear too conventional in their approach of knowledge “dissemination”. A series of Knowledge Sharing (KS) workshops carried out during the first (pilot) phase of the CGIAR ICT-KM Initiative with the target groups and the research team revealed significant gaps and room for improvement. The proposed KS project aims to fill these gaps and catalyze the adoption of research outputs and project sustainability through innovative KS.

OBJECTIVES: List the specific objectives of your project

1. To facilitate open knowledge sharing between researchers, end-users, and policy and decision-makers to discuss constraints and required incentives regarding the adoption potential of suggested innovations.
2. To support innovative actions for knowledge sharing via radio broadcast in local languages.
3. To support the development of improved school and training curricula for farmers field schools and food vendors.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

- **The status of the project: is it a new project or a new phase of an ongoing project? Have you already tested the idea on the ground?**

This proposal is a follow-up on the knowledge sharing component implemented in the first phase of the CGIAR ICT-KM Initiative. It will build on experiences gained in this pilot project in 2006. The methodology for objective 1 in which target groups discuss and feedback on the applicability of suggested interventions was successfully tested during pilot activities in three cities in Ghana (Tamale, Kumasi, Accra) and results are available for further application. The research team is also experienced in radio broadcasting and curricula development. FAO and WHO are supporting these activities.

- **Strategy and methodology:**

The proposal suggests a multi-stakeholder process of dialogue and feedback with the end-users, innovative action for knowledge sharing and lasting impact through improved extension materials for farmers and food vendors. For objective 1, the project facilitates dialogue platforms (open spaces) among farmers, market women and food vendors and decision makers. Based on the suggestions and feedback given in meetings with the individual groups representatives will be picked from each participant in the production and consumption chain. Farmers and street food vendors will be asked to explore low-cost interventions and adjust their everyday work accordingly and document why certain interventions are or are not adaptable and make suggestions for improvements towards feasible good practices. To have in addition meetings with all stakeholders was a suggestion that came up in all of the “World Café” workshops held in 2006 in the three cities (Tamale, Kumasi, Accra). In mixed groups the

¹ www.ruaf.org/node/1046

² CPWF 51 was finished by the beginning of 2007 while CPWF 38 is still on-going.

participants shall develop implementation plans for proposed interventions and ensure the sustainability of necessary changes in attitude, behavior, and relevant policies and by-laws.

For objective 2, the project facilitates the design of the use of community radio programs in city of Tamale in local language (Dagbani is proposed for this intervention). From earlier experiences radio proved to be a very effective and wide spread media for sharing information with users without a good command of English language³. Relevant partners will use key messages for the development of a locally adopted radio program, which will be in the form of a panel discussion, phone-in program, a training series, etc, depending on the level of funding. The program will be pretested with the target group.

For objective 3, the project will support the development of training curricula for Farmer Field Schools and Street Food Catering Schools. In collaboration with FAO, this output will result in an IPG.

For the activities in the first phase, Outcome Mapping was used to monitor the impact of the KS pilot project activities on the identified partners who can be directly influenced. For consistency and the type of work that is being monitored we propose to continue with the drafted outcome mapping journals.

- **Partners:** – including end user/beneficiary groups: An optimal partnership could be: a CGIAR centre, NARES partner, NGO or CBO, beneficiary group and an extension service. For KS in research projects: IWMI as CGIAR center will take the lead. Key partners are two national universities, the University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale, Ghana, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. Other collaborating partners are an NGO network, URBANET, Tamale, relevant municipalities, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture with its directorate Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) taking the lead, the donors of the other projects, FAO, WHO, and IDRC, and representatives of farmers/vendors groups and media identified in the work during 2006 in the cities.
- **Additional expertise needed to implement the project:**
FAO encouraged the project teams to develop a proposal for the inclusion of the development of Farmer Field School' (FFS) curricula and will provide training and backstopping for this part of the proposal.
- **Timeline:**
18 months. The multi-stakeholder forum will be held within the first month of the project. The participatory testing of the tools will be subsequently combined with trainings sequences. The monitoring and evaluation is embedded. The development of lessons and presentation of final results is scheduled for the last two months with a community market place event at the end.
- **Budget:**
A total amount of USD 30.000 is estimated to be required to conduct the planned activities. The costs will be equally shared across the three objectives and activities with a ten percent contingency each.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- **Identified output and outcomes**
For objective 1, we expect to have developed a strategy map of activities and their institutionalization potential monitored in the Outcome Mapping Strategy Journals. For

³ R. Chapman, R. Blench, G. Kranjac-Berisavljevic' and A.B.T. Zakariah, (2003), RURAL RADIO IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION: THE EXAMPLE OF VERNACULAR RADIO PROGRAMMES ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN NORTHERN GHANA, in: Agricultural Research & Extension Network, AgREN, *Network Paper No. 127*, January 2003.

objective 2, the production of the radio programs will be carried out. A process description in form of a diary or logbook and the draft curriculum and FFS modules are expected as an output from objective 3. For all the three activities, we expect to have interviews available e.g. of the monitoring visits, or individuals' perception of the radio program. Likewise for all, we expect to have a collection of lessons learnt and a greater awareness of the challenges and possible solutions. Farmers/vendors will be testing the "good practices" where applicable and will therefore be motivated to document the results/achievements. The stakeholders should also feel that they can talk to each other about constraints and be confident about discussion acceptable options with each other.

- **Description of who will use or be affected by the outputs and outcomes:**
The outputs will be shared within all cities/ stakeholders as examples and will serve to encourage replicating elements and adjusting to the specific needs. Donors, such as FAO, WHO and IDRC can use the outputs and outcomes for project monitoring and evaluation. Collaborating research partners will use these outputs and outcomes for further research. The end-beneficiaries will be addressed, encouraged and exposed to "good practices". Farmers, caterers and consumers of wastewater irrigated vegetables will be introduced to the adoption of 'good/best' practices, with improved health and subsequent recognition of urban agricultural products as safe for consumption.
- **Explain how the outputs and outcomes go beyond the period of the pilot project:**
Due to the links with the other projects, the outputs and outcomes (=guidelines for the adoption of safe food interventions) will feed into the WHO Guidelines on Safe Wastewater Irrigation and into FAO's FFS training material, thus become IPGs. Follow-up proposals will use the results and develop the outputs and outcomes further. Collaborating partners have already started adopting knowledge sharing activities and methodologies from the first phase into their research and development work and will continue to do so.
- **How will your project continue beyond the phases funded by the CGIAR grant?**
The main project funded by WHO-FAO-IDRC will still continue to monitor possible changes and impacts. The activities aim to change our direct partners attitude and behavior. From our experience of the first phase, we find that once the exposure and understanding is there, the change in attitude and subsequently in the behavior of partners is manifested in their future work. An example of these changes are the social scientists from KNUST who are now using tools from the knowledge sharing toolbox, developed as an output of the inception workshops in 2006 for the activities in the first phase.

INNOVATION:

It is the first time that through the creation of an end-user communication platform genuine feedback on proposed innovations is provided. To facilitate the free expression of perceptions farmers, traders, and food vendors meet separately followed by joint sessions with researchers and authorities. Their suggestions feed into the revision of the research results and messages. The approach of an end-user communication platform is new especially in the national context and at an early stage within the research life cycle. This is very different from the classic approach of dissemination at the end of the project. New is also the extension of the FAO's Farmer Field School approach to irrigated urban and peri-urban agriculture, waste water use and food safety.

REPLICABILITY:

The production of IPGs and strategic partnership with WHO and FAO will facilitate the replication of the approach. The ideas of this project will be applicable in most urban centers in SSA. The current discussion between the CGIAR and its Science Council identified Food Safety as a crucial

topic. Several CGIAR centers are addressing this plus the new Global Horticultural Initiative. The latter approached us already for the FFS curricula.