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NSSP Workshop Report #30

Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) EXCO AND CONGRESS MEETING

(Prepared by Sheu Salau)

Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP)
Workshop Report

November 23, 2011

IFPRI-ABUJA

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THE NIGERIA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM

WORKSHOP REPORTS

ABOUT NSSP

The Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has an initiative to strengthen evidence-based policymaking in Nigeria in the areas of rural and agricultural development. This initiative, facilitated by USAID, supports the implementation of Nigeria's national development plans by strengthening agricultural-sector policies and strategies through:

- Enhanced knowledge, information, data, and tools for the analysis, design, and implementation of pro-poor, gender-sensitive, and environmentally sustainable agricultural and rural development policies and strategies in Nigeria;
- Strengthened capacity for government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders to carry out and use applied research that directly informs agricultural and rural policies and strategies; and
- Improved communication linkages and consultations between policymakers, policy analysts, and policy beneficiaries on agricultural and rural development policy issues.

ABOUT THESE WORKSHOP REPORTS

The Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) Workshop Reports provide a record of the presentations delivered during workshops and key comments from the audience and group discussions. The comments from the participants do not necessarily reflect the views of IFPRI.

APRNet EXCO AND CONGRESS MEETING¹

Enugu, Nigeria
November 23, 2011

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Contents

Introduction	4
Executive Council Meeting	4
Congress Meeting	4
Next Step	5
<i>Appendix A: Participants List</i>	6
<i>Appendix B: Agenda</i>	7

Introduction

NSSP activities under the USAID Feed the Future (FtF) initiative include, among other things, support for the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet), an independent network of agricultural policy professionals in Nigeria. This support falls under the capacity strengthening objective of NSSP intended to promote the use of evidence in the agricultural policymaking process in Nigeria.

One such activity supported by the NSSP was the APRNet Executive Council and Congress Meeting, held at The Hotel in Enugu on the 23rd of November 2011. The meeting brought together twenty-six APRNet members (see Appendix A for participants list) and provided an opportunity for the network to review its ongoing activities, elect a new executive council, and plan for its next steps.

One of the immediate outcomes of the annual congress was a strategically positioned APRNet that proactively engaged with policy maker by promptly responding to emerging agricultural policy issues in Nigeria.

Executive Council Meeting

Before the annual Congress meeting, which was open to the whole network, members of APRNet's Executive Council (EXCO) convened to review and approve the agenda. The EXCO meeting was attended by Prof. Eric Eboh, APRNet President; Innocent Azih, APRNET Private Sector Representative; and Victor Oboh, APRNet Secretary (by teleconference).

Congress Meeting

The annual congress meeting began with an opening prayer from Dr. Charles Ofulue, of the department of Agricultural Economics, University of Calabar. Following the prayer, there was a check to ensure that the members present represented a quorum, and the network's treasurer rendered the financial report since inception. In the report, membership dues and registration fees – totaling NGN636,000 – turned out as the main source of income for the network. This was followed by donations from three members of the association: N200,000 from Prof. Eric Eboh; N100,000 from Victor Oboh and N50,000 from Dr. Asumugha. In addition, the treasurer informed members that APRNet had set up a corporate bank account following a successful registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). However, clear messages emanating from the discussion on the financial report were that the group needs to do more in order to ensure its financial sustainability and report should have all the sources of income including in-kind contributions such as the one IFPRI provides the group.

Thereafter, a presidential address was given. The address gave an overview of the activities of the organization including accomplishments, challenges and what the president referred to as a Medium Term Priorities and Strategies (MTePS) for the group. Some of the activities under accomplishment are: (i) Mendeley web-based research writing training for members in February 2010 in Abuja; (ii) Research Communication training on 31 Aug – 1 Sept, 2010 in Enugu, (iii) An Online Mendeley web resources training on 27th October, 2010 and (iv) an Agricultural Policy Analysis Methodology & Tools Training Workshop planned for January 10-15, 2012 in Enugu. Others include growth in the number of members (from 28 at inception to 70 currently), production of newsletter, incorporation of the group, and a policy dialogue in collaboration with IFPRI and ARCN. Funding and a lack of full-time officers were noted as challenges.

The MTePs, a 5-Year planning document, is a road map for actualizing the objectives of the network in the current term. Some of the highlights of the MTePS are the appointment of six zonal coordinators, the recruitment of a program office and the need for a functional secretariat,

to be hosted for the time being within the IFPRI office. Other details on the MTePs can be found in appendix C.

Other programs of events include:

- ✚ Review of the Constitution: The document was transformed from a single 2-year renewable term to a 4-year renewable one.
- ✚ Dissolution of Exco & Election: Three out of the four outgoing executive council members were returned unopposed, except for the 1st vice president position where Dr. Gloria Ujor was elected.
- ✚ APRNet meeting with the Honourable Minister of Agriculture during the first week of December 2011

Next Step

NSSP will review MTePs and other activities of APRNet to ensure they align with NSSP goals and objectives

Appendix A: Participants List

S/N	Name of participants	Address of participants
1.	Eric Eboh	AIAE, Enugu
2.	Nzeh, Celestine Emeka	AIAE, Enugu
3.	Azih, Innocent	NESG, Lagos
4.	Jones Lemchi	FUTO, Owerri
5.	Favour B Inyere	AIAE, Enugu
6.	Dr. P.C. Ike	DELSU, Abraka
7.	Ndaya Muhammad Yelwa	FCT-ADP
8.	Dr. Chiedozie C. Eze	FUTO
9.	Ogaraku, M.E. (Nee Onu)	UNIPORT
10.	Dr. G.I. Okafor	UNN
11.	Ujah, I.C.	AIAE, Enugu
12.	Dr. A.O. Ejiogu	Dept of Agric Economics, IMSU
13.	Aninye, F.A.	National Directorate of Employment, Asaba
14.	Prof. Ojeifo, I.M.	Delta State University, Asaba Campus
15.	Ofulue, Charles	Dept. of Agric Economics, University of Calabar
16.	Chidiebere Ibe	Institute of Public Policy Analysis & Management, Abuja
17.	Ezihe, Jacqueline A.C	Dept of Agric Economics, UniAgric, Makurdi
18.	Ndibe Beatrice	AIAE, Enugu
19.	Kenneth Kwujeli	c/o Mr. Eddy Ogbeihe, NPC, Abuja
20.	Gloria Ujor	Abuja, FME
21.	Amaechina Ebele	Dept of Agric Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
22.	Oguike S Chinasa	Dept of Agric Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
23.	Nwandu, Peter. I.	Federal College of Education (Tech), Asaba
24.	Oyoboh, Dan	NASA Seed Project, Abuja
25.	Ezeali, C.B.O	Fed. Ministry of Agric.
26.	Salau Sheu	IFPRI

Appendix B: Agenda

APRNet Congress Meeting

23 November, 2011

Draft Agenda

- 9.00-9.30 **Registrations of Participants - *Secretary***
- 9.30-9.35 **Opening prayer**
- 9.35-10.00 **Introduction of members - *All***
- 10.00-10.05 **Welcome Remarks - *President***
- 10.05-10.10 **Goodwill message - *IFPRI***
- 10.10-10.20 **Presidential Address - *President***
- 10.20-10.30 **Tea Break**
- 10.00-11.00 **Matters arising from the address**
- 11.00-11.20 **Financial update - *Treasurer***
- 11.20-1.00 **Constitution of Electoral Committee and Elections**
- 1.00-2.00 **Lunch**
- 2.00- 2.30 **Swearing-In of new officers/President's acceptance speech**
- 2.30-3.00 **A.O.B**
- 3:00-3:15 **Closing Remarks -*President***
- 3.15 **Closing prayer**