

ADVANCING COUNTRY-LED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERFORMANCE IN THE AG SECTOR: AFRICA'S CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW

PRESENTATION AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

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Julie MacCartee:

All right. We are going to go ahead and get started. Oh, I'm hearing an echo from one of our other presenters, I believe. I think you've muted now. Excellent. So before we get started, I'll just remind our presenters to make sure that you also have only one of your speakers open. You may need to mute your computer speakers to avoid any feedback. Okay, let's get underway.

Julie MacCartee:

Hello everyone. On behalf of Agrilinks, Feed the Future and the USA ID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, I would like to welcome you to our webinar today on advancing country-led accountability for performance in the Ag sector, Africa's CAADP biennial review. We'd like to thank everyone for making the effort to join the webinar today, particularly as everyone is adjusting to new arrangements at work and at home due to COVID-19. My name is Julie MacCartee and I am your Agrilinks webinar host with the USA ID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security. And before we dive into the content, I'd like to go over just a few items to orient you to the webinar.

Julie MacCartee:

First, please do use the chat box to introduce yourself, as many of you have already done, and also use it to ask questions and share resources. We love for our webinars to be interactive, so please use the chat box freely. We'll be collecting your questions throughout the webinar, and in some cases our presenters will try to answer your clarifying questions in the chat box. In other cases, our panel moderator Robert Ouma will pose your questions during our panel discussion, but responses to all of your questions, whether they were addressed during the webinar or not, will be shared with the participants after this event.

Julie MacCartee:

You'll see that today's slides are available to download in the box at the bottom of your screen, and we've also got a link to the Agrilinks event page for this webinar, and to a very useful CAADP toolkit. So please check those out when you have a moment. And lastly, we are recording this webinar and we'll email you the recording, the transcript, and some additional resources such as the answers to the questions, once they are ready, which should be in about a week or two. And they'll also be posted on the agrilinks.org website.

Julie MacCartee:

All right. I am going to get us rolling by going over the objectives and the agenda for this webinar, and then introducing our first speaker. So the webinar objectives today are threefold, first to raise awareness of the biannual review, new data, and the tools and resources available to disseminate and

advocate using the new results. Second to share how a country may use the data to improve their performance, and increase the accountability of country led systems and programs. And thirdly, to lay the foundation for future engagements at the regional level, and key initiatives by NSA at the continental level.

Julie MacCartee:

A brief outline of our agenda today, we'll have some opening words from USA ID. We'll give an overview of the biannual review and sharing of 2019 data. We'll hold a panel discussion with some stakeholder representatives, moderated by Robert Ouma, and we'll pose a question to participants, you all, on use of the biannual review data, and then cover what's next and some wrap-up materials. All right. So for our opening remarks, I would like to pass the microphone over to Jim Oehmke who is our senior food security and nutrition policy advisor with the USA ID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security. So Jim, please take it away.

Jim Oehmke:

Thank you Julie, it's a pleasure to be here. I would first like to thank the African Union for its Malabo Declaration, which sets the stage for the biennial review. Malabo Declaration is a recommitment to CAADP, which Julie mentioned, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program. And it is a commitment to agriculturally led growth and transformation, and is a commitment to development in general. And specifically within the Malabo Declaration is a commitment to mutual accountability. This mutual accountability is implemented in the biannual review, the topic for today's webinar. So I would like to thank the African Union for their continental leadership in these areas. I would especially like to thank the African Union's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture for their leadership in facilitating, in directing, and in helping countries to implement the biennial review. DREA as it is called, and the biennial review are in fact far ahead of the curve on mutual accountability, both globally and across sectors. And I would particularly like to thank the director of DREA, Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa, for being here in this seminar.

Jim Oehmke:

I'd like to take a few minutes to set a broad contextual background for the biennial review. And that broad contextual background is the importance of policy systems in agriculturally led development. So first of all, we all know that countries can't do development without development policy, that's just a fundamental truth. But what does this mean? The people who we are most trying to help with development are the poor, the food insecure, the water insecure, the vulnerable women and children. In other words, they are people who are marginalized in economic processes, in social processes, and perhaps most importantly in policy processes. So it is very important that the Malabo Declaration has called out attention to these specific groups, and called out attention to enabling policies and investments to help these people.

Jim Oehmke:

But the second point is that enabling policies come from an underlying policy system. We all know that the policies don't just randomly appear in a Gazette, that they come from the policy system, and the policy system then needs to generate policies to help these marginalized groups. Which brings us to the third point, the sustainable changes in development policy to enable Malabo Declaration requires strengthening of the underlying policy systems. It requires better evidence and inclusion of marginalized populations in policy formulation and implementation, it includes better policies, and it includes accountability for inclusion for policies and for policy and investment success. And that accountability, that mutual accountability is implemented to the biennial review.

Jim Oehmke:

The biennial review as a mutual accountability process is, in my opinion, the most exciting and highest potential development innovation of the past decade. But realizing that potential it will take continued hard work and perseverance this decade. We've already seen some of the effects of that hard work and perseverance. Comparing the inaugural biennial review presented to the African Union Summit in 2018, and the most recent review presented this February to the African Union, show a significant difference in terms of the number of indicators of progress towards Malabo commitments that have been collected, and an increase in the country ability to report on the larger number of indicators, and to do more complete reporting across all indicators.

Jim Oehmke:

There is also improvement in the quality of the data from the first biennial review to the second biennial review. This willingness to put evidence of progress towards helping the targeted development populations on the table for discussion, that the willingness to make it open and public, the willingness to adjust development policy based on these indicators, is a game changer. It's something that we have not had access to in African led development previously, and now we have access to it. That in and of itself is a significant game changer, but we still need to continue our perseverance and our hard work from DREA, from donors, and most importantly from all of our African partners, in order to fully realize the potential of these indicators, this biennial review, and its influence on policy and investment. Today we have a fantastic webinar on the biennial review facilitated by the Link Project, which also partners with the African Union, and with various countries on facilitation and support for the biennial review process. Julie, I'd like to turn it back to you to get started with the the biennial review discussion.

Julie MacCartee:

Great. Thank you so much Jim. All right, before we dive into the discussion, we wanted to bring up just a little poll to get a bit more of a sense of how familiar all of you are with the biennial review. It's in here, I'll bring it right up here on top of the presentation. So please let us know if you are very familiar,

somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or if you really don't have any idea what this is and just decided to join the webinar today to find out. So we'll leave that up for just a moment.

Julie MacCartee:

All right. I can see the responses streaming in. It looks like at least two thirds, have some familiarity with the biennial review. About a fifth of you all are very familiar, and about a quarter are somewhat familiar, but a good chunk are at a more base level in terms of familiarity with this process. So great, this is very helpful to us just to get an idea of what level we should be bringing the information to you on.

Julie MacCartee:

Okay. I will go ahead and close this poll. And so next for our main presentation I would like to introduce Godfrey Bahiigwa, who is Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture with the African Union Commission. And I would like to just remind all of our participants that you are invited to enter any of your questions in the chat box at any time and we'll be sure to try and answer them as possible throughout this webinar. And it would also be helpful to us if you would indicate your country once again, when you are asking a question, especially if it is relevant to your question. All right, I'll go ahead and pass the microphone over to Godfrey.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Thank you. Thank you Julie for moderating this webinar. Thank you Jim for the introduction, the introductory remarks you have given. But most important, thank you to the participants to this webinar, it is you that make it happen, and exciting. Let me introduce, my name is Godfrey Bahiigwa, the Director of the Department of Rural Economy, and we call that the AU Commission based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. So from the quick poll that was done about the percent of the participants, I am familiar with, very familiar with the CAADP biennial review. So I'll try as much as possible to bring up everything on the report, but without getting in to much detail so we can use the time allocated to the webinar.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

As Jim did mention, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, also known as CAADP, is Africa's action and political mark to drive our provider transformation on the continent with minute objective and the goals, but the overarching objective is to reduce impact on the continent and include improved nutrition of the African population. CAADP annual review process comes out of the desire by African leaders, to hold themselves accountable to the outcomes of the investments they make intervene he agriculture sector. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program was adopted first about 17 years ago in 2003 in Malabo, Mozambique. And after 10 years of it's implementation the Head of States reviews the progress that they had made, and here believes that agriculture was an important fixture for transformation of the majority of African economy. And as a

result they committed themselves, in 2014, through what is now properly known as the CAADP Malabo Declaration.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

This declaration is more detailed than the Malabo Summit Declaration with more specific goals and targets for Heads of State. And as Jim did mention, one of the commitments that the Heads of State made in 2014 was commitment to mutual accountability, to hold representatives accountable to the investment actions that are there. And they called on the applicant in commission, together with the NEPAD Agency, which is now known as the AU Development Agency, to produce a report every three years beginning in 2017, to be presented to the the AU Assembly, showing the progress that the member states are making with the implementation of the Malabo Declaration.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

So what you are seeing on the screen is this timeline that we are following to produce the report, the biennial review report, every three years, that we present to the assembly. So the first report that Jim mentioned was presented to the assembly in January of 2018, and the second report was presented in February of 2019, just last month, and both reports were adopted by Heads of State. So the next report in view to the assembly in 2022, and the other will be 2024, and the final one will be in January or February of 2026.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

The Malabo Declaration has taken transformational growth for commitment and needs not exist in isolation. They are linked, both the UN performance growth, and specifically rule number two on ending hunger, but it would include security and nutrition and promoting beneficial agriculture. And also, links to Africa's own agenda on this, which has seven positions, and the one called the Malabo Declaration comes to be through aspiration number one, which is about a boost for Africa based on the ability of growth and sustainable development. In other words the implementation of the Malabo Declaration does contribute to the achievement of Africa's development aspirations as well as their achievements of the UN sustainable development story.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Briefly here we show you the seven Malabo Commitments, ranging from their commitment to the CAADP process from 2003 Maputo, to 2014 in Malabo. And the five substantive commitments cover enhancing investment, financing agriculture, commitment to ending hunger by 2025, reducing poverty through agriculture by half by 2025, boosting intra-African trade in agriculture commodities and services, enhancing the resilience of both livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other risks, and then the seventh one which is the best for this presentation, is strengthening mutual

accountability to actions and results. So those are the seven Malabo commitments that are the basis for our first AU Malabo.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Now the annual review process, or even evidenced the best process where we raise out from members, their performance. Of course the seven commitments or thematic areas, performance categories, and ultimately indicators. Now what you are seeing on the screen is a summary of the process in 2017, which was the report, and 2019 for the second biennial review report. So the themes are the same, seven themes or seven commitments. In the first biennial review report we had to put three indicators, but after reviewing those indicators we thought some indicators were missing, and so in the 2019 report we have seven indicators, from three to seven. Of course the themes remains the same.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Other than spend my time on this slide, I'll just tell you that we pursued a very rigorous process that involves mobilizing our member states, training our country teams, and providing technical support to our member states, to holding vocation workshops at regional levels, having workshops and reviewing the report all the way to taking the report to the assembly. So it's a very rigorous process and as you can see on the slide, this is two times a year. From the first meeting we had in 2019, to when we presented the report to the assembly in February of 2020. So basically it was manned of dedicated and intense work that was conducted by the AU Commission together with the NEPAD Agency and different personnel that are initially.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Now as I indicated in the previous slide, two periods of reporting. In the first report you had 47 of the 55 AU member states participate in the review, which was very encouraging because being the first exercise and you have 47 out of 55 member states participating. This to us showed the commitment that AU member states have in their own process that they established. And we are further encouraged that in the second biennial review report in 2019, we had 49 out of the 55 member states reporting. So basically only six member states did not report. So we remain encouraged and we believe that by the time we are implementing in 2025, all the 55 member states will be on board and will be reporting, that is our ambition, to lead them through this review process.

Godfrey Bahiigwa:

Now it's important to understand that the findings of the biennial review report, have caused some commonalities for you to appreciate. They each have a graph that I'll be showing in the next few slides. For each period where the biennial review further covers the entire Malabo period, which is 2016 to

2025. So in trying to assist properly the member states are making every three years, you have to have milestones, you have to have benchmarks. That's why we have to have this core that a country must obtain, every three years, for it to be on track to us meeting the Malabo Declaration, and before that a benchmark.

Godfrey Bahigwa:

So for the first report in 2017 for a country to be on track they had to score 3.94 out of 10, for them to be on track. In 2019 that benchmark is 6.66 out of 10. So any country that scored 6.66 or higher, was on track, and any country that scored less than 6.66 was not on track. And so every three years they make the benchmarking different but ultimately it will be 10 in the last report that we shall present in 2026. So for 2021, we're going to know the benchmark, it is going to be 7.66. So basically in the short, it is the minimum score that a country must attain for it to be on track towards achieving the Malabo Declaration at that point of participation. So right now you are seeing on the screen the results from the 2019 assessment, like I said, the indicator for a country to be on track, the benchmark was 6.6. So any country that scored less than 6.66 is in the red, so you see.

Godfrey:

It is in red, so you see the numbers in the main square. So any country that has the score less than the benchmark, is not on track. So for 2019, we had four countries. Only four countries were on track towards achieving the [Malabo 00:26:15] declaration, with Rwanda being the number-one country, followed by Morocco, Mali and Ghana. So those are the four countries whose scores were either equal to or higher than 6.66, which is the benchmark.

Godfrey:

Now, as much as many countries are not on track, we're encouraged that the majority of countries actually made positive progress within the two assessment periods. In other words, between 2017 and 2019, we saw 36 countries made positive progress. And those are the numbers that you are seeing to the right of the individual scores. You see them with an upward arrow, and in green. That is the percentage increase of the score for that member state between 2017 and 2019. And so, even though many countries are not on track, the majority of countries who are 36 in number made positive progress. So for us, we are encouraged by this commitment by our member states to continue making investments and policy choices that keep their scores rising.

Godfrey:

It's also important to note that of all the countries that were not on track in 2017, only one country, Ghana, emerged from that pool to be on track in 2019. It was the only country that was not on track in 2017 but went on track in 2019. And I think in this webinar, we'll be wanting to hear from our colleagues from Ghana, what it is that they did differently, that brought them to be on track, while others were not

able to do it and what can we learn from Ghana. I think it will be interesting to hear from our colleagues about that.

Godfrey:

Now, like I said, for Africa as a whole, the continent is not on track towards meeting the [CAADP 00:29:01] Malabo goal. However, like I have stated, 36 of our member states made progress, and we believe if they continue on a positive trend up, by the time we are in the fourth report, maybe the majority of the countries will be back on track towards meeting the Malabo goals and CAADP.

Godfrey:

This slide basically shows you the trajectory that we shall be following, or what the member states will be following towards the ultimate year, which is 2025. And what I just described and what you can see now graphically, you see a positive trend of the scores for all the countries and on average, for Africa as a whole. The percentage increased between the 2017 and 2019 scores for the whole continent towards 12%. Of course, this varies from one country to the other, but overall, like we said, we are encouraged by the positive trend in improvement of the scores of most, or the majority of the member states.

Godfrey:

Now here, I would like to take you through the progress that the continent has made across each of the seven Malabo commitments. Just remind you commitment number one is the commitment to the CAADP Process, and in the first round in 2017, we had for the two member states that reported on track, in 2019 only two member states were on track. Only two member states were on track. So which means that they are CAADP Process-ed. In the commitment, the CAADP Process, that a lot of member states were not able to achieve by 2019 and yet they have been expected to have completed them by that period of assessment.

Godfrey:

On commitment number two, which is commitment to increase investment finance in agriculture, in the first round in 2017, only three member states were on track. And in 2019, none of the AU member states was on track. This is a cause for concern because we would like to ensure that our member states are increasing their commitment and investment in agriculture. And this is one of the commitments where we saw a decrease in the overall score. Whereas across the other commitments, we saw while not on track for many of them, but at least there was positive progress, an increase in the score. But for financing agriculture, we saw a decline of the score.

Godfrey:

Again, this is a huge concern, and it should stimulate debate across the board from regional economic communities to member states, but also our partners on what can be done to reverse this trend, and recommit to increasing financing to agriculture, by the public sector, as well as the private sector.

Godfrey:

On commitment number three, which is about ending hunger, again, we see as much as there is some improvement in the overall score, a lot of countries in Africa, the majority of countries, are not on track towards attaining ending hunger by 2025. Only one country, and I think that is Uganda, was on track in 2019. And this result is also consistent with other findings or other data from the World Bank, from FAO, that have shown a decline in performance on hunger indicators on the continent. Again, it is another concern that we need to double our efforts, if we are going to fight hunger on the continent, and reduce the number of millions of Africans that are hungry, that are malnourished, that are stunted.

Godfrey:

On commitment number four, which is about eradicating poverty, in this case halving poverty by 2025, through agricultural investments. In the first round in 2017 we had 28 member states that were on track. That number also declined. Now, in 2019, we had only nine member states that were on track, and were largely in the West African region. And again, we saw overall a decline in the overall score on this theme between the two periods, a significant decline of 32% of the score across the continent, and this is also something to worry about. It means member states reduced efforts in their efforts to fight poverty through agriculture.

Godfrey:

On commitment number five, which is about boosting intra-African trades in agricultural commodities, we see encouraging results, which is good news for the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement that was adopted by some member states, and will become operational from the first of July this year. So we see a lot of countries are committed towards especially creating an enabling environment for agriculture trade to take place.

Godfrey:

As much as we observe that the volume of trade is not increasing at the rate that we wanted, which is tripling into Africa's trade, but we see a lot of countries committed towards creating an enabling environment, removing trade barriers and putting in place [inaudible 00:37:04] mechanism across borders to improve trade. So, this good news that a lot of our countries are creating and enabling environment, and we believe that in the coming rounds of assessment, we hope to see the benefits of this environment through improved volume of trades across our countries and across our regions.

Godfrey:

On commitment number six which is about building resilience to climate variability, this is an area where we saw overall progress, but we've done improvements between the two assessment periods of 19% and we also saw an increase in the number of member states that were on track from seven in 2017 to 11 member states in 2019. So this is an encouraging trend that member states are making investments and policy choices that can bring about improved resilience at household level as well as overall and especially allocating specific resources that are geared towards climate change but also safety net for vulnerable people within the country.

Godfrey:

On the last commitment which is about mutual accountability towards actions and results, which is the best of the value review. Again we see an overall improvement in the score across the continent, even though we see less numbers, less member states are on track between the two assessment periods, 2017, 2019. So what we see from this slide, here lots of countries are committed to... Who have mutual accountability but not as strong as they did in 2017 who now has only 13 countries that are on track towards achieving that commitment.

Godfrey:

So what do we learn from this 2019 report and what are the possible action? As I have indicated throughout my presentation where I have dubbed where countries are making progress and where they're not. And the different actions countries may want to pick, we pick out four key messages for actions that we believe countries should undertake lining out of this second final review report.

Godfrey:

So the first one is the integration of the Malabo commitment into the National Agriculture Investment Plan. Unless member states domesticate this Malabo commitment into national agriculture investment plan, so that when you go to a country and you see your investment plan, you can actually see all the seven commitments reflected. Unless that happens, we think it will be a challenge for member states to attain the Malabo commitment. Because it is from their investment plan that generates the budget, the annual implementation budget are the vote. So if they are not reflected in the investment plan, it means they cannot be budgeted for, and that means they cannot be implemented. So it's very important that the investment plan are revised, updated or formulated to reflect the Malabo commitment in them.

Godfrey:

Two, that we need to view the capacity for evidence-based across policy making. By ensuring that this CAADP biennial review is part of the domestic environment, it is domesticated at country level, not just for countries to be able to report to the African Union about the progress that they are making, but for that to be an internal tool for government to review the progress they are making and make

adjustments that are necessary for them to perform better in their agriculture sector. And that can only happen if the process is domesticated both at national and regional level.

Godfrey:

And number three, given the result that I indicated that only one member state was on track towards ending hunger, it means member states need to prioritize policy choices as well as investments that will increase performance across this somatic area, in order to reduce wasting, stunting and malnourishment within the population. And this is an important call because we see hunger rising in the continent. That is a phenomenon that we have forgotten 20 years ago but it is coming back and should be a point of concern for everybody. So prioritizing investment that will lead ending hunger on the continent is going to be important.

Godfrey:

The fourth message is about using the resilience of Africa's food systems that are threatened by climate change which you all observed, they are threatened by emerging pests and diseases. In the last three years we have been battling the [inaudible 00:43:19]. And we haven't even won that battle, now we have the eastern African region invaded by the desert locusts and we don't know what is going to come next year and the year after in terms of pests and diseases. So using resilience of Africa's food system's climate change and emerging or associated pests and diseases is going to be quite important.

Godfrey:

So there are many messages and recommendation one can pick from the finding of the report but we thought that these four are key toward making an investment that will revert the poor performance that we saw for many of the indicators in 2019.

Godfrey:

Finally, my last slide, we at the African commission, together with the network agencies, would like as much possible to have the results of the biennial review utilized broadly across the board by our member states, by regional economic committees, continental organizations as well our global partners to have focused discussions on what member states can do to improve their performance within their agriculture sector. The report is quite detailed, it shows the performance of each of the member states across the seven themes so you can have bi-lateral discussions with our member states on what they can do based on their performance across the seven somatic areas.

Godfrey:

Now for you to have that conversation and for it to be fruitful, we want to use different communication tools. And one set of communication tool is the CAADP value review toolkit. You have two communication tools one is the called the CAADP dashboard and the other one is the CAADP toolkit. The

dashboard is not presented here but it is a tool that we have to vote and is under further devotement and discussion. When we presented this report to the ministers in October, we also presented both these tools, the CAAPD biennial review dashboard as well as the CAADP toolkit. We were advised by the ministers that we need to undertake further consultation at regional level for the constituents or the stakeholders to understand these tools as communication tools for them to have buy-in and pronounce themselves if these tools are useful for what we do.

Godfrey:

So the CAADP toolkit has been the vote, it's an online tool where you can go and find all the data that have been presented. You can select indicators and compare them across regions, you can compare them at continental level, you can compare them within country. It's quite a rich tool and we invite you to access it, at the bottom you can see the link, you can go and play with it and we would be happy to get your feedback on what you think about this toolkit. So like I said both toolkits, the dashboard and this toolkit will be subjected to regional consultation over the next couple of months. We had wanted to start now but because of the coronavirus, we can't do it. But we believe maybe in the... By the end of the second or third quarter, we have had the regional consultation on this communication tool.

Godfrey:

So with that I would like to bring my presentation to an end and look forward to interacting with you through questions and comments. I hand over up to the moderator, thank you so much.

Julie:

Thank you so much, [Godfrey 00:47:53]. Really a wonderful presentation, and thank you to our participants, too, because... Sorry, we're having a bit of an echo so just a reminder to the presenters to please mute, just in case that's coming through your... Oh there we go, that's better.

Julie:

Again, thank you so much for Godfrey and thank you to our participants. I've been so impressed with the questions that have come in, we've been collecting all of them. And thank you to our presenters also for answering as many questions as you could in the chat box.

Julie:

So please do continue to enter your questions. And just in case anyone has their presentation on full screen and can't figure out how to get it back so that you can view the chat box, if you hover over the main presentation part, you'll see four little arrows in the top right corner that point inwards and if you click on those four arrows it should bring you back to the main webinar view so that you can engage in the chat box.

Julie:

All right we are ready to move on to the next segment of our webinar which is a panel discussion, moderated by [Robert Ouma 00:48:56] who is the regional director with [PolicyLink 00:49:00]. And Robert you have a tough job because there have been so many excellent questions coming in but please do take it away.

Robert Ouma:

Thank you very much, [Julie 00:49:10] and very warm greetings from Nairobi. I'm really happy to see many friends and colleagues come across Africa and beyond with whom have been in the trenches trying to welcome different aspects of African agriculture development and particularly so because this is a really interesting and important topic for all of us and I really look forward to the engagement. So we have a great panel with us today-

Julie:

Robert I'm so sorry to interrupt you, I just want to say you sound just a little bit loud, like you're a little close to the mic, and so I was hoping you could maybe backing off, just a little bit and see if that helps.

Robert Ouma:

Okay, is that better Julie?

Julie:

Um I think so but I will let you know.

Robert Ouma:

Okay, thank you. All right so I've also interviewed what I consider to be a great panel of individuals, drivers who have been involved in the primary review in 2004, like in the past few years and they each have different but certain attributes has developed. And I'm glad there's so many different questions and interests on this topic and hopefully we can cover some of them in the chatter. So we have with us someone from the [inaudible 00:50:46]. [Constance Okeke 00:50:45] is the international project manager for public finance for agriculture from [ActionAid 00:50:52] International. And Constance has been working quite extensively in organizing lots of factors to engage in agriculture and thinking about the different ways and processes. And I did see some questions but I think Constance will be only too happy to have convey to you how it is to work with [inaudible 00:51:24] involved and engaged in some of these processes.

Robert Ouma:

So that we do also have someone from a what we generally refer to as region economic community, and this is one who is from IGAD. IGAD is the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and [Moneim 00:51:31] is the program manager for two years. He also governs the [inaudible 00:51:40] customs. Moneim has been coordinating and in fact has been part of the biennial review. Not just IGAD but east African community and [COMESA 00:51:50] group of I think 13 countries, their engagement, their response, their validation and different focuses. So really look forward to hearing from Moneim in a few minutes. What's his perspective-

Robert:

In a few minutes what the perspectives are. And then of course we have two ladies from Ghana. Ghana is one of the countries that did particularly well in this round of the plenary review and with us is Angela Mercy Dannson who is the director of policy planning, monitoring, and evaluation director from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana. And along with her is Josephine Ivy Quagraine, who's the deputy director but also head of the policy planning and analysis position in that same direction.

Robert:

So welcome and... in addition, of course, we still have [inaudible 00:52:48] who was introduced earlier. So we are just going to go through a couple of the questions that have come up, but to start us off, I'll post some questions to my panelists and I'd like to touch with Ghana because the BR process really happen [inaudible 00:53:10] country level, and some might even say at some national level. So it's may be interesting to hear from Angela and Josephine a little bit of their perspective and then move on up, and I'll start by asking you, Angela and Josephine, to share with us what your experience has been collecting data, particularly, for this plenary review that [inaudible 00:53:34] shared with us.

Robert:

And in particular, just the process of ensuring the integrity of that data is actually. You may unmute your microphone and then speak up, Angela.

Angela Mercy Dannson:

Yes, good afternoon to you all. As the introduction has already been done, I'm here with Josephine and we want to use the opportunity to tag the AC and the whole binary process for keeping some [inaudible 00:54:20] have to be commitment. So we are very happy that would progress from [inaudible 00:54:24] not on track, to be on track with a good performance today. So we want to thank the whole team that has been involved in this process. And now I'm very excited about it, as your process resume yesterday, that was from Monday, about the performance of the country.

Angela Mercy Dannson:

With that, I want Josephine to take the first question about and how we have included our performance in the 2019 review, since she was handling and coordinating that whole exercise. Then I'll come in again to strategies which we can place to improve the appointment [inaudible 00:55:00] performance. Thank you. Josephine.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

Thank you for this opportunity. As indicated, Ghana did very well, and we are here to share our experience. But, first of all, in trying to come up with our experience the data collection for that's what we did in 2019, I would like to step back and look at some of the challenges we've faced in 2016 which helped us to come up with some actions for this improvement.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

In 2017, our experience was that some of the indicators that we didn't have any data on actual data collections, some of the indicators, we really didn't have any data on. So that was a wake up call for us. Then, secondly, there were some indicators that we did have data but they were not current data because there were some institutions who brought up these... who had reports on such data but then these were done regularly, every five years. So therefore, at the time of reporting, we didn't have up-to-date data and we have to rely on process and all that for the data.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

So that also was something that we took into consideration. Then we also realized that because of time constraints and the limited resources, we did not engage our stakeholders from the onset. We only brought them on board at the time of. Upon hindsight, we thought that was something that shouldn't have happened, and therefore, we put in place measures to be able to address it.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

So with that background, I'll move to what we did in the 2019 reporting to improve upon our data collection and then reporting. First of all, we took the BR process as one of our core activities, and therefore, put in place some resource, human and financial resources, were allocated for this process. We had a core group who were assigned to lead the process, and in doing so, they came up with a multi-stakeholder committee which comprised of civil society organizations, representatives from the private sector, from academia, and then relevant government institutions. And this committee was given the responsibility for the data collections and reporting.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

So after the training by AU in a on the BR, simply, for the core group, when the core group came back, they called the meeting of this stakeholder committee, which will have constituted locally, to also brief

them or train them on the BR census because it's okay to be collected work and they needed to have that understanding. So that is the first action we took with the multi-stakeholder committee.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

Then, based on that understanding, we identified all the data requirements and then the sources of past data, some were primary data, some were secondary, a real institution where we could get such data from. From there, we assigned members of the committee to the different indicators to come up with the data that was... we tried to gather the data for.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

It's] to sort of validate or do an internal cleaning of data that was gathered. Those that we're using for this, we all came to an agreement which kind of brought this to you. So that was also some of the internal cleaning which will show that the data was, actually. Then, after that, after putting together all the data by the committee, we had an internal validation, which, as I recalled, the number of stakeholders of a hundred stakeholders to come and then also present to them for them also to share their views and then give us input into what we had prepared. And then, based on that validation, we incorporated the comment and indicate online.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

Apart from that, we also the BR commitment into our life. So our life recognize all the [inaudible 00:59:45] commitment and then indications were put in place to be able to address the commitment. Secondly, we also revised our MAE plan accordingly to ensure that all these indicators are a part of our MAE plan and therefore, when we monitor, we come up with some data event information about these indicators.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

At the same time, coincidentally, we were having our [inaudible 01:00:17] and therefore, we took it upon ourselves to look at all the indicators and then identify those that we don't normally collect data on to incorporate into the [inaudible 01:00:29]. And so some of the data that we were not collecting has been incorporated into the agricultural census and then we are still collecting data on that. So that is going to be mainstream so that, in the future, we would have data on that.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

One other area that we also considered was to initiate service because some of the indicators were past to be able to come up with the information. So we initiated service like the post office because the post office was the area where we didn't have up-to-date data to be able to incorporate into the report. So we also initiated service to come up with indicators for some of these commitments.

Josephine Ivy Quagraine:

So, in a nutshell, these are some of the actions that [inaudible 01:01:19] to be able to come up with credible data to enhance our performance. Thank you.

Robert:

Yeah. [inaudible 01:01:19] that's very interesting, and the reason why I let you go on for a bit longer than we would have otherwise is because I think [inaudible 01:01:39] listening might be able to glean from what you say here how important it is to prioritize the data collection process and have buy in... you know, you mentioned lot of interesting things like forming a committee and all the other things that you said, and that is really, really critical. And I think that most will agree with me that even from the African, Indian perspective, such a property [inaudible 01:02:04] required, including the validation.

Robert:

Now, one other curiosity, and I'll give you guys... again, a minute or two to quickly respond to this, Ghana did really well. In fact, Ghana was [inaudible 01:02:17] for moving from not being on track in the previous binary review to being on track in the binary review. What specific one or two or three things from your too that your country did that might have influenced this specific... because the statistic must be there for a reason. Are there some policy changes or other programmatic interventions? Is there any from both of you, Angela and Josephine, that you can mention [inaudible 01:02:46]?

Angela Mercy Dannson:

I think since 2017, there have been some intense activities in the control sector where they're launching of a program called the hunting for food and jobs. And this program applies to address productivity. No productivity in the control sector. You may be aware that most of our [inaudible 01:03:17] we do it in less than 50% of the potential for the productivity of major commodities.

Angela Mercy Dannson:

And that brought to small [inaudible 01:03:36] which are complementary, whatever influence that are required to boost productivity. And so that was a major, major program that we launched. And alongside with this was a [inaudible 01:03:48] which is also complementary to increasing productivity and the marketing. A major national corporation called National [inaudible 01:04:01] was revamped to be able to map up the increased productivity of production powers and [inaudible 01:04:06].

Angela Mercy Dannson:

So that was the first one that was managed, and of course it was supposed to operate jobs. And so we, as I said, a few [inaudible 01:04:13] in the sense, using [inaudible 01:04:24] and then 500,000 in 2018. In 2019, we [inaudible 01:04:28] one million. In all these training places, we exceeded [inaudible 01:04:33]

able to meet all the proper demands. So that is [inaudible 01:04:44] to us, but as our leader [inaudible 01:04:45] if you can branch... we're trying to branch [inaudible 01:04:46] order to really engender this [inaudible 01:04:48] transformation that we need to do to be able to address [inaudible 01:04:54] able to address in [inaudible 01:04:56] be able to address property.

Angela Mercy Dansson:

And so it came along with four more models, which are all aimed at increasing productivity of [inaudible 01:05:05] potential, increasing markets, creating jobs that wasn't [inaudible 01:05:11] so the second one that was launched was [inaudible 01:05:13] and this was a target [inaudible 01:05:16]. Well, if you bring about [inaudible 01:05:18] and also the decision of income because you have [inaudible 01:05:22] for production. And so we patented about [inaudible 01:05:25] and then distribute to [inaudible 01:05:34] to get into this.

Angela Mercy Dansson:

And as being estimated, if we devote these three process effectively in [inaudible 01:05:45] we should be doing, they should be doing as well as \$2 billion of [inaudible 01:05:52] in order to boost the economy. The other one is because they also have potential. And most of the program has been implemented, having product in the postal sector. And this time, we line the [inaudible 01:06:06] for food and jobs, and this is patent before we have a comparative advantage of checking if we really invest in it [inaudible 01:06:20] to processing and what have you.

Angela Mercy Dansson:

So this program is also boost the life of production in order to review the imports that we have. The other area that we also did is the greenhouse technology. If the into this production and we also provide an opportunity for commercial panels to check up greenhouse production so that we can enforce.

Angela Mercy Dansson:

Yeah.

Robert:

I'm really glad... I just wanted to get a gist of it, and thanks so much. It seems like, I mean, the broader point that we need to make here is that Ghana did implement a lot of policy and this had shown in the data. I mean, I just felt the passion in your voice and in what you're saying and I hope everybody else felt that because that's really interesting. If we have some more time, I may come back to you, but I'm now running short of time and I'd like to bring Moneim in on this. Moneim, we are running short of time so I'll give you a minute or so to tell me where you come in to this whole structure because you work for the Indian economic community. What's your role? What role do you play, because this data is collected

at country level, either in the data collection or subsequently, the changes that countries need to implement to achieve .

Moneim Elhoweris:

Okay. Good afternoon from my end here and thanks for the presenters, AUC, Agri Link, and Robert and the nice ladies from Ghana. First of all, my name is Moneim Elhoweris. I'm the program manager of food security, CAADP focal person at the Inter-Governmental Authority and Development, IGAD. I've been involved with this CAADP story since 2014 when I joined the IGAD team to be responsible for the CAADP implementation in our region during the CAADPP in Devon in South Africa. That's the 10th CAADPP.

Moneim Elhoweris:

Okay, I've been in one with the AUC, with in the process of the CAADP implementation since then. Let me tell you briefly about how we do that. Okay, you see that and you know that AUC and [inaudible 01:09:07] have asked directs to join with them has to implement the BR process and the proper person of IGAD, the kind of proper person, I've been invited to his other... rest proper persons to the Africa Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. That was I guess in January, 2015, where we agreed on the process of implementing it.

Moneim Elhoweris:

First of all, we agreed on the time frame of how we are going to implement the first inaugural process, which was the 2017, that was presented in January, 2018. And we talked about how it would go to be done. First of all, we needed to strengthen the capacities of the member state on the process where we have decided that every member state of the principal countries of the Africa Union has to bring three individuals. One is the kind of proper person, the second is a statistician, and the third is a planner. And that was done during that year where we brought all the countries in the continent.

Moneim Elhoweris:

So, for our part, we found that we are having three different [inaudible 01:10:25]. That is COMESA, EAC, and IGAD. They're having less members like the ECOWAS. ECOWAS has 15 members. So we decided that we are going to divide the continent into regions. Rather into RECs. So we were called the Easter African Region, where we're having 13 countries that belongs, not only to IGAD. It belongs to IGAD, EAC, and COMESA. So the three of us, the three proper persons of COMESA, IGAD, and EAC are called, united together. And to my honor, that I was the goal of the process.

Moneim Elhoweris:

So we brought the countries to it was March, 2017, for a training on how are they going to use the BR indicator at the time. As Dr. Godfrey was mentioning, it was seven categories, seven indicators. So we brought the people and we told them how to fill the forms. At the time, it was not... as we call it now

PBR, because that is the new one in the 2019. And then we followed up with back stopping to all member states about how are they doing it and would be working again hand-in-hand to implement the process-

Robert:

Moneim, I'll give you another minute.

Moneim Elhoweris:

Okay. Yes, I'll just tell you about the first process, but there is no difference between the first process of 2017 and 2019, where we had called the EBR and that made a difference. A big difference that we don't have to be all the time in phone calls, emails. We share a virtual data from each country. So the member states, they send their BR to us, the regional the 13 countries, and we ourselves, the three proper person, we divided the country among us and then we dealt with each country.

Robert:

Thank you, Moneim. So we get that you played the role of having to coordinate the data collection and its quality among the countries you are responsible for and by the other region or economic communities. If we have time, we'll come back to talk a bit more about some of those elements, but, for now, I'd like to bring Constance into the conversation and, as I mentioned earlier, Constance is coming to us from Abuja we're mentioning a little bit about the role of private sector in this whole process.

Robert:

Could you tell us also, you know, whether you feel you properly engaged and your views are included and how you coordinated to make sure that these reports reflect the reality in terms of your role in the entire process. We do have a time constraint, so you'll have to be fast.

Constance:

Okay. Thank you, Robert. Thanks, everyone. My name is Constance. I'm calling from Nigeria. I'll go straight to the question. Listening to Godfrey make the elaborate presentation and also the great lessons from Ghana position IGAD, yes, the missing link is [inaudible 01:14:39]. We have a role, a major role to play, and when you look at some of the questions from the [inaudible 01:14:46], you could see the [inaudible 01:14:47] of how we did [inaudible 01:14:49] to include all players, especially the [inaudible 01:14:53].

Constance:

Yeah, for this 2019 idea. We would say to an extent, yes, the process have been a bit better than how it was since 2017. We've been able to organize, modernize, and make our entries into the process

because, when we started, we commended the efforts of the AUC and the rest and the member states who implement the plenary review, but we felt that the strategy and procedure was not taken into account the rule of all the stakeholder to ensure effective engagement and communication.

Constance:

So basically, we felt we have and been [inaudible 01:15:36] ecosystem. We have to strategically define a framework we can use to engage the process. And so what we did was to teach with other organization and using the of the CNC, we came together and developed what we called the non-state actor. That is the value addition.

Constance:

The major aim of this two things, was basically to provide a platform for tackling commitment, and non-state actor, from us and introduced in general, and] about that fundamental from us and some in monitoring this process is, at the distant level, starting from the local level to the continental.

Constance:

Then, how do we go about setting in the analytical skills, monitoring and tracking capacity of some of the decisions, all that effectively engage in the whole process. And, most especially, you commend how well the [inaudible 01:16:48] and the declaration of [and involvement in the agricultural processes.

Constance:

So what did we do? We came up with... we had a competition where we brought different stakeholder in non-state actor platform. We did this in Uganda. We generated an increase on how to go about it. We decided that it'll be good to some key indicators more important to the [not important. But we felt, if we wanted to cut something, we could cut more and fund it.

Constance:

Then we tried to do multiple... and come up with different tools, different methodologies that have been tried and tested within communities. Take for instance, how do you expect results from our group within a community? They are going to showcase the story behind the numbers, the national government are going to be sharing. With increased finance impact on my life. this is my livelihood, am I having the right [inaudible 01:17:55]. So we felt really we tried to develop the toolkit, we tested it, run through different training-

Constance:

I'll run through different training, and then, due to time constraints and due to resources, we were only able to this toolkit in three countries. We did that in Nigeria, we did that in Uganda, we did that in

Kenya. And I can tell you, the way we did this process is, is give an opportunity to get them into the government processes, for instance, to make sure that we are a part of the validation workshop. That's a workshop, And then, we were able to present our own view about some of the [inaudible 01:18:36] that were being generated. And then we have to point out the gap.

Constance:

Because the point of the whole BR is not just to submit report, have good results or bad results, but the idea is how are we committed to ensuring that we are developing African agriculture by putting investment, making sure we are having all the right environment, to promote the right to food, to promote the right dignity applied, having empowered livelihood, and then making this process very participatory. We tried to achieve that. We will not say it's [yet, but I think it was a better process.

Constance:

We have had opportunities to engage with communities, like the [ECOWAS 01:19:20], like the [inaudible 01:19:21], who have the room to coordinate the member countries. And then, AUC is not left out. They have already opened up and we are part of the AU, which give us opportunities to incorporate into these processes.

Constance:

So going forward, the results have been released. Yes, most countries are not on track, but majority have shown great, because we've been engaging, we've been asking questions, we've been asking countries, how do you integrate? Because we care about you. And going forward, we are not going to rest. We are taking the results, going to make sure that the recommendations and the gaps that have been in the different countries reports are closed and the recommendation [inaudible 01:20:15] so that we have better results.

Robert:

Constance, that's a good note because you are making a forward looking statement that the result is out, so what? And you make a great point that civil society and [inaudible 01:20:39] Access Now needs to be part of holding government and other players to account, in terms of implementing the recommendation. Now, I want to come to [Godfrey 01:20:49] in a moment, but before I do so, and the conversation continues because we've got lots and lots of questions, and it does seem like time will be our constraint here, but I'll come to you in a moment Godfrey, and then open it up in terms of fielding some of the questions that have come from the audience.

Robert:

Before I do that, I just want to show everyone a few slides that you can use to get to the toolkit and to look at the data. We have put a link on the links pod to the [inaudible 01:21:28] review communications

toolkit that contains all the data and the graphics, and the information that Godfrey presented. It's on the AU website. You'll see right now on the screen, how you can access it. The URL is there, and the link is on the links pod.

Robert:

It is very rich. It includes a lot of information, details on the data, what the countries have presented, and it's presented in different ways. You can get the scorecard, you can look at the data by commitment, you can compare countries and compare regions. You can look at all this and we do have at the very end, a page that includes downloadable information, including country level scorecards and the entire toolkit that you can make presentations wherever you go, and help people engage in this. And there is something else that's interesting called the compendium on the knowledge compendium, and some information on what are doing that Constance has referred to .

Robert:

So that's how you can access data. I'd like for the conversation to go, but I want to first of all ask a question that will come later, to Godfrey. And Godfrey, the question is, what happens now, going forward? We have collected information, we have got the data, we have got the reports, the recommendation, it's all out there. What does the African Union recommend, think, expect, that will happen as we go along? Godfrey? And Godfrey, we have a series of questions as we are asking.

Godfrey:

Yeah, thanks a lot. And again, I can see lots of questions, and we did not get to all of them, but Robert. So there are several things that they [inaudible 01:24:03] information together with the AU [inaudible 01:24:05] into now and the next report. So it's a standard [inaudible 01:24:11] at the end. The next report, which is the third [review report, will be presented to the minister in October 2021. So for the remainder of 2020, basically want to increase the popularization of the report at the different levels, continental, regional, and national level, through improving or strengthening our communication platform. And that's why I mentioned in my presentation that to have these two key communication tools that were presented to our ministers and they asked us to go throughout the continent, in the five regions of the continent, to compare on this. So we believe that through those conversations, which are de-popularizing and presenting the results of the continental report. So that is one key thing that we want to do in 2020.

Godfrey:

The second thing that we have done is workshop with our on the continent, to look at the process [inaudible 01:25:38] for the second report. That successes with [inaudible 01:25:46] what challenges we've [inaudible 01:25:46], that will prepare then data for the third report. We believe that through annual reviews of what you have done, we can [inaudible 01:25:56] improve the quality of the report

that we agreed to do. But the platform. It is a platform that brings together that are on the continent [inaudible 01:26:20].

Godfrey:

So we plan to use that platform, tentatively scheduled for the first week of June, in the corridor. We shall use that platform also to present the result to that [inaudible 01:26:35]. We shall also use other platforms that are available on the continent, like the Africa [inaudible 01:26:35] in September, the one organized by [Agra 01:26:35]. We can also use that to de-popularize the report. And then finally, who are the [inaudible 01:26:35]. Having gone through these [inaudible 01:26:35] of communication, advocacy, as well as review, our ambition is by the end of 2020, to have trained the regional and countries in to prepare for the selection of data for the third report.

Godfrey:

We want by the first quarter of 2021, to have started data collection for the third report, and also have the report this time [inaudible 01:27:16], like August of 2021, have the third report [inaudible 01:27:32], so you can prepare better and in a good time for the ministry in October 2021.

Godfrey:

My final comment is, at the end of all this, what we want to happen is for the results of the [inaudible 01:27:54] review report to be used by regional [inaudible 01:27:59] communities for planning review and [inaudible 01:28:02] member states to use the results to reflect on the choices of investment, as well as [inaudible 01:28:13], to use these results in [inaudible 01:28:15] of regional [inaudible 01:28:17] membership to our [inaudible 01:28:24] investment to the priorities that are reviewed by the [inaudible 01:28:27]. Because it's only by these that you can actually bring about a difference in the transformation journey of Africa [inaudible 01:28:34]. Back to you [Robert 01:28:36].

Robert:

Thank you very much Godfrey. I know that we are coming to the end of the time that we had, and it's really unfortunate because we did have lots of questions to respond to. And I would say yes, that we are going to stay on for a few more minutes, more than 10. So those that are able to stay on, you are welcome to stay. But as we discuss and try to address at least a few of these questions with the panel, I would request those who are on to indicate so as in the chat box, based on what you've heard so far, how might you use the [inaudible 01:29:20] review data in whatever capacity you are working in, or how would you suggest that the [inaudible 01:29:29] review data is used?

Robert:

So I'll switch back to some of the questions that were raised. Earlier on, as Godfrey was making his presentation, some questions came up, including on how do we ensure that data is accurate and clean,

but importantly, which of these commitments, the seven commitments, Godfrey, and this question came from [inaudible 01:30:01], which of the seven commitments is the most challenging to measure and meet standards? I guess Godfrey, you could make a quick comment on that, and maybe I will ask Angela or Josephine to tell us what they think as well, in just half a minute or less, maybe 15 seconds. Godfrey?

Godfrey:

Yeah. Generally, each of the commitments has some element of a challenge, but I think Robert, if I were to make a judgment, it is their commitment on building resilience to household and production systems, because a lot of the indicators that are there were new. Measuring resilience is phenomenal at country level, and so member states [inaudible 01:31:00] very familiar. But also, the kind of work a member state, there are many interventions which build resilience, consciously or unconsciously.

Godfrey:

And so when you ask member staff to collect data on a specific budget [inaudible 01:31:19] to resilience, it becomes a challenge. So I think [inaudible 01:31:25], that is one of the areas we need to be reviewing to see how better we can capture the data for the investments countries are making in different areas, that are helping to build resilience even though within the national budget, you may not find the word resilience written [inaudible 01:31:48] those budget lines. So I would say that is the most challenging commitment that we find in [inaudible 01:31:58] process.

Robert:

Thank you. And I'd like to give you a chance for another 15 seconds, Josephine and Angela, at country level, we have this broad question. And I know [inaudible 01:32:18] it. How can a country actually use data to improve their performance? Sometimes it sounds almost obvious that that is something that should happen, but I would love to hear your perspective on it, having had the first round and then used the data in the second round, and then your performance has changed. Go ahead.

Constance:

Okay, thank you. I think that with the data, it helps us to identify where we are doing well, and where we are not. So with the areas where we are doing well, it helps us to [inaudible 01:33:05]. But then with the others, it helps us know that no, this is an area where we are not doing well, and then also helps us to put in place the right measures to address them. Then the data also helps us know that this application of the data helps us know that there are certain areas that we are not paying much attention. Because most of the indications of the report came up with a number of variables, so you notice that you have data for two variables, but the other one, you don't have much data on it. So it also helps us to identify the areas where we need to put more attention to [inaudible 01:33:48]. That is what I will say for now.

Robert:

Yeah, thank you so much madam. And I think [Moneim 01:33:59] also, you work at the data level in many ways, and you look at listing almost micro. Just in a few seconds as well, how do you see data changing what countries [inaudible 01:34:13] are doing? What's the mechanism? Moneim? Well, there might be a challenge Moneim's audio.

Moneim:

The problem that we faced during the 2017 data collection of the and the 2019 is that the data is not available, especially for the and what do you call it, social protection, and these things in regards to the commitment number two and number three. But during the 2019, you have done something that [inaudible 01:35:20] a little bit difficult for the member states to get the data. When we added a column asking about the source of data, which in my view, is very important because you might just bring data that is not [inaudible 01:35:35], and that people are not going to be [inaudible 01:35:37] on whether it's right or not.

Moneim:

But to the data has to be correct and trustworthy, I think we need to [inaudible 01:35:53] the data collection in member states, helping them how to bring in data, [inaudible 01:36:00] that they had the data, but you are not using it. But how can we do that and bring in the data to be used in a proper way?

Robert:

Great point Moneim. If there are any development partners in other agencies thinking how might we support this process, I think helping countries to build their data system and abilities is one great way to do it. And then, that data can then be used to make decisions. I'd like to squeeze in one last question, and this has to do with the civil society and [inaudible 01:36:37] engagement. And this is important because sometimes in these processes driven by government or by public sector, some folks think that there's no role and place for civil society. And I'm interested in the feedback mechanism. Did you go all the way down to the smaller, the farmer level, at a country level, and this I think [Steven Wochak 01:37:03] asked this, and even indirectly enough about the partnerships and so on. And I want to come to you, Constance, to make the last quick remark on this. Exactly how do you get a farmer to be part of the [inaudible 01:37:21] right down in the village? From your [inaudible 01:37:27].

Constance:

Yeah, thank you Robert. Within the [inaudible 01:37:34] grouping on mechanism, we have that place where the farmers are part of this, the civil society organizations, the private sector, different groups. [inaudible 01:37:45] for instance, we mobilize and help them be in group [inaudible 01:37:51] and [inaudible 01:37:51] happens to organizations. They have their leadership, who are also the presenting

them in some of this firm. So for instance, during the country level validations around health, the [inaudible 01:38:05] group, different organizations like mine and other organizations, [inaudible 01:38:08] to be [inaudible 01:38:10] of small [inaudible 01:38:13] in this city.

Constance:

We also ensure that they have space within the working group, within the joint sector review committees, so that they're able to have their [inaudible 01:38:21] and then speak for themselves. And then we ensure that they are [inaudible 01:38:25], where necessary. But the idea is that the government is also making a point of this is too quick. That [inaudible 01:38:31] opportunity [inaudible 01:38:33] for them to get involved. So that even when a visitor cannot [inaudible 01:38:37] to support them to come to this meeting, they are able to. So they are [inaudible 01:38:41] organized and mobilized [inaudible 01:38:43] information that's being shared so they are able to use these and then engage.

Constance:

So for instance, the report that is out now, there is to work as a group to ensure [inaudible 01:38:56] workshop, webinars, at a different level, so that we can generate this impact on how the BR has impacted on their life, and moving forward, what will be the way forward to ensure that the issues of the process are captured in the whole process. Thank you.

Robert:

Thank you very much Constance. There are so many questions here that will be interesting to pursue, and one of the lessons that I am personally learning is, this topic needs three or four webinars for us to even scratch the surface in terms of some really deep questions around the data collection and the calculations around it, some sector specific questions, some process questions, some way forward questions, some partnership questions, quality of data, mutual accountability, et cetera, et cetera. But it all goes to show that we are on to something that is potentially useful, something that could help transform African agriculture, and transformation is becoming even increasingly important in this scenario where we have pestilence, like COVID.

Robert:

And someone actually did ask that question. How BR can help us with the COVID situation, especially since is going to be a challenge. We've run out of time, unfortunately, but I would like to thank everybody, and particularly ask that if you do have any questions or comments, you can send those to my email Robert. And we are going to think carefully about potentially other sessions, webinars for specific aspects of this, so that we dig deeper and try to answer every question. With that, I'm going to hand over back to Julie, and thank you very much for joining.

Julie:

Thank you Robert. And thank you to all of our participants for your really wonderful engagement in the session today. We're going to go ahead and wrap up, but we hope to see you at future Agrilinks webinars. And we hope that you all stay safe in these unusual times. And thank you all very much. We'll talk to you soon.