



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Session 3: "From concepts to programs: Practical challenges"

### Small Group Discussion

#### Instructions:

- Designate a note-taker
- Discuss how you'd approach the particular challenge assigned to your table
- Consider several possible solutions and capture these in your flipcharts
- Note taker, please write your challenge clearly on top of the page and note each of the solutions mentioned, including any practical examples that illustrate these solutions in practice
- Be ready to provide a one-minute read out of a solution the group finds most compelling

#### 1. Contracting

You are writing a Choice of Instrument memo for a new market systems development activity. What type of mechanism would you consider to ensure the flexibility needed, including the ability to learn iteratively and adapt interventions based on continuous learning? Regardless of final mechanism choice, are there ways to build flexibility into the activity via operational requirements like choice of targets, work planning (rolling work plans), reporting,, etc?

#### 2. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

You are going to be COR of a new activity. How do you handle setting targets and selecting indicators? You need to hold the IP accountable but still allow for flexibility and learning. What might this mean for the activity MEL plan? Do you need a different approach to monitoring and evaluation? What are the implications for learning?

#### 3. Resilience

Your activity is doing well, facilitating change in the market system. Then the market experiences a shock (e.g. loss of a trade preference, or the export market collapses because of pesticide residue, or your primary trading partner has banned imports due to a pest infestation identified in your country). How do you respond? What do you need to do on the contracting side? Does the implementation approach need to change? What would you want built into the activity (in terms of contracting, implementation approach, targets) during the design phase to mitigate for and respond to potential risks?

#### 4. Operational issues (over)

#### 4. Operational issues

Your activity is in its first year, the budget pipeline is getting worrisome, and results aren't accruing yet. The activity has been testing various innovative approaches in what is a complicated environment, in order to figure out what works. There are getting some good traction on a few of the approaches tested; however, they need more time to hone in on the successes and to ramp them up. The activity has ambitious goals around scaling. What do you do? You have pressure from leadership for numbers. Your IP is showing progress towards intermediate outcomes, and they also need to continue to learn where the big leverage points are for scaling.

GLOBAL LEARNING AND EVIDENCE EXCHANGE  
**M A R K E T   S Y S T E M S**

---

JUNE 5-10, 2017 // DAKAR, SENEGAL