



REACHING AGENTS OF CHANGE PROJECT

REPORT OF THE “ADVOCATES RETREAT”

HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL AND SETSAN

1-2 NOVEMBER 2012, MOZAMBIQUE

INTRODUCTION

Helen Keller International, in partnership with National Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN), organized a retreat with key OFSP advocates from the government, private sector, research institutes, the press, celebrities, and potential donor's agencies. The event took place in Barragem dos Pequenos Libombos, from 1 to 2 November 2012 in Maputo Province.

Through this event, participants gained appreciation, skills and abilities they need to advocate for OFSP's policy reforms and investments with focus on improved health, food security and nutrition and profits through production, processing and commercialization. Participants worked together to contribute toward existing RAC Advocacy Strategy based on what they can do best as individuals and as members of their respective organizations, as well as how they can work together to create mutually beneficial outcomes.

The workshop objectives were:

1. Increase RAC advocates' understanding of the RAC project
2. Reach shared understanding of RAC Advocacy Strategy and its action plan 2012-2013
3. Impart necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver objective 1 of RAC
4. Agree on individual work plans to deliver RAC advocacy strategy
5. Agree on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation process
6. Team building among the country advocates

The Retreat was facilitated by the RAC's Promotion Expert (PE), Dercio Matala. It started with opening speech addressed by the Permanent Secretariat from Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Daniel Clemente. Subsequently the RAC Program Manager, Dr. Adiel Mbabu, shared key information on RAC objectives and vision with participants) and Government representatives. Following these remarks, Marcela Libombo, SETSAN's National Coordinator briefly shared the Government vision on how RAC could be of support in term of helping Government effort in reducing micronutrient malnutrition as well as food insecurity and nutrition across the country. Currently the country rate of chronic malnutrition is estimated at 43% among children under five.

For the event a group of activities was planned for the two day retreat, which included the presentation and discussion of RAC project objectives and its approach to address the food insecurity in Mozambique. The RAC advocacy Strategy was presented to the participants for consideration and comments.

During the event introduction of key knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to deliver the RAC result was imparted to the advocates. Following the key presentation in nutrition and agriculture, the advocates have gone through group planning process, where, as individual or institution, they have proposed a group of activities to be undertaken to ensure RAC deliver it's outcomes through the three main pillars: Investment, policy Integration and demand creation.

After the exercise, the participant were briefed on the monitoring and evaluation tools and process developed by RAC to facilitate the coordination of action on the advocacy work. Finally the event served as an opportunity to build the teams of advocacy for resource mobilization, policy integration and demand creation.

BRIEFS ON THE PRESENTATIONS (DAY 01)

The first day was dedicated to Impart necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver objective 1 of RAC on advocacy. To that end, a range of presentations and facilitations sessions on advocacy, agricultural aspects, biofortification, nutrition, media, project design and processing took place and participants were encouraged to share their contributions in the following presentation and briefs:

1. Situational Analysis on Vitamin A in Mozambique and approaches used to address the Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD)

Along the first day of the retreat, RAC and its resource persons presented five presentations; the first was Situational Analysis on Vitamin A in Mozambique and approaches used to address the VAD. This presentation was facilitated by HKI's nutritionist, Claudia Fidalgo. It covered the key information that an advocate needs when advocating for OFSP. It included the current scenario on the VAD, its impact on the health status of Mozambican, the key approaches adopted at the programmatic level such as food fortification, supplementation and more recently the biofortification, although not yet covered into the national policy framework. Further to this presentation, participants were engaged in discussion to deepen the understandings on the Vitamin A situation in country.

2. Agronomy: OFSP production in Mozambique

After the first coffee break, another presentation on Agronomy: OFSP production in Mozambique, "all you ever wanted to know about OFSP". This presentation was made by Dr. Zelia Menete from CIP, and has communicated all the effort and experience Mozambique is currently undertaking to disseminate the OFSP. In the presentation, advocates were informed about a USAID funded project (OFDA) that is helping spread out OFSP vines to sixty districts through south and central of Mozambique.

3. Designing effective projects with OFSP intervention

Another presentation linked to that was made by Dr. Zelia Menete on "Designing effective projects with OFSP intervention" that included agronomics aspect in farming OFSP, such as viruses and the most common crop diseases. Information and news released varieties and the effective dissemination models were shared through this presentation. Each of the presentation was followed by a brief discussion in which the participants had the opportunity to clarify issues, comment and add ideas onto the presentations.

4. Biofortification as a new food based approach to address the VAD

Following the agronomic aspects and experience on OFSP in Mozambique, a presentation on biofortification as a new food-based approach to address the VAD was given by Dr. Ivone Moucha from Eduardo Mondlane University and Center of Biotechnology. The presentation aimed to deepen understanding and raise participants' awareness on biofortification as a sustainable and cost-effective intervention to address the micronutrient deficiency in developing countries, using

staple foods such as sweet potato, which are traditionally part of the cultural food practices. Advocates were explained the difference between the GMOs which refers to the genetic manipulation of seeds, and conventional breeding system using modern biotechnology science to obtain a biofortified seed.

With facilitation by Dr. Manuel Amane, an intense discussion among participants increased understanding of the concept of biofortification. New evidence on biofortification of common beans (NUA-45 and A222) with Zinc and Iron was shared by IIAM. Through the discussion, there was a recommendation from one of advocate through which the use of the term “GMO in the public domain should be avoided, due to the misunderstanding and connotation that are easily associated to this term.

Further to the biofortification approach presented at the event, Dr. Raimundo Matule, the Director of Planning at the Ministry of Agriculture and head of CAADP in Mozambique, responsible for the design and implementation of the National Agricultural Development Strategy (PEDSA 2012-2017) emphasized that the Government is highly committed to adopting biofortification, to the extent that progress is being made in including biofortification into its new Investment Plan (PNISA).

5. Key Competencies needed for and Effective Advocacy Work.

During the afternoon of the first day of the retreat, the RAC Promotion Expert presented the Key Competencies needed for and an Effective Advocacy Work. The presentation looked highlight to advocate’s attention on planning process, the situational analysis, alliance and partnerships required, and the impact of advocacy in improving the lives of communities and the policy making process that influence the development world.

This discussion on this topic was coordinated by Eng. Marcela Libombo, whose in turn has emphasized the need of multisectoral engagement and commitment and that the advocacy can help the Government and partners speed up the response to the current state of affair with regards to the malnutrition reduction in the country. Marcela Libombo argued the need move fast and with urgency in order to have the Food Security and Nutrition situation normalized in midterm.

An exercise on the role of communication was led by Gaudencio Monteriro from SETSAN. The exercise brought the participants attention on how useful is communication and team work while undertaking developmental agenda such as food security and nutrition, especially where communities are involved.

6. Review and Discussion on the RAC tool kits and how to make an appropriate used of the ten pages flyers

Led by the RAC’ Promotion Expert, the session aimed at presenting the key content of the ten pages tool kit to the advocates and share its multipurpose use in advocacy processes. It imparted that the ten page flyers contains a range of information that advocates need to adequately deal

with different nature of audience. The flyer contains information on situation of VAD and malnutrition in Africa, the role of OFSP in addressing the VAD in sub-Saharan Africa, the role of women in OFSP production, the reason of investing in OFSP and the fact and fiction related to the all process of production and consumption of the OFSP in the developing countries.

Among many issue raised further to the ten flyers presentation, were the need to revised it in order to include the index inside the covers pages as well as the brief explanation or instruction of use of the tool kit, that would include as possible the inside page numbering of the flayers as to give them a sequence, although It was thereafter explained that the idea was to make each flyer to provide enough of specific information independently from others.

Another observation done during the discussion was the need to review some of the terms that are common in English and need to be adjusted into Portuguese language for the next printing phase of materials so that the contents can communicate accurately to the general public/audience.

BRIEFS ON THE PRESENTATIONS (DAY 02)

Once the advocates and agents' competence and skill to deliver RAC advocacy were imparted, the second day served to refresh the key points on the advocacy strategy to facilitate individual planning session during work group. In the end of morning, there was a session to discuss the update sharing as any M&E tools and the administrative aspects related to the advocacy implementation process with advocates facilitated by Kurt Henne, HKI Country Director.

The day started with opening remarks by Marcela libombo. This session was mainly to thank participant for joining the retreat for the second day and also to present the summary of the key points discussed in the previous day and lay the agenda for the day.

7. Advances in Policy and Investment Arena

The first presentation of the second day was facilitated by the Promotion Expert, Dercio Matale on the Advances in Policy and Investment Arena. This presentation objective was to keep participant updated and informed on key advances reported in the policy and investment arena under the RAC facilitation, among them: the development of the advocacy and resource mobilization strategy that is now targeting to mobilize at least \$11 million proposal for OFSP dissemination and promotion have been developed and \$ 1.5 million proposal for the National Program on Biofortification to be integrated into the PNISA and government program.

It was also shared that RAC is in progress to facilitate the integration of the biofortification, as a food based approach into the national policy framework. From the exercise done during the Situational Analysis and Assessment, biofortification was identified as relevant policy gap into the existing policy framework and that there is a need to integrate this approach into the Multisectoral Plan of Action for Chronic Malnutrition Reduction (PAMRDC).

This integration would facilitate and guide the programmatic support to address the micronutrient deficiency through the food based approaches such as biofortification and food fortification.

Further to that, SETSAN as the key partner in the policy integration pillar has committed to lead the integration of the Biofortification into the PAMRDC Working Group and influencing its integration as one of recommended approaches in the fight against the micronutrient malnutrition and food insecurity in Mozambique.

8. Presentation on the RAC advocacy strategy and Group Sessions

The RAC's Advocacy Strategy draft was distributed among the participant for brief reading, after they got familiar with the document, participants were asked to form groups for planning sessions. Each individual was asked to join each of the advocacy strategy pillars groups: Investment, Policy and Demand Creation, depending on area of individual background or institution intervention. After the group were formed the individual planning tool developed by RAC team to facilitate this process, they were distributed among the participants. After the group discussion, each group would point a lead to present the key lines of advocacy activities that each individual or institution is proposing to undertake.

In the Plenary Presentation, group leaders presented the defined objectives, lists activities, needed alliances and partnerships, which to target with planned the advocacy work and the timeframe into which each activities would occurs, due to limitation of time and shortening of participants in the first day. Participants were encouraged to continue with the planning exercises by indentifying more individuals that they know to join the advocacy group. That demanded the three next small group meetings to be led by one of the advocates.

Near the closing of the event M&E tool to be used by advocates and administrative support to the advocates during the implantation of the strategy were communicated by the HKI's Country Director Kurt Henne and RAC's PE, Dercio Matala. At the end of sessions certificated of attendance were given to each of RAC advocates present.

The Closing Remarks of the retreat were addressed by Eng. Marcela Libombo, as high government representative, thanking the participants for their presence and participation as well as for the outcomes. Following to that an OFSP made food was served to the advocates as part of the team building though awareness raising on the wealth OFSP can provide to Mozambican communities.

RETREAT OUTCOMES AND PROCEEDINGS

As process to reinforce the individual/institutional commitment to the RAC advocacy strategy, three groups were created to contribute to each of Advocacy Pillars. The tables below show the themes of the working groups, the questions for discussion, and the list of advocates and recommended proceedings:

PILLAR #1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

1. List of Advotes in the Discussion

- Zelia Menete (CIP)
- Lazaro Santos (FAO/SETSAN)
- Felisberto Tomas (MINAG)
- Celeste Chaguala (Samaritans Purse)
- Armino Salato (ADRA)
- Ventura Mazula (World Vision)

2. List of Recommended Partners

- WFP-FAO, Pro-SAVANA, PIREP-FUNDEC, CEPAGRI-FDA, PRMOER, MIC, EU, USAID, AGRA, SUN-UN, USAID, NEPAD Business Foundation, REACH, IKURO, NORAD, Irish AID, CIDA and FARE, BAGC, IFC and World Bank.

3. Recommended Proceedings

- Facilitate MoU among relevants intervenients on OFSP investment scaling up
- Facilitate and organize resource mobilization workshop with donors, Government, CBO, NGOs and other intervenients.
- Facilitate and engage media in disseminating OFSP to wider audience
- Attract private investment under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) especially of those in mining industry
- Organize and lead high level fairs event on agriculture and nutrition
- Support policies and strategies discussion at national, regional and continental levels (i.e. ESAN II, PEDSA, CAADP)
- Brokering access to credit with low interest rates (FDA – in BCI, BIM and Banco Terra)

PILLAR #2: POLICY INTEGRATION

1. List of Advotes in the Discussion

- Edgar Cossa (SETSAN)
- Luis Lifanisse (ATAP)
- Dercio Matale (HKI/RAC)

2. List of Recommended Partners

- Ministry of Plan and Development (MPD), UN-UNDP, CTA, ROSA, ANSA, G20, Government at Central, Provincial and Decentralized level. SETSAN, Ministry of Environment (MICOA), Ministry of Education (MINED)

3. Recommended Proceedings

- Facilitate the advocate Individual or inter-institutional planning session.
- Advocate for the approval of a inter-sectorial program between MoAg, MoH, and MoEd on bio-fortified products;
- Integrate OFSP in all levels plans and strategies: PNISA, PRONAE, PAMRDC-Provincial levels, National Strategy for Climate Change and Resilience, Human Right to Food, PARP, and ESAN.
- Integrate the OFSP as an essential crop in the country (in the range of the products identified as priorities for investment in the current framework of PEDSA)
- Promote scientific evidence available of reduction of VAD through OFSP dissemination and consumption
- Encourage Government through policy to adopt the biofortified varieties adapted to the different agro-ecological areas
- Establish a national partnerships and a platform with a common vision on the biofortification and integrate it into the existing PAMRDC Working Group;
- Promote the potential of OFSP processing options with Ministry of Industry and Commerce to opens new market possibilities and Increase in demand and consumption
- Engage and the local districts councils though the FDD (public local funding mechanism)

PILLAR #2: DEMAND CREATION

1. List of Advotes in the Discussion

- Marcela Libombo (SETSAN)
- Gaudencio Monteiro (SETSAN)
- Manuel Bucuane (Tico School)
- Manuel Amane (IIAM)
- Italia de Sousa (IIAM)
- Kurt Henne (HKI)

2. List of Recommended Partners

- Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), CTA, SETSAN, Ministry of Education (MINED), IPEME, Food Industries etc.

3. Recommended Proceedings

- Facilitate the advocate Individual or inter-institutional planning session.
- Promote the integral used of the OFSP plant are used/consumed (root, leaves, foliage) for human and animal feeding and for seeds.
- Facilitate the Integration in agri-business and food industry
- Integrate the OFSO into the School Feeding and Agriculture Programs
- Promotion of OFSP processing focused in rural areas

NEXT STEPS

- RAC Project to technically backstop advocates in their role and responsibility in their while implementing of the OFSP/ biofortification advocacy related activities.
- RAC to facilitate the thematic group meeting in the three advocacy strategy pillars, where advocates in each of the group in the planning process would identify others advocates who could not attend the retreat, in order to engage them in the RAC advocacy strategy implementation as per pillar.
- RAC to facilitate the sharing of information by advocates through the utilization of the M&E tools developed for that purposes.
- RAC to circulate the final version the Retreat Proceedings Report with all participants for acknowledgement.
- RAC to organize a meeting with advocate once every two months for follow up and updates in the advocate activities and experiences with advocacy work.
- RAC and SETSAN to formalize the establishment of the biofortification working group
- RAC to facilitate the establishment of the Google based list of contacts of active advocates