Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation Community of Practice

SPHI
Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative

4th Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Community of Practice Meeting

Harmonizing Analysis of Indicators and Monitoring and Evaluation Data

ILRI-Nairobi, Kenya

February 12, 2018

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CHP	Community Health Partners
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CHW	Community Health Workers
CIP	International Potato Center
CoP	Community of Practice
DDS	Dietary Diversity Score
DVM	Decentralised Vine Multiplier
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FCI	Farm Concern International
FtF	Feed the Future
HKI	Helen Keller International
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
HH	Household
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MLE	Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation
ODK	Open Data Kit
OFSP	Orange-Fleshed Sweetpotato
SASHA	Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa
SP	Sweetpotato
SPHI	Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year (2018), the CoP members returned to Nairobi, on February 18, to assess progress made in using the MLE Manual since its launch and to discuss the successes and challenges encountered in using it for M&E data collection. Unlike previously, the 2018 meeting was held for only one day to provide more time for Stata training that followed immediately, and that was aimed at harmonizing the analysis of indicator and other M&E data. Presentations included use of the manual for collection of baseline and endline survey data in Ethiopia and Tanzania, respectively; vine dissemination data in Kenya and Rwanda; DVM registration and monitoring in Burkina Faso; and the use Open Data Kit for baseline and monitoring surveys in Mozambique and Rwanda.   The advantages of the manual were presented, challenges highlighted and opportunities for improvement of the tool to resolve the remaining challenges discussed.

A total of 33 participants attended this year's MLE CoP meeting and had very positive feedback on the topics covered and presentations made. One participant said: "all the topics presented this year were very good and relevant, and the sequencing of the topics made the meeting very exciting and captivating". Another participant remarked: "this meeting was short but very rich in content. It has been great listening to different experiences on the use of the Manual". These, and other, feedback and sentiments were backed by the very positive post-meeting evaluation scores. All (100%) of the participants were mostly or completely satisfied with quality and content of presentations and with the organization of the meeting, while 93% indicated that the meeting somewhat or completely met their expectations. In terms of sessions, 83% of the participants were mostly or completely satisfied with the quality of presentations the use of the manual for surveys. To maintain the interest and use of the Manual, the writing team will meet soon to revise it and address the challenges users encountered.

This report provides a summary of all the presentations and discussions. The presentations can be downloaded from the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal.

1 SWEETPOTATO FOR PROFIT AND HEALTH INITIATIVE (SPHI) UPDATE

Jan Low

The Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative (SPHI) has the goal to reach 10 million households in 17 sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries with improved sweetpotato varieties by 2020.
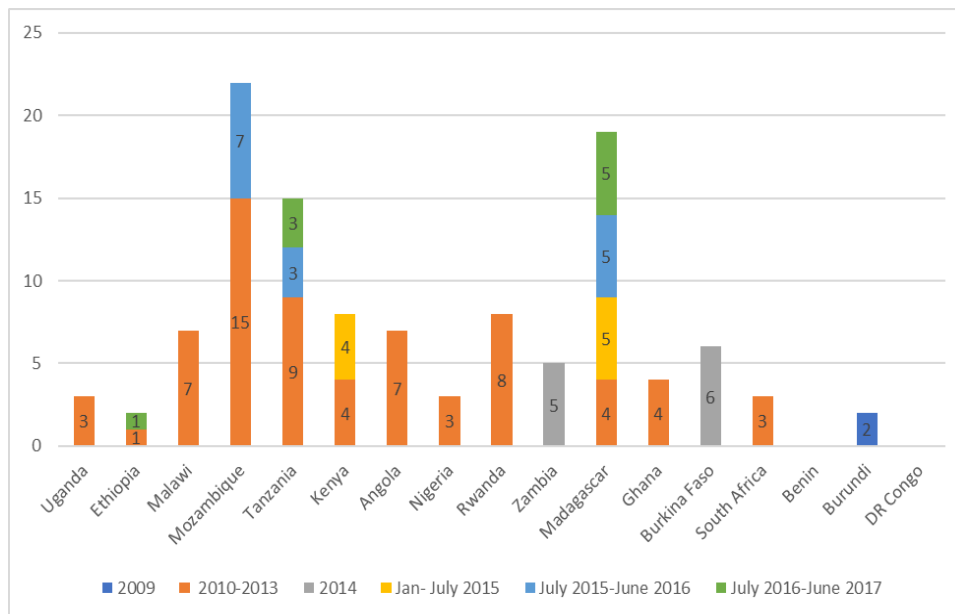
Figure 1 Released OFSP varieties

Producing improved varieties continues to be a major effort.

- ⊙ Nine new varieties released in 2016/17
- ⊙ 6 orange-fleshed, 3 non-orange fleshed
- ⊙ Resilient varieties released in Mozambique

Among the target countries, Nigeria has the highest change in area under sweetpotato, followed by Tanzania and Uganda. These countries are currently influencing the SPHI statistics. In Nigeria, sweetpotato is the only root and tuber crop that grows in every state. In Malawi, the failure of staples like maize has led to increased support for sweetpotato and cassava, which are more drought tolerant.

Other highlights:

- Successful Exhibition at Mlimani Mall during the 2017 SPHI meeting
- 16 SASHA briefs and 28 other briefs produced
- Your Passport to Good Health that can be downloaded here
- 2017 ended with Global Food Security meeting in Cape Town
- 2018 began with Statistics for Breeders Training & RTB Foods Launch

2 MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE UPDATE

Ibrahim Koara

This session highlighted the historical development of the MLE CoP over the last three years. It noted that when the MLE CoP started in 2015, it had 16 members only. That number had grown to more than 45 members at the time of the 2017 annual meeting. The number of disciplines represented has expanded to include agricultural economics, international development, agribusiness/marketing, animal breeding, computer science, biometrics and project planning, value chain, gender, agronomy and public health. The growing diversity is also visible in the increasing number of organizations represented in the MLE CoP, such as, CIP, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Hellen Keller International (HKI), Farm Concern International (FCI), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), HarvestPlus, iDE, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and ACDI VOCA.

The session highlighted the online discussions topics in 2017. These were:

⦿ Defining a vine/seed Multiplier
⦿ Monitoring data collection – Paper or Tablet
⦿ Monitoring Adoption on a Small Budget- Revisited

Ibrahim also highlighted that SPHI updated report that was presented at plenary session at the SPHI meeting in Tanzania.

Discussion

Jan low: How are we going to correct the gender balance? The hiring process and the shortlisting should include more women.

Godfrey: Within our partners, there is an increasing interest to see the data/information discussed in the CoP shared. The suggestion is, perhaps, in future, we should have our internal documents shared and used openly (public). In response to this, Julius indicated that they have been summarizing the discussions/key points and circulating among the members. However, we can start to share this points through our different platforms, and actually start to share on the knowledge portal.

3   UPDATE ON USE OF M&E MANUAL FOR DATA COLLECTION – ONE YEAR AFTER

Julius Okello

The M&E manual has 10 Modules overall, and many of them focus on SPHI indicators such as the:

1. OFSP Vine dissemination beneficiaries
2. Mean HH production (kg and value)
3 Improved diet quality

Over 85% of the people (these are participants of the CoP meeting) would want to use the modules of the manual. The modules have been used in Mozambique, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Gaza.

Sample – experiences from users of the manual

- ◉ "… we don't use ODK because of high number of beneficiaries to register,…requires to use many CHWs and CHPs who mostly are not familiar with mobile-based way of collecting data" – Valentine (Rwanda)
- ◉ We have used the manual for vine dissemination and market information." - Ibrahim (Burkina)
- ◉ It was difficult to get recall data about planting time and quantity of planting material" – Ibrahim (Burkina)
- ◉ M08_16: Actual Amounts received in Specified units: This questions it is very difficult to capture when you do the distribution" – Edgar (Moz)

Although the manual has been used in many countries, there still some people that are not even aware of the manual.

Discussion

The manual needs to be improved to capture more indicators or open this to accommodate more indicators. Julius stated that they are still revising the manual, as they receive contributions. He also stated that the CoP should focus and try to get core indicators to have comparable indicators across the country. After the feedback/comments from these core indicators are reviewed, then the manual can be made open available for the public. The objective is to disseminate and make sure the manual is published for public use.

Uganda: They have used the MLE manual to revise their own tools.

4 USE OF M&E MANUAL FOR BASELINE SURVEY: RESULTS AND LESSONS FROM QDBH-ETHIOPIA

Roland Bouwer

Used the M&E manual for baseline survey. Conducted the survey (based on the log-frame). Modules in the manual used for the Ethiopia baseline survey: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10.

4.1 Some key modification in the modules

- Changed the excel to world presentation of the printout
- Fasting question included in the survey
- Added questions about cash crops (module 8)
- Very important to have easy standardized coding on the questionnaire

4.2 Key implementation issues

- Enumerators recruited on the basis of experience and language
- Tool translated into Amharic, enumerators recruited speaking Sidaminha and Gede
- Field exercise was combined with pretesting; feedback from enumerators used to improve questionnaire
- CsPro for data entry simultaneously to data collection

4.3 Lessons

- Recruitment on estimated capacity may be more helpful than on education or experience
- Contracts have to be clear (open-endedness led to conflicts)
- Stricter verification of completion by supervisors in the field (Kebeles, Supervisors, correct use of blanks, "0" and "9"
- A first-in-first-out flow through data entry: data entry has to be able to give feedback on questionnaires 24 hrs after the interview;
- A routine in CsPro that verifies the validity of codes

Question

What is your lesson on implementing this bigger research? The quality of the interview still needs to be improved. We still need to improve the vitamin A module because it's long.

5 USE OF M&E MANUAL FOR ENDLINE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION: LESSONS FROM VISTA-TANZANIA

Over 90% of the manual was adopted and used. USAID indicators are reported quarterly and yearly in all these reports, the manual has been used. Kibaha used the tool in the Agronomic and variety of adaptive trials. FCI established seed and root entrepreneurs and the information was collected using the manual.

5.1 Use of the tool in the endline survey

- Some questions in the manual were omitted because they were duplicated
- Consent statement that was adopted from the manual
- In the MLE tool, the dependency ratio questions were added

The production and sales volumes tool-It was the most difficult manual because it needs a response on the fields as it requires one to do field validation. The baseline data was collected using two sets for comparison purposes that is Household Food Insecurity Access Scale Score (HFIAS) and Household Food Insecurity Access Prevalence (HFIAP). Both sets of questions were used to compare the baseline and endline survey.

5.2 Summary

- The manual is very straightforward to use and implement – even collecting data not project specific
- No need of inventing the wheel – time saver with questions that can easily be adapted to local settings
- Collecting standard data helps in collating data for CIP and other partners for easier comparison
- SP production and sales require thorough training of enumerators
- With more stata training, the use of the manual will be fully adopted and understood

Questions

Valentine: How were the production and sale volumes captured? What units were used? Response: Common units for land in TZ was in acres, and so it was what was used. For small plots, meter squared was used.

When was tool validation done: It was done at the end of the farming season that is June-August.

6 USING CSPRO AND ODK FOR SURVEY DATA COLLECTIONS: LESSONS SOUTHERN AFRICA, VISTA MOZAMBIQUE

Temesgen Bocher and Luka Wanjohi

The tools were used to collect beneficiary data. The baseline survey took 45 days because it was a big study involving many respondents and used many questions in the tool. The baseline used the 14 modules. Only the production module was not used because of language

challenges which made the translation of the module difficult. Three more modules which are not in the MLE tool were included.

Vouchers: The DVMs seem to be overestimating figures because of non-verification. The field officers are however now trained on how to ensure the DVMs do not overestimate the figures.

6.1 What are the lessons learned and way forward

- Have the final version of the survey questionnaire ready and agreed upon by all players before the commencement of the CAPI tool programming. This includes having all the translation in place where this is possible. The questionnaire should be able to communicate the survey logic to the CAPI programmer in a simple and clear way. Changes in the survey tool often result in more time being spent changing programming logic.
- Allow enough time between the development and finalization of the CAPI tool and the actual survey. Development of many custom applications tends to always spill over the projected timelines for various reasons.
- Pre-planning of the survey is a crucial step to effectively use the MLE tools and techniques.

6.2 Challenge on the use of the CAPI

- **Time**: Timely finalization of the survey instrument and CAPI application. This, in turn, affected the amount of time available for conducting testing the CAPI tool and training enumerators.
- **Language barrier**: Development of survey tool and CAPI application done in both English and Portuguese. Inconsistencies in the survey instruments between the two languages replicated in CAPI tool, slowing the process further.
- **Technical support** not readily available in the field during data collection. Delay in the resolution of bugs in the CAPI application resulted in the team falling back on paper data collection.
- **Procurement**: It took longer to procure good tablets for data collection in Nampula. This, in turn, delayed the field testing of the CAPI tool.
- **CsPro** inability to group questions made the interview very long and tedious.
- **Translating:** The use of the CAPI requires a long process of translating and testing the tool which becomes expensive.

Question

How did you estimate production? This was done using the crop cuts.

7 EXPERIENCES USING THE ODK PLATFORM IN RWANDA

Sindi Kirimi

Cons

- There should be one person to do basic analysis every evening, to check systemic mistakes in the data coming

- Always good to have a paper type questionnaire- You can refer to this
- GPS recording gets slow in bad weather
- Time to load an instrument: Enumerators get frustrated
- ODK: Many files which get mixed up and can be a real issue

Pros

- Errors are avoided if you have a lot of time
- Saves about 2.5 months of data entry and mistakes are avoided
- Avoids cases of data getting lost. For the paper questionnaire, some pages get lost

8 USE OF M&E MANUAL IN COLLECTING DISSEMINATION DATA: LESSONS FROM RWANDA & KENYA

Valentine Uwase & Rose Chesoli

Rwanda currently has three projects working on OFSP: SUSTAIN in 8 Districts**,** Feed the future in 10 Districts**,** SASHA 2 for Seed Systems**.** SUSTAIN and Feed the Future has direct beneficiaries households with children under five or pregnant women covering 18/30 districts. SASHA's main objective is to multiply basic OFSP planting material with government institution RAB as well as the mass distribution of planting material with five local partners and one government Institution.

8.1 Module used to capture

- Administrative locations
- Name of variety distributed, number and quantity of cuttings
- Source of vines, labelled
- Head of households and female caregivers
- Sex of the head of households
- Date of distribution

Module 8 fully adopted but more information was added to meet donor requirements.

8.2 Lessons Learnt

- The module is understandable and easy to use
- The manual is useful, easy to be used as a reference, possibility to adjust based on donors requirement
- Coordination from M&E staff during mass dissemination is important
- To get good data participation and capacity building to partners is very crucial
- Practice more than once with CHWs and promoters to fill the form
- Double check the data from the field
- Collect the forms from the field as soon as possible
- Check the data recorded directly at the field (sometimes some information may have been skipped)
- Avail M&E books at the proper time
- Test CsPro application before starting data entry
- Data entry people should be good at reading and writing the local language

8.3 Challenges

- The paper-based way of collecting data is a lot of work
- Require a lot of checks because it's filled by CHWs and promoters(87 promoters and 184 CHWs, who sometimes are not familiar with the mobile-based way of collecting data
- Getting the CHWs and promoters who in total are 271 to use ODK is a challenge

8.4 Lessons from Kenya Capturing vine dissemination data

- Module 8 contains basic beneficiary information which makes it easy for data collection and reporting.
- Training of data collectors on the tool: Without proper guidance and training data collectors mix up details or leave blanks.
- Each CHV collets data on beneficiary from their village, some CHVs are very slow sometimes fail to register all beneficiaries. Extension workers come in handy
- Tracking of varieties during mass vine dissemination.
- Beneficiary ends up not being able to differentiate Vita from Kabode.

Vine dissemination and data collection in Rwanda

- Disseminate one variety per site to minimize confusion on varieties.
- Commercial root producers do not feel comfortable giving all this information when they have used their money to purchase vines.
- More than one family member collects vines using different HH names where later you find one HH with several unique IDs which bring about double counting of HH. This is minimized by having each CHV register beneficiaries from his/her village.

9 DVM REGISTRATION & MONITORING: EXPERIENCE FROM BURKINA FASO

Ibrahim Koara

Jumpstarting Orange-Fleshed Sweetpotato in West Africa through Diversified Markets partners with a diversity of NGO and public sector actors to target both informal and formal markets in each country.

In Burkina Faso the module was used to train extension agents on;

- DVM Registration
- Periodic Monitoring
- VD data collection
- Market Prices and volumes collection

9.1 Recommendations after the training

- Modify ODK forms to include the names of registered DVMS with codes to select
- Add names of local government locations (areas) to be selected
- Put in a constraint to check the total land of DVMs to size to land under irrigation and lowland to ensure data quality
- Add a constraint to ensure that age of DVMs range between 20 to 75 years
- Add a constraint to ensure that the number of beds/ridges
- Corrections in some question headings

Training extension agents

9.2 Challenges

- Recall data about planting time and quantity shared
- Some agents did not use android smartphone
- Distinguishing healthy and sick plots before data entry
- Difficult to associate sub-data with the main table
- GPS positioning

9.3 Lessons Learnt

- It's important to organize a pre-meeting with DVMs and the enumerators to help the so to explain to farmers the questionnaire and the process.
- The best period to do the dissemination monitoring in Burkina is February till August.
- The market price and volume data was were collected weekly but after two sessions the retailers started to complain and didn't want to respond anymore.

10 PLENARY SESSION

Who is a beneficiary? Ethiopia: Number of indirect were higher than indirect in Ethiopia, but this was the opposite in Rwanda. And so then, how do you define a direct and indirect beneficiary? Temesgen: Those who get vines directly are direct beneficiaries; those who get vines from project beneficiaries are indirect beneficiaries. Anybody who gets vines not from the project is an indirect beneficiary. Individual beneficiaries and household beneficiaries reached are different. Individual beneficiaries refer to all the individuals in a household and so individual beneficiaries are usually more than household beneficiaries.

Units to use while collecting data e.g. the Debe, cart units etc.? Different units are used in different countries. Each of them has conversion ratios. Because there was no MLE unit before

researchers used different units. It is important to document all units used in different countries and have one conversion table with the MLE team that can always be used as a point of reference.

The number of women in the reproductive age. How is it captured? Response: It is the age i.e. 15-45, it can also include school going ladies.

Jan: What is involved in mass dissemination; vines to more farmers or more farmers to fewer vines. Which vines are being distributed? What is being done to ensure materials given in mass distribution are planted? Response (Kirimi) why give 15- 200 vines? How do we ensure mass distribution works; the vouchers are also not the magic bullet. Mass distribution or voucher all have challenges:

To ensure the vines distributed during the mass distribution are planted;

- ◉ Everybody should come when they have prepared the land
- ◉ Provide date of when to get vines
- ◉ The trainings are done when distributing vines

In Rwanda, 97-98% plant the vines distributed to them during the mass distribution and this is verified by going to the field. 150-200 is the best because it will no longer be a scarcity issue. If a few vines are given, farmers take care of them well but they are told that these are the starter material. Then if they need more, they can go back to the DVM this is based on the scarcity theory.

Jan follow-up: Sometimes fewer vines are given because projects want to meet their targets. For example, in Uganda, they were given more than 10kg because of the land areas. The number of vines may vary from country to country. The outcome indicators are important to determine the quantity of vines a beneficiary should get.

Gerald: Isn't there a danger of supplying poor vines during mass distribution? How is this checked? Guidance from Gerald: A vine varies between 15cm -30cm; and you should leave about 20cm from the soil. Cut 20cm above ground. The 15 or 30 cm depending on the purpose of the vine i.e. multiplication or root production. The expectation is that the monitoring team has the knowledge of diseases e.g. SPVD and Alternaria etc.

Did Okuku have the control in his study? The baseline acted as a control.

To Temesgen: How do you select the control area? How do you avoid contamination of control? Mozambique had both the control and intervention groups. Contamination could happen but the design of the study ensured that the control areas are far away from intervention areas.

When you use the voucher, if the DVM cannot fill the voucher, you could use the extension agents to do the recording and the distribution.

How do you collect the indirect beneficiary's information? No clear guidelines? Julius response: Indirect beneficiary: Household gets vines from another farmer, someone not

within the project or partner of a project. Members of the household become direct beneficiaries.

How do we measure or know that someone is an indirect beneficiary? Go out and do the survey and get to know how they get the vines. Another method is snowball- the direct beneficiary lists the farmer that he gave the vines too.

The process required to program and use the tablet is too long. What is the cost-effectiveness and timeliness?

Luka Wanjohi: If you use the modules already developed, it becomes easy. It worked well in Rwanda.

Jan Low: Time is not saved but time is only shifted between the activities. You need more time in preparation and the skills to do the activity. The total time does not change. There are different country situations. When you have a complex situation then paper becomes the most viable option. Get what gives you the best data in the country perspectives.

Luka Wanjohi: In the long run it saves time. If same enumerators are used, then minimal changes are made in the tool.

Sindi Kirimi: It takes 9-10 days to train on questionnaires and took long to do the testing. Preparation is needed for both paper and ODK. If you get it right, then it gets so fast because you have the same set of enumerators.

Ibrahim Koara: In planning to collect the data, one should consider the quality of the data he wants to obtain, and therefore the CAPI data collection becomes the best to use to ensure data quality.

Julius Okello: Whereas use the CAPI is not easy to use, we need to get moving to the tablets. Staying on paper is not an option for the future. ODK and CsPro all provide quality data, depending on how one is comfortable to work with them.

Use of the national demographic statistics might lead to underreporting? Julius: True, but we tried to get to the district level, where the projects were taking place. Where the project was not operating, then, the household sizes from the country demographic information was used.

Additional Comment on Enumerators

The key is to get enumerators to talk about the number of days, and not the number of times starting from a defined day. e.g. "From Sunday, how many days did a child eat dark green leaves?" Sometimes milk is added into a dish therefore it should be about the ingredients more than the foods. In some places in the questionnaire, foods can be changed to reflect those eaten in a specific area. However, some foods like red palm oil should be retained because they are part of the core module. There are some joint categories e.g. dark green leaves of all kinds, and in other parts of the module have specific leaves. When collecting data,

the number of times specific leaves were eaten should not exceed the number of times dark green leaves of all kinds were consumed. In case nothing was captured in the DDS, quantitative estimates can be got for the past seven days on sources of vitamin A-rich foods.

11 FROM DATA COLLECTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION: THE BNFB DASHBOARD

Godfrey Mulongo

Godfrey Mulongo took participants through the BNFB dashboard. The BNFB dashboard is a private project management tool with access being restricted to BNFB team members only for now. The dashboard is an online system that consolidates different reports into main project progress reports. It provides a logical cascading aggregation of results and a historical repository for both the progress reports and indicator data. OR&DRT links activity reporting to outputs and project objectives.

12 FROM DATA COLLECTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION: THE SPHI DASHBOARD

Luka Wanjohi

Every year, the SPHI reports the overall sweetpotato status in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) using data from SPHI partners and other secondary data sources. Efforts to improve the quality of the reported data have seen SPHI partners embark on the development of a common Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) manual including standardized paper and electronic data collection tools. The electronic forms are based on Open Data Kit (ODK) 2 and CSPro3. The SPHI dashboard summarises key data on SPHI progress and presents these to members of the wider sweetpotato community through the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal here: http://www.sweetpotatoknowledge.org/sphi-dashboard/#

Progress in dissemination of quality sweetpotato planting materials to farmers is by:

- ⊙ Variety release
- ⊙ Progress in reaching 10 million beneficiaries
- ⊙ Improvement in access to sweetpotato planting material

13 ANNUAL DVM REGISTRATION: 2017 REPORT & PLANS FOR 2018

Norman Kwikiriza

DVM registration and updates are done to track progress towards project, program and regional indicators. It provides a one-stop information center for vine buyers (NGOs, commercial farmers etc.) and creates a deeper understanding of the characteristics of our DVMs. It also provides data that helps to inform on the progress towards achieving the SPHI goal.

In 2017, they trained many ODK users, updated the registered old multipliers through phone calls and updated the ODK tool to add the following;

- ◉ Area under each OFSP variety
- ◉ Assessment of the vine multiplication plots
- ◉ Marketing of the vines
- ◉ Vine Inspection etc.

1200 DVMs in Africa, no DVMs in 7 SPHI countries and 31% of DVMs are females. Noted a group of DVMs is disappearing.

Figure 2 Orange-fleshed sweetpotato varieties
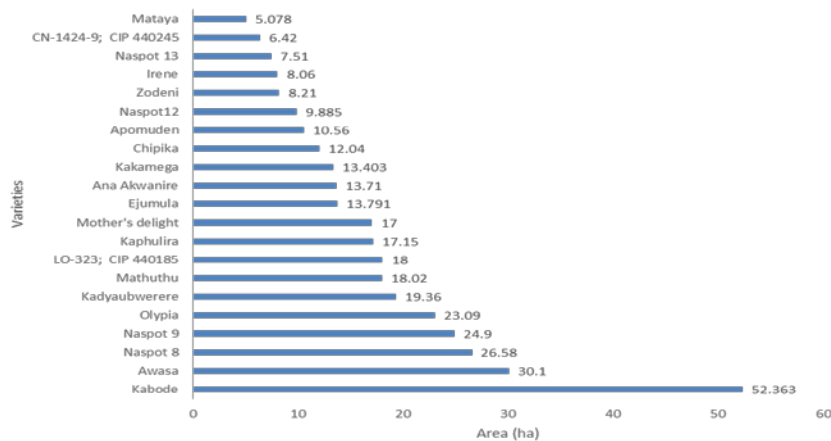
-We have 33 OFSP varieties multiplied?

-Kabode is the most widespread variety?

-Uganda, Mozambique and Tanzania have more OFSP varieties?

How were the vines managed? 91% had poor or no labels on their plots, 45% explained well the varieties and 60 % had well cared for vines. DVMs are also making efforts towards conserving vines even though 90% face water stress challenges.

Some of the conservation methods that are been used by DVM's

- ◉ Planting vines in the low lands (65%)
- ◉ Irrigating vine plots near homesteads (14%)
- ◉ Triple S method (3.4%)
- ◉ Protective structures (Net tunnels; Screen houses)

Challenges to ponder about

- Water stress is real as a result of drought
- Roaming livestock is critical "Livestock prefer OFSP to other varieties"
- Pest attack is high during the dry season
- DVMs are orphaned when projects end
- Market for vines from farmers is small
- The question "Who is a DVM remains?"

14 SPHI UPDATE REPORTING: PLANS FOR 2018 & WAY FORWARD FOR THE MLE

Julius Okello

Collection of dissemination data has started with focus on July 01, 2017 to December 01, 2017. The aim is to update data biannually.

Online discussions: Proposals

- Topic #1: Feedback and experiences on the use of MLE manual: utilization, challenges, opportunities
- Topic #2: Back to the basics: What is M&E? meaning and practice
- Topic #3: Monitoring outcomes of communication approaches: Market sensitization, billboards, media…
- Topic #4: Monitoring using qualitative methods
- Topic #5: Real-time evaluation: evaluation technique? Blurring the boundary between monitoring and evaluation?

15 PLENARY SESSION

Has the update on disseminations data begun? Julius stated that he has already requested for data for the period of Jan 1-Dec 31. Julius will be writing to partners to share the information.

What are plans for DVMS in Kenya e.g. the ones who are in projects that are closing out? We're hoping they remain active and when new projects start they take them on board. Jan also noted added that there's a need for better planning and suggested to have exit strategies three months before projects end.

Recommendation: DVMS should have the capacity to go on radio and advertise their products to promote the use of quality planting material.

Can we develop a tool for tracking planting material by the different vine multipliers and tell us how to feed into that tool? Luka stated a tool like that can be developed and that Kirimi and he are trying to work on something.

Temesgen Bocher: VISTA communicates to extension service officers their criteria for DVMs and they recruit based on that. We tell the DVMs to sell the first 300 vines for CIP then the rest they sell for their own profit. This continues to encourage them and they also act like CIP advocacy agents for quality vines.

Sindi Kirimi: We need to acknowledge that not all DVMs will be successful and this does not mean the projects have failed.

Jan Low: We need to a better job of exit strategies, let us make sure the DVMs are more business oriented.   Jan also added that DVMs need to be connected in such a way that they

know who to contact to get started again in case of vine loss. She also added that the participants should focus on what they have learned and what to do differently.

16 SWEETPOTATO KNOWLEDGE PORTAL TRAINING

Faith Njung'e

Faith Njung'e took the participants through the process of uploading publications and stories on the sweetpotato knowledge portal. We also had a few members who had not signed up and they were assisted with the registration process. All participants were requested to get into the habit of uploading more publications and stories on the portal.

17 MEETING EVALUATION

Sweetpotato Monitoring Learning and Evaluation Community of Practice meeting evaluation report
Luka Wanjohi, CIP-Nairobi

Introduction

The 2018 annual Monitoring Learning and Evaluation (MLE) community of practice (CoP) meeting was held on the 12th February 2018, at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya. Participants were requested to evaluate the quality of the sessions and the general logistics that went into setting up the meeting. A total of 29 participants responded to the evaluation call. The evaluation was done online using Open Data Kit (ODK).

Participation by age, gender and organization
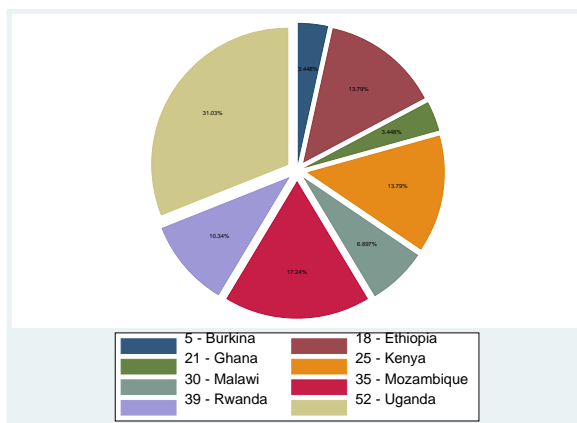
Figure 1 Participation by country
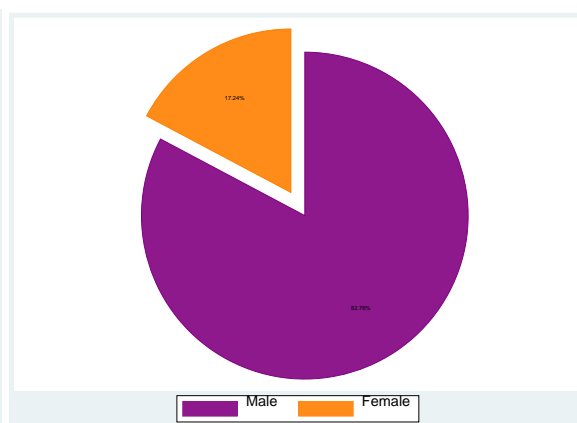
Figure 2 Participation by gender

Participants came from 8 countries, all based in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Majority of the respondents, 90%, came from the International Potato Center (CIP). The remaining 10% came from National Research Organizations. The age of these respondents ranged from less than 30 years to over 50 years old.

Meeting content

The majority of the respondents reported the meeting met their expectations, with 34% reporting the meeting completely met their expectations.

1. Did the meeting match your expectation?	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Somewhat	2	6.90	6.90
Most	17	58.62	65.52
Completely	10	34.48	100.00
Total	29	100.00	

2. How would you rate the quality of the presentations in terms of content?	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Most	23	79.31	79.31
Completely	6	20.69	100.00
Total	29	100.00	

Overall, the presentations on the use of the monitoring and evaluation manual were rated the highest with regards to quality and usefulness. 62% of the respondents said these presentations met most of their expectations while 43% said these met their expectations completely.
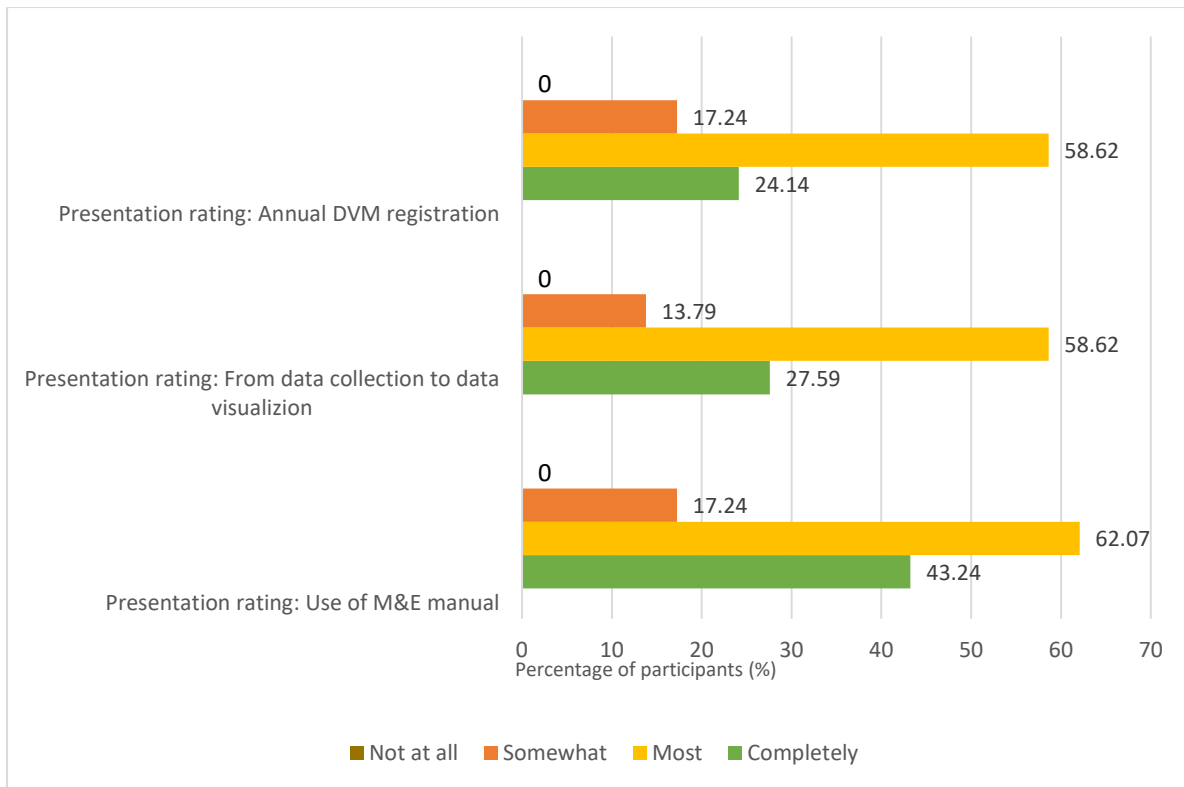
Figure 3 Presentations' rating

All the respondents, apart from one person, attended the training session on the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal. 9 respondents were attending the knowledge portal training for the first time.

9. Did you attend the sweetpotato knowledge portal session today?	10. Have you ever attended another training on the sweetpotato knowledge portal		
	NO	YES	Total
NO	1	0	1
YES	9	19	28
Total	10	19	29

10. Have you ever attended another training on the sweetpotato knowledge portal	11. How confident do you feel that you can download and share content on the por			
	Not at al	Confident	Very conf	Total
NO	3	5	2	10
YES	1	10	8	19
Total	4	15	10	29

At the end of the training session, 4 respondents said they were not at all confident that they can download and share content on the portal. 3 of these participants were attending this training for the first time. Majority of the respondents were confident that they can use the knowledge portal.

The majority of the recommendations on ideas of improving future meetings mentioned allocation of more time to the meeting and discussions. Other recommendations called for diversifying the agenda. Below is a summary of these recommendations:
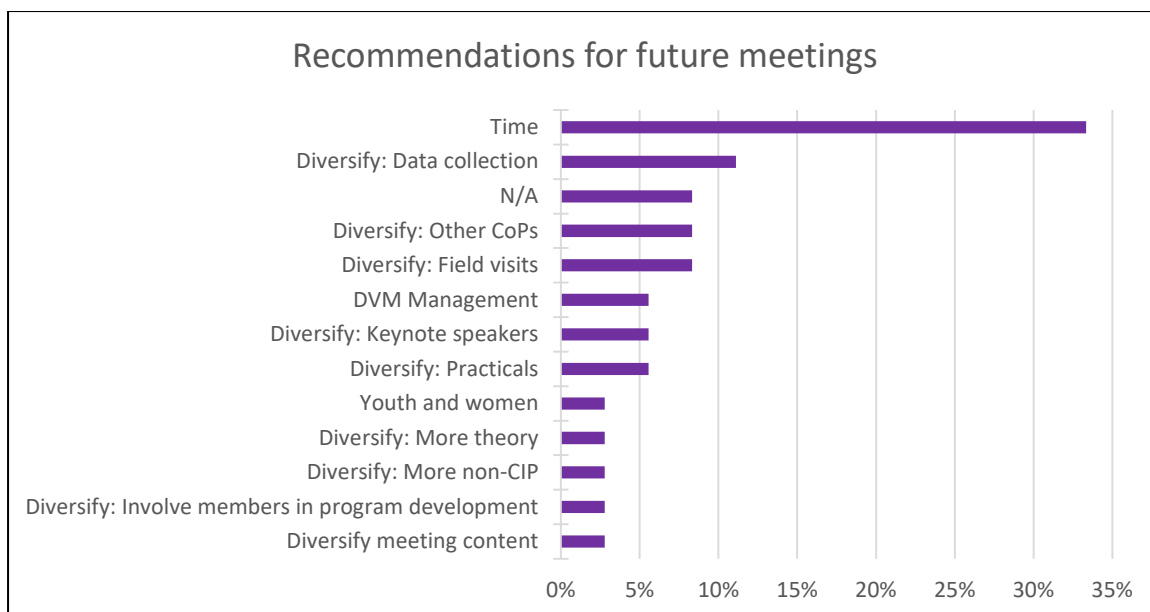
Figure 4 Summary of recommendations for future meetings

The complete list of these recommendations is as follows:

o It is important not to over crowd them with presentations.
o Two days for the meeting
o In future this kind of meetings should take more days to allow more information sharing and learning. That is if resources allow.
o 2 days for the meeting instead of 1 day
o Provide sufficient time for discussion
o More time for plenary discussion
o Allocate more time for discussions as this is how we learn from each other.
o The meeting should be more than one day to give more time for some country experiences.
o One-day meeting may be enough but one may question the justification to spend all this money on a one-day meeting
o More time for plenary discussion
o Limit presentations to 15 minutes, more time will be left for discussion between the participants
o See need more time for practices
o More attention to the psychology of data collectors (enumerators) and data providers (interviewees)
o Present sample data collection tools, visit to DVM site for experience sharing, practical use of ODK
o Short presentation of the instruments discussed (for example: MLE manual) because some participants might not know these instruments
o I would like to see future meetings including practical sessions on a number of areas like data collection and field experiences
o Field visits
o Field visits

- Add field visit
- More focus on the issue of what data we need to collect to contribute to discussions in other CoPs
- A member of another CoP could present their concern regarding MLE things
- It was nice to have agronomists and seed systems specialists in the room.
- All is well
- I think the overall organization was good, you should continue in the same way.
- Ã think that 2 days it is well to all the team to discuss your opinion to improve the team work...
- Include the real practical experiences
- More hands on training on Advance data analysis just like we about to have in Stata
- Include Key note speakers
- Include key note speakers
- It would be good if we can try to develop a document to ensure proper selection, establishment and strengthening of DVMs.
- Develop a methodology on how to properly identify, select and establish appropriate DVMs.
- It will be good to hear more about country experiences.
- Requests ideas for presentations from the members of the MLE two months in advance; re-ask one month in advance. There was a project that used the yield assessment module that would have been good to include.
- More presentations from non-CIP projects
- More theoretical session than only focusing on the application
- Get more young people especially women to share and also include a field visit

Meeting organization (logistics and communication)

All participants felt that the organization of the meeting was either mostly or completely okay. One respondent wrote "I think the overall organization was good, you should continue in the same way".

3. How would you rate the meeting in terms of organization?	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Most	17	58.62	58.62
Completely	12	41.38	100.00
Total	29	100.00	

18 Annexes

Agenda
MLE CoP Meeting on Feedback on the Use of MLE Manual
February 12, 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

Topics	Time	Responsible person
Chair: Wellington Jogo	Rapporteurs: Faith Njunge and Abdul Naico	
1. Registration	08:00 – 08:30	Tassy Kariuki
2. Welcome & introductions	08:30 – 08:40	Julius Okello
3. Welcome statements & SPHI update	08:40 – 08:50	Jan Low
4. MLE CoP Update	08:50 – 09:00	Ibrahim Koara/Julius Okello
5. Update on use of M&E Manual for data collection – one year after	09:00 – 09:25	Julius Okello
6. Use of M&E Manual for baseline survey: Results and lessons from QDBH-Ethiopia	09:20 – 09:50	Roland Brouwer
• TEA BREAK + (Group photo)	09:50 – 10:30	Tassy Kariuki
Session Chair: Ignatius Abaijuka	Rapporteurs: Faith Njunge & Norman Kwikiriza	
7. Use of M&E Manual for endline survey data collection: Lessons from VISTA-Tanzania	10:30 – 11:00	Halie-Selassie Okuku
8. Using CSPro and ODK for survey data collections: Lessons from Mozambique & Rwanda	11:00 – 11:30	Temesgen Bocher/ Kirimi Sindi
9. Use of M&E Manual in collecting dissemination data: Lessons from Rwanda	11:30 – 11:45	Valentine Uwase
10. Use of M&E Manual in collecting dissemination data: Lessons from Kenya	11:45-12:00	Rose Chesoli
11. Use of M&E Manual for DVM registration and monitoring: Experiences & lessons from Burkina	12:00 – 12:30	Ibrahim Koara
• Plenary discussion	12: 30 – 13:00	All presenters
• LUNCH BREAK	13:00 – 14:00	Tassy Kariuki
• Session Chair: Temesgen Bocher	Rapporteurs: Faith Njunge & Ibrahim Koara	
12. From data collection to data visualization: The BNFB dashboard	14:00 – 14:30	Godfrey Mulongo
13. From data collection to data visualization: The SPHI dashboard	14:30 – 15:00	Luka Wanjohi

14. Annual DVM registration: 2017 report & plans for 2018	15:00 – 15:30	Norman Kwikiriza
15. SPHI update reporting: plans for 2018 & Way Forward for the MLE	15:30 – 15:50	Julius Okello
• *Plenary discussion*	*15:50 – 16:20*	*All presenters*
• **TEA BREAK**	**16:20 – 16:50**	**Tassy Kariuki**
Session Chair: Kirimi Sindi	*Rapporteurs: Faith Njunge & Rose Chesoli*	
16. Practicing Loading Documents on the Knowledge Portal	16:50 – 17:30	Faith Njung'e
17. Evaluation	17:30-17:45	Luka Wanjohi
18. Evaluations	17:45-17:50	Julius Okello/Jan Low

Annex 2: Participants List

MLE CoP Meeting Participants List
February 11 - 18, 2017
Nairobi, Kenya

No.	First Name	Last Name	Title	Institution	Address	Country	Telephone	Mobile	Email1	Skype
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The **Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative (SPHI)** is a 10-year, multi-donor initiative that seeks to reduce child malnutrition and improve smallholder incomes through the effective production and expanded use of sweetpotato. It aims to build consumer awareness of sweetpotato's nutritional benefits, diversify its use, and increase market opportunities, especially in expanding urban markets of Sub-Saharan Africa. The SPHI is expected to improve the lives of 10 million households by 2020 in 17 target countries.

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