

Platform for Agricultural Risk Management



Building capacities to empower farmers to manage risks at farm level: lessons from experience

Concept Note and Tentative Agenda

K-Sharing & Learning Workshop

Wednesday, 12 December 2018

Lusaka, Zambia



1. The Context

Over the last decade, risks relating to weather shocks, market uncertainties, and policy fragilities have escalated with increasingly negative impacts on farming livelihoods and food security of rural households. Such critical issues highlight the urgency to share knowledge, ideas, and best practices on agricultural risk management (ARM) and to design appropriate capacity development (CD) activities for the stakeholders involved. Smallholder farmers, for example, are still inclined to analyze risk situations based on their perception. Besides, very few adopt sustainable integrated risk management strategies for long-term solutions. Such limitations call for more innovative agriculture and risk related CD activities at the farm level.

The Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) and the World Bank have established the basic methodology for evidence-based agricultural risk assessments and prioritization. As part of its mandate, PARM has also played an important role in delivering capacity development (CD) activities in eight sub-Saharan African countries and in organising global and regional knowledge-sharing events to learn and discuss on ARM related experiences. Outcomes from these national, regional and global engagements suggest the persistence of bottlenecks and low take-up of existing innovation in the area of ARM Knowledge and Capacities at the farmer level.

CD activities are also recognized as an important pillar of ARM interventions in PARM's recent publication on "**Agricultural Risk Management: practices and lessons learned for development**". In particular, the publication highlights the need to tailor CD activities to diverse stakeholder groups, assess stakeholders' capacity needs, adapt CD materials to specific context. It also identifies the need to link theoretical knowledge with practical experiences to improve ARM knowledge, take-up and utilisation.



2. The Host

The Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) is an outcome initiative of the 2010-2013 G8-G20 discussions on food security and agricultural growth. It was established in December 2013 through a multi-donor partnership between the European Commission (EC), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS), German Cooperation (BMZ/KfW) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). PARM works in strategic partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other development partners to make risk management an integral part of policy planning and implementation.

One of PARM's main objective is to facilitate ARM knowledge exchange in developing countries. Its activities are currently focused in eight Sub-Saharan African countries – Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Cameroon, Senegal, Niger, Liberia and Cabo Verde. In each of these countries, PARM engages partners in a multi-stakeholder-centred process that involves Agricultural Risk Assessment Studies, ARM Tools Feasibility Studies, Capacity Development, Knowledge Sharing and Policy Dialogue activities.

PARM's CD activities represent one of the main pillars of the PARM process and integral part of PARM Knowledge Management (KM) Strategy. As such, the PARM CD activities are articulated as follows: 1) a 2-day General ARM seminar (CD1), 2) a 5-days higher level ARM training implemented in partnership with local institutions (CD2) and 3) specific trainings on ARM tools (CD3). These activities seek to enhance learning among key actors and final users (i.e. smallholder farmers) of agricultural risk management. Linked to its CD activities, PARM also develops ARM training materials, including an e-learning courses jointly with FAO and with contribution of many other partners.

3. The Workshop

As part of the broader PARM KM Plan to disseminate knowledge on ARM, this workshop aims to identify innovative and solution-based CD approaches in agriculture and risk related issues that meet farmers' needs, by discussing how different stakeholders can bring such learning and practices at the farmer level – that is, either individual or organised smallholder farmers that are into subsistence or commercial farming activities.

The event will also present PARM experiences in delivering ARM CD activities and provide an avenue for PARM partners and non-partners to showcase their successful CD approaches together with the opportunities and challenges in disseminating ARM knowledge to farmers in a sustainable manner. More importantly, the workshop will provide opportunity for key stakeholders, including farmer organisations, development agencies, government and the private sector to discuss their roles for more innovative CD approaches and impacts at the farm level.

3.1 Set up

The workshop will rely on panel discussions, a showcase of agriculture and risk related CD initiative, as well as stakeholder group discussions. An introductory panel discussion will set the scene of the event discussing the context of CD initiatives at the farmer level while the closing session will sum up the outcomes from the earlier sessions.

In preparation of the workshop, a call for proposal will be sent out to request interested participants to present specific CD initiatives in the field of agriculture and risk related issues. Selected initiatives will be displayed in the showcase session. The group discussion session will bring together participants who are similarly interested in CD – farmer organisations, researchers, government, development organisations and the private sector – to discuss their roles as well as the opportunities and challenges of disseminating agriculture and risk related knowledge to farmers through various CD approaches.

NOTE: All participants interested in showcasing their CD initiative can fill in the online [Call for Proposal Form¹](#) by **16 November 2018** to ensure logistic arrangements. Initiatives will be reviewed by the organizing committee and the results of the selection will be communicated by **23 November 2018**.

3.2 Objective

The **key objective** of this event is for participants – from the various platforms that transfer knowledge and capacities on agriculture and risk related issues at farm level – to share their experience, to outline key opportunities and challenges, identify gaps and/or room for improvement and to build partnership for CD activities at the farmer level.

3.3 Expected Results

¹ <https://goo.gl/Vh2Nmi>

The key results of this event are:

1. To identify innovative, farmer-friendly and impact-oriented CD initiatives that could translate into concrete ARM CD approaches to be mainstreamed into agriculture and food security agendas in developing countries;
2. To capture agriculture and risk related knowledge and gaps at the farmer-level; and
3. To highlight stakeholders' partnership opportunities in CD activities at the farmer-level.

3.4 Expected outputs

The results of the discussions will be captured by a workshop report **“Building capacities to empower farmers to manage risks at farm level: lessons from experience”²**. The report will:

1. Collect existing CD initiatives on agriculture and risk related issues at farmer-level;
2. Identify related opportunities and challenges;
3. Outline key stakeholders' roles and further actions to reach farmers and make more impacts through ARM-related CD activities.

3.5 Target

The focus area of this event is CD approaches that disseminate ARM knowledge at farmer level. By farmer level, we mean individual or organised smallholder farmers that perform subsistence or commercial-oriented farming activities. The event seeks to bring together about 50 participants with specific interest on ARM at the farmer level. It will target national and regional farmer organisations as well as PARM CD partners (universities, research institutes, private sector), Advisory and Steering Committees, CAADP Focal Points and country partners. It will also extend invitations to relevant non-partner organisations within and beyond PARM focused countries with relevant experiences in CD on ARM at the farmer level.

4. Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, 12 December 2018 – Lusaka, Zambia		
Time	Sessions	Speakers/Presenters
8:30-9:00	Registration	PARM
9:00-9:15	Opening remarks	MoA Zambia (tbc)
9:15-9:20	Workshop objectives & methodology	Ute Eberhardt
Session 1: Setting the scene: Capacity Development as a pillar for agricultural risk management at the farm level		
9:20-10:15	<p>Panel Discussion: The aim of this session is to discuss and share experiences on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of capacity development on ARM: PARM approach • Key ingredients to reach farmers through farmer-friendly and solution-based CD activities on agriculture and risk-related issues 	<p>Moderator: Gideon Onumah, NRI/AGRINATURA</p> <p>Panellists: Ilaria Tedesco, PARM Extension Service – MoA Zambia (tbc) Gustave Ewole, PROPAC (tbc) EAFF (tbc) Farmers Field School, FAO (tbc)</p>
10:15-10:30	Q & A	Ute Eberhardt
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break + PARM CD Materials Dissemination	
Session 2: Learning from experiences: capacity development approaches to disseminating agriculture and risk related knowledge to farmer		
11:00-12:00	<p>Information Market: Showcase of agriculture and risk related CD initiatives</p> <p>Participants are free to move around the information market to learn about each selected capacity development initiative for disseminating agriculture and risk related knowledge to farmers.</p>	<p>Facilitator: Ute Eberhardt</p> <p>A call for proposal has been sent and a total of 9-12 CD initiatives will be selected to be showcased. Detail information will follow after the selection of the proposals.</p>

² The final publication will be peer-reviewed by the Technical Committee and is planned to be published by early 2019

12:00-13:30	Lunch break	
Session 3: Discussing the opportunities and challenges in disseminating ARM knowledge to farmers through CD approaches		
13:30-15:00	<p>Group Work: Participants will reflect on the approaches presented in session 2 and come out with output/point on:</p> <p>a. Opportunities and challenges of each stakeholder in formulating, organizing and delivering CD activities at farm level, including issues related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design of innovative CD solutions; - Implementation support and reachability of farmers; - Long-term support (sustainability). <p>b. Role in the partnership framework to deliver innovative, farmer-friendly and impactful CD approaches.</p> <p>Tentative Groups: Group 1: Universities/research centres Group 2: Development agencies (international and local) Group 3: Farmers' organization Group 4: Government agencies/extension service Group 5: Private sector/service providers</p>	<p>Facilitator: Ute Eberhardt</p> <p>Lead discussants: Kinfe Asayehegn, Hawassa University, Ethiopia IFAD (tbc) Prudence Ayebare, UNFFE, Uganda (tbc) Beatrice Byarugaba, MoA Uganda (tbc) Gerald Masila, EAGC (tbc)</p>
15:00-15:30	Reporting back from the groups	<p>Facilitator: Ute Eberhardt</p> <p>Lead discussants</p>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
Session 4: Moving forward: reaching farmers and making impacts on ARM through CD activities		
15:45-16:30	<p>Conclusions and way forward: Summary of outcomes from session 1), the CD approaches presented (from session 2) and the opportunities and challenges (from session 3) from three moderators.</p> <p>Identification of keywords to develop farmer-friendly and solution-based CD activities on agriculture and risk-related issues</p>	<p>Facilitator: Ute Eberhardt</p> <p>Moderators: Nalishebo Meebelo, PARM Ilaria Tedesco, PARM Karima Cherif, PARM</p>
16:30-16:45	Final Q & A	Ute Eberhardt
16:45-16:50	Closing remarks	PARM
16:50-18:30	Exhibition and cocktail network	

5. Venue and date:

The workshop is scheduled to take place at **Lusaka, Zambia on Wednesday, 12 December 2018**, back-to-back with **PARM's 5th Advisory Committee Meeting**, on the next day **Thursday, December 13, 2018**. The full details of venue and logistics will be shared by November 23th.

NOTE: Participants are requested to fill in the online [Registration Form](#)³ **no later than November 20th** to ensure logistics arrangements.

The main activities of this workshop are coordinated by the PARM team and its partners in Zambia. Any further information should be addressed to: parm@ifad.org.

³ <https://goo.gl/HKE5uS>