SIMLES A-2 - 2014-2018
What is Good-Difficult and Different?

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  • Phase 1-2010-2013
  • SIMLESA2 2014-2018

PARTNERS-NARS
• EIAR, KARI, DRD,DARS , IIAM, spill over NARO,RAB, DAR
• Regional/International
• - ICRISAT, QAAFI, ARC, ASARECA
• - CCARDESA(phase2), ILRI and CIAT
Inputs into SIMLESA-2

SIMLESA-1 collective experience to date
3rd ARRPM and Re enforced by 4th ARPM in April, 2014
MTR-2012
PSC(1-4)
1. Strengths of SIMLESA-1

considered as a model for Effective partnerships-NARS and other major donors’ testimonies

• Multi-stakeholder
• NARS empowered and enabled to make good amount of operational decisions on program activities and thrust
• NARS receive a relatively higher funds compared to other projects
• Joint data ownership with NARS
• Developed good collaboration and partnership arrangements between CIMMYT and NARS based on trust and respect between players
• NARS empowered and enabled to make decisions on program activities and thrust
• Joint presentations and development of publications between CIMMYT and NARS
2. Science outputs through capacity building

NARS participation at high Profile conferences and congresses- paper and poster presentations-

- 5th World Congress on CA -Brisbane, Australia -2011
- 6th World Congress on CA Winnipeg ,Canada June 2014
- International Agronomy Conference-India 2012
- International Agricultural Economics Conference, August 2012 Brazil
- Other country and regional meetings
- Very many publications by Objective-1, QAAFI and few objective 2...
3. SIMLESA: BEING INSTITUTIONALIZED AS NARS STRATEGY

• Systems and integrated approach
• Value Chain Analysis
• Innovation Platforms- Piloting scaling out with selected partners commenced in 2014
• Encouraging results of Adoption and mentoring studies
• Mainstreaming Gender-to be enhanced in SIMLESA-2 with an in house capacity

• Institutionalizing M&E
Confidence cf. challenge in SIMLESA 2

Areas of confidence

• CA related productivity increasing technologies
• NARS ownership
• Capacity building

Areas of challenge

• Focus on CA-based SI; with integration (disciplines; ....)
• Risk reducing innovations and research designs
• Scaling out and business engagement (except maize seed)
• M&E which supports management
SIMLESA-2: Overall Objective

Continuation of original 10-year vision
By the year 2023:

to sustainably improve maize & legume productivity of selected maize-based farming systems in each target country by 30% from the 2009 average

to reduce the expected downside yield risk by 30%

on approximately an additional 650,000 farms
SIMLESA-2 elements

Combination of innovations to:
increase productivity & profitability,
reduce downside production risks,
enhance sustainability
strengthen innovation platforms/systems
SIMLESZA-2: Implications

2014-18:
  – continuation with adjustment to 1st phase (2010-13)
builds on SIMLESZA-1 achievements and lessons/feedback
strengthen multi-disciplinary field teams, targeting, scaling-out
refocus some research & capacity building
phase down completed research
SIMLES A-1 Achievements

• characterization of maize-legume production and value chain systems;
• testing of promising smallholder maize-legume cropping systems;
• increasing the range of maize and legume varieties available for smallholders;
• developing regional and local innovations systems; and
• substantial capacity building of agricultural research partners.
SIMLES SA-2: Emphasis Changes

Broader technological focus
   – core thrust: Conservation Agriculture (CA)-based sustainable intensification
System orientation
   – From plot to farm scale
Impact orientation
   – Adoption, impact pathways, value chain linkages
Partnership & scaling up/out
   – Competitive & commissioned grants
Obj.1: Production systems, value chains & impact pathways

1.1 SI options
- 1.1.1 Database
- 1.1.2 Meta-analysis
- 1.1.3 Feed analysis

1.2 Value chains
- 1.2.1 Input supply analysis
- 1.2.2 Output market analysis
- 1.2.3 Institutional/agri-business analysis
- 1.2.4 Value chain interventions

1.3 Risk analysis
- 1.3.1 Risk perceptions & mgt
- 1.3.2 Risk implications SI options
- 1.3.3 Productivity and risk trade-offs
- 1.3.4 Factors affecting risk perceptions
- 1.3.5 Participatory risk analysis

1.4 Farm typology x SI options
- 1.4.1 Functional farm hh typology
- 1.4.2 Benefits and trade-offs SI options by type

1.5 Recommendation domains & adoption
- 1.5.1 Scaling out recommendation domains
- 1.5.2 Adoption monitoring & impact pathways
Obj. 3: Increase range maize, legume, fodder/forage varieties

3.1 Varieties available

3.1.1 Best bet maize

3.3.2 Best bet legumes

3.3.3 Best bet fodder/forage

3.3.4 Seed increase promising but underinvested

3.3.5 Seed availability bottlenecks/system
Obj.4: Innovation systems & scaling-out modalities

4.1 Policy & organizational models
- 4.1.1 Policy options (briefs; WS)
- 4.1.2 Organizational scaling models

4.2 Scaling stakeholder interaction mechanisms
- 4.2.1 Strategic partnerships (PPP)
- 4.2.2 Viable service providers (business models)

4.3 Scale out grants
- 4.3.1 Competitive scale out grants

4.4 Knowledge sharing
- 4.4.1 SMS decision support
- 4.4.2 Leaflets (farmers, extension, agribusiness)
- 4.4.3 Cross-project linkages
- 4.4.4 Exchange visits (farmers, extension)
Objective 5: Capacity building

1. Training of at least 100 professionals on CA-based sustainable intensification, provided to build and enhance capacity of national and regional programs

2. 50 Trained professionals on Gender mainstreaming

3. 25 Trained professionals on seed systems

4. 10 Trained research managers

5. 50 Trained extension and scaling out professionals

6. Competitive Australian PhD scholarships

7. ARC supported Msc and PhD scholarships
Key lessons for implementation from SIMLESA-1 (ACIAR)

Link farm production with better domestic value chains, often the first step in international trade opportunities

Focus on competitiveness, driven by increased productivity as well as efficient value chains

Engage agribusiness from the start in order to understand market forces, risk and research priorities
Key lessons for implementation – 2

- Integrate value chains activities with technologies, capacity building and local policy analysis, in innovation platforms
- Consult women during project design and implementation
- Understand the incentives of all chain members and value chain dynamics within the broader market and trade context
Enhancing Synergies between projects
NSIMA, DTMA, GSP, IRMA, WEMA IMAS and SIMLESA

- Common Coordination Body – CIMMYT Southern Africa
- Common Governance – NCUs & RSC, -SIMLESA-Country Teams
- Common M&E – Outcome mapping
- Competitive grants based on merit of proposals – (John MacRobert, 2013)
What is different/new in SIMLESA-2

Objective 1

Making use of the rich and comprehensive data set

• No more a socioeconomics silo but multidisciplinary

• Typologies to be used for targeting purposes to introduce and evaluate developed SIMLESA options

• To use the value chain analysis and market studies for farmer-market linkages and agro business development

• Use adoption and monitoring results to influence technology development- feed back to objective 2 and 3
Objectives

Objective 2

Fine tuning our current options and new areas of research by all not only agronomists

- Revisit on station and on farm exploratory trials-numbers and sites
- Packaging options for scaling out –objectives 1, 3 and 4
- Farm Case studies
- Going from plot to farm scale
- CIAT and QAAFI to collaborate country specific soil science research
What is different/new in SIMLESA-2

**Objective 3**

Making available more new and resilient varieties of maize and legumes

- No more breeding as both legumes and maize breeding has a heavy investment by BMGF
- Refining the seed road maps per country
- Strengthening seed companies
- More emphasis on legumes by strengthening the informal seed sector and capacity building
What is different/new in SIMLESA2

Objective 4

A new stand alone objective- no more a refuge under objective2

- Competitive grant to scaling out with current and new scaling out partners
- Strengthening and using AIPs for scaling out
- Agribusiness development to facilitate scaling out
- Measuring and documenting scaling out experiences and lessons
- Reaching 650,000 households in 5 countries and spillover countries
Objective 5
Strengthened capacity building on specific country needs

- On the job training including online training by QAAFI
- Gender Strategy for SIMLESA2
- A communication Office onboard on 01 Sept
- M&E officer under recruitment
- Two QAAFI scientists based in Harare and Addis
- Improved Program Management and governance in place for SIMLESA-2
- Strict and regular reporting by all partners
What is Difficult/ challenging

Sustaining the achievements of SIMLESA1 with more energy

• Less resources but more to be done
• Coordinating a multi stakeholder program
• Limited capacity of partners to implement new areas of research
• Managing competitive grants and commissioned research
• Getting trust based data access and sharing policy
• Reaching 650 000 house holds
What will we be doing this week?

Day1-Tuesday 14 October

• Reflect on SIMLESA1- insights, lessons and implications for SIMLESA2-

• To develop a common understanding and get clarity on SIMLESA 2,

• Identification of challenges and opportunities from SIMLESA 1-to SIMLESA2

• Evaluation of proposed activities

• Initiate development of relevant protocols
Day 2: 15 October 2014

- Development of detailed action plans by objective
- Fine tuning objectives, priority activities and work plans—each centre (Aligning activities to available budget in SIMLESA-2)
- General Discussion on priorities & cross-objective interactions
DAY 3: 16 October 2014

- Match action plans to available resources
- Finalization of action plans
Day 4: 17 Oct 2014

Capacity building and M&E issues
Agree on relevant communication products
Avail opportunity for 1:1 discussions on specifics
General Discussion & Wrap up
End of Planning Meeting
Come join the SIMLESA Family - with a passion for impact -
They are the future GAME CHANGERS in Agricultural Research and Development
Acknowledgments

- SIMLESA Host Farmers
- NARS partners
- NGOs and Private sector-scaling out partners
- Regional and international partners
- QAAFI
- CIMMYT Colleagues
- ACIAR and Crawford Fund
- PMC and PSC members