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Improvement of storage facilities, post-harvest handling, and storage practice in Bay Region, Southern Somalia - OSRO/ SOM/ 811/ EC

Follow-up report to the management response

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Office of Evaluation (OED)

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Follow-up report of the Management response to the Independent Evaluation Report of OSRO/SOM/811/EC: Improvement of storage facilities, post-harvest handling and storage practice, in Bay region, Southern Somalia			Date: 11 December 2012
Evaluation Recommendation	Action Agreed	Comments on actions taken, including reasons for actions not taken	Impact (changes) of actions taken on programme, policies and/or procedures
Recommendation 5.1.1.a: An extension programme should now be mounted among the 19,000 households already informed and involved in the project to reinforce training objectives.	Negotiations to be undertaken with the EU	This action was very specific to phase II of the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project however no funds have been allocated by the EU for phase II and negotiations are still ongoing.	N/A
Recommendation 5.1.1.b. The presence of carcinogenic mycotoxins in sorghum stores in Bay Region is only still only suspected. Where aspergillus fungus and aflatoxin contamination is suspected, the presence should be confirmed scientifically, through locally managed verification tests (2-stages:- petri- dish cultures of moulds; and “aflastick” confirmation field test for aflatoxin; and, where present, concentrated support offered and routine monitoring established using a local NGO.	To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project	This action is planned to be implemented under the phase II of the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project but the phase has not commenced yet. The recommendation will also be undertaken in any forth coming storage project where aspergillus fungus and aflatoxin contamination in seeds is suspected.	N/A

<p>Recommendation 5.1.1.c: FAO should liaise with CEFA, who are not only monitoring grain in store, but are testing imported pit linings that are much cheaper than the pilot/demonstration pits prepared by SATG. Further, pits lined with locally available materials that have proved to be useful elsewhere (e.g. “wattle and daub”, using straw and animal dung in the vertisols of Central- East Sudan) may still have applications away from flood plains.</p>	<p>Coordination efforts with CEFA</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. FAO plans to look into the feasibility of implementing this activity under any forthcoming storage projects as the current ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC project (which involves supporting agricultural productivity and grain storage in Middle and Lower Shabelle) cannot implement this activity as the OVIs are very specific to the production and distributions of metal silos and the construction and rehabilitation of strategic produce stores.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.1.1.d. FAO should assist in establishing supply chains for galvanised sheets and fixing materials for the trained artisans wishing to continue to make silos for sale (different sizes); and, should also investigate opportunities of associated private sector support for credit/insurance for such artisans.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO is looking into the feasibility of implementing these activities in the ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC project that is planned to implement the production and distribution of 4,000 metal silos in Lower and Middle Shabelle in 2013 through the use of trained artisans as part of a larger rural commercialization intervention. Support of capacity development of producers associations and strengthening of market linkages is at the centre of this intervention. Silos producers will be considered.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Recommendation 5.2.1.a. Assessing effectiveness of storage, not just delivery of training or assets, should be included within the project objectives, increasing the length of the project to include the usual, or an appropriate, period of storage.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO plans to ensure that forthcoming projects implementing storage activities are planned and implemented within an appropriate project period to ensure that the effectiveness of distributed storages are assessed during the period implementation. The ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC project which consists of a storage component has a project period of two years (December 2011-December 2013) in which it plans to effectively assess the effectiveness of silos once the distribution of 4,000 metal silos has commenced in early 2013. Similarly, the IFAD funded project, OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD which has storage component and will last for two years ending mid 2014 will take this activity into consideration.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.1.b. Surveys of grain in-store should always involve sampling and tests of grain quality over a period of time, using simple bench-top techniques that may easily be accomplished in the field. It should not be considered sufficient to ask farmers to guess the percentage damage by supposed effect or probable cause.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO has already begun involving its implementing partners and seed laboratory institutes in the sampling and testing of seeds to ensure accurate data related to seed moisture, germination rate, analytical purity and pest infestation of seeds as seen in the emergency programme 2011 and 2012. FAO has also planned on incorporating this activity in other forthcoming storage related projects</p>	<p>With the involvement of implementing partners and seed laboratory institutes in the sampling and testing of seeds, FAO is able to ensure that good quality seeds are distributed to farmers and consequently a higher rate of production.</p>

		<p>beginning with the OSRO/SOM/126/EC and OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD which will conduct tests to assess the effectiveness of distributed silos.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5.2.1.c. Simple tests for moisture content, 1000 grain weight, % broken grains, % insect damaged grains, % contaminated grains etc may be conducted in situ, if necessary, with an accurate balance, a magnifying glass and the imagination of a good specialist adviser.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO has planned to train implementing partners and trainer of trainers (ToT) on sampling of seeds and conducting simple tests to determine seed moisture, germination rates, and pest infestation through its training on good agricultural practices (GAP) and post harvest losses in forth coming storage projects and other input distribution related projects. The OSRO/SOM/126/EC and OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD projects which are implementing a storage component plan to train its implementing partners and ToT on these basic techniques in 2013.</p>	

<p>Recommendation 5.2.1.d. Final evaluations should not be conducted by the contracted NGO implementer.</p>	<p>In the next phase we will ensure that the third party or FAO staff conducts the evaluation</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO has already taken this recommendation into action and other project evaluations are being undertaken by external consultants.</p>	<p>External evaluators are found to hold a wide range of evaluation skills and experience as compared to the contracted NGO implementer. In addition, the evaluations are found to be more objective as the evaluators have some distance from the work which gives greater credibility to the findings and provides the management unbiased information needed to make decisions about the project.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.2.a. All training of trainer courses include, as well as learning objectives relating to subject matter, learning objectives that relate to training of farmers and household members with little or no levels of literacy.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO will incorporate this recommendation into the formulation of training modules to be used in the training of ToTs and lead farmers in forth coming agricultural projects. Under the OSRO/SOM/126/EC and OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD projects, post harvest management trainings are planned. FAO also plans to distribute well illustrated 'FAO Technical Manual for the construction of small metal silos' which have been translated into the Somali language to artisans during the training artisans on the construction of metal silos in 2013 to ensure that those with low level of literacy are able to utilize the tool. This manual will also be used in any other forth coming storage projects.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Recommendation 5.2.2.b. Training of Trainer courses should provide would- be trainers with itemised training packages including equipment and materials and a programme of instruction to follow</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However, FAO will ensure that ToTs in forthcoming storage projects will be provided with the necessary training materials (modules and tools) to train other farmers/artisans. This activity is planned to be undertaken under the ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC project during which 50 of the extension workers and lead farmers will receive training modules and 50 of the trained artisans will receive the Somali translated 'FAO Technical Manual for the construction of small metal silos'.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.2.c. Farmer and household member training sessions, other than awareness-raising sessions, must always be practical; only conducted in small groups (maximum 10 persons) when sufficient materials and pieces of equipment are available for all trainees to participate; have no more than one or two clearly-stated, practical objectives that all the trainees can demonstrate before leaving.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However under the ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC, OSRO/SOM/125/EC and OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD projects, FAO is embarking on Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as an effective approach for skills promotion and empowerment of individual farmers and households. The FFS approach ensures a smaller group of people are efficiently trained at a go.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Recommendation 5.2.2.d. All trainees should receive follow-up extension visits after the training course to review progress and correct faults</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO is taking up this recommendation under the ongoing OSRO/SOM/126/EC, OSRO/SOM/125/EC and OSRO/RAF/114/IFAD projects will ensure follow up extension visits through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in 2013 to review progress and receive refresher courses.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.2.e. EC standard OVIs should be selected more carefully to ensure that they match the action.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity planned to be undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II of the project has not commenced yet. However FAO has already taken this activity into action by ensuring that all standard OVI's in ongoing projects are precise and complement the project activities. This can be seen in the ongoing emergency program 2012 (OSRO/SOM/201/MUL).</p>	<p>This ensures that FAO plans and implements activities that will be able to achieve the project objectives. In addition, the use of action specific OVIs assist FAO to be able to monitor and track the progress on the project results/achievements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.3.a. Projects with long-term, contractual agreements with donors should pass on the advantage of continuity to NGO implementers.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity has not been undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II has not commenced yet, however FAO has begun engaging the same NGOs to implement the same activities in long term projects as part of FAO resilience programme in Somalia.</p>	<p>This ensures the continuity of activities in the project period and ensures the same beneficiaries targeted with the project activities are reached.</p>

<p>Recommendation 5.2.3.b. NGOs selected to implement development-orientated projects involving the introduction of technology and behavioural change should be awarded contracts, either through Letters of Agreement or Partnership Agreements, with durations which reflect the project period and the continuous funding available, to enable them to recruit and keep suitable staff</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity has not been undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II has not commenced yet, however FAO has begun engaging NGOs in long term contractual agreements to implement long term activities as part of the FAO resilience programme in Somalia. Under the OSRO/SOM/126/EC project, FAO is engaging its implementing partners with long term LoA's (14 months) to support agricultural productivity and grain storage activities in Middle and Lower Shabelle regions.</p>	<p>This ensures the continuity of project activities in the project period and ensures the same beneficiaries targeted with the project activities are reached.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.3.c. NGOs should be obliged to show the conditions of employment of their key technical and administrative staff in their Letters of Agreement/ Partnership Agreements, which should, in turn, reflect the duration of the project and the guaranteed funding available.</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity has not been undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II has not commenced yet. However, FAO has already undertaken this activity through the competitive tendering process for the selection of NGOs to implement activities. While selecting implementing partners, strict selection criteria are undertaken which require bidding NGOs to indicate their organizations technical, administrative and operational capacity and establishment to ensure that the chosen NGO is competent enough to implement project activities.</p>	<p>This has encouraged competitive bidding between various NGOs and has enabled FAO to select implementing partners that have competent staff (technical, administrative and operation) to implement the activities at minimal costs.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.2.3.d. Remotely-managed development projects include an extra-long period of inception, to allow firm working</p>	<p>To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project</p>	<p>This activity has not been undertaken under the OSRO/SOM/811/EC project as phase II has not commenced yet. However FAO has already been implementing this recommendation as seen in the</p>	<p>N/A</p>

relationships to be established.		OSRO/SOM/120/ITA in which the project had a long inception period (6 months) enabling FAO to establish a good working relationship with the stakeholders before the implementation of project activities.	
Recommendation 5.2.4.a. Project Managers should remain in regular contact, possibly daily, with all implementing NGO's key staff, through cell-phones, thereby maintaining a high level of understanding of all events and all actions, at all sites and at all times that will enable them to plan, organise and control actions.	To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project	Although FAO has been implementing this activity ie. monitoring of project activities through close communication with implementing partners in the field, FAO has strengthened its monitoring and evaluation of project activities through the establishment of a series of formal and informal processes e.g 19 FAO field monitoring staff, call centers (that call beneficiaries/ receive calls), Radio program, beneficiary surveys and the use of independent bodies to provide independent verification of activities enable them to plan, organize and control project activities.	Since most aspects of project implementations are handled by third parties (NGOs, suppliers and contracted transport providers), FAO is able to maintaining a high level of understanding of all events and all actions through the use of the these various monitoring tools.
Recommendation 5.2.4.b. FAO Project managers, using remote-management approaches, should not be expected to take on other tasks encompassing responsibilities that would not be expected of other project managers with more direct access to the field.	To ensure that this activity is included in phase II of the project	In light of the ongoing restructuring of FAO Somalia and with the adaption of the programmatic approach (emergency and resilience program) , all project manager roles have been replaced with technical officers entrusted with a number of projects to coordinate and implement with the help of secondary technical officers. Therefore this recommendation is not applicable in FAO Somalia at the moment.	N/A