



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Workshop on “M&E planning and socio-economic baseline assessment”

Action Against Desertification Project (EU-ACP)

Concept Note & Tentative Agenda

Background and rationale

Action Against Desertification (AAD) is an EU-ACP funded project implemented by FAO and aiming at: (i) alleviating poverty; (ii) ending hunger; and (iii) improving resilience to climate change in drylands and other fragile ecosystems in ACP countries, using a landscape approach.

In Africa, the project is a direct contribution to the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), conceived as a “game changer” in Africa Dry zones’ development. Projects designed to contribute to this initiative are expected to address the following expected outcomes:

- the livelihoods of affected populations are improved, more diversified and the people gain income from sustainable land management;
- affected populations are less vulnerable to the socio-economic and ecological impacts of climate change, climate variability and drought;
- populations in affected areas are less inclined to migrate or subject to the consequences of migration, live in harmony and peace and security are strengthened in these areas;
- land productivity and ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are sustainably improved, contributing to the development of livelihoods.

To ensure that the Africa component of AAD complies with the requirements of the Regional Harmonized Strategy and is addressing the biophysical and socio-economic changes expected from its implementation, FAO and AAD partners committed to continuously monitor the project, using (i) “Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) to be elaborated through relevant sources of verification and compared to baseline information established during the project’s inception phase”; (ii) “an adaptive management approach so that the assumptions identified during project planning are revisited on a regular basis”.

During the project inception phase, two socio-economic baseline assessments were conducted in The Gambia and in Nigeria. The baseline assessment in The Gambia was conducted with FAO direct support (definition of the methodological issues for baseline surveys, selection of the sample, type of data to be collected, final questionnaire adapted to the local context, supervision of the administration of the questionnaire, survey statistical analysis). In Nigeria, the National Agency for the GGWSSI conducted its own socio-economic baseline assessment, using some of the tools developed by FAO.

During the project inception phase, a biophysical baseline assessment was also conducted in the six participating countries with a technical support from FAO (Collect Earth Team) and from CILSS-AGRHYMET. A workshop was organized in March – April 2015, gathering 3 to 5 experts from each participating country. Sharing experience and knowledge among the experts, and having a close and timely technical support from CILSS-AGRHYMET was really helpful and instrumental in getting the biophysical baseline assessment done in a timely manner.

Based on this experience with AGRHYMET, FAO has decided to develop a partnership with CILSS technical institutions (AGRHYMET and INSAH), so that they can also support the identification and adaptation to local context of a core set of socioeconomic criteria and indicators, as well as the establishment of the socioeconomic baseline in each country.

Objectives

The workshop has the objective to develop the capacities of M&E experts working within the GGWSSI National Coordination mechanisms, as well as AAD Field Officers/NPC in the use of socio-economic baseline assessment tools and methodologies and to jointly develop country specific M&E plans. More specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Integrate experience, tools and methodologies used for M&E and assessment of socio-economic impacts of projects and programmes in support to sustainable resource management;
- Jointly plan with the participants the country-tailored implementation of the socio-economic baseline assessment methodology developed by FAO for AAD project;
- Produce a draft customized questionnaire to be used for socio-economic baseline assessment in each country;
- Draft M&E operational plans for all the participating countries through team work and participatory activities during the workshop.

Target participants

The workshop is designed to provide guidance to M&E experts, extension staff and national project coordinators from the countries participating in AAD and FLEUVE projects: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad, Mali.

The workshop is especially addressed to the experts who will be responsible, in each country, of the development of the M&E plan and the socio-economic baseline assessment.

Staff from other relevant regional organizations will also be invited to the workshop to share their experience and participate in the discussions.

Expected inputs from workshop participants

Participants are expected to lively contribute to workshop activities by:

- Prior to the workshop, and following a template provided by workshop organizers, preparing a presentation on the AAD logical framework of their country;
- getting acquainted with the rationale and objective of M&E activities, as well as with the steps to be followed to draft an M&E plan at the country level;

- joining the country-team work to develop country-specific M&E plans and tools;
- getting acquainted with the objective and structure of the socio-economic baseline assessment, as well as with the steps to be followed to schedule socio-economic surveys;
- joining the country-team work on the definition of socio-economic surveys schedule, working on the draft of country-customized questionnaires and on the definition of the sampling strategy;

Expected outputs and outcomes

At the end of the workshop, participants are expected to:

- be fully aware of the importance of carrying out M&E activities for successful project management;
- be familiar with the concepts, methodologies and tools of M&E activities as well as with the steps to be followed to draft an M&E plan;
- be able to coordinate household surveys, including preparation of questionnaire, design of samples, implementation of survey and analyzing the resulting data;
- be able to transfer the training to staff engaged in socio-economic surveys and M&E activities in their respective countries/organizations.

At the end of the workshop, workplans for socio-economic baseline assessments are finalized for all countries, including:

- final questionnaire adapted to the country-specific context;
- sampling strategy;
- procedures to follow to administer the questionnaire;
- roles and responsibilities for the coordination of the baseline surveys and the delivery of the baseline report
- detailed budget and time schedule.

At the end of the workshop, M&E plans are drafted for all countries, including:

- objectives of M&E activities at the country level;
- definition of the methodological issues (indicators to monitor, sources of data, timing of data collection and reporting);
- definition of roles and responsibilities for implementing M&E plans at the national level;
- human and financial resources needed;
- role of partners in supporting the M&E process at country level.

At the end of the workshop, AAD logframe is updated and SMART indicators are defined for the Africa Component of the project.

Dates and venue

21st – 25th March 2016

Hôtel Palm Beach, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (To be confirmed)

Organization by FAO and CILSS-AGRHYMET

The workshop will be held in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation between both languages will be provided.

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Tentative agenda

DAY 1 – Monday 21st March

08.30 - 09.00	Registration of the participants	
09.00 - 09.15	Opening remarks	Aghrymet
09.15 - 09.30	Introduction to the objectives and the agenda of the workshop	FAO
09.30 - 09.45	Questions and answers	All participants Facilitation by FAO
09.45 - 10.00	Introduction of the participants	
10.00 - 10.15	Brief overview of Action Against Desertification Project	FAO (F. Tapsoba)
10.15 - 10.45	Presentation of the objective and approach of M&E plans	FAO (P. Ceci)
10.45 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 - 12.00	Open discussion on the approach to M&E plans, including presentation of past experiences on M&E activities by participants	All participants Facilitation by FAO
12.00 - 13.00	Presentation of logical framework at country level	1 person per country team (4 countries)
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 15.00	Presentation of logical framework at country level and hints on M&E planned activities	1 presentation per country team
15.10 - 15.15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.15 - 15.30	Presentation of the Country Team group work sessions: definition of performance indicators	FAO and Aghrymet
15.30 - 17.00	Group work on the countries' M&E plans: definition of performance indicators	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet

DAY 2 – Tuesday 22nd March

09.00 - 09.15	Introduction to day 2 objectives and activities	FAO and Aghrymet
09.15 - 09.30	Presentation of the Country Team group work sessions: definition of impact indicators + presentation on the monitoring of biophysical impacts using Collect Earth	FAO and Aghrymet
09.30 - 13.00	Group work on the countries' M&E plans: definition of impact indicators <i>Coffee break available during session</i>	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 16.30	Group work on the countries' M&E plans: definition of the timeline, data collection strategies, financial	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet

	resources, outline of the plan <i>Coffee/tea available outside the room for free use</i>	
16.30 - 17.00	Presentation in plenary of the results obtained by countries and wrap up	2 Country teams

DAY 3 – Wednesday 23rd March

09.00 - 09.15	Introduction to day 3 objectives and activities	FAO and Aghrymet
09.15 - 10.15	Presentation on the approach to socio-economic baseline assessment: methodological steps, sampling, questionnaire	FAO and Aghrymet
10.15 - 11.15	Presentation of past experiences on M&E activities by participants and open discussion on socio-economic baseline assessment,	All participants Facilitation by FAO
11.15 - 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.30 - 13.00	Group work on socio-economic baseline assessment at the country level: definition of the sampling strategy	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 16.30	Group work on socio-economic baseline assessment at the country level: definition of the sampling strategy (continued)	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet
16.30 - 17.00	Presentation in plenary of the results obtained by countries and wrap up	2 Country teams

DAY 4 – Thursday 24th March

09.00 - 09.15	Introduction to day 4 objectives and activities	FAO and Aghrymet
09.15 - 13.00	Group work on socio-economic baseline assessment at the country level: definition of the customized questionnaire <i>Coffee break available during session</i>	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 16.30	Group work on socio-economic baseline assessment at the country level: definition of the customized questionnaire (continued) <i>Coffee break available during session</i>	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet
16.30 - 17.00	Wrap up and presentation of the work done by the Country teams	2 Country teams

DAY 5 – Friday 25th March

09.00 - 09.15	Introduction to day 5 objectives and activities	FAO and Aghrymet
09.15 - 10.30	Group work on socio-economic baseline assessment at the country level: definition of the time schedule, budget and procedures to carry out the survey	Country teams with support of FAO/Aghrymet

10.30 - 10.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10.45 - 11.45	Presentation on the indicators of AAD-Africa logical framework + questions/answers	FAO (F. Tapsoba)
11.45 - 12.45	Open discussion on the AAD-Africa logical framework	All participants Facilitation by Aghrymet
12.45 - 13.00	Evaluation of the workshop	All participants Facilitation by FAO (M. Parfondry)
13.00 - 13.30	Discussion on the way forward Conclusion of the workshop	FAO and Aghrymet