

**Brief Report on the Online Discussion
on
“Impact of Technology Transfer on Sustainable Development and
SATNET’s Current and Future Role”**

29 January 2015

The Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia (SATNET Asia) aims to support innovation by strengthening South–South dialogue and intraregional learning on sustainable agriculture technologies and trade facilitation. Funded by the European Union, SATNET facilitates knowledge transfer through the development of a portfolio of best practices on sustainable agriculture, trade facilitation and innovative knowledge sharing. Based on this documented knowledge, it delivers a range of capacity building programmes to network participants.

SATNET Asia is implemented by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in collaboration with the AVRDC – The World vegetable Centre, the Asia Pacific Centre for the Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Food Security Centre of the University of Hohenheim and the Trade and Investment Division of UNESCAP.

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Brief report on the Online Discussion on “Impact of technology transfer on sustainable development and SATNET’s current and future role”

29 January 2015

The discussion was started on 14th January and was closed on 29th January, 2015. All SATNET Asia Associates, Partners and TTFSA “Component 1” partners were invited (in total 43 organisations). Emails were sent to alert the invitees and to introduce the topic (12th January) and to inform them once the discussion was open (14th Jan). Further reminders were sent on 21st Jan (by K. Weinberger) and on 25th Jan. In the end, representatives of eight organisations contributed, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Participants had been invited to share their thoughts on three key issues that are key elements of the end-of-project evaluation:

- a) How relevant have SATNET’s activities been to the partner countries and to what extent has SATNET taken into account and built upon the comparative advantages and on-going activities of partner organizations or agencies?
- b) How effective has SATNET been and to what extent has the project increased the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders regarding technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods for sustainable agriculture?
- c) How sustainable will SATNET be and to what extent can positive outcomes resulting from SATNET be continued without CAPSA-ESCAP’s further involvement?

The responses can be briefly summarized as follows:

- ad a) Most contributors mentioned that SATNET was very relevant to their organisations’ activities and that the exchange of knowledge provided them with useful input and inspiration into developing or strengthening ongoing activities. It seems evident that SATNET Asia has been mindful of and taken into account ongoing work of its Associates, that it has built upon this existing knowledge by providing a platform for discussions about the technologies and best practices, and that this forum led to adapted versions and also new solutions for the benefit of the Associates and their stakeholders and for other participants in the region.
- ad b) Although it is not possible to put an exact number onto the effectiveness of the project, it seems evident from the contributions that SATNET Asia’s capacity building activities, and in particular the exchange visits and in-country training events, have been very well received and that they were useful to increase the participants’ awareness of new technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods. Establishing the network and providing a platform for exchange amongst participants from different sectors was seen as one of the key values of the project. Some of the evidence mentioned includes: “exchange of ideas are contributing to enhance...agricultural productivity and income generation”, “great forum to exchange experience”, “benefitted from the sharing of learning experience from different participating countries”, “CAPSA e-flash has been a very useful way of getting access to information”... etc.
- ad c) The big question of course is how sustainable the network can be without CAPSA’s role of facilitator. Several contributors indicated their organisation’s continued commitment to sharing information and knowledge at local level which is very encouraging indeed. However, it seems clear from the contributions that there is the expectation of CAPSA to continue to play a very important facilitating role for the foreseeable future (funding permitting). Some concrete examples were provided for running the network (e.g., identifying specific network partners/experts, by holding face-to-face events linked up with virtual meetings online and for communicating via electronic tools).

The Briefing note and a transcript of the discussion is attached.

Annexes

Annex 1: Briefing Note

SATNET Asia Online Discussion on

“Impact of technology transfer on sustainable development and SATNET’s current and future role”

14 – 28 January 2015

Background

The SATNET Asia project, funded by the European Union and coordinated by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), aims to contribute towards improved food security and reduced poverty of the poorest and most vulnerable people in South and Southeast Asia. The project facilitates knowledge transfer through the development of a portfolio of technologies and best practices on sustainable agriculture and delivers a range of capacity-building programmes to network participants¹.

The SATNET Asia project started activities in 2012 and will be coming to a close in April 2015. An end-of-project evaluation is currently taking place with the purpose of providing the European Union and network partners with an objective evaluation of the results obtained by the SATNET project, lessons learned and recommendations for future directions of the Network.

This online discussion is an element in the final evaluation process and aims to facilitate shaping the future development of SATNET to the requirements of its stakeholders. By reflecting on the project’s key objectives and achievements in the areas of **engagement**, **learning** and **sharing**, we wish to identify -

- a) How **relevant** have SATNET’s activities been to the partner countries and to what extent has SATNET taken into account and built upon the comparative advantages and on-going activities of partner organizations or agencies?
- b) How **effective** has SATNET been and to what extent has the project increased the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders regarding technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods for sustainable agriculture?
- c) How **sustainable** will SATNET be and to what extent can positive outcomes resulting from SATNET be continued without CAPSA-ESCAP’s further involvement?

During the planned *SATNET Network Meeting* on 9 February 2015, findings of the electronic discussion will be shared to get additional feedback.

Questions for Deliberation during Online Discussion:

Following from the above issues, participants to the online discussion are invited to reflect on and contribute to the following questions:

1. **Relevance:** Can you share examples where SATNET technology transfer activities (e.g., knowledge you gained from SATNET training or information that was made available through the network) have influenced ongoing activities in your organisation?
2. **Effectiveness:** In which form do you think SATNET has influenced sustainable agriculture/agricultural trade in your country? Can you give a specific example or success story?

¹ Network participants or Associates are change agents from SATNET target countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan.

3. **Sustainability:** What role do you see for CAPSA and/or SATNET in the future? What commitments to institutionalizing knowledge transfer and networking have been made by your organisation?

Proposed Follow-up:

The results and outcomes from the online discussion and plenary sessions will feed into the overall evaluation of the network and will contribute to the formulation of project proposals by CAPSA and its associates for future networking activities.

Annex 2: Transcript of the Online Discussion on

“Impact of technology transfer on sustainable development and SATNET’s current and future role”

Moderator: Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

14th January 2015

Dear SATNET participants,

We want to continue the final evaluation of the SATNET Asia project by reflecting on the project’s key objectives and achievements in the areas of engagement, learning and sharing.

In this Online Discussion, we want to discuss:

- a) How relevant have SATNET’s activities been to the partner countries and to what extent has SATNET taken into account and built upon the comparative advantages and on-going activities of partner organizations or agencies?
- b) How effective has SATNET been and to what extent has the project increased the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders regarding technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods for sustainable agriculture?
- c) How sustainable will SATNET be and to what extent can positive outcomes resulting from SATNET be continued without CAPSA-ESCAP’s further involvement?

Please contribute freely to any or all of the following questions:

1. Can you share examples where SATNET technology transfer activities (e.g., knowledge you gained from SATNET training or information that was made available through the network) have influenced ongoing activities in your organisation?
 2. In which form do you think SATNET has influenced sustainable agriculture/agricultural trade in your country? Can you give a specific example or success story?
 3. What role do you see for CAPSA and/or SATNET in the future? What commitments to institutionalizing knowledge transfer and networking have been made by your organisation?
- The Online discussion will be open until 28 January.

I look forward to a lively debate!

Yours,

Hannah

16th January 2015

KB PAUDEL (Chief Scientist at Nepalese Farming Institute)

Dear Hannah,

SATNET Asia project has made a beautiful cost-effective platform for the stakeholders to share their knowledge in identification of best practices and a glance of agro-trade situation. We hope SATNET Asia project will be able to recommend the best practices to the stakeholders of parenting ten countries.

After the recommendation of best practices this project should be able to do some demonstration focused to cost-effective organic farming and technical remedies for pest problems which are difficult to control by chemical pesticides.

21st January 2015

Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

Dear KB, dear colleagues,

Thanks for your initial contribution with suggestions for a future focus of SATNET. It would be interesting to hear the voices of other network members too. It might be helpful if you think in two directions, into the future and also into the past, maybe by sharing examples, how an innovation you learned about at a SATNET event has been put to use in your organisation.

I look forward to many more comments in the remaining time of this online discussion.

23rd January 2015

Dr. Shaikh Tanveer (Sustainable Agriculture Advisor at FIVDB, Bangladesh)

Dear Hannah,

Greetings from Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB)!

For information, FIVDB has become an Associate of SATNET-Asia in September 2013. During this period we have shared several innovative technologies in this network such as integrated rice-duck farming, organic vegetable production sack method. These technologies are selected by SATNET as a potential technologies for this region. So definitely this network is working as an information hub and disseminating the potential technologies.

On the other hand, two of our staffs were visited in Nepal and India in 2014 as a part of exchange visit of SATNET-Asia. They were impressed to see some low-cost and easy technologies such as Biogas plant and Bio-pesticide preparation (soap powder, chilli powder & water) over there. The bio-pesticide method has already been started in our beneficiaries vegetables field and biogas plant technology is in under process. We are also assessing a marketing tool (organic vegetable market chain through local leader) that was observed in IDE, Nepal.

So, in general, I do believe that such exchange of ideas are contributing to enhance the sustainable agricultural productivity and income generation in this region.

I wish and look forward to more interaction and linkage with SATNET Asia in the coming future.

Best regards, Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain. Sustainable Agriculture Advisor, FIVDB, Bangladesh.

Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

Thank you Tanveer for your contribution. That looks like a very fruitful exchange both in contributing cost-effective technologies as well as receiving new ideas. Do others have similar observations? Or different? I'd be interested to hear from you.

25th January 2015

Ghazanfar Abbas (Technical Staff Officer to Chairman, PARC)

Days are gone when the agricultural expansionists were to demonstrate field plots to disseminate agricultural research and development work. The "communication revolution" since the beginning of early 1990s has gone too far. It has now spread to

our roots as below as every common person has a mobile phone with internet accessibility. The recent exchange of videos on whatapps and other software has brought this communication not only easier but also so cheap that we do not need a rocket science to disseminate our rocket science results disseminate to farmers. I urge SATNET to explore these areas wherein information of new technologies, farm credit loans, marketing strategies are brought within the farmers' reach by clicking buttons on his / her mobile phone.

Humayun Kabir (Chief Technical Advisor at FAO)

Dear Hannah

Greetings from this this interactive discussion page!

I think, Technology is indeed important to increase farmers' agriculture production, but what is more important is how the technology is transferred to farmers. Farmers instead of being a passive receiver of technology, needs to be part of the technology development and dissemination process. Technology only then can be sustained. Pronounced ecological diversity and farmers' affordability to adapt a new technology and overall environmental consequences of the new technology have to be given due consideration while developing and disseminating a new technology.

SATNET Asia has been a great forum/media to exchange experience and share ideas among the development practitioners in the region of southeast and South Asia. I had an opportunity to participate a regional event in 2013 in Bogor organized by SATNET Asia. There has been also an opportunity for two Afghan farmers to participate in an excursion trip to India from our program. These were indeed useful.

These days, videos have become more powerful in sharing ideas and technologies among farmers and development practitioners. I have found videos are most effective in transferring technology in mass scale. Please watch some of our videos on IPM (www.ipm-af.org/video/)

26th January 2015

Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

Greetings and welcome to Ghazanfar and Humayun to this discussion. With your contributions we are now moving from the "what" to the "how" and the modes of developing new knowledge (in a participatory manner) and communicating innovation (by using videos and apps). These are indeed very important contributions. In this respect, Humayun mentions two of SATNET Asia's events, a regional networking event and exchange visits. Indeed, capacity development activities were very much at the heart of SATNET and I would like to move this discussion a step further by asking anyone who participated in one or more of these events whether there was any training aspect or mode of communication that you found particularly useful? And why?

Komal Pradhan (National Program Director at IDE Nepal)

Dear Hannah,

Greeting from iDE Nepal.

iDE – International Development Enterprises, Nepal was first involved with the SATNET Asia network project in August 2014 by organizing one of the Intra-regional study tour program in Nepal for the South Asia sub region countries and then our participation of 2 iDE nominated innovative farmers in the study tour program organized by SATNET Asia in India in September 2014.

The Intraregional study tour program in Nepal was organized for 16 participants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. We had shared the best practice and recommended technologies of the ANEP project (Agriculture and Nutrition Extension project) which was funded by the European Union. Some of our best practice/approach and technology of sustainable agriculture development shared were rural marketing approach - marketing and planning committee (MPC) and collection center for aggregating agriculture produce from smallholder farmers for better market price, community business facilitator (CBF) approach for making quality agriculture inputs delivery on time at local level, developing local level service provider in the community for conservation agriculture technologies (Zero till machine/ Direct seeded rice (DSR), Laser Land Leveler (LLL), ripper/ harvester etc), Integrated pest management (IPM) technology packages for commercial vegetable production (Trichoderma, Pseudomonas etc). Also the organizing team Nepal was benefited from the sharing of learning experience from different participating countries.

From iDE Nepal, our Regional Market Coordinator had an opportunity to participate in the Regional training program on post harvest management and market linking for vegetables and fruits in South Asia organized by SATNET Asia project in Hyderabad, India in November 2014. This was a very fruitful training and it has helped us to the work of iDE Nepal in designing and implementing the post harvest interventions in our rural marketing and collection centers, - especially on minimum wastage strategy for post harvest produces, value chain approach to reduce the post harvest loss and postharvest technologies and best practice in vegetable value chains. We have oriented our marketing team and value chain actors on these post harvest marketing strategy and approaches. In this training, we had also opportunity to share our Nepal experience on Marketing and planning committee (MPC) and collection center approach to the participants of other countries.

In my opinion, the SATNET Asia project has created a very good platform among South and South East Asian countries for developing network to share and exchange good practice and technologies for sustainable agriculture development and it should be further continued and extended in the future as well.

Best regards, Komal Pradhan, iDE Nepal

Annick Schubert (International Development Project Manager)

Hello everyone,

I was very happy with what SATNET Asia has brought to the programme. As participant, I gained a lot in terms of networking, participation to global reflexion on key topics, capacity-building and exchanges. Thanks to these events, we could link up with other TTFSA projects, especially the "brother" project run by FRC in Cambodia. As a result of this exchange, we adapted to our context one of the water technology they have designed. In terms of capacity-building, we benefited from high-standards trainings provided by SATNET (technical knowledge dissemination) by AVRDC, as well as an opportunity to present a scientific article based on our results (SEAVEG symposium) which allowed us to meet many experts in the vegetable sector, and encouraged us to boost moringa cultivation here for nutritional purpose. Finally, in terms of global reflexion, we could gain inspiration from other countries extension mechanisms; national initiatives. or NGO innovative methodologies that are successful, meanwhile being able to share our farmers realities, constraints et challenges. So my assessment is that SATNET has provided a very large range of support, that helped us to work on "the global picture" as opposed to our field daily work which has more to do on the "micro" level.

Best regards, Annick Schubert, Annâdya project, Cambodia

Krishna Mohan (Development Professional)

Dear Hannah,

Greetings from CRS India.

It is indeed great to see discussions reflecting on SATNET's outcomes. We have been associated with SATNET since its inception. In December 2013, we also had an opportunity of co-organising an workshop on stress tolerant rice technologies in India. Following are my few cents on the talking points shared by you –

1. I have participated in one training events organized by SATNET like on market linkages and trade facilitation. Apart from this we co-organised a workshop with SATNET on stress tolerant technologies. The training on market linkages and interaction with private sector organizations gave me key insights into the nature of requirements that private sectors have on procurement. It also helped us understand key issues like demand estimation, value chain analysis, business models for small farmers and low cost yield enhancing technologies. Discussions in the workshop on importance of post-harvest management in a way reinforced our thinking at CRS on post-harvest management. We are increasingly looking at post-harvest management as our leverage point.

Secondly, it was also encouraging to find that many organizations shared our learning about challenges that are associated with linking small farmers with markets. One of the key solutions that came out of the discussions was to encourage farmers to sell a small portion of their produce collectively to start with rather than the whole harvest. This was again one of the strategies in our projects which got reinforced.

3. SATNET has, in the past couple of years, provided an excellent platform where agencies working in the livelihood and agriculture domain come together, interact and learn from one another. Apart from technology or knowledge sharing, these platforms have been very useful in building networks and partnerships. The CAPSA e-flash has been a very useful way of getting access to information on latest publications, events and other key developments. I personally see both these contributions as key. If workshops/conferences for knowledge sharing and networking is not possible, then at least the e-flash or digest can be continued. The only improvement I would suggest for e-flash is that it could be made thematic. For instance one issue can contain articles/publications on aquaculture while the next one can have on vegetable cultivation etc. I guess this will make the digest more relevant and attractive.

Thank you once again for providing this platform.

Regards,

Krishna Mohan

27th January 2015

Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

Thanks very much to Komal, Annick and Krishna for their contributions and recommendations. It is heartening to read that you all find the SATNET platform for knowledge exchange and specifically the training events very useful for your work. Reading through your contributions I feel that SATNET has started something really useful by bringing people together, providing a platform to exchange knowledge and to foster new ideas, but that now there is danger in losing it unless the platform continues. Given that donor support in general will become increasingly difficult in the future, what mechanisms can

you see that might enable SATNET Asia to stand on its own feet ? What will be required to maintain the feeling of ownership that I can see from your contributions?

Annick Schubert (International Development Project Manager)

Dear Hannah,

This is indeed the tricky part... There is a risk that the momentum created gets lost if all funding stops.

What could be the solution for me is to find ways to reduce costs (it supposes that some fund remains available though) and involve experts and partners (service providers, ngo and government representatives) in maintaining the network alive each one in its country.

Possibly by creating similar events (experts consultations; policy dialog; possibly trainings) with online simultaneous retransmission, or by creating online tools that one could register with and use on Satnet website ? Satnet could also select, among all its partner, one or two people who would be more specifically sorts of local "interface" and could pass on information and/or mobilize people around a discussion, to avoid heavy traveling costs? Events would then be at national level mainly, with a regional event gathering these one or two country representatives to summarize and share all the achievements?

The best would be to test this methodology for a little while, if Satnet could be extended?

Kind regards

28th January 2015

Him Khortieth (Communication at CEDA-Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture)

1. The knowledge we gained from SATNET training available through the network, especially the training made by AVRDC in Thailand have influenced ongoing activities in our organization, CEDAC in Cambodia. For example, the technology on organic vegetable planting, packaging and marketing the products, which mad by the network and facilitated by AVRDC. They are very helpful and practical.

2. The best forms that SATNET has influence sustainable agriculture in my country are: the in-country training and the regional exchange visit made by the network.

3. What we see the role for SATNET in the future is that to continue facilitate the knowledge transfer platform and to make the knowledge transfer as well as the exchange available among the members and associate organizations pus Media cooperation/participation. Our commitment is to share our success story with our networks and stakeholders both in country and regional level.

29th January 2015

Hannah Jaenicke (Consultant in Project Management and Evaluation: Agrobiodiversity, Marketing and Rural Development)

Dear participants of this discussion forum,

It is now my pleasure to call this discussion closed. Although we started slowly, in the end the discussion was very rich and informative. Looking again at your inputs and reflecting on the issues raised by you, I see the following responses to the initial three topics:

a) How relevant have SATNET's activities been to the partner countries and to what extent has SATNET taken into account and built upon the comparative advantages and on-going activities of partner organizations or agencies?

→ Most of you mention that SATNET was very relevant to your/your organisations' activities and that the exchange of knowledge has provided you useful input and inspiration into developing or strengthening ongoing activities. We can conclude that SATNET Asia has been mindful of and taken into account ongoing work of yourselves, that it has built upon this existing knowledge by providing a platform for discussions about the technologies and best practices, and that this forum led to adapted versions and also new solutions for the benefit of your own organisation and stakeholders and for other participants in the region.

b) How effective has SATNET been and to what extent has the project increased the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders regarding technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods for sustainable agriculture?

→ Although we cannot put an exact number onto the effectiveness of the project, it seems evident from your contributions that SATNET Asia's capacity building activities, and in particular the exchange visits and in-country training events, have been very well received, have increased the participants' awareness of new technologies, best practices and trade facilitation methods and that establishing the network and providing a platform for exchange amongst participants from different sectors has been one of the key values of the project. Some of your evidence includes "exchange of ideas are contributing to enhance...agricultural productivity and income generation", "great forum to exchange experience", "benefitted from the sharing of learning experience from different participating countries", "CAPSA e-flash has been a very useful way of getting access to information"... etc.

In this context I would also like to mention the thoughtful contributions for potential future means of communicating knowledge by making better use of new telecommunication technology, for example via smartphone apps or videos.

c) How sustainable will SATNET be and to what extent can positive outcomes resulting from SATNET be continued without CAPSA-ESCAP's further involvement?

→ The big question of course is how sustainable the network can be without CAPSA's role of facilitator. Several of you indicate your organisation's continued commitment to sharing information and knowledge at local level which is very encouraging indeed. However, it seems clear from your contributions that you still see CAPSA to play a very important facilitating role for the foreseeable future (funding permitting). Some of you have also provided concrete examples for running the network (e.g., identifying specific network partners/experts, by holding face-to-face events linked up with virtual meetings online and for communicating via electronic tools.

I hope this very brief synthesis gives enough credit to the wealth of information provided by you, and I would like to thank once again all of you who contributed and those who participated by reading the contributions. I look forward to meeting many of you in a few weeks' time at the SATNET Asia networking meeting where there will be opportunity to build upon this online discussion.

Bye for now.

Hannah