

## FSN Network Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (ANRM) Task Force Meeting

Washington DC, September 21 and Online, September 24, 2012

Attendance: Andrea Mottram, TOPS Program; Penny Anderson, Mercy Corps; Tom Cole, Consultant; Rupert Best, CRS; Elisabeth Farmer, CHFA; Sam Goff, Food for the Hungry; Bobbie van Haefen, FHI360; Paul Sommers, Consultant; Kristi Tabaj, TOPS Program; Melissa Teuber, TOPS Program

- This is the first FSN Network Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (ANRM) Task Force meeting following changes in staff, with Andrea Mottram as the new TOPS Senior Agriculture Specialist.
- This is also the start of Year 3 of the TOPS program
- Purpose of the meeting is to gather thoughts on the direction of the Ag task force for the coming year, and to review the proposed core competencies that were previously sent out for finalization at the end of the month.
- Thoughts for this year's ANRM task force work plan:
  - Finalize core competencies
  - Provide feedback to USAID as requested
  - Provide input to ANRM FANTA indicators, such as the storage indicator that was sent out earlier in the month.
  - Help to identify tools and promising practices and share best practices with the PVO community to increase capacity in the field
    - Would like start with a few of the core competencies in depth
    - Share tools and give thoughts on them
    - Identify gaps in tools
      - Identify better practices and do operation research and more case studies
        - ❖ Perhaps do with the help of TOPS Small Grants
    - Have a cycle of learning which requires discipline and leadership
      - The Task Force can give thoughts on TOPS trainings and knowledge sharing events- perhaps in Uganda, Guatemala, Niger, and Bangladesh
      - Adapt / create e-learning modules
      - Be involved in the working space on [fsnnetwork.org](http://fsnnetwork.org)
- Core competencies
  - This is difficult for Agriculture given how broad the topic is, so the draft core competencies are based around specific topic areas. The task force will look at all of them over the next 3 years, but prioritize for this year. Initial focus is likely to include: ag-nutrition linkages, market-based development, elements of sustainable agriculture, SBC and ag, integrated seed systems and postharvest.
  - Thoughts on the draft core competencies:
    - ANRM Research for program design and development
      - Would like to look at seed systems and resilience at a practical level
        - ❖ Perhaps have an online discussion on seed systems
      - The task force feels competency in organization and bringing farmers together, mitigating conflict around shared resources is important under group facilitation
        - ❖ Perhaps add a bit more on this topic regarding different actors in the enabling environment, such as government and user

groups of irrigation systems, as well as relationships in the private sector (incorporated in an exit strategy)

- ❖ Perhaps move this piece out of this section as it deals more with implementation

- ✚ Perhaps just remove the word research in the title

- Agriculture for improved nutrition
  - Paul Sommers is taking the lead
  - The Nutrition task force is working on training on this based on Paul Sommers work, and this will require this task force's input
- Agriculture technologies for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation
  - Tom Cole is taking the lead
  - The issue of water management is important given floods, draughts, slow onset and rapid onset
    - ❖ Using irrigation / water harvesting etc.
    - ❖ If mention one in the core competencies, would need to mention all
    - ❖ Deals with resiliency
  - Perhaps change the title to say sustainable agriculture techniques, which is broader than climate change
    - ❖ Also includes resilience and risk management
    - ❖ Includes issues with sequestering carbon
    - ❖ Perhaps have climate change as a cross cutting sub-line
      - ✚ The key with climate change is what a person needs to know about it to do his or her work
- Post- Harvest technologies
  - Paul Sommers is taking the lead
- Market Development
  - Andrea Mottram is taking the lead
  - Need to look at using value chains to assist the very poor
  - Perhaps move finance here
- Technical information, financial services and insurance
  - Includes extension services
  - Microfinance is currently here as it is part of services
    - ❖ Perhaps separate out extension and financial services
- Measuring Impact and using data
- SBC is done throughout
  - Sam Goff is taking the lead
  - Would like to keep in mind the economic aspect of why certain behaviors are not done- i.e. no time, farmers feel they will get more benefit / profit focusing on another area.
    - ❖ Go beyond economic considerations as well
    - ❖ Would like an economic and market analysis done
    - ❖ Give incentives and options to take up certain behaviors
  - Perhaps pull back out as its own section
    - ❖ Could put extension and coverage approaches under here
    - ❖ Extension is part of behavior change, and MYAPS are one big extension service not done in a vacuum in which microfinance is a tool that can provide strategic results

- ❖ Extension is about the system as a whole and capacity building of any kind
    - Perhaps need to better capture women's work load in the core competencies
      - Maybe not need to pull out, but at least have a caveat of 'do no harm'
    - Put small-scale aquaculture back into the core competencies
      - It is getting greater USG visibility and could be a relatively easy topic to tackle
      - It is location specific
- Other thoughts
  - Perhaps pull out gender more in trainings
    - Can talk to CRS on how gender advisors fit in
      - Have an e-learning module
    - Could explore more in the November meeting: highlighting labor saving techniques
  - Perhaps have a session in the FSN Network Knowledge Sharing meeting in November on linking agriculture and nutrition
    - There will also be a session on resilience at this meeting, which could possibly have an add on session regarding food systems
  - Perhaps the task force should look at the Global Forum for Rural Advisor Services (GFRAS) on their core competencies for extension workers and advisory officers
  - Look at the graduations of staff from managers to extension workers
- Next meeting, members, and links to TOPS ANRM information
  - Would like to meet next during the November Knowledge Sharing meeting
  - Would like to meet more often at the beginning, but may be able to lessen the number of meetings in the future.
  - There is a need to attract more members to the group
  - Would like task force members to reach out to others who can join, from PVOs and research organizations
  - If task force members have not already done so, sign up for the newsletter and register on the web portal [fsnnetwork.org](http://fsnnetwork.org) to stay up to date with information in the network
  - Perhaps start a mini-speaker series for the task force meetings