**Science and Policy Interfaces
In Multi-Stakeholder processes**

Exploring how Multi-Stakeholder Processes
use Science for Policy Development
and Innovation within the Life Sciences

Interactive Reflection Day for
Wageningen UR Researchers

Hof van Wageningen,
Thursday 17 September 2009

Seminar Report
With Open Space discussion notes

Wageningen International

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Table of Contents

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

Multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) have become important phenomena in the work of many of the Science Groups and knowledge units of Wageningen UR. Many MSPs are a vehicle for social and technological change and innovation. MSP concepts are linked with the ideas of social learning, transition management and innovation systems that are also related to the goal of more effectively linking research, policy and practice as promoted by Wageningen UR.

While MSPs are increasingly seen as a critical way of dealing with complex, high risk and high consequence societal problems, such as climate change, overcoming endemic poverty or reducing pollution levels, they are not a 'silver bullet' nor a panacea. Much remains to be understood about their role and effectiveness in a wider context of politics, governance and societal change. MSPs are often used for policy development or policy implementation. Similarly, research is used to inform policy development or policy outcomes. Hence, in many MSPs there is a role for research in policy development. Key questions about the research – policy interface that will be addressed in the reflection day on MSPs are:

- How is (scientific) research brought into MSPs as to strengthen evidence-based policy and innovation?
- What is the role of researchers in MSPs?
- Who decides on a research agenda, and who owns research outcomes?
- How can existing research be used to improve MSPs and to promote solutions that benefit vulnerable groups?

There is clearly value to be gained from the efforts of Wageningen UR wide sharing and critical reflection processes. The CD&IC programme, Wageningen International, hosted this Interactive Reflection Day, following a successful reflection day on MSPs in Science for Impact in September 2009. The Interactive Reflection Day was part of the three-week international course on 'Facilitating Multi-stakeholder Processes and Social Learning' attended by some 30 participants from all over the world. They facilitated and actively took part in the Interactive Reflection Day, coached by the MSP facilitators Jouwert van Geene and Karèn Verhoosel.

1.2 Purpose

To provide a reflection space for those from across Wageningen UR working on stakeholder (and dialogue) processes who use science and research for policy development and innovation.
It will enable participants to reflect on what innovation capacity is needed to make research-policy interfaces in multi-stakeholder settings work.

1.3 Key questions

Some key questions like the following, were being posed in order to give direction to the discussions:
- How is (scientific) research brought into MSPs as to strengthen evidence-based policy and innovation?
- What is the role of researchers in MSPs?
- Who decides on a research agenda, and who owns research outcomes?
- How can existing research be used to improve MSPs and to promote solutions that benefit vulnerable groups?

2. Presentations: Setting the Context

2.1 Christopher Gohl: Extension Frankfurt International Airport

Christopher Gohl, Project Manager at IFOK[1] gave a presentation about the use of science in political mediation. He used the case of the Regional Dialogue Forum on the extension of Frankfurt International Airport as an example. This case is a large multi-stakeholder processes which was facilitated by IFOK from 2000-2008.

The Regional Dialogue Forum was initiated in 2000 after settlement of a mediated dispute between citizens and the airport about the extension of the airport. This had been preceded by decades of conflicts, sometimes very violent, and lack of progress on the issue. The Hessian Government (the level below federal government) had mediated the conflict and achieved that all parties agreed to an open-ended and facilitated dialogue process between all stakeholders. Between 2000 and 2008 the regional dialogue forum was operational with a 34-member forum representing local municipalities, citizens, private sector, airport authorities, environmentalists and others. This forum came together almost 60 times for deliberation, analysis and decision making. It established 5 Project Teams on different issues with about 150 meetings, and further over a dozen small working groups. These project teams and working groups focused on the actual analysis of the effects of possible extension of the airport, and prepared decisions for the larger dialogue forum.

Science played an important role in this dialogue process, in the form of joint fact-finding. This aimed at rationalization through information and scientific research. Underlying assumption was that many stakeholders did not understand the complexity of the issues and could not agree on a way forward, based on differences in understanding. Rather than having all stakeholders do their own research to justify and promote their specific cause, the dialogue forum used joint fact-finding to rationalise this process. It wanted to replace "public myths" of both sides with facts. And public myths were plenty around this issue: about growth of the economy/job market, about levels of noise, about environmental pollution etc.

Joint fact-finding used a very transparent and balanced process in which all stakeholders could influence and participate in the research at all stages. Stakeholders could all propose experts to sit on expert-panels, would jointly decide on the terms of reference for research, would joijntly decide which researchers would be granted a study, would together discuss the results and come up with joint conclusions. This process included many public hearings in which information was shared and 'public myths' could be replaced by more realistic views.

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[1] www.ifok.de/en/

The joint fact-finding exercises were the backbone of the regional dialogue process in that it provided space for creation of joint understanding and conclusions. The results of the researches have been used by many stakeholders in the legal process and were also used to win votes around measures in the state parliament.

IV. Political Mediation Extension Frankfurt Airport – Germany's largest Public Dispute Resolution Process 1998-2008

The example of joint fact-finding in a multi-stakeholder dialogue process showed that with the right process, there is a lot of progress possible, even when stakeholders have very different starting positions. It also indicated that this kind of method is quite costly and time consuming. However, the costs of this type of dialogue process probably easily outweigh the negative costs of the conflict.

2.2 Robbert Biesbroek: Climate Change Adaptation in the Netherlands

Mr. Robbert Biesbroek (Wageningen UR, Environmental Sciences Group, Earth Systems Science Unit) gave a presentation on the science-policy interactions in climate change in the Netherlands. He presented two different (policy) responses to climate change: mitigation and adaptation. He outlined the differences in the approaches of the Dutch government before 2001 (mitigation) and after 2001 (adaptation). The science-policy interactions were further explained by two examples; ARK adaptation space and climate programme and the Hotspots approach.

Since 1987 the Dutch government has been talking about how to respond to climate change in the Netherlands. Mitigation and adaptation are two (policy) responses that have been discussed extensively by the Dutch government during that period. Mitigation is about avoiding unmanageable impacts (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions). Adaptation focuses more on managing unavoidable impacts (e.g. adapting to the impacts of climate change). The Dutch government has included the adaptation response as a policy option from 2001 onwards.

In the period before 2001 (1987 – 2001) the climate change problem was seen as primarily science driven and policy making was based on this science (evidence based policy making). This strong focus on the scientific understanding of the problem resulted in a (policy) response of mitigation of climate change. At national level there was no policy on adaptation. It was believed that mitigation could reduce climate change. The adaptation response to climate change was seen as 'fatalistic thinking'. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was designed to synthesize scientific research and produce relevant policy information. Scientist and policy makers from different countries were involved.

Climate change adaptation has been on the policy agenda only recently. The science-policy interactions are moving towards science-policy-society interactions. Based on these changes, the type of research also is shifting from pure research programmes towards more applied research programmes.

Robbert Biesbroek shared two examples of stakeholder approaches to climate change adaptation:
- Adaptation Space and Climate (ARK) programme

- Hotspots approach in Knowledge for Climate

The aim of the ARK programme is climate proofing spatial planning in the Netherlands. The programme wants to create a shared opinion about the problem and solutions, to make an inventory of the spatial claims, to find out how to deal with the impacts and which dilemmas will be encountered. The ARK programme is based on a multi-level governance approach, which includes stakeholders at national, regional and local level and has three tracks for implementation. The first track (2006-2007) includes awareness raising, networking, strategy development; enhancing the coordination between public and private, policy and research – stimulating and coordinating local initiative. The second track (2007-2008) focuses on knowledge development and implementation; and exploring what knowledge is needed at which governmental scale to formulate effective policy objectives. The third track (2008-2014) works on developing instruments and robust measures, advising and implementation of strategies.

Robbert reflected on this example by asking himself if the ARK programme can be seen as an a MSP. On one hand he argued that it is a MSP, since multiple sectors (nature, water, agriculture, spatial) and multiple levels (national, regional, local) are involved. The ARK programme also tries to improve the interaction between research-policy-society. Further, different participatory methods were used to inform the different actors.

It is also possible to argue that the ARK programme is not a good example of a MSP, since the process is mainly top-down driven. The societal actors are not involved in the discussions and development, only at a later stage. The whole programme is mainly about policy makers who use the input from the scientific community. There is no co-creation of knowledge, nor are there any governance approaches (public and private).

As a conclusion of the presentation on Climate Change Adaptation in the Netherlands he mentioned that given the complexity of the problem of adaptation, there is a need for Multi-Level Governance approaches and stakeholder platforms (at all levels). To ensure more robust and effective adaptation collaboration from the start is needed. It is also important to create space for learning, creativity and change.
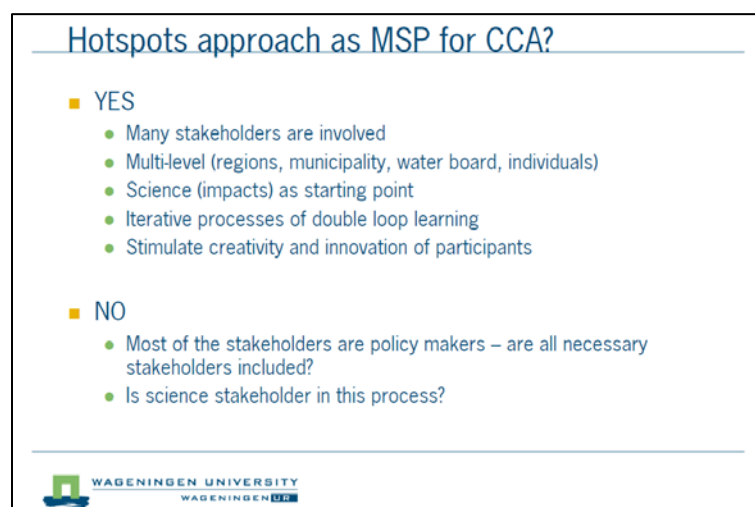
3.   Sharing of experiences and tips for the agenda

3.1   Background

The Seminar used the Open Space Technology for the further deliberations of the day. Open Space is a self-organizing practice of a group of people. It establishes a marketplace of inquiry, reflection and learning, bringing out the best in both individuals and the whole.

Open Space Technology enables groups of any size to address complex, important issues and achieve meaningful results. It functions best where more traditional meeting formats fail: in situations involving conflict, complexity, diversity of thought or people, and short decision-times. People have used it in widely diverse situations, from designing aircraft doors at a large aircraft-manufacturing company to engaging street kids in defining a sustainable jobs-program. The tool has been developed in 1985 by Harrisson Owen 1985 has ever since been used all around the world in many different situations (see: http://www.openspaceworld.org/).

The four principles of Open Space are: 1) Whoever comes is the right people; 2) Whatever happens is the only thing that could have; 3) Whenever it starts is the right time, and ; 4) Whenever it is over, it is over. Furthermore Open Space uses the *Law of Two Feet,* which means that 'When you are not contributing nor learning, take your feet and go to something you care about'. Moreover there are different types of participants:
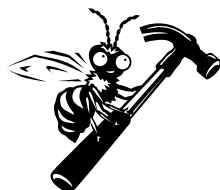
- **Bumblebees**: take law very serious, constantly fleeting from one meeting to the next.
  Large & direct contribution, pollinate and cross-pollinate, lending richness and variety to the discussions.

- **Butterflies**: often never go into any meeting. They do very little and in that lies their contribution. Every so often somebody will stop by and maybe conversation will occur. If it does, it almost inevitably ends up being significant.
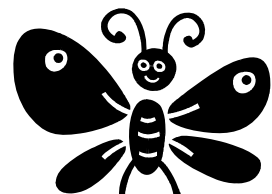
Furthermore, be prepared to be surprised. For when old agendas depart, new ideas may emerge.

3.2   Agenda setting and group work

At the beginning of the Open Space, participants were invited to share their emerging questions, topics or examples around the Seminar's purpose with the group. These topics were then clustered by the facilitators and presented and clarified to the participants for further group discussions. Participants could then sign up to take part in different topics during two Open Space rounds. The following topics were discussed per round:

Round 1.	Round 2.
1. Local Stakeholders in the interface 2. Role of Science in MSP 3. Role of MSP in the interface 4. How to bridge the science – policy interface gap? 5. How does Power influence the interface?	1. Role of government in the interface 2. Research – policy interface in developing countries 3. Climate Change in MSP processes 4. Adaptive MSPs 5. Ownership of the policy – research interface

Each discussion took place at different tables in the meeting room, and had its own discussion facilitator and note-taker (participants of the international MSP course). Notes (not exhaustive) of each discussion can be found in **Annex 1.** After completing the two rounds of the Open Space interaction rounds, outcomes were shared at a central table within the circle of participants.

3.3   Results of the open space sessions and conclusions

After the two open space sessions, representative from all groups joined in a central table to discuss their findings. Some pointers from this table session:

Bringing local stakeholders in the research-policy interface:
Local stakeholders should be pro-active to look for an entry point that can help them to link with research and policy makers ("Do not wait for godot"). How to bring local stakeholders into policy making processes beyond their boundary remains a question. Facilitation of the input facilitation: can be internal or external person

The role of science in multi-stakeholder processes
Besides research, policy makers and communities are also important stakeholders in an MSP with a science component. We acknowledge that often there is a gap between policy maker and researchers. Research needs to take into account the knowledge of communities.

The role of MSPs in the interface
The question is what comes first: policy maker or researchers? Some pointers to think of: include all stakeholders in the process and the result should be disseminated to all stakeholders. In an interactive research, an MSP approach should be used right from the start, not as an after thought. Multi-stakeholder processes can bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers.

How to bridge the gap between policy and research
All stakeholders have to work together in all levels, by developing spaces for dialogue. In research on social policies, the research should be inclusive of all social aspects in a community.

How power influence the interface
There are different kinds of power sources (e.g. authority, information, money), which influences the interface. Also the formal legal framework in policy formulation is an important aspect for power: it sets the boundary for who can formally participate and has formulation. Stakeholders must be aware of their powers and use them in a sensible way.

The role of the government in the research-policy interface
The relations and influences among stakeholders are important to take into account. The government has an important role in funding, can give direction to the research and can bring stakeholders together. The role of the government is actually more of a contextual nature. As a facilitator the government should take a intermediating role. There is a interdependency between researchers and policy makers, as they need each other to be effective.

The research-policy interface in developing countries
There are different experiences between developed and developing countries and among developing countries regarding the source of research. Sometimes funding is driving the research. There are some issues around governance, especially issues of trust. The institutionalization of the MSP in research since the beginning of the process is considered important.

Climate Change and MSP Processes
If we talk about Climate Change we talk about inter-sectoral issues and international issues. Research can be a tool to convince other stakeholders to start thinking and working on Climate Change adaptation.

How can MSPs be flexible and adaptive?
Resources, structure and content set the context of adaptivity. Process needs methods and strategy to reach adaptivity. Again, this requires capacities of drivers, leaders and providers in processes. On the other hand MSPs are adaptive and changing in nature.

Who has the ownership of the research findings?
The meaning of ownership was discussed and explained as it is your own responsibility. The creation of ownership during the process is critical. Also the capacity building for communities is important to be able to create ownership. Sometimes there is a risk that other stakeholders expect the government to be responsible.

Some general remarks from Jim Woodhill
It is important to acknowledge the different rationalities and logics of stakeholders within a process and see how these lead to their positions and actions in MSPs and the research-policy interface. However, we should not focus only on those differences but also see why policies are developed anyway, the previous step behind the policy making, and the possibility to bring all differences together.

3.4 Common Trends and Pattern

Based on the above discussion sessions, it is realized that the interface between policy and research is not connected yet in an appropriate way. MSP process can bridge and can improve the interface among stakeholders. In this process, MSP can take a significant role to improve the community participation by building their capacity. Power relation is also an important factor in which MSP should take into account.

Common trends and pattern discovered throughout the day
There often is an obvious disconnect between policy and research. MSP can help? Perhaps, sometimes. If so, an important issue is how to institutionalize the multi-stakeholder approach to the interface. Bridging the gap between research and policy means strengthening the interface, by increasing capacities of stakeholders to take part (empowerment) and creating spaces for dialogue on topics of setting research agendas, joint fact-finding and analysis. Finally, there is also a clear role for participatory and action research in multi-actor processes.

Implications
All stakeholders involved in the research – policy interface need to be more aware of the roles of other stakeholders and their different 'paradigms'. Researchers need to look at policy and find a policy window that they can use their research for. At the same time policy makers need to take the realities at community level into account, and should look for scientific evidence that can underpin policy measures. Hence, all need a holistic approach to the research-policy interface.

4.   Reflection of the day: Lessons learned

It was foreseen to end the day with a discussion using the fishbowl method, but this ended more as a reflection session. Perhaps another time, more emphasis can be given to cross-fertilization between the outcomes of open space groups (e.g. by using a gallery walk method).

Another process recommendation would be to have the Open Space agenda evolve around more clear discussion questions, which stimulate dialogue in groups.

One learning was that the integration of the Seminar in the MSP course was again very beneficial. Although there were few external participants, there was good sharing between MSP course participants and others, which grounded the discussions in real MSP practice. Also the participants had a good experience in facilitating and organizing social learning events.

Finally, Wageningen International (CD&IC Programme) proposes to take the lead in continuing this discussion on Multi-stakeholder processes.

Annex 1. Short group Notes (not exhaustive)

These are the notes taken by MSP course participants during the Open Space group discussions. The notes are varying in quality and comprehensiveness since it was part of the learning exercise of the MSP course. However, all notes carry some insights for the Seminar participants.

Topics in the Open Space discussions:

Round 1.

1. Frame Negotiability

2. Stakeholder Management

3. Beta-Gamma Integration in development oriented research: How to reach equal partnership and impact.

4. Getting MSPs to work

5. New area development as closed networking

6. Visionaries and their roles in MSPs

7. Who decides who is a stakeholder?

Round 2.

1. How to deal with the wish to plan the un-plannable

2. Influence of Multi-nationals and their interests

3. Does the institutional / organizational embedding of the MSP facilitator matter?'

4. How optimal land use planning can work in the tropics

5. Community of practice and closed networking

6. Does a MSP facilitator requires a thorough background in the sector/subject?

7. Power and MSPs

Round 1

1. Role of MSPs in Research Policy interface

The topic of the 'Role of MSPs in the Research Policy Interface' was extracted from the questions:

- Is the research-policy interface possible without MSP?
- What is the scope for innovations in research in the context of MSP?
- Research and Policy; which comes first?
- Research, Policy, and MSPs where are connections and how important are these connections?
- Can research have a build in design for reaching out to all stakeholders?

Facilitator: Alexander Imbo
Reporter: Atta Ullah Khan
Participants:
1. Ewen Le Borgne IRC Netherlands
2. Naro - Cambodia
3. Swapna - India
4. Islam -

Discussion:
The group had mixed views about the topic in the beginning and most of them asked like why some one thinks that without MSPs the research policy interface is not possible. It was explained that because research is meant for fact findings and when facts are found it then has implication for policy changing. So if MSPs are not there policy makers will not be involved in the research design and when they are not part of that they will not own the result of the findings and in this way it will create a gap. Based on this notion it came out that the point of view is correct for some occasion but not always and it depends on the situation and context. MSPs play an important and crucial role in specific context for research-policy interface.

Research and Policy in MSP, what comes first? First the question was explained to the group and an example came from India by one of the participants saying that one cannot be certain about which comes first, as in fact research is designed based on principals of existing policy and it further gives insights for policy change. In India forest management was taken by two different kinds of people; one was joint forest management backed by government and the other was forest management by the community members. Research was conducted on both the themes and the one backed by government got attention for policy formulation but the community owned initiative was not considered.

Another idea was that if the researchers are ready to go beyond the boundaries of the research and meet other stakeholders and their efforts and subsequent results of the research can get attention of people otherwise they are doing research for themselves not for policy change. So in this way if researchers are not involved in policy making or policy makers are taken in research policy improvement will be hindered and the research will not be meaningful.

What can be measures for research policy? Existing policies guide the researcher for research if you your current policies are not favoring MSPs then it will be neglected.

Policy makers will not accept if they are not in research and MSP, there is a need to involve civil society and others.

Research and policy will not work together without MSPs. About the question of which comes first; Research or Policy, it was mentioned that the research initiates by using the existing policies and then refines again the policy with the help of the MSPs. Research may be carried out to improve and give insights for new policies.

Where are the connections between research-policy-MSPs? Research is meant to be policy research to give insights for policy change. For MSPs it is both research and policy which can give insights for better MSP.

The connection can be understood as research to support policy influencing. MSPs can influence and change policies. Without a MSP it will only be research, which won't be use for policy influencing.
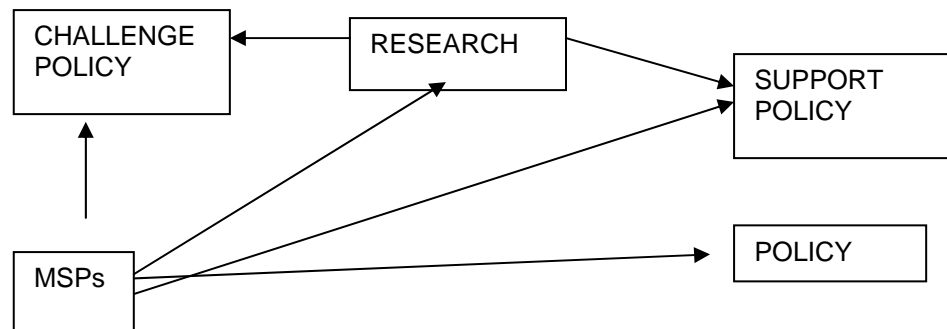
Conclusion:

The role of MSPs in the research-policy interface, to ensure all the stakeholders are important, is summarized in the following way:
1. In taking research findings to policy makers
2. Influencing policy with researcher findings
3. Guiding the findings of the researcher i.e. objective research

Key Message:

MSPs play a definite role in bringing research and policy together.

2. MSP and Science as Stakeholder

Facilitator: Irma - Indonesia
Reporter: Tahir - Pakistan
Participants
Jon Daane - ICRA
Pepijn – Wageningen International
Freddy - South Africa
Hakim Shah - Pakistan
Kasam - Syria
John - Kenya

Discussion
Irma introduced participants. John started discussion with a view that we may have focus on applied research. Freddy asked what is involvement ratio of researchers in policy making? Participants discussed points in detail. Pepijn discussed about fundamental research. Hakim Shah added that fundamental research plays a pivotal role in policy making but it is rare accommodated. Jon argued about the application of fundamental research. Irma asked to develop initiatives for strengthening research. Tahir asked how to build the capacity at local level for research and how young researchers can be given the chance to interact with policy makers.
Kasam gave an example of a situation in his country. There is a lake which is under threat of pollution, but nobody is taking the responsibility to conserve it, not the environmental department, not the municipality, nor the federal government. So local people started asking policy making institutions to deal with problem. Finally the case study was published in a paper and management had to take action to adjust the problem.

Irma concluded the session with remarks that there should be a close relation between policy makers and research.

3. How to bring local stakeholders in Research Policy interface?

Subject owner: Robbert Biesbroek
Facilitator: Pankaj
Reporter: Agnes/ Mercy

Participants:
1. Gerald Wilffer (PSO)
2. Maliyatata Syalembereka
3. Robbert Biesbroek (WUR)
4. Pankaj
5. Benjamin Asare
6. Sulegam Gopal Reddy
7. Mercy Adeogun
8. Mathaulula Agnes

Objective: How to bring local stakeholders in the research-policy interface? Possibility of linking the needs (research) of local people and link these with the policy makers to bring about change.

Tools used: Focussed group discussion. (Number of participants -6)

Pankaj initiated the discussion, introduced himself and asked all the other participants to introduce themselves.

Robbert Biesbroek explained the research-policy interface as a process or cycle which ensures the inclusion of the research institutes, policy makers and the local people in finding solutions to issues involving the local people. It was however not clear what approach to adopt in bridging the gap between research, local people's knowledge and policy interventions.

Mercy Adeogun expressed that there is need to include the stakeholders from the start and wondered if it is possible to think of a structure in which each stakeholder of society finds a space to raise their issues. Maliyatata Syalembereka agreed what Mercy said and mentioned that a role be given to each stakeholder. Robbert Biesbroek disagreed and questioned what society has to do in research and policy. Where and when are they coming in?
The facilitator, Pankaj then started a story about Kaziranga national park where community participation in wild life conservation has been initiated as a multi-stakeholder process. He wondered whether we need to come up with the strategy of combining the bottom-up and the top-down approach. The discussion then became more lively and some new inputs came like the examples of e-choupal in India (dealing with communication), smoked fish in Nigeria (mindsets) and tools (better participation).
Gerald Wilffer, who has been dealing with NGOs has expressed that initiation of effective dialogue is key. But Sulegam Reddy mentioned that such a process may be easier in Europe but may not be possible in Asia or Africa

Emergence of issue:
The issues were further discussed to see a trend in the ideas and the participants decided that structure, mindset, advocacy and facilitation are key issues. It was further decided that all these could be a part of a organized structure (boundary). Media also has a strong role in bringing about change and bringing the research issues closer to policy.

Convergence:

The participants initially did not manage to converge the key words into a sentence and therefore decided to draw a picture to depict the complexity of the situation. Now the facilitator asked to give a name to the picture. A lot of options were put forward by the participants (Never stop, Enabling and constraining, Do not wait for Godot: (a drama by Samuael Bakot, explained by Gerald)

Concusion:
The participants decided the theme as "Do not wait for Godot" which is more or less equal to saying a "effective facilitation through MSP".

4. Bridging Gap Of Policy – Research Dialogue

Facilitator   : Sinah Thabile Poto (South Africa)
Reporter   : Jarot Indarto (BAPPENAS-Indonesia)
Participants   : Kamal Gaire (Nepal)
                    Oluyemisi Adebisi-Adelani (Nigeria)
                    Mari-Lise (South Africa)
                    Beatrice (Nigeria)
                    Charles (Ghana)
                    Fabricio (Brazil)
                    Irene Koomen (WI - WUR)
                    Stevainia (Visiting PhD Student - Italia)

Background

Objective: What are recent general conditions regarding to the policy maker - researcher dialogue? Who does facilitate them? What activities do we need to bridge that gap?

In general, it is perceived that usually policy makers do not collaborate with researchers. Policy makers tend to neglect the results of research. Research can be demand-driven or donor-driven. From the community view, people are not being and/or not willing to be involved in the process from the beginning. Then, who can facilitate all stakeholders, especially between policy maker and researcher? And, what do we need to do that?

Some insights:
- Researchers face a difficulty in terms of accountability, sometimes money comes from government, but sometimes comes from another donor.
- Researchers and policy makers should go and work directly in the field, listen to and work with society. The local approach must be prioritized as the best way and must be exercised first to sustain the process.
- There is a need to involve all stakeholders, especially society. Approaching society in the earlier stage is needed. Also we should shape the issue in order to relate the issue with their daily needs/problems.
- It is also important to build stakeholder capacity to create awareness and to involve them in the process. The understanding and awareness of policy makers about society their problems must be improved. Researcher should also choose a research topic that can lead to public awareness.

Cases

Ghana: policy maker is not involved in the research and MSP processes, and tends to neglect research result.
NL (case of agricultural sector): MSP process is finished. In the first step, stakeholders were involved in order to explore and formulate their problems. Government (MoA) worked with researchers to overcome the problems by exercising some recommendations. Finally, those recommendations were brought to the stakeholders in order to choose and to get their consensus.
USA: There is a facilitator who facilitates the process between policy maker-researcher-people.
France: Since people participation is relatively low, there is an action to increase their involvement.
Nepal: Stakeholder's technical discussion first –> doing prioritization of research

> Italia: stakeholder will be taken into account.
> Frankfurt: A common interest is a good initiator for all stakeholders to engage in overcoming their problems. And, there is a facilitator who maintains and manages the MSP process.

Conclusion
It is about Multi-Stakeholder processes, so engagement of all stakeholders is a necessary condition. We also believe that bridging gap between policy makers and researchers is needed to solve a certain public problem. Then, capacity building is needed for policy makers and researchers, to increase their awareness about the society. Society should improve their understanding and participation. The facilitator can play an important role to bridge this gap by creating dialogue spaces for all. The last but not the least is that all stakeholders (policy maker, researcher, donor, and community) must work together at all levels.

5. How does power influence research policy interface?

Facilitator: Beatrice Shomkegh
Note taker – Judy Oduor, **Participants:** Jouwert van Geene, Caroline, Freddrick, Robbert

Objective: How does power (irrationally) influence policy such that they no longer take the facts to guide MSP.

ISSUES

What is power?
Having influence such as knowledge and facts that enables individuals or groups to affect the research, policy interface.

Sources of power:
Power comes from different areas to influence the interface process:
1. Procedures such as the legal process- power that restricts
2. Scientific research
3. Public opinion
4. Political aspects
5. Financial
6. Morals- how far you perspective/ reputation can influence

What to do to balance power?
1. Be open on agreements and disagreements on the subject of concern
2. Placing quality checks in the process.
3. Be open with knowledge by tabling information that is relevant in order to close any gaps
4. Establishing a balance between the different rationalities of the different stakeholders in the interface process and sell benefits to them (such as comfort, security, material gains and prestige), to gain support.
5. The facilitator should be clear with the possibilities of the process, to his/her client in order to manage expectations.

Who drives the research and policy agenda?
- The organizations that fund?
- Research organizations
- Political leaders?

Example shared in group:

> *Politics influence restricting of funding to research institutions- manner in which the information*
> *from the research is utilized- conditional ties placed by funding organizations that are basically*

> *western . Findings that are not to the taste of the politician/ governments determine the next course of action value of research in policy making.*

- Community?

> *Example shared in group.*
> *Participation is minimal. Disconnect between societies in problem identification. There are also gains that come with the consultancy services that influence researchers. Structures at the community level are in most cases not functioning therefore limiting participation.(From Nigeria)*

What do you need to learn about power?
- You need an understanding of your own power and utilizing that power for pushing your agenda
- An understanding/ interpretation other people's interests should guide you
- Legitimize the position that MSP appeals to reason and common sense Leverage public opinion
- Learn how to use time to your advantage such as staying on through out the process no matter the process takes
- Learn also how to use transparency

How can the power be managed in order to develop appropriate policy?
Example shared in group
Power has a lot to do with perception- airport example where the Airport authority saw the people as having power despite the fact that they had the statutes and facts to back them up.

Conclusion:
Power is constructed and so players in the MSP should be realistic about the power of others, their own power and use that as a leverage to drive their agenda.
They should also use transparency in the MSP as a quality checks to rationalize the interface
Be able to leverage power- state government owned part of the airport and they played a key role in facilitating activities in the

Round 2

1. Role of Government in Research Policy Interface

Participants
Sinah from South Africa (Facilitator), Alexander from Kenya, Beatrace from Kenya, Charles from Ghana, Atta Khan from Pakistan, Reetu from India, John from Kenya, Tahir from Pakistan (Reporter)

Objective;
To trace out role of government in interface research – policy interface

Proceedings
Sinah introduced participants. Alex started discussion with a question to for finding out relation between research and policy. He asked, "do research findings support policy and if these don't support policy, what will happen?" Charles gave his opinion that it depends upon the situation. All maters will move along with existing situation.
Reetu inquired, " how we can influence donor?" Tahir gave his view that donor has its own objectives and donor can only be influenced if proposal support the donor's objectives and his operational area.
Beatrice discussed about hidden agenda of donor while policy development. Tahir raised the question about main drivers of research. John added the donor directed research in discussion. Atta Khan gave his opinion about capacity building of local people.

The whole discussion concluded the government has key role in policy interface and needs to play an active role for launching a thought provoking stream among community to drive out their concerns about policy and their own issues.

2. Ownership of policy process and research findings

Subject Owner: Fredrick Armar, Facilitator: Mari-Lise duPreez, Note Taker: Agnes/ Mercy, Participants: Pepijn Jansen, Benjamin Asare, Sulegam Gopal Reddy

Objectives: Open discussion on who owns policy or a research process in MSP.

Mari-Lise initiated the discussion, after introducing herself and asked all the other participants to introduce themselves.

Clarification: The facilitator sought clarification regarding the question 'who owns the process of research findings in MSP'? Is it the community, the government, scientist, donors, researchers?

According to Benjamin, policy and research findings should be corporately owned by stakeholders. This can only be achieved when Government, the research institutions and people at the grass root are involved in the analysis of a problem and subsequently developing together policy interventions in the resolution of problems.

Stakeholders all linked to the problem, either as part of the problem/solution.
Ownership could mean: owning the process either as the causer of a problem (accepting responsibilities) or a beneficiary to a process. It is undoubtedly evident that mindsets are difficult to change, but when people are involved in the resolution of a problem from the scratch, people from the grass root feel involved and have a better sense of ownership in the resolution of a problem.

There is the need to build the capacity of local business associations in advocacy to be able to voice out inherent problems and be involved in the development of policy interventions.

In summary ownership of policy or research process has more to do with people awareness of their responsibility in the resolution of a problem. People are interdependent and have equitable power in the resolution of issues. In situations where Government is seen as the sole owner of policy, the commitment of people at the grass root is limited and the realization of policy objectives become a failure. People at the grass roots must have a say in policy formulation so as to have a sense of ownership.

3. MSPs & Climate Change

Facilitator: Swapnasri Sarangi **Reporter:** Kasem Al Ahmad **Participants:** Stevainia (PHD student, Italy), Kamal, Irma, Obed, Fabricio, Hakim, Reddy, John, Oluyemisi

Questions to discuss
- How MSP link the global policy to climate change?
- Why is it necessary for policy making on climate change to involve all stakeholders?
- Can MSP be used for climate change mitigation not just adaptation?
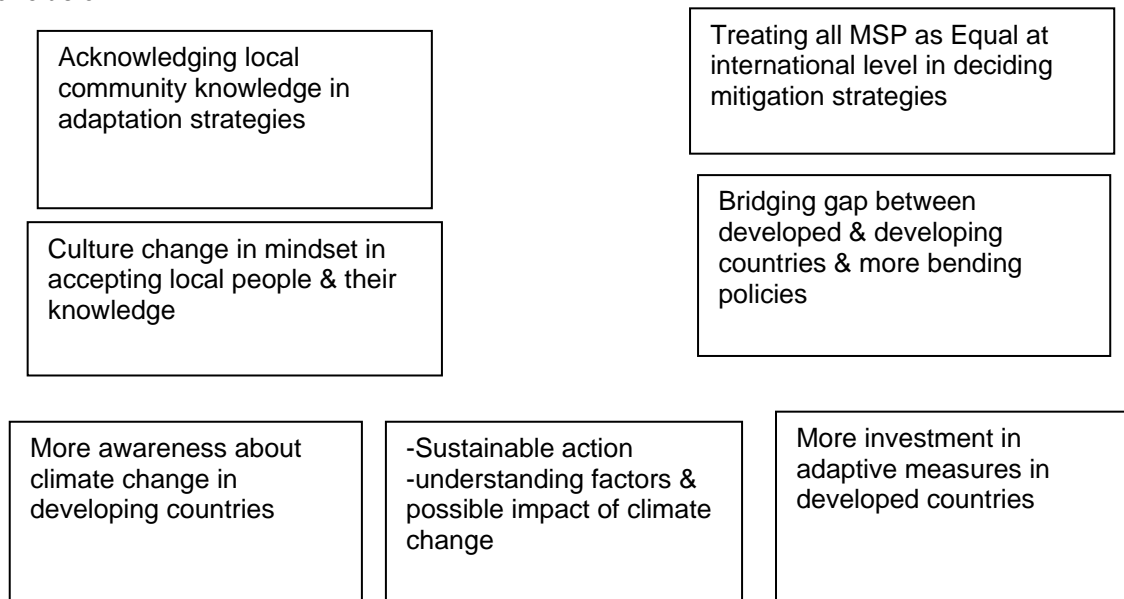
Discussion:
The group had interesting discussions about the topic which is affecting the whole world; in the beginning the group discussed about gathering knowledge, everybody agreed that to gather knowledge from the people who are in the field, they'll notice the change from the beginning, while the researchers maybe go from time to time to take the measures.

Now how to bridging gap between developed & developing countries & more bending policies? So when you go to high level at the government, the negotiations will be different from that one at the local level, also at the international level very difficult to reach agreement. While at the local level it's easy to have the agreement, so we need new tools to involve MSP in the high level.

Another discussions about how to Acknowledging local community knowledge in adaptation strategies?

Many examples from different countries, from India for example it's the time now to harvest the rice but the plants still in the growth stage, so the farmers they notice the change in the weather directly.

Conclusion:

Acknowledging local community knowledge in adaptation strategies	Treating all MSP as Equal at international level in deciding mitigation strategies
Culture change in mindset in accepting local people & their knowledge	Bridging gap between developed & developing countries & more bending policies

More awareness about climate change in developing countries	-Sustainable action -understanding factors & possible impact of climate change	More investment in adaptive measures in developed countries

Key Message:
Need for bottom up approach in designing adaptive strategy strategy & consultative approach in designing mitigation strategy & involving MSPs at all level?

4. Research - Policy Interface in Developing Countries

Subject owner   : Pangkaj, Facilitator : Hep Sakhanaro (Tibet), Reporter: Jarot Indarto (BAPPENAS-Indonesia). Participants Islam (Bangladesh), Atta Khan (Pakistan), Fabricio (Brazil), Alexander (Kenya), Irene Koomen (WI - WUR)

Background
Objective: how to link and to improve the interface between research and policy making in developing countries.

In most developing countries, top-down policy and research is mostly witnessed. Power in most developing countries is also not equal among stakeholders. Usually, power is very much related with policy maker and source of fund. That is why the interlinkage between research, policy making, and community interest is still low –> the need to how to improve the interface between research and policy making.

Some insights:
- Community understanding should be improved in order to increase their participation in the process.
- Power must be taken into account.
- Source or fund for activity is also important to analyze, since in developing countries most research is driven by who owns the fund.
- Decentralization of research is also one of strategy that can improve interlinkage between research and policy.

Cases

India: policy does not really relate and is not based on what people need (the local issues). Most research is government-funding project.
NL: policy is rather a top-down approach. In case of agriculture, the sources of funding can be from government, private, or farmer union.
Brazil: research is mostly money-based research, funded by trans-national or big company, so the commodity in research for example is high-value commodities.
Bangladesh: There is a invisible collution between policy maker-researcher-company.

Conclusion
Research – policy interface is a governance issue, which is also including international organization, trans-national company, and private sector. Some strategy that can be exercised are: to develop spaces of interface each other, to equalize the power relation, and to decentralize research activity. Research and policy making should be a MSP processes -integrated participatory research-, which must be institutionalized.

5. Flexibility and adaptability in MSPs and research – policy interface

Question: What could be good approaches to allow a flexible i.e Adaptive agenda for an MSP ? (open/inclusive)

Subject owner: Ewen Le Borgne
Facilitator: Beatrice   Note taker: Judy
Participants: Caroline, Jim, Jouwert, Fabricio

Objective: What could be good approaches to allow a flexible and adaptive agenda for an MSP?

Background of question

MSPs are sometimes set up as part of a project approach or methodology to e.g. ensure longer term improvements. In such cases, the project could have a fixed agenda around one specific issue (e.g. urban wastewater management). In the process of being involved in the MSP, the local stakeholders may find it a useful mechanism to plan for the long term and they may want to address other issues (that matter more to them) than just the original issue around which the MSP was set up. E.g. after dealing with wastewater management they may want to move on to climate change issues or drinking water management etc.

Is this a good idea? If so, how can we help make it happen, considering that in a project framework there is usually a donor interested in the original agenda, and who may not want to see this agenda move to other issues?

This links up with the chicken-and-egg relation between the group of stakeholders and the issue at hand: do you have an issue and identify stakeholders or do you have stakeholders and identify an issue to shape the MSP?

Subsequently you may have two types of strategy:

1. A strategy based on a specific intent or purpose (the case of a project with a single issue agenda).
2. A strategy based on positioning the MSP in the context (and responding to needs in the context).

Dynamics of resource, content and structure of a process
Various factors that may help change this agenda or prevent it were identified as follow:
1. Resources: if adequate financial and time resources it may be possible to expand the agenda – but with limited budget it may not be possible. Who provides the resource may also drive the agenda.
2. Structure: if the MSP has developed a rather rigid structure, it may not be open to changes in the agenda. The institutionalization of an MSP is a risk here, as it may create biases, vested interests etc. which go against one of the main purposes of MSPs: to enable change in a complex environment.
3. Content: Finally, the MSP may be structured around one specific content issue that rallies the various stakeholders. Shifting the agenda may lead to dissolving the MSP.

All these factors also point to the issue of **legitimacy**: who has the legitimacy to steer the agenda? Stakeholders themselves?

Three roles that may affect or be affected by this change of agenda:

The **process driver** – who raises an issue on the map and gives the sense of urgency around the issue, it could be an external agent;
The **process leader**: gives direction to the process and coordinates actions;
The **process provider**: Is in charge of the operations and use of resources.

In quite a few MSPs, one is expected to combine these three functions but it is really challenging and having a team to take parts of these roles would be useful.

The issue of capacity came into discussion as well as different capacities may be required to shape a different process: if the agenda shifts to another issue, perhaps that will affect capacities to drive, lead and provide the process.

It also affects the operations: What methods, tools and rules will be used to shape this process? What strategy will be followed?

Conclusion

1. *Members agreed that resources, structure and content set the context of adaptivity. Process needs method plus strategy in capacities of drivers, leaders and providers are factors to be taken into account.*

2. *There is need for a lot of investment in terms of time, resources, and not just have it mainstreamed in to the day to day activities.*

3. *Work with caution keeping in mind the human aspect.*

4. *MSPs can be complex and complexity moves and becomes dynamic. Dynamic plays out of time- there are high points and low points and points of no return. It is therefore important to synchronize the two.*

5. *MSPs are adaptive and changing in nature. Constantly looking at the different variables in order to guide the process.*

6. *The project frame work affects the output Process becomes a procedure shaping change in a changing environment.*

Annex 2.   Seminar Organisers and Presenters

NETHERLANDS
Mr. Jouwert van Geene
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
6700 AB WAGENINGEN

Tel:
Fax:
email: jouwert.vangeene@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Karèn Verhoosel
Technical Assistant
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
6700 AB WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317 486860
Fax: +31 317 486801
email: karen.verhoosel@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
 Mr. Pepijn Jansen
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
 6700 AB WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317486819
Fax:
email: pepijn.jansen@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
 Mr. Robbert Biesbroek
WU Environmental Sciences, Earth System Science
PO Box 47
6700AA, WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317-487757
Fax:
email: robbert.biesbroek@wur.nl

GERMANY
 Mr. Christopher GolhlFOK GmbH
Berliner Ring 89
D-64625 Bensheim
GERMANY

Tel: +49.6251.8416 -0
E-mail: christopher.gohl@gmx.net

Annex 3.   Participants Wageningen UR & Other Organisations

(some of the following people did not attend, but had indicated to come)

NETHERLANDS
Mr Jim Woodhill
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
6700 AB WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317486816
Fax:
email: jim.woodhill@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Fons Jaspers
ALTERRA (WUR)
WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317 495552
Fax:
email: fons.jaspers@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Mr. Jon Daane
ICRA
P.O. Box 88
6700 AB Wageningen
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317 422938
Fax: +31 317 427046
email: jon.daane@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Jasmin Beverwijk
Radboud University Nijmegen
Postbus 9108
6500 HK NIJMEGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 243611838
Fax: +31 243615957
email: j.beverwijk@mow.ru.nl

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Renate Werkman
Wageningen University
Hollandseweg 1
6706 KN WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel:
Fax:
email: renate.werkman@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Esther Koopmanschap
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
6700 AB WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317 411469
Fax: +31 317 495395
email: esther.koopmanschap@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Marieke Wit
Tropenbos International
Lawickse Allee 11
6701 AN WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317481425
Fax:
email: marieke.wit@tropenbos.org

NETHERLANDS
Ms. Irene Koomen
Wageningen International
P.O.Box 88
6700 AB WAGENINGEN
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 317482986
Fax:
email: irene.koomen@wur.nl

NETHERLANDS
Mr. Ewen Le Borgne
IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
P.O.Box 2869
2601 CW DELFT
NETHERLANDS

Tel: +31 152192989
Fax:
 email: leborgne@irc.nl

Annex 4.   Participants of the MSP Course 2008

BANGLADESH
Mr. Islam MD. Mahbubul
Secretary General
Society of Justice
G.P.O Box 367
DHAKA
BANGLADESH

Tel: +88 29887099
Fax: +88 29881521
email: trybangladesh@yahoo.com

BRAZIL
Mr. Fabricio Gandini Caldeira
Project Manager, Oceanographer
fabricio@institutomaramar.org.br
Maramar Inst. for Responsible Management of Natural Resources
Republica do Equador 100 / 22
11030 151 SANTOS SAO PAOLO
BRAZIL

Tel: +55 1381361922
Fax:
email:

CAMBODIA
Mr. Hep Sokhannaro
Senior Researcher
The NGO Forum on Cambodia
P.O.Box 2295
855 PHNOM PENH
CAMBODIA

Tel: +855 16827827
Fax: +855 23994063
email: hsokhannaro@yahoo.com

GHANA
Mr. Benjamin Hinampong Asare
Business Advisor
Technoserve Inc.
SUNYANI
AIRPORT AREA
GHANA

Tel: +233 244994755
Fax: +233 6126361
email: asaben7@yahoo.co.uk

GHANA
Mr. Charles Antwi-Boasiako
Head of Wood Science Department/Lecturer
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology
00233 KUMASI
ASHANTI
GHANA

Tel: +233 243771376
Fax: +233 5160375
email: cantwiboas@yahoo.com

GHANA
WasteWise Ghana
P.O.Box AN 19512
Accra, Ghana
GHANA

Tel: +233(0)20 7732609
Fax: +233(0)21 7012447
email: info@wastewiseghana.org

INDIA
Mrs. Swapnasri Sarangi
Team Leader
Foundation for Ecological Security
PB No. 29, Jehangirpura, Gopalpura
388370 VADOD ANAND
INDIA

Tel: +91 9437030173
Fax: +91 6764232202
email: swapnasris@gmail.com

INDIA
Mr. Gopal Reddy Manik Sulegam
Deputy programme co-ordinator
BAIF Institute for rural development
Sharadanagar 3
572202 TIPTUR
INDIA

Tel: +91 4024533405
Fax: +91 4024533405
email: baif_ap@rediffmail.com

INDIA
Mrs. Reetu Sogani
Chief Coordinator
Community Awareness Centre
PO NARTOLA
Uttrakhand
INDIA

Tel: +91 9811222495
Fax:
email: reetusogani@yahoo.com

INDIA
Mr. Pankaj Barua
Scientist
pankaj_barua2001@yahoo.com
Assam Agricultural University
JORHAT
ASSAM
INDIA

Tel: +91 9435083111
Fax: +91 3762340001
email:

INDONESIA
Ms. Irma Kesaulya
Lecturer at The Fisheries and Marine Science Facul
Pattimura University
Jl. Ir. M. Putuhena, Kampus Poka
AMBON
INDONESIA

Tel: +62 81343248576
Fax: +62 911322 691
email: irma_kesaulya@yahoo.com

INDONESIA
Mr. Jarot Indarto
Planner
The National Development Planning Agency
JL. Taman Suropati 2
10310 JAKARTA PUSAT
INDONESIA

Tel: +62 21 31934323
Fax: +62 21 3915404
email: j.indarto@gmail.com

KENYA
Mrs. Judy Tuda Oduor
Assistant Director Children Services
Ministry of Gender Children and Social Development
Taifa Road
NAIROBI
KENYA

Tel: +254 729629321
Fax:
email: judytuda@yahoo.com

KENYA
Mr. Alexander Omondi Imbo
Community Warden
Kenya Wildlife Service
NANYUKI
KENYA

Tel:
Fax:
email: lexomondi@yahoo.com

KENYA
Mr. John Otieno Ogecha
Training Coordinator
Dudutech (K) Ltd.
Moi South Lake
20117 NAIVASHA
KENYA

Tel: +254 723436572
Fax: +254 31121167
email: john.ogechah@f-h.biz

NEPAL
Mr. Kamal Raj Gaire
Agricultural Economist
Department of Agriculture
HARIHARBHAWAN
Lalitpur
NEPAL

Tel: +977 15524230
Fax:
email: kamalgaire@yahoo.com

NIGERIA
Mrs. Margaret Adesina Oluwafolakemi
Deputy Director
Ondo State Agricultural Development Project
Adekunle Ajasin Ave. Alagbaka 88
01 AKURE
NIGERIA

Tel: +234 8060221240
Fax:
email: folaadesina@yahoo.com

NIGERIA
Ms. Oluyemisi Adebisi-Adelani
Research Officer
National Horticultural Research Institute
P.M.B. 5432
IBADAN
NIGERIA

Tel: +234 8059221500
Fax:
email: adelanidotol@yahoo.com

NIGERIA
Mrs. Mercy Opeoluwa Adeogun
Lecturer Ii
Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology
VICTORIA ISLAND
Lagos
NIGERIA

Tel: +234 8028413064
Fax:
email: mercy_ope@yahoo.com

NIGERIA
Ms. Beatrice Obiaderi Oruoyehu
Assistant Rural Employment Promotion Officer
National Directorate of Employment
Nouakchott Street, Plot 1529
ABUJA
NIGERIA

Tel: +234 8055058215
Fax:
email: boruoyehu@yahoo.com

NIGERIA
 Mrs. Beatrice Iveren Shomkegh
Team Leader, Social Development

 Treeshade Associates Ltd
 Ali Akilu Road 12
 MAKURDI
 NIGERIA

Tel: +234 8024562934

Fax: -
email: bshomkegh@yahoo.com

PAKISTAN
Mr. Atta Ullah Khan
Value Chian Officer
Mennonite Economic Development Associates
PMA Kakul Road 59-1
ABBOTTABAD
PAKISTAN

Tel: +92 995627117
Fax: +92 995613660
email: ak_agricon@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN
Mr. Tahir Mehmood
Coordinator Capacity Building And Training
Pakistan Wetlands Programme
House # 3 Street # 4 Sector F 7/3
ISLAMABAD
PAKISTAN

Tel: +92 51 2610880-5
Fax: +92 51 2610878
email: tmehmood@wwf.org.pk

PAKISTAN
Mr. Hakim Shah
Director Forestry Research
Pakistan Forest Institute - Peshawar
University Campus NWFP
25120 PESHAWAR
PAKISTAN

Tel: +92 919216123
Fax: +92 919216203
email: hakimshah59@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA
Mrs. Sinah Thabile Poto
Researcher
NELSPRUIT
SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 13 973 3515
Fax:
email: thabile@arc.agric.za

SOUTH AFRICA
Mr. Obed Freddy Madiba
Lecturer
University of Limpopo
Private Bag X1106
SOVENGA
SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 152683049
Fax:
email: madibaf@ul.ac.za]

SOUTH AFRICA
Mrs. Mari-Lise Du Preez
Researcher
South African Institute of International Affairs
Church Street 33
8001 CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 832644229
Fax: +27 214261455
email: dupreez.ml@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICA
Ms. Mushaisano Agnes Mathaulula
Lecturer
agnes.mathaulula@univen.ac.za
University of Venda
P.O. Box 1784
0950 THOHOYANDOU
SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 159628630
Fax:
email:

SYRIA
Mr. Kasem Alahmad
Community facilitator
ICARDA
P.O. Box 5466
ALEPPO
SYRIA

Tel: +963 212213433
Fax: +963 212213490
email: k.alahmad@cgiar.org

TANZANIA
Mrs. Joanita Kokuangisa Magongo
Researcher
Research on Poverty Alleviation
Mgombani
DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA

Tel:+255 763 177931
Fax:
email: joanita@repoa.or.tz