Introduction

The Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG) was established as a specialized technical working group of the FSL cluster. It is a technical group that seeks to improve agricultural performances in South Sudan during and after the current humanitarian crisis. Specifically the technical working group will focus on all interventions and value chains for field crops, horticulture and fruit trees. It is also the mandate of the same group to cover irrigation and the technologies associated with it.

Major challenges affecting the agricultural sector include: limited agriculture development investments, weak private sector involvement, limited agricultural input supply, high levels of post-harvest losses, and poor access to quality seed, weak linkages to market as well as limited agricultural services and marketing infrastructure. Insecurity and several tribal conflicts mainly centred on water, grazing and cattle raiding are further threats to a fragile agricultural sector. The TWG will contribute towards finding durable solutions to some of the challenges through planned and coordinated agricultural interventions within its scope and mandate.

Purpose

The ATWG is primarily responsible for the coordination of agricultural related intervention in South Sudan through:

- Development and review of appropriate guidelines, standard tools and suitable input packages for agriculture related activities;
- Sharing and advocating for replication and up-scaling of evidence based best or good practices in relevant thematic areas. Facilitate efforts towards building the technical capacity of its members.

Objectives

The objectives of the group are:

- To develop mechanisms for partnership, cooperation and collaboration to implement agriculture related activities,
- Provide a mechanism for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural projects implemented by partners, and
- Facilitate dissemination and exchange of information among partners through meetings, web based platforms, publications and events.

Membership

The ATWG members include, UN Agencies, and NGOs, line Government extension and research Institutions. Government involvement in the forum is very paramount for information sharing such as which crop species and varieties released and recommended for South Sudan and seed policies among others. There is need for linkages with other clusters such as the nutrition cluster as nutrition is closely related to what is produced and consumed. Linkages should also be extended to protection / child protection sub clusters to address issues of child labour and operation standards in the agricultural sector.

A. Core members

The main eligible criteria for becoming among core members are:

- A registered NGO in SSD
- FSL Cluster member
- Competent technical capacity and experience (institutional and individual) on agriculture sector
- Actively engaged and available to contribute effectively
- Have adequate time to attend and provide constructive inputs
- Have good experience or track record of implementing food security interventions

Application process:
A partner submits an application to the chair of the TWG and this should be accompanied by a recommendation from 2 TWG members. The application will be presented by the Chair and reviewed by the TWG members.

Observers
- The ATWG could have members on observer basis and interested in attending, learning and providing support to the sub-cluster.

Structure
The ATWG will initially be chaired by FAO but this should gradually be handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security with FAO providing secretariat services. There will be some small sub technical working groups that will be established to provide more focused and in-depth technical guidelines. Whenever there is a need to do so, the sub-cluster will establish specific technical groups to deliver some specific tasks given by the FSL Cluster or Agric Sub-cluster.

Organogram of the ATWG

Main responsibilities of the Chairperson shall include:
- Responsible for overall coordination and facilitation of the sub-cluster meetings
- Communications with sub-cluster members
- Be focal point for the sub-cluster
- Linking to the Cluster and other sub-cluster TWG.
- Review membership applications with the members.

Main responsibilities of the Co-chair shall include:
- Ensure continuity of the meetings in the absence of Chair person
- Circulation of the agenda and minutes, taking minutes of the meetings.
- Circulation of important technical information.
- Representing the sub-cluster where due necessary
- Conduct coordination of the group activities
- Serve as secretary in capturing notes of the discussion

Scope of Work
Regarding the scope of work the group, the following aspects are for consideration;
- The ASCWG will develop technical guidelines, (seed pack, tool kit, irrigation equipment, good agriculture practices, management and crop protection etc.), and delivery for both developmental and emergency response agricultural activities.
The ASCWG will coordinate, monitor and evaluate crop related activities implemented in South Sudan.

The ATWG will inform stakeholders and share their experiences on successful interventions and practices in agriculture related activities that can be up-scaled and replicated like climate smart agriculture and other practices.

The ATWG will act as a forum for consensus to harmonize approaches and practices building in crop related agriculture among government, NGOs and donors.

Capacity building / technical support to its members on relevant technical areas

Ensure representation and participation in food and nutrition security assessments.

Review, update and support the development of assessment tools (e.g. post distribution, pre/post-harvest, seed assessments, and market and value chain assessment any emerging issues).

Promote compliance / adherence to best practices, approved standards and quality assurance.

Promote and ensure mainstreaming and integration of cross cutting issues nutrition, protection, gender, HIV/AIDS, disability in line with Accountability to Affected Populations (AAPs) etc.

Advocating for the natural resource and environment protection and conflict management

Key deliverables expected

- Development or review of technical guidelines, standard tools and compliances on specific issues set or recommended by the sub-cluster.
- Participation at national level assessments.
- Number of reports, technical briefs, best practices, tools developed and disseminated / in use.
- Number of learning events, experience sharing visits and workshop/forums organized on selected topics.
- Draw and prioritize advocacy messages and disseminations to relevant stakeholders.

Guiding Principles for Overall Implementation of the group’s work

The main guiding principles shall be:

- Meetings to be held monthly and more frequently if and when it’s necessary.
- Participatory approaches to be observed in all activities and decision making processes.
- Agenda for meetings established in a participatory manner with input from all members.
- The sub-cluster takes all the necessary care to respect the do-no-harm principle within the system it is functioning.
- This ToR is not legally binding. However, the sub-cluster members have agreed to implement it with vigour in the spirit of partnership and due diligence to realize their commonly set objectives mentioned above.
- The sub-cluster members also respect the humanitarian principles including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and operational independence. Moreover, commit to work within HAP standards

Work plan and Timeframe

The sub-cluster will have its own work plan for one year (July 2017 to June 2018).

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Meetings
The ATWG meets once a month and ad hoc basis when necessary. The venue, date, and time of meetings shall be communicated by the Chair (FAO).

Amendment
This ToR is a work in progress document and can be subjected to amendment to suit the needs of the ATWG members and also align with the FSL Cluster’s objective based on the proposal supported by the majority of the members.