FAO AFIS 2017 Crop Assessment Plan and Progresses

Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster Meeting
23 August 2017
Purpose of CFSAMs

• “To provide accurate, timely and credible information on food security problems in a country so that appropriate actions can be taken to minimize the impact of man-made or natural disasters on the affected populations”.

• At the request of a national government, CFSAM is an audit-type exercise of existing data.

• It is an independent exercise by FAO and WFP with technical support of local staff.
CFSAMs in South Sudan

• CFSAMs in South Sudan started in 1999, well before independence
• But CFSAMs in South Sudan always had a different purpose, instead of a pure audit exercise, they were responsible to estimate cereal crop production and the food gap
How crop assessment should be done

- Crop assessment is not a once only operation; it is rather a continuous activity that should be accomplished throughout the year.
- Annual CFSAM should be fielded to verify what has been collected locally and should not be considered as a replacement to or do the work of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Experiences of other developing countries show the same.
Challenges faced in SS

• Delays in assessments, data accuracy, shortage of manpower,
• Absence of Annual Agric. Sample Survey (statistical)
• Lack of institutional arrangements to collect and transfer seasonal crop/ agricultural information
• Presence of complex cropping patterns in South Sudan that need careful elaboration (double cropping, relay cropping, mixed cropping, ratooning)
• Overlapping of planting and harvesting seasons in various parts of the country
• Difficulty of covering all states because of insecurity, bad roads, and limited number of taskforce members
Recent Changes in CFSAM Approach

- The approach used up to 2013
- Starting from beginning of 2014:
  - Establishment of a Task Force team
  - Increased involvement of local staff
  - Better coverage of cropping areas in space and time
- From 2016 on wards
  - Broadening the number of Task Force members
  - Training staff at county level
  - Improve ownership/leadership of the process by South Sudanese staff
  - Establishing & strengthening CCMCs
  - Generate the 2017 country wide crop statistics
2017 Crop Assessment strategy by -AFIS

Since 2016 the AFIS’ Crop Assessment activities are being implemented in two pillars

1. Taskforce-led crop assessments done by MAFS, MoAs, FAO, NBS and some NGOs
   - Taskforce members divided into teams
   - Doing the planting and harvesting assessments in the country as per the cropping calendars

2. County Crop Monitoring Committees (CCMCs)
   - Piloting in 2016 (in 15 counties)
   - Expansion to cover more areas in 2017
Part-I

The crop assessment by Taskforces
2017 Work plan & achievements of the Taskforce-led assessments

• **Taskforces** are those experienced & trained crop assessors in MAFS (about 7) and few others operating in some states (all nationals)

• The 2017 taskforce-led assessment plan (attached)

• So far a number of assessments were conducted including 8 planting & 2 harvest assessments (see the list).
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Season planting assessment in CE (Juba &amp; Terekeka)</td>
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Part-II
Crop Monitoring and Yield Assessment Strategy at County Level
Objectives of the strategy

• To involve agricultural extension workers and NGO partners at county and payam levels to support crop assessment taskforces in crop monitoring and yield assessment activities
  ➢ in collection, processing and reporting of crop performances, yield estimations and weather monitoring and thereby improve the quality of crop assessment information at country level.
Accomplishments of crop monitoring & yield assessment exercise - 2016

• Trained 217 extension workers, Agric. Directors/Commissioners & NGO partners staff form 49 counties

• Established 22 County Crop Monitoring Committee (CCMC) in 22 counties, which are operationally active (sending crop & seasonal monitoring updates).

• Incentives allocated for 5 extension workers per county & this has encouraged fieldworkers.

• We also received reports from inaccessible /insecure areas: Morobo, Kajo Keji, Yei, Lainya etc.
Accomplishments- Crop monitoring & yield assessment exercise - 2017

• Trained 222 extension workers, Agric. Directors/ Commissioners & staff of NGO partners (23 were from NGOs)
• Established/ strengthened County Crop Monitoring Committees (CCMC) in 39 counties
• 36 operationally active CCMCs are reporting this year, which are sending crop & seasonal updates (list is attached)
How CCMCs work

• The Committee leads field assessments during each season in the county.
• About 8 days /month for 5 extension workers
• Each county conducts several field assessments per year, depending on calendar & frequency of cropping.
• Cropped area & yield estimations should be done by CCMC
• The CCMC conducts monthly meetings during the season to discuss agricultural situations & compile information on progress of the season & prepare report.
Reporting by counties

• Each pilot county compiles its data, maintain records and report to the State & the Taskforce every month during the cropping season.

• Reporting formats were provided

• 8 Monthly Crop Monitoring Reports expected, from May to December 2016.

• Monthly reports should show cumulative information up to the reporting month.
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AFIS & Partners’ Support

• Provided Training (3-4 days) for extension workers, A/ Commissioners and partner NGOs

• Appropriate/simple tools are prepared by AFIS for data collection and reporting.

• State MoAs will also participate in the supervision of data collection and crop monitoring activities
Way forward /Recommendations

• Continue with the training and capacity building
• Increase collaboration with partners/ NGOs to cover more areas & support CCMCs
  – Strengthening CCMCs & establish new ones
  – Increase reporting from grassroots level
• Participation in the FAO/ WFP satellite based pilot exercise for estimation of crop production (in 2 states)
• Generate country level data before the FAO/WFP CFSAM comes
THANK YOU