From Research to Policy

Knowledge Management System and Concepts

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Role of Knowledge in Sustainable Development

- Information
- Trends
- Tools
- Programs
A paradigm for knowledge generation
Factors of Demand

- **Timeliness**
  
  Choice of tool and level of complexity should yield information products within the decision-maker’s time frame.

- **Sustainability**

  Choice of information system should be sustainable within the human and financial resource constraints of the operating agency.

- **Reliability**

  As demand for information products is established, resources will be made available to improve reliability.
The Development Context

- Technicians and policy-makers often come from a positivist viewpoint
- Communities (and the poor) often come from a traditionalist viewpoint
- The selection of analytical tools should attempt to bridge this gap
Expanding the paradigm

Global
SSA
Southern Afr.
National
Local

Data Info Knowledge Action

Traditionist-Positivist

Trade Models GIS Assessments
The Analytical Context

LESSONS LEARNED & ASSESSMENT → CHARACTERIZATION → MODELING
Analytic Contribution to Strategic Planning

THEORY

CONJECTURE

HYPOTHESIS

LESSONS LEARNED & ASSESSMENT

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

CHARACTERIZATION

MODELING
What is Knowledge Management?
What is knowledge management?

Knowledge management involves organizational adaptation through processes that combine data, information-processing, and the creative and innovative capacity of human beings.”

- KM as a concept
- KM as a business discipline and theory
- KM as a collection of technologies
- KM as a philosophy

after Yoresh Malhotra (2001)
Components of a Knowledge System

- a knowledge base of domain related knowledge,
- a meta-knowledge base
- knowledge diffusion to components of the organization,
- the effects of knowledge diffusion in organizational component knowledge bases,
- a knowledge-related technical infrastructure supporting retrieval, display, discovery,
- maintenance, communication, storage, knowledge base integration, etc.
- educated, trained, personnel who can use the organization's knowledge base, and
- educated, trained personnel who can perform knowledge management.
Dynamics of the Knowledge System

- Stakeholders
- Vision & Strategy
- Business Processes
- Value Creation
- Learning & Growth
What is SAKSS?
What is SAKSS?

- A source of information and knowledge to inform rural development strategies at national and local levels

- An international public good to manage shared information and knowledge

- A Knowledge Management System that builds on existing data and information (using some of the capabilities of modern computing and information technology)

- A Conceptual Framework that organizes information and analyses using economic and spatial methods to identify investment and policy options, and “smart” M&E to improve the strategy over time.

- Implemented as a network of institutions and individuals who supply and/or use information
What is SAKSS?

A knowledge system that provides a platform by which credible research, analysis and information can come to bear in decision making processes related to planning, monitoring and evaluation.
What is SAKSS in Southern Africa

- Promotes broader analysis of agricultural investment opportunities for enhancing rural incomes and growth
- Promotes broader analysis of the impacts of agricultural programs on the alleviation of poverty and food insecurity
- Builds capacity in the region for carrying out such analyses through a “community of practice”...
What is SAKSS-SA?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy-wide analysis</th>
<th>Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spatial characterization of the rural sector</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment analysis</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of best practices/lessons</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring trends &amp; assessing impact</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How do we do Knowledge Management?
The Knowledge paradigm for SAKSS-SA

SUPPLY

DEMAND

Data → Info → Knowledge → Action

Determines

Database → Library → Workspace → Analysis

Impacts
The SAKSS-SA Network

- A network of networks
- Distributed data and analysis
- Synchronized activities
- Engaged in cooperative efforts
- Opportunities for collaboration
The SAKSS Knowledge System

**Web Site**
- Access to Data
- Access to Documents
- Basic analytical Tools
- Workspace for dialogues, calendars and contacts
- Links to Partners

**Data Base**
- Data and Documents
- Minimum Dataset on Server
- Search Partners’ datasets
- Statistics
- Maps
SA-SAKSS: Southern African Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System

**Data**
- Data
- Metadata

**Source**
- Select Source

**Period**
- Select Start Date
- Select End Date

**Region**
- Select Country

or click on country on the map

**Output**
- Table
- Graph
  - Select Graph Type
- Map
  - Provide Metadata
  - Provide Download link
  - Select File Format

Status bar
What are the outputs of a SAKSS Knowledge Management System?
Monitoring Key Indicators

E.g.: Impact of AIDS related death, Zimbabwe, 1997

Source: SADC, 2003
Identifying Strategies

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**Potential market integration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agro-climatic potential</th>
<th>Market Access</th>
<th>Population density</th>
<th>Potential development strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>perishable cash crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>dairy, intensive livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>non-perishable cash crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>rural nonfarm development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population density**

- Low: 0 - 5
- Medium: 6 - 10
- High: 11 - 20

**Market access**

- Low
- High

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**Potential development strategies**

- Expand perennial cash crops
- Expand livestock production
- Expand subsistence crops
- Expand annual cash crops

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Source: IFPRI, 2004
Modeling Scenarios:
Illustrating minimum conditions for investment in natural capital

Source: USAID Africa Bureau 2001
Evaluating impacts

Malaria

Climate unsuitable, malaria unstable or absent.

0
× 0.1
0.1 - 0.25
0.25 - 0.5
0.5 - 0.75
0.75 - 0.9
0.9 - 1

Climate suitable, malaria stable.

Source: ILRI 2002

Where we are now
1. Inventory of poverty assessments relating to agriculture and natural resources investment in southern Africa \textit{In process}

2. Inventory of spatial data sets and associated analytical capabilities that can be used for such poverty assessments \textit{In process}

3. Assessment of why policy analysis is not having more impact on key decision makers (public & private)
3. Facilitated meetings to create a “community of practice” (an effective network of practitioners)

4. Establish SAKSS technical node with basic analytical and training capacities (i.e., with capability of completing initial spatial analysis of poverty/hunger and poverty/hunger trends.)
Program Elements – Year 2

5. Support poverty/hunger analyses linked with policy dialogues in at least 2 countries

6. Three regional training workshops on techniques for analyzing the level and determinants of poverty/hunger

7. Knowledge sharing and dissemination
Where we will be in two years

- Functioning network of partners
- Functioning and growing knowledge base
- Common meta data and data standards
- Increased analytical capacity among partners
- Emerging engagement of decision-makers in the use of analytical products
Linking analysis to policy

- Understand/characterize processes taking place in target countries to determine decisions that are being made
- Millennium Development Goal Indicators
- NEPAD objectives
Summary

- SAKSS is a network of networks
- It facilitates the sharing of knowledge
- It depends upon partners’ input
- It supports partners in analysis
- It supports the use of analyses for policy-making
Thank You