

Research to Feed Africa Policy Dialogue

Canadian International Food Security Research Fund



International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international



Canada 

Foreign Affairs, Trade and
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce
et Développement Canada



The Theme: Research to Feed Africa

POLICY DIALOGUE EVALUATION REPORT

Date: Monday, 1 September 2014

Time: 08:00 — 17:30hrs

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. INTRODUCTION

The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) -- in association with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) -- hosted a Policy Dialogue under the theme "Research to Feed Africa". The Policy Dialogue was held as a pre-cursor to the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) and was moderated by the FANRPAN Chief Executive, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda. The Policy Dialogue was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on September 01 2014.

CIFSRF supports applied, collaborative, results-oriented research projects that can significantly affect agriculture and nutrition in developing countries. In September 2014, projects funded under CIFSRF Phase 1 - completed their research; and projects selected for the second phase (scaling up) will begin their research work. Against this backdrop, the specific objectives of the Policy Dialogue were to:

- **Share research results, innovations and development outcomes** arising from CIFSRF projects with those in a position to use them to improve food security practices and policies in developing countries.
- **Provide a platform for high level dialogue on scaling up of research results** from CIFSRF projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Canada;
- **Articulate a concrete plan and practical strategies** in which results from CIFSRF could dovetail into a wider African and global food security agenda.
- **Raise visibility of CIFSRF (IDRC and DFATD)** as a strategic programme on global agriculture, food and nutrition security, and increase recognition of the importance of collaboration between Canada and developing countries.

2. METHOD AND DATA

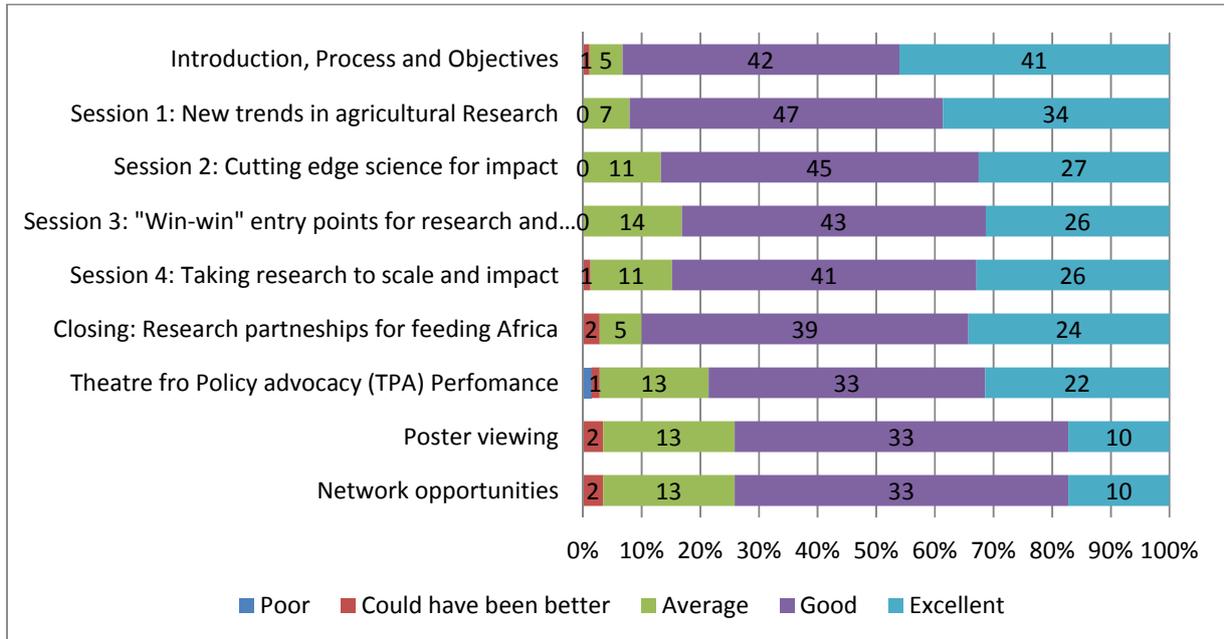
Quantitatively, the Policy Dialogue evaluation assessed and rated four main elements: the objectives (i.e., what the sessions sought to achieve), overall and general elements, time management, and how communication was conducted. Qualitatively, delegates were asked to answer following questions:

- What other additional topics for future staff planning workshops would you like to see?
- What went well?
- What did not go well?
- What were the major lessons learnt/benefits realised (as an individual and for your institution)?

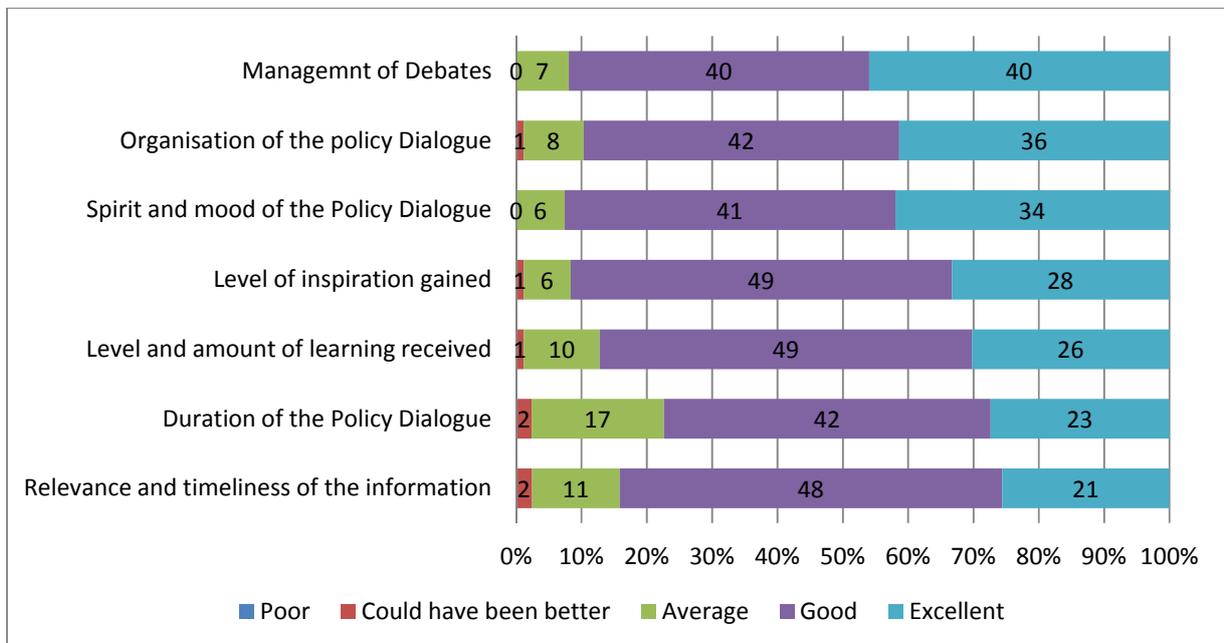
Data analyzed, using excel, is from the **91** questionnaires that were filled in and returned. Presenting qualitative results, *(XN)* indicates the number of mentions for each specific term. The summary of the results in page 8 presents the weighted rating of the four main elements of the meeting mentioned above.

3. QUANTITATIVE DIALOGUE EVALUATION RESULTS

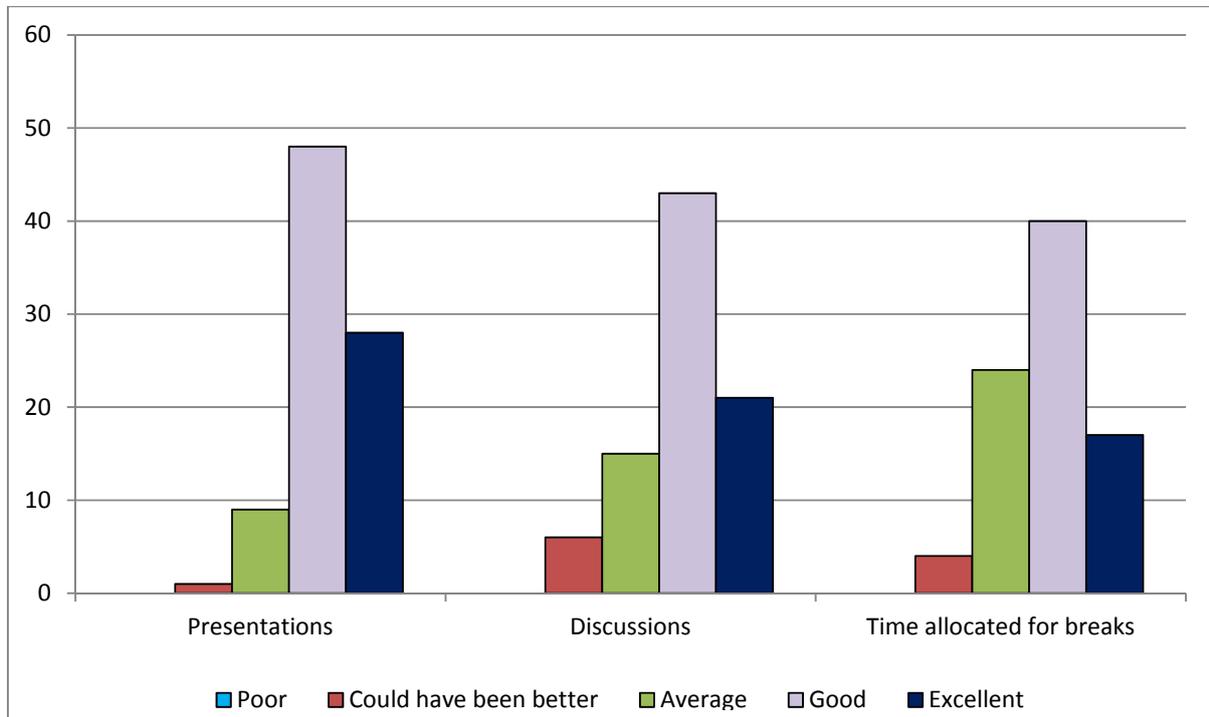
3.1. Specific Objectives of the programme



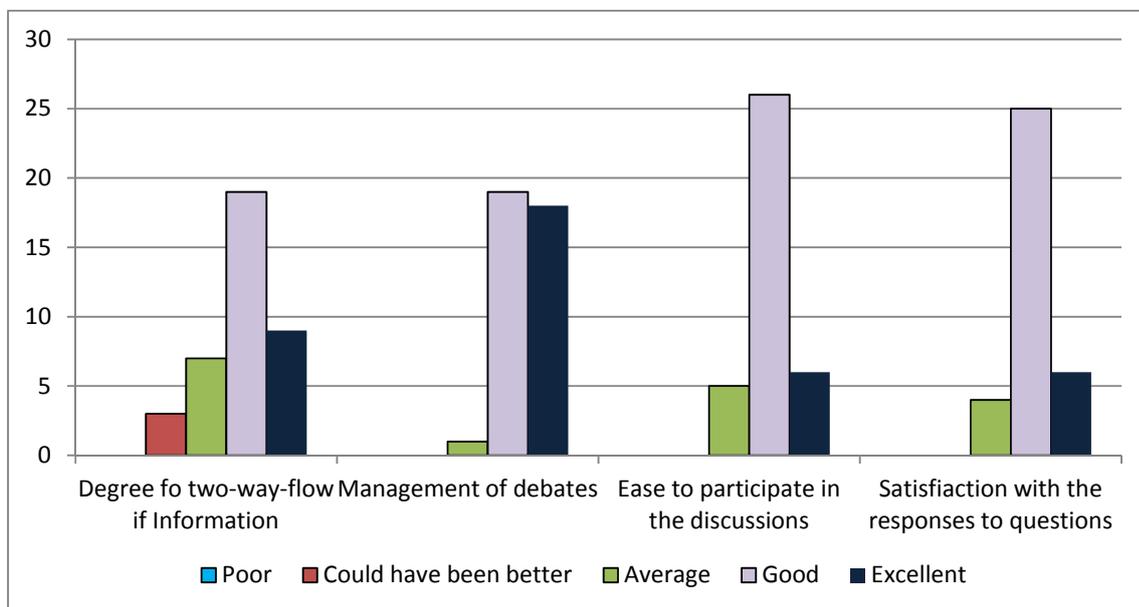
3.2. General rating of the policy dialogue



3.3. Time management



3.4. Communication



4. QUALITATIVE DIALOGUE EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1. Topics suggested for Policy Dialogues

<p>Research and Practice</p>	<p>There is a need to/for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing research capacity. • Clearly show research gaps. • Research and practice to be environmentally, socially and economically friendly. • Synthesise research impact for the livelihood of small scale farmers. <p>Should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-friendly technologies. • Biotechnology (X2). • Commercial crops like coffee. • Seed (X2). • Climate change (X3). • Land tenure system of Africa (X2). <p>The question is, however, how can research feed the population in the areas that are mainly on rain-fed agriculture.</p>
<p>Food Production and Security, and Nutrition Nexus</p>	<p>Topics should cover/show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nations with vast land should extend and intensify agriculture by irrigating. • Causality between food security and human development in Africa. • Nutrition and poverty reduction beyond end product and consumption. • Water management for agricultural development and food security • Seed system for commercial use or for farmers.
<p>Financing</p>	<p>Topics should cover/show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa's potential to attract the world's market in promoting organic agriculture. • How to get finance for the farmers. • How the different countries are dealing with the challenges of financing
<p>Extension Service</p>	<p>Topics should cover/show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural extension and advisory services as this is one of the areas of CAADP pillar 4 • Linkage of training initiatives/extension services farmers at lower end

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension policy • Information services (i.e., Innovative ways in talking food security issues). • Issue of farmer organisation and farmer empowerment.
Multi-stakeholder participation and linkages	Research should show farmer linkage; while also identifying the actors along the agricultural value chain. Recommended to be covered as future topics are: (i) Farmers perspectives; (ii) Private sector (important for market linkage); (iii) Funding agencies; (iv) Agribusiness, (v) Public sector; (vi) Young researchers and organisations; and (vii) Gender should be amplified.
Best Practices	<p>The suggestion is to show/present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or two best projects so that others can learn. • Success stories of food security improvement that clearly indicate the role of all stakeholders. • How other countries are implementing CAADP and how they are dealing with the challenges they are facing. • Evidences of impact of policy. • A project on livestock.

4.2. What went well

Facilitation	<p>The facilitator (sometimes called a moderator in the evaluation forms) Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda was excellent (X6). Other words used to describe her are amazing; good and great and was with humour making proceedings feel very informal but informative.</p> <p>Communication was good also capturing key messages. <i>“The way the speakers were introduced was excellent”</i> noted one of the delegates.</p>
Presentations	<p>Presenters were high level people with great expertise in their field this caused the audience to be engaged. The presentations, mentioned 13 times, by key speakers, presentations and panellist went well, with wide and diverse range and were ‘entertaining’.</p> <p>For example, delegates appreciated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nigerian Minister of Agriculture, Hon Dr Akinwini Adesina, presentation and the rest of the morning's presentations. • The presentation which addressed the status of agricultural research in Africa. • Good overview of successes and challenges in research relevant to policy makers and other end users. • Cooperation between theatre arts and Climate Smart Agriculture. • Selection of very good and professional speakers with in-depth knowledge of the subject was excellent.

Time Keeping	Time keeping was well observed (X5)
Organization of the Policy Dialogue	<p>The Policy Dialogue was organised in such a way that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captured wide diversity of viewpoints. • It was inspirational and shared experiences. • Covered what was planned fully. • The large group was managed well. • Execution of sessions (X3) and all activities was orderly. • Discussion (X6) was well structured and managed. <p>That is, <i>“the organisation of the Policy Dialogue in general was excellent”</i></p>
Networking and Partnerships	<p>The Policy Dialogue represented diverse range of stakeholders providing networking and partnerships opportunities. Delegates noted that (i) <i>“the involvement of women participation among the presenters and speakers was good and is commendable”</i>; and (ii) <i>“a great collaboration of various partners like IDRC/FANRPAN/ DARD-DEV is a good example of what a working partnership should be”</i>.</p>

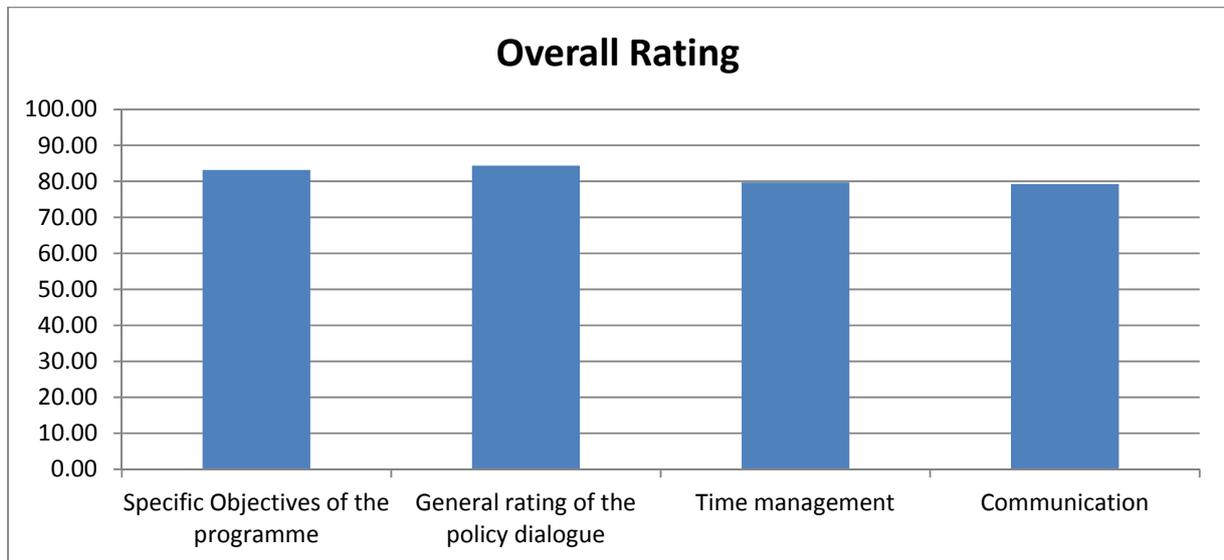
4.3. What did not go well

Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Policy Dialogue focused only on research whereas AEAS is also part and parcel of achieving food security. • A delegate noted <i>“i do not think the story from ETA was the truth”</i>. • The choice of topics could have been better.
Time Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Policy Dialogue started late. • Theatre was too long; it can be more interesting, if time was reduced. • Time allocation to speakers and discussions was limited (X4). • Time management in some instances was not good (X7).
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations were too fast (session three). • Management of the deviation of presentations.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second last session; <i>“we never got a chance to talk to a farmer about their experiences and yet we are arguing about putting farmers at the forefront”</i>. • <i>“We did not give a chance to women and the youth besides the key speakers”</i>. • There was lack of effective participation from African policy makers and key organisations such as African Development Bank. • There was little participation from the delegates (X4). • Written questions and notes limit the scope of the environment. • Composition of the participants (e.g., more participation by farmers who have become more successful and invite more public staff).

Communication	The interaction between the panellists and the audience could have been better (X6).
Logistical Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sitting capacity (i.e., the foyer was congested during tea break).• There was not enough material.• There should be transport allowance for the local participants.• Inability to allocate participants to the relevant sessions.• The group became too large and this tended to disturb attention.• The hotel was too cold and too old for such a dialogue.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1. Summary of Results



5.2. Lessons learnt

Summarized, delegates indicated that they have learned about:

- How researchers should focus on solving the problems of the majority.
- How to convince policy makers to see the importance of commercializing aromatic and medicinal plants.
- Need for mindset change, agriculture is not development agenda its business.
- Specific topics like climate-smart agriculture, nanotechnology, genetically modified products.
- State of agriculture and good and nutrition security on Africa; this includes research and policies.

5.3. Major benefits realised (as an individual and for your institution)

- Networking opportunities and exchange of ideas with other different stakeholders.
- Information shared showing current research developments, different experiences and best practices.
- Knowledge sharing and learning a lot from the experiences of others.
- Empowered to participate and mobilize people to advocate with public staff as well lawyers.

- Linkage between research and agriculture.
- Raising the profile of the work (research) we do.
- An understanding of the thinking / research agenda of the donors.
- Key take-home messages (which were great for follow up actions).

5.4. Requests

Number of delegates requested the conference organizers to share the presentations by either emailing them or uploading them on the website.