

**Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable land management and agricultural practices in Africa:  
Bridging the gap between research and farmers  
Gothenburg, April 16-17, 2009**

**Summary of evaluation by participants**

The meeting was attended by more than 30 participants. The attendance consisted of a mix of researchers, policy experts, and decision-makers, many of whom are working in Africa. Twenty-one evaluation forms were collected at the end of the meeting. However, not all participants filled answers for all questions. The average ratings from the answers to the questions related to the content of the workshop are given in the graph below (see Annex for detailed answers question-wise).



The analysis of the answers (both qualitative and quantitative) given on the evaluation forms confirms the impression left during the meeting. Overall, the meeting was well rated and judged very useful. The most appreciated aspects of the meeting were : the usefulness and relevance of the meeting to the areas of interest of participants in their work (100% rating of 4 or above out of 5); the quality of presentations (81% rating above 4 out of 5) and the opportunity to make new professional contacts and acquire new information (85% of the respondents).

On the content of the meeting, 67% of the participants rated the meeting “very good” and the remaining 33% judged the meeting “excellent”. The technical aspect of the presentations by guest speakers, resource persons and participants, including country case studies faired well with 33% of the participants rating the presentations “excellent”. 48% rated the presentations “very good” and the remaining 19%, “good”. Although all agreed on the quality of the presentations, some of the participants thought other topics should have been added to the discussion. On the topics covered, 42% thought more topics should have been covered and 58% suggested other topics for future events or capacity building activities.

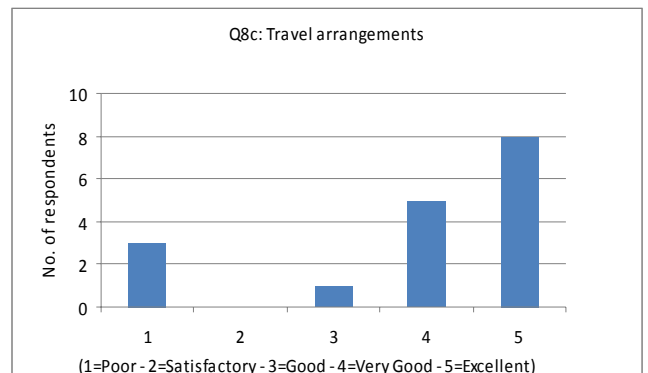
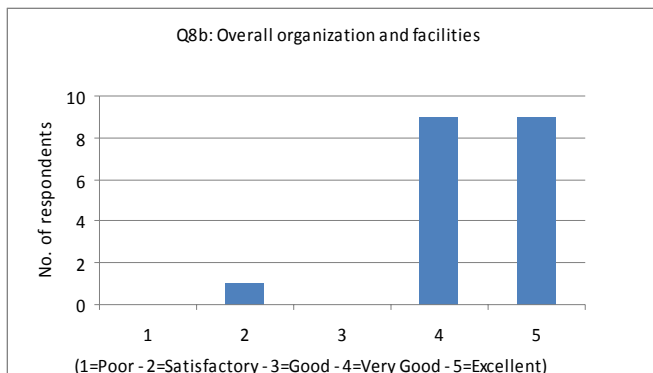
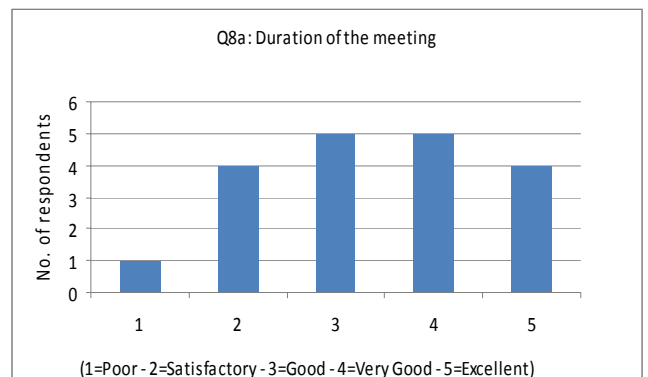
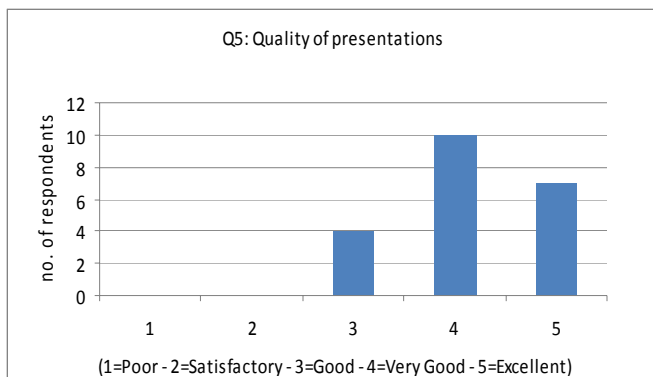
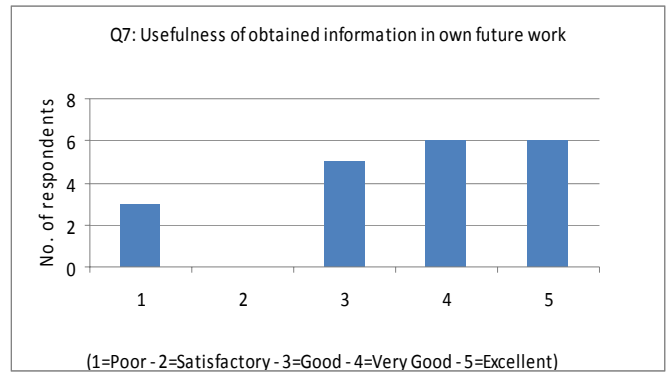
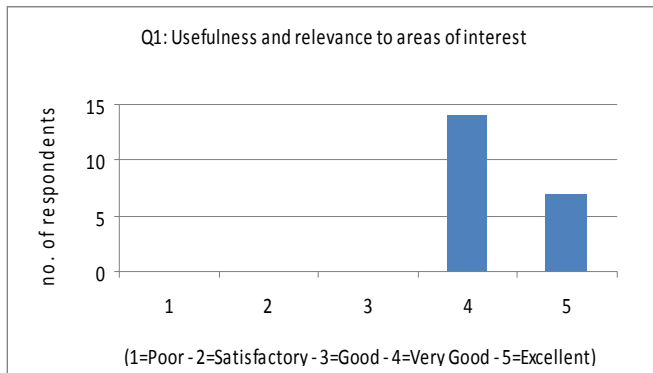
Of all respondents, 30% said they will “definitely” use some of the information obtained in their future work. 85% of the respondents said they will likely use some of the information obtained in their future work. Three participants, however, thought it is unlikely that they will use some of the information their

future work; the main reasons invoked were the lack of time to discuss in details so that one can convey his/her message very on such “important and big issues”.

The majority of the participants (75%) thought the time devoted to various sessions was adequate. However, the remaining 25% thought more time was needed to further discussion of various topics with some suggesting various formats of discussion such as group discussion, follow-up workshops. Some participants suggested a one week workshop format and indicated various topics that needed to be covered.

Overall, while some participants found the travel arrangements inadequate, all participants apart from one judged the organization of the meeting (facilities, organizing staff) as “Very good” or Excellent”.

**Annex 1 Detailed answers to questions regarding the content of the workshop**



## **Annex 2: Analysis of qualitative answers.**

**1. How would you rate the meeting in terms of its usefulness and relevance to the areas of interest in your work: If you have any specific comments, please let us know:**

- More days to discuss in detail the issues; e.g. one week workshop
- Could build more experiences from Asia & Latin America; invite 2-4 resource persons from these regions
- Meeting was able to bring out relevant [...] to policy research[...]
- Extension of the meeting by 2 more days

**2. What is your assessment of the meeting in terms of the time devoted to the various sessions? If “Inadequate”, please specify:**

- More time on extension required
- One week required
- Except that the sessions could have been strengthened on a forward looking perspective with the discussion oriented towards highlighting clearly and concretely key lessons and strategies to build on the lessons
- Would be good if more time to discussion in groups.
- A little more on the "political economy" of research-policy interactions in Africa - how does it work in practice?
- To the extent that the meeting was able to cover all sessions, it was adequate but there was perhaps need to allocate more time to critically and exhaustively address all issues
- Shortage of time discussions for institutions and markets
- Presentations were useful and adequate but time for workshop limited at expenses. Facilitated forms of group work could perhaps have been used for combining information sharing with workshop. Good w/ time for discussion
- Session: from research to implementation of extension services was very important to identify extension and research gap but time allocated to the sessions was inadequate
- The theme of the workshop is such a big issue that can not be covered within 2 days only

**3. Are there topics that you think should have been added to this meeting? If “Yes” please specify:**

- Incentives mechanisms designed for sustainable agriculture
- Public expenditure and their impact on poverty reduction
- Alternative research approaches in SLM
- Perhaps more on delivery and interaction with target audiences. (How research is communicated in order to impact)
- Farmers experiences and challenges
- SLM technology inventory

**4. Were there any topics that you would like to suggest for future events or capacity building activities? If “Yes” please specify:**

- institutions & SA; Political Institutions and Policy
- sustainable land management practices and how they can be used to adapt to climate change
- A critical/informed review (possibly some key note paper pre-done) of local community institutions and decision making process that could be mobilized, capacitated/strengthened to support/stimulate informed policy formulation for the local communities but also building up to influence national policies and decision on SMA/SA
- How to scale out and up successes in SLM to achieve wider impact
- See above
- see point 2 above
- Test conclusions from workshop w/ eg private + civil society actors. Test conclusions with other research disciplines

- Putting investment into use(i.e. investment prioritization)
- Adaptation of SLM to climate change; 2- Clear mechanisms for upscaling and downscaling policy relevant biophysical and socioeconomic models
- Sharing more practical experiences
- SLM training

**5- Presentations by guest speakers, resource persons and participants, including country case studies. If you have any suggestions regarding above aspects of the workshop, please specify**

- Better articulation of methods
- The time allocated for the discussion/presentation of ideas/topics should be enough that can allow one to convey his/her message very well.
- Very interesting

**6. Has this meeting provided you with new professional contacts or information? If yes, please indicate in what way**

- Networking with the government officials to identify their opinion about us researchers
- Good atmosphere for networking with people who are interested in the same research areas
- The meeting had more than usual composition of people from different institutions
- Met new colleagues in my profession
- Links to Swedish universities and knowledge/research institutions and experts which I feel has potential for south-north collaboration
- New researchers
- New contacts in specific countries (Kenya, Ethiopia) + in specific agencies (CAADP etc...)
- Variety of networking possibilities coming out of the meeting
- Helps to know who is working on what & the complexity of the issue at hand
- Updating on many issues. Many new contacts.
- Exploring the existing problems that exist between innovation and reaching to the target
- From mixing Swedish + Africa partners+ international
- I was able to meet people & professional experts in SLM
- I personally benefited from new contacts whom I would think will keep in touch through my networking contacts
- Met new friends working in the same areas

**Please provide us any additional comments or suggestions related to the workshop organization and/or staff that you feel would be useful.**

- Keep up the good work
- A little short; perhaps 2,5 days would have been good, for including more time for discussion
- Next time let's have an extension officer in the discussion about what they do.
- Bringing in policy makers and researchers together is a good idea. In the future, more active involvement of policy makers would help
- Next steps? Follow-up of meeting? A second meeting to further deepen contacts, commitments, discussions, research collaboration? ...would be good!
- Participants to such a meeting from different incur[?] in country expenses e.g. visa fees & transport to airport which organizers/sponsors could consider reimbursing. Organization/Staff were excellent
- Poor travel arrangements