

ACIAR SDIP Program

Report on Project Leader's Meeting, 27th-28th Nov 2019



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

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ACIAR-SDIP Program Meeting



Meeting Minutes

27th – 28th November 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal



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Executive Summary

A program level workshop was held in Kathmandu on the 27th – 28th November, attended by 24 team members representing Australian and regional partners. As ACIAR SDIP is approaching the final year of the program, the meeting provided an opportunity to update team members on the current status of the wider SDIP portfolio, present progress on individual projects, consider how the different pieces of work fit into a food systems framework, provide space for different projects to interact, and consider priorities for moving forward in terms of research themes, and engagement with existing programs and projects.

Given the range of projects within the program, significant time was spent on identifying specific project outputs and discussing where they fit within a program framework that shows:

1. Links between sustainable farming systems and food systems, where intervention at the field and community level are centred around conservation agriculture, mechanization and groundwater. Foresight approaches provide an overarching method for synthesis and dialogue;
2. Cross cutting research approaches including working at multiple scales and locations; multi-stakeholder engagement; capacity building; and with the ultimate aim of scaling;
3. Emerging cross cutting themes of gender, the Food – Energy - Water nexus, institutions (risks and incentives), climate change, private sector engagement, labour and migration;

Priorities for communication from individual projects were identified, as well as the need to update the program narrative as results are generated.

It was noted that the ACIAR SDIP program is the most comprehensive research program in the Eastern Gangetic Plains (EGP), which can offer immense value to local and regional partners. The broad agenda and multidisciplinary focus should be maintained in any future program. In terms of specific research themes for follow on work in the EGP, the specific research questions mapped into the following domains: political economy; climate and water; food systems; farming systems; and extension.

The program meeting was an excellent opportunity to understand project progress, identify key messages for communication, contribute to an overarching program framework, and discuss future research priorities for the EGP.

1 Background

The ACIAR SDIP program goal is to maximise agriculture’s contribution to sustainable food systems in the EGP, for improved food, energy and water security. The program has transitioned from understanding and promoting sustainable farming technologies based on conservation agriculture in Phase 1, to include the wider context of the food system and a deeper understanding of the various factors which influence sustainable food systems.

The program has commissioned fourteen projects in total (including an extension of the SRFSI project), and three projects have been completed. Over the next year, individual projects will produce insights into current and future trends in climate change, the sustainability of soil and water use, the empowerment of women, factors affecting farmer incomes, the role of micro-entrepreneurship and connections to larger private sector companies and optimal institutional arrangements.

In the final year 2019-2020 the aim of the program is to:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the food system in the EGP
2. Identify effective institutions that enhance integration, inclusiveness and innovation for better management of water resources, information transfer and risk for farmers; and for sustainable agricultural mechanisation at government levels
3. At the field level, identify emerging biophysical constraints to conservation agriculture practices in the medium term, and develop a better understanding of soil, weed and water saving dynamics.
4. Identify options for the management of alternative water resources and energy efficient sustainable intensification technologies for a better understanding of climate resilient agricultural systems in the EGP.
5. Identify options for access to water and the wider scale implications of its use, including interactions with energy and food security
6. Contribute to a nuanced understanding of gender inclusion and empowerment, recognising that it is not adequate to use a single approach to helping women farmers without understanding the different patterns, outcomes and causes of defeminisation or feminisation of agriculture across the three countries.

In a survey in mid 2019, ACIAR SDIP Project Leaders requested an annual face to face meeting to explore linkages for a shared understanding about other projects in the program. They were keen to understand future directions for work in the region. The agenda reflects these requests, as well as the need to review individual progress; situate outputs within in the wider food system; plan for a program review, and consider options for the remainder of the program and work going forward.

The meeting was held in Kathmandu on the 27th – 28th November, and the agenda is attached in Appendix A. 24 participants attended, representing Australian and regional partners (Appendix B). The meeting provided an opportunity to update team members on the current status of the wider SDIP portfolio, individual project updates, consider how the different pieces of work fit into a food systems framework, provide space for different projects to interact, and consider priorities for moving forward in terms of research themes, and engagement with existing programs and projects.

2 Setting the scene

2.1 Meeting aim

As ACIAR SDIP is approaching the final year of the program, and with a recently announced extension until the end of December 2020/early 2021, the aim of the two-day program was to:

- Obtain project updates and highlights;
- Identify priorities for communication and engagement activities;
- Integrate results using a food systems approach;
- Program planning for the remainder of ACIAR SDIP for completion of individual projects, and budget updates;
- Planning for a final review of the ACIAR SDIP Program in the second half of 2020;
- Priorities for future work to transform smallholder food systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.

2.2 Update on future funding of SDIP

Robyn Johnston (ACIAR RPM) gave an update on the recent review of the SDIP portfolio. DFAT have indicated that there have been significant cuts to their budgets in South Asia, particularly Pakistan. There will not be a third phase of SDIP, instead a smaller program is proposed focused on “water diplomacy”. ACIAR is not likely to be included as partner.

In terms of the way forward for completing current work, an extension has been agreed on that will allow some projects to extend in time until late 2020/March 2021. In this extension, the same program approach will be maintained that keeps a similar focus on management and communications, as well as the Steering Committee.

This extension will allow some work to continue in the ACIAR SDIP program until mid-2021. From July 2021, ACIAR will work on commissioning projects in the EGP from July 2021. Part of the work of the meeting and throughout 2020 will be in considering whether and how these projects should build on results from SDIP and aligned priorities, and whether there is value in maintaining a program approach.

For the program extension, the priorities until June 2021 (tentative) as agreed with DFAT are:

- a) Helping existing government partners in West Bengal apply new knowledge to institutionalise and scale sustainable agricultural systems to reduce agriculture’s pressure on water resources and contribute to lower emissions from the farming sector.
- b) Enhancing provincial and local coordination under new governance arrangements in Nepal to improve outcomes for agricultural development and water resources management.
- c) Food systems foresight to utilise existing knowledge and networks to enhance our understanding of food systems in the EGP, and to share these outcomes at a regional level..

2.3 Program update

Under the program update, highlights were presented by country and in terms of the ongoing work on gender, all of which were presented as highlights at the Annual Dialogue in October 2019.

In **India**, the major highlights in terms of farming systems include significant success with scaling of CASI, particularly in West Bengal where up to 75,000 farmers are using new techniques. There has been success in actively engaging women in the new farming systems, including opportunities for income-generating activities.

In the Foresight component, the local level work will focus on understanding the trade-offs of Conservation Agriculture based farming systems adoption on farming communities with special regards to women farmers and rural youth; and the impacts of policy decisions on resource use.

There is also an emerging set of work on constraints and impacts of water use and energy interactions at different scales, linking farm level changes with wider hydrological impacts; and state level policy decisions.

In **Bangladesh**, there is a focus on scaling mechanisation for smallholders to support Conservation Agriculture, including with the SRFSI project through the RDRS Farmers Federation; and supporting commercialisation of the Versatile Multi-Crop Planter (VMP) in partnership with the private sector. A recent workshop brought together a range of partners to discuss elements of CA seeding machinery, including recommendations for continued scaling. The mechanisation workshop allowed participants to examine the unique design features associated with the range of seeding machines available, as well as share and discuss common issues with the equipment and promoting its use. Outcomes from the workshop will help to identify opportunities for greater collaboration and cross-team cooperation, the development of continued close working relationships with manufacturers, and the development of a range of policy recommendations for government in relation to developing improved CA seeding machinery value chains in Bangladesh

The Foresight component in Bangladesh will explore how the adoption of high value crops in a diversified food system will impact on farmers, local businesses and on food security, in line with Government of Bangladesh priorities.

In **Nepal**, a key focus is on understanding how the new federal system impacts on agriculture. This includes addressing needs for local coordination; and building provincial capacity for sustainable agricultural mechanisation using a Roadmapping approach. Roadmapping is a flexible planning technique to support strategic planning and programming. This project led by CIMMYT responds directly to the need within the new federal structure for cooperative mechanisms at the provincial level. It is exploring the pathways for increased CASI mechanisation through a series of activities that aim to improve linkages and capacity to create and maintain enabling environments. It is being implemented in Province 1 and 2 in Nepal, and there is good buy-in in Province 1 where they have signed a declaration of cooperation, and are working on options for co-funding in the next fiscal year

The Foresight component work is focused on understanding the wider food system in the Nepal Terai, and exploring the current situation for agriculture in the new Federal system. Partners will use foresight approaches as a dialogue tool to identify preferred pathways towards a resilient food system, through identifying synergies between the different levels of government who are responsible for delivery of agricultural services. This project will incorporate recommendations from the peer learning workshop and science policy dialogue (held in July 2019), to align with identified priorities.

Across the program, there is a contribution of **contributing a richer, more nuanced understanding of trends in gender dynamics through research and practice**. The EGP offers a regional context that is associated with a high dependence on agriculture, a high incidence of male-selective outmigration, and diverse physical and cultural settings, which are all factors that impact women's work. The importance of agricultural work on rural livelihoods and the potential challenges encountered in this regard by the region cannot be overstated, in terms of the efficiency of an agrarian economy as well as social justice.

The initial focus in the program (in Phase 1) was on women's participation in project activities, which required a practical plan for engagement that could be implemented by all partners. The focus was on bridging the gap between theory, and practical methods for implementation. This resulted in 28% (over 60,000) women engaged in different activities, most at the local level. Across the project sites, there were differences in how women engaged, including the types of activities and locations. Subsequent work has focused on understanding the broader patterns of women's engagement in work and

agriculture for women across the EGP. Ongoing work is exploring the impacts of CASI farming techniques on women's work-loads and access to information related to weed management, and institutional effectiveness. Together, these findings promote a more nuanced macro and micro understanding of women's roles in agriculture in the EGP, including highlighting important regional differences to inform policy makers, donors and academics.

Key events over the past year include the Foresight training workshop in Kathmandu (February), HC Julia Niblett visit to Rangpur for International Women's Day (March), Seeds of Change Gender conference where Sucharita Sen presented her work (April), the SRFSI Annual Planning meeting (May), a Science – Policy Dialogue based on the agricultural sector in the new federal system in Nepal (July), a country level workshop to share experiences for CA based mechanisation in Bangladesh (October), and two Steering Committee meetings (February, November).

Significant effort has been placed on **improving communications**, including through the program website (www.aciarsdip.com), regular newsletter to over 200 recipients, and a series of short films commissioned to promote the program and its impacts ([Food-energy-water nexus](#), [Benefitting female farmers in Bihar](#), [The role of women in agriculture across the EGP](#), [HC Julia Niblett meets Lucky Begum](#), [The West Bengal Story](#), [Benefitting female farmers in Bangladesh](#), [Markets working for farmers](#), Stories of Most Significant Change (TBC), What does the EGP food plate look like? (TBC)).

In terms of the way forward, there is a need to look for synergies and opportunities to coordinate between projects; think about how the different pieces of work fit into the wider food system; find the best ways to communicate projects outputs and program synthesis; identify priorities for future work; and look for opportunities to engage with other partners. These elements were all explored over the two day meeting.

2.4 Project updates

Individual projects gave updates, which allowed all team members to understand the various work being undertaken within the program.

1. Foresight for sustainable food systems
 - a. Overview (Avinash Kishore, IFPRI)
 - b. Nepal local level work (Madhav Karki, CGED-Nepal)
2. Institutions to support intensification, integrated decision making and inclusiveness in agriculture (Lin Crase, University of South Australia)
3. Sustainable agricultural mechanisation in the EGP (Brendan Brown, CIMMYT)
4. Sustainable and resilient farming systems intensification (Brendan Brown, CIMMYT)
5. Understanding the gendered implications of changing weed dynamics in farming systems intensification (Bhavya Suri, CIMMYT)
6. Quantifying crop yield gaps from new perspectives – production, farmer profit and sustainable water use (Don Gaydon, CSIRO)
7. Pilot project on commercialisation of smallholders' CA based planters in Bangladesh (Richard Bell, Murdoch University)
8. Regional scale hydrological impacts of on-farm water savings (Mohammad Mainuddin, CSIRO)
9. Unravelling the WEF nexus in West Bengal (Aditi Mukherjee, IWMI)
10. Dry season irrigation for marginal and tenant farmers (Erik Schmidt, University of Southern Queensland)

Apologies were sent by Nalanda University (Aquifer characterisation, artificial recharge and reuse of suddenly available water in south Bihar) and University of Queensland (Assessing Soil Constraints in the EGP).

3 Program planning

In planning for the program in 2020, the following items were discussed during the workshop, as key requirements for successful delivery of the program:

- Consider how the different projects and individual pieces of work fit into the wider food system; this was done by documenting contributions to understanding, recommendations and engagement for change in various domains (biophysical, social, economic, political, institutional, methodological), and initiating the development of a program framework (Section 3.1.2).
- Identify the key messages for communication, and the best way to communicate project outputs (Section 3.2)
- Look for synergies and opportunities to coordinate between projects; this was done through individual project presentations and interactions, looking for emerging themes in the program framework; and constructing a program level calendar (Section 3.4).
- Identify priorities for future work (Section 4)
- Look for opportunities to engage with other partners (Section 4.2)

3.1 Integrating program results

As the program progresses, there is a need to develop a framework to situate project outputs, themes and methods within the wider food system, which is different to the component structure the program is oriented around. This exercise can help to ensure we capture the range of outputs and themes covered by the program.

3.1.1 An integrated ACIAR SDIP framework

Given the range of projects within the program, we spent time working in small groups to identify specific project outputs and where they fit within a matrix of findings – recommendations – engagement for change; in the domains of biophysical/technical, political, institutional, economic, social and methodological (**Table 1**).

Table 1 Tracking the outputs from ACIAR SDIP, with number of responses in each category shown. The content of responses is captured by the program framework.

	Key findings	Recommendations	Engagement for change
Biophysical/technical	16	9	4
Political, institutional, economic, social	27	18	12
Methodology/ Approach	14	11	4

Given the range of projects within the program, significant time was spent on identifying specific project outputs and discussing where they fit within a program framework. In collating the wide range of outputs, the major themes and methods were mapped into a framework (**Figure 1**) that shows the links

between farming systems and food systems; and the range of cross-cutting themes and research approaches that are covered by the program.

1. Links between sustainable farming systems and food systems, where basic levels of intervention at the field and community level are centred around conservation agriculture, mechanization and groundwater. Foresight approaches provide an overarching method for synthesis and dialogue;
2. Underpinned by cross cutting research approaches including working at multiple scales and locations; multi-stakeholder engagement; capacity building; and with the ultimate aim of scaling;
3. Emerging cross cutting themes of gender, the Food – Energy - Water nexus, institutions (risks and incentives), climate change, private sector engagement, labour and migration;

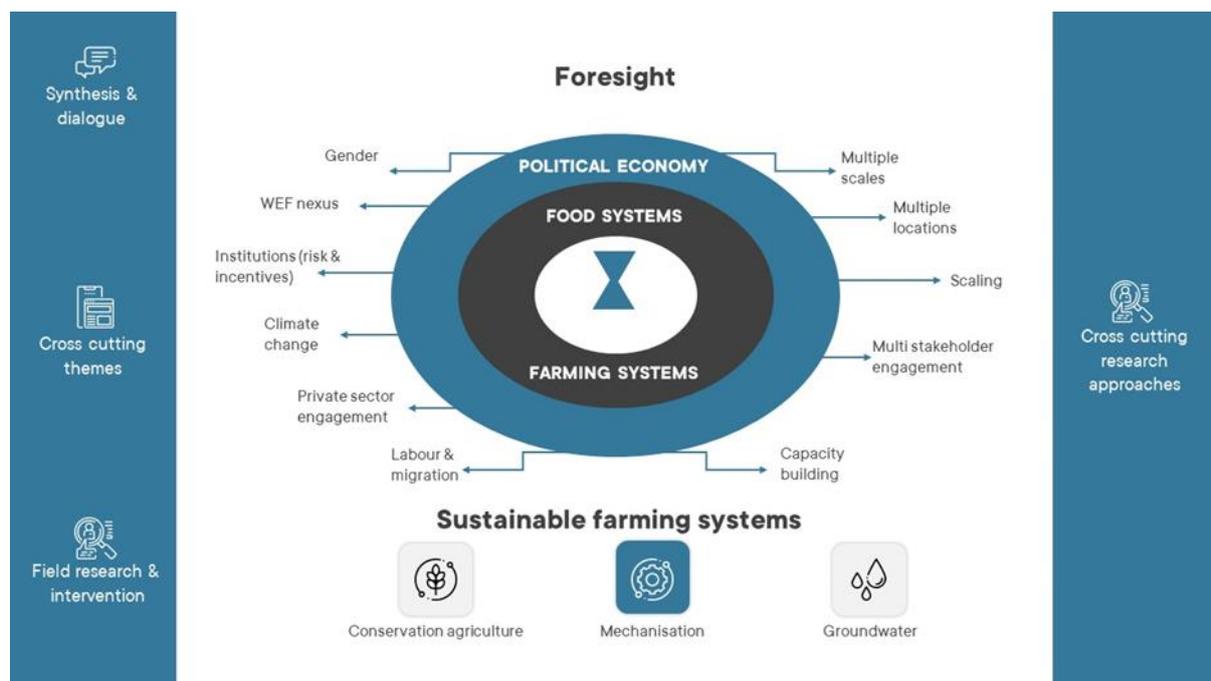


Figure 1 ACIAR SDIP Framework

3.2 Messages for communication

What can ACIAR SDIP deliver?

- A comprehensive understanding of the WEF nexus and its political economy
- Political economy and trajectories of growth and change - looking back, looking forward
- Inputs into water policy planning
 - On-farm water saving options
 - On-farm changes links to groundwater hydrology
 - Yields related to sustainable water use
 - Influence of energy policy on groundwater use
 - Managed aquifer recharge options and impacts
 - Pump preferences
- Networks - consider networks established – research – extension – NGOs – Australia

- Partner engagement
 - the how – learning from working with partners
 - engaging with the private sector
 - Provincial and state governments are more open about delivery mechanisms
 - Power dynamics in decision making? How to empower? Ownership of design
- Methodology
 - The how of engagement - plans for deep engagement over 8 – 10 years
 - Demonstrated effects using a diversity of methodologies
- Trade-offs in the EGP (understanding for different geographic locations)
- Information on preferences of farmers (mechanisation, pumping)
- Smart incentives for mechanisation and irrigation
- Integrating scale – what impact on supply chain

Table 2 Key messages from each project

Project	Communication priority
Program level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Need to define the overall narrative at the program level – e.g. How to scale sustainable and inclusive farming systems in the EGP, in the context of a changing food system. – Identify how each project illustrates/fits into the wider narrative – e.g. GW pumping, mechanization, CASI, mechanization, groundwater use/dynamics – What are the big issues and cross-cutting components? e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private sector role ● Subsidies/incentives for mechanization, irrigation, crop choice ● Ways of organizing farmers – Farmers’ Organizations, collectives etc. ● Networks and multi-stakeholder engagement – Define audiences – for end of SDIP events in each location – Get everyone to list key messages and target audiences. Pick key recommendations that highlight “doable options” – Map out what sits in the domains of Food, Energy, Water at each government level, to see where to target communication efforts – Find options where there are combined audiences
Foresight projects (IFPRI, CGED-Nepal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local level foresight, how to capture foresight vision (community stories, scenarios, priorities) and communicate this to urban and policy level actors? – How to marry short term challenges with long term foresight time frames – what are the trade-offs? – Nepal foresight: recrafting effective institutions for knowledge sharing, including role definition and shared ownership
Institutions project (Uni SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify the obvious opportunities for improving institutions and policy outcomes – Sharing information about effective knowledge transfer institutions, both private and public sector, across scales – Identify the level of government who can make change – who to target for change – Creating communications and legacy materials; holding events to communicate results
Roadmaps (CIMMYT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Convince provincial level actors of the importance of the Roadmap process - for joint planning for sustainable agricultural mechanisation

SRFSI (CIMMYT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finalise and deliver on legacy products – Document advocacy approaches used and the outcomes of these – Contribute to joint ACIAR SDIP events in key locations; needs a common narrative – Publish Op Ed pieces based on project results
Yield Gaps (CSIRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Most of crop yield gaps work is in understanding the system. Need to know what policy makers want to know about this. – Developing scenarios around sustainable crop production and associated policy change – who can contribute to this, beyond the biophysical? – Develop processes for going from point to regional analysis.
Regional hydrological impacts of on-farm water savings (CSIRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mythbusting common misconceptions around water savings and sustainability – even for hydrologists, not just policy makers. – Need to get over message of importance of context for groundwater systems, and how different the EGP is – creating visualisation tools and products to help communicate to science and policy makers
Unravelling the FEW nexus in West Bengal (IWMI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work on communicating results to policy makers in a 1:1 setting, through connections with high level state government agents built on previous work – Frame messages in terms of clear things that government can do; actionable suggestions that have political credit.
Commercialising the VMP (Murdoch University)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Policy dialogue – engage with government stakeholders to showcase incentives based on output not input – Impact analysis of VMP and CA – update a study from three years ago, with most people now operating independently of a project – CASPA groups – write up success stories/case studies – Engagement with private sector – how can they reach full commercial viability? need private sector to own and drive – Work with CASPA to understand the impacts of collective action for mechanized services
Dry Season Irrigation for Marginal and Tenant Farmers (USQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Scaling – which institutions / mapping of institutions and government influencers – Networking with key individuals and agencies to integrate ideas into programs

3.3 Food systems foresight event

To wrap up the Foresight work, a high-level forum will be held in Delhi in September/October 2020, to explore the outlook for sustainable, healthy and profitable food systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains and the linkages with water and energy security. The event will bring together senior decision makers from across government, business, farmer organisations, research and civil society. It will draw on six years of applied research and foresight analysis to provide an outlook on the challenges and opportunities facing food systems across the region in the context of growing, food, water and energy demands. It will engage participants in dialogue on practical transformation strategies to avoid risks and leverage opportunities for sustainable and healthy food production, improved livelihoods and business innovation.

The event will include the following elements:

- Drivers and feedbacks in food systems
- Focus on the EGP as a region – considering the differences across the jurisdictions
- Specific challenges for EGP (e.g. population pressure)
- Scenario exercises – including those from government
- Positive stories

- Major trade-offs

Targeted participants will include a diverse group of high-level policy makers and Ministers, Niti Ayog (India)/Planning Commission (Bangladesh and Nepal) members, and provincial/state level participants. There will be parallel sessions around themes, potentially with both technical (two days) and highlights for policy (1/2 day for high level participants) components. There will be an opportunity for relevant work under ACIAR SDIP to be incorporated, but not all projects will fit with the themes of the forum. There is good support from within IFPRI, and co-funding will be sought from relevant external donor agencies.

This event will link to a global food systems summit and regional dialogues that are being held in 2020/2021. The IFAD Rural Development Report for 2020 on Food Systems is being prepared by Wageningen University. This event can help underline that solutions from elsewhere which are not always relevant for South Asia, in particular the EGP. For example, the EAT Lancet report is based on planetary boundaries; but Indian (and other South Asian) food systems have local boundaries because food trade is problematic. The event will help highlight the fact that eastern India is neglected in terms of research and development.

3.4 Calendar

A draft calendar is attached below.



ACIAR SDIP Calendar
2020.xlsx

4 Priorities for the future

In thinking about priorities for the future, there is a need to consider both the research themes themselves and also the modes of working, including:

- Research priorities and partners?
- Implementation opportunities?
- Dialogue and coordination priorities?
- How do we link with others to support and inform other larger programs?

A future ACIAR program could take one of several paths;

- Traditional model – a collection of individual projects
- Collaborative – work in conjunction with other larger programs
- Facilitator – ACIAR as facilitator, and then try to draw in other funds and interested parties

It was noted that the ACIAR SDIP program is the most comprehensive research program in the EGP, which can offer immense value. The broad agenda and multidisciplinary focus should be maintained in any future program. In terms of specific research themes, the following were suggested:

4.1 Research themes

Political economy

- Exploring the impacts of subsidy reforms in the agricultural sector
- Interactions between farm and off-farm sector in the rural economy
- Political economy of agrarian change to unpack the drivers in the four locations, identifying similarities and differences across the EGP
- Understanding the bigger picture of rural transformation – synthesis and modelling
- Woman in agriculture, relating to migration and mechanisation
- Rural economies and opportunities for alternative (agriculture based) income streams
- Youth employment and engagement

Climate and water

- Climate smart and adaptive water management in the EGP, including a focus on groundwater
- Groundwater sustainability of production across the IGP – trade offs
- Food-water-health interactions under climate change, the nexus for sustainable agriculture
- Climate change and coastlines – exploring the current and future state of development in Bangladesh and West Bengal
- Chure Hills conservation in Nepal

Food systems

- Key determinants of transformative change for sustainable food systems in the EGP
- Public – Private partnerships and how to make these systems function (e.g. Dehaat)

- Post-harvest marketing systems

Farming systems

- Support the adaptation and evolution of CA in South Asia, partner with national systems. Need to understand what happens in space and time
- Harvesting mechanization
- Agricultural diversification and value chain development for inclusive jobs
- Enhancing soil fertility

Extension systems

- Focus on information ecosystem – how to engage with and get information to farmers for a two-way flow of information
- Nepal – effective extension systems, provincial level participatory engagement methodology

4.2 Linking with existing programs

Existing Development Programs

- Solar pumps programs in Bihar
- World Bank Tube well program in WB
- Australia-India strategic research fund
- Australian Water Partnership
- Link to existing development programs run by government ADMIP-West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation project
- Strategic alignment with KGF projects Bangladesh
- NATP-II (WB)
- Agricultural technology Bangladesh
- Food system (MLA, FAO, WWR)
- Climate change (MEFCC)
- Building Resilience in the Chure Region of Nepal (FAO) – new project funded by the Green Climate Fund (\$47 million)

Private Sector Initiatives

- TATA Trust, transforming Rural India
- CSR Funds
- ITC Corporate CSR
- Strengthening engagement with private sector on food systems research

New opportunities for collaboration

- Co investment in mechanisation in Province 1, Nepal; but how to implement this practically, when timelines often do not align.

- Access Corporate Social Responsibility funds, India
- Pooling funds – donor coordination: development may be possible, but queries over research
- Map major ongoing projects and government programs in existing locations (link with ACIAR Regional Program and Office
- Coordination between differently funded projects – how to sustain?
- Program to play a facilitation role?
- ICAR funds for CGIAR centres in India
- IFPRI RESAKS Asia – access funds for Foresight event
- Re-orientation of CGIAR – look for new opportunities with new programs

5 Summary and way forward

The program meeting was an excellent opportunity to understand project progress, identify key messages for communication, contribute to an overarching program framework, and discuss future research priorities for the EGP.

Following an extension to the ACIAR SDIP program, there is a need to update plans based on a longer timeframe than originally anticipated. The inputs from project members during the meeting will help with planning for 2020, with some key actions needed early in the year.

Follow up actions include:

1. Prepare contract variations for projects who need it, following official approval of the extension from DFAT.
2. Work on timing and set up of program and individual project reviews, to align with the Foresight event in Delhi in September/October (TBC).
3. Keep program calendar updated.
4. Map projects, outputs and levels of government to look at where to focus communication efforts. Customise for research, development and private sector.
5. Consider production of a Journal special issue.
6. Make a table – by project, what did we find and why is it important? Unanswered questions form the basis for the next round of research priorities.

Consider priorities and modes of operation for future work.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Wednesday, 27 th November: Where are we up to?		
Time	Presentation topic	Presenter
9.30 – 10.30	Session 1: Welcome	
Facilitator: Sarina MacFadyen	Introduction and overview of the meeting aims	Kuhu Chatterjee
	Welcome remarks	Robyn Johnston
	ACIAR SDIP Program Overview	Tamara Jackson
	Brainstorming – what can ACIAR SDIP deliver by the end of 2020?	Groups
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	Session 2: Project updates	
Facilitator: Tamara Jackson Scribe: Chetali Chhabra	<p>Individual project highlights: 5 slides – 5 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims • Highlights to date • Remaining work to be done <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foresight for sustainable food systems 2. Institutions to support intensification, integrated decision making and inclusiveness in agriculture 3. Sustainable agricultural mechanisation in the EGP 4. Sustainable and resilient farming systems intensification 5. Identifying EGP soil constraints 6. Understanding the gendered implications of changing weed dynamics in farming systems intensification 7. Quantifying crop yield gaps from new perspectives – production, farmer profit and sustainable water use 8. Pilot project on commercialisation of smallholders' CA based planters in Bangladesh 9. Aquifer characterisation, artificial recharge and reuse of suddenly available water in south Bihar 10. Regional scale hydrological impacts of on-farm water savings 11. Unravelling the WEF nexus in West Bengal 	
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00	Session 3: Priorities for communication and engagement activities	

<p>Facilitator: Tamara Jackson</p> <p>Scribe: Kuhu Chatterjee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from individual projects – one key message from each, and relevant target audiences • Contributions to understanding the FEW nexus • Ideas for workshops, shared events in 2020 e.g. Working in the new federal system in Nepal; Sharing approaches to using macro data on gender between Bangladesh, India and Nepal 	
3.00 – 3.30 Afternoon tea		
3.30 – 5.00	Session 4: Integrating results into a food systems approach	
<p>Facilitator: Jim Woodhill/Avinash Kishore</p> <p>Scribe: Tamara Jackson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in groups to discuss emerging themes • Preparation for the Foresight event in September 2020. What framing do we need? 	

Thursday 28 th November: Planning for the remainder of ACIAR SDIP		
Time	Presentation topic	Presenter
9.30 – 10.30	Session 1: Program Planning	
<p>Facilitator: Tamara Jackson, Kuhu Chatterjee</p> <p>Scribe: Sarina MacFadyen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program planning for 2020 • Coordination • Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dates ○ Process ○ Reviewers 	
10.30 – 11.00 Morning Tea		
11.00 – 12.30	Session 2: Priorities for future work	
<p>Facilitator: Robyn Johnston, Kuhu Chatterjee</p> <p>Scribe: Tamara Jackson</p>	<p>Based on current work, what are the gaps and opportunities for transforming smallholder agriculture and food systems the EGP at scale?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes for future work • How can we enhance the role of women in transformation of the food system? 	
12.30 – 1.30 Lunch		

1.30 – 3.00	Session 3: Budget clinic and workplan discussions with individual projects	
Facilitator: Robyn, Tamara, Kuhu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and workplan discussion with individual projects separately. Identify challenges and realistic potential for finalising expenditure. Space for other projects to interact – identify synergies, shared activities. 	Robyn Johnston, Tamara Jackson, Kuhu Chatterjee
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 5.00	Session 4: Meeting close	
Facilitator: Tamara & Kuhu Scribe: Chetali Chhabra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from ACIAR and participants Identify connections and way forward 	

Appendix 2: Participants

No.	Name	Role	Organisation
1	Robyn Johnston	RPM WAC	ACIAR
2	Sarina MacFayden	ARPM FS	ACIAR
3	Huilqui Noriega	PSO WAC	ACIAR
4	Tamara Jackson	ACIAR SDIP Program Manager	ACIAR
5	Kuhu Chatterjee	ACIAR SDIP Program Coordinator	ACIAR
6	Chetali Chhabra	Assistant Regional Manager, South Asia	ACIAR
7	Brendan Brown	Project Leader, SRFSI & Roadmaps	CIMMYT
8	Pragya Timsina	Project Team Member, SRFSI & Roadmaps	CIMMYT
9	Emma Karki	Project Team Member, SRFSI & Roadmaps	CIMMYT
10	Bhavya Suri	Project Team Member, Weeds and Gender	CIMMYT
11	Ram Krishna Shrestha	Project partner, SRFSI and Roadmaps	Department of Agriculture, Nepal
12	Lin Crase	Project Leader, Institutions	University of South Australia
13	Avinash Kishore	Project Leader, Foresight & Institutions	IFPRI
14	Jahangir Alam	Project Team Member, Foresight & Institutions	Bangladesh Agricultural University
15	Richard Bell	Project Leader, VMP	Murdoch University
16	Don Gaydon	Project Leader, Yield Gaps	CSIRO
17	Mohammed Mainuddin	Project Leader, Regional Hydrological Impacts	CSIRO
18	Aditi Mukherji	Project Leader, Energy-Water connections in West Bengal	IWMI
19	Somnath Bandopadhyay	Project Leader, MAR	Nalanda University
20	Madhav Karki	Project Team Member, Foresight	CGED
21	Hari Dahal	Project Team Member, Foresight	CGED
22	Dinesh Devkota	Project Team Member, Foresight	CGED
23	Erik Schmidt	Project Leader, DSI4MTF	University of Southern Queensland
24	Jim Woodhill	SDIP Advisor	DFAT