



Round Table Dialogue on Living Labs in East Africa

Lessons from 3rd session - Situation Analysis

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Why a situation analysis?

Contextual factors will shape the way Living Labs will be organised. Hence, to better understand the context in which Living Labs will operate, it is necessary to gather relevant information that can feed into social aspects of a Living Lab (e.g., identifying the right stakeholders), understanding structural and operational needs, guide innovation and ensure durability. For this reason, a situation analysis was conducted for each of the three study regions (Arua district in Uganda, Nakuru county in Kenya and the Teppi region and South Achefer district in Ethiopia), forming a good basis for a future successful implementation of the Living Labs. The analysis included:



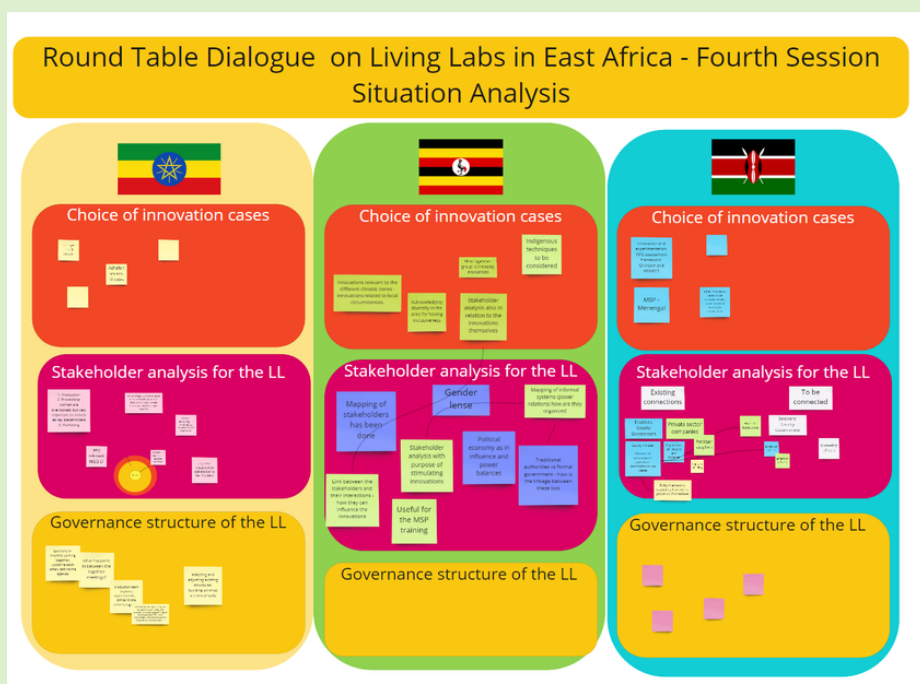
1. Introduction on social, economic and environmental characteristics;
2. Political economy analysis, including important stakeholders in the agri-food system;
3. Future vision on agricultural development, including existing innovations and enablers/ barriers for implementation.
4. Opportunities for the Living Labs

This document summarizes the main insights from the situation analyses in the three target areas, starting with an overview of general preliminary results, and then summarizing the results for the region-specific analyses.

What are general preliminary results that can be useful in gathering knowledge for setting up the Living Labs?

It is important to highlight that the situation analyses capture a “snap-shot” of the current status of the three areas. Furthermore, not all information was available in the same measure and depth.

For this reason, these analyses were treated as “living documents” i.e., they were continually edited and updated until the moment this brief was elaborated, still leaving space for integration of new information.





The three analyses reported three main commonalities and three main differences. With respect to commonalities, the analyses show in the first place that the role of agriculture is essential for most rural families in all 3 areas. Second, farmers typically have low input use and little to no access to modern technology. The government's vision for agricultural development in each of the 3 areas is to increase external input use and productivity. Finally, the types of stakeholders identified are similar in each of the three regions: ministries, university and research institutes and NGOs.

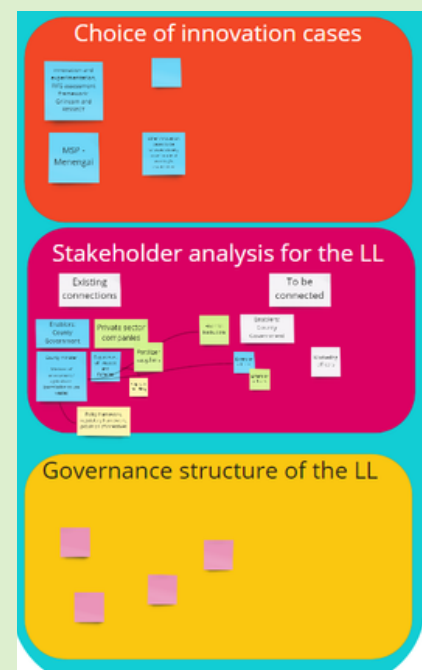
Three main differences were identified. First, the analyses show differences in the number / level of innovations in agricultural production: in some cases, very few innovations were known, whereas in other cases well-developed innovation networks exist. Second, existing initiatives and networks that could be linked to the Living Labs ranged from not yet developed to well-established initiatives and platforms. Finally, information about the enabling environment was either limited or restricted to the identification of governmental structures only.

What are lessons learned from the situation analysis per area? A short summary

Kenya

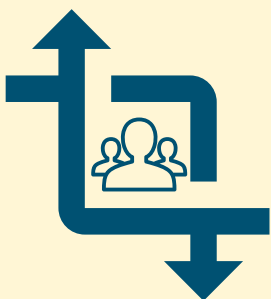
Introduction

- Study area: Nakuru county
- Productive area with horticulture and dairy production as dominant agricultural sectors
- Transition to intensive production methods led to nutrient depletion and a decrease of soil quality
- Other challenges: pressure of land transformation to residential areas & deforestation
- At national and county level, development plans include investments in improved agricultural practices and increasing farmer's income. A transition to circular economy by recycling of waste streams and biomass is also stated.



Miro board screenshot of the Round Table Dialogue on Living Labs - Situation Analysis - Zoom on Kenya

Political economy analysis and elements of transition



- A growing population of middle class are to some extent becoming consciousness and sensitive to regenerative and inclusive practices in the food system.
- Relevant actors that could influence the development and transition towards RIFS are mainly governmental bodies and research institutes.
- Potential conflicts of interest and tension between nature conservation and agriculture-wildlife debates, using land for energy production, and pastoralist-sedentary farmer conflicts.
- Several regenerative practices and initiatives, as well as inclusive aspects in agricultural innovation, are already taking place in Nakuru and innovations overlap with the concept of RIFS. See report for full list.
- Development projects in Kenya are mostly top-down and focused on technology and financial support. Often, they fail to reach the point of scaling. It is necessary to adopt novel practices to the specific location, to ensure responsible scaling

Living Lab

- Living labs are an opportunity for a bottom-up approach wherein people of Nakuru county can practice and share ideas and solutions for the food system.
- Experiments with already existing innovations, as well as new ideas can be implemented in the LL. From there, opportunities to promote upscaling of the system can be explored with farming communities.
- Several initiatives and networks have already been established in Nakuru. These have been described in the report and specific goals, needs and innovation agendas have been described in order to evaluate whether these can be included in the Living Lab. See report.
- Yet to be included: which stakeholders are influencing actors to take into account; strategies to ensure inclusiveness in the LL; continuity strategies.

Ethiopia

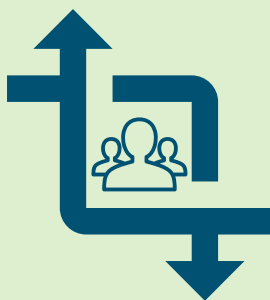
Introduction

- Study area: South Achefer (SA) and Teppi region (TR)
- Most people living in rural areas, and agriculture forms the main source of livelihood for 85% of the population
- SA is a food secure district with prevalent mixed farming systems. TR is characterised by coffee plantations, and spices and crop production and is considered a highly productive area.
- Livestock is often kept by smallholder farmers, with cattle kept in cut-and-carry systems.
- Due to the production of coffee and spices, local and export markets are relatively well developed in TR.
- The agricultural system is going through a transition: soil management, crop diversification, external inputs.



Miro board screenshot of the Round Table Dialogue on Living Labs - Situation Analysis - Zoom on Ethiopia

Political economy analysis and elements of transition



- Ministries, university and research institutes and several private sectors have been identified as relevant stakeholders.
- The Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy is the major strategic framework for Ethiopia's agricultural development. Strategies currently include practices for climate-smart agriculture, sustainable intensification and regenerative agriculture. However, main focus is on increasing cultivated areas and yields through increasing external inputs.
- An evaluation is done of ten year-strategies of relevant stakeholders that link to RIFS.
- Three platforms are currently active in the study areas that focus on agro-ecology and sustainable practices and in both SA and TR several innovations in agriculture can be found and show that a shift towards more sustainable practices is already happening in the country. See report for full list.



Living Lab

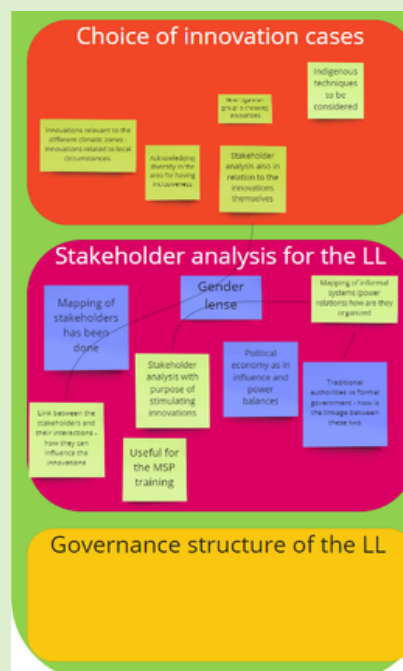
- For the Teppi area, an innovation case is described that is considered a promising opportunity to include in the LL. Here, incorporating the production of black pepper in smallholder farms is seen as an opportunity for RIFS.
- A stakeholder analysis is already carried out for this innovation case, as well as key challenges and bottlenecks to take into account. See report.
- For the South Achefer district, several innovation cases are described that could be included in the LL. However, this is still yet to be decided including the stakeholder analysis, identification of main bottlenecks and strategies for inclusiveness and continuity.
- Socio-economic and environmental drivers for innovation have not yet been described.

Uganda



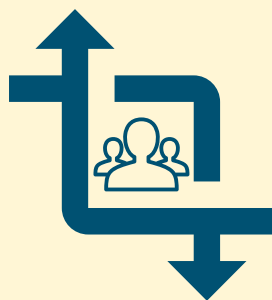
Introduction

- Study area: Arua district / West Nile Region
- Large part of the population in the district consists of refugees from neighbouring countries
- About 80% of households in the rural area of the district depend on subsistence farming, however almost all households need an income from non-agricultural activities for sustenance of families
- Farming practices characterised by low inputs; mainly crops are produced with livestock playing a minor role.
- Access to land and water are primary issues for farmers and the study area is vulnerable to climate change due to the heavy reliance on rainfall.



Miro board screenshot of the Round Table Dialogue on Living Labs - Situation Analysis - Zoom on Uganda

Political economy analysis and elements of transition



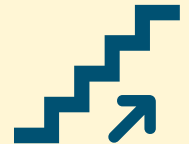
- Relevant stakeholders in the food system that could influence the development and transition towards RIFS are governmental bodies, university and research institutes, national networks and organisations. See report for the full list.
- A thorough evaluation of national policy frameworks and development plans show themes and focus points that could overlap with RIFS. However, focus of these programmes are modernisation and commercialisation of the agricultural system, and enhancing income of rural families through increase of productivity.
- Population growth, and in particular refugees, have an influence on land-use and resource availability. Land division among families has led to fragmentation of land plots, which makes it more difficult to obtain larger plots of land.
- Existing innovations in the food system that overlap with the concept of RIFS have not yet been described or identified.

Living Lab

- Opportunities for innovations and practices that can be implemented in the Living Lab have not yet been described.
- Evaluation what innovations could be promising within the LL is ongoing.
- A stakeholder analysis and strategies to ensure inclusiveness and continuity are important to evaluate as well.

What next steps do these situation analyses define in setting up the Living Labs?

The situation analyses conducted were crucial in identifying three focus topics to be further developed in setting up the Living Labs. These are 1) Identification of innovation cases; 2) Conducting a stakeholder analysis for the Living Labs, and 3) Clarifying a suitable governance structure of the Living Labs.



1) Identification of innovation cases

The identification of promising innovation cases to be included in Living Labs is very important. In the selection of innovation cases, differences related to local circumstances (such as climatic zones) should be considered. In this way, the diversity in each region is acknowledged and marginal groups or stakeholders can be identified per region in order to enhance inclusion in the food system. Moreover, a broader definition of innovation encompassing also practices (e.g., indigenous) and not only science-based innovations could serve to better map the full range of what innovations could be.

2) Stakeholder analysis for the Living Labs

Is it essential to identify the relevant stakeholders to be involved in the Living Labs. Stakeholders can be identified from the broader food system but also from the specific innovation cases. The mapping and identification of stakeholders can be used as a leverage to stimulate innovations themselves. The number of Living Lab members can gradually increase over time.

It is also very important to fully understand how to make this analysis inclusive enough, by for example, highlighting the role of women and youth in the Living Lab.

Moreover, understanding the linkages between stakeholders, their interactions and influences and power balances is crucial, even more when considering informal systems and their organizations.



3) Governance structure of the Living Lab

Setting up the governance structure of the Living Labs is a fundamental aspect of the project as well. With a clear outline of how Living Labs should be organised (e.g. setting up a core group, involving stakeholders, regular consultation meetings, sharing of ideas and knowledge and/or organising discussion groups, etc.) the continuation of the Living Labs after REFOOTURE has a greater chance of success. Defining this structure should therefore be included in the next steps in setting up the Living Lab.

