PARTICIPATORY INTERVENTION USING APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: OPTIONS FOR INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (IAR&T) ADOPTED VILLAGES

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ABSTRACT

There is extensive use of participatory approaches to research and development with the aim of involving farmers. These include Participatory Technology Development, Participatory Rural Appraisal and Farmer Field Schools. These approaches have been criticized for focusing on deficits, rather than the assets of the communities. Appreciative Inquiry tool is now being integrated into participatory research processes. The study aimed at using participatory tools and appreciative inquiry to enhance farmers' understanding of opportunities available to them and the interventions that should be put in place to maximize these strengths to enhance food security in the adopted villages of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training. The results showed that Appreciative inquiry is complementary to the other participatory approaches and that rural communities have unique resources and assets that can enhance food security. The rural communities were able to establish their capabilities, turn them into opportunities and map out interventions for improved livelihoods. It showed that using this approach is a pathway for identifying and mobilizing communities' assets and building their capacities to be active players in determining their destiny, based on their unique circumstances. The paper concluded that focusing more on what works in a community can lead to positive changes. Integrating appreciative inquiry into participatory processes is an excellent way of generating new ideas and action for food security and more sustainable livelihoods. A paradigm shift toward appreciative modes of probing, planning, and intervention for sustainable development was recommended.

Keywords: Participatory approaches, opportunities, assets, appreciative inquiry, adopted village

INTRODUCTION

Participatory approaches have been used to identify local needs, problems and resource constraints especially those involving smallholder farmers in a bid to involve them in Research and Development (Chambers *et al.,* 1989; Chambers, 1994; Jum *et al*., 2009). These approaches have been criticized for focusing on deficits, rather than the assets of the communities. Appreciative Inquiry (AI) tool is now being integrated into participatory research processes. This is however based on the premise that rural communities are endowed with assets that establish their capabilities and these assets can be turned into opportunities for improving their livelihoods (Ashford and Patkar, 2001). Despite the use of farmer participatory

research, there is little application and documentation of the use of Appreciate Inquiry in rural communities. There is need to recognise that rural communities are not necessarily characterized by challenges and weaknesses but strengths, capabilities and opportunities which are available within the environment.

Overview and Relevance of Appreciative Inquiry Approaches

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) was developed by David Cooperrider and Suresh Srivastva as an innovative "strategy for positive change that identifies the best of '*what is*' to pursue dreams and possibilities of '*what could be*' " (Cooperrider and Srivastva, 1987; Ashford and Patkar, 2001). It is a collaborative strength-based approach to both

personal and organizational development and a way of bringing about change that shares leadership and learning. The approach is based on the assumption that every human system has something that works right and things that give it life. Hence, appreciative inquiry focuses on strengths rather than problems. The simple principles behind AI are that in every group something works and that no problem happens all the time. The group moves forward by identifying the factors that contribute to their success, rather than studying the reasons for their problems and their failures. It elicits solutions and it is a process of facilitating positive change in human systems. The Appreciative Inquiry approach help shift focus from the difficulties and the problems experienced by individuals, organizations and rural communities toward exploring opportunities and finding solutions.

AI has been widely applied into the corporate world and has been widely known for its effectiveness in helping organisations become more competitive by aligning their structures and activities with employee and client values (Ashford & Patkar, 2001). Recently, there has been an increase in the application of AI in the development sector for positive interventions. It is a relatively new paradigm that guides qualitative researchers (Lor and George, 2014). Some developmental practitioners used AI to find pragmatic solutions to climate disruptions, biodiversity loss and poverty (Myers and Kent, 2008). Asford and Patkar (2001) used AI to establish sustainable projects for rural communities in India. Some other development practitioners used AI to promote sustainable development of the desert communities in the Sahara (Elliot, 1999) while some others found the approach useful in resolving institutional transformation conflict areas of education (Pinto and Curran, 1998). AI was proposed as a methodology for identifying and amplifying

positive deviance in agricultural development in Kenya (Milton and Ochieng, 2007). Kevany and MacMichael (2014) however used AI to discover factors contributing to rural wellbeing in two rural communities of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Differences between appreciative Inquiry and Participatory Techniques

Participatory techniques can be useful to uncover local problems, resource constraints, deficiencies and unmet basic needs. While these approaches encourage participation, emphasize the importance of local knowledge and address real problems, it has been found that participatory approaches often failed to sustain community participation (Ngomane, 2010). Participatory approaches are usually deficit-based/deficit-oriented methods and left people with the impression that their community was full of problems and needs, most of which require the help of outsiders to overcome. The focus on needs entrenched a sense of dependence that reduced people's motivation to initiate their own development activities. Appreciative Inquiry (AI) encourages groups to inquire about, learn from, and build on what is working when they are at their best, rather than focusing on what is gone wrong and fixing problems. By using AI to understand their capabilities and resources, communities bring about and sustain positive change (Ngomane, 2010). A shift away from deficit-oriented methods toward appreciative inquiry processes help build on local strengths and achievements and generate a sense of hope in the community. By building on local strengths and generating a sense of hope, appreciative inquiry avoids the unintended consequences that accompany deficit-based models (Ashford and Patkar, 2001). Future paths are identified that no one had thought of before, and there is usually broad-based support for and commitment to this future. Appreciative Inquiry

cannot guarantee a path to the future that is free of obstacles. But it can consolidate and sustain the vision and energy of the members of a group or community—so that they face their future from a position of strength, confidence, self-knowledge, and self-respect.

An appreciative inquiry irrespective of the context is commonly facilitated through five basic stages which have been termed 5-D model (Whitney and Trosten-Bloom, 2003). The stages are as follows.

Definition stage: This is the focus of the overall inquiry. The intention is to align on defining the primary topic for the inquiry.

Discovery stage: This stage search for the best of ''what is''; appreciating that which gives life: Strengths, resources, assets, values, and wishes for the future are identified. The purpose is to discover and appreciate personal and community's high point stories and experiences. It involves gathering of stories and key ideas that identify community's positive core (Stratton-Berkessel, 2010).

Dream stage: This involves envisioning of the ideal of what might be; envision impact: (based on analysis from the previous stage). Visioning is the process by which the community defines the future it wants. Community identifies their purpose, core values and vision for the future.

Design: The community at this stage chooses the design elements that will support and develop the community structures to bring the dream to life. Farmers co-construct the future; reach consensus on what should be; designing the systems and processes that will carry the dream forward to the future.

Deliver/Destiny: Experience what can be. Implement action that builds upon the strengths, resources, assets, and values of the past and present, and leads toward the wishes for the future (Whitney and Cooperrider, 2000; Whitney and

Trosten-Bloom, 2003). Here, specific, real-time plans are made for realizing the Design elements defined in the previous step.
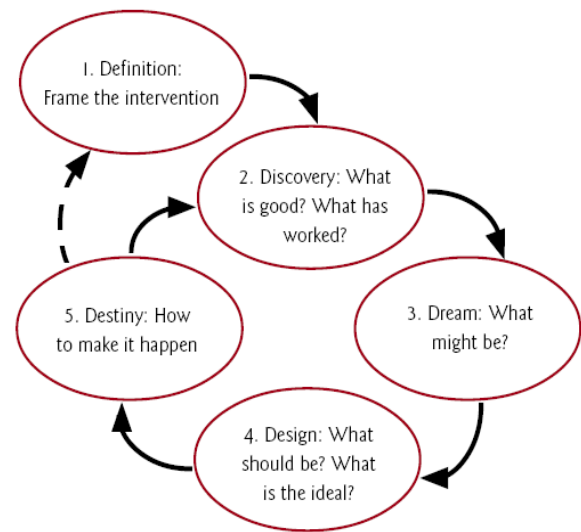
Fig. 1. Appreciative Inquiry "5-D" Cycle

This study therefore, aimed at integrating participatory tools with appreciative inquiry to enhance farmers' understanding of opportunities and assets available to them and crop-based interventions that should be put in place to maximize these strengths with the purpose of enhancing food security in the three of the IAR&T adopted villages.

METHODOLOGY

This study took place in three of the Institute of Agricultural Research &Training Adopted villages which are Orisunbare, Moloko-Ashipa and Oniyo which are located in South West, Nigeria. Orisunbare and Oniyo are located in Oyo State while Moloko-Ashipa is located in Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State. Agriculture is the predominant means of livelihood of the people with about 70% rural population.

The study utilized integrated Appreciative Inquiry with Participatory tools to elicit information from farmers in the communities. The research team comprises two scientists (an agricultural Extensionist and an extension

agronomist), two agricultural research assistants, village desk officers/station managers and extension workers attached to the communities. The team members were trained in the use of the research instrument in the local language.

A village resource mapping was conducted in each of the communities to obtain information about the resources within the communities. It also elicited information on farmers' perception about the resources and how they are used. A village transect walk was also carried out in order to gather information and to appraise the natural resources in terms of status, problems and potentials and to also verify issues raised during the mapping. The farmers group comprises key members in each of the communities (men, women and youths) together with the facilitators and Station Managers/Desk officers as well as key informants in the communities. Notes were made on observations during the walk. Information gathered during the transect walk was later discussed with the farmers during the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Three FGDs were later held in each of the communities for adult men, adult women and youths. This was to ensure representation of voices from diverse age groups and gender. All community members who indicated interest were encouraged to participate. Each FGD comprises between 10-15 persons to encourage optimal participation. The experiences, interpretations, stories and examples shared by farmers were collected on flipchart pages by a research assistant, while another took notes and captured a recording of each focus group session. The notes from the focus groups were later consolidated.

Each phase of the appreciative inquiry was fused with the participatory process. In each FGD, Appreciative inquiry steps were purposely followed. All stakeholders were involved from the beginning to ensure the inquiry address issues of interest to all parties and also to reduce the chances of obstacles and opposition to the vision and action plans that eventually emerge. In the first phase of the AI which is Definition, the intervention to be carried was framed. The inquiry architecture and essential elements that need to be present were determined by the team and key informants in the communities. Affirmative topic for inquiry which is food security was identified.

The second phase is Discovery. The team conducted an inquiry into the desired topic. Semi-structured interviews that solicit stories from farmers were used to recognize and appreciate times of excellence in terms of food security in the communities. They were asked to recall a time when they felt most alive, most involved and were excited about their involvement in agriculture. What made it an exciting experience and what helped to make it possible? What are the structures and strategies that create conditions for success? This also brought out wishes and desires for an ideal future of the farmers. Resource mapping, transect walk and focus group discussions (semi-structured interviews) were some of the specific tools used.

The third phase is the dream. In the dream phase, farmers envisioned what they would like to see happening about their community to ensure food security. That is what can be done to improve food security among farmers in the community. Farmers identified which projects they want to be a part of to make the dream happen. Focus Group Discussion was conducted and used in the dream stage with the aid of semi-structured interview and ranking to capture the information. Pairwise ranking of crops that can enhance food security was identified in the study area.

In the fourth phase which is the design/destiny, farmers were requested to indicate the different

ways their dreams can become a reality. Farmers were asked to identify the strengths in what worked well. Based on this, farmers were asked to plan and implement activities to achieve the dreams and also requested to develop short and long term goals to actualize the dreams. Action plan was developed and new projects proposed and new relationships established to generate a list of desired results.

It will take time to see the outcomes, hence the study will not be able to report on this phase adequately since it may take months or years to see the outcomes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Integration of Appreciative Inquiry with participatory processes

Definition phase: Affirmative topic for inquiry which is food security and choice of crops that will enhance food security were identified through stakeholder consultation and ranking. Criteria for selection were determined by the farmers based on appreciation and knowledge of their communities. Six crops that can enhance food security were identified in Moloko-Ashipa (rice, cassava, maize, tomato, pepper, vegetable) while five crops were identified in Oniyo (soybean, cowpea, maize, yam, cassava). For Orisunbare however, maize, cowpea, cassava, banana and cocoa were identified by farmers.

Discovery Phase: Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (Chambers, 1994), 'the best of what is' was collaboratively searched for by focusing on communities positive core five capital assets. Problems and opportunities associated with resource access and use were also identified. With Focus Group Discussion and asset mapping and transect walk, farmers identified their capital asset endowments upon which their community livelihoods are based. It was found that assets were site specific and had different dimensions. The focus on capital assets led to discussions on the

interrelations between them and enhanced implications of negative and positive feedback loops that lead to asset building or asset erosion.

A list of the resources available in all the three communities is shown in Table 1 and their availability. Land in Oniyo was perceived as fertile while in Orisunbare it was not fertile though in abundance. Land was not a major problem with the farmers in Orisunbare. Land was mostly acquired through inheritance in all the three communities. Size of land owned by farmers varied from 15 to 35 acres. Women farmers owned between 2-5 acres of land which they inherited either from their parents or obtained from their husbands for arable crop production. Land is usually cropped twice a year for arable crops.

In Moloko-Ashipa however, land was available though not in abundance and less fertile (Table 1). Land in Moloko-Ashipa is being acquired by developers and industrialists for housing estates and industrial purposes. Rainfall availability was common to all the three communities but not reliable as a result of climate change. Orisunbare and Moloko-Ashipa communities are geographically located in the forest zone but due to climate change, the two communities are now transiting to Savannah agroecology. Erratic rainfall and climatic changes (unpredictable weather) were reported to affect crop production in recent years in all the study locations.

There were permanent rivers in the three communities which were purposely meant for domestic use. Some of the farmers carried out fadama activities along some of the flowing rivers during the dry season which has contributed to food security. Oniyo community relied on a 1500 litre water tank which was used for harvesting rain water for domestic use.

Most of the adults in the communities were actively involved in farming. Women also owned

their separate farms in addition to post-harvest activities. In Orisunbare, women were into palm-oil processing and gari processing. In Moloko-Ashipa, women were involved in gari processing. Processors still relied on local methods of processing. There was no threshing machine for processing soybean in Oniyo. They relied on privately owned thresher in the nearby town.

Food crops such as cassava, maize, pepper, okro, yam, tomatoes, cocoyam, plantain, banana and vegetables are grown in all the communities. Miracle berry broad leaves (*Thaumatococcus danielli)* provided more income to majority of the farmers and are major cash crop in Orisunbare. Soybean was also major arable in Oniyo. Tree crops such as cashew, citrus, and mango are grown in Oniyo while cashew, citrus, cocoa, kolanut are also grown in Orisunbare.

Mixtures of local and improved crop varieties are planted by farmers which were introduced by extension agents and scientists. Farmers inherited most of the cocoa and kolanut plantations. Seeds/planting materials are procured from two major sources namely: seeds from previous harvest, and farmers' input shop in or around the community.

Physical Capital: The communities had access to main tarred road. They also constructed access road through communal effort to their major farm locations for easy evacuation of their farm produce. Orisunbare had one government owned secondary and two primary schools. In addition, there were four nursery/primary schools in the community which are privately owned while Moloko-Ashipa had one government owned primary school. Oniyo had no school of her own. The only primary school around Oniyo village is located in Ogede village, a few kilometres away. There was a market centre in Moloko-Ashipa and Orisunbare where farmers sold their produce every five days. There was a Primary

Health Centre in Orisunbare which provided health care services for majority of the people in the community. In the area of Telecommunications, the communities could boast of adequate and very reliable MTN network while they do experience weak coverage of Glo, Airtel and Etisalat networks. Farmers were happy with the performance of the MTN network through which they were able to communicate with their buyers and relatives outside the communities. Indigenous knowledge in crop and animal husbandry existed in the three communities which were handed over to farmers by their ancestors. They also had little knowledge of modern technology and were willing to learn about modern technologies and incorporate new technologies into their production. Orisunbare had electric power supply which provided light for each household and the entire community while electricity supply to Moloko-Ashipa is in the pipeline.

Labour was available in the communities but very expensive. Youths showed no interest in farming in all the communities except Oniyo. Farmers in all the communities relied on household income for most of their farming operations. Only few farmers in Orisunbare indicated their access to micro-finance institutions. They are yet to form themselves into registered cooperative groups and hence could not obtain loan from the group. The farmers could boost of social capital in terms of group cohesiveness, cooperation, networks and trust.

The focus on capital assets led to discussions on the interrelations between them and enhanced understanding of the implications for positive or negative feedback loops that lead to asset building and asset erosion, respectively. This process reveals new strengths that communities may not have been aware of (Ashford & Patkar, 2001) and amplifies

things that are working through fanning (Sanginga and Chitsike, 2005).

Farmers were able to describe food security as a situation where there is adequate food to eat by all households (food availability) at all seasons and there is also enough to sell in the market.

'When there is food in the house and also in the barns at all seasons and we are healthy' –A farmer in Oniyo village.

They perceived that one hardship for them is inability to feed their family members throughout the seasons which has resulted in health problems and inability to have sufficient income to send their children to good schools.

In appreciating their strengths and what had worked for them in times past, the views were expressed in the focus group discussion as:

'During post independence, there were improved seeds and seedlings, we had reliable rainfall and there were storage facilities (silos), labour was cheap and we had no problem with marketing our produce since there were marketing boards that sells farmers produce. Hence farmers had more income and were able to build houses and send their children to school.'- A male farmer in Moloko-Ashipa.

'In 1970's, we had great harvest for cocoa, kolanut and maize. We had good and fertile soil and rainfall was adequate and predictable. We had access to farm inputs and free extension training. We had bumper harvest and sold our produce to the Marketing board in a nearby community. As a result of these we were building houses and our youths were enticed to farming as a result of what they saw their parents doing with the proceeds from their produce'.-A male farmer in Orisunbare.

A farmer in Oniyo was able to recall in the early 80's when they had bumper harvest from Soybean due to extensive cultivation of the crop by farmers in the community. According to her, members of the Nigerian Soybean Association introduced soybean to the community in the early 1970's. Both men and women were actively involved in soybean production and they had the desire to improve their food situation. The women processed soybean into products such as soy-cheese, soy milk, soy-locust bean and soy-vegetable soup. Farmers attributed the success of such efforts to the increasing support of the government to agriculture, fertile soil, abundant land, good climatic conditions, lack of pests and diseases, adequate extension service and good price for produce through organized marketing system. They were also of the opinion that they were committed to see development and improvement in their food situations.

Table 1: Capital assets endowment for the three communities in the study area

Asset	Orisunbare	Oniyo	Moloko-Ashipa
Natural Capital			
Permanent rivers	X	X	X
Land	X	X	Land is available
	Large sizes	Fertile & available	
	But not fertile		
Crops varieties	X	X	X
Animal species	X		

Rainfall	X	X	X
Swamps	X	X	
Forests & Tree products	X		X
Physical Capital			
Access and main roads	X	X	X
Schools	X		X
Churches	X		X
Gari processing machine	X		X
Soybean thresher		X	
Palm oil processing machine	X		
Social Capital			
Cohesive groups	X	X	X
Co-operation and trust	X	X	X
Human Capital			
Indigenous knowledge	X	X	X
Extension agents	X	X	X
Labour availability	X	X	X
Youth Interest in Agriculture		X	
Financial Capital			
Household incomes	X	X	X
Access to micro-finance institutions		X	
Loan from savings group	X		

X=Available

Dream Phase: Visioning was used to create images of the outputs and outcomes of food security interventions based on the positive core capital assets. A vision is a deep expression of what the farmers want; an expression of optimism of the preferred future of how they would like their lives to be. The groups agreed on which dreams are most important for immediate action and which dreams will be left to a later date. In prioritizing the dream, farmers were asked to indicate which of the goals are most important to them. Short term objectives require simple activities while long term objectives require more time, mobilization of resources and acquisition of new skills. It was discovered that increase crop yields and food production took precedence over other considerations. Based on

their specific strengths and values, farmers had two types of visions: short term outputs and long term outcomes (Table 2). Short term outputs include increased crop yields, improved farming practices that will result in increase yields, crop diversification to kick against climate change effects while long term outcomes include better health for families, reduction in disease incidence, procurement of more assets etc (Table 2). Hence, visioning results in the people becoming more inspired and understanding the importance of renewed action. These results agree with the view that each individual and every community seeks out the positive, life-giving forces to achieve the best of their dreams (Sanginga and Chitsike, 2005).

Table 2: Farmers visioning of outcomes of improved food security changes

Orisunbare	Oniyo	Moloko-Ashipa
Short term goals		
❖ Increased arable crop production	❖ Increased arable production	❖ Increased crop yields
❖ Increased livestock production	❖ Improved farming practices and utilization	❖ Improved farming practices
❖ Increased poultry products	❖ Improved soil fertility	❖ Increased livestock products
❖ Food availability	❖ Diverse crops in farms	❖ Increased number of farmers
❖ Ready market for produce	❖ Increase in land under farming	❖ Construction of storage facilities
❖ Increased tree crop farming (cocoa, kolanut and oil palm)	❖ Food availability in the market	❖ Markets for the introduced crops
❖ Diverse crops on farm	❖ Previous season food in the silos	❖ Diverse crops on farm
❖ Improved technology for broad leaf (*Thaumatococcus danielli*e) production	❖ Ready markets for crops	
Long term outcomes		
❖ Low food prices	❖ Linkage with financial institutions	❖ More youth going into farming
❖ Construction of good houses	❖ New businesses in the area	❖ Mechanized farming
❖ Linkage with financial and other institution	❖ More children going to school	❖ Improved diets
❖ More youths involved in agriculture	❖ Construction of good houses	❖ Reduction of disease incidence
❖ Good roads	❖ Children going to private schools	❖ Better health for children/families
❖ More boreholes	❖ Procurement of more assets	❖ New businesses springing up
❖ Establishment of fish pond	❖ Small businesses for women	❖ Procurement of more assets
❖ Good health and well being	❖ Better health for all	❖ Modern houses constructed

Design phase: In this phase an action plan of what is to be done in order to achieve short and long term goals was developed. With a vivid image of their dreams, farmers took action in creating their desired future. The dreams and goals were identified and prioritized. Pairwise ranking was used by farmers to identify and prioritize crop based interventions they perceived as best placed to address food security, based on their assets. An on farm trial was agreed upon for the experimental trials. Farmers used the following criteria for selection of crops to lead to achievement of their vision: income generation; food and nutrition security; and disease and pest resistance. Participatory value judgement by farmers using pairwise ranking technique ranked the crops in their order of importance (Table 1). Previously,

Table 3: Pairwise ranking of crops in Orisunbare

farmers were largely involved in crop production and, to a less extent, rearing of animals. Tables 3-5 show the results of the pairwise ranking process for crops of choice in the three locations. Similarly, changes have occurred within the crop production system (Table 1). For example, cassava and maize are said to have overtaken crops like citrus, cocoa, oil palm and plantain in terms of food security and income generation in Orisunbare and Moloko-Ashipa. Hardy and low soil fertility tolerant crops (e.g. sweet potatoes and cassava) have increasingly become important in the farming system. In addition, a wide range of horticultural crops (pepper, tomatoes, vegetables) have increasingly becoming important in the farming systems and are grown and surpluses marketed.

Crops	MZ	CV	YM	CP	BA	CO	Scores	Rank
Maize (MZ)		MZ	MZ	MZ	MZ	MZ	5	1
Cassava (CV)			CV	CV	BA	CO	2	3
Yam(YM)				CP	YM	YM	2	3
Cowpea (CP)					CP	CP	3	2
Banana (BA)						BA	2	3
Cocoa(CO)							1	4

Table 4: Pairwise ranking of crops in Oniyo

Crops	SB	CP	MZ	YM	CA	Scores	Rank
Soybean (SB)		SB	MZ	SB	SB	4	1
Cowpea (CP)			CP	YM	CP	2	3
Maize(MZ)				MZ	MZ	3	2
Yam (YM)					SB	3	2
Cassava (CA)						0	4

Table 5: Pairwise ranking of crops in Moloko-Ashipa

Crops	RC	TM	MZ	PE	CA	VG	Scores	Rank
Rice (RC)		RC	RC	RC	RC	VG	4	1
Tomato (TM)			MZ	PE	CA	TM	1	4
Maize(MZ)				MZ	CA	MZ	3	2
Pepper (PE)					CA	PE	2	3
Cassava (CA)						CA	4	1
Vegetable (VG)						VG	1	4

Ranking led to the selection of maize and cowpea in Orisunbare, maize and soybean in Oniyo and cassava, rice and maize in Moloko-Ashipa. Ranking exercises enhanced appreciative and analytical capacity of farmers since they set the criteria, and hence fostered ownership of the process (Makini, 1999 and Miruka, 2011).

Destiny: The AI is now entering the design phase. Farmers formed themselves into groups and the registration of the group is in progress. They also organised themselves into commodity groups with regular learning sessions which impacted knowledge to the farmers on selected crops. In the first season farmers explored agronomic possibilities for their selected crops on demonstration farms. Plots serve as demonstration and learning plots for farmers on improved agronomic practices. Field tours of the demonstration plots were conducted. In the second season, on farm demonstration was set up in each of the study demonstration sites and in farmers'

fields. This study will not be able to report well on the other activities of the design phase.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that integrating appreciative inquiry into participatory research processes can lead to a better understanding by Research and Development actors of their dynamic and multiple environments for enhancement of food security. Farmers were able to identify problems and opportunities associated with resource access and use which were identified through the use of FGDs, asset mapping and transect walk. The study showed that assets available in the three communities were site specific with different dimensions. Dreams and goals were identified and prioritised by farmers which revealed new strengths and opportunities available within the communities. Shared visions were formed based on the opportunities and strategies were identified and a developmental plan was made for food security. The outcomes of AI processes were totally surprising to the participants. They were able to identify crops that can enhance food security in their communities. Farmers groups were formed. Group members mobilized resources, acquired new skills and implementation of action plans is on-going.

The study concludes that integrating appreciative inquiry into participatory processes is an excellent way of generating new ideas and action for food security and more sustainable livelihoods and hence recommends a paradigm shift toward appreciative modes of probing, planning, and intervention for sustainable development.

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