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M&E Activities implemented in FY2017: Lessons Learned

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Brief Description of Your Project

- **Project Goal:** The goal of the PICA project is to enhance net incomes of the irrigated nucleus farm and 300 out-growers in the Sisili-Kulpawn basin (Mamprugu Moagduri district) through the provision of efficient alternative power systems.
- **Key project activities:** The PICA project introduces innovations in irrigation systems for agriculture that will achieve the optimal utilization of clean energy from solar sources and combine this with available power alternatives.
- **Targeted beneficiaries:** The irrigated IWAD nucleus farm and smallholder farmers in the Mamprugu Moagduri district.
- **Implementation Period:** January 2016 to January 2018.

M&E Activities Implemented in FY 2017

- M&E Activities implemented between October 2016 and September 2017:
 - Activity 1: Baseline data collection, analysis and reporting.
 - Activity 2: Updated of the PICA AMEP;
 - Activity 3: Evaluation of the PICA demonstration farms;

Lessons Learned

- Lesson 1

The distance of demonstration farms and farmers is very important for sustained learning: The shorter the distance the higher the possibility of farmers paying regular visits to the farms. What is more important is to enable farmers to be able to visit demonstrations on their own.

- Lesson 2

Involving the project team in setting of indicator targets during the AMEP update was very useful. They contributed very well and that gave an opportunity for the team to know what they are expected to achieve at the end project.

Lessons Learned contd.

- Lesson 3

During the baseline survey we realized that the timing could have been better-ie around June-July when households food security issues can easily be recollected. instead of October when farmers are quiet busy and others are harvesting.

- Lesson 4

Data collection should be a continuous process to ensure data quality.

- Lesson 5

We also realized that demonstration field trials should not at the beginning expect large numbers as most farmers will always wait for “no fear risk” farmers to try for them to see results before they also join even if it means learning from their colleague farmers afterwards.

THANK YOU!