

Proposed Plan to Conduct Social and Economic Impact Assessment of RCA Projects

Background:

The 41st NR Meeting in Sri Lanka from 26 to 29 March 2019 decided to hold an RCA Exhibition in 2022 to showcase the socio-economic impact of the RCA in the region over the 50 years.

The 41st NR Meeting also suggested the host country (Viet Nam), the RCA Regional Office and the Agency draw on any inputs on the socio-economic impacts of the RCA programme in the region for the organization of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA.

It is noted that it is complex to evaluate the RCA programme. There are diverse countries and stakeholder groups, long-term investments of decades with contexts that are continuing to evolve, and multiple outcomes sought across a range of thematic areas, including a variety of intangibles like socio-economic wellbeing (not easily represented by numbers). Several challenges were with respect to assessing social and economic value within the RCA, such as evidencing outcomes and impacts, determining attribution (i.e. the contribution of RCA), and determining the value of the RCA contribution (which is different from determining its contribution).

Therefore, a meeting was held in Vienna, Austria from 1-4 July 2019 to identify a suitable methodology for case studies of social and economic value of RCA projects and propose a timeline to carry out social and economic impact assessment of RCA projects. The meeting report is attached in Annex 1. The meeting recommended the following:

- Social and economic impact assessment of RCA projects be undertaken under the guidance of the Director TCAP and the Director TCPC. It is also proposed that this duty will be implemented analogously to other TC projects, with a Project Management Officer (PMO) from TCAP and Technical Officers (TOs) from TCPC given that the expertise on monitoring and evaluation methods sits in TCQAS.
- At least one case study be completed, and if sufficient resources are available, it is feasible to complete up to three additional case studies in time for presentation at the celebration of 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022. Each case study will assess a different sub-thematic area, ideally covering the four main thematic areas within the RCA (agriculture, industry, environment, human health).
- The main deliverable for each case study will be a ca. 20-page report for a general audience, focussing on a series of related projects covering a ca. 10-20 year timeframe. Each report will showcase the breadth of near-term (intermediary) outcomes delivered and provide more in-depth assessment of 1-3 highlighted (longer-term) successes from

the projects. The reports will assess the value added by the RCA, as a regional programme. The reports will also assess the future potential and directions of the sub-thematic area under discussion.

- Each report be further developed into additional communications products such as brochures, videos, etc. Assistance will be sought from the RCA Regional Office for these tasks.
- The first case study will assess the mutation breeding sub-thematic area. This is in recognition of the excellent results from the projects and the groundwork already undertaken by Dr Liu to identify specific highlighted outcomes of the projects that can be assessed in detail.
- The second case study will assess the air pollution sub-thematic area. This is in recognition of the results from outcome harvesting already available through the WG MTSC.
- The sub-thematic areas for the third and fourth case studies would be NDT and radiotherapy.
- A final report together the learnings will be drawn from the case studies, and provide suggestions for how the methodologies may be extended to other projects and programmes within TC. This is expected to include consideration of how project designs and current RCA project modalities may be altered to make social and economic assessments easier and more robust in the future.

Proposed timeframe:

	<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsible Persons</i>
1	Submitting a proposed plan to conduct social and economic impact assessment of RCA projects for consideration and support	48th RCA GCM 13 Sep. 2019	RCA FP, RCA Chair, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC
2	Carrying out the pilot study of socio-economic impact in the mutation breeding sub-thematic area	From Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2020	Experts, RCA FP, TOs, RCARO, Chair of PAC, WG on MTSC, NRs, LCCs, NPCs
3	Organizing a workshop to review the pilot study of socio-economic impact in the mutation breeding sub-thematic area and develop a	Apr. - May 2020	RCA FP, TOs and RCARO

	<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsible Persons</i>
	detailed workplan to conduct the study of socio-economic impact in three sub-thematic areas: air pollution, NDT and radiotherapy		
4	Carrying out the study of socio-economic impact in three sub-thematic areas: air pollution, NDT and radiotherapy	From May 2020 – Sep. 2021	Experts, RCA FP, TOs, RCARO, Chair of PAC Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs, LCCs, NPCs
5	Reporting the results of the study of socio-economic impact to the 50th RCA GCM	50th RCA GCM, Sep. 2021	RCA FP, TOs, RCARO, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC
6	Refining reports and communications products such as brochures, videos, etc.	From Oct. 2021- Feb. 2022	Experts, RCA FP, TOs, RCARO, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs
7	<i>Showcasing socio-economic impact of RCA projects at:</i> <i>The 50th Anniversary of the RCA (1972 - 2022)</i>	<i>Mar. 2022 (44th RCA NRM) and Sep. 2022 (51st RCA GCM)</i>	RCARO, RCA FP, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs
8	Sharing the RCA experience in assessing socio-economic impact of TC projects	From Mar. 2022 on	RCA FP, TOs, RCARO, NRs

Proposed Action:

NRs are requested to endorse the above-mentioned recommendations and provide timely support when requested in the implementation of this plan.