

After action review of GASL event

Date: 26 May 2017

Present:

- Thomas Cherenet, The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ethiopia
- Siboniso Moyo, ILRI
- Asrat, The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ethiopia
- Hewan Teshome, FAO
- Meron Mulatu, ILRI
- Liya Dejene, ILRI
- Tsehay Gashaw, ILRI

The meeting started at 9:30am in the morning at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The meeting started by a welcome message from Dr. Thomas and he passed to Boni to take us through the meeting.

Boni explained that the reason why we are here today is to reflect on the GASL event. And we felt it is important to share some of our thoughts and lessons around the event before we forget them and she asked Tsehay to facilitate the meeting.

Tsehay asked the team to reflect on both content and process – she asked them to reflect on two questions: What went well and what could be improved and the team shared their thoughts as follows:

What went well?

Thomas:

- In general the whole process was very good. The time keeping, starting from the opening up to closing, every session went very well.
- On behalf of the Ministry, I would like to thank all the committee members for the great work and collaboration and for successful event.
- We didn't manage to get the president or the prime-minster and we were a bit sad but the group discussion, moderation and the food all was very good and we were very happy.
- I also got feedback from some colleagues and participants. All the comments were positive and they were happy.
- The field trip coordination, the timing and report was very good except at one of the site.
- I have discussed with Berehe from FAO and he was very happy that Ethiopia hosted such a big event with success.
- The share fair was very good specially the way people interacted and engaged at the different booth.
- The conference package was very good: the bag, the documents inside and badges were very good. Especially the badge holder, there is a creativity and Mahider needs to be appreciated on that.

Siboniso Moyo:

- Looking in to content and process, I appreciated the planning part, it took us 6 months to prepare but helped us a lot to work through the different bits of the event.
- Working with national and sub-committees, having a local logistics event manager helped us a lot.
- I liked the process in general, the plenary sessions, the bus stops, field trip and the policy forum, all went well.
- We had a nice balance in the content.
- The social events were good. Almost every evening the place was full. People came to attend the social events. The cultural evening also was very good.
- The transport arrangement was good.
- The share fair went very well.
- Overall, I have a good feeling about the event and I would like to thank all the team behind the success.

Hewan:

- The whole event was very good.
- The national organizing committee did a very good job.
- All the social event went well. People were engaged and attending the social events and I am happy about that.
- I got feedback from participants and they told me that the field trip was very good.
- Fitz was impressed with the daily tail newsletter

Liya:

- From the communications side things went very well. People were enjoying the 'daily tail' newsletter.
- The local organizing committee did a great job. Especially, I would like to thank Meron. She was our link b/n the national organizing committee and the comms team in ILRI. We were getting update of what is going on at the ministry on time.
- In the meeting, the time keeping was good.

Meron:

- The early preparation with national and local committee and the link with global team was very good.
- All the local media invited were present and that was very good.
- Having the local event management was a very good idea. She carried a lot of work and I would like to thank Eshi events for that.

Asrat:

- I can't say much about the whole meeting as I didn't attend but I heard the meeting was successful.

What could be improved?

Thomas:

- In my view, I didn't see anything went wrong. In general both the content and process was smooth. I don't have negative feedback.
- But I heard one of the field trip was not good. It was at the Genesis farm. They were not well prepared, the timing and explaining about the farm didn't go well, that was the only negative feedback I got from the field trip.
- Preparing such an international event was very challenging and overall we had a good comment and that is a success for us.
- We sent invitation for 25 ministers to be there but they didn't come. It costed us a lot, the preparation, distributing the latter at the last minute, it took a long time and they didn't appear. We got our lesson there.

Siboniso Moyo:

- During the planning phase, we needed different committees. The committee started at difficult time and some doesn't even have a member and we faced some challenge there. The sub committees should had been coordinated better. I think this needs to improve in the future.
- It is good to have the local event management but her teams were not responding on time for some of our needs. Eshi events should give sufficient training for her people and should dedicate two/three serious people on the site who can quickly give response on the need.
- The online registration was good for outside people but there were some challenge for local people and for some NGOs. It could had been better if we had facilitated offline registration for people based in Ethiopia.
- The policy forum had good presence from East and Southern Africa but West Africa was not presented well.
- From the field trip, I heard the genesis farm didn't go well.
- Some people underestimated the visa process and because of that didn't attend the meeting.

Hewan:

- I was not happy with the opening ceremony. The music disrupted the opening session as the result, when the minster arrived, couldn't be able to use the waiting room.
- Few people were sick but such a thing could happen.

Liya:

- For the people who came to register on site, we didn't manage to get their full information and for the future we need to coordinate that better.
- Eshi event didn't put enough people at the registration desk (on site) and we end up registering people ourselves.

Merlon:

- As per the registration, it is good to have online system but we need to be flexible to accommodate the local people. Some people were not comfortable with the online system.
- We invited the international media but none of them appeared and this should be worked out in the future.
- There was no registration desk for media and people were complaining.
- The itinerary of the field trip was done at the last minute and this could have been done in advance.
- The dress code with Eshi events team were not followed.

Asrat: it is good to send a questionnaire for the participants for feedback.

Follow up/action points:

- All the outputs of the meeting will be aggregated and a link will be sent to all the participants (Liya and Peter are working on this).
- Boni suggested Liya to follow up with the local organizing committee to compile the local participants list and to copy Edwardo in the email.
- A questionnaire to be developed and send to participants for feedback.
- It was suggested Thomas to get in touch with Her Excellency Dr Misrak over coffee to take her reflection and share with us – deadline 2 June 2017.
- Hewan to compile the FAO team's reflection and will share with us – 31 May 2017
- Boni mentioned that ILRI is going to organizing a cocktail reception to thank all the organizing committee and people who were behind and supporting the event.
- The cocktail reception will be hosted at ILRI on June 1st 2017 at 5:00 pm.
- Thomas mentioned that His Excellence Professor Fekadu Beyene would like to visit ILRI campus and asked Boni to facilitate the visit.
- Boni explained that next week there will be a training for ILRI management people and it would not be a good time and she suggested to organize his visit in the week of June 12 -16 and she asked Thomas to discuss with him and get back to Boni.
- Boni Asked Thomas to check and confirm if His Excellence Fekadu Beyene and Her Excellency Misrak Mekonnen could attend the cocktail reception at ILRI.
- Meron will prepare the invitation card and also to work with Yilkal and Abrahm on the list of people to be invited from the MoLF office.