**PROPOSED VC TOOLS RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**The following are proposed research questions to help guide our tools (questionnaire) development for value chain analysis and data collection. These are broad questions. The questions will be disaggregated by gender, as well as income group.**

1. **VC performance**

How to measure performance of L&F VCs? What indicators, what actors (elaborate on actors: ALL VC actors; especially poor women, youth, and marginalized groups?

1a. How can the performance of livestock and fish (L&F) value chains (VC) be improved?

1b. How well are the L&F VCs performing using different performance dimensions metrics?

Performance dimensions include and metrics (add trust level questions, coordination)

* 1. financial (e.g. profitability, net income, value addition (VA); ROI)
  2. financial sustainability (debt-ratio; product and input stocks; opportunity costs (e.g. off-farm wages); age composition of VC actors;
  3. productivity (production & exchange efficiency; yield/output)
  4. competitiveness (level of concentration, costs structure, relative prices etc.)
  5. equity (share of retail price / value added of specific VC actor; intra-household allocation of income and power; access & control over resources and assets; ratio of value addition over capital investments;)
  6. employment creation (and quality of employment)
  7. risk exposure and management
  8. governance, coordination and trust
  9. innovation & upgrading (e.g. process, product and functional upgrading)
  10. consumption of ASF
  11. market participation (access to & level of participation; factors influencing participation)
  12. environmental indicators (natural resource use efficiency related indicators)

1. **VC institutional and technological innovation**

2a. How can L&F value chains be upgraded to improve the level of benefits that actors derive from participation and conditions of participation of value chain actors especially poor women, youth, and marginalized groups?

2a.1. What innovative (deleted upgraded) options do VC actors use to solve problems and respond to opportunities? What are the appropriate (delete upgrading) alternatives for specific value chains under different contexts?

2a.2. How are the benefits from upgrading and innovation distributed among VC actors and along the VC nodes?

2a.3 What factors/incentives motivate & hinder behavioral changes/innovation?

2b. Do VC actors and stakeholders coordinate/interact in a manner that enhances/supports innovation systems?

**Technology adoption in value chains**

2c. .What types of technologies can improve the performance of L&F value chain VC actors and under what conditions?

2d. How do VC actors get to know about new technology? Which dissemination processes are effective and efficient?

2e. What types of technologies are VC actors presently adopting to improve the productivity and profitability of their enterprises?

2f. What factors influence the uptake and lack of uptake of new and improved technologies? How do these differ by type of VC actor and gender?

2g. What (re) packaging of existing & new technologies can increase the affordability, uptake and scalability of technologies?

2h. What type of constraints/opportunities exist in the VC that can be addressed through new/improved technology interventions?

2i. How are poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups affected by the adoption of technologies, or how may they be affected?

2j. Is there a revealed preference for certain technologies by VC actors and why?

**3. NUTRITION**

3a. How can L&F value chains to increase availability and affordability of quality ASF among poor consumers, especially women of child bearing age and children under 2 years?

3b1. What present constraints hinder L&F products to be available, accessible and affordable to poor consumers?

3b.2. What type of production, marketing channels and processing options are most appropriate to meet the demands of poor consumers?

3b.3 What factors, trends including socio-economic and demographic influence the (change) demand for L & F products in the specific value chains?

3b. 4 What kind of value addition activities in the VC add nutritional value

to ASF?

**4. VC governance and coordination**

What kind of governance & coordination mechanisms can improve the functioning and performance of the VC and the livelihoods VC actors and under what conditions?

4a. What governance and coordination mechanisms including power relations, if any, are currently utilized in specific value chains and why?

4b. What are the key constraints to improve coordination and better information & product flows in the VC?

4c. How and how much can governance and coordination among VC actors be improved to enhance the performance of the VC, especially for smallholders And marginalized groups?

4d. What types of governance and coordination mechanisms are best suited to improve the availability, accessibility and affordability of ASF to poor consumers?

**5. Risk exposure and management in VCs**

How can risk exposure in the L&F VCs be reduced and risk management be improved and resilience of VC actors be improved?

5a. What types of risks (e.g. price & market, disease and animal health, food safety and logistical risks) exist at each node of the VC and for the entire VC?

5b. What is the level of risk exposure along the VC (includes the likelihood and expected losses and risk distribution)?

5c. What risk management instruments (*ex-ante/ex-post*), including coordination mechanisms exist and how effective and sustainable are they and are they affordable (e.g. credit and insurance)?

5d. Which VC actors are most vulnerable to the identified types of risks?

5e. How is risk transmitted along the VC? And how can VC actors mitigate risk in other nodes of the chain?

5f. What are the revealed risk preferences of individual VC actors or a group of VC actors and why?

**6. Policy and institutional environment**

What type of interventions at the policy and institutional level increase the performance of and benefits from target value chains and under what conditions?

6a. In which ways do current policies & institutional arrangements affect VC performance, and the availability, accessibility and affordability of ASF to poor consumers?

6b. What types of policies can increase equitable participation of small VC actors?

6c. What key policy interventions can improve VC performance to facilitate increased productivity, incomes, food supply, and nutrition and alleviate trade-offs with negative environmental impacts?

6d. How best can VC practitioners and researchers inform and influence policy based on VC performance and research results?

**7. Tools development & learning *(****need to develop indicators to answer Tools development & learning process questions?*

7a. Are the tools developed effective in gathering evidence to answer the research questions?

7b. Are the tools being used and adapted by research and development partners?

7c. Do the indicators answer the research questions?

7d. Are we asking the right research questions?

7e. Are existing mechanisms effective to reflect on the tools and process?

**8. Capacity development and partnerships: may need to add this**