



Building sustainable capacity for policy research with impact: Lessons from PRCI in Asia

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1. Introduction

This policy brief summarizes results of an assessment of the impacts of assistance provided by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) to agricultural and food policy think tanks and research centers in six countries of Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos) and South Asia (India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) from mid-2019 to mid-2024. The brief's objectives are to (1) distill the progress and accomplishments of the policy think tanks that PRCI supported and the related impacts that this assistance had on their organizations, and (2) draw lessons for the design of future programming that aims to support sustained enhancement of institutional capacity for applied food and agricultural policy research that has influence on policy processes and outcomes.

The assessment reported here is based on responses to a formal questionnaire which was developed and shared with the centers to gain insights about different aspects of the project including major accomplishments, unique elements, sustainable outcomes, and regional engagement. To guide the centers on the overall purpose of the assessment, consultative meetings were held with them. Following this, written responses to the questionnaire were received from all the centers and used to develop this joint policy brief ahead of the global PRCI meeting in March 2024.

Key Messages

1. Identify local needs and build on existing capacities to design and implement research activities that address local policy priorities.
2. To generate policy level impact, conduct timely research and share the results through policy consultations and influential forums can.
3. Flexible funding support and continuous mentorship can help institutions better leverage their human and financial resources towards influencing the policy process.
4. Success of capacity strengthening workshops depends on the alignment of the content and technical methods to the needs and capabilities of the participants. Using the 'training of trainer' approach can yield sustainable outcomes beyond the project period.
5. Regional engagement entails identifying regional research priorities, supporting policy dialogue, and collaborating on strengthening the knowledge and technical capacity of national institutions.



2. PRCI Objectives and Organization in Asia

PRCI's global goal was to build on and strengthen the existing capacity of local centers to conduct high quality applied research on issues related to food and agricultural policy and to bring that research to bear in influencing local policy processes and policy outcomes in selected countries of Africa and Asia. PRCI's design was deeply informed by the emerging thinking within USAID, and more broadly, on [local capacity strengthening](#) (LCS) and [localization](#). LCS principles to "start with the local system" (principle#1), "appreciate and build on existing capacities" (principle#5), and "align capacity strengthening with local priorities" (principle#4) were embodied by partnering with existing local policy research organizations, starting with these organization's own definition of their capacity building needs, and jointly developing and refining plans to support these needs. PRCI "strengthen(ed) diverse capacities through diverse approaches" (principle #2) by combining technical training (including on integrating gender into research); broader training on communications, research ethics, and writing for peer review; mentored research; a research-to-policy (R2P) program that worked with researches to think about the policy relevance of their work from the beginning and develop strategies to bring findings to policy makers; and institutional capacity strengthening to drive broad capacity strengthening in the organizations. PRCI applied localization best practice (principle#3) – "make descriptive, not prescriptive awards to local/regional partners" – by being intensively consultative in defining workplans, with an emphasis on the centers' own priorities, then very flexible as the workplans unfolded, to adjust as needed. By working in this way, PRCI sought to tap into the existing motivation of center leadership and researchers and to thereby enhance the quality of the research that these centers did and their relevance and impact in the policy system.

PRCI-Asia worked with six centers, three each in Southeast Asia and South Asia: the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics of Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand; the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Cambodia; the Institute for Industry and Commerce (IIC) in Laos; Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in India; Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) in Nepal; and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in Sri Lanka. PRCI identified KU in Southeast Asia and RIS in South Asia as regional hubs based on their level of capacity, KU's interest from university leadership down to the department in becoming more regionally engaged, and RIS's regional work through BIMSTEC – the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. PRCI then worked through each of these centers to enhance both their own capacity and impact and that of the other two centers in their sub-regions.

KU has many students from across the region and many local and international students pursue careers in the public sector upon graduation. Under PRCI, KU was successful in engaging with the other centers to identify common research themes and provide regional technical skills trainings on important demand-driven topics. KU in collaboration with other national and regional institutions organized and conducted several thematic policy workshops on emerging food systems issues in Southeast Asia, with a view to strengthening the regional network for such work.

The South Asia regional hub, RIS, is a policy research institute with a mandate to promote South-South cooperation and support policy makers on issues related to international economic development, trade, investment, and technology. With PRCI support, RIS invited IIDS, IPS, and other institutions from South Asia to regional policy dialogues for exchanging insights on key agriculture trade issues in BIMSTEC



region. They also engaged other centers as participants for a training course on regional agriculture trade analysis.

3. Assessment Approach and Results

This assessment was conducted with the six centers. It thus reflects these centers’ own views of what worked, how it worked, and what challenges they encountered during the program. At the start of the assessment process, a questionnaire (Refer to Annex I for the detailed questionnaire) was developed for the centers with the aim of understanding and assessing their experience and impact. Centers were requested to provide written responses. Some broad set of questions were: i) how was the PRCI support helpful in strengthening each center’s identity as an important institution for policy research and engagement in their country or regionally?; ii) in what specific way was the capacity strengthening and research support under PRCI useful?; iii) what specific lessons does the PRCI experience suggest for a future program in terms of research, capacity strengthening and policy influence?; and iv) what, if anything, was unique about PRCI’s support. A series of consultative meetings were held with researchers from each center who participated in PRCI activities to discuss i) the structure and objective of the questionnaire ii) next steps on using the responses to develop a joint assessment brief on the PRCI experience iii) submission timelines.

Results

This section assesses the perceived impact of PRCI in four areas: (1) research and analysis; (2) technical training and routine engagement with center leadership, (3) policy influence, and (4) the regional role of KU and RIS.

Research and Analysis: A key objective of PRCI is for centers to conduct high quality research and analysis aligned with the policy priorities at the country and regional level. Research themes were identified in consultation with the centers for conducting analytical research studies on relevant food systems related topics. Policy researchers from the centers worked under the guidance of PRCI researchers and mentors to produce research outputs.

In 2020, with the unfolding of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the threat of major trade disruptions, the project identified slowdown of regional trade in food and agriculture as a major challenge. With significant analysis training support under PRCI (see next section), all the centers conducted analytical studies on agricultural trade patterns as an input to informed policy decisions by policy makers. According to IIDS, “the trade flow analysis paper generated evidence on why Nepal should focus on top import commodities to maintain trade balance/ trade deficit. This also paper highlights trade strategies that Government of Nepal should adopt immediately on top commodities, for example, rice, vegetables (potatoes), oil seeds (soyabean), maize and fruits (apple)”. IPS pointed out how with the support received under PRCI, they were able to conduct an in-depth analytical study ‘Sri Lanka’s Agri-Food Trade: Structure, Opportunities, Challenges & Impacts Of COVID-19’. Similar impact was made through CDRI. A CDRI study ‘Cambodia's Agri-Food Trade: Structure, New Emerging Potentials, Challenges, and Impacts of COVID-19’ published on the PRCI website was quoted in a regional news website - southeastasiaglobe.com. IIC stated that the research study on ‘The export potential of Laos agri-food to the EU market’ successfully developed policy recommendations for policymakers to support sustainable agricultural practices, market access, and trade facilitation.



In 2021, KU with support from PRCI conducted a needs assessment with CDRI in Cambodia and IIC in Laos to identify a common policy research theme for Southeast Asian centers with the end goal to develop a series of comparative research outputs. The centers in the region found the consultative assessment process inclusive and eventually ‘cassava value chain analysis’ was identified as the most relevant and timely research theme. In the end, several policy and institutional insights emerged at the national, local, and regional levels based on this work. For example, the IIC study on the “Determinant factors of Lao farmers engagement to agriculture value chains: a case study of Cassava” has been used as a reference by other regional projects that aim to close the research gaps in cassava value chain analysis. Given the relevance of this research topic for KU, they highlighted the multiple studies undertaking by them focusing on different dimensions of cassava value chain analysis.

In South Asia, with support from PRCI, RIS, IIDS, and IPS each reviewed needs of the national and local policy system and chose research areas with potential for sustainable long-term impact. Unlike in Southeast Asia, the process in South Asia resulted in diverse studies. RIS is India’s focal point in BIMSTEC and has a regional mandate to support policy makers in the region. RIS has stated that the study conducted under PRCI support ‘Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region’ analyzed patterns of regional trade in the agriculture sector and provided a framework for policy engagement, focusing on fostering intra-regional trade in BIMSTEC.

For IPS, chemical fertilizer continued to be a national issue of overwhelming importance and resulted in them producing a PRCI supported study on ‘Impacts of Chemical Fertilizer Ban and Adoption of Organic Fertilizer for Paddy Farming: Propensity Score Matching and Value Chain Analysis’. IPS pointed that findings from this study were not only published in the Sri Lankan Journal of Agricultural Economics (SLJE). According to IIDS in Nepal, the PRCI support had a ‘multidimensional impact’. For instance, currently, a key need for Nepal is to translate the national agricultural policies into provincial level agricultural development programs. With the research and capacity strengthening opportunities under PRCI, IIDS’s engagement with provincial development partners increased leading to improving local capacity for results based management (RBM) of the agricultural development plans. Further, IIDS also pointed out that the network connections build through PRCI also helped the center in securing another relevant and time sensitive research project with IFPRI’s South Asia office. In effect, the LCS principle of building on existing capacities was pursued on two levels: by working with IIDS as an existing organization and by not reorienting or fully adding-on to what it was doing but by allowing the funds to be used to deepen and extend the work it was already doing.

Technical training and engagement with center leadership: One key element of PRCI support is its technical training program. PRCI committed to providing technical training to centers in South Asia and Southeast Asia to conduct policy related research and policy communication focused on national and regional priorities. For the purpose of south-south learning, training activities in Asia were also extended to African countries. Training on gender mainstreaming in policy research was offered to Asian partners at the regional level. The key training activities covered under PRCI for the Asia centers are discussed below:

- Trade flow analysis

In 2020, PRCI introduced the Special Topics training program to help centers to respond to new and urgent analytical needs created by the global pandemic and related country and regional level response to it. Subsequently, PRCI in collaboration with KU organized a virtual training workshop on trade flow analysis in September 2020 to build trade data analysis skills for all the centers. Trade data sets were made available to the centers which enabled them to conduct country level trade flow analysis studies in



a timely manner under the guidance of PRCI researchers. According to IPS, the technical trainings on trade flow analysis strengthened the ability of young researchers from IPS to effectively use the PRCI funding by conducting in-depth analytical research studies. IIDS shared that the trade flow analysis study outcomes generated evidence to guide policy makers on what should be Nepal's agricultural priorities in the following 5-10 years. For IIC and CDRI, the training has strengthened their analytical capacity on an important and time sensitive research issue. All the centers gave a positive evaluation for the first round of trade flow training activity and expressed interest in participating in follow up trainings on this topic. As a result, trade flow analysis trainings were organized in the following year. KU has emphasized that the training of trainer approach of the project enabled staff to serve as facilitators and instructors for subsequent workshops including the 2022 three-part training on 'International Trade Flow Analysis Using R' with participants from research, policy analysis and academic community in Asia and the 2023 training on trade flow analysis offered to policy researchers and analysts in Nepal with IIDS support. KU agrees that the affiliation with PRCI has also enabled them to invite policy researchers and resource persons from other institutions in the region. Thus, this process has created a sustainable impact on strengthening national and regional capacity on trade flow analysis and is expected to become more widespread in the subsequent years.

- Value chain analysis

Following the trade flow analysis trainings, KU highlighted that with support from PRCI, they conducted a needs assessment to identify a common policy research theme for Southeast Asian centers with the end goal to develop a series of comparative research outputs.

In 2022, following the results of the needs assessment survey which identified cassava value chain analysis as the theme, a series of value chain analysis workshops were organized. KU highlighted that they successfully provided support to Southeast Asia centers and co-organized these trainings with participation from all the centers. For example, a workshop on 'Research methods for value chain analysis' in 2022, invited thematic experts to provide training on various aspects of value chain analysis research including scoping research, sample design, survey questionnaire structure, pre-testing, enumerator training, survey implementation, and quantitative data analysis. To highlight the importance of how and why gender analysis should be incorporated into value chain studies, another workshop was organized to provide resources, techniques, and tools for including gender in value chain analysis, and explained how pro- Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) can be used on market inclusion.

In Southeast Asia, as highlighted by KU and IIC, upon completion of cassava value chain research studies, centers had the opportunity to present results to research experts and industry stakeholders at the workshop on 'Knowledge Sharing on Cassava Value Chain and Cassava Policy Influence Seminar' which was organized by KU.

In South Asia, IPS stated that they were able to learn from the value chain trainings which translated into i) co-organizing an SAEA event 'Enhancing Agricultural Value Chains in South Asia' and presenting from a PRCI supported study on 'Impact of the Chemical Fertilizer Ban on Paddy Sector: Propensity Score Matching and Value Chain Analysis'; ii) Inviting, PRCI South Asia regional hub, RIS, to participate and present at the SAEA event.

Policy influence: Broadly, the key goal of PRCI is to generate meaningful and sustained impact at the policy level to transform food systems. Many centers shared that PRCI resource persons not only provided research and analytical mentorship support but actively participated in the national/local policy



dialogues conducted by the centers. It was observed that this helped in sustainable engagement with the governments and national policy stakeholders. In turn, it has led to an increase in the overall demand for policy research support from these centers.

Regional hubs highlighted how PRCI consistently supported thematic workshops and consultations organized by them which identified and highlighted issues that should be jointly addressed by the centers and other country and regional stakeholders. Aside from other PRCI centers, regional centers actively engaged with and invited representatives from the researcher community, government, academia, NGOs, and the private sector to these events. The policy influence workshop themes were selected in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders working with the regional centers – Mekong Institute in the case of KU and BIMSTEC in the case of RIS.

In South Asia, following the trade flow analysis training, RIS, organized a regional workshop ‘Exploring Cooperation and Sustainable Agriculture in the BIMSTEC’ in October 2021. The workshop identified emerging policy issues and brought the regional countries together to discuss and develop consensus on the research priorities and share research and analysis-based evidence. RIS stated that policy researchers and policy makers from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Thailand identified regional agriculture trade issues common to these countries and emphasized the need for a regional policy research agenda. RIS is currently preparing a book volume based on the research papers received from the workshop. RIS stated that given their regional influence, they co-organized an Asia-level conference in July 2023, bringing several Asian countries together to discuss the technical and policy options in the Asian context. An edited volume is expected out of this initiative which will guide the G20 process as Brazil takes the leadership next year.

At the country level, all the centers conducted policy dissemination workshops upon completion of research studies to present the results to national stakeholders and influence the national policy discussions. For example, IIC shared that the trade flow analysis dissemination workshop organized by them was attended by high level policy makers who were influential in the policy system in Laos, thus promoting IIC as a key research institution to address trade policy issues. Similarly in Cambodia, the workshop organized by CDRI had representatives from relevant government ministries including Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (MAFF), Ministry of Public Work and Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MISTI), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), and Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as academia, research institutes, and international donors. According to CDRI, this high level of engagement could be attributed, in part, to the international collaboration with PRCI which helped CDRI gain prominence as an important research institution in the country.

Given the flexibility under PRCI which allows centers to address emerging issues in a timely manner and sharing the results through policy consultations and influential forums, centers like IPS highlighted how they were able to impact the policy making process - PRCI supported research by IPS on implications of the chemical fertilizer ban was influential, along with other forces, in removal of the ban by the government. The findings were also discussed in several media programs, elevating IPS’s visibility as an important entity in the policy system. Another example shared by IPS was about how the unusual increase in the price of pulses called for an analysis of the pulses import as policy makers questioned the dependency of Sri Lanka on such imports. While such analysis was outside the scope of the agreed upon activities with IPS under PRCI, a policy brief was produced in collaboration with PRCI, to address the pulse self-sufficiency policy challenges in Sri Lanka.



In Nepal, IIDS wanted to conduct a scoping study of Nepal's Agriculture Development Strategy of Nepal (ADS) (2015-2035) to illustrate the achievements and progress of ADS in five years and the corresponding strategy the government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), is adopting in the country's new federal system. By tracking the implementation, the PRCI supported scoping study has identified the progress made and related policy gaps and provided recommendations to address the emerging challenges within the context of Nepal's evolving federalism. The study findings were presented to the policy making and strategy development community. IIDS concurs that this national level engagement has strengthened IIDS's profile as an important policy research institution which is now organizing similar policy consultations to improve Nepal's structural transformation process. Relatedly, IIDS conducted a residential training organized by IIDS with support from PRCI on 'Developing Policy Briefs on Agricultural Transformation'. IIDS shared that thematic food systems focused areas were identified at the workshop and authors/co-authors were carefully chosen to collaborate on policy briefs which will be published in a book format. With PRCI support, IIDS has managed to strengthen the capacity of senior government officials at the central and provincial ministries by organizing RBM trainings in 2023. IIDS stated that based on the success of the RBM trainings and positive feedback received from the provincial government, in Nov 2023, they conducted a 3-day policy planning workshop to train diverse stakeholders involved in policy planning process to develop a 5-year climate-resilient development plan and learn RBM tools. Participants agreed that the training enhanced competencies in applying the RBM for better planning focused on development outcomes with specific indicators for results measurement.

Regional engagement of KU and RIS: Working closely with KU and RIS, the goal was to identify regional research priorities, support policy dialogue, and collaborate on strengthening the knowledge and technical capacity of other centers on food system issues in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

KU has successfully organized and supported several regional workshops under PRCI. Aside from the trade flow analysis workshops which have generated sustainable outcomes using the training of trainers approach, in 2022, a regional workshop on 'Sustainable Food System in Southeast Asia Under and Beyond COVID-19: Policy Evidences and Call for Action' was organized. KU highlighted that the conference invited delegates with significant policy influence in the region and focused on the key role of research evidence for the design of policy and institutional innovations that accelerate the transformation to healthier, more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. Key discussions from the conference were published as a PRCI Brief. For cross country learning on climate change issues in Southeast Asia, KU noted that with support from Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), and Agricultural Economics Society of Thailand Under Royal Patronage, they co-organized a symposium 'Climate change policy system in Southeast Asia: From research to policy actions towards sustainable food systems' in 2023, at the 11th Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE) International Conference. In addition to developing a better understanding of the climate change action related policy systems and processes and implementation in operation in Southeast Asia, the event has helped develop a network of policy experts who understand the policy process and provide high-quality research evidence for translation of research into policy and impact. With PRCI support, KU also stated that they have strengthened their research network in the region through organized visits to universities and research institutions in Laos and Malaysia for cross learning and potential collaboration.

As a key think tank in the BIMSTEC network, RIS collaborates with regional think tanks and conducts capacity-building programs, seminars, and conferences. RIS already has a network of partner think tanks in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand which are leveraged for dissemination





and advocacy on important policy issues. Hence, they became an important partner for collaborative activities through the PRCI support. Marking its 40th anniversary in 2023, RIS pointed out that supported by PRCI it was able to expand its research collaborations and exchange of best practices. RIS highlighted that this partnership has bolstered RIS's ability to incorporate the advanced quantitative modules for regional agricultural trade analysis and helped advance food security policy dialogue in the region.

PRCI's liberal funding terms have enabled RIS to enhance its regional activities, especially its collaboration with BIMSTEC think tanks. In recent years, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, intra-regional travel was challenging, but according to RIS they were able to conduct its regional activities virtually and in a hybrid manner with participation from other PRCI centers. RIS organized a regional workshop in 2021, with PRCI support, which had representatives from Sri Lanka and Nepal who were identified by IPS and IIDS, respectively. Discussions revolved around food security, safety, and processing issues in the region. Most recently, RIS has successfully completed a capacity building training on 'BIMSTEC Regional Agriculture Trade Analysis' which provided a regional perspective on challenges faced by BIMSTEC in the agriculture sector.

RIS has been engaging with IPS for more than two decades on a range of research areas, most notably regional economic integration in South Asia. Under PRCI, RIS highlighted their participation in various IPS programs to explore specific collaborative activities. For example the 16th annual Research Forum of SAEA organized in collaboration with IFPRI, PRCI, and IPS included an in-person presentation on 'Value Chain and Trade study' by Dr. Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS, who is directly involved in the PRCI project. RIS has also collaborated with IPS on several consultations including G20 seminars and policy briefs during the last few years. IIDS from Nepal is a new partner for RIS in the South Asian region. RIS has invited IIDS and IPS to identify participants from Nepal and Sri Lanka for its training and capacity development activities under PRCI - most recently, for the regional agriculture trade analysis workshop organized by RIS in Feb 2024.

In part due to the relationships built over the PRCI project period and thematic areas that PRCI dealt with in the region, RIS has been able to engage with other regional institutions. RIS shared that under a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded project, they partnered with IFPRI's South Asia Office on hosting a training program on BIMSTEC agricultural trade analysis.

4. Lessons Learned

Localization

We draw two key lessons. First, choice of centers matters. Established institutions and institutions connected to the policy system, and the ones that have gained some level of recognition are able to build on the PRCI support quickly and further enhance their visibility. This lesson echoes the LCS principals to “start with the local system” and “appreciate and build on existing capacities”. Second, centers should be allowed to design and implement research activities that align with their local policy priorities and challenges. By being assisted to address food systems issues they consider the most relevant, and in a timely manner, institutions have an opportunity to create a greater impact on policy outcomes. This approach is central to effective capacity strengthening and local ownership, as the motivation of analysts will be far less if they have to work on topics imposed from outside that they don't consider the most relevant or important.



Flexible support for policy research and outreach

The flexible funding approach to address the local needs helped the centers to better leverage their human and financial resources towards influencing the policy process. Each centers' ability to sustain and expand their research capacity and presence as key players in the policy system depends on the nature of their core funding. Future funding sources and sustainability levels for continuing PRCI type activities will vary among the centers. RIS for example, is part of the Ministry of External Affairs, from where it gets the core funding. They mainly used the PRCI funding for project activities and not staff salaries. Similar is the case for IIC and KU. On the other hand, IIDS, IPS, and CDRI depend on external funding to hire staff and conduct research. For them, external support from projects like PRCI becomes a key to continuing their efforts. Thus, for some centers, continued support, even if limited, is needed to maintain their critical role in the national policy systems. Such support may include continued collaboration on joint research, developing policy briefs, participating in their annual meetings, and making in-person and virtual presentations in their policy workshops. Association with the project has brought a regional and global lens and provided legitimacy and credibility - centers are now able to better market their skills to other donors seeking collaboration. Going forward, at the country level, greater funding support would be helpful to enhance centers' engagement with local partners such as universities, government organizations, and other research institutes for joint research and training.

Sustainable Capacity Strengthening

The capacity strengthening workshops became a success because the content and technical methods were tailored to the needs and capabilities of the centers – the training was “align(ed) .. with local priorities” . Even though the initial period of the project overlapped with the COVID-19 phase, it was still able to provide the centers demand-driven capacity strengthening training support. For the trade flow analysis training, instructors shared datasets with the center which were helpful in doing analysis for the research studies. This way of training developed trust and confidence among the centers on PRCI's engagement as a knowledge and capacity development partner for research institutions. The training of trainer approach employed under PRCI has proven to achieve the desired outcomes in the case of KU and is expected to spread to other centers in the future.

In the future, as regards technical capacity strengthening, focus should be on quantitative and qualitative methodologies for policy analysis including mixed methods and communication for policy impact and should include practical exercises using country level data. Such hands-on practical training approaches can also help promote cross country learning.

In-person workshops are preferred when possible, but centers realize that remote training allows much more material to be presented. Centers should also be supported to participate in global and regional fellowship programs.

Annex I: PRCI Assessment Questionnaire

1. What specific activities of PRCI were most helpful to your center? Please consider these aspects of PRCI: (1) technical training, (2) financial support to research, (3) mentoring support to research, (4) support to regional engagement, and (5) any other specific support your center received. Please provide concrete examples of how your center benefitted.



2. Please indicate at least 2 major accomplishments in the area of RESEARCH that your center achieved thanks at least in part to PRCI support. These could include things like new technical capacities, expertise in new topical areas, greater research visibility and credibility among policy makers, and others. Please give specific examples of the accomplishment and indicate what aspect of PRCI was instrumental in your center's ability to achieve this result.

3. Please indicate at least 2 major accomplishments in the area of policy engagement that your center achieved thanks at least in part to PRCI support. Please give specific examples of the accomplishment and indicate what aspect of PRCI was instrumental in your center's ability to achieve this result.

4. Please indicate at least 2 major accomplishments in the area of regional engagement that your center achieved thanks at least in part to PRCI support. Please give specific examples of the accomplishment and indicate what aspect of PRCI was instrumental in your center's ability to achieve this result.

5. In what specific ways could PRCI support have been more helpful in your center's research, policy engagement, and regional engagement?

6. What if anything is unique about PRCI's support compared to other support that you have had?" Provide specific examples.

7. In the context of sustainability, are there specific examples of PRCI support which have helped in achieving sustainable outcomes? (eg. funding prospects-learning to raise money, network connections at the national and regional level; global connections like IFPRI which can improve credibility and global connectedness)

8. What would you like to see in a future program like PRCI – taking into account what has been already in PRCI (eg. research skills, training activities, new research models)?

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