Post-programme evaluation questionnaire results from workshops for Government officials and Universities

In total 32 participants from 2 workshops responded to the Post-programme evaluation with more than half of the participants being female. In terms of the affiliation, most of the respondents come from the first workshop for government officials.



Overall participants were satisfied with the organization of the workshops and they highly estimated the workshop design, facilitation, quality of resource materials and overall logistics. The topic of the workshops was most relevant and of high importance for the participants.



In terms of presented information, 77% of the respondents reported that it was new to them, and 91% of them found the presented information relevant to their job. 94% of the respondents intend to apply the acquired knowledge and skills. Overall, participants were very satisfied with the workshop and found it extremely useful.



Most of the participants felt that the workshops helped them increase their understanding of the relevance of long-term and integrated planning leveraged by the systems thinking approached that will help them support the government officials over time, as well as helped them enhance their knowledge and skills on using systems thinking for the integrate planning. 91% of the respondents reported that the workshops strengthened their commitment to promoting the systems thinking in coherent long-term planning.



Qualitative feedback from the participants from the workshop for the Government:

What did you like most and least about the workshop, and how can it be improved?

- More hand-on practical/ discussion
- I learned about SDG mainstreaming in national development plan; however tools need to be provided on how to do it.
- The system thinking exercise.
- Interaction with the presenters
- Most: Informal approach of the online resource penal and the new knowledge shared including lessons learnt
- participatory approach in exercises
- Least: a lot of the knowledge is not applicable to local context

• I learned about SDG mainstreaming in national plans, but tools on how to do it need to be provided. The systems thinking exercise was only touching on the subject & may not have been fully grasped by the participants, specifically regarding the interlinkages between the policies and feedback loops. Exercises diverted due to discussions & may not have achieved the required outcome.

Comments/ suggestions on improving the workshop for future trainings:

- Focuses systems thinking methods with simple to more complicated exercises to help participants think differently and understand the methodology of the approaches rather than discuss ideas.
- More case studies on causal loops with relevant examples
- The use of more PowerPoint presentations and adopt more participatory approaches to better comprehend.
- More hand on materials and clearer examples of best practices
- More time for training
- A variety of presenters
- Training more staff to enhance their knowledge on SDGs.
- More case studies on the topics of discussion
- Try to use examples from SIDS or success stories from contexts which are applicable to Mauritius.
- A dedicated team to work directly with ministries.

What follow-up actions will you take to implement the knowledge gained?

- Make additional searches on the knowledge gained.
- Seek best practices and its application in local context.
- To ensure that ministries/ organizations are pursuing their actions as per the guidelines set & framework set.
- Sharing the knowledge at my place with colleagues and head of units
- System thinking
- To know more on how my job can help in achievement of SDGs.
- I will identify the SDG focal point in my ministry and request to fill out.
- I will integrate SDGs while discussing policies and mention the impact and evaluation of progress in reporting.
- SDG fitness test
- Using the building blocks developed by UNEP.

What type of capacity building activities would you like to see more of from the organizers in the future?

- Greenhouse gas emission
- The principles/ approaches need clearer and more explanation.
- A proper training program with at least a week may prove more beneficial
- Training/ seminars/ workshops
- Capacity building
- More participatory approach and interactive sessions on the implementation of projects in line SDGs
- Maybe some hands-on physical exercises
- workshop dedicated to SDGs with all relevant stakeholders to achieve SDG goals.
- As SDGs are dynamic & evolving, regular workshops/ capacity building is required. People working on SDGs in ministries keep changing.

I would like to receive more information on the following:

- Implementation/ mainstreaming of SDG 11 in national planning instruments
- Training programs for town planners by UN agencies
- Policies to be implemented to address the 17 SDGs.
- Linking STI policies (science, technology, innovation) to SDGs
- Application systems thinking related to agriculture in other countries.

Qualitative feedback from the participants from the workshop for the Universities:

What did you like most and least about the workshop, and how can it be improved?

- "CLEWS", "System thinking", "SDGs relation to each other"
- Presentation of the causal loop diagram
- The interactive nature of the workshop was most appreciated.
- The concise aspect of the workshop
- Allowed for interaction between colleagues.
- Least like: too theoretical
- The resource persons were very committed and encouraged interaction between participants.

Comments/ suggestions on improving the workshop for future trainings:

- Engagement in policymaking
- More hand on/ group discussions
- Better setting to facilitate group discussion.
- Use of simple models which leads to casual loop diagram would be very interesting.
- Further examples already implemented in other countries.
- More than 2 days
- Further training on system dynamic model
- More examples regarding the application of various techniques such as the causal loop diagram. Explanation should be based on an example to facilitate understanding.

What follow-up actions will you take to implement the knowledge gained?

- Self-exploration of system thinking and system modeling
- Try to specifically identify SDGs that could be impacted by my research outcome.
- More engagement with policy worker
- Capacity building on SDG system thinking tools and software.
- Follow-up workshops with practical training
- Foster discussion in the working groups.

What type of capacity building activities would you like to see more of from the organizers in the future?

- Use of more advanced technique to implement system training.
- Platform of discussion between academia and government

- More training on the process of system modeling software
- More such training with future depth
- How to foster closer interactions between policy makers of academia to address SDG more efficiently.
- Similar workshop with longer time
- Lab-based data analysis
- Use more advanced techniques to implement systems thinking.

I would like to receive more information on the following:

- system modeling online course which students could follow, which could at the same time be included in research module and other module
- training/ webinars by email sent.
- SDG implementation
- SDG 7
- Ethics & system thinking
- Funding opportunities for research project
- Software that can be used to facilitate the implementation of systems thinking.