Project Results to Policy Recommendations: Linking to Legislators and Local Chief Executives

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INTRODUCTION

The project was in line with the DOST-FNRI's continuous efforts to link research and policy using evidence-based data in policy formulation. It was a pro-active effort of the Institute that opens opportunities for the FNRI researches and projects to reach the national and local level political stakeholders and provide basis for wider use of the researches in policy making and legislative agenda as well as in crafting bills both at the Congress and at the Senate.

As a continuing project, the aim of the project was to develop policy statements and recommendations based from the FNRI's completed researches/projects from 2009-2015. Key policy issues on food, health, and nutrition were identified and translated to policy statements and recommendations. The developed policy statements were compiled for wider utilization by and dissemination to various stakeholders.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

- Obtain a list of completed researches and projects implemented from 2009-2015
- Assess by key issues/concerns on food, health and nutrition
- Review and analyze research results/project reports
- Edit, revise and finalize policy statements and recommendations
- Draft policy statements and recommendations
- Gather and review related studies/literature
- Disseminate to various stakeholders (Senate, Congress, Local Chief Executives, etc.)
- Print and compile policy statements
- Apply for copyright

Figure 1. Process flow of policy statement development.
In 2017, Volume 2 of policy statements and recommendations developed include issues on: hypertension, osteoporosis, iron fortified foods, salt consumption, plate/food wastes, virgin coconut oil nutrition labeling, deworming, physical activity, and wellness program.

- Hypertension: a silent killer!
- Osteoporosis: the “silent epidemic”
- Iron Deficiency Anemia affects school and work performances
- Watch out for your salt intake
- Increasing plate waste and food waste, alarming!
- The Wonder Virgin Coconut Oil
- All you need to know about nutrition labeling
- Deworming can Prevent Stunting
- Promote Physical Activity among Schoolchildren
- Say YES! to a Healthy workplace

The dissemination activities included the conduct of Senate Policy Forum and three Provincial Policy Fora conducted in selected areas based from high underweight and stunting prevalences among infants and young children. The theme was “Pagkain, Kalusugan, at Nutrisyon: Pananaliksik tungo sa batas, programa at patakaran.”
Three Provincial Policy Fora were conducted in 2017 in Luzon (Odiongan, Romblon-September 12, 2017); Visayas (Borongan City, Eastern Samar-November 8, 2017); and Mindanao (San Francisco, Agusan del Sur-December 6, 2017). These dissemination activities were coordinated with the Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs) and with the Provincial/City/Municipal Nutrition Action Officers (P/C/MNAOs).

The Project Results to Policy Recommendations (PR to PR): The Link was also presented to the International Symposium on Research Translation and 66th Annual Convention of the Philippines Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilASST) held on September 19-20, 2017 at Hotel Jen, Manila.

Research and development (R&D) and science and technology (S&T) outputs become more meaningful and useful when these benefit the larger population.

It is recommended that this policy translation project be continued to ensure that completed research/projects of the Institute can be reviewed, analyzed and translated to policy documents which can be disseminated to local and national level policy makers. It is also envisioned that the policy documents will serve as bases for drafting congress and senate bills and facilitates its passing, and other legislative agenda and policy instruments that will aid in improving the health and nutritional situation of every Filipino.

Likewise, for the output, the project results translated to policy recommendations to be widely recognized and maximize its use, thus, advocacy and dissemination activities should be continuously strengthened and pursued.