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## **RAILS** **Building Learning Teams**

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### **Learning team concept**

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The learning team concept within RAILS is based on the recognition that an information system is made of the following main components:

- People,
- Technology,
- Content, and
- Processes

The national learning team members are the **people**. They come from various backgrounds and disciplines, and work together as **information intermediaries**.

## Responsibilities RAILS LT members

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Facilitating information exchanges among the NARS stakeholders -> building of a NAILS

- Delivery of agricultural information and com. services and products to the end users
- Development of national information repositories accessible at sub regional and regional level
- Develop and maintain quality content of the eRAILS national portal
- advocacy on the use of information and learning systems at national level

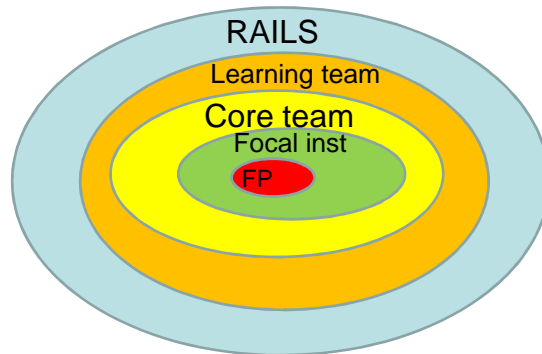
## Responsibilities RAILS LT members (cont'd)

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- Sensitization and advocacy on use of information and learning systems at national level for information exchanges
- RAILS activities and national initiatives undertaken by national partners
- Participate in the development of the national work plan in relation to the RAILS activities
- Contribute in building synergies, wherever possible, between
- Actively participate in activities organized within the RAILS (online discussion, training – online & face to face, meetings, surveys, etc.)

## Possible Structure

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## Building LT for ASARECA Region

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### ***What type of Teams to be established?***

- A team to support development of a national Gateway/Portal

### ***What should be the teams' outputs?***

- Strategic plan for national gateway developed; this includes:
  - a. Lobbying government
  - b. Identifying acceptable team mix and leadership
  - c. Resources mobilization
  - d. Modalities for M&E /Reporting

## Building LT for ASARECA Region

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### ***What should be the teams' outputs? Cont'd***

- A functional national gateway with as many agricultural information resources made accessible as possible
- Mechanisms and modalities for participating in the gateway
- Mechanisms for M&E established

### ***Who should be in the national team?***

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- Researchers, Extension, Education, Media, Social scientists, NGOs/CBOs, Universities, Private sector, farmer organizations;
- Commodity exchange;
- Agricultural sector lead Ministries, Education and ICT.
- ICT/M specialist;
- Development partners

### *How to sustain the national Learning teams?*

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- Institutionalize the learning teams;
- Motivation including capacity building
- Facilitation
- Provide necessary equipment with clear mandate of use and ownership
- Recognize, acknowledge the contributions of individuals and institutions;
- Enhance regular communication (build a family team spirit);
- Learning Team members should have a written **approval from their institution**

### *How to sustain the national Learning teams? (Cont'd)*

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- Good leadership quality ( Focal person/institution);
- Have a strong core national learning team
- Enhance the public private sector partnerships
- Integrate teams in national agricultural-sector development plans
- Effective M&E mechanisms implemented

### *The Core Learning Team - responsibilities?*

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- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, facilitation, coordination
- Ensure that national needs are addressed by the gateway
- Harmonization, standardization, advocacy
- Training, documentation and reporting
- Fundraising
- Identification and Adoption of innovations
- Partnerships and networking, etc.

### *Some criteria for selection of RAILS Core National Learning Team members (7 members recommended)*

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- Belong to a NARS institution (research institution, extension/agricultural advisory service, ministry of agriculture, University or training institution, NGO, Farmers organizations, private sector, etc.)
- Have proven knowledge and/or experience in information and communication management
- Be currently involved in agricultural research for development
- Experience in working within a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional team
- Have the mandate or be involved in the management of their institutional information and communication needs.
- Willing to actively contribute in the implementation of activities related to RAILS in their country

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**THANK YOU**