Innovation systems

Making science work for farmers ... and beyond

Toon Defoer and Francois Dossouhoui
Current drivers ...
Call for being ....

- More innovative
- More varied and “options” oriented
- More adapted and flexible
  - To develop sustainable ways for
    - Food security
    - Income generation
    - Poverty alleviation
    - Natural resource conservation
From single components to options for integration

- Station (controlled) results often « disappointing » under farmer’s conditions
- Cumulative effect of improvements e.g. water-fertility-weeds (in lowland rice systems)
- Low precision systems require:
  - Diversity of alternative ‘options’ for integration
  - Farmers’ early involvement for local adaptation of possible improvements
From Aid to Trade

• Growing international (donor) interest in agricultural R & D

• BUT:
  – Market-driven (inclusive) development
  – Benefits for both « the poor » and private sectors
  – North and South and South-South trade

« Aid though trade »
From Production to Agribusiness

- Market first: demand driven and pull
- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Linking farmers to other value chain actors, like processors and sellers, retailers, ...
- Vertical integration of farmers into markets
- Public-Private partnerships
- Value chain efficiency and agri-food systems
From Results to Impact

- Emphasis on development outcomes in stead of research outputs
- Act locally and market-led specific
  - But within national/regional/international context/issues
  - So to upscale
  - And to make significant impact.
From Research to Innovation

• Technology: only 1 dimension of current issues

• Organisational and management dimensions are often the “root-cause”

• Innovation = more than a “Product” but a “Process” of bringing:
  – New products
  – New ways of working
  – New organisational models

Into economic use
Building competences

• To link research and education with development
• For collective Innovation and Learning in agri-food systems
• Beyond « individual » competences
  – Collective « team » action and learning
  – Change at organisational level
  – Building partnerships linking Research, Advisory services, Higher education, Farmer organisations, and the Private sector
Learning for Innovation (L4I) Cycle

Initiation

Flexible Planning

Managed by an inter-institutional core group of « change agents »

Facilitation of collective learning

Field application @ MSP level

Review and Reflection

Collaborative innovation/action

21-24 October 2013, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Repeated L4I cycles

Joint action learning addressing common development challenge
Capacities required of inter-institutional core teams

Innovation competence

“Real world” learning

Learning in teams

Experiential learning

Addressing institutional barriers

On-the-job

Multi-stakeholder interaction

Inter-organisational content + process

Inter-disciplinary

planning

doing

Reflecting (lessons learnt)

Creating enabling environment
Capacity Development (CD) of the teams

- Action-learning cycles
  - Knowledge
  - Skills
  - Attitude (Mindset)
Combining L4I cycles with CD for management teams

Initiation

Flexible Planning

Field application @ MSP level

Review and Reflection

Collaborative innovation/action

SKA wrkshp

Reflection wrkshp

Field coaching

SKA wrkshp

Reflection wrkshp

Field coaching

Field coaching
Thank you