



ILAC at a glance

What is the ILAC Initiative?

The Institutional Learning and Change (ILAC) Initiative works to boost the contributions that agricultural research and development (R&D) is making to cut poverty worldwide by improving the ability of researchers and others involved in R&D to

- work with a wide range of stakeholders,
- learn from the results of their work,
- share their knowledge, and
- put that knowledge to work in agricultural innovation processes.

An innovation systems approach helps improve our understanding of the processes behind agricultural change, and guides interventions to stimulate innovations that benefit the poor.

What are ILAC's Aims?

ILAC focuses on strengthening the capacity of partnerships, alliances, consortia, networks, eco-regional initiatives and other collaborative arrangements that actively engage the poor.

ILAC aims to

- generate new knowledge through applied research and evaluation,
- strengthen the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to foster pro-poor innovation,
- foster leadership and supportive policies, and
- improve communication and knowledge sharing.

Current Major Activities

ILAC's Learning Laboratory

ILAC is bringing the members of various collaborative R&D programs together to

- share good and bad experiences,
- identify common barriers to pro-poor innovation, and
- plan applied research to overcome them.

"To be serious about poverty, the agricultural research and development community has to be serious about institutional learning and change."

Robert Chambers

Impact Evaluation Project

ILAC is starting a major project to develop new approaches and methods for assessing impacts of collaborative agricultural R&D programmes. This effort is responding to calls from the recent international 'Rethinking Impact' workshop for new methods and other support for evaluating the impacts of complex, applied research.

Training and Capacity Development

ILAC conducts an annual course for agricultural R&D managers on Facilitating Participatory Decision Making. New courses on Social Network Analysis and Planning for Policy Influence are being developed and tested.

Communication and Knowledge Sharing

ILAC is developing a web-based knowledge portal and continues the development of its popular series of ILAC Briefs on topics such as evaluation for learning and use, participatory decision making and organizational culture.

ILAC Partners and Supporters

ILAC is an inter-centre initiative of the CGIAR that is generously supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DFID Research Into Use Programme is supporting a scoping study for the impact assessment project. ILAC Learning Lab members include

- Network for Linking Users to Researchers for Banana and Plantain Improvement, Bioversity International
- Mainstreaming Impact Group, CIAT
- Impacts Targeting Unit, CIMMYT
- Users' Perspectives With Agricultural Research and Development (UPWARD) Network, CIP
- Andean Change Program and Impact Enhancement Division, CIP
- African Highlands Initiative, ICRAF
- Innovation Works: Linking Knowledge with Action, ILRI
- Xavier Institute of Management, India



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