



International workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA)

29th – 31st May 2013

KARI National Laboratories & KCB Leadership Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Report on workshop process and discussions

compiled by

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August 2013

<http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

Acknowledgements

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Sources of funding:

JOLISAA (EU FP7), CCAFS/PROLINNOVA, AusAID, self-sponsored participants

Thanks to Birgit Boogaard for drawing the titles of the Hot Issues!

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List of acronyms

AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AIS	agricultural innovation systems
AISA	Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa
ARD	agricultural research and development
CCAFS	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CIRAD	Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development
CoS–SIS	Convergence of Sciences: Strengthening Innovation Systems
CPWF	CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EAFIF	Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair
EU	European Union
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
FSIFS	Food Systems Innovation for Food Security
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
ICRA	International Centre for Research on development-oriented Agriculture
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IP	innovation platform
IPR	intellectual property rights
JOLISAA	Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
KENFAP	Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MoA	Kenya Ministry of Agriculture
NRM	natural resource management
PROLINNOVA	Promoting Local INNOVATION in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
WAIA	Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa
WUR	Wageningen University and Research

Background to the AISA workshop

In the wake of a series of recent international events and initiatives focusing on understanding and fostering innovation¹, there is growing awareness and interest in applying and making sense of the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) concept and perspective and what it offers for understanding and supporting innovation systems, processes and networks. This has particular relevance for African agriculture as it faces several challenges, such as increasing and intensifying food production in a sustainable way and nourishing its fast-growing population, adapting to the consequences of climate change, and finding its rightful place in an increasingly global and complex international scene.

Several key issues deserve urgent attention from researchers, practitioners and policymakers involved with African agriculture and innovation:

- What insights and lessons can be gained from recent experiences and initiatives to promote and support agricultural innovation involving smallholders throughout Africa?
- How are the AIS concepts and approaches being operationalised in Africa? With what successes and challenges? What added value do they bring compared to other approaches to agricultural research and development?
- What are some of the key implications and recommendations for the way forward in terms of policy, research and practice with regard to supporting agricultural innovation in Africa, and how can such recommendations be implemented concretely in the near future?

Several initiatives and programmes seeking to understand and strengthen multi-stakeholder innovation processes involving African smallholders jointly organised a series of events during a “Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa” (WAIA) held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25–31 May 2013. The EU-funded Framework Programme (FP) 7 project JOLISAA (JOint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture) brought findings and lessons learnt from case studies about diverse innovation experiences in Benin, Kenya and South Africa. The PROLINNOVA² network shared its experience in promoting local innovation and farmer-led participatory research, particularly through community-managed funds. CCAFS³ took advantage of the events to expand its network of partners throughout Africa and to address its “social learning” agenda. The AusAID-funded project Food Systems Innovation for Food Security (FSIFS) offered its lessons about how to better incorporate research into food security initiatives. Beside their own “internal” meetings during the WAIA, these four initiatives co-organised two interlinked international events: the **Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair (EAFIF)** on 28–29 May and the international workshop on **Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA)** on 29–31 May.

¹ For example: the 2006 Innovation Africa Symposium in Uganda; the ongoing Convergence of Sciences: Strengthening Innovation Systems (CoS–SIS) programme in Benin, Ghana and Mali; the 2008 World Bank Report on Agriculture; the 2009 IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development) report; the 2012 report of the Working Group on agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the EU Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR); the 2012 World Bank *Agricultural Innovation Systems Sourcebook*; the 2012 Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) report on multi-stakeholder innovation experiences; the *Renewing Innovation Systems in Agriculture and Food* (2012) book that came out of the Innovation & Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Food (ISDA) conference (2010); and various activities underway for the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in 2014.

² PROLINNOVA: Promoting Local INNOVation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management, a Global Partnership Programme of GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research) in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

³ CCAFS: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, operating currently in Eastern and West Africa and South Asia.

Invitations to workshop participants

About 100 participants were purposefully invited, with a view to allowing intensive interaction, using learning- and output-oriented facilitation methods. Invitees represented a broad range of professional profiles and experiences. They came from the major stakeholder groups concerned with innovation in smallholder agriculture in Africa, including researchers and academics, development practitioners, farmers; and policy- and decision-makers from Africa, Europe and Australia.

Specifically, the organisers of the AISA workshop invited persons involved in programmes and institutions such as: JOLISAA (a consortium including CIRAD, WUR, ETC Foundation, ICRA, KARI and the Universities of Pretoria & Abomey-Calavi), PROLINNOVA, CCAFS and its associated members, AusAID/CSIRO (FSIFS), FARA and its subregional fora, the World Bank, Wageningen University and Research, the European Commission, GFAR, AFAAS, IFDC, EU-funded projects such as INSARD (Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development) and SOLINSA (Support of Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture), Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the East African Farmer Federation (EAFF), RUFORUM and a selection of Kenyan organisations. Most participants covered their own costs. The list of people who came to the workshop can be found in Annex 2.

Objectives and structure of the workshop

The main objectives of the AISA workshop were:

1. to learn jointly about agricultural innovation processes and systems in Africa
2. to identify policy implications and develop policy messages
3. to explore perspectives for collaborative action research on smallholder agricultural innovation.

The workshop focused on: a) sharing experiences in trying to understand and strengthen multi-stakeholder innovation processes and the role of smallholders in innovation; and b) identifying and discussing priorities and recommendations for research, practice and policy. Oral presentations were purposefully kept to a minimum. Presentations of lesson-focused posters allowed for extensive and wide-ranging facilitated discussions and intensive social learning among participants.

The workshop was structured around five thematic sessions (see agenda in Annex 1):

1. Opening and participation in the **Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair** (facilitated dialogue with farmer innovators)
2. **Setting the scene** for assessing and supporting innovation in Africa and **sharing main results and lessons** about innovation processes and cases
3. **Poster** and “**marketplace**”
4. **Policy implications and policy-dialogue** strategy and messages
5. **Finding ways forward**

Session 1: Opening and participation in Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair

The two-day Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair (EAFIF) and the first half-day of the AISA workshop were held on the grounds of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) National Laboratories in Kabete, Westlands, Nairobi. The AISA workshop was officially opened during the final afternoon of the fair by the KARI Director, Ephraim Mukisira. A separate report has been made on the EAFIF (see <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/farmer+fair>).

Introductions and expectations of participants

Workshop facilitator Ewen Le Borgne of ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) gave an overview of the AISA workshop agenda. He then clustered the participants (see Annex 2) according to stakeholder groups and asked them to introduce themselves to each other and to brainstorm about what they would like to see come out of the workshop. The expectations of the different groups are shown in Box 1.

Box 1: What different stakeholder groups expected from the AISA workshop

Researchers:

- Learn and share
- Get a reality check
- Networking
- Strengthening a community of practice on these issues
- Understanding how to cross the disciplines in research
- How to benefit from the workshop to identify new research questions

NGOs and other development practitioners:

- Network and joint learning
- Better understand outcomes of innovation
- Understand what AISA does and how to collaborate
- Discover farmers' innovations
- Help with the dissemination of some of these innovations
- Understand how to interpret innovation at poverty level
- Find new ways to adapt or do new things (in Burkina Faso)

Decision-makers, consultants etc:

- Learn and share knowledge (x2)
- Networking
- Understand innovation systems in agriculture and what makes an operational innovation platform
- Stimulate information and networking
- Scaling up and commercialisation
- Understand how donors can support innovation
- See what are available innovations to partner with, to support etc
- Screen demand for innovation by producers, retailers, consumers
- Understand how to validate innovation and identify which could be scaled up
- Understand policy issues around innovation
- Identify skills and characteristics of organisations to support innovation
- Capacity development for farmers

Workshop participants learn from farmer innovators

The workshop participants were asked to form ten groups to make “learning visits” to the farmer innovators who were exhibiting their achievements at the fair. Each group received seven sticky dots and five blank “insight cards” and appointed a documenter. Each group was invited to visit at least seven

different farmer-innovator booths of at least two different countries. They left one of their sticky dots at each stand they visited. They noted down the key insights from their visit (what they learnt about farmer innovators and what this told them about how agricultural innovation systems work in Africa) and shared a maximum of five insights agreed on by the group. After two teams had visited a particular farmer booth (i.e. it had two sticky dots on the table), it could not be visited by other teams. This was done to ensure that all booths were visited, rather than certain booths being over-visited and others not at all. After a farmer innovator had been visited by two teams, s/he could go to the stands of other farmers and keep them company. After visiting the booth, the groups reported their insights by pinning their cards on a large banner set up on the fairgrounds.

During the coffee break, the workshop organisers clustered the cards. All the cards about farmer innovators and innovation processes/systems were read out, and participants gave feedback (see Box 2).

Box 2: Reflections from AISA participants about the farmer innovators

About farmer innovators themselves

- Recognise and nurture farmer capacity to do research
- Experimenters in their own right
- They are willing to share
- Very creative and inventive, courageous
- They promote their innovations well
- Long experience outside community

Definition of innovation

- Definition / how people interpret innovation and know it is better
- There is no agreement on what is an innovation. Is that important?

Knowledge sharing

- Need for strong collaboration
- Collaboration with research / universities
- Need for formal researchers to work closely on follow up on local innovations
- Gap seen between local knowledge + research (science) and science (lack of communication)
- Knowledge transfer of innovations – how could these be identified and how would this transfer occur?
- Publishing books to enable knowledge sharing
- How to innovate in this Fair? connecting with business fairs, cultural events etc

Innovation triggers

- Innovation addressed challenge of community + opportunity market
- Social innovation conflict resolution
- Needs provoke invention + a mechanism to upscale will help
- The innovations respond directly to the local needs and utilise locally available resources
- Farmer fairs provide quick and easy access to farmer innovation

Enabling environment (policy, funding etc)

- Is market upscale important?
- Does innovation have to bring financial return?
- Technical + financial + market support is helpful
- Recognition of process orientation to develop innovation
- How to support local innovators for sustainability and still recognise them as the source of knowledge
- There is a need to support the innovators to protect their intellectual property rights
- Policy barriers for commercialisation of innovation in some countries
- Regulatory barriers to using good ideas

Specific innovations

- Fodder preservation and storage innovations were included
- Post-harvest losses can be avoided and turned into charcoal (new product)
- Land reclamation healing gullies helping the community

Farmer innovators from the four Eastern African countries were invited to give their ideas and suggestions about what the AISA participants should remember during their discussions and deliberations in the rest of the workshop. Before this afternoon session started, the farmers had discussed among themselves what they would like to convey to the workshop participants about farmers' own experiences in agricultural innovation and interaction with "outsiders". One farmer from each country spoke on behalf of her/his peers (see Box 3). They stressed that the scientists should visit them in their fields to see what is actually happening and should not be in a hurry if they want to understand innovation by smallholders. The farmers also pointed out that one driver behind innovation is necessity. They invited scientists to work together with them in improving their innovations, which use mainly locally available materials, and they were optimistic that this approach to innovation could have a place in the development of agriculture in Africa.

Box 3: Some messages from the farmer innovators to the AISA participants

Ethiopian farmer (man):

- Fifteen Ethiopian farmers came to the fair. I thank you all for helping us make this connection with African friends and colleagues.
- What we farmers have observed is that there were some displays in English. Had the fair been connected to a field trip, it would have been very complete for the farmers. It might be good to bring farmers to rural environments to understand what people are doing and how people live.
- I am working on improving traditional beekeeping and ox-ploughs, using less wood to reduce deforestation. I inherited beekeeping from my father, who taught me a lot about it. For sharing among other Ethiopian farmers, this has been very useful. Our farmer innovation network is facilitating connections among ourselves. It would be good to work with an institution that creates linkages for wider networking beyond our locality.
- It's true that we get support but it's usually for a very short time. Since we lack support on a continuous basis, our innovation is lagging behind. Why don't you come for longer periods?
- Experts only listen for a short time; they take a small part of our work and run away again. Why don't you take more time to listen to us? If you take time to listen to and observe the behaviour of bees, you will see how bees are nesting out. Why are not people more patient?

Ugandan farmer (man):

We are very happy to come here to receive your recommendations and observations. We have been in some conversations with you. We appreciate this very much. We know we are going to benefit from this. But we also have some lessons to go forward:

- We're all innovators and our major objective is to live in the world as a habitable place. We have to leave the earth for our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters.
- We want to bridge the gap between researchers and farmers. Some farmers fear researchers because they want to protect their work. When farmers come here, they share their knowledge but they fear that their innovations could be taken away from them because they may not have funds (and education) to speed up innovation. We need to be protected and to address the gap.
- In Uganda, we have a bill of standards and farmers need money to present their innovations there but sometimes they can't afford this. We need to find ways to make sure people benefit from our innovations.
- Capacity building should be done in terms of inputs and finance. Sometimes finance is difficult to access – people push back when it comes to money. You people can support farmers.

Tanzanian farmer (young woman):

- From Tanzania, we have different innovations here – I really appreciate this.
- We have an old woman innovator from Tanzania here and I wish I will get older than her.
- We came from different countries and saw people we wished to meet. I hope you got something from us.
- I hope to see you one day in Tanzania.

Kenyan farmer (woman):

- Greetings to all of you for this great arrangement and I am wonderfully happy to be here.
- The previous speakers have spoken a lot of what I wanted to say.
- The difficult issue is funding.
- I request that you document our innovations in the Web to reach more people.

The first session of the AISA workshop ended with the presentation of awards to the best farmer innovators. The innovations were judged based on originality, technical viability, social acceptance, ability to be scaled out, relevance for smallholders and environmental conservation by a team of judges composed of Patti Kristjanson from CCAFS / World Agroforestry Centre, Milton Lore from Land o' Lakes / USAID, Damary Sikalieh from the United State International University in Kenya, and George Mazuri from the USTADI Foundation. Six farmers were awarded prizes for their innovations in crop production, livestock production, soil and water management, market and social institutions, and as top male and female innovators.

During his closing speech, Melle Leenstra, First Secretary, Economic Development and Food Security at the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi, pointed to the need to promote and support local innovation in crucial human livelihood areas such as food and nutrition security, natural resource management (NRM), healthy living, environmental conservation, poverty alleviation, employment and wealth creation, and local, regional and international trade.

Farmers, AISA participants and guests then moved into the cocktail mode.



Ethiopian farmer addresses AISA workshop participants (Credit: Fabian Odhiambo)

Session 2: Setting the scene and sharing main results and lessons

The second and third days of the workshop were held at the KCB Leadership Training Centre in Karen, Nairobi. We started Day 2 with a short recap of the agenda. Then Peter Ballantyne (ILRI) and Bernard Triomphe (CIRAD) introduced the process of building the Living Keynote together in the workshop.

Definitions of some key terms were posted on the wall where the Living Keynote would be developed (see Box 4).

Box 4: Some definitions for the Living Keynote

Innovation: Process or outcome with a desired social or economic impact

Intervention: An action with a purpose

Capacity (in innovation system context): Ability to generate or respond to change

Enabling environment: Environment that can increase the odds of desired processes and outcomes

Local/endogenous innovation: Process by which people in a community develop new and better ways of doing things, using their own resources and on their own initiative, and drawing on local knowledge and integrated external knowledge

Introduction to the Living Keynote with the AISA Hot Issues

Instead of coming to the meeting with a prepared keynote, we tried out a Living Keynote: we started with an initial set of questions/issues and gradually during the two days (30–31 May) fleshed these out with contributions and reflections from the participants. A small team of volunteers helped report on each of the seven “Hot Issues”. The workshop organisers had identified the first six beforehand; the seventh was identified by the workshop participants during this session.

1. *Innovation drop zones? Dealing with interventions “parachuted” into situations without due appreciation of and embedding into local realities*



- How, and how well, do innovation facilitation teams understand and balance the needs and demands of different actors, especially the local ones?
- To what extent do innovation interventions actually adapt to local contexts? What human and institutional capacities and financial resources are needed to do so? Who influences intervention choices and approaches?
- How can intervention teams/projects become aware how their actions may affect existing power relationships among local actors?

2. *Life under the hedge? Missing endogenous innovations under the radar of innovation “experts”*



- What is it that the radar misses? Innovation outside the agricultural sector, innovation developed by marginalised groups, by groups who are opposing the government or national policies, by private firms willing to protect their market – or simply by the “ordinary” farmers with whom a project is working?
- Why can’t we see these hidden innovation processes? Who is benefiting from this situation? Who is not benefiting from this situation?
- To what extent do we see and recognise the contributions of individual innovators as compared to more collective innovation processes?

3. Follow the bright lights? Fitting current enthusiasms, e.g. for market-driven innovation, to all circumstances



- How, and to what extent do such enthusiasms (or fads) endanger innovation?
- How do we make space and time to adjust to, understand and build capacities and skills for new innovation approaches?
- How can shorter-term “market” signals and pressures (of donors or policies) be balanced with the longer timelines needed to foster structural change?

4. Surf the wave? Balancing more directed and output-driven innovation projects with more opportunistic outcome-oriented innovation processes



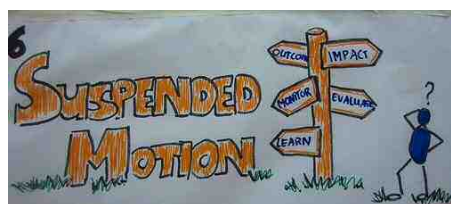
- How can we integrate opportunistic innovation processes within output-driven innovation projects with fixed goals?
- How can local innovators be enabled to flexibly connect different short-term projects to realise a long-term ambition?

5. Brain gain? Strengthening capacities for innovation and for facilitating innovation processes



- How could universities and other training centres be associated to innovation processes and programmes?
- Who is best placed to support and facilitate innovation processes? What capacities are needed and does this depend on the type of innovation process?
- How can the capacities of the various actors involved in innovation be strengthened & by whom?
- Can multi-stakeholder innovation processes be steered and, if so, how? How do actors organise their innovation through interaction? What interventions are possible if these processes cannot really be managed?
- How do we develop adaptive capacities to manage innovation process crises: technical (lock-in), economic (economic risks, lack of funds etc) and social (social tensions, power grabbing, political blockages)?

6. Suspended motion? Monitoring, evaluating, adjusting, learning and reflecting on innovation results, outcomes and impacts



- How can results, outcomes and impacts of innovation processes be assessed? Can qualitative dimension be assessed scientifically?
- What's the relevant period to be able to assess innovation processes?
- How can an innovation story reflect different and contradictory results, outcomes and impacts?
- How best to assess undesired or negative results, outcomes and impacts of innovation (exclusion, loss of resources, loss of traditional values promoting solidarity etc) and who should do this?

7. The ripple effect? Scaling innovation up and out



The workshop participants made comments and raised questions about these issues (see Box 5), which were carried into the ensuing discussions.

Box 5: Participants' comments and questions on the Hot Issues

Comments and questions per Hot Issue

1. Innovation drop zones
 - How to facilitate teams and power relations?
 - This happens often between researchers and local people: a lot of dialogue is required.
2. Life under the hedge
3. Follow the bright lights
 - What is it about?
 - What type of innovation are we talking about?
4. Surf the wave
 - Not clear!
5. Brain gain
 - How to stimulate innovation approaches in research institutes?
 - Intellectual property rights?
6. Suspended motion
 - Include system scales, time horizon.
 - How to use existing documentation for learning and change?
 - How to capture different types of impact?
 - How to disseminate findings?
7. The ripple effect

General comments and questions:

- How to develop innovations? How do we use an innovation systems lens to understand the world and what is the relation between these areas and the main title of the event?

- How to influence policy from local level and up?
- How can policy become enabling and how to convince them
- What are incentives for innovation?
- Scales: what are best ways to fit this work? How to achieve impact at scale (the hard and soft parts)
- How are our organisations facilitating innovation to challenge ourselves and our own innovation?
- What about the educational background of those involved in innovation?
- Make innovation more visible for society
- Gender: a cross-cutting issue to integrate in all discussions
- Institutionalisation of innovation
- How to coordinate effort?
- Free public goods and intellectual property?

The seven voluntary “issue owners” (Brigid Letty, Guy Faure, Laurens Klerkx, Luis Rodriguez, Marc Schut, Mariana Wongtschowski and Silvia Sarapura) formed a Living Keynote reflection group facilitated by Peter and listened for insights, cases, examples and evidence related to their respective Hot Issues. These were touched upon and sometimes discussed in more depth throughout the workshop in the various sessions, and participants kept adding their ideas to the reflection wall. The AISA wiki reflected these ideas more widely to the world. In the final afternoon of the workshop, the “issue owners” shared their notes on all of this back to the plenary.



Brigid Letty working on Living Keynote
(Credit: Vivian Atakos)

Contextual World Cafés on oral papers

Before the first round of presentations, three case presenters gave an “elevator pitch” to attract participants, who then divided up into three groups according to their interest. The first set of papers included the experiences of JOLISAA, PROLINNOVA and CoS–SIS (Convergence of Sciences: Strengthening Innovation Systems). The idea was that participants would go to the different rooms to hear more (10–15 minutes) about the oral paper, to ask questions and then decide if they wanted to stay and listen to that presentation or try another one. However, this led to people asking questions about things that were already in the prepared presentations, leading to repetition when the actual presentation started. In any case, most people stayed with their originally chosen group. The presenters eventually switched into presentation mode, and more questions were posed. The participants in each session then discussed – usually divided into subgroups – issues arising out of the cases and how the case related to the seven Hot Issues.

Thus, several simultaneous World Cafés were held around specific issues that featured in the presentations and related to the presenters' experience but also to other participants' experiences. The guidelines for the facilitators and documenters can be found in Annex 3. The documenters captured the discussions on coloured cards and flipcharts and spent the coffee break making additions to the Living Keynote wall.

The same process was repeated in the second round of presentations, which included cases from FARA (Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa), AusAID/CSIRO and the Innovation Platform writeshop (which took place on the ILRI campus in Nairobi immediately before the AISA workshop).

Case 1: JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture)

Cross analysis of multi-stakeholder innovation in smallholder farming: key lessons and policy recommendations from Benin, Kenya and South Africa

For PowerPoint presentation, see Annex 5 or <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

JOLISAA Discussion Group 1: How can we move from understanding to supporting?

- Understanding by whom? --> shared understanding across actors! --> Innovation on political agenda, but POWER? Creative means of bringing people together.
- Can we separate understanding and supporting?
 - Understanding itself can lead to change but...
 - Facilitation as catalyst to stakeholder dialogue on working through systemic blockage
 - Policy cannot address what is not understood
 - Understanding provides outline of processes, actors --> investment/intervention opportunities.
- Link concepts (AIS) to tangible issues.
- Policy is motivated by success, credit.
- Identify triggers as leverage points.
- Strategic partners specifically linking understanding and support.
- Support by whom:
 - Policy: research
 - Development practice.
- Integration of research/understanding to supporting: action research (institutionalise in research, universities, extension, education curriculum).
- Link to markets.
- Flexible resources responding to evolving circumstances.
- Increase innovation capacity – introduction of principles rather than products.
- Continuous, iterative reflection and learning among farmers, stakeholders, policy buy-in.
- What types of understanding serve to support innovation
 - Micro-macro-scale learning embedded in process.
- Clear criteria for kinds of innovation to support.
- What platforms spur recognition?
- LISFs: democratisation of research funds.

JOLISAA Discussion Group 2: How can we move from understanding to supporting?

- Champions in platforms should be capacitated to identify relevant stakeholders taking in charge new challenges popping up in process; some can address policymakers, others approach traders.
- In parallel, stakeholders come together.
- Stakeholder platforms are necessary at different levels; they have to be connected; few existing platforms at levels of practitioner ("lower" level); also link with communal governmental bodies.
- Empower local-level platforms for them to have a voice?
- How do you build capacity at all these levels?
- Bridging the gap: how to bring formal researchers to help innovators (local)?

- Platform: Legitimacy of the different stakeholders' representatives. What to do when stakeholders are not organised? How to involve private sector when there is no trust? – Lengthy process. Trust --> partnership.
- Entering with a project framework is contradictory with the development of a partnership.
- If there is too strong/dominant a stakeholder (state, big man), platforms cannot work.
- Rural stakeholders have no high-level body to engage with donors, international funds (such as carbon finance); the issue in institutional arrangement is the adequacy of benefits, access to benefits, distribution of benefits.
- Projects, interventions are not open enough into looking at what is happening beyond what was intended.
- We should present the evidence-based results for decision-makers to take action.
- We should enlarge the evidence base to more cases in order to be convincing.
- Processes are all different, but is there a common way to look at them?
- Earlier analysis of stakeholders in planning for better anticipation.
- Markets as driver: support innovation by giving more added value to parts of the products (quality improvement, labels, trade).
- Researchers should provide the evidence that innovators need that kind of support (for trademark, label and registering for protection of rights).

JOLISAA Discussion Group 3: How does the JOLISAA work relate to the seven Hot Issues?

Round 1

The question was raised: “Are these JOLISAA policy recommendations really new?” Many of the recommendations, not only JOLISAA’s, are repetitious. Is there power in repetition? The repetitions are not really being picked up. Why would that be? Because they are really difficult to operationalise (sustainably; see Round 2). The interaction with the complex context of smallholder farmers is one explanation for difficulties in operationalisation, particularly when it comes to M&E. And here the Hot Issue of suspended action comes in. Added to this is the context of the intervening agent, which is quite different and, in many cases, these two contexts do not easily come together; this leads to clashes. Also, the complexity of the processes makes it difficult to support them. However, there are windows: opportunities at certain moments in which such support can be given. In response to this, it was suggested that such rather eclectic support to ongoing innovation is not enough for Africa. Other, more planned and targeted support with larger vision to development of countries, economies etc is needed. These two types of support are not exclusive; both are needed!

Another spinoff from the first question was: If these recommendations are not picked up, can we not come up with other, better recommendations?

Round 2

This situation of “recommendations not being picked up” and “approaches difficult to operationalise” needs attention: What is going wrong here?! Is the approach wrong? Or is the targeted audience not getting it?

However, we should not stick with the impression that nothing is happening: there are initiatives that pick up on the recommendations and operationalise them. Are these initiative not successful then? Why do they fail or not catch the attention merited?

Another explanation for the absent/not so successful operationalisation is because there is not enough learning. Or maybe there is learning but not by the right people. A lesson on learning is missing in the JOLISAA recommendations! Here is a clear link with Hot Issue 6: M&E is too much output-oriented.

Two more reactions:

- The context is not always complex and does not always concern bundles: it depends on the nature of the innovation.
- Projects are planned, but the success is not always in the area planned (falling outside the view of the project).

Case 2: PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture & NRM)

Farmer-managed funds stimulate farmer-led participatory innovation processes

For PowerPoint presentation, see Annex 5 or <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

PROLINNOVA Discussion Group 1: How does PROLINNOVA work relate to the seven Hot Issues?

- Under the hedge issue: identifying innovators who are not visible.
- Opposite of parachuting: bottom-up approach (selection process?)
- Engage stakeholders to ensure “support”, sustainability, up- and outscaling.
- Process documentation: measuring impact, sharing the experiences.
- How to facilitate farmer-to-farmer interactions.
- There is a mismatch between (private sector) scientists' incentives and the needs of the farmer... how do we address this?
- Brain gain: the potential to attract youth back to agriculture (digital generation).
- Process akin to business incubation (move it forward or linkage to other organisations).
- Strengthen Local Steering Committees to perform M&E (or use students?).
- Bright lights not necessarily bad – rebrand and improve them.

PROLINNOVA Discussion Group 2: Integrating Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs) into formal ARD

- Group innovation around different challenges – fund to support this process and bring in researchers sharing this issue.
- Validation by whom: farmers & scientists + publish the findings: joint effort + suggest improvements.
- Documentation by both farmers + researchers: local knowledge and scientific knowledge integrated in “language” of researchers and of farmers --> spreading.
- Get funders and media into the Local Steering Committees for implementation processes (TV, newspapers etc) --> pull interest of researchers, also to access research funds.
- Intellectual property rights (IPRs): have discussion + agreement to share the innovations + results of experimentation; most agricultural innovations not patentable – important to acknowledge source of innovation.
- Research as source of expertise into this process.
- Farmers should control part of ARD funds (research institutes taking over role of PROLINNOVA).
- Monitor whom – is it important to formalise the farmer-led innovation process?
 - Wider benefits – easier to scale out
 - More acceptability + ownership by more farmers
 - Recognised --> more innovation emerges
 - Formal research impact minimal – research needs effective way of scaling out
 - Helps to spread also formal ARD results.
- All stakeholders engaged in innovation processes e.g. through innovation platforms; innovation by farmers can benefit others.
- LISFs as part of any local entity's project.
- Generate better evidence-based arguments to show that this approach leads to something better than what is currently done in ARD.

Case 3: CoS–SIS (Convergence of Sciences: Strengthening Innovation Systems)

Facilitating institutional change in West Africa – the CoS–SIS experience

For PowerPoint presentation, see Annex 5 or <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

CoS–SIS Discussion Group:

- How do we define scaling up?
- Mainstreaming CoS–SIS concept in institutions.
- How do we share lessons learnt in other platforms?
- How to deal with challenges?
- Visions of the programme scaling up.
- Innovation processes related to institutional constraints.
- Identified champions could be the conveyors of the platform.
- Convince policymakers to push it into government agenda.
- Agricultural research in agricultural business?
- Building synergy with other innovations.
- Approach to mobilise resources.

Case 4: FARA (Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa)

Delivering impact from agricultural research and development: the case of Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme

For PowerPoint presentation, see Annex 5 or <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

FARA Discussion Group:

- Platforms for platforms?
- “Platform” is usefully vague, but depends on who shows up.
- Is IARD democratic? Can be a tool for control?
- Will donors fund diversity? There is no panacea.
- Surf the wave: CRP formation process – proof of concept? approach?
- Brain gain: Evaluation frame drives programme. Evidence doesn't change practice but relations, network, championing do. How do innovation platforms facilitate capacity building? Soft skills training for all participants.
- Suspended motion: Continental or national M&E? Output M&E but not outcome? Institutional form, but content?
- Scaling: start with institutional infrastructure, not technical, modelling...

Case 5: AusAID / CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences

Learning from agricultural research for development programmes in sub-Saharan Africa

For PowerPoint presentation, see Annex 5 or <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>

No notes available.

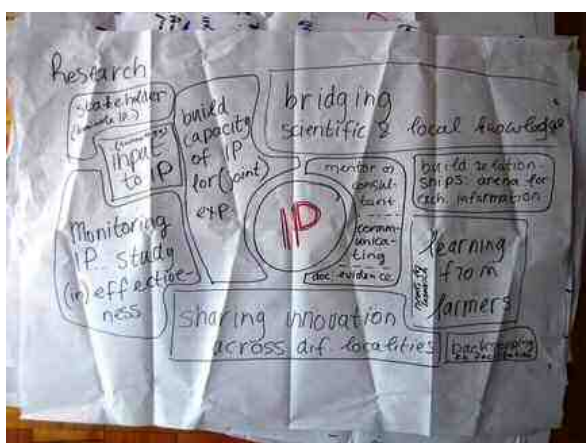
Case 6: ILRI / CPWF (Challenge Programme on Water and Food)

Innovation Platform (IP) writeshop

Verbal presentation; no PowerPoint available (see <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ip+writeshop>).

IP Discussion Group:

- Why IPs? Full value chain. Not always a good justification. But why? Are there other tools? Can we build on something that already exists?
- What type of IP: what is the problem or challenge faced: policy? technical?
- Different types of stakeholders to make the system work? Complex problems, different types of role of players e.g. production, market
- Not working / system worked relatively well? IP not an answer.
- What is the right topic? What are relevant actors? Start with something that contributes to development. Stakeholder analysis (iterative process based on interest), strong action research.
- Role of private sector: involve it when appropriate.
- Other models: existing structures, e.g. national associations.
- Actors looking for solutions of problems (not innovation) often strongly producer-focused.
- Many approaches but not all are innovation platforms.
- Main issue is actors talking to each other / linkages, but institutional problems
- Organisations to link? Does not happen by itself --> intervention; process not properly facilitated can lead to real problem.
- Needs purpose / who to involve / needs proper situation analysis.
- If addressed, no external intervention is needed.
- Typology?
- Common interest, diagnosis, problem-solving, inclusive, open and with potential benefits.
- Never reach perfection; can always improve; shouldn't stop innovating; members change and evolve; innovation process can continue.
- Risk of constitution / rules / exclusion.
- Who triggers? Can be anyone! Requires champion.
- Innovation process / products --> non-uses(??)
- Other models? depends on aim; IPs make things go faster, upscaling but decision-making slow?
- Innovation model: Participatory research → facilitated (??). Ownership across the board.
- Feeling of dependency? May not always be same! Common need aware.



Flipcharts on discussion of innovation platforms (Credit: Ewen Le Borgne)

At the end of Day 2, the reporters from the World Café table fastened their cards on the Living Keynote wall. The participants then identified any gaps or issues that needed to be addressed the next day. The day closed with some brief observations from participants who had been asked to give their views on the process.

Session 3: Posters and marketplace

Poster session

After a short recap of Day 2 and introduction of the agenda for the third and final day of the workshop, we moved outside the meeting hall to the garden where the open poster space and marketplace exhibitions about experiences in agricultural innovation systems were held. Poster presenters introduced their work to anyone who was interested, in a free-ranging session. The presenters were asked to keep track of comments and newly emerging ideas on coloured cards. Also the other participants wrote down key insights on cards. During coffee break, the cards were posted on the Living Keynote wall.



Presentation of CCAFS “Farms of the Future” poster during the AISA workshop poster session
(Credit: Vivian Atakos)

Ideas marketplace – Open Space

The second part of the session was a “marketplace of other experiences and ideas” held in an Open Space format. Participants proposed any topic that would fit under the theme of agricultural innovation systems and that should be further explored in more depth or documented in more detail (e.g. building on existing conversations during the workshop) or for which actions could be proposed for application or upscaling. The person who proposed a topic was responsible for documenting the discussion on a flipchart sheet and/or coloured cards. The usual Open Space rules applied:

- Whoever is there is the right group.
- When it starts is when it starts.
- Whatever happens is all that could have happened.
- When it’s over, it’s over.
- The Law of Two Feet: If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can.

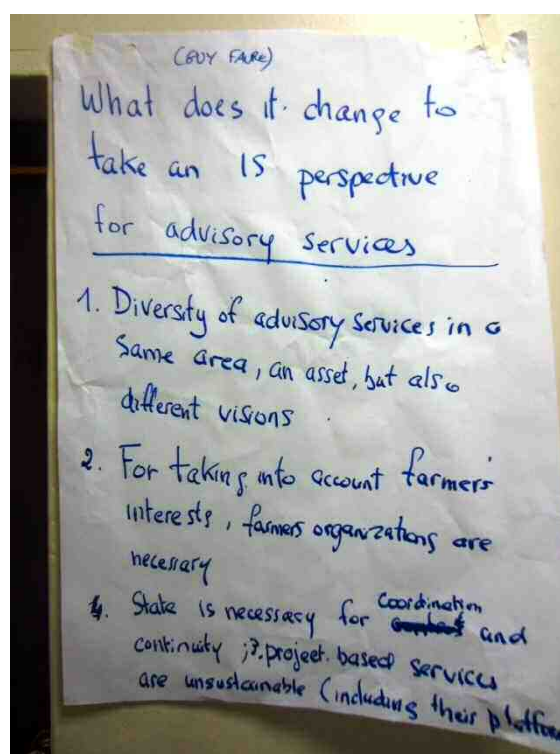
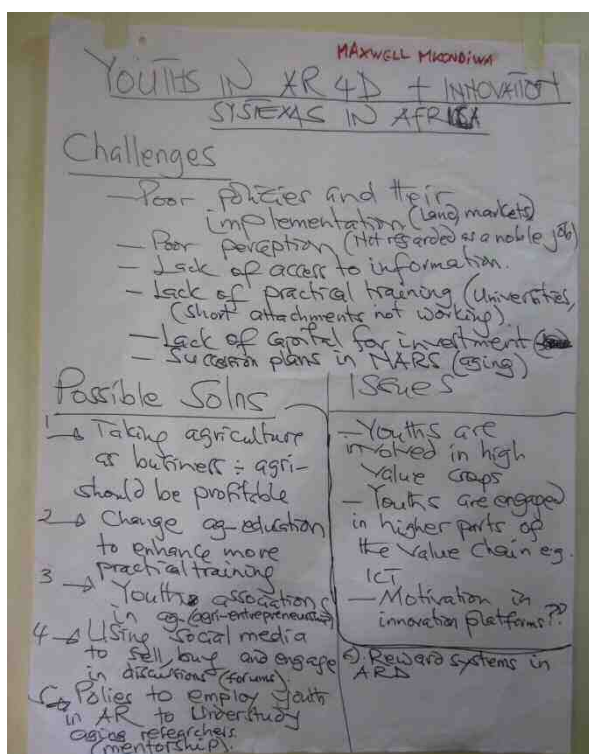
The topics proposed by participants for Open Space discussions were:

1. Why are recommendations not being picked up? (or are they, but???)
2. From analysis to operation: putting AIS approach into practice
3. The role of fun in innovation systems (games, videos etc)
4. How to better link public/private advisory services with innovation systems?
5. What does it change to take an IS perspective for advisory services?
6. How to choose more cases to build evidence base convincing decision-makers?
7. Youth in AR4D and innovation systems in Africa
8. Gender and AIS
9. Innovation Platforms chat show

Two rounds of open space sessions were held to cover these topics. The main ideas were captured on flipcharts that were hung on the walls of the meeting room for informal viewing and sharing. Examples of the flipcharts are shown on the next page.



Open Space discussion on taking an innovation systems perspective for agricultural advisory services
(Credit: Vivian Atakos)



Examples of flipcharts on Open Space discussions (Credit: Ewen Le Borgne)

Session 4: Policy implications and policy dialogue

This session was devoted to preparing key policy messages and recommendations for different groups of stakeholders to stimulate agricultural innovation processes and systems in Africa. For each “target” group, a subgroup of participants (not necessarily from that target group) discussed key insights, messages and recommendations regarding agricultural innovation systems, as well as some ideas to ensure that the target groups act upon them. Each group named one member to bring forward their points on their behalf. Then, in the plenary, in a closed “fishbowl” in the midst of the other participants, the group spokespersons shared the issues. The messages formulated for academia, agricultural advisors/NGOs, capacity developers, donors, farmer organisations and the private sector are shown in Box 6.

Box 6: Messages for different target groups about agricultural innovation systems in Africa

Academia

- Value innovation processes and engagement (reward systems) – ensure interaction and learning with farmers
- Engaging all stakeholders (farmers, private sector, NGOs, government) in the research and development processes, i.e. integrated approach, and at the core learn from farmers
- Collaboration among academia and researchers along the value chain

How to act upon this?

- Practical training in the universities to deal with real issues and problems
- Partnerships with other players (NGOs, microfinance, local innovators, private sector)
- Industry/private-sector players, NGOs and CGIAR should be involved in teaching and training

Advisors (extension, NGOs etc)

- Strengthening technical and advisory skills of extension: by strengthening curricula, lifelong learning in professional organisations
- Ensure that complementary roles are known and acted up on by hubs, adviser networks, face to face, facilitating a reflection on complementary roles and acting upon that
- Support brokerage roles: horizontally, vertically, in a complementary manner

Some background information to these messages:

- Developing broker/facilitator role – NGO broader picture
- Autonomisation
- Know when to phase out
- Be open to recognition of working in alliances
- Strengthening service providers' system advisers to wear different hats
- Strengthen horizontal, vertical complementary (e.g. value chain) coordination
- Strengthen individual learning + social learning and create space for reflection
- Seek complementarity

Capacity developers – *Goal: building capacity of innovations systems*

- Who is responsible for building capacity of the innovation systems? Brokerage institutions and training/education institutions
- Capacity building does not mean training; it means developing institutional systems and incentive structures in countries
- "Training" + capacity development means building “soft skills” --> partnership building, “collaborativeness”

Donors – *Innovation platforms are dynamic but donors require details upfront!*

- We invite the donor world to the “process” so we all understand each other, build trust based on evidence and ultimately **confidence!**
- Need a budget and reporting structure that embrace the process (rather than outcome) – includes evaluation process
- IPs allow us to focus on real issues and with potential benefits (addresses issues related to risk)

Some background information to these messages:

- Trust the process! Provide the evidence based on existing work/impact
- Honesty --> risk
- Process-orientation --> blank cheque for first few years
- Process based not only on technology or number-based
- Coordination amongst donors, visions
- Share / communicate information (to donors)
- Financial-based reporting restricts multi-donor projects
- Longer-term support in phases (evaluator)
- Invite donors to the process, educate and build their confidence
- Cost of the innovation platform process

Farmer representatives

- Farmer representatives should engage researchers directly to articulate farmers' needs and set the agricultural research agenda as it enhances ownership
- The farmer representatives should be lobbying the government and other key agricultural actors to address challenges that affect them
- The farmer representatives should catalyse and spearhead farmer groups to establish innovation platforms

How to act upon this?

- Establish and strengthen structures at various levels from grassroots to national level
- Establish effective communication mechanisms that allows for feedback
- Use of social and mass media

Private sector

- Be curious about what's happening around you
- Be part of innovation platforms to help solve your problems – some IP members may have some answers that you're looking for
- Business opportunities within the agricultural sector

How to act upon this?

- Joining the Chamber of Commerce
- Corporate Social Responsibility projects

In the discussion about the issues raised in the fishbowl, it was pointed out that many of these recommendations have been made in the past but they are not being picked up by decision-makers / policymakers. What went wrong? This we need to understand if we want to be more effective in the future. Is there something wrong with the approach we are promoting? Is the message poorly conveyed? Are we not addressing the right people in the right way?

At the same time, the poster session showed that innovation platforms are being implemented in many places and projects, even though they do not function particularly well. Ideas and interventions are emerging from researcher-driven innovation platforms that do not fit the circumstances of smallholder farmers. It was suggested that, rather than always making new platforms, we should try to link up with existing structures that are farmer-driven, such as farmer associations.

As for the issue about whom to address: we talk to “them”, but “they” remain abstract for us. Who are “they”? Moreover, what we say remains abstract to many policymakers. We should bring them to the places physically to see what we are doing together with smallholder farmers. We should invite key players to events where policymakers can interact with the farmers. We should also provide evidence on a sufficient scale to show the usefulness of innovation approaches and platforms. Action research should provide such evidence. We should make sure that the government actors feel “ownership” over what is going on. We should invest more attention and time in lobbying, especially at national level. It is important to target key players carefully (e.g. those who are in taskforces preparing strategy papers) and to make sure that the right person is telling the story to them. We also need to make sure that information on the approaches and achievements is available in a timely manner and is appropriately packaged.

Session 5: Finding ways forward

Living Keynote: where are we now?

Peter and his team – Brigid, Guy, Laurens, Luis, Marc, Mariana and Silvia – presented the Living Keynote as it stood by the end of the workshop. They presented summaries of “their” **Hot Issues** based on reflections and notes from the various discussions in groups and plenary.

1. Innovation drop zones? Dealing with interventions “parachuted” into situations without due appreciation of and embedding into local realities

- Parachuted innovations aren’t generally taken up
- Mismatch between local needs and parachuted innovations – unsustainable initiatives
- Need better understanding of local context – opportunities, challenges, stakeholders and so on
- Platforms: key mechanism to ensure that other challenges affecting application are addressed
- But sometimes we parachute platforms and facilitators into the system
- So... need to find ways to make platforms functional and sustainable
- Allow local champions to emerge as convenors/facilitators and nurture them
- Also, it could be favourable to find windows of opportunity for supporting ongoing innovation
- Needs a favourable policy environment supporting platforms and AIS thinking (especially open-ended processes)

2. Life under the hedge? Missing endogenous innovations under the radar of innovation “experts”

- Observations
 - Technical versus social-organisational innovation
 - Missing linkages
 - Power relations / flexibility
 - Motivate “them” to innovate
 - Identify “invisible” innovators
 - Economic value of under hedge innovation
 - Why formalise farmer-led innovation?
- Innovation under the hedge ≠ innovation intervention projects
- Why local innovations “work”?
 - Locally adapted and flexible
 - Champions
 - Personal relationships and commitment
- Can these qualities/ prerequisites be preserved “on the radar”?
- On and off the radar: both contribute to system innovation
- For policy:
 - Grants and capacity development to enhance innovative capacity in agricultural systems
 - Enhance coherence between on-radar activities to achieve system level outcomes and changing the nature of the system

3. Follow the bright lights? Fitting current enthusiasms, e.g. for market-driven innovation, to all circumstances

Follow the bright lights:

- NOT BAD PER SE
- Current “enthusiasm”: ideally reflects past experience, lessons learnt & best available knowledge
- Bright lights: clearer path (something works, lower risk...) but context specific: no silver bullet

Bright lights:

- Response to donors’ priorities

- Current paradigm (research & expertise)
- Enabling environment (do what you can)
- Capacity of the involved actors
- Mainstream funding and capacity: innovative vs responsive – build a portfolio
- Reduce innovation? Sometimes but...
- Follow bright lights to capitalise, empower, improve credentials and have the resources to do innovative work later
- Bright light also as an opportunity

Linkages:

- a–c: e.g. external funding and national policies
- b–d: innovation thinking, academic curricula, extension services

Market bright lights:

- Market can be part of the problem and not the solution
- Stronger links with learning
- Market approaches received much support not long time ago
- What are we going to do different this time?

4. Surf the wave? Balancing more directed and output-driven innovation projects with more opportunistic outcome-oriented innovation processes

Promising actions:

- Farmer-managed funds to enhance impact of financial support
- Programmatic approaches to supporting innovation

Unanswered questions:

- Relationship between process and structure: how do different innovation projects establish higher-level structural change? Synergy...
- How to move from optimising current systems to structural change? From calm sea to tsunami of creative destruction...
- How to cope with innovation systems as enabling and constraining at the same time? Contradictions and paradoxes...
- How to maintain momentum in and in-between projects? In terms of energy, creativity...

5. Brain gain? Strengthening capacities for innovation and for facilitating innovation processes

Observations:

- Different approaches to strengthen capacities:
 - Local or endogenous level – farmer-led research (farmer-to-farmer, farmer fields and fairs)
 - Innovation platforms (more systemic) – focusing on capacities of different actors (technical and research)
- Strengthening innovative capacity and learning capacity
 - Local level based on own experience (evaluating, documenting and sharing experiences)
 - Interaction with other actors/stakeholders – tension & challenges – gaps between soft & hard science

Motivators:

- Capacities strengthened to improve relations, beliefs and norms (institutional and social innovations) – leadership skills:
 - Interactive learning and knowledge sharing
 - Inclusion of marginalised groups (women, youth, elderly people).
- New ideas and frameworks to promote capacity strengthening
 - Catalysing endogenous potential (new experiences, learning and concerted action)

Challenges:

- Intellectual property rights: what happens when farmers start claiming their IPRs?
 - Individual and collective goods
- Tension and diverging views between research partners on definitions/approaches:
 - Research and learning methods
- Let farmers do what they want
 - How do we address this mismatch?

6. Suspended motion? Monitoring, evaluating, adjusting, learning and reflecting on innovation results, outcomes and impacts

- Why it is important to produce knowledge?
 - M&E: to strategically navigate in a complex system, to adjust the actions of actors, to learn collectively
 - Impacts: to get evidence, to compare different innovation processes, to justify investments, a question of donors and policymakers
- How to do it?
 - Quantitative measure of impacts with statistical methods is not relevant to understand innovation process
 - Impact pathway (CGIAR): one point of view, difficulty to take into account uncertainty
 - Innovation process: cross-analysis of case studies (JOLISAA, CoS-SIS)
- Which analytical framework? What are the hypotheses? How to select cases? How to draw out lessons rigorously?
- Need to combine qualitative and quantitative, combine scientific and local knowledge
- Participatory processes are preferred to boost learning processes
- Not a lot of things about undesired effects (old story)

Tricky questions:

- Which level of analysis (local vs global) and which choice of timeline = could change the conclusions
- Which criteria/indicator to assess the outcomes? Who selects the criteria?
- How to implement the monitoring system in a complex environment?
 - One organisation dedicated to this function or distribution of tasks among stakeholders?
 - How to sustain this monitoring system?
- How to use it?
 - Have access to intermediary results to be able to influence the process
 - To organise continuous and iterative reflection between stakeholders to learn
 - How to really influence/convince donors, policymakers? Identify the right channel (e.g. farmer organisations), repeat the message, be aware of power relationships among stakeholders; something we maybe have to learn ourselves.

7. The ripple effect? Outscaling, upscaling ...

Outscaling of innovations:

- Why should we do it at all?
- "Small is beautiful"
- Innovations are locally specific and need to be adapted to use in other places.
- Still, there are some technologies worth further use?
- Bringing them into routine use demands further adaptation, experimentation – but at different level
- Unintended impact!
- Soft and hard innovations need to be scaled up hand-in-hand with soft and hard skills

Changing the **system** by...

- Sharing information and involving others in the work
- Research and extension as vehicles to "carry on the message" by incorporating some of it in their own way of working

- Changing curricula = changing new professionals
- Informing policy by presenting evidence-based results

Last but not least:

- But:
 - Changes in policy agenda need to be translated to practice!
 - Be careful not to “corrupt and simplify” concepts!
 - How to maintain quality?
- Look at the capacity to innovate at system level:
 - Adapting structures, strengthening linkages
 - Different roles of different actors
 - Coordination and collaboration between those
 - Purposefully!! when planning interventions

The participants were asked to identify what was missing from this presentation and should be included in the final version of the Living Keynote paper. Their reactions are shown in Box 7.

Box 7: Participants’ reactions on what is missing from the Living Keynote

- Gender not explicitly mentioned in the final statements.
- Facilitation role in process experiences, and between students working with research associates.
- Institutional culture that influences performances has not come out well.
- The issue of innovation coming in bundles was missing.
- Sustainable platforms: do we need sustainable platforms or are they no longer required after they've fulfilled their mandate?
- Socio-cultural determinants are missing; we tend to treat them as monolithic.
- The farmer is missing, buried somewhere.
- The future: what type of systems do people want?
- The government is missing.
- Smooth adjustments to the existing system is not the only way: radical reform might help!
- How to influence the policy environment?
- At the tables and discussions, we had very original ideas and associations but when we look at the synthesis, we have lost a lot of the richness; the originality of our work has gone missing – in practice, we need those details in our context.
- The concept of champions had cropped up – nurturing people from within the system – but is missing.
- Interactions with non-agricultural innovation systems people! We have to go out of our innovation silo – we are the champions of participatory research.
- We talk among the converted – the people we're trying to convince are difficult to bring here.

Taking things forward

The Living Keynote will be worked on further by the seven “issue owners” and included in the electronic workshop proceedings together with the oral papers presented and discussed as well as shorter papers based on the posters. The participants reflected upon the fruits of the stakeholder dialogue and living keynote and how they would take things forward in their own work.

Bernard explained that three main types of outputs came or will be coming out of the workshop:

1. **Content for social media** that was shared instantaneously via electronic prior to and during the workshop
2. A stand-alone **collectively authored document** consisting of a synthesis of lessons, experiences and recommendations for policy, research and practice about AIS in Africa
3. **Electronic proceedings** made available online on relevant websites including, among others, the collection of lightly edited oral and poster papers, syntheses of the thematic sessions, a general conclusion and ways forward, and a policy brief.

The abstracts for the papers and posters were printed and distributed to all participants at the start of the workshop and were also posted at http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/AISA_papers_posters. The seven documenters for the Hot Issues will work on their notes for inclusion in the workshop proceedings. The authors of oral presentations were given until mid-July 2013 to send in their papers of 8–10 pages, based on their PowerPoint presentations and subsequent discussions. Each poster presenter was also invited to prepare a 4-page paper for the proceedings. The posters received are also being uploaded into the workshop wikispace (<http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ais+workshop>) and will be included in the proceedings, together with the 4-pagers. The electronic proceedings including all submitted papers are due to be completed in September 2013.

Closure

The workshop came to a close with remarks from Bernard Triomphe from CIRAD as overall organiser of the event. He observed that the participants seemed to have appreciated the setting of the workshop in the midst of the Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa. All engaged in stimulating discussions and gained quite some ideas, which was the whole point of the workshop interaction. This was not a classical workshop. The Living Keynote was a creative idea of the ILRI facilitators. Also the Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair was, in itself, innovative and set the scene for the workshop. All look forward to continued interaction post-AISA.

Bernard thanked the facilitators Ewen and Peter, the WAIA secretariat (Ann, Jane, Jumah, Mary, Olivia, Philippe, Teresiah), KARI above all Geoffrey Kamau, CCAFS (Catherine, Maren, Patti and Wiebke), CSIRO, CIRAD, Ann Waters-Bayer from PROLINNOVA and all the participants. And all of them, in turn, thanked Bernard.

Some notes on the closing evaluation with AISA workshop participants can be found in Annex 4.

Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: Guidelines for session facilitators and documenters

Annex 4: Notes from closing evaluation with AISA workshop participants

Annex 5: Notes from a post-AISA debriefing

Annex 6: Oral paper presentations (PPTs)

Annex 1: AISA workshop agenda

Date / Time	Day 1: Wednesday 29 May 2013
14.00	Welcome and introduction
14.45	Learning visits (in working groups) to farmer innovator booths
16.15	Sharing feedback from visiting farmer innovator booths and mapping key insights from farmer innovators' experiences
18.00	Cocktail (organiser: CLIC–SR project)
	Day 2: Thursday 30 May 2013
09.00	Introduction to Living Keynote about agricultural innovation systems in Africa
11.00	Parallel sessions based on three experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentations, followed by group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JOLISAA presentation - PROLINNOVA presentation - CoS–SIS presentation
13.30	Parallel sessions based on three more experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentations, followed by group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FARA presentation - AusAID/CSIRO presentation - ILRI/CPWF Innovation Platform writeshop
15.30	Plenary sharing feedback from group discussions, consolidation of insights for Living Keynote
18.00	Cocktail (organiser: AISA)
	Day 3: Friday 31 May 2013
09.00	Open exhibition of relevant experiences in smallholder agricultural innovation (Posters – see compilation of abstracts)
10.00	Open Space: exploring ideas, documenting conversations, suggesting actions and recommendations to apply and scale up innovation approaches
13.30	Policy synthesis dialogue preparation (groupwork): Preparing key policy messages and recommendations for different groups of stakeholders to stimulate agricultural innovation processes and systems in Africa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. Donors / Academia / Teachers & learners (capacity development actors) / Farmer representatives / Advisors / Private sector entrepreneurs / Regulators & rule makers / Local administrators
14.00	Plenary policy synthesis dialogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive panel session on important issues, insights and ways forward Response to the messages by representatives of present interest groups
15.30	Sharing the Living Keynote and finding ways forward
16.00	Concrete next steps, brief workshop evaluation, official closing

Annex 2: List of participants

No.	Last name	First name	Sex	Institution	Country of residence
1	Adekunle	Adewale	M	FARA	Ghana
2	Adjei-Nsiah	Samuel	M	CoS–SIS	Ghana
3	Almekinders	Conny	F	WUR	Netherlands
4	Atakos	Vivian	F	CCAFS	Kenya
5	Avornyo	Franklin	M	CSIR-ARI	Ghana
6	Ballantyne	Peter	M	ILRI	Ethiopia
7	Bernhardt	Michel	M	GIZ / BEAF	Germany
8	Bisht	Sonali	F	INHERE	India
9	Boogaard	Birgit	F	ILRI	Mozambique
10	Bolo	Maurice	M	Scinnovent	Kenya
11	Bourgou	Tsuamba	M	World Neighbors	Burkina Faso
12	Cadhilon	Jo	F	ILRI	Kenya
13	Carberry	Peter	M	AusAID	Australia
14	Chengole	Josephat	M	KARI	Kenya
15	Crane	Todd	M	WUR	Netherlands
16	Cullen	Beth	F	ILRI	Ethiopia
17	Dabire	Rémy	M	FiBL W. Africa / Syprobio	Mali
18	Dror	Iddo	M	ILRI	Kenya
19	Duncan	Alan	M	ILRI	Ethiopia
20	Dusengemungu	Leonidas	M	RAB	Rwanda
21	Faure	Guy	M	CIRAD-UMR	France
22	Floquet	Anne	F	UAC-FSA	Benin
23	Foerch	Wiebke	F	CCAFS	Kenya
24	Gonsalves	Julian	M	PROLINNOVA	Philippines
25	Hall	Andy	M	LinK / UNU MERIT	India
26	Hawkins	Richard	M	ICRA	Netherlands
27	Hitimana	Nicholas	M	RAB / Ikirezi Products	Rwanda
28	Jensen	Henning Høgh	M	Agrotech	Denmark
29	Kamau	Geoffrey	M	KARI	Kenya
30	Kavoi	Justus	M	KARI	Kenya
31	Kimenju	John	M	University of Nairobi	Kenya
32	Klerkx	Laurens	M	WUR	Netherlands
33	Kristjanson	Patty	F	CCAFS	Kenya
34	Kwashimbisa	Mendai	F	WorldFish	Zambia
35	Lançon	Jacques	M	CIRAD	Kenya
36	Le Borgne	Ewen	M	ILRI	Ethiopia
37	Legesse	Tesfaye	M	AusAID	Kenya
38	Lema	Zelalem	M	ILRI	Ethiopia
39	Letty	Brigid	F	Institute of Natural Resources	South Africa
40	Lohmann	Jörg	M	GIZ	Germany
41	Macoloo	Chris	M	World Neighbors	Kenya
42	Makini	Felister	F	KARI	Kenya
43	Manandhar	Suman	M	LI-BIRD	Nepal
44	Maute	Felisberto	M	ILRI	Mozambique
45	Mayanja	Sarah	F	CIP	Uganda
46	Mbabu	Adiel	M	CIP	Kenya
47	Mburathi	George	M	ACIAR	Kenya
48	McMillan	Larrelle	F	AusAID	Kenya

49	Meijboom	Marianne	F	INSARD/ETC Foundation	Netherlands
50	Miano	David	M	KARI	Kenya
51	Misiko	Michael	M	CIMMYT	Ethiopia
52	Mkondiwa	Maxwell	M	Lilongwe University	Malawi
53	Mongbo	Roch	M	UAC-FSA	Benin
54	Mose	George	M	USIU	Kenya
55	Mundy	Paul	M	Freelance	Germany
56	Mungai	Catherine	F	CCAFS	Kenya
57	Mwakoi	Dorcas	M	MoA	Kenya
58	Mwangi	Njuru	M	EU	Kenya
59	Mwangi	John J.	M	Egerton	Kenya
60	Mwangi	Peter	M	KENFAP	Kenya
61	Nahdy	Silim	M	AFAAS	Uganda
62	Narvaez Mena	Horacio	M	WUR/ EkoRural	Ecuador
63	Ng'ang'a	Teresiah	F	PROLINNOVA–Kenya	Kenya
64	Ngwenya	Hlami	F	FANRPAN	South Africa
65	Nicolay	Gian	M	FiBL	Switzerland
66	Njoroge	Liston	M	AGRA	Kenya
67	Ogutu	Liz	F	AusAID	Kenya
68	Okello	Bell	M	ICRW / PROLINNOVA–Kenya	Kenya
69	Omari	Jane	F	National Council for Science & Technology	Kenya
70	Raboanarielina	Cara	F	AfricaRice	Benin
71	Radeny	Maren	F	CCAFS	Kenya
72	Recha	John	M	CCAFS	Kenya
73	Rodriguez	Luis	M	AusAID	Australia
74	Rootman	Gerrit	M	UP	South Africa
75	Sanyang	Sidi	M	CORAF	Senegal
76	Sarapura	Silvia	F	WorldFish	Malaysia
77	Schut	Marc	M	WUR	Netherlands
78	Sellamna	Nour	M	ICRA	France
79	Some	Hubert	M	SNV	Burkina Faso
80	Stepman	François	M	PAEPARD	Belgium
81	Stevens	Joe	M	Univ. Pretoria	South Africa
82	Stone	Peter	M	AusAID	Australia
83	Swaans	Kees	M	ILRI	Ethiopia
84	Thiam	Djibril	M	Agrecol-Afrique	Senegal
85	Thornton	Philip	M	CCAFS	Kenya
86	Touzard	Jean-Marc	M	INRA	France
87	Triomphe	Bernard	M	CIRAD	France
88	Tucker	Josie	F	ODI	UK
89	van den Berg	Jolanda	F	WUR	Netherlands
90	van Rooyen	André	M	ICRISAT	Zimbabwe
91	Vodouhe	Davo	M	UAC-FSA	Benin
92	Walker	Daniel	M	AusAID	Australia
93	Waters-Bayer	Ann	F	PROLINNOVA/ETC Foundation	Netherlands/ Germany
94	Wongtschowski	Mariana	F	Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)	Netherlands

Annex 3: Guidelines for session facilitators and documenters

The combination of Living Keynote, oral presentations, posters and free marketplace is an allegory to the process of collecting, cultivating, sharing and learning from various knowledge and information sources in multi-stakeholder processes and other innovation systems, from “more structured around a set agenda” (the oral presentation end of the spectrum) to less structured/organic/civic-driven (the free marketplace). However, to be able to sustain the moment created by a workshop so that concrete follow-up can be done, it is important to facilitate the discussions well and to document them in ways that people can refer to what they discussed – and perhaps even other people who were not present can be informed and inspired.

Guidelines for session facilitators

Generally, facilitating is about creating a space that helps everyone contribute, listening with your eyes and ears how the flow of the event takes place and adjusting to make sure that the flow of the participants' conversation is not disrupted but matches well the intended objectives.

- Pay attention to the objective of the assignment and clearly state it, both the content (e.g. the lead question) and the process (what is supposed to happen, what is the expected output, how long the assignment takes, etc);
- Pay attention to time spending – perhaps ask a participant to keep track of time during the session;
- Appoint a documenter to make sure that key insights and decisions are taken care of and can be built upon later, even after the workshop;
- Appoint someone to report in plenary (if that is expected) at the beginning of the session to avoid trouble assigning this role at the end;
- Pay attention to how participants speak and use the public space, make sure that everyone gets a chance to speak, that the most vocal participants occasionally shut up and that introverts can express themselves sincerely;
- At the end, feel free to summarise the key points exchanged and to make sure that participants agree with your summary. If some points are disputed, make sure the reporter presents those points as such (as disputed, not as agreed).

Specific guidelines for World Café facilitators

Your job is to ensure a lively discussion involving everyone around the table and proper documentation of the key insights and discussion points. In detail, this entails:

- Reading out the question/statement of your table to the participants and clarifying any question they have about the question;
- Let the discussion unfold and prevent people that talk too much from taking over the entire discussion – by the same token, invite shy participants to share their perspective;
- Document on the table sheets all the key points – you can feel free to draw them and invite other participants to contribute to the documentation;
- At the end of a round, stay at the table and welcome a new group;
- Introduce the topic to the new group again and also summarise the key points discussed by the previous group (so the new group builds upon the previous round);
- Do it again for as many rounds as required, usually 3 to 4;
- At the end of the World Café session, summarise the main points discussed overall;
- Ideally, type up all the outputs from the various groups (a sheet with lots of text and graphs can be difficult to understand otherwise).

That's it!

Guidelines for wiki documenters

The purpose of documenting a session (on the wiki or otherwise) is to make sure that the major discussion points and “actionable content” (next steps, decisions etc) are clearly kept track of, so that the session is useful and effectively used beyond that session, as part of the event in which it features and even beyond. It should feature the highlights of the conversation as clearly as possible.

- The less documentation you end up with the better – but it takes time to write synthetically.
- When documenting a session, best record the session with an audio recorder if you can.
- At the least, try and capture key insights (the main discussion points and “aha moments”) and decisions taken that lead to next steps.
- Document online on the wiki directly (particularly if working on one specific page that others are not likely to update at the same time) or on Word or any other such software.
- Offer some information about the process of the session at the beginning (1–2 lines to give context about what the assignment [content] was and how it was set up).
- Use bullet points, headings and formatting to make distinctions within your documentation.
- Feel free to interrupt speakers (politely) to make sure you understand what they're talking about and are offering notes that you understand yourself.
- Find some (highly recommended) additional guidelines about using wikis on the ILRI wiki: <http://ilri-comms.wikispaces.com/Using+wikis>

Annex 4: Notes from closing evaluation with AISA workshop participants

What was liked:

- Energy
- Interaction and tone and collegiality, learning, open
- Good choice of participants
- Facilitation
- Living Keynote
- Group discussions
- Messages for audiences
- Lunch
- Lots of walking

What could be better next time:

- Too many facilitation procedures – confusing?
- Choosing between the oral presentations – could have been presented sequentially in plenary
- Group forming not well enough managed?
- Poster time too short (posters should have been displayed since Day 1, in a place where participants can go and look at them at their leisure)
- Better capture the audience's messages on PPT
- More use of PPT for group reporting
- Lots of walking* (good & bad!)

Annex 5: Notes from a post-AISA debriefing

On Saturday 1 June 2013, the day after AISA closed, a small group met at KCB to debrief about AISA and the interaction with JOLISAA and PROLINNOVA. The participants were: Guy Faure (CIRAD), Anne Floquet (UAC-FSA), Geoffrey Kamau (KARI), Suman Manandhar (LI-BIRD), Sidi Sanyang (CORAF), Jean Marc Touzard (INRA), Bernard Triomphe (CIRAD), Simplicie Davo Vodouhe (UAC-FSA) and Ann Waters-Bayer (PROLINNOVA). What follows is an ex-post structured synthesis of the main points discussed. It does not have the intention of representing the view of all AISA participants, even though the hope is that the issues raised have validity beyond the group that put them on the table.

General impressions AISA

- Tremendous communication, sharing by some people who had never met before; lots of links made.
- Mixed audience, practitioners interacting with research.
- Participant from Malawi brought in dimension about bringing youth on board.
- There is great value in meeting people face-to-face and then being able to keep in touch with them. It would be interesting to have participants list with small pictures (*"trombinoscope"* in French) as part of the AISA e-proceedings

AISA session planning & sequence

Oral sessions

It was probably a mistake to split CoS-SIS, JOLISAA and PROLINNOVA into three parallel sessions because this meant we could not have an overview of the approaches nor contrast them one to another. Had we held one plenary session, instead, people could have seen different ways of how to learn about innovation systems: from below through the grassroots in PROLINNOVA, taking an analytical historical approach in JOLISAA or through platforms in CoS-SIS.

The 7 buzz topics were confusing at the beginning, some people understood them only at the end (It was like that game of putting an elephant together blindfolded, each with a different perception of the elephant). Indeed, it was not right to have the paper presenters facilitating the discussions; it should have been the people owning the 7 topics.

Posters

There were good quality posters. But because people had to stay with their own presentations, they could not take part in the other ones. Time was too short: most participants could not read more than a handful of posters and had no time to learn more from the posters' authors; all of these experiences could have brought more insight for our discussions; they were interesting but it was a frustrating experience.

There was a lot of space inside the hall itself that could have been used to display posters. We could have shown posters from the very beginning, so that people would have been able to take a look and go back at their own leisure, and then would have been able to focus on specific experiences during the poster session. Because of that, people did not get an overview of what experiences were represented among all participants before going into the discussions in small groups.

Farmer innovation FAIR / AISA interaction

- One Kenyan farmer innovator developed a gadget to deal with aflatoxins. AusAID supported work in West Africa on aflatoxins has focused on diagnosis; the Australians have now seen the opportunity for not only analysing but also managing aflatoxins. Linkage should be made between the farmer innovator and this work in West Africa.
- It was easier, due to the format of the FAIR, to see the individual in the fair rather than the collective processes behind local innovation. There were plans for documenting the collective processes behind the innovations (e.g., through videos in the fields, farms and villages) but these plans were not realised.

- We could have told the AISA participants already Tuesday evening to visit the fair Wednesday morning; then there may have been a richer input into the AISA workshop.
- As much as possible, the fair and the workshop should be in the same place, to allow real interaction.
- The dialogue with farmers could have been better organised.
- The statement by the Ethiopian farmer (known as “the philosopher” by his peer farmers) was interesting and was referred to during AISA, but otherwise not much of what happened in the fair made it into the rest of workshop.
- Many people liked the fair format, but it was not fully integrated and capitalised upon.
- In group discussions, one could have invited innovators and given them a topic for discuss, or ask each group to prepare themselves on a topic and ask one person to present the messages in a plenary session. Farmers – also illiterate ones – are fully capable of talking about relationships and concepts.

About the thematic content of AISA

There were many posters and discussions around innovation platforms (IPs), coordination, relationships between stakeholders to solve problems – this is something relatively new at such events. Before, presentations were usually made on adaptation of technology and farmer experimentation, without taking organisational dimensions into account. What was frustrating, however, is that we did not have time to discuss differences between the different concepts.

Innovation platforms

There was not enough time to discuss role of already existing platforms, e.g. farmer organisations could help with their own platforms; challenging existing platforms; parachuting in platforms. The IP is an attempt to operationalise and support dynamics of innovation systems, but there may be other ways; one also needs good coordination, regulation, norms, policy, enabling environment. We just say these are important but we don’t address them. What mechanisms can we use to boost innovation: tax, norms, investment networks? Could this be a topic for a next meeting?

Missing content (or not enough time for discussing it):

- What is the analytical framework for platforms and local innovation? There could be 4 interpretations of IPs: concrete organisation/structure, network, tool for political projects, or not yet organised social movements of people sharing some common view on development. It could be a very interesting research programme to compare and analyse these, also to make a comparison between European transition in CAP and the issues of platforms and innovation support in Africa. (JMT ready to make a more structural contribution on this point.)
- One big issue in IPs is management; it is not easy to do.

Note: There were more participants from the IP writeshop than we had planned. Such participants had this issue at the top of their agenda, which explains why the topic crept so much into the discussions.

Concepts

They were clearly (slight) differences on terms of thinking about innovation systems and innovation processes among participants. During the chat show on IPs with someone from a university and people from ILRI and IFPRI being interviewed on their experiences, differences in how people look at innovation came out.

But we did not indulge in those discussions nor did we explore the underlying differences. Among other reasons, time was too short for many questions. Another reason is that, when academicians and practitioners came together, semantics are not such a big issue. Instead, we looked at what is happening and what we can learn from that.

Making sense of different models of innovation

In AISA we didn’t address properly the diversity of innovation modes. Many people were coming from the grassroots innovation perspective. But, for example, the business sector has a different vision of innovation. Indeed, there is not one unique model of innovation; there are different ways, different modes. In the

modernisation of agriculture, everything that did not go in this direction was regarded as the wrong way to go. Innovation has no sense without direction, axiology; it makes sense only with a vision. Some models of innovation have little support and need certain instruments to support it. The SOLINSA project showed that orchestrated processes of innovation can take hidden innovations into account across the EU. There are civil society movements such as organic farming, slow food, short food chains. They all have in common that innovation is important and acknowledge that there could be different ways of achieving this.

Twenty years ago, the mainstream vision about how to go about making innovation happen was through the public services, with a focus on intensification of agriculture and inputs such as fertilisers, and with few stakeholders involved and interacting in the field (research, extension, farmers). We also thought we were able to drive innovation. Now there are more stakeholders – NGOs, private firms, farmer organisations, as well as the public sector – and many kinds of initiatives about fostering innovation. Each stakeholder has a different interest and promotes a different vision of innovation. The IP concept and practice are becoming more important. But not everyone agrees that the IP is the only alternative.

There is still dualism in agricultural innovation processes. In Europe, there is a confrontation between the vision of family farming and local development and the vision of biotechnology, large-scale commercial farming, and transfer of technology. In Africa, BMGF is using transfer of technology (triple bags) to save cowpea farmers from weevil pests, and is supporting industry for making these bags. It is also making huge marketing campaigns. Huge communication campaigns such as in the case of Rinderpest worked in the past because the service was free; today, there are no free things. BMGF is doing this campaign in highly populated areas but a different model is needed in other cases. Things are gradually changing: initially, BMGF was not funding sub-regional research support organisations such as CORAF; now ASARECA is making a proposal to them. Also, BMGF started with the idea of the silver bullet, but now there are changes in thinking. It is making calls directly to national research systems.

We should also be aware of the existence of IPs beyond the radar, with a different vision of agriculture. BMGF is financing another kind of platform, of researchers, retailers, traders, organising a platform of development based on different values; the different visions are competing.

The different visions of IPs that seem to be competing include:

1. Corporate vision: large companies, embedded in the rules and functioning of a capitalist system
2. Family farming, civil society, self-help
3. State (has become weaker).

In AISA, we focused more on family farms and bottom-up approaches and we are in competition with powerful players that have far more resources than we do. As 2014 is the International Year of Family Farming, we should try and relate to the things where this vision has been articulated and position ourselves in this landscape. The same is true with respect to the vision articulated in the IAASTD study.

In the AISA workshop, there were different views of links with science and where “real science” is produced. For example, GIZ has a technology-transfer project to put research into use but is not discussing why the research products are still on shelf. It is not reflecting on what went wrong. This technology-transfer thinking is not dead yet. That is also why we have to look at how to create an interface with technology transfer, how best to minimise this, e.g. through IPs. If you build multi-stakeholder partnerships around existing innovation processes to maintain access and communication, people can come to see farmers’ innovation within the household. Once they are involved, these hidden innovations can be captured.

The overlap we had during AISA with PROLINNOVA type of work on **local innovation** was very important; the approaches complement each other. It is a different orientation, especially for those who have not been exposed to farmer innovation before. Among the Kenyan participants, the EU Nairobi representative discussed the institutionalisation of an AIS approach where certain things should go immediately into their small grants programme. The Assistant Director of the KARI Livestock Programme, who is also the coordinator of KASAL, expressed the desire to have scientists in his programme to start seeing things more in terms of systems. A faculty member from Egerton University, who is in charge of extension, plans to link up with Jacques Lancon of CIRAD in Nairobi to explore possible areas of collaboration. Another faculty member from Nairobi University, who is a pathologist, intends to link students’ research with farmer

innovations on site. Based on such eagerness to change, we can carry forward within Kenya whatever capital came out of the AISA workshop. We have resource persons like Kavoi and Chengole (KARI), who are students of this approach. Chengole for his part will take part in the participatory innovation development in the Prosopis process in Baringo within the CLIC-SR (Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research) project. Jane Omari from the Commission for Science and Technology pointed out that the Commission will soon be floating calls for innovation proposals and the discussions in the workshop indicate that there is enough material to formulate strong proposals. Felister in KARI is involved in making a guide on setting up and facilitating IPs, in a project supported by ACIAR. This is a parallel process with the briefs being produced by the ILRI writeshop participants on specific aspects of IPs.

Gender dimensions of innovation

- Suman (Nepal) pointed out that women's innovations are sometimes made known by men, that women are hiding behind men. Is it now time to fund men to enable women's innovation to be well known and to improve family livelihoods?
- Ann WB: Some recent papers on Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) have pointed to the importance of mixed gender groups for encouraging household innovation. The FFSs create a new learning space – different from the traditional spaces in the family and community – where women's innovation can come to the fore and be appreciated by men.

Suggestions about what to include in the AISA e-proceedings, and beyond

A small team could look at the content of the posters, make a typology according to issues and/or concepts, and draw out some more synthetic lessons, i.e. make sense of them. A cross-analysis could be made on the basis of the synthesis discussion of all oral papers and posters (including the texts that will be prepared by paper and poster authors). This might be the core for a future synthesis article.

The e-proceedings will include a synthesis section, which could serve as a building block for a future collective article (co-authors to include possibly Bernard, Anne F and a selection of people from the AISA scientific committee, e.g. Laurens, Geoffrey, also Marc perhaps). When organising the written version of the living keynote, a synthesis will be added from the other materials presented in oral papers and posters, to make sense of this collection.

Who is who? Rather than a simple listing of names of participants, we could ask people to send photos and 3 lines about their current activities related to innovation work; this could become part of the e-proceedings and would help to sustain networking.

Beyond the proceedings, one could also consider making a special issue in a journal, with a collection of 3–5 articles. JMT can check if this would be of interest to the *Journal of Innovation Economics* (?), of which he is a co-editor.

Toward a Nairobi declaration and development of policy statements

It would be good perhaps to make a declaration from Nairobi on innovation, reminding about the key role of innovation in agriculture and food systems in Africa, pointing to the many existing initiatives (local, national, international) and making recommendations, bringing in the AISA content and making clear where the messages come from, drawing lessons from a wider base. One could use the living keynote to write this policy brief.

Annex 6: Oral paper presentations (PPTs)

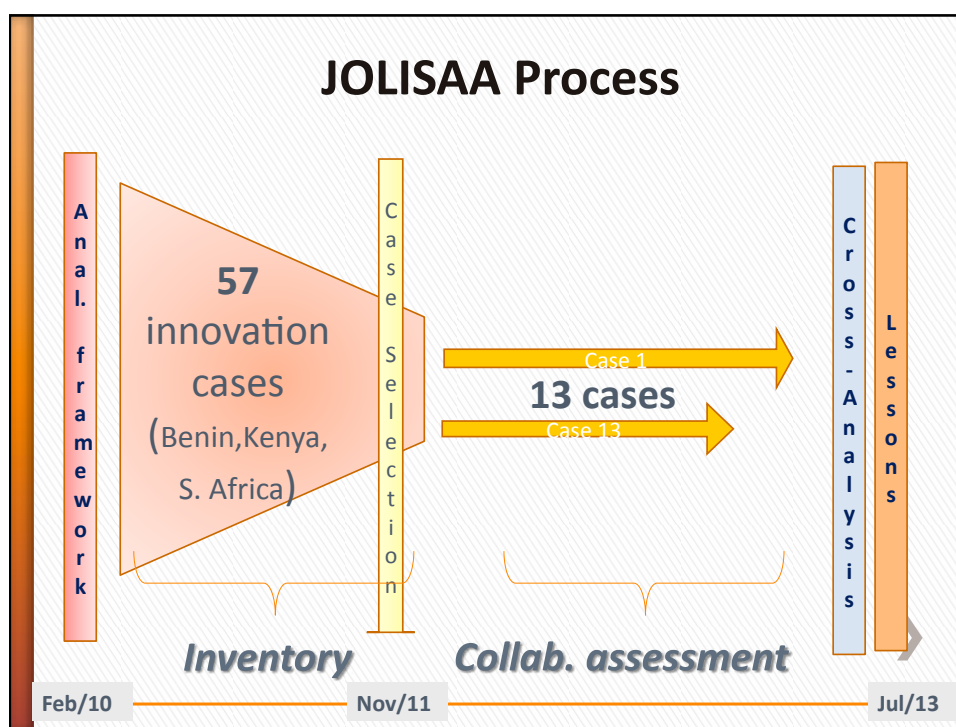
- JOLISAA (Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture): Cross analysis of multi-stakeholder innovation in smallholder farmer – key lessons and policy recommendations from Benin, Kenya and South Africa
- PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management): farmer-managed funds stimulate farmer-led participatory innovation processes
- CoS–SIS (Convergence of Science: Strengthening Innovation Systems): Facilitating institutional change in West Africa – the CoS–SIS experience
- FARA Sub-Saharan Challenge Programme: Delivering impact from agricultural research and development – the case of SSA CP
- AusAID/CSIRO Australian Food Security Initiatives: Learning from AR4D programs in sub-Saharan Africa
- ILRI/CPWF Innovation Platform writeshop (see <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/ip+writeshop>)



***Cross analysis of multi-stakeholder
innovation in smallholder farming :
Key lessons and policy recommendations
from Benin, Kenya and South Africa***



AISA Conference, Nairobi, 30 May 2013



JOLISAA Assessment Process: Cases

Entry point	Natural Resource Management	Value chain development
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Integrated soil fertility management * Hwedo agrofishing system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Soy foods * Rice parboiling
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Soil liming * Prosopis management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Aloe domestication * Mango processing * Solar milk cooling * Gadam sorghum
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Integrated soil fertility management * In field rain water harvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Input bulk buying



Key Lessons to be Elaborated >>>

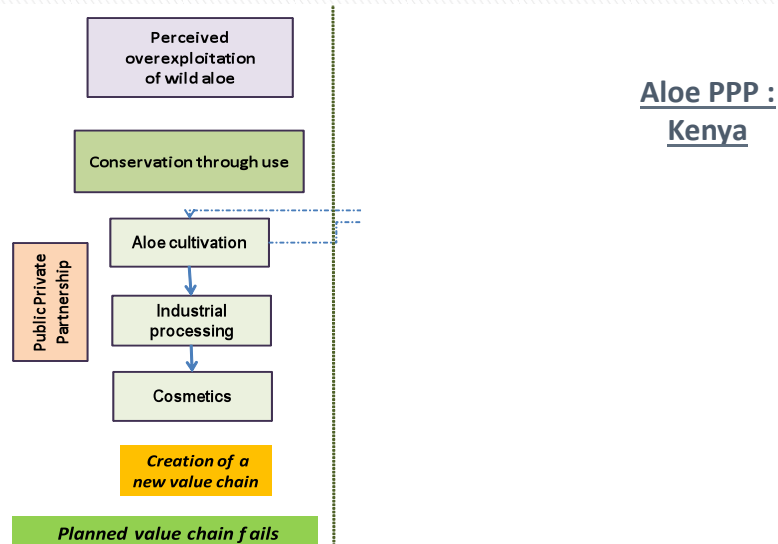
Lesson 1: Innovations occur in the “social wild”, even when there is no intervention

Lesson 2: Innovation processes comprise dynamic bundles of technological, institutional and organizational elements

Lesson 3: Innovation processes that allow producers to connect with diverse value chains allow for more flexible and incremental changes

Lesson 4: Over the long term, innovation processes unfold in unpredictable and unplannable ways

1. Even where there is no intervention, >>> numerous innovations occur in the « social wild »



- » Arguments;
- » The aloe innovation process is a good example of the invisibility of local innovations to researchers and managers
- » Aloe has been flagged as endangered species because of its perceived overexploitation in the arid lands in Kenya. A new concept was designed for its conservation through use. Aloe was supposed to be cultivated, a processing industry was to be set up through PPP; the added value to the aloe sap would support conservation. A new value chain was to be created. Great innovative concept, many pitfalls during implementation of the project, up to now it has not started
- » In parallel, local harvesters went on selling their products to boilers who were supplying Somali traders. Local innovations were developed in this informal value chain: traders trained boiling for a better quality of the gum, some small and medium scale processing units emerged for soap and cosmetics and some harvesters began to cultivate aloe.
- » Unfortunately, when the EU project was designed, there was no awareness about these processes.

2. Innovation processes comprised of dynamic bundles of technological, organizational and institutional elements



Prosopis innovation bundle: Kenya

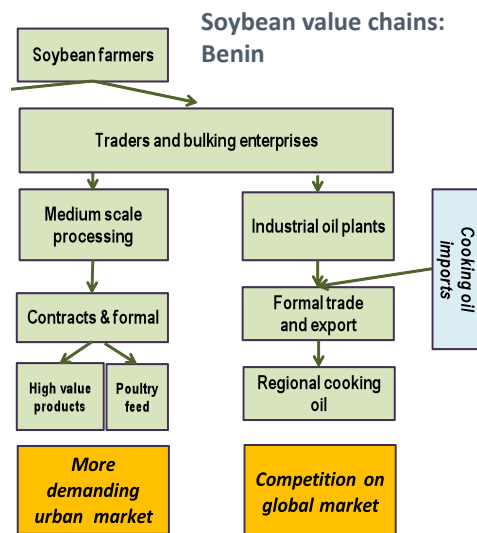


- » Arguments
- » for the audience this lesson may sound too familiar but in practice, especially among researchers, innovation is still meant as technological innovation ;
- » The Prosopis case in Kenya is a good illustration on how innovation unfolds
- » Prosopis had been introduced as the wonderplant that would save arid lands in Kenya from desertification and poverty. It turned to be a noxious weed and action had to be taken in order either to get rid of it or to succeed in managing it. A first organisational innovation was set up: farmers field schools; They designed a set of technological innovations for managing the tree (pruning, using the pods, how to produce charcoal).
- » This required a change in rules, because charcoal production is prohibited. Such a change in regulations can be considered an institutional innovation. Then FFS groups specialised in charcoal production and trade.
- » In fact any technological innovation unfolds together with organisational innovations and even may imply some institutional changes;
- » A missing link would have considerably restrained the development of the innovation process if not have stopped it.

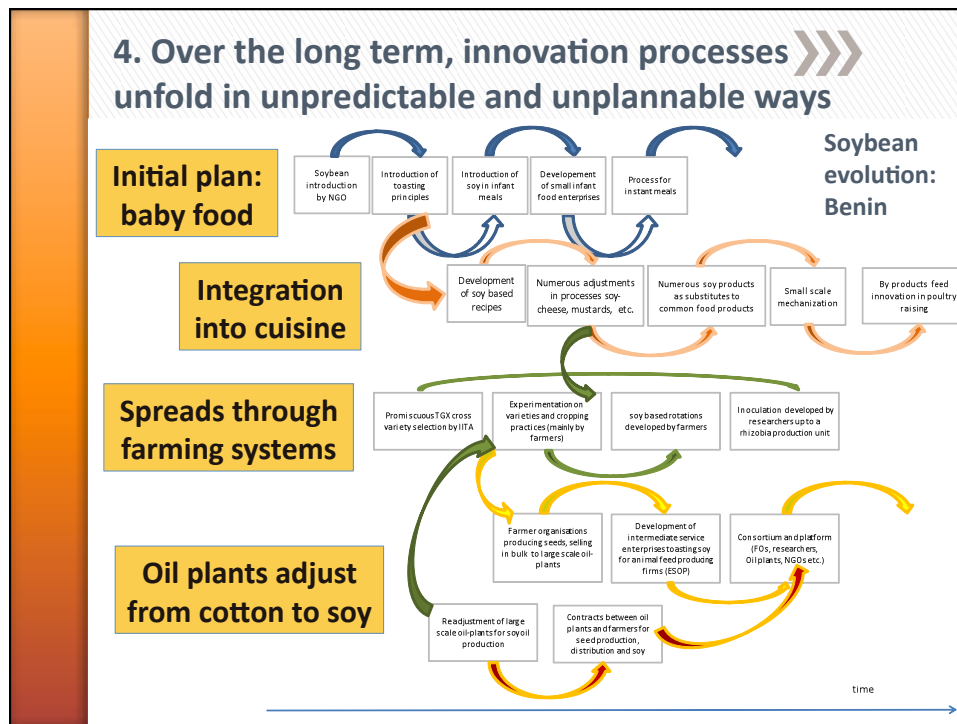


3. Diverse value chains within commodity >>> allow flexible and inclusive changes

Soy as solution to
malnutrition 1980s



- » Arguments
- » Innovations are linked to market drives and development of value chains. Innovation managers mostly think in terms of developing or upgrading one type of value chain: the one high value chain giving access to demanding markets.
- » We distil lessons here around the soy case in Benin.
- » Soy has been introduced in the eighties for baby formula; now it has become a major crop.
- » Support has been given to oil plants. Projects also considered the medium scale value chain: innovation target linking producers to such VCs, productivity enhancement in medium to large scale processing units and to supplying farms. For the soy case, putting a focus on large scale industrial oil value chain also means competition with imports on global markets.
- » Soy case in Benin shows that many very small scale holders have made use of the initial innovation (soy introduction and knowledge on how to toast it). Food processing roots in a very rich local knowledge already used for a large range of food products. Small scale processors therefore transformed soy into a large range of substitutes to these food products (such as cheese, condiment etc). Several value chains emerged around food products for local and now urban consumer markets.
- » Issues are
 - > - Small scale processing allows for step by step upgrading and asset acquisition : from no equipment to renting services, from renting services to own equipment, etc. This also reduces risk.
 - > - For farmers also, the existence of parallel types of value chains is an asset: they are less dependent towards one large scale purchaser, it gives them the opportunity of step by step adjustment to an increase in quality and quantity requirements of the purchasers
 - > - In french we say that many small streams come to a large one. Any of these small value chains seem unimportant but altogether they feed large number of consumers.
 - > - on the top of that market diversification reduces risks



- » Arguments
- » Many innovations we know about happen to be triggered by projects at some stage in the process, mostly at early stages
- » In most cases project managers cannot anticipate what really happens, especially beyond project time frames
- » In the soy case, the project had been initially planned in order to bring mothers to integrate soy into infant food. But then soy was integrated as a substitute into many cooking recipes and this was the starting point of the many small scale value chains we talked about. This again gave impetus to integration of soy in farms and last but not least, soy being cultivated it was then considered an alternative to cotton seed by the oil plants. At every step, a series of innovations chained up, up to a complex bundle. Such development could never have been anticipated. Here the processes displayed have taken place over more than 30 years and the outcome is this messy bundle of innovations.
- » This displays why, for project based innovation support, zooming out is necessary before zooming in.

Challenges, lessons and recommendations >>>

Challenge: How to support innovation processes?

L1: Innovations occur in the "social wild", even when there is no intervention:

R1: Policies, research and practice would do better recognizing and strengthening existing local innovation processes rather than trying to replace them.

L2: Innovation processes comprise dynamic bundles of technological, institutional and organizational elements

R2: Policy, research and practice should approach innovation in a way that integrates these elements.

Challenges, lessons and recommendations >>>

Challenge: How to support innovation processes?

L3: Innovation processes that allow producers to connect with diverse value chains allow for more flexible and incremental changes:

R3: Increase research and investment in innovation processes that permit flexible engagement with formal and informal value chain stakeholders.

L4: Over the long term, innovation processes unfold in unpredictable and unplannable ways:

R4: Provide an institutional environment that recognize and support unfolding processes and allow for flexible open-ended interventions.

- » Arguments
- » Lessons have been driven out of a specific case but would apply to many others
- » Intentionnally broad recommendations that sound familiar to you
- » What is intended for the discussion is the how to achieve them



Participants in JOLISAA

CIRAD: Bernard Triomphe, Bernard Bridier, Henri Hocdé,

KARI: Geoffrey Kamau, Teresiah Ng'ang'a, Kavoi Justice

UAC : Simplicie Davo Vodouhe, Anne Floquet, Roch Mongbo, Rigobert Tossou,

UP: Joe Stevens, Brigid Letty, Rootman Gerrit

WUR: Jolanda van den Berg, Todd Crane, Conny Almekinders,

ICRA: Nour Sellamna, Hawkins Richards

ETC: Ann Waters-Bayer, Nicolienne Oudwater, Meijboom Mariana

And many field agronomists and small holders

www.jolisaa.net

**For more on the findings, visit
our posters**

JOLISAA is funded by the EU



Farmer-managed funds stimulate farmer-led participatory innovation processes



Chris Macoloo¹, Geoffrey Kamau², Righa Makonge¹, Teresiah Ng'ang'a³, Ann Waters-Bayer⁴ & Laurens van Veldhuizen⁴

¹World Neighbors

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⁴PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, ETC Foundation



Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa Workshop,
29–31 May 2013, Nairobi, Kenya

PROLINNOVA: PRomoting Local INNOVation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM

“Global Partnership Programme” under Global Forum on
Agricultural Research (GFAR) – initiated by NGOs



Nepalese researchers learn
from farmer innovator

Multistakeholder community of practice
focused on *smallholder farming*

Seeks to make *farmer-led joint innovation
processes* an everyday part of formal
agricultural research & development (ARD)

Vision: A world where women and men
farmers play decisive roles in ARD for
sustainable livelihoods



Based on conviction that:



- Farmers are creative and generate relevant local innovations = *locally new & better ways of doing things*
- Linking local creativity with other sources of new ideas builds more resilient innovation systems to continue dealing with change
- Recognising local capacities lays basis for true partnership with other knowledge-holders in ARD

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in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

Therefore: initial focus on local innovators



Ethiopian farmer developed water-lifting devices working with local blacksmith

- Farmers who innovate on own initiative, build on local knowledge, also integrating external ideas
- **Local innovation = entry point for farmer-led Participatory Innovation Development (PID)**
- Examples from Kenya – PID on:
 - Hybrid local-modern beehive
 - Homemade supplementary feed
 - Millet nurseries & transplanting to adapt to climate change

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in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

Seeking to strengthen smallholders' role in agricultural innovation systems (AIS)

- Still tendency for formal research & extension to dominate in PID: exploring own, not farmers', questions
- Still most "participatory research" involves testing scientists' ideas
- Can farmer-managed funds stimulate *farmer-led* participatory innovation?
- Piloted local-level innovation funds in "Farmer Access to Innovation Resources" (FAIR) so that *smallholders decide what will be researched, how and by whom.*



Planning PID in South Africa

Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs)

- **Piloting LISFs involved:**
 - designing & setting up sustainable decentralised flexible funding mechanisms to promote farmer-led innovation processes
 - evaluating, documenting & sharing experiences so as to learn how LISFs could effectively promote farmer-led innovation
- **LISFs were piloted by PROLINNOVA partners in:**
 - Asia: Cambodia & Nepal
 - Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania & Uganda
- **In Kenya they were piloted 2008–12 in four districts:**
 - Western Region: Busia & Nyando
 - Eastern Region: Machakos & Mwingi

How LISFs were piloted

- Multistakeholder national team coordinated piloting
- Set up & built capacities of local Fund Management Committees (FMCs)
- FMCs made open call for proposals
- Farmers submitted simple proposals
- FMCs selected grantees (individuals or groups) & provided resources
- Farmers led research & shared results
- Participatory impact assessment



Kenyan farmer experiments with locally made feed supplements

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Main screening criteria similar across piloting countries

- Idea driven by applicant(s)
- Innovation sound in economic, environmental & social terms
- Applicable by resource-poor
- Applicants willing to share
(*public funds for public goods*)
- Proposal for *experimentation and learning*, not farm investment



LISF committee screening applications in South Africa

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PROMoting Local INNOVation
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

Multiple levels of mutual learning

- **Community:** local research and M&E by farmer groups and FMC
- **District:** as extension, NGOs, researchers, college staff support farmer-led experiments, organise innovation fairs, facilitate M&E
- **Country:** through reflection workshops and joint impact assessment by national multistakeholder platforms (coordinated in Kenya by World Neighbors & KARI)



Community learning group in South Africa

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in geography-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

Grants in 8 pilot countries over 4 years

No. of applications received	Percentage approved	Average grant size (Euro)	Range in grant size (Euro)
1224	64%	84	5 – 1670

Use of funds as decided by FMCs:

1. Farmers' own experimentation
2. Improving farmer innovations
3. Farmer-led experimentation with research and/or extension staff
4. Learning visits by farmers



Ethiopian woman comparing modern beehive & her local improvement on it

Participatory impact assessment

Involvement of different actors in LISF:



Ethiopian farmer explains his experiment to MoA staff

- Strengthened social organisation around managing local ARD and funds for it
- Built smallholders' capacities to formulate own needs and access relevant information
- Led to recognition of women as innovators & fund managers
- Increased smallholders' confidence to interact with "outsiders" in joint innovation
- Stimulated interest of extension and (some) scientists to support farmer-led PID

Challenges:

- Difficult to generate in-country funding:
 - trying partial repayment
 - but should be public funds for local learning & producing public goods
- High transaction costs while piloting – need to be reduced now:
 - 30–40% of budget goes to farmers
 - rest for coordination, training, advisory support, M&E etc



Kenya Perm. Secy. for Higher Education visiting farmer innovators at NCST exhibition

- Often difficult to involve scientists:
 - farmers initially want to experiment on own, using local advice
 - research institutes have own agenda & little room to support farmer initiatives – exception: KARI
- but encouraging response from extension & some policymakers exposed to LISF

Insights from LISFs

- Smallholders can manage funds for locally relevant innovation development, with appropriate initial support
- LISF needs to be custom-designed depending on local capacities, degree of organisation & available support services
- LISF works best when incorporated into existing participatory programme that can give needed support
- Involvement in LISF can enhance role of smallholders in governance of publicly funded ARD



Steps towards scaling up LISFs

Partners documented workable models and are seeking to scale them up *while retaining their smallholder focus and farmer-led character*

Scenarios being explored in different countries:

- Set up fund within *national farmer organisation*
- Integrate into *local government administration (K = county)*
- Integrate into *MoA extension service*



- Integrate into *national research system*
- Establish *National Innovation Fund*
- Base LISF concept in self-managed & self-resourced *CBOs*

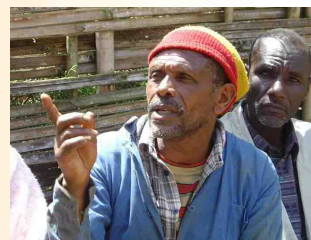
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Policy recommendations

1. To advance smallholder farming, give support to mechanisms that link farmer innovators & the formal ARD sector
2. Promote “action learning”: re-orienting ARD staff through their active involvement in farmer-led PID
3. Support alternative ways to approach ARD funding that give smallholders a chance for *more say*, to *learn with other* knowledge-holders and to *contribute their own knowledge* to continuous and enhanced innovation processes
4. Instead of centralising & homogenising ARD for smallholders, promote a multitude of *local social-learning platforms* to develop site-appropriate innovations and to continue doing so
5. Create spaces to learn from this diversity in innovation



Vision

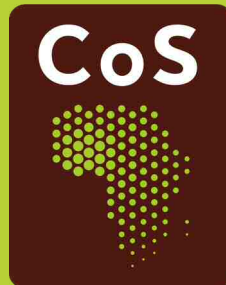


A world where women and men farmers
play decisive roles in research and development for
sustainable livelihoods



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Convergence of Sciences



Convergence of Sciences

Facilitating institutional change in West Africa: The CoS-SIS Experience

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Netherlands

Outline

- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Challenges
- Lessons learnt and recommendations
- Website

Introduction

- Smallholders in West Africa have limited window of opportunity to make technology relevant to them
- Interaction among actors and concerted action is required for them to benefit from opportunities
- Interaction and concerted action need to be facilitated
- This paper is about how interaction and concerted action are facilitated to bring about institutional change in 9 agro-domains in West Africa

Materials and Methods

- The work is being carried out in Benin, Mali and Ghana since 2010 around 9 agro-domains
- The nine domains were selected by national working groups based on national priorities
- The entry points were arrived at through exploration and scoping studies
- Stakeholder platforms called “Concertation and Innovation Groups” were formed around each of the entry points

Material and Methods

- The platforms are facilitated by Post-Doctoral Research Associates and assisted by PhD students
- The facilitators identified potential members to the platform through stakeholder analysis
- Membership of the platform is flexible and consists of value chain actors (smallholders, public and private sector service providers and regulators)

Main Results

- Power dynamics have been at play in most of the platforms e.g. in Crop-livestock CIG in Mali and Rice CIG in Benin
- In some of the platforms (e.g. Benin oil palm and rice CIGs) power imbalances are as a result of lack of trust among members
- Sometimes the voice of the less powerful actors were not heard in the presence of powerful interests on the platform e.g. in the Mali crop-livestock CIG

Main Results

- Conflicts have occurred in most of the CIGs e.g. cocoa and oil palm CIGs in Ghana
- In some cases a shift in power or conflicts made some members threatened to withdraw from the platform
- The Research Associate takes on the role of mediator to resolve conflicts

Convergence of Sciences			
Example: Analysis of power relations among oil palm CIG members in negotiation of export opportunities			
Power Relations before price negotiation		Power Relation after price negotiation	
(Power over)	(Power to) Rep of Min of Agric Rep of Export Promotion Auth	(Power over) Rep of Farmers Rep of Processors Rep of Millers	(Power to) Rep of Min of Agric Rep of Export Promotion Auth
(Power with) Rep of Farmers Rep of Processors Rep of Millers Export Entrepreneur	(Power within)	(Power with) Export Entrepreneur	(Power within)

Convergence of Sciences
<h2>Main results</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallholders played varied roles in the innovation process through e.g. providing and sharing information with other stakeholders • Some actors outside the platform played critical roles to advance the course of the platform e.g. in the Ghana oil palm CIG • In all the platforms, some actors acted as “champions” at some points in the innovation process to remove key institutional constraints

Main results

- Capacities of stakeholders were strengthened whenever it was necessary as in the case of shea platform in Mali and Oil palm platform in Ghana
- In all the platforms, R&D played a major role to remove farm level constraints linked to institutional innovation
- Changing conditions outside the CIG had major influences on the attainment of CIGs objectives e.g. as happened in Benin cotton sector and oil palm CIG in Ghana
- Activities of the CIG have been embedded in local structures to ensure its sustainability e.g. the oil palm CIG in Ghana

Key challenges

- High expectations from platform members e.g. as happened in Benin cotton CIG
- Tight work schedules of some of the platform members resulting in time table conflicts
- Sustainability of platform after funding ceases
- Influence of external factors such as government policy and changes in commodity price on attainment of CIG objectives

Key challenges

- Finding agreement among actors with divergent interest can be a problematic
- Frequent changes in the leadership positions of some key organisations could delay platform activities e.g. as happened in Mali
- Resolving power struggles or conflicts in the platform could also be very challenging

Lessons learnt/Recommendations

- There is the need to build motivation from the start
- Getting the right representation from the start is very important
- Time investment is key especially for the facilitator
- It is important to be sensitive to gender dynamics to be able to address issues related to gender
- Adjust platform membership when the need arises

Lessons learnt/Recommendation

- Monitor external factors (such as policy change, price changes, political change etc) that are likely to affect the platform performance
- Embed critical platform functioning within the local structure
- Create opportunities and seize them when they arise
- Adjust to socio-cultural norms

Website and Contact Details

- Website: <http://www.cos-sis.org>



www.fara-africa.org

Delivering Impact from Agricultural Research and Development - The case of SSA CP

‘Wale Adekunle

Director for Partnerships and Strategic Alliances and Director for the SSA CP

Presentation at the Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA) Workshop Nairobi, KCB Leadership Centre, Nairobi, Kenya 29-31 July 2013.



Outline

- Why SSA CP
- What we did
- About Innovation Platforms SSA CP
- Changing the goal post from Outputs to outcomes and impact
- Challenges and Lessons for policy
- Conclusion



Why SSA CP

- FARA not happy with low rate of returns to investments in Agricultural Research
- Considers Integrated Agricultural Research for Development as an option.
- Proposed this as a Challenge Program to the CGIAR
- SSA CP - Challenge Program for Africa was born
- Accepted for a Proof of Concept Phase



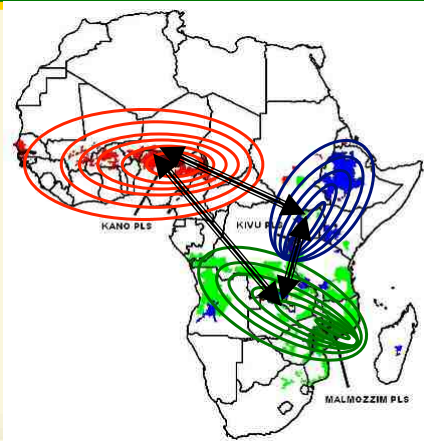
Proof of Concept - Difficult but not impossible

- Demand for Proof of Concept strange and unusual
- IAR4D had no acceptable procedure for implementation
- IAR4D involves research - outcome cannot be determined, and long term usually
- Impact assessment was demanded using scientifically rigorous methodology
- All of these in 3 odd years



What we did?

- 3 PLS; 1 project per site
- 3 sub-projects per project: total of 9 sub-projects
- 1 meta-project on cross-site analysis to extract principles generalizable across SSA
- Randomized Control Trials
- 54,000 Households across Africa
- Introduced Innovation Platforms



Encouraged short term research

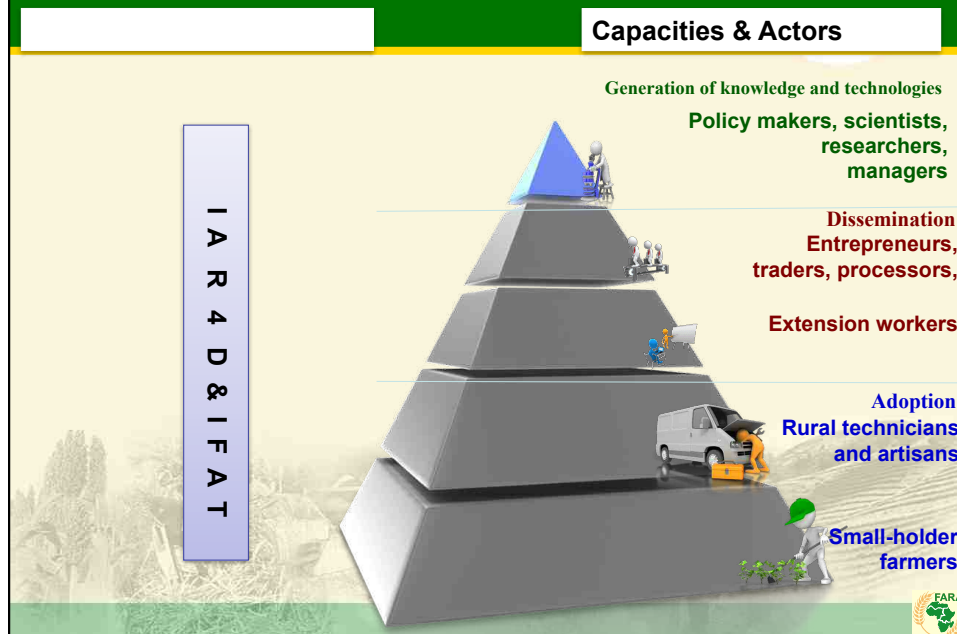


What we did:

- Extensive Monitoring and Evaluation
- Robust Quantitative data - double difference with “before” and “after” combined with “with” and “without”
- Two types of counterfactuals- Conventional and “Clean”
- Extensive capacity building
- Set up Innovation Platforms- 36 in all
- Extensive monitoring, learning, and evaluation



Capacity for who and what? Capacity Pyramid



What we did:

- Robust Quantitative data - double difference with “before” and “after” combined with “with” and “without” **Two types of counterfactuals- Conventional and “Clean”**
- Extensive capacity building
- Set up Innovation Platforms- 36 in all

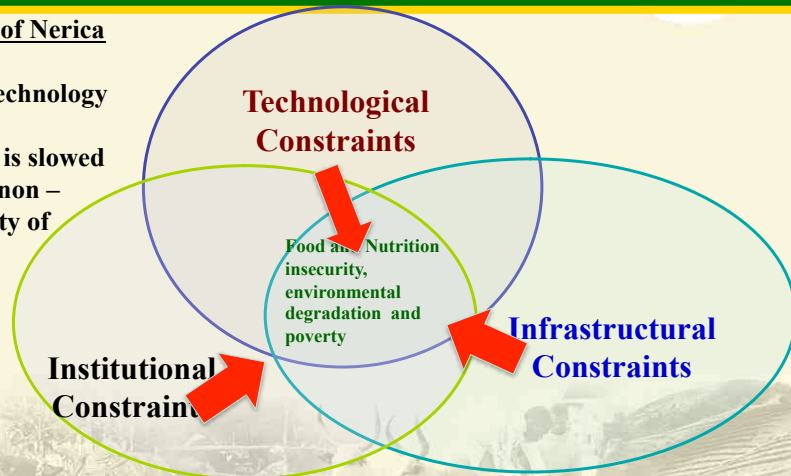
Goal: Substantially greater impact from agricultural research for development (AR4D) leading to improved rural livelihoods, increased food security and sustainable natural resource management across test areas



Innovation Platforms in SSA CP

Example of Nerica

- Good technology
- Spread is slowed down by non – availability of seeds

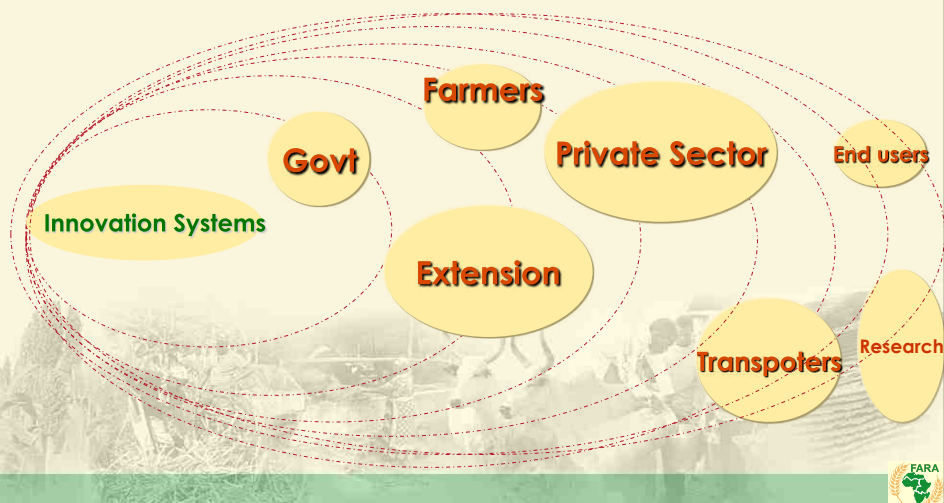


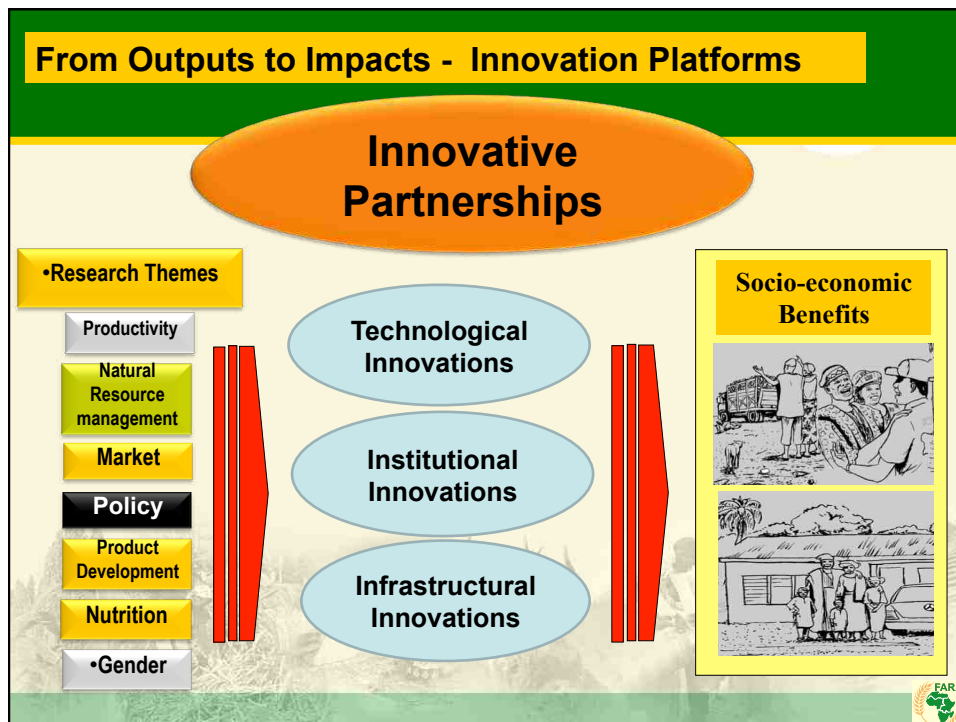
Governance as an overarching factor

9



IAR4D - Participation and Gainful Interaction





The partners spoke out



Increase in yield coupled with better market access
Win-win partnerships



Impact coming already



I have a car and ten jobs have been created I am building a modern washing bay



What the results are showing

- IAR4D and Innovation Platforms work better than conventional approaches
- And can be scaled up and scaled out

- Linking farmers to information and technologies
- Linking farmers to inputs and output markets
- Increasing yield and income
- Reducing poverty
- Reducing environmental degradation
- Increasing food and nutrition security



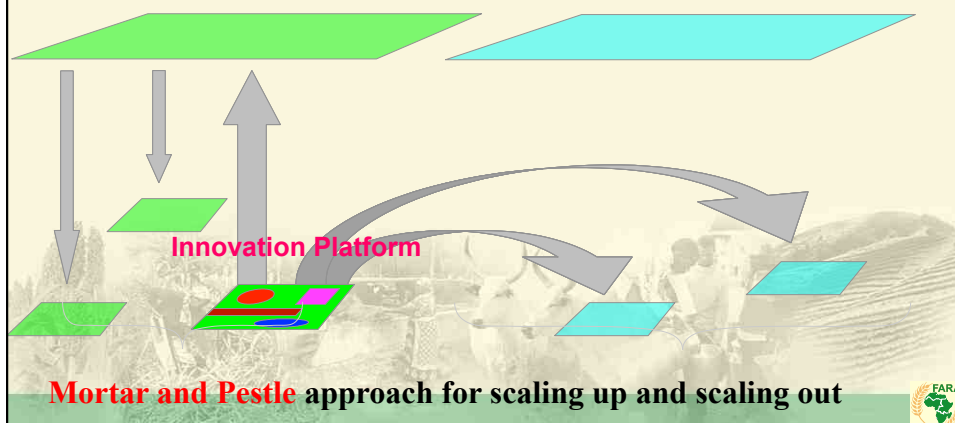
Up-scaling and out scaling

Up-scaling and Extrapolation

Similar environment

Transfer and Out Scaling

Different environment



Mortar and Pestle approach for scaling up and scaling out



Opening the Innovation Platform up

- Optimum Capacity for an Innovation Platform (boundary)
- Scaling up involves opening up the boundary
 - Policy
 - Input and Output market expansion
 - Extension
 - Research
 - Farmers
- Use of Champions
- Cloning and replication
- Development Partners



Challenges and lessons

- Problem of bringing people together and dominion mindset for scientists
- Calls for inter institutional collaboration, enabling decisions have to be made or buttressed at the strategic level and this has to happen across collaborating institutions
- Vertical, horizontal and cross institutional capacity building imperative
- Technically, Innovation Platforms succeed in opening more room for agricultural lending but cannot reduce lending rate which is currently prohibitive
- For this reason, FARA has developed IFAT which makes lending available to farmers at low digit



Challenges and Lessons

- Political will is required to maximize benefits from the use of approach
- Service institutions like research, extension, private sector play crucial roles and should be funded or supported with enabling environment
- Curriculum in schools have to be modified to enhance the training of fit for purpose graduates
- Governments should encourage inclusive economic growth and development models to derive impact from both macro and micro levels.
- Government should encourage the promotion of Innovative funding mechanisms like IFAT for improvement in agricultural lending at low digit interest rates.



Contact Details

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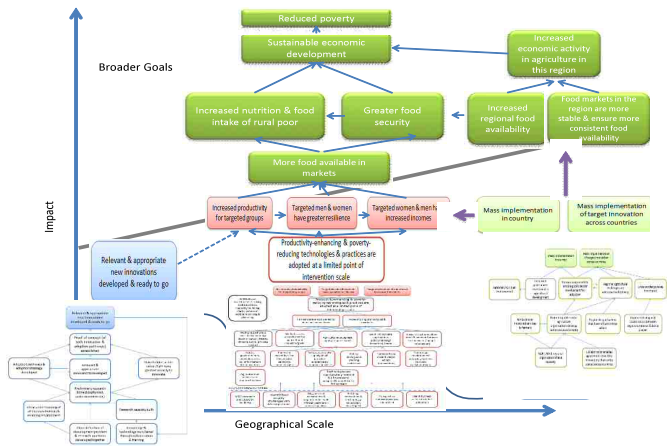
Learning from AR4D programs in Sub-Saharan Africa

May 2013

CSIRO ECOSYSTEM SCIENCES
www.csiro.au



The ‘Theory of Change’ for Australian Food Security Initiatives in Africa



An evidence-based approach to learning from experience

1. Selection of significant large scale initiatives
2. Interviews with key participants
3. Review of published & grey literature
4. Identify emerging themes
5. Develop, test and refine 'propositions' about best practice

•**AFSI:** Australia Africa Food Security Intervention

•**SIMLESA** *Sustainable intensification of Maize and Legumes cropping systems for food security in Eastern and Southern Africa*

•**SIMLEZA** *Sustainable Intensification of Maize- Legume Systems Eastern Province of Zambia*

•**CoS** *Convergence of Science*

•**RiU** *Research into use*

•**SSACP** *Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Program*

•**MVP** *Millenium Villages Project*

3 |



Outputs of the project...

- A set of 'propositions' for good practice in food security interventions in Africa derived from expert knowledge and documented experience
- Assessment of strength of evidence for these propositions based on (i) analysis of documented case studies and (ii) expert workshops
- A process to continue to test, refine and extend these propositions

4 |



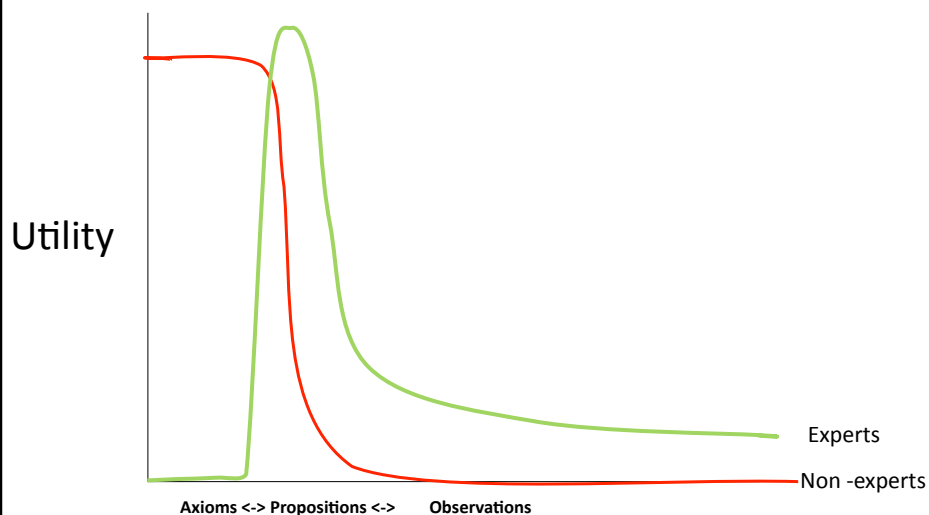
What do we mean by a 'proposition'?

- **Axioms** – (close to) self evident truth
 - *"Potential partners must have a common interest"*
- **Propositions** – proposals on best practice that have a solid evidence base but remain contested
 - *"Projects using Innovation Platforms to improve food security should be designed to run for longer than four years"*
- **Observations** – things that stand out from review of evidence but where implications are unclear
 - *"In some of the reviewed projects establishing operational Innovation Platforms often took more than half the planned project life"*

5 |



What's useful and for who?



6 |



What makes a proposition useful?

- Robust evidence
- Useful insight
- Novelty
- Potential applicability to a defined set of contexts (e.g. technology input, market-led, policy-led, capacity building or integrated approaches)

7 |



Information on each proposition

Statement of the Proposition

- A single sentence statement of best practice about an aspect of food security interventions in Africa

Explanation

- Single paragraph expansion on the proposition

Evidence

- Summary data and references supporting the proposition (including known boundaries) derived from interviews about the projects analysed and documented material accessed

Example(s)

- Narrative from case study project illustrating the proposition

Assumptions and their implications

- Assumptions causality, assumptions about strength of evidence, assumptions about scalability and context etc

Counterexamples and their implications

- Other experience suggesting different conclusions

Food security consequences

- Hypothesised consequences of the proposition for food security outcomes

Project design considerations

- Implications of the proposition for project design in AR4D / development interventions

Knowledge gaps and research opportunities

- Key opportunities for furthering understanding

8 |



Using propositions as a 'boundary object' to focus and stimulate debate and learning

	Types of questions	Motivation
'Single loop' learning	Evidence / counter evidence for the proposition? Implications?	Improving precision, evidence, utility etc
'Double loop' learning	Are there more important issues / propositions that should be the focus?	Improving focus and framing of the set of propositions
'Triple loop' learning	What have we learnt about learning from experience and moving from good to best practice?	Building excellence in evidence-based decision making through organisational learning

9 |



What we want to do now

- Explore 6 of the *propositions* developed to date in some detail
- Get your feedback / critique on them:
 - Do they present a sound argument?
 - Are they useful? (and who for!)
 - How are they best shared?
 - What would make them more useful?
- Explore the prospects and value for developing these insights and the process for their development further

10 |

