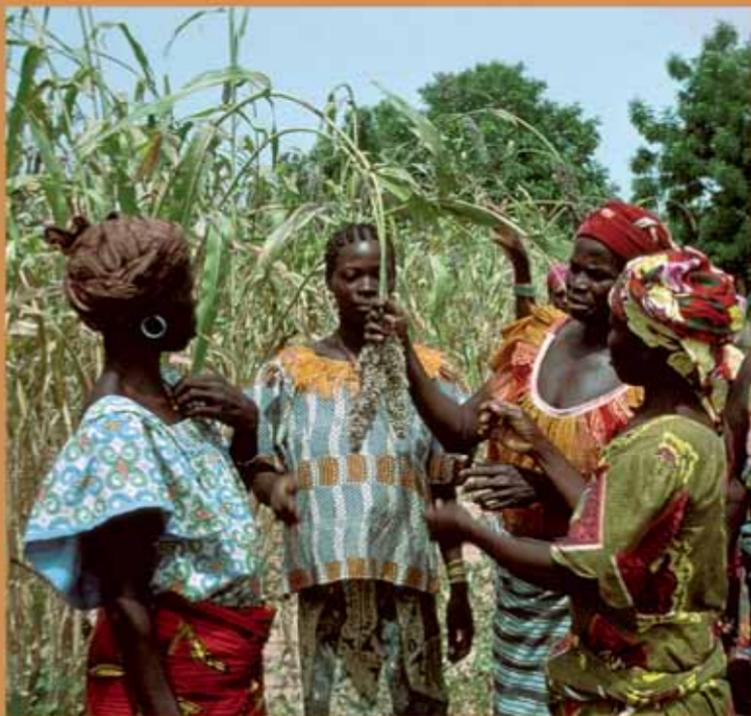




Innovating with rural stakeholders in the developing world

Action research in partnership

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Box 9. An example of ethical commitment (extract from a project document)

M. Dulcire

“At the start of our research activities in partnership, during the intervention phase, we commit to discussing and building an ethical framework with our partners for our involvement, both for the ‘means as well as the ends.’ This relates to: (1) each participant’s role, (2) use of data, (3) publication or presentations at meetings, seminars, etc. of documents concerning the experience, (4) back reporting of results to partners, (5) valorization of results obtained by citing the concerned and involved stakeholders, and (6) withdrawal of researcher teams at the conclusion of the program.”

take decisions (Étienne, 2011), lays down four ethical principles in its charter. Firstly, the researcher has to involve himself in supporting the processes undertaken by non-researchers by using research findings. Secondly, research hypotheses and procedures for conducting research should be completely transparent. Thirdly, the scope of application of any model developed should be clearly defined. And, lastly, the proposed approach should constantly be evaluated and questioned with a view of improving it.

The ComMod network thought this charter necessary to guard against the risk, conscious or unconscious, of the instrumentalization of research or even of manipulation of the decision-making process. In this way, situations which may be considered undesirable by the stakeholders are avoided.

Box 10. Material transfer agreement between Sintraf and Embrapa

A. Toledo Machado

Sintraf will transfer genetic materials to Embrapa without guaranteeing their purity or quality.

Embrapa:

- Undertakes it will never claim intellectual property rights on all or part of these materials;
- Assumes legal responsibility for all losses, if any, caused by these materials;
- Undertakes to inform Sintraf if any harmful effect of these materials is detected;
- Undertakes to mention Sintraf by name in any publication relating to these materials.

Signature Sintraf

Signature Embrapa