Introducing the legacy product

Multi-stakeholder processes (MSP) are increasingly seen as a promising vehicle for agricultural innovation in developing countries. MSP and its instruments such as Research for Development Platforms (R4D) and Innovation Platforms (IP) could play a strategic role in the transformation of Africa’s agriculture. However, the implementation of MSP in innovation system thinking to improve livelihoods is still not fully understood in terms of process and outcomes. This poster is building on two years constructive analysis of the influence of MSP in Cameroon on research integration with a diversity of stakeholders and how this impacted their efficiency in integrated systems research under Humidtropics in Cameroon.

Utility of the legacy product

This IP documents the process and outcomes in innovation systems thinking that promotes knowledge exchange and learning among stakeholders. This may happen through soft transfer (Paulus, 2004), co-creation (Beau et al., 2015; Schut et al., 2013) or community-based activities at the more operational level (Waters-Bayer et al., 2015). The three processes correspond respectively to knowledge transfer or internalization, knowledge hybridization and knowledge externalization and can occur simultaneously within MSPs, depending on the type of activities to be implemented.

How does it work?

- **Process**
  - Inception workshop
  - Vision and objectives
  - Exit themes & potential ideas
  - RAAS (rapid assessment of agricultural innovation systems)
  - Research topic
  - Launching of Innovation Platforms
  - RAAS: Input appraisal of agricultural innovation systems workshop
  - IP clusters
  - Co-creation & Executive committee

- **Activities**
  - Planning
  - Meetings & trainings
  - Proposals
  - Facilitation

- **Stakeholders and engagements**
  - R4D level (active members)
    - CGIAR centres (IITA, ICRAF, AVRDC): Coordinate research activities (based on expertise and field sites), disseminate innovations
    - NARS (IRAQ): Coordinate research activities (based on expertise), link R4D with IPs
    - Universities (Buea, Ondong, Yaounde 1 and 2): Contribute in the supervision of students involved in Humidtropics activities
    - Ministries (MINADER): Guide with relevant policies, assist in identification of stakeholders and activities
    - CBOs (Local NGOs, CAADP, NOWEFOR, Key farmers): Mobilize IP members, coordinate/supervise activities, do follow-up, link with expertise

- **IP level (mainly facilitator or executive committee members)**
  - Teach and advise
  - Provide follow-up and orientation
  - Facilitate information between IP & stakeholders
  - Serving link between IP members and the R4D

Interrelation among the Components

- **Facilitation team**
  - Influence: +
  - Feedback: +

Results and outputs

- **Joint venture of CGIAR Centres / integrated actions**
  - Dissemination of innovations based on priorities & needs
    - Achievement of six Humidtropics IDOs: increase rural income, sustain and productivity, sustainable natural resource management, women & youth, enhance innovation capacities
  - 1 PhD
  - 100 innovation platforms (IPs)

- **IP Level**
  - Improved seeds/seedlings distributed and available
  - 100 activities in one year
  - 100 activities
    - of leaders
    - on gender empowerment
    - on crop integration
  - Many positive changes have been noticed
  - Many negative changes have been noticed
  - In some areas, difficulties have forced researchers to innovate
  - MSP process has been understood by many stakeholders

Lessons

- MSPs help to improve agricultural productivity in Africa
- Arena to share vision among stakeholders and develop interventions of mutual benefit through co-creation and community-led action research
- Arena to adapt technologies to existing local conditions
- MSPs help to build formal and informal relationships and to develop mutual/interpersonal trust between researchers and other stakeholders

We suggest more investments in MSPs to enable the development and effective dissemination of agricultural innovations, thus fostering pro-poor growth and improving farmers’ livelihoods.

Potential users of this legacy product

MSP could be used to mainstream CAADP and country NASIP; Projects and programs in CAADP countries, NGOs and Community development programs; or by the AFS CRP during delivery and dissemination of technologies; or by the AIDB TAAT and AARP.

Key partners

ICRRA, IITA, IRAD, FARA, CASD – NGO, Key farmers organization, NOWEFOR, AVRDC, MINADER, UNIVERSITIES OF ONSCHANG, YAOUNDE II, BUJE

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November 2016

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