

Title of meeting	Overcoming Challenges in Scaling out agricultural research successes
Responding to Theme 4	The status of the 5 requirements for turning Africa's agriculture around
Organizers	Research into use, FARA, Prolinnova, Pico, NEPAD, WrenMedia
Date and Time	11 June, 4 pm
Contact person	Kerry Albright

Introduction

In recent years, the potential contribution of agricultural research for development to the attainment of the MDGs, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, has once again been recognised and has re-emerged as an area of importance on national government and donor agendas. However, it is also acknowledged that the maximum poverty-reducing impact of existing 'best-bet' technologies, policies and processes produced as a result of agricultural research has not yet been attained. Whilst there are undeniably lots of successes, these are often small scale and relatively isolated. How to replicate and scale these up and out is an incredibly complicated issue, but there are lessons that can be shared from elsewhere.

This side-event aims to utilise the experiences of three recently instigated programmes (Research Into Use, Prolinnova and DONATA) which aim to scale out agricultural successes and enhance the agricultural innovation process in order to stimulate discussion and sharing of lessons amongst side-event participants. In so doing, it will help increase understanding of how the promotion and widespread use of research outputs developed by a variety of actors can contribute to poverty reduction and equitable economic growth. Whilst all three programmes agree on the importance of strengthening partnerships between farmers, researchers, policymakers and other intermediaries using innovation system approaches, each has different starting points and approaches to maximising the effectiveness of agricultural research.

We propose that the side-event is comprised of two separate but inter-linked sessions:

(i) The Side Event Debate

An interactive debate and workshop at which representatives of the three programmes will give a brief introduction to their programmes and key lessons and challenges emerging from their work to stimulate discussion in the plenary. Informal smaller working groups will then be initiated using an independent facilitator to identify a) stakeholder experiences in overcoming common challenges to scaling up successes and b) some key components necessary to consider in any framework for scaling-up successes (see section on key outputs) possibly including the importance of factors such as

- The extent of replicability in different geographic and socio-political environments
- The power of champions
- Economic, social and environmental factors and trade-offs
- Differences between scaling out technologies and methodologies/processes
- Required timeframe for impact (quick wins and big numbers vs. lesson-learning and sustainability)
- How to best ensure long-term institutional and policy change

This side-event is hoped to stimulate inter-country learning about approaches to enhancing innovation systems and the scaling up of successes with an emphasis on analysing the gap between theory and practice. If successful and deemed useful, we would hope an outcome of the FARA General Assembly would be formulation of a longer-term 'learning alliance' between the three core partners and other interested parties for more regular and formalised exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

(ii) An Innovation Marketplace

We note that part of the FARA GA 2007 will be a "South Africa Agricultural Science day at which agricultural innovations will be exhibited to raise awareness amongst participants and the public about the relevance and impact of agricultural research in alleviating poverty, promoting food security and protecting the environment". We propose that the key stakeholders associated with the three programmes will also be sponsored to participate in showcasing technologies during this event in an 'innovation marketplace'. This would build upon discussion in the side-event and enable more sharing of practical experiences by a wider group of stakeholders. Such a marketplace would include practical demonstrations of technologies and participatory multi-stakeholder innovation activities of particular interest and relevance to South/Southern Africa.

We anticipate farmers to showcase local innovations in medicinal plant use and soil and water conservation from the KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces using tools such as posters, participatory videos and demonstration of transportable materials³. We will also showcase researcher-led innovations in forestry, fisheries, crops, livestock and other aspects of natural resource management through demonstration of a simple interactive database of available technologies of local relevance, easily searchable and adaptable to the needs of specific users.

We would also anticipate the use of innovative feedback mechanisms within the marketplace to ensure that visitors' comments on the utility of exhibits are captured and subsequently synthesised by us. PROLINNOVA would take the lead on organisation and facilitation of this innovation marketplace event.

In addition to the interest expressed by the three partners, informal dialogue with other stakeholders including the Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium, PELUM and the NEPAD Fisheries Advisor⁴ has confirmed that others would also be interested in sharing space if such an innovation marketplace were commissioned in order to participate in practical demonstrations of technologies.

We would therefore request that a collective space⁵ for the innovation marketplace be set aside at the South Africa Agricultural Science Day in order to ensure continued feedback and interaction, at least between the three core partners on differing approaches to scaling up and showcasing agricultural innovations for the purpose of lesson-learning.

3. The farmer delegation will include 4 farmer innovators from the listed provinces, 2 community facilitators, a representative of the East and Southern African Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) and a support person from the Centre for Rural Community Empowerment. Costs for their participation will be fully covered by the three partners.
4. Dr Sloans Chimatiro from the NEPAD Secretariat has expressed interest in organising his own side event and a separate concept note will be submitted to FARA in this regard. However, should the 'innovation marketplace' concept be endorsed, he would also be keen to share this space to include practical demonstration of appropriate technologies by women fisherfolk from the Limpopo region.
5. A collective open space for an innovation marketplace to enable inclusion of other partners with an interest in practical demonstration of technologies would be preferable. However, if this is impossible due to room logistics, we would at least request three consecutive stalls to enable interaction amongst the three core partners.

Links to the FARA 2007 GA Theme

We anticipate a cross-section of policy makers, donors, NGO representatives, farmer associations and researchers to be interested in participating in this side event and innovation market. Several have already expressed an interest in the concept. We feel that these events would make a very relevant contribution to the FARA General Assembly 2007 main theme of “Promoting the productivity and competitiveness of African agriculture in a global economy “, as well as particularly to the following sub-themes outlined on the website www.faraweek.org:-

Sub-themes

- c) ‘Learning from past success of research in influencing agricultural policies’,
- d) ‘The status of the five requirements for turning Africa’s agriculture around in a way and on a scale that will make a real difference’,
- e) ‘Positioning agricultural research institutions to be fully effective’,
- h) ‘How can civil society be better mobilised for agricultural development?’ and
- i) ‘How can indigenous knowledge systems be accommodated to maximise sustainable social and economic development?’

Contributing Partners to the Side-Event

The side event will focus on presentations by three current programmes involved in scaling out agricultural successes to stimulate discussion and lesson-learning on these issues amongst a wider selection of stakeholders. The three core partners are:

- the Research Into Use programme (RIU)
- the Promoting Local Innovation programme (PROLINNOVA)
- the Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa programme (DONATA)

The three partners will provide initial speakers as well as rapporteurs for the break-out groups.

The session will be introduced and chaired by Professor Richard Mkandawire of the NEPAD Secretariat. The working groups and remainder of the side event will be facilitated by Dr Juergen Hagmann of Picoteam based in South Africa. The key partners will be assisted in the write-up and production of communication and promotional materials from the side-event/innovation marketplace by Ms Susanna Thorp of WRENmedia, UK. For a brief introduction to all the main partners and their proposed roles, see below.

Proposed Side-Event Chair: Professor Richard Mkandawire, Agriculture Advisor NEPAD Secretariat

The African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has developed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as an Africa-owned vision to reform African agriculture that has high-level political endorsement and a continent-wide focus. FARA has been commissioned as the lead technical support agency to deliver pillar four on improving and reforming agricultural research systems. A key aim of CAADP is to facilitate sharing of agricultural success stories in order to help document and share lessons and enable scaling up and regional spillovers from national efforts to promote agricultural and economic growth. Professor Mkandawire will introduce the aims of the side event and the three programmes and explain how their activities are contributing to AU-NEPAD, CAADP and FARA objectives.

Main Contact: Professor Richard Mkandawire RichardM@nepad.org www.nepad.org

Core Partner 1: DONATA

DONATA is a flagship programme under the Forum for Agricultural Research In Africa (FARA). The purpose of DONATA is to build the capacity of stakeholders in African agricultural research and development in the learning and skills experience needed to effectively and efficiently facilitate the adoption of 'islands' of successful agricultural technologies across countries and sub-regions throughout Africa. The Programme will be implemented under the leadership of the sub-regional research organisations (CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA, SADC/FANR) with partial funding from the African Development Bank. The programme aims to build a portfolio of existing high impact technologies, assemble resources and best-bet approaches/methodologies for dissemination, build capacity of stakeholders and stimulate joint learning by doing. It will concentrate on dissemination of priority technologies such as NERICA rice, tissue culture banana, improved cassava varieties, IR maize and high beta-carotene sweet potato.

Main Contact: Dr Sidi Sanyang ssanyang@fara-africa.org www.fara-africa.org

Proposed Speaker: Dr Sidi Sanyang, DONATA Coordinator, FARA

Rapporteur for Working Group 1: As above

Core Partner 2: PROLINNOVA

PROLINNOVA is an NGO-initiated multi-stakeholder programme to build a global learning and advocacy network on scaling-up and promoting local innovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and NRM. It is funded by a variety of donors including DGIS, IFAD and DURAS. The focus is on recognising the dynamics of indigenous knowledge (IK) and learning how to strengthen the capacities of farmers (including peasant/family farmers, forest dwellers, pastoralists and artisanal fisherfolk) to adjust to changing conditions – to develop and adapt their own site-appropriate systems and institutions of resource management in order to gain food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment. Understanding and documenting the rationale behind local innovation transforms how researchers and extensionists view local people. This experience stimulates interest, on both sides, to enter into joint R&D. Local ideas can then be further developed in a participatory innovation process that integrates the dynamics of IK and formal scientific knowledge.

PROLINNOVA will share lessons regarding field-tested methods of discovering and stimulating local innovation processes, experiences in supporting policy and institutional change so that the formal ARD sector can support local initiative and lessons about building partnerships at local level and higher institutional levels, forging alliances and engaging in policy dialogue to create enabling conditions for enhanced local innovation. It will also include challenges and lessons from the Local Innovation Support Funds (LISF) mechanism being piloted in South Africa among other countries.

Main Contact: Dr Ann Waters-Bayer waters-bayer@web.de www.prolinnova.net

Proposed Speakers: Ms. Monique Salomon, Member of PROLINNOVA-South Africa Steering Committee and Ms Nono Ngubane, South African Coordinator for the 'Farmer Access to Innovation Resources' (FAIR) project's Innovation Support Funds

Rapporteur for Working Group 2: Dr Ann Waters-Bayer

Core Partner 3: Research Into Use (RIU) programme

The Research Into Use programme is a new DFID-funded programme which aims to maximise the poverty-reducing impact of the research outputs of the previous 11-year DFID agricultural

research strategy (and others) and in so doing, to increase understanding of how the promotion and widespread use of research outputs can contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth. It is managed by an independent consortium of Natural Resources International Ltd (NRIL), Nkoola Institutional Development Associates (NIDA) and the Performance Assessment Resource Centre (PARC).

It aims to integrate the supply of technologies, policies and processes (the 'push') in agricultural research with the demand (or 'pull') exerted by actual or potential research users using an innovation systems approach. Its approach to scaling up agricultural successes includes five inter-locked strands of supporting innovation platforms, policies and partnerships, communication and information markets, capacity strengthening and monitoring, impact and learning. The RIU will share key lessons learned from approaches to scaling out in the past few years of the RNRRS⁶ which led to the development of the proposed new strategic approach under the RIU. It will also share challenges and lessons encountered in the recent country assessment process to match potential supply of technologies, policies and processes with existing/potential innovation platforms for scaling out in Rwanda.

Main Contact: Ms. Kerry Albright k.albright@nrint.co.uk www.researchintouse.com

Proposed Speakers: Dr Dan Kisauzi, Director of Capacity-Strengthening, Research Into Use Programme and Dr Sam Kanyarukiga, Member of RIU Country Assessment Team, Rwanda Rapporteur for Working Group 3: Ms Kerry Albright

Independent Facilitator: Dr Juergen Hagmann, PICOTEAM Ltd

In order to maximise the lesson-learning component of this side event including analysis of commonalities and key challenges in scaling up encountered by the three programmes as well as incorporating the views and experiences of invited participants, we feel this process would be best managed by using the services of a respected and independent facilitator. This individual should also have a good knowledge of innovation systems approaches and the current political and donor climate regarding agricultural research. Dr Juergen Hagmann from PICOTEAM Ltd in South Africa has been approached and has expressed interest in being involved.

PICOTEAM's areas of expertise include transformation of research towards effective innovation systems, coaching and mentoring of learning, and change interventions and facilitation of workshops and seminars. Dr Hagmann has recently facilitated strategic workshops and advised on subsequent follow-up processes for the FARA SSA-CP and for the AU-NEPAD CAADP amongst many others.

Main Contact: Juergen Hagmann Jurgen.Hagmann@picoteam.org www.picoteam.org

Communications and Promotion: Ms Susanna Thorp, WRENmedia Ltd

The majority of stakeholders in agricultural research and development are still debating and learning about the most appropriate approaches and methodologies to scaling up successes, particularly on how best to enhance agricultural innovation. For this reason, it will be important to ensure as many lessons as possible from the side event and innovation marketplace are captured and shared with a wider set of stakeholders. Ms Susanna Thorp of WRENmedia is a communications professional with a good knowledge of current debates in the sector and has

6. The DFID Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy (RNRRS) ran from 1995-2006. It encompassed research in forestry, fisheries, crops, livestock and other aspects of natural resource management.

agreed to partner with us to provide publicity and promotional expertise. (see key outputs section for more detail).

On air, on-line, in print and in person, WRENmedia is a specialist communication company with over 20 years experience of disseminating agricultural news, views, information and innovation, as well as lessons on the challenges and constraints of scaling up and disseminating agricultural research, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. On radio- local, national and international- in publications and new/virtual media, WRENmedia products provide networks of readers, listeners and subscribing journalists with useful, readable or listenable and ready-to-use broadcast material of interest and use to a broad range of stakeholders in the agricultural development process from policy-makers to practitioners.

Main Contact: Ms Susanna Thorp s.thorp@wrenmedia.co.uk <http://wrenmedia.co.uk>

Key Outputs

We anticipate three (possibly four) sets of key outputs to be produced from the side event and innovation marketplace:

- Utilising the experiences and lessons shared by the three programmes and other stakeholders present in the side-event workshop to identify **key building blocks of any necessary framework for scaling-up agricultural successes**. This in no way implies a blueprint approach is possible but instead aims to identify initial factors needing consideration when contemplating scaling up (and out). We anticipate that this will be of use to donors and other stakeholders interested in scaling out successful agricultural technologies, policies and processes.
- A **report** containing a synopsis of key lessons learned as a result of this side event will be presented back at the FARA GA Plenary session upon request and subsequently be written up more formally and shared with interested parties on behalf of FARA.
- **Publicity and promotional** outputs arising out of both the side event and the innovation marketplace are likely to include the following: (i) coverage in the New Agriculturalist, WRENmedia's bi-monthly online magazine including *Points of View*, a collection of various viewpoints on scaling up/out agricultural research; *Perspective*, personal viewpoint from a key participant on an aspect on enhancing innovation; a *feature article* covering some of the innovation successes highlighted at the innovation marketplace and a *podcast* recorded at the event including farmers' and other key stakeholders' views on innovation. See www.new-ag.info (ii) coverage in Agfax radio service to Africa including recording of a selection of *radio interviews* with farmers and other key stakeholders focusing on innovation and the challenges of scaling up research. These would be distributed to radio broadcasters across Sub-Saharan Africa in WRENmedia's monthly Agfax radio service and uploaded to the radio portal One World (previous interviews recorded by WRENmedia on innovation can be seen at <http://radio.oneworld.net/article/archive/5018/>) (iii) a news item on the side-event and innovation marketplace will also be written for DFID's Research4Development (R4D) portal (<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/research/portal.asp>) (iv) additional materials from the participating partners including policy briefs will also be made available during the side event and innovation marketplace.