

**LEARNING FROM PAST SUCCESS OF RESEARCH
IN INFLUENCING AGRICULTURAL POLICIES,
IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES AND PROPOSING
NEW APPROACHES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO BE
MORE EFFECTIVE**

**A Response to a Presentation on the Topic by Dr.
Lindiwe Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer, FANRPAN at
the FARA Week Meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa,
14 June 2007
Isaac Minde, ICRISAT, Bulawayo**

HOW?

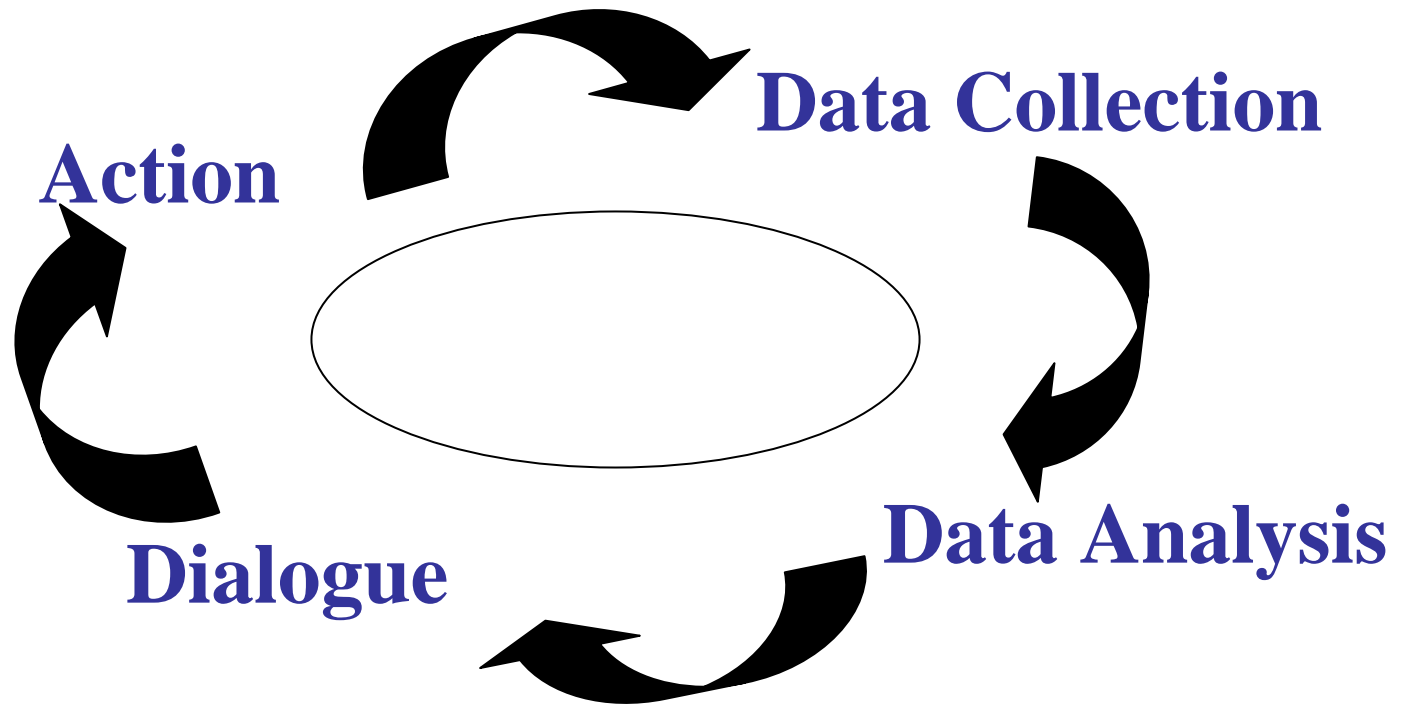
The “How” road:

1. provide a solid ground to effective policy analysis by influencing the build up of sustained research-policy common networks in Africa which could be coordinated at regional level but then also have tentacles at the national level. The agro-policy networks in Africa are beginning to be active but they need to be supported so that they can do more. Some of these are ECAPAPA, FANRPAN, SADOAC and RESAKKS.

HOW?

2. Policy analysis networks at both regional and national level to be committed to the “policy cycle” framework. It is not sufficient to do the data collection and analysis and provide options and step out of the cycle

POLICY CHANGE CYCLE

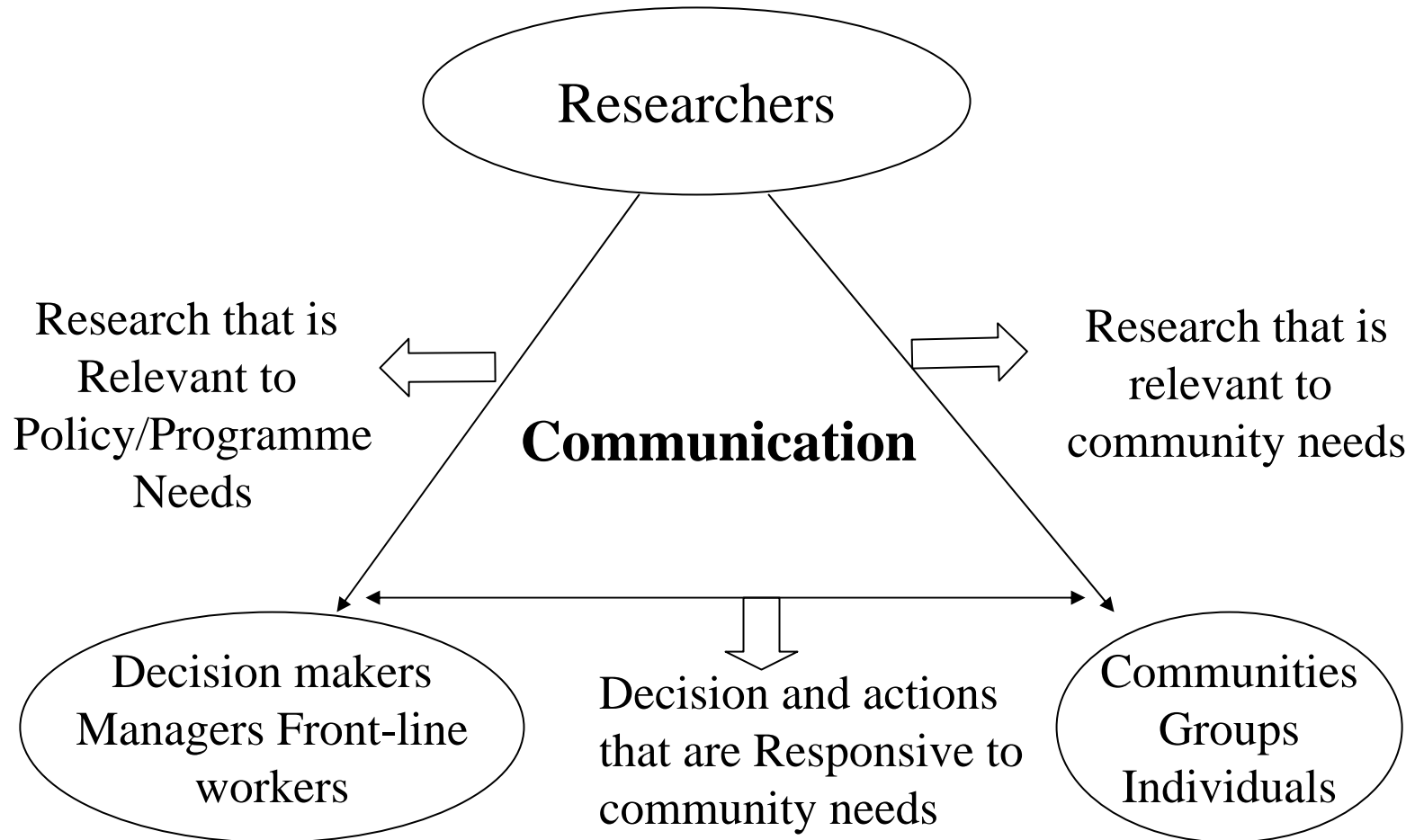


How?

3. Policy researchers must get closer to reality, to do narrative work, acknowledge politics and power relations and become more concerned with practical issues and less with theoretical ones (Omamo 2003)

Refer to Maputo Policy Seminar 8 June
2007

Research, Community, Policy Makers Interaction



How?

Making results credible:

- Participatory approaches; inclusiveness of key stakeholders from problem identification to dialogue of the policy options
- Policy dialogue to strengthen links between analysis and action

How?

- Applying the right tools for solving the problem
- Accepting criticism of the results
- Being ready to re-do analysis to test some identified problems

How?

Policy dialogues

- Policy dialogue involves creating forums where stakeholders come together to discuss recommendations analyzed during policy data analysis

Measuring Policy Impact

- Who really cares to invest in?
- What are the M&E tools?
- Do we have the patience?
- To what extent do we really document experiences and learning along the path?

THANK YOU