

Human and Institutional capacity



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Capacity for innovation



- FARMERS innovate. They produce new crop varieties on a daily basis!
- Others innovators are: salespersons, Processors, Policy and decision makers, Researchers, Educators,
- In fact, researchers are the **end users** of farmers' innovations, and they take them free of charge!
- But when it comes to building farmers' capacity, we debate on whether it is sufficiently academic to do so!
- Farmers survive, despite our incompetence to deliver.
- FARA Should catalyze the establishment of processes for reaching farmers at national levels

Radical changes?

- Yes! We need radical changes to:
 - improve the methods and tools we use to strengthen capacity (e.g. establishing live demonstrations)
 - To apply strategies that produce lasting results
- We must also address the issue of capacity mobilization! – Otherwise we feed directly into the brain drain mechanism!

Emerging capacity building networks and their value addition

Currently, the networks help us to:

- Overcome scientific isolation
- Mobilize and enlarge the existing human capacity
- Reinforce intellectual contacts, collaboration and peer review

Networks help us to:

- Mould new links with research, especially at regional and sub-regional levels
- BUT.... Can we use them to create sustainable collaborative arrangements? (E.g. IUCEA)

NOTE

- Networks are currently a response to massive institutional failures
- Networks can provide unique niches for launching **any** agenda

Agricultural Education Capacity

- Declining interest in agric education (at all levels) reflects:
 - Its irrelevance in its current form, and
 - agric education programmes do not have lateral, backward and forward linkages
- Given the urgency, FARA should work with stakeholders to spawn programmes geared at re-designing agricultural education at all levels

Relevance and quality of agric education

- Complete reforms are needed to improve responsiveness to real needs:
 - Policies and Institutional arrangements
 - Programme structures
 - Curricula
 - Learning resources (improvement of context)
 - Teaching and learning methods and tools
- **Re-tooling educators**
- **Regular external reviews to reinforce relevance and quality**
- FARA can form a strong lobby group for the changes needed

Capacity to build capacity



- It is not strategic to continue depending on external sources to build our capacity.
- Our universities have the responsibility to build capacity for agric research, industry and extension
- However, their representation in research networks remains nominal, and for many countries the existence of 'NARS' is still a vision, not a reality. FARA can help materialize this

Capacity for Agric Competitiveness



- To be competitive we need a good strategy. The word ***Strategy*** is borrowed from military science. It is about outwitting your competitor and winning – and that happens only when the competitor does not know your strategy!!!
- A good strategy is an intelligence document, not a public good! That is why we are not involved in the development of strategies for other continents.

Strategic thinking capacity

- In Africa we often do business unusual! We are conditioned to act opportunistically rather than strategically.
- As we try to strategize, many of us are simply jostling for project resources, completely oblivious of the dangers we expose the continent to.
- We urgently need the capacity to think and act strategically, generate and use intelligence data to position Africa favourably.
- That can only be done by us! FARA may consider establishing a special facility for this.



Thank You!