



# Theme Eight: Mobilizing Civil Society for Agricultural Development

**Side event:** Participatory Approaches to Empower Local Communities in Non-tropical Dry Areas of Africa: the ICARDA Experience



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# Presentations made during the side event



1. Participatory Plant Breeding for Crop Improvement
2. Participatory Improvement of Cereals and Legumes in Eritrea
3. Community development plans to empower agro pastoral communities in North Africa: Experience gained from the Mashreq/Maghreb Project
4. Alternative Seed Delivery through Village-based Seed Enterprises

# Recommendations

# Recommendation 1

Given that participatory plant breeding is (a) demand driven, (b) reduces the timeframe for variety release, (c) accelerates adoption rates, and (d) reaches higher adoption ceilings, it is recommended that:

**“Global decentralized participatory plant breeding strategy is followed to reach out small farmers in Africa”**

# Recommendation 2

Given the successful experiences of participatory approaches in targeting poverty, it is recommended that:

“Decentralized participatory approaches and lessons learned be extended to all marginal environments in Africa”

# Recommendation 3

Given that community based approaches are well developed in marginal dry areas and are effective in empowering Communities and developing and disseminating technology, is recommended that:

**“The community approach be institutionalized and scaled out through linkages with development projects “**

# Recommendation 4

Recognizing that the informal sector accounts for more than 90% of seed supply in developing countries, it is recommended that:

**“Village-based seed enterprises be promoted with an enabling policy and institutional options to ensure availability and accessibility of seed to poor farmers in marginal environments in Africa”**

# Recommendation 5

Given that participatory approach is necessary for research relevance and problem solving dimension, it is recommended that:

**“Rigorous scientific base continues to be used for participatory research to be recognized as an international public good”**

# Recommendation 6

Given the success stories in participatory research, it is recommended that:

“Priority is given for out-scaling participatory approach outputs in partnership with civil society organizations and public sector institutions with enabling policy and institutional environment”

# THANK YOU



Algeria



Morocco



Ethiopia



Tunisia