



Linking Research and Rural Innovation to Sustainable Development

Recherche Agricole et Innovation Rurale au Service du Développement Durable

Investigación Agrícola y Innovación Rural para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Dakar 2003

GFAR 2003-04-01.en

2nd Triennial GFAR Conference

22 – 24 May 2003

Méridien Président Hotel, Dakar, Sénégal

***Linking Research and Rural Innovation to
Sustainable Development***

Sub-Plenary Session 1:

Rural Knowledge Systems and Innovation Processes

Issues for Discussion

Friday, 23 May 2003, 14:00 – 17:00

Issues for Discussion

The purpose of this sub plenary session is to have an understanding of the knowledge-poverty nexus and to discuss how this can be translated into concrete partnership programme in agricultural research for development (ARD).

On knowledge-poverty nexus

1. What is a knowledge system? How can the mutual recognition, interaction and utilization of various knowledge systems contribute to poverty alleviation?
2. What are the general trends and global strategic issues in rural knowledge systems and innovation processes? Why sudden interest on the theme?
3. What are the related concepts, methodologies and principles that contribute to the transformation of researchers, development agents and farmers and their organizations, institutions, norms, behaviors and relationships?
4. What are the capacities (knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior) needed to enable the above transformation, and the effective generation, access, and use of knowledge?
5. How to demonstrate the direct impact/relationship between poverty alleviation and improved knowledge systems (e.g. increased capacity of vulnerable groups to tackle and deal with complex issues while improving their resilience to rapid change in their livelihood systems (e.g. market) and their natural environment (soil, water utilization)?

On partnership programme

6. What type of partnerships and what implementation mechanisms are needed to promote research partnerships in this area? What are the ways of incorporating knowledge management and innovation processes into agricultural research for development?
7. What are the qualitative and quantitative cost and benefits of knowledge sharing using criteria from different knowledge systems from a sustainability perspective? How to sustain information flows and who pays for it? Is the benefit of having access to a global pool of knowledge outweighs individual benefit?
8. What are the roles and accountability of researchers and communities in utilizing and managing knowledge systems to facilitate agricultural innovation process?
9. What are the intellectual property rights (IPR) issues related to knowledge management? How will it impact on local communities and small farmers? How can these impacts be mitigated?
10. What is the role of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in this area?