The Global Forum: Shaping Tomorrow’s Agriculture Today

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Business as usual is not an option...

- Populations are growing fast
- Food demands are changing
- Climates are changing
- Land use is changing
- Water resources are diminishing
- Soil resources are eroding
- Urbanization is advancing
- Farming populations are getting older

- The poor are increasingly marginalized
Towards an ‘evergreen’ revolution

How can we increase agricultural productivity and farmer incomes while:

• Ensuring the poor benefit and societal needs are met
• Sustainably managing environmental resources
• And what kind of institutions do we need to meet these challenges?
The Challenges

The generation and application of knowledge is critical to meeting the huge global challenges facing agriculture

But

- Why isn’t past research better benefiting the poor?
- Why have many apparently effective technologies not been adopted?
- Why has society been losing confidence in agricultural science, e.g. GMOs?
- Why are research and extension institutions not effectively connected with those they are intended to benefit?
Science in Society

- Scientific knowledge is reductionist, trusted & validated by its method
- Local knowledge is holistic, trusted & validated by experience & culture
- Need to link & reconcile these knowledge & trust bases
- Sustainable development must value & capitalize on both
Why a Global Forum?

• Neutral platform linking science and society, creating new partnerships to address critical issues determining our future ability to feed humanity

• Create and support effective, demand-driven institutions & innovation systems to meet the complex needs of sustainable agricultural development
New partnerships for change

• The meeting place for all concerned with agricultural research

• Valuing different perspectives and strengths, learning from each other

• Innovation deriving from the knowledge and interaction of different partners

• Empowering communities to generate their own solutions
Farmer-Centred Agricultural Research for Development

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We Are You

- **Farmers** – *putting communities at the centre of research*
- **Civil Society** – *a voice for the needs of the disadvantaged, bridging local and scientific innovation*
- **National Agricultural Research & Extension** – *capable, relevant and valued systems meeting the needs of the poor*
- **Private Sector** – *effective & responsible input delivery & output markets*
- **International Research Centers** – *effectively connected to their intended beneficiaries*
- **Fundamental Research Institutions** – *‘upstream’ research driven by real needs*
- **Donor organizations** – *fulfilling development aims through explicitly demand-driven policies and processes*
Subsidiarity

- National ARD communities
- Sub-regional Fora
- Regional Fora
- Global Forum
Key Global Agendas: knowledge empowering the poor

- Reducing hunger and malnutrition
- Increasing economic returns to farmers
- Linking smallholder farmers to markets, combining production and market knowledge
- Empowering poor producers to change practices in risk aware environments
- Sustaining agricultural soils, water and biodiversity
- Managing external risks from climate change and invasive species
- Community-focused reform of agricultural research, extension and education
- Strengthening the roles of women, the young and the disadvantaged
Global Forum: Priorities for Action

1. Advocacy for change
2. Inter-regional learning
3. Institutions for the Future
4. Shaping global programmes
5. Putting knowledge to use
The Global Forum is:

- The basis for advocacy for agricultural research to meet the future needs of humanity
- A key link between agricultural science and society
- A Voice for the poor
- A Partnership for change
- A Catalyst for action
- A Platform for sharing and learning
Over to You...

- **You** are the drivers at the centre of research processes
- **Your** voices and your actions are crucial
- **You** have the power to shape and determine the future of farming
- **Your** Global Forum provides the mechanism and the opportunity...

**Use it to change the world**
Thank You