



DRAFT

C1.2. Public-Private-Civil Mechanisms for New Investments Session Briefing Paper

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Context – the problems being addressed

Agricultural research has been supported by both public and private funds to develop successful research products with different objectives and impacts. As the emerging international development agenda becomes more aligned and integrated with the global economy, there is an increasing recognition of the need to increase partnerships between the public and private sector. On agricultural research for development (AR4D), this requires a broader look at how public and private agricultural research compliments one another, and how research processes includes and reflects the needs of research users (farmers & agri-business).

The role and form of the agricultural ‘private sector’ have undergone tremendous change in recent years. The private sector encompasses all areas for which services are paid for by the client, rather than being paid for from public funds. Roles include input service provision, farmer enterprise and markets for produce and processed foods, fibers, fuels, beverages, etc. Farmers are entrepreneurs and economic growth is a basic driver for change at all scales, though balanced to differing extents by social and environmental considerations as agriculture is embedded deeply in cultures and societies.

There is considerable knowledge of public private partnerships (PPPs), but limited collation and collective capitalization of experience. The efficiencies of market competition are recognized where there is an ability to pay for services and private sector alternatives have been encouraged as government services have fallen away with economic restructuring. The opening of free trade and scale efficiencies have enabled seed and agrochemical companies, as well as food processors and supermarkets to grow and bring benefits, yet have also raised concerns over control of germplasm at the input side and of access to and returns from markets for small farmers at the other.

This GCARD Session will help to improve knowledge about public-private-civil partnerships in agricultural research. Discussion will focus on what models and mechanisms exist, learn from experiences and define some critical elements of a successful partnership. The session outcomes will articulate how GCARD stakeholders can move forward in improving public-private-civil cooperation in agricultural research for development.

Current activities presented and discussed in the session

Setting the Scene:

- Review of current models, mechanisms and initiatives that strengthen public-private partnerships in agriculture and agricultural research for development more specifically;
- New Alliance, AgResults, AgPartnersXChange, etc.

Learning from Experience - examples of PPPs from different sectors:

- Product value addition (MARS/CGIAR)
- Seed PPP

Reconciling differing objectives, mandates and goals of stakeholders:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusiveness and the role of farmers; ▪ How to include smallholders in PPPs
Intended outcomes
<p>The session will have the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater understanding of the diversity of public-private-civil partnerships; ▪ Improved knowledge of existing partnership models, mechanisms and initiatives; ▪ Sharing of best practices and lessons learned from successful partnerships; ▪ Common understanding of important elements for more inclusive and equitable partnerships; ▪ Identification of ways in which public-funded research and privately funded research can create joint incentives that satisfy both market and development needs.
Commitments to collective actions in 2012-2014 (national, regional or international)
i. With existing resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share experiences about the benefits of public-private partnerships. GFAR stakeholders commit to improving knowledge and understanding about successful partnerships and advocate for greater partnerships in their work; ▪ Create knowledge platforms on public-private partnerships in agriculture drawing on best practices and lessons learned of existing partnerships. (eg: AgPartnerXChange, Syngenta database on PPPs, etc); ▪ Test new and innovative methods of using public funds to engage the private sector in agricultural research for development. (e.g. AgResults, etc); ▪ Advocate for more inclusive and equitable partnerships.
ii. With additional support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify knowledge gaps or constraints to establishing successful public-private-civil mechanisms; ▪ Explore the need for principles or guidelines for inclusive and equitable partnerships; ▪ Establish tangible linkages between existing knowledge platforms and partnerships mechanisms and initiatives; ▪ Increase public-private-civil partnerships in Africa, leveraging the momentum of Grow Africa and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.
iii. With specific large scale programme investment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future regional agricultural investment forums in Africa, Asia and Latin America could include a special session or focus dedicated to partnerships for improving AR4D. Built around the outcomes of this Session and GCARD2 outcomes more broadly, GCARD stakeholders could commit to consider large-scale partnerships at these future investment forums.