

Proposal 2: Local People-to-People Learning Exchange and Policy Linkages

Submitting MGs / CSOs	Scientific & Technical Community + NGO's: IFSA & IPSA
Countries of Implementation	Africa, Asia, and Latin America
Agro-ecological context	Various
Duration and Total Budget	1,5 year \$ 150,000.

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- Farmers
- Women
- Indigenous Peoples
- S & T Community
- NGOs

Success indicators:

- No. of grass root groups using internet learning support service
- No. of uploaded stories, good practices and contacts
- No. of policy recommendations and collaborative partnerships developed

Partners to be engaged:

International Farming Systems Association (IFSA), International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Indian Treaty Council, WOCAN, Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Grass root learning facilitated by internet; learning resource kit to support expansion to other regions; formalized local support arrangements; effective demand-driven local learning services; knowledge base of achievements, lessons learned & good practices; core material for "Linking Good Practice for SARD to National Policies" Multi-Major Group proposal (4). Impact on MDGs 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Build capacity of grass root groups to share achievements, lessons learned and good practices with each other using the internet.
- Enable high levels of interaction between local groups so that the many dispersed 'success' stories of major group's can be made available to assist those struggling to succeed.
- Make available to regional and global bodies the data, context and contacts necessary for better policy making at international levels based on grass roots good practices through multi-major group assistance.
- Provide opportunities for local and national governments and IGOs to make direct investments in and spread grass root successes.

Building upon Experience

Actions taken to date include global and regional conferences (since 2001) organized by major groups and their websites including IFSA's electronic journal (since 2003). IFSA Mentoring Group of practitioners to support capacity building in local multi-stakeholder learning processes. Linking Local Learners internet learning support service was also developed at <http://www.linkinglearners.net>. Field level lesson learning activities in East Africa and Learning in European Agricultural and Rural Networks (Learn Group – EU project) have also been initiated, respectively in 1998 and 2002.

Major Group Inputs

Major group networks identify success stories and good practices as well as provide resource persons for capacity building. Organization by IFSA of Global Learning Opportunity (GLO) in Rome for all SARD stakeholders. The project will help the SARD Initiative develop ways in which local success stories in SARD can be a source of learning for other local groups and for national, regional and global levels of policy making.