Challenges for Agricultural Research

Agricultural Research into Policy Perception
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Agricultural Research has changed (1)

- In scope:
  - Production of feed and food
  - The food chain
  - Environment
  - Food safety, human nutrition, health
  - Natural resources management and biodiversity
  - Food and non food
  - Climate change
  - From agricultural science (*stricto sensu*) to life and social sciences
Agricultural research has changed (2)

- In scale:
  - From molecular biology to landscape and territories
  - From local to global (science to address issues concerning developing and OECD countries is the same)
  - From farmers to stakeholders
Agricultural research has changed (3)

- Agricultural research has dramatically broadened its scale and scope, becoming multidisciplinary and more inclusive, more integrative.

- As such, agricultural research is able to address key issues for society as sustainability of production, health and nutrition, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, energy, MDG.

- Agricultural research is a shared responsibility among many actors that needs cooperation in new schemes.
Agriculture and food sector have changed (1)

• Agriculture is multifunctional and multifactorial
• Agriculture and food sector are facing new challenges (precisely many of those that research is working on) that involve many other groups than only the farmers
• These groups (consumers, environmentalists, a diversified food chain, etc.) are stakeholders that claim to take part in the evolution of the sector
Agriculture and food sector have changed (2)

- Agriculture and food sector is a part of a more global picture and responses to the challenges and expectations need to go beyond technological approaches and promote institutional and social developments that foster innovation.
An opportunity for a renewed dialogue (1)

• The convergence between the challenges and expectations agriculture is facing and the expanded area of agricultural research, its new instruments and capacities open the way for a constructive dialogue between those who are in charge of policy making and research institutions and programmes.
An opportunity for a renewed dialogue (2)

• Three conditions for a new dialogue:
  – To be more inclusive (priority setting, technology transfer and open innovation)
  – To be more integrative (multidisciplinary, multi-scale)
  – To better share the time frames (reorganising the access to knowledge in the short-medium term; promoting forward looking for the medium-long term)
An opportunity for a renewed dialogue (3)

• This new context opens the opportunity to rethink the relationship between agricultural research and policy making
• Research benefits from policy makers input on their needs in terms of generation of knowledge to combine with the own move of science in priority setting
• Policy making benefits from the input of the most comprehensive and advanced knowledge in setting up new policies
An opportunity for a renewed dialogue (4)

• This conference, gathering the best scientists on the key agricultural research issues, has no other objective than to contribute to this renewal in identifying the new avenues that are opened and sharing it with the Committee for Agriculture of OECD in a constructive and regular dialogue that has already begun.