



Session 2: Agriculture and Food Security:

Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa: Lessons from IFAD experience

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Introduction

- ◆ **IFAD's approaches to promote innovation for rural poverty reduction : Drawing lessons and best practices for multinational cooperation on S&T - e.g.**
 - ◆ IFAD competitive grants programme to support development and access to new technologies (CGIAR institutions, NGOs etc)
 - ◆ IFAD's Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation - IMI (2004)
 - ◆ IFAD's Innovation Strategy (December 2007)
 - ◆ Scouting and Sharing Innovation Initiative in Western and Central Africa: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (mid 2007-2009)

IFAD at a Glance

◆ IFAD's Mandate

- ◆ Enable poor rural people to overcome poverty
- ◆ Empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security

◆ IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010

- ◆ Empowering poor rural people
- ◆ Selectivity and focus
- ◆ Targeting
- ◆ **Knowledge management** (KM Strategy 07)
- ◆ **Innovation, learning and scaling up** (Innovation Strategy 07)
- ◆ **Partnerships and participation**
- ◆ Sustainability

IFAD Members and Partners

◆ IFAD works with a diverse actors in ARD

- ◆ Invests more than USD 250 million a year in rural and agricultural development programmes in SSA – set to increase with Replenishment
- ◆ Member Country Governments represented on Executive Board which meets three times a year to approve investment projects (loans and DSF grants) and regional grants developed in collaboration with Governments and RD actors, including national consultations with farmers' organisations, partners and PS on investment programme priorities
- ◆ International and regional institutions working on agricultural and rural development and agricultural research institutions (especially CGIAR)
- ◆ Representatives of Farmers' Organisations (biannual Farmers' Forum precedes and feeds into IFAD Governing Council)
- ◆ Increasingly – with private sector operators, but this requires Government consent. Lending instruments need to be adapted to allow direct funding of PS rural development activities

Why is innovation needed to make an impact on rural poverty?

- ◆ Rural poor women and men and development actors face new and evolving challenges (deepening CC impacts, high prices, financial and economic crisis....)
- ◆ Despite global progress towards MDG1 on hunger and poverty, most of SSA will not meet this and other goals – prospects worsening (e.g. high food and fuel prices and CC impacts)
- ◆ Access to technology and innovation by the rural poor is key to agricultural productivity, rural development, poverty reduction and promoting a green revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- ◆ Innovative responses, technologies and practices, institutions, investments and policies are needed to address these challenges
- ◆ *Capacity to constantly innovate is vital to lasting impact on rural poverty* - Reflected in IFAD's work, NEPAD CAADP (Pillar 4), AGRA
- ◆ *Participation and institutional partnerships are key*

Defining Innovation

- ◆ **IFAD's Innovation Strategy defines innovation as** *a process that adds value or solves a problem in new ways.....that occurs in reference to a context...and will have either a direct or indirect positive impact on poverty*

- ◆ **An innovation is:** *an approach, technology, product, idea, practice or policy with potential to be scaled up or spread across a wider area / population*

- ◆ **An approach, technology or policy is innovative if it is:**
 - (i) *Useful to achieving a goal or to solving a defined problem*

 - (ii) *New in the context in which it is to be applied*

 - (iii) *Likely to be sustained after a test period*

Challenges for Agriculture and Food Sector in Africa Require Innovative Responses

- ◆ **Key challenges for African agriculture include :**
 - ◆ Climate change and variability
 - ◆ Access to sufficient food for a rapidly growing population given high/fluctuating food, energy and input prices
 - ◆ Impacts of financial and economic crisis
 - ◆ Low access to enhanced technologies (especially the majority small farmers) – relatively low productivity
 - ◆ Preservation of the environment and sustainable development
 - ◆ Limited access to markets (regional, global)
 - ◆ Limited capacity of institutions and organisations
 - ◆ Meeting the NEPAD CAADP 6% agricultural growth and commitment to invest 10% GDP in agriculture (Maputo 2003)

IFAD's Innovation Mainstreaming Initiative (IMI)

- ◆ Rationale: Need to find new and better ways to address poverty in context of MDGs
- ◆ IMI established in 2004 to mainstream innovation in IFAD operations to: *enhance IFAD capacity to promote new ideas and approaches that will have a positive impact on rural poverty*
- ◆ Promotes a *culture of innovation* through analysis, learning and sharing from innovations supported by IFAD and its partners, e.g.:
 - Scaling up small stock management practices
 - Partnering for market access and market development
 - Innovative approaches to targeting
 - Methods for institutional analysis
 - Western and Central Africa Scouting and Sharing Innovation Initiative

IFAD's Innovation Strategy

- ◆ **How does IFAD Engage in Innovation?**

- With its partners, people-centred
- Decentralised and field oriented
- M&E to mitigate risks
- Responsive to needs

- ◆ **IFAD's *Innovation Strategy* aims to:**

- Ensure that innovation is systematically and effectively mainstreamed in corporate processes and country programmes
- Enhance IFAD's capacity to work with partners to find new and better ways to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty

Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (1)

Initiative Aims:

- ◆ Promote and capitalise on innovative processes, technological innovations and promising practices developed in the region
- ◆ Identify, document, analyse and disseminate innovations that can be implemented in programmes across WCA
- ◆ Develop communication tools and mechanisms to share innovations in collaboration with programmes, regional partners and diverse actors
- ◆ Foster an ongoing partnership and process to identify and document innovations in the region, and establish an innovation sharing mechanism across IFAD, IFAD-supported programmes and RD partners in the region

Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (2)

- ◆ **Three categories of innovation:**

- (i) Technological innovations and innovative practices**

- Endogenous, local, farmer innovation
- Innovations brought from outside the zone, country or region and adapted

- (ii) Institutional, organisational and methodological innovations**

- Processes that change organisational approaches
- New types of partnership implemented between groups and stakeholders to improve living conditions

- (iii) Policy innovations**

- New policy or legal measures applied at the national or regional level, or to specific groups, geographical areas or communities

Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (3)

◆ Process

- Stocktaking of past initiatives in the region
- Establishing partnerships – development projects and programmes, SWAC/OECD, CTA, ROPPA, WARF, FIDAfrique, UNIFEM....
- Common format for documenting innovations (technical details, beneficiaries, scaling up...)
- Field visits to projects to document innovations
- 84 innovations, including over 35 technological innovations, documented from 13 countries and placed on www.fidafrique.net/rubrique735.html
- Regional Innovation Workshop-Fair held at WAEMU in Ouagadougou (June 2008) to share innovations identified involving more than 140 participants from 15 countries, incl: 5 Burkina Faso Ministers, representatives of 10 regional institutions (e.g. WAEMU, ECOWAS, CILSS), 15 development projects, development agencies, and producers. Minister underlines **innovation is solution to agriculture and food problems in the region.**

Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (4)

- ◆ **Results and follow up**

- Participants shared information and lessons through presentations and an 'Innovation Fair' that included 17 stands demonstrating technological and institutional innovations
- **Three awards for best technological, institutional and policy innovation attracted much media attention and further funding:** a smoke-reducing cassava drying oven; a farmers' organisation led community-based information technology system; and UNIFEM tool to mainstream gender planning and budgeting into West African Ministries of Agriculture
- IFAD and other development actors agreed to:
 - (i) **Periodically organise local and national workshops** to share innovations and these be shared at a **major regional event every 2-3 years**
 - (ii) Continue **documenting innovations** across a range of partners
 - (iii) **Build interactive internet tools** to share innovations (FIDAfrique...)
 - (iv) Explore ways and mechanisms to **feed innovations into regional, African and international programmes and policies**

Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships (5)

Key actions to promote a “culture of innovation” for rural development in WCA were identified , including :

- Identify successful mechanisms to encourage all players in the sector from service providers to PS and producers to promote a culture of innovation and disseminate successful innovations
- Manage trade-offs between supporting innovations to enhance productivity and ensuring gender equity and equality of access in a participatory way
- Establish policies that promote the active involvement of the poor in developing and sharing innovations and technologies

Promoting Multinational STI Cooperation for agricultural and rural innovation in Africa – Lessons from IFAD and partners (1)

- ◆ *Access:* Share and build on successful experiences to enhance access to ST&I by users - taking into account technological, but also institutional and policy dimensions of innovation, e.g. institutional strengthening, incentives, development of appropriate policy frameworks and effective instruments to encourage policy makers to address recommendations to improve cooperation
- ◆ *Context and actor specific:* No one size fits all - a context-specific and sectoral approach is needed – actors, processes and effective co-operation fora will differ in agriculture, health, etc. and for different development contexts (e.g. Africa and Asia). A regional approach is also needed in Africa with high diversity of contexts and regional institutions.
- ◆ *Participatory priority setting and ownership:* A participatory and demand-led approach to identify and share innovations and to foster effective S&T processes - involving regional research and scientific organizations (e.g. FARA, CORAF), African governments and Pan African bodies (NEPAD), representatives of end users in identifying priorities for S&T development according to different contexts and user groups, testing and evaluating the effectiveness of technologies

Promoting Multinational STI Cooperation for agricultural and rural innovation in Africa – Lessons from IFAD and partners (2)

- ◆ *Governance mechanisms:* Governance of ST&I processes must involve linkages with existing S&T institutions and fora in Africa but strengthened to ensure links are assured between the international, regional, national and end user levels
- ◆ *Partnerships:* Build partnerships across international, regional and national organisations and representatives of end users, civil society and private sector actors promoting access to science and technology (e.g. regional producer organisations; PS; Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa etc.)
- ◆ *Regional and national fora for innovation and knowledge sharing:* STI and KM are tightly linked. Need effective national, regional and international strategies to KM and I *and* to strengthen existing fora for exchange on S&T at the national and regional levels, including enhanced representation of end users (e.g. national and regional African agricultural services; development actors; users)

Promoting Multinational STI Cooperation for agricultural and rural innovation in Africa – Lessons from IFAD and partners (3)

- ◆ *Fostering a “culture of innovation”* in institutions at international, national and subnational levels is critical
- ◆ *Increasing resources available for demand driven science, technology and innovation processes and institutions at national and regional levels :*
Increased national government, regional and international financial allocations will be necessary to address challenges. However, this is threatened by the current global economic and financial downturn

Thank you for listening
