

Getting to Demand-led Research for Development (R4D)



Ann Waters-Bayer
PROLINNOVA International Support Team
ETC Foundation, Netherlands

Workshop on R4D approach at farm level
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Getting to demand-led (P)R4D

- **History:**
 - a long path to this workshop
 - where did (P)R4D come from?
 - example: what was PTD? (1988)
- **Current:**
 - innovation systems approaches
 - issues arising
 - practical entry point: local innovation
- **Future?**
 - piloting a way to make (P)R4D demand-led: farmer-managed innovation funds

History: a long path to this workshop

1960s & 70s: **ToT** – Transfer of Technology

(Rogers: *Diffusion of innovations*, 1962)

1970s & 80s: **FSR(&E)** – Farming Systems Research (& Extension)

FF/FPR – Farmer First / Farmer Participatory Research

1990s: **AKIS** – Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems

RAAKS – Rapid Appraisal of Agricultural Knowledge Systems

PTD – Participatory Technology Development

2000: **PID** – Participatory Innovation Development (PROLINNOVA)

2005: **PR&D** – Participatory Research & Development (CIP/IDRC)

PR&E – Participatory Research & Extension (IITA/SRI)

2006: **AIS** – Agricultural Innovation Systems (World Bank)

2012: **(P)R4D** workshop (AfricaRISING)

Types of on-farm research

(in direction of greater farmer influence)



Researcher-
managed on-
farm trials

Consultative
on-farm trials

Collaborative
farmer
participatory
research

Farmer-led
research

Participatory Technology Development (PTD)

Phase in cycle	Activities
Getting started	Building relationships at local level Situation analysis
Looking for things to try	Identifying priorities and suitable technologies Selecting options to test
Designing experiments	Reviewing local experimental practice Planning experiments & evaluation
Trying things out	Farmer-led experimentation Joint assessment
Sharing the results	Communicating principles of technologies and process
Sustaining the process	Creating favourable conditions for continued farmer-led experimentation & development

Agricultural Innovation System (AIS)

A network of organisations, enterprises and individuals focussed on bringing new products, processes and forms of organisation into economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect their behaviour and performance (World Bank 2006)

- **How do such systems form and develop / change?**
- **How are they governed? (decision-making!)**
- **How is power negotiated within these systems?**

Issues being addressed by PROLINNOVA, building on PTD / **PID (Participatory Innovation Development)**, as one approach to strengthening farmer influence on R&D

PROLINNOVA: PROMoting Local INNOVation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM

“*Global Partnership Programme*” under Global Forum on
Agricultural Research (GFAR)



Nepalese researchers learn
from farmer innovator

Multistakeholder platforms focused on
smallholder farming communities

Seek to foster a *culture of mutual
learning* in local innovation processes

Vision: World where women and men
farmers play decisive roles in research
and development (R&D) for
sustainable livelihoods

Starting point: endogenous innovation

based on hypotheses that:



- Farmers are **creative** and generate relevant **local innovations** = *locally new & better ways of doing things*
- Linking local creativity with other sources of new ideas **builds more resilient innovation systems** to deal with change
- Recognising local capacities lays **basis for true partnership** between agricultural knowledge-holders



From recognising local innovation ...

- Hundreds of inspiring local innovations identified & documented
- Through participatory assessment, most of them selected for sharing through:
 - Farmer-to-farmer visits
 - Village workshops
 - Innovation fairs
 - Catalogues
 - Posters
 - Farmer magazines
 - Pamphlets
 - Community radio
 - Video (also participatory)
 - Mass media: newspapers, TV



... to using local innovation as entry point to farmer-led PID

Phase in cycle	Activities
Getting started	Building relationships at local level by recognising local creativity
Looking for things to try	Identifying local innovations of priority in community and questions they want to explore
Designing experiments	Reviewing local experimental practice Planning experiments & evaluation
Trying things out	Farmer-led experimentation Joint assessment
Sharing the results	Communicating principles of technologies and process
Sustaining the process	Creating favourable conditions for continued farmer-led experimentation & development

Making innovation processes more intensive, equitable and demand-led

Not only developing and scaling out technical and social innovations

Also scaling up more intensive innovation processes

Not only trying to increase participation of farmers in R&D

Also trying to change power relations within R&D processes

Changing power relations in R&D: community-managed innovation fund

- Still tendency for scientists to dominate in PID process: exploring their, not farmers' questions
- Most “participatory” research is still ToT: testing ideas from Science
- Some competitive funds exist for participatory research **but** mainly controlled by Scientists
- Can power balance in R&D funding be changed?
→ *farmers “call the tune”*



Exploring complementary R&D funding mechanism

- so farmers can decide
 - what will be researched
 - how and by whom:
farmer-led R&D
- to develop and test models of **farmer-governed R&D** that can be scaled up



Farmer explaining his innovation to scientists, advisors and other farmers at technology fair in Ethiopia

Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs)

- Piloted by PROLINNOVA partners in:
Asia: Cambodia, Nepal
Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania & Uganda
- Main question in the action learning:



Can funds for locally relevant experimentation and learning be efficiently channelled through smallholders?

How does an LISF work?

- Local Fund Management Committee (FMC) makes call for proposals
- Farmers submit simple proposals
- FMC selects grantees according to own criteria & provides resources
- Farmers lead (joint) research
- Farmer researchers share results
- Participatory M&E and impact assessment



FMC members screening applications in South Africa

Grants made in 8 pilot countries over 4 years

No. of applications received	Percentage approved	Average grant size (Euro)	Range in grant size (Euro)
1224	64%	76	5 – 1670

Use of funds as decided by FMCs:

1. Farmers' own experimentation
2. Farmers improving their innovations
3. Farmer-led experimentation / technology development with research and/or extension staff
4. Learning visits by farmers



Participatory impact assessment

Involvement of different actors in LISF:



Ethiopian farmer explains his experiment to MoA staff

- **Strengthened social organisation around managing local research and funds for it**
- **Built smallholders' capacities to formulate own needs and access relevant information**
- **Increased smallholders' confidence to interact with “outsiders” in joint innovation**
- **Stimulated interest of rural advisors and scientists to support farmer-led research**

Insights from LISFs & PID supported by it

- Smallholder groups can manage funds for farmer-led locally relevant research and innovation
- Involvement in LISF & PID can enhance role of smallholders in governance of publicly funded R&D – more confidence to voice their views
- PID can open window to farmers' recognising the value of Science
→ more intensive sharing between informal & formal knowledge systems
- Process to get there needs perceptive & tactful facilitation



South African smallholders have their say

Vision



**A world where women and men farmers
play decisive roles in research and development for
sustainable livelihoods**



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in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

