

Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC-SR)

by
Makonge Righa
PROLINNOVA Kenya



CLIC-SR annual meeting
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
May 10, 2014

Lessons from PID training - Community and organization levels

- There is interest in both individuals and organizations working on local innovations.
- The concept of joint experimentation where the farmer innovator plays a key role in the design, implementation and M&E is a new concept.
- Organizations and especially researchers appreciate the role of local innovators play in promoting agricultural development and NRM management.
- Already the researchers and organization staff have come across various innovations developed by farmers during their day to day filed activities.

Cont.....Lessons from PID training - Community and organization levels

- Farmers readily adopt what has been developed and tested by fellow small holder farmer
- Farmers recognize that they do not have the capacity and require support from researchers and other stakeholders e.g. intellectual property rights, marketing institutions

Results of PID training

- Researchers, extension workers and farmers ready to work together to develop local innovations
- Researchers and farmers are able to approach each other and negotiate the process of developing the local innovation
- Institutionalization of PID and both individual and organization levels. Though this is still a challenge due to bureaucratic process and institutional framework
- Poor follow-up of the trainees in particular to various projects they were to undertake

Joint experimentation

- Innovation of planting finger millet in a nursery before the onset of rains and then transplanting the seedlings to the main farm at the start of the rains.
- The purpose is to validate the innovation, to assess the appropriate nursery size and management methods, transplanting approach and possibilities of scaling out the innovation.
- The PID team composed of various partners – KARI, the MoA and INADES–Formation – negotiated a PID process with farmer groups

LISF experience

- Farmers just need encouragement and recognition to innovate. This gives them the motivation to further improve on their innovation as well as share with other people.
- Builds capacity of local innovators to develop their innovations
- Supports the establishment of linkages between local innovators and other organizations e.g. research institutions, standardization bodies etc
- Built organization capacity of farmers e.g. formation of groups, open bank account, monitoring and evaluation, reporting etc.

Cont..... LISF experience

- Emerging of other local innovators- Farmer have been innovating but most doing so at household levels with few people aware.
- Advocacy – e.g. formation of the Kenya Farmers Innovation Association that is promoting farmer-led innovation.
- Local innovation could be an ideal starting point for various rural participatory processes
- Farmers are clear about the challenges they would like to address: their innovations (experimentation) are needs-driven

Monitoring and Evaluation

- M&E responsibilities in the CLIC–SR project lie with KARI who support overall coordination.
- The project also uses implementing partners and Local Steering Committee (LSCs) in monitoring the project activities
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for LISF in place
- Sometimes innovators make decisions, that are often not communicated to the secretariat/NSC that affect the development of the innovation and planned M&E

Challenges

- Partner high staff turn over – partners play critical role in planning, implementation, M&E and reporting, thus when staff already trained in LI and PID leave a gap is left.
- Institutionalization of PID due to policy and institutional frameworks – use PID converters, invitation to PK forums e.g. innovation faies
- Advocacy – getting the relevant/ key persons to attend key PK functions. Most send representatives
- Documentation is still weak at both farmer and organization level – continued capacity building and follow ups

Cont....Challenges

- Lean secretariat that often gets overwhelmed. To support the secretariat PK uses volunteers and members staff where possible
- LSC capacity is still low- e.g. not able to develop strong proposals, network (e.g. approach local funding agencies for support) – PK continued to build the capacity through use of various forums organized by PK and partners