

Innovation Africa: enriching farmers' livelihoods

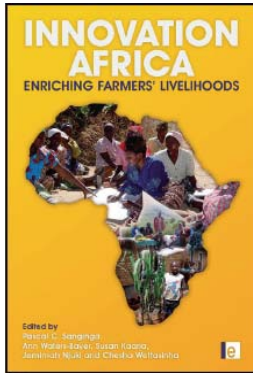
edited by

Pascal Sanginga, Ann Waters-Bayer, Susan Kaaria, Jemimah Njuki and Chesha Wettasinha

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'Innovation by, with and for farmers in Africa is one of the major contemporary challenges of development. This book will be essential reading for anyone interested in these issues.'

Professor Ian Scoones, Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, UK



Agricultural research, extension and education can contribute greatly to enhancing agricultural production in a sustainable way and to reducing poverty in the developing world, but achievements have generally fallen short of expectations in Africa. In recent years, growing economic and demographic pressures – coupled with the entry of new market forces and actors – have created a need and an opportunity for more interactive approaches to development. Understanding the existing innovation processes, recognising the potentials for catalysing them and learning how to support joint innovation by different groups of actors will be key to the success of organisations involved in research and development intended to enrich the livelihoods of farm families.

This book covers new conceptual and methodological developments in agricultural innovation systems, and showcases recent on-the-ground experiences in and lessons from related research and development in different contexts in Africa. The contributions show how innovation is the outcome of social learning through interaction of individuals and organisations in both creating and applying knowledge. The book brings examples of how space and incentives have been created to promote collaboration between farmers, research, extension and the private sector to develop better technologies and institutional arrangements that can alleviate poverty. In 25 broad-ranging chapters, the book reflects cutting-edge thinking and practice in catalysing and supporting innovation processes in agriculture and management of natural resources.

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