

THE IAASTD AND THE INNOVATION SYSTEM APPROACH: RELEVANCE FOR ACP

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by

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OVERVIEW

- What is the IAASTD?
- Selected (consensus) highlights
- Selected (contested) highlights
- Focus on institutional development
- Institutions and ideas about innovation
- Innovation Systems: an approach to institutional development?
- Conclusion: Relevance of IAASTD for ACP

What is the IAASTD (1)?

- International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development
- Assessment: a critical evaluation of evidence for informing decisions on complex, public issues
- International assessments can raise awareness and prompt informed action by all stakeholders - especially useful for contentious and complex issues
- Examples: stratospheric ozone depletion, anthropogenic climate change, loss of biological diversity
- Recent assessments: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

What is the IAASTD? (2)

- It evaluates the relevance, quality and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science and technology (AKST) and effectiveness of public and private sector policies as well as institutional arrangements
- It shares views and creates a common vision of the future of agriculture among a diverse set of stakeholders
- It is multi-thematic, multi-spatial, multi-temporal; it integrates local knowledge with formal knowledge; and looks at policy and institutional issues in the light of (1) history, (2) challenges and (3) options for action

What is the IAASTD? (3)

- Purpose: to assess AKST in order to generate, disseminate, access and use it more effectively to
 1. reduce hunger and poverty
 2. improve rural livelihoods
 3. facilitate equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development
- IAASTD goals provide unique lens through which to look at AKST (climate change! poverty!)

What is the IAASTD? (4)

- Inter-governmental process with a 60 member multi-stakeholder Bureau: governments, private sector, civil society (NGOs, producer organisations, international organisations). ±400 contributing authors and chapter editors
- Co-sponsored by World Bank, FAO, WHO, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO and GEF
- Co-Chairs: Hans Herren and Judi Wakhungu
- Director: Bob Watson
- 4-year process: two rounds of peer review and plenary approval (last Nov. 2007); final government approval in plenary session Nairobi, January 2008

What is the IAASTD? (5)

- Global: main report (± 900 pages), Summary for Decision Makers (SDM) and Synthesis Report (last two approved (?) by Governments)
- Sub-Global: Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA); East and South Asia and Pacific (ESAP); Latin America and Caribbean (LAC); Central/West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) and North America and Europe (NAE): main reports, SDMs and SRs

Selected consensus highlights

- Food security once again a core policy concern
- Increased investment in agricultural development essential
- Broader and more inclusive AKST needed to meet the challenges
- Business as usual rejected

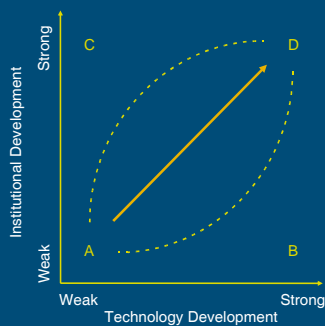
Selected (contested) highlights

- Lens of IAASTD goals: markets and trade; disparities in added agricultural value per worker; uneven impact of climate change
- Multi-functionality: agriculture produces not only food (commodities) but also other ecological services: water, energy, CO₂ sequestration....
- Food sovereignty: right of countries/communities to exert control over their food security
- Technology development remains important for production growth, but institutional development essential condition for sustainable agriculture and food security

Focus on institutional development

- Institutions: rules of the game that reduce uncertainty in human interaction (i.e not = organisations)
- Example 1: Plimsoll Line
- Example 2: Convergence of Sciences Programme: technology development *within* windows of opportunity; institutions *stretch* windows of opportunity
- Example 3: embeddedness of Dutch farming
- After structural adjustment, new recognition of need for institutional development

Developing institutions and technologies



Based on Dorward, Kydd and Poulton (1998) *Smallholder Cash Crop Production under Market Liberalisation: A New Institutional Economics Perspective*. CAB International, Wallingford.

Institutions and ideas about innovation (1)

- Technology supply push: feeds agricultural treadmill that drives innovation through price squeeze: raises productivity but does not lead to sustainable and equitable outcomes
- Participatory Technology Development: pathway for science to be appropriate, relevant and responsive: requires decentralised capacity and willingness for S&T developers to engage with civil society

Institutions and ideas about innovation (2)

- Endogenous Development: builds on local creativity, knowledge, cosmovisions and institutions but can be limited without interface with science
- Brokered Local Contractual Arrangement (BLCA): ensures right mix of institutional and technological supports but requires good governance to frame, monitor and sanction BLCA performance
- Innovation Systems approach....

Innovation Systems: an approach to institutional development? (1)

- IS: 'A network of organisations, enterprises and individuals focused on bringing new products, new processes, and new forms of organisation into social and economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect their behaviour and performance' (World Bank 2007)
- Innovation emerges from interaction (i.e. not the end-of-pipe product of a linear process)
- Innovation requires facilitating that interaction: form and sustain coalitions or configurations able to generate and capture opportunity

Innovation Systems: an approach to institutional development? (2)

- Based on studies of successful economies: transforming ex-post empiry into ex-ante policy model in totally different conditions
- Remains largely untried as major area of investment
- Examples from Convergence of Sciences
- To test: identify potential opportunity, identify key actors for realising it (across levels), facilitate and invest in their interaction and experiments

Conclusion: Relevance of IAASTD for ACP (1)

- Recognising importance of *rural* poverty and role of agriculture
- Focus on creating level playing field through reforming trade and markets so as to create conditions for higher production in ACP
- Focus on food sovereignty of ACP countries
- Focus on anticipating differential impacts of climate change
- Focus on creating institutional conditions for technological innovation at the national level

Conclusion: Relevance of IAASTD for ACP (2)

- IAASTD reports can be an important tool for furthering the interests of ACP countries in international forums
- IAASTD reports can be an important tool for furthering development and sustainability goals in national decision making

Conclusion: Relevance of IAASTD for ACP (3)

IAASTD marks the transition to a new era:

- Beyond single-minded focus on science-based technology as the source of ag. innovation
- Beyond single-minded focus on market liberalisation as avenue to economic growth
- Acceptance of importance of institutional conditions for growth and for reaching sustainability and development goals
- Recognition of multi-functional nature of agriculture
- Recognition of need for global governance mechanisms for combating climate change & poverty
