



**CTA/CoS-SIS
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON
INNOVATION SYSTEMS: TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE THEORIES OF CHANGE**

04-06 FEBRUARY, 2013

**CTA HEADQUARTERS
THE NETHERLANDS**

FINAL DRAFT PROGRAMME

Background

The understanding of the relevance and application of the Innovation Systems approach (ISA) to agricultural transformation remains unclear, controversial and is contested in several quarters. Some think of the ISA as little more than value chain integration. Others focus on social innovations that make possible institutional and technological change. Still others emphasize integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D), the integration of agricultural research in a wider development strategy. Finally we have differences between those who prefer to focus interventions at a local level and those who want to focus on agricultural innovation systems within the context of the national innovation systems. The other great divider is that innovation platforms are needed and that these should be set up and facilitated. While others propose that insights can be gained from a number of IS based approaches that have proven useful in bringing about change through the involvement of local communities and farmers, e.g. taking into account the competencies, habits and practices targeted by policy (working with and around), and putting into place linkages through which a support structure can be provided so that learning and innovation can take place on a continuous basis through a process that is owned by the actors themselves. All these views are based on theories about mechanisms and key actors and about levers, movers and agents for change.

Objective

The objective of the Expert Consultation is to make explicit these and other theories of change and establish sound and consolidated differences of opinion and alternatives that can be the basis for further exploration and experimentation to support an innovation thrust which supports agricultural transformation and benefits smallholder farmers. A number of issues will be addressed during the expert consultation:

Draft Programme

Monday 4th February 2013	Chair: Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands (tbc)
08:40	Hotel Pick-up
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks: Michael Hailu, Director, CTA, The Netherlands

09:10 – 09:20	Key Messages: Robert-Jan Scheer, Strategic Policy Advisor Food Security and Private Sector Development & Member of the Management Team, Sustainable Economic Development Department (DDE), Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
09:20 – 09:30	Cos-SIS – Arnold van Huis, International Coordinator, COS-SIS, Wageningen University and Research centre, The Netherlands CTA & Innovation Systems - Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, CTA, The Netherlands
09:30 – 09:40	Overview of Expert Consultation – Arnold van Huis & Judith Ann Francis
09:40 – 10:10	Self-Introductions - Joost Guijt, Facilitator, Associate Consultant, Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands
10:10 – 10:30	THEME 1. INNOVATION SYSTEM THINKING, CAPABILITY BUILDING, LEARNING AND COMPETENCIES <i>Lead paper:</i> Lynn Mytelka, Professorial Fellow, UNU-Merit, Maastricht, the Netherlands Questions
10:30 – 10:40	
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Case study - Learning and Innovation in Agri-Export Industries:</i> Maurice Bolo, Director Scinnovent Centre, Kenya Questions
11:15 – 11:25	
11:25 – 11:45	THEME 2. SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION –SMALLHOLDERS <i>Lead paper:</i> Stephen Biggs, School of International Development, University of East Anglia <i>Lead paper:</i> Peter Carberry, Deputy Director, Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, CSIRO, Australia <i>Questions</i> <i>Case study - Rice innovation system in Senegal:</i> Amadou Fall, Director Institut sénégalais de Recherche Agronomique (ISRA), Saint-Louis, Senegal Questions
11:45 – 12:05	
12:05 – 12:20	
12:20 – 12:25	
12:25 – 12:35	
12:35 – 12:50	General Discussion Themes 1 & 2 – Joost Guijt, Facilitator
12:50 – 13:50	Lunch
13:50 – 15:30	Working group session on Themes 1 & 2
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30	Working Group Session/ Ritual Dissent & Plenary - Joost Guijt, Facilitator
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Tuesday 5th February 2013	Chair: Arnold van Huis, International Coordinator, COS-SIS, The Netherlands
08:40	Hotel Pick-up
09:00 – 09:20	THEME 3. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS AND FACILITATION <i>Lead paper:</i> Judith Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, CTA, The Netherlands
09:20 – 09:30	Questions
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Case study - SSA Challenge Programme:</i> Adewale Adekunle, Coordinator of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA CP), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Accra, Ghana
09:45 – 09:55	Questions
09:55 – 10:10	<i>Case study – Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture:</i> Bernard Triomphe, La recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France
10:10 – 10:20	Questions
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 – 11:10	THEME 4. ANALYSING SYSTEMS AND MEASURING PERFORMANCE <i>Lead paper:</i> Janice Jiggins, Chair RA Support Team, CoS-SIS
11:10 – 11:20	Questions
11:20 – 11:35	<i>Case study – Small-scale processing of oil palm fruits:</i> Charity Osei-Amponsah (PhD fellow, CoS-SIS, Ghana)
11:35 – 11:45	Questions
11:45 – 12:15	General Discussion Themes 3 & 4: Joost Guijt, Facilitator
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 15:30	Working Group Session/Ritual Dissent on Themes 3 & 4
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	World Cafe & Plenary - Joost Guijt, Facilitator

Wednesday 6th February 2013	Chair: Niels Rolings, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands
08:40	Hotel Pick-up
09:00 – 09:20	THEME 5. POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONALISATION <i>Lead paper:</i> Ray Ison, Professor of Systems, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University, Clayton Victoria, Australia
09:20 – 09:30	Questions
09:30 – 09:50	<i>Lead paper:</i> Norman Clark, Development Policy and Practice, Faculty of Maths, Computing and Technology, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, UK
09:50 – 10:00	Questions
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Case study – Pricing policies in cocoa in Ghana:</i> Richard Adu-Acheampong, Cocoa Research Institute Ghana (CRIG), Tafo (Akim Abuakwa), Ghana
10:15 – 10:25	Questions
10:25 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:15	General Discussion Theme 5: Joost Guijt, Facilitator
11:15 – 12:30	Working Group Session/ Fish Bowl on Theme 5
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:25	Conclusions, timeline, future actions and communication: Arnold van Huis, International Coordinator, COS-SIS, The Netherlands & Judith Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, CTA, The Netherlands
14:25 – 14:30	Closing Remarks – Michael Hailu, Director, CTA

Issues to be addressed during the expert consultation

Themes 1 & 2

- The assumption that sustainable intensification will make a major contribution to global food security and food sovereignty, and make the global food system more resilient in the face of predicted shocks and disturbances;
- The nature of the 'sustainable intensification' in which smallholders will be engaged will substantially reduce persistent rural poverty. Can smallholders be linked into global markets which are not necessarily transparent or is there need to take into account the need for decentralised resilience in the face of declining natural resources, climate change, price volatility, peak oil, etc., and the need to protect smallholders from unfair advantages of skewed markets? What is the role of strong farmer organisations, well-

organised local systems, governments that defend their agricultural industries against predatory practices?

- What type of 'systems' are relevant? What exactly is an innovation system (IS) and the IS approach? What is the relationship between farming systems and IS approaches? Are they the same or different? What exactly are the differences? Where do the concepts for IAR4D, Innovation Platforms/clusters and value chain integration fit in?
- Is there need to explicitly embrace Checkland's Soft Systems Methodology? What are the consequences of hard system assumptions? What is the use of normative systems for guiding interventions? To what extent does empowerment and self-organisation play a role?

Themes 3 & 4

- What defines the boundaries of the (agricultural) innovation systems (agricultural sectors, industries; domains; farming systems)? What hierarchy of levels should be assumed and what are the interactions among those levels?
- What are the mechanisms that affect smallholders' opportunities and constraints? At what different aggregation levels do these mechanisms operate? To what extent is Ag. S&T relevant, and what other (f)actors should explicitly be taken into account and unpacked (markets, service delivery, policies, governance, regulatory frameworks)? Are they mutually exclusive?
- What are the methodologies for gaining better understanding about smallholder opportunities/constraints? The role, design and use of the diagnostics that link smallholder opportunities/constraints to key attributes of the institutional context;
- What is the nature of the (Agricultural) Innovation Systems and what are the strategies and interventions that should lead to change, at what aggregation levels? What is the link to the national innovation system? Should there be one and what will be the benefit of the linkage?

Theme 5

- What are the roles of policies and champions, brokers, facilitators, and other agents of change?
- What is the role of facilitation vis-à-vis self-organisation/ self-mobilization?
- What is the nature of the platforms, networks, stakeholders, dialogues, etc. that are being facilitated to affect 'the system'?
- How do we expect the IS work in experimental niches to affect policy and institutional regimes and landscapes?

n.b Some issues are cross-cutting all themes