Mechanisms to assess, prioritize, monitor and evaluate agricultural innovation investments

Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) investments must be specific to the context and respond to the stage of development in a particular country and agricultural sector. Given that optimal human capital and financial resources are rarely available, an incremental approach is advisable. The scale of operations is also likely to vary from local to sub-sectoral or national. This variation requires investments to be assessed, prioritized, sequenced, and tailored to the needs, challenges, and resources that are present. Knowledge-based decisions to support technical and institutional innovation require adequate information, assessment tools and methods. Analytical capacity is required to assess performance and identify future needs. In innovation systems, tasks such as policy assessment, monitoring, and evaluation are vital to maintaining learning, performance, and accountability.

This section examines (1) why an AIS requires a specific approach to policy making and management; (2) how past planning and priority setting in agricultural R&D differ from the assessment of innovation priorities and performance within a multi-actor AIS framework; and (3) how an AIS approach relies on information-intensive methods for setting priorities and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) within innovation systems. The module features different tools and methods such as assessments methods for AIS and organizations, NetMap tool, foresighting methods, and a diverse set of methods for M&E.

For further information on mechanisms to assess, prioritize, monitor and evaluate AIS investments, please see the following links to excerpts of the Agricultural Innovation Systems Sourcebook:

Overview:
Rationale [1]

Thematic Notes:

- Methods for Organizational Assessments in Agricultural Innovation Systems [2]
- Foresighting Investments in Agricultural Innovation [3]
- Monitoring Agricultural Innovation System Interventions [4]
- Evaluating Agricultural Innovation System Interventions [5]

Case Studies:

- Self-Organizing Networks in Policy and Planning: Experience from Sierra Leone's Partnership for Agricultural Innovation and Development [6]
- Using Net-Map to Assess and Improve Agricultural Innovation Systems [7]
- Gender Analysis for the Assessment of Innovation Processes: The Case of Papa Andina in Peru [8]

- Scenario Planning to Guide Long-Term Investments in Agricultural Science and Technology in India [9]

- A Vision for Agriculture in Chile in 2030 and the Implications for Its Innovation System [10]

- Redesigning a Livestock Research Institute to Support Livestock Development within an AIS Approach [11]

- Monitoring and Evaluation in the Research Into Use Program [12]

Related Link: Measurement for Policy
Metrics and evaluation for technology transfer and commercialisation
Metrics and evaluation for financing innovation

Links
[1] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/MM_Overview_-_Rationale_%28The_Why%29_and_What.pdf
[2] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Methods_to_Carry_Out_Organizational_Assessments_%28in_Ag%29.pdf
[3] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Foresighting_Tools_to_Guide_Agricultural_Innovation_Investments.pdf
[4] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Monitoring_Agricultural_Innovation_System_Interventions.pdf
[5] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Evaluating_Agricultural_Innovation_System_Interventions.pdf
[6] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Case_-_Agriculture_Innovation_Network_for_Policy_and.pdf
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[8] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/rdf_imported_documents/Case_-_Gender_Analysis_-_in_Papa_Andina_Agriculture_Innov.pdf
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