

Training Workshop on
'Understanding Fodder Innovations'
15-18 April 2008

Background

This training was conducted for a range of participants from Ethiopia, Syria and Vietnam under the auspices of the IFAD Fodder Adoption Project. The trainer was Dr Ranjitha Puskur of ILRI.

Objectives

- To understand the concepts related to innovation
- To get familiarized with necessary skills and tools to understand and document innovation
- To appreciate the importance of establishing a learning based M&E system with appropriate indicators and indigenized methods of information gathering
- To identify processes and linkages required for scaling out of sustainable innovation processes

Pre-workshop tasks

International participants were asked to do some homework prior to attending the workshop as follows:

- I. Select two cases of fodder technologies/interventions- one which has been successfully adopted and scaled out, one which is less successful
- II. Briefly describe the intervention/technology
 - a. target farmers
 - b. agro-ecology suitable
 - c. resource requirements
 - d. financial benefit?
 - e. actors involved in developing technology, disseminating, providing required inputs etc- their roles and responsibilities
 - f. what mechanisms have you used to monitor the adoption and outcomes of this interventions?

Schedule for the Training Workshop on
 'Understanding Fodder Innovation'
 15-18 April 2008

Day 1 - Tuesday 15 April 2008		
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Introduction of participants Introduction to the IFAD Fodder Project	<i>Alan Duncan</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Orientation to the workshop programme and Participant Expectations	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation from Syria	
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation from Vietnam	
11:30-12:30	What is innovation?	<i>Ranjitha Puskur</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Some tools to understand innovation processes	<i>Ranjitha Puskur</i>
15:00 -15:30	Presentation of cases from Ethiopia	
15:30 – 16:00	Formation of groups for field work	
16:00	Preparation for field work in groups and Reading	
Day 2 - Wednesday 16 April 2008		
09:00 - 13:00	Field work Actor Time line, Actor Identification and Roles matrix, Septagram, Actor linkage mapping, Actor Determinants diagram	2 groups Gande Gorba (Vetch relay cropping & others) Ude (Urea treated straw)
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 16:00	Application of tools to cases from Vietnam, Syria and Ethiopia (including coffee break)	In country/PLW groups
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation of day's outputs and synthesis	
Day 3 - Thursday 17 April 2008		
9:00 – 13:00	Field work Key Informant Interviews, Planning of M&L and Scaling out strategies	2 groups Gande Gorba and Ude
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 16:00	Application of tools to cases from Vietnam, Syria and Ethiopia (including coffee break)	In country/PLW groups
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation of day's outputs and synthesis	
Day 4 - Friday 18 April 2008		
9:00 – 13:00	Synthesis of outputs from field and for country cases Action Plans for innovation related baseline creation and possible interventions After Action Review	
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch and departure</i>	

Participants List

Name	Country	Field of Specialization	Affiliation
Amare Fekele	Ethiopia	Animal Production	Land Olakes
Dadi Gelashi	Ethiopia	Animal Science	ILRI/IPMS
Truong Tan Khanh	Vietnam	Animal Production	Tay Nguyen University, Vietnam
Sawsan Hassan	Syria	Crop Production	ICARDA, Syria
Mohammed Abdullah	Syria	Director of Extension	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria
Nguyen Ngoc Anh	Vietnam	Animal Nutrition	National Institute of Animal Husbandry, Vietnam
Seife Ayele	Kenya	Innovation Studies	ILRI, Kenya
Zealelem Tesfay	Ethiopia	Animal Biothechnology	Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia
G/Kiros G/Selama	Ethiopia	Animal Science	Office of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia
Abraham Gittiwet	Ethiopia	Agronomy	ILRI/IPMS
Temesgen Tesfay	Ethiopia	Animal Science	Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia
Mohannad Obaido	Syria	Animal Production	Aga Khan Foundation, Syria
Evans Basweti	Ethiopia	Agronomy	ILRI, Ethiopia
Asebe Abdena	Ethiopia	Agronomy	ILRI, Ethiopia
Alan Duncan	Ethiopia	Animal Science	ILRI, Ethiopia
Berihun Tafere	Ethiopia	Animal Nutrition	Office of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia
Dawit W/mariam	Ethiopia	Animal and Range Science	ILRI/IPMS
Chernet Woyimo	Ethiopia	Forage and Animals	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Aberra Adie	Ethiopia	Animal Science	ILRI, Ethiopia
Zewdu Ayele	Ethiopia	Tropical Animal Production	ILRI/IPMS
Ranjitha Puskur	Ethiopia	Innovation Studies	ILRI/IPMS
Derese Kassa	Ethiopia	Animal Science	Office of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia

Synopsis

Day 1

The training began with an introduction to the IFAD Fodder Project by Alan Duncan. This was followed by presentation of country cases of successful and unsuccessful fodder development activities from Syria and Vietnam. This quickly introduced the international dimension to the workshop. Ranjitha Puskur then introduced the concepts of innovation, innovation systems and some of the definitions used in this field.

After lunch Ranjitha set out some of tools commonly used for diagnosis of innovation systems capacity. These included:

- Actor analysis
 - Actor timelines
 - Actor identification matrix
 - Actor role matrix
 - Actor septagram
 - Actor perception matrix
- Actor linkage analysis
 - Actor linkage map
 - Actor linkage matrix
 - Actor determinant diagram
- Policy analysis

This was followed by a presentation of the background to the two Ethiopian field case studies:

- Oat vetch relay cropping in Gande Gorba Peasant Association
- Urea straw treatment in Ude Peasant Association

Finally, participants divided into two groups and planned their field work for the following day.

Day 2

In the morning case study groups went to the field to conduct discussions with key informants and actors in Gande Gorba and Ude. They were tasked with producing the following: Actor Time line, Actor Identification and Roles matrix, Septagram, Actor linkage mapping, Actor Determinants diagram.

In the afternoon the tools were applied to case studies in Syria , Vietnam, Tigray and Oromiya by the country/regional groups.

The day ended with presentations of the results of the field work and preparation for the following day's field work.

Day 3

Two groups again visited field sites to conduct further key informant interviews to gain experience in using Monitoring and Evaluation tools and Scaling Out tools. The groups were charged with assessing the following:

- M&E
 - Drivers of Innovation
 - Factors enhancing innovation
 - Hindrances or constraints to Innovation
 - Issues of Sustainability of Fodder Innovation
- Scaling out
 - Factors influencing scaling out success
 - Strategies for further scaling out

In the afternoon the tools were again applied to case studies in Syria , Vietnam, Tigray and Oromia by the country/regional groups.

Day 4

The final morning focused on a wrap up of the week's activities and development of action plans for using the tools in home contexts. There was also an After Action Review the results of which are included in the Appendix.

Conclusion

The training was highly interactive and a good introduction to a new way of thinking about fodder development. For most participants this was their first exposure to innovation systems concepts and tools and, although some of the ideas were difficult for participants to internalize, there was an excellent learning atmosphere at the training and very active participation by all present. This was facilitated by the excellent training skills employed by Ranjitha Puskur. The use of local case studies was useful although the time allowed was probably insufficient. In general, the main criticism of the training format related to time constraints to achieve all that was initially envisaged. Use of country case studies from Vietnam and Syria was highly appreciated by participants and helped to ground the tools in the international participants' home contexts. Development of action plans for applying the tools in real environments was one of the items that was squeezed by time constraints.

Alan Duncan
28/7/08

Note: softcopies of presentations and field work notes can be supplied on request.

Appendix

Participants' feed-back

What did we plan to achieve in this training workshop?

- I will plan for the next (future) to do many tasks in my wereda by giving awareness for the people (communities). In addition to this I will to plan to work with those actors by linking strong specially on the improvement of feed/improvement of food security of the people by improving the product of animals by giving them full and improved feeds (Fodder)
- I got good knowledge from this workshop and I have a plan to do fodder innovation in my woreda
- Learning from the rich experience of other countries like Syria and Vietnam.
- Understanding of innovation concept
- To scale out that done before with some restricted farmers and to scale out the important ideas that I can understand from the peoples that discuss together here / Best habits of other countries.
- To understand concepts related to innovation
- To get familiarized tools +skills to diagnose
- To appreciate the importance of M+L
- To identify process+ Linkage required for scaling out/up (Sustainable innovation process)
- To achieve this plan in this training I would introduce and give awareness to my woreda agricultural office head and to my partners before I go to the work
- I achieve in this work shop. How to analyze the innovation about the tools and matrix
- To ensure that innovation systems is well understood by the actors (some) before we go forward with fodder innovation- adaptation
- To learn new tools in innovation theoretically and practically
- The training workshop which is about understanding fodder innovation and I think we achieved all that was planned especially looking at the case study of the three countries
- Understanding the tools of innovation and apply and practice them to fodder innovation. Reviewing the week's process and outputs.
- Introducing FAP innovation systems perspectives and tools and application of tools to real case study
- Understanding what innovation mean and understanding what diagnostic tools
- To have awareness about innovation, innovation system and using innovation tools specially in forage development area
- The plan was to active the knowledge on innovation capacity. I think I am now with better knowledge than the time we start the training.

- Understanding of innovation system, process
- Tools for innovation approaches
- Share experience among countries
- Reward our works before and emerge near ideas for next period
- To understand the concept of innovation and innovation systems and to develop an appreciation of how fodder innovation can be initiated by the innovation system.
- To understand the concept of innovation systems and its tools of capacities factors
- Concepts and tools of innovation, finding of the case study- developed

Did we achieve what we set out to achieve in the workshop?

- Yes , achieve purposes of workshop
- Yes, I achieved by this training
- Yes of course every thing is achieve what you set out to do and I am glad by your transforming the knowledge
- the field day visit because I got many knowledge from the field visit
- Yes
- Participatory and giving assignment to different groups that to practice what we learn discuss at that class
- Yes, since there is experience sharing from different countries in other case from different regions and actors it gave me fulfill ideas to achieve the future goal
- I achieve also in this workshop good experience sharing about the innovation and also I learn good ideas for future implementation of innovation
- I think yes, b/c what most of us know about innovation is some what different, and now we have the clear meaning
- Yes
- Yes, we achieved what we sat out to do
- Yes
- Yes
- 80-90%
- Yes
- 70% achieved
- yes, in my opinion
- We really achieve the things we plan
- Partially. These ideas are sometimes hard to grasp for the natural scientists and we need future reflections before these ideas have been fully absorbed
- yes
- Yes, we did

what worked well in the workshop?

- Facilitation for workshop
- How to know innovation from where is innovation started and how to plan for the next etc
- Yes, because the workshop day very interested but the days of the training is very short.
- All the program worked well
- the presentations, lecturers, group works
- the presentation and field practice
- The PRA tool worked very well
- Good presentations, active Participation
- Very good accommodation and provision of services
- Application of tools to case studies and understanding of concepts
- Field practical sessions
- The interaction, the grouping and the team work
- Training ways, materials, and organization
- The group works helped me a lot to think about innovation in my area perspective. The ideas from the grouping members were helpful
- Every thing is good for us special, the method of teaching and organize
- The cross-country element was very interesting. The use of case studies have their own situations helped to embed the ideas in reality. The field work was a core element of the training but was perhaps ambitious in the time available however it provided a useful framework for discussing ideas.
- The application of the schedule it is planner the relationship between partners, fantastic facilitation
- Field assignment and presentation, interactive learning among the participants
- Lecture (Excellent)
- Field visit (gave clear picture + appreciation of tools)
- Presentation skills ↑
- First class reception

What did not work well in this workshop?

- The group work country case is not well organized
- Time management
- Time was limited for preparation of context case studies
- There was time limitation to work on the group work results
- Too difficult to answer
- Some of the group task much time than allocated and sometimes unnecessary debate took some time
- country regional group works

- Group organization,
- Very tight program/limited time
- I think all went on well.
- Until now, are good
- No, it is so well / Excellent/
- Sometimes on discussion no one was listening all were speaking. If no listening no transferring of idea. There was shortage of time due to shortage of time during practice many things are miss and not done
- Time limitation to share more ideas and supervision
- Time shortage
- Documentation of flip charts
- Organizing them timely
- Document them- softcopy to the participants
- Lack of lobby (person) for typing documenting timely distribution
- Lack of audio visual service

What could we do better next time

- Should give us some recommendation of this place before coming (Weather, Customs ...)
- It is better to have such like workshop/Forum in order to strong do well
- I recommend that days of the workshop will be a little long than this workshop since to cover the entire portion in appropriate time.
- More time need to have discussion , exchange field visits to have clear idea about each case
- More time for this workshop
- Coming together different country and sharing information each other is better and accepted one. Giving long period of time to things to practice make better done
- Monitoring , capacitating the higher bodies, farmers, material supplementation incase of forage innovation
- This type of learning is good for next time but in Ethiopia case the other discussion makers' person are participant and learn on this type of program they can prepare good conditions to work for future.
- The case studies :- they helped to find out where the problem in the innovation system
- Inclusion of more actors including policy and decision makers at higher and lower level.
- Absence of farmer for participation.
- To take it future and involved the key farmers
- I recommend that farmers participating in the exercise be at least be given drinks after the exercise
- A little bit more time to accomplish every task
- Organizing more diversified fields farmer areas

- Manage/ less organize better
- The duration of the training should be arranged in such a way that all materials are covered without rush. Learning materials should be provided in CD. Experiences from different countries and regions should also be given with CP.
- I like the participatory approach of knowledge transfer and sharing of experience we have.
- Increase visiting to dancer place
- it is ok! But add little time also trainees to be familiar with local area where the training was held
- For better in the future and more relax than this work
- We probably tried to cram too under in although the time management problem partly reflected the enthusiasm of participants
- The schedule to be less or the time to be more, another seminar room should be there
- The participation of the other stake holders like the people from oromia region research center. Arrangement of accommodation for all participants in the compound (If possible)