



Scouting and Sharing Innovation in Western and Central Africa: Fostering Innovation Processes and Partnerships

Karim Hussein

Western and Central Africa Division, IFAD
9 May 2008

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



IFAD at a glance

- **IFAD's mandate:**
 - Enable poor rural people to overcome poverty
 - Empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security
- **IFAD Strategic Framework: 2007 to 2010**
 - Empowering poor rural people
 - Selectivity and focus
 - Targeting
 - **Knowledge management** (KM Strategy 07)
 - **Innovation**, learning and scaling up (Innovation Strategy 07)
 - Effective partnerships
 - Sustainability

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Why is innovation needed to make an impact on rural poverty?

- Challenges & opportunities for rural poor women and men are evolving
- Despite global progress towards MDG1 on hunger and poverty, most of sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the goals
- Development actors constantly face new challenges (e.g. prices)
- Access to technology and innovation by the rural poor is key to rural development, poverty reduction and promoting a green revolution (AGRA)
- Innovative responses, technologies and practices, approaches, investments and policies are needed to address these challenges
- A capacity to constantly **INNOVATE** - vital to lasting impact on rural poverty
- Recognised by IFAD and e.g. NEPAD CAADP (Pillar 4); AGRA...

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



IFAD's Innovation Strategy

- IFAD's Innovation Strategy defines an innovation as:
“a process that adds value or solves a problem in new ways”
- The strategy aims to:
 - ensure that innovation is systematically and effectively mainstreamed in corporate processes and country programmes
 - enhance IFAD's capacity to work with partners to find new and better ways to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty
- An innovation is **an approach, technology, product, idea, practice or policy with potential to be scaled-up or “out-scaled”**
- An approach, technology or policy is innovative if it is:
 - » **Useful to achieving a goal or to solving a defined problem**
 - » **New in the context in which it is to be applied**
 - » **Likely to be sustained after a test period**

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Rationale for WCA Scouting and Sharing Innovation Initiative (SSI)

- Many innovations developed in the context of IFAD-supported activities and by other development actors but often unknown outside the local/project context in WCA/SSA
- Useful innovations from outside WCA insufficiently shared
- No systematic approach or mechanism to identify, document and disseminate innovations across development projects, programmes and actors in the region

Need to develop more systematic approaches, processes and partnerships to scout, share and upscale innovations

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Process to identify, share and promote uptake of innovations in WCA - *Aims*

Aims of the Initiative:

- Promote and capitalise on innovative processes, technological innovations and promising practices developed in the region
- Identify, document, analyse and disseminate innovations that can be implemented in projects and programmes in WCA
- Develop communication tools and mechanisms to share innovations in collaboration with programmes, regional partners and diverse actors
- Foster an ongoing partnership and process to identify and document innovations in the region, and establish an innovation sharing mechanism across IFAD-supported programmes, partners, IFAD HQ

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Three categories of innovation

(I) Technological innovations and innovative practices

- Endogenous
- From outside the zone, country or region and adapted

(II) Institutional, organisational, methodological innovations

- Internal and autonomous processes implemented by a group, community or structure that change organisational approaches
- New types of partnership implemented between groups / communities and actors/stakeholders working in institutional, economic or social fields to improve their living conditions

(III) Policy innovations

- New policy or legal measures applied at the national or regional level, or to specific groups, geographical areas or communities

Process to identify, share and promote uptake of innovations in WCA – *Progress to date*

- Stocktaking of past initiatives
- Establishing partnerships – projects & programmes, SWAC/OECD, CTA, ROPPA, WARF, FIDAFRIQUE, UNIFEM.....
- Common format for documenting: technicalities, beneficiaries, results & scaling-up
- Selected meetings at project level to document innovations
 - » **84 innovations documented covering 13 countries**
 - » 41 from IFAD-supported projects & programmes
 - » 43 from other development actors (FOs, research centres...)
 - » 18 innovations with a regional dimension
- Background, innovation summaries and E-survey (Phase 1 Sept 07-Mar 08; Phase 2 June-July 08) shared in WCA through **Fidafrique** (www.fidafrique.net)
- 9 criteria for selection established: 25 innovations selected
- Co-validation with country managers & institutional partners to identify, share and promote uptake of innovations available in, and relevant for WCA
- Database and innovation webpages to be hosted by Fidafrique
- Joint development of communication strategy and tools
- **Workshop-Fair** late June (Ouagadougou)

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Innovation selection process with regional partners & actors

No.	Criteria for selection
1	Balance among the three main categories of innovation (<i>technological, institutional and organizational, policy</i>)
2	Equal distribution of the benefits and advantages from an innovation (<i>ensured access by the rural poor, women, youth, indigenous people and disadvantaged groups</i>)
3	Accessibility and adaptability of the innovation with respect to end users/beneficiaries (<i>rural poor, women, youth, indigenous people and disadvantaged groups</i>)
4	Feasibility and flexibility of the innovation (<i>costs and benefits, implementation issues, feasibility and technical mastery, innovations flexibility</i>)
5	Degree of participation of rural poor in innovation development, prioritisation, dissemination
6	Gender dimension and adaptability to women's needs
7	Environmental, social and institutional sustainability (<i>environmental impact; capacity of local institutions/actors to manage & share innovation over time</i>)
8	Potential for adding value and scaling up at local, national and regional levels
9	Degree of involvement/support of development actors (<i>more than one project, institution of research, development, local organisation/NGO</i>)

Process to identify, share and promote uptake of innovations in WCA

- ***Follow-up – towards a scouting & sharing mechanism?***
 - Establish core group of partners to take forward recommendations from regional event
 - Continuous documentation produced by range of partners - including FOs, their members and private operators
 - Build up database, interactive tools – link to Fidafrique-IFADAfrica
 - Joint communication strategy to widen dissemination and increase access to information
 - Repeat events in region and e-discussions
 - Intra/inter-continental learning events with rural actors
 - Establish ways to feed innovations into programmes and policies (region, Africa and international)

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Examples: Technological innovation, NERICA 4

A new type of rice coupled with practice to deter birds

- **Context**
 - Demand for rice is rapidly increasing in sub-Saharan Africa and particularly WCA
 - Imports of about 4 million tonnes per year
 - Soaring of food prices
- **Need**
 - To improve regional production capacity to reduce dependence on imports
 - To maximise the potential production capacity in the region
- **Problem**
 - Need to deter birds from damaging crops of mostly small-scale rice producers
 - Watching over rice fields is time-consuming
 - Women or children often have the responsibility of watching over rice fields
- **NERICA 4**
 - Improves rice productivity
 - Stimulates crop diversification
 - Increase farmers' incomes
- **Bird deterrence**
 - The use of broken palm nut spread over the field as bait attracted sufficient numbers of ants, which attacked the caterpillars, even in their hiding places.
 - Consistent reduction in use of high cost of chemical plant protection products with risks of human poisoning and environmental pollution

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Examples: Organisational & institutional innovation, Financial Services Associations

- ***Characteristics of Financial Services Associations (FSAs):***

- FSAs established at community level in Benin (1997)
 - Owned and managed by members that buy shares in the FSA
 - Operate in rural contexts where rural banks are not available or that would not be viable for many other forms of financial services organizations
 - Have reached rural poor people, particularly women, increasing access to microfinance fulfilled their advocacy role for microfinance
 - 60,000 FSA shareholders (47% men; 48% women; 5% production and marketing groups)
 - Total cumulative mobilised capital of US\$1.2 million (35% women). High average repayment/recovery rate: 96%
-
- FSAs now in Guinea, Mauritania, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and recently Sierra Leone
 - Umbrella programme established at national level to consolidate and expand the FSA model and to set up an FSA APEX structure (PADER)
 - FSAs have encouraged policy dialogue in the area of microfinance
 - Ownership, viability, sustainability without external support to be monitored

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Examples: Policy Innovation: Land Tenure Agreement (*entente foncière*), Mauritania

- «Entente foncière» (land tenure agreement) developed with all actors in Maghama building on local land tenure arrangements and social dynamics (Maghama Improved Flood Recession Farming Project Phase II (PACDM II))
- Socio-tenure survey shows 1,356 heads of extended families are considered landless. Agreement between administration and land owners allows landless farmers to access land in the area covered.
- Benefits mainly social, political and cultural: increasing production capacity over time, strengthened social cohesion, improved political environment, positive evolution of traditional practices fostered.
- Problem solved: unfair access to fertile flood plain land by farmers in « terres de décrue »

Key issues to promote a “culture of innovation” in rural development in WCA

- (i) What tested mechanisms encourage farmers, FOs, governments, NGOs, research institutes, private sector, agricultural service providers and international organisations play complementary roles to :
 - foster a “culture of innovation” at all levels
 - disseminate successful innovations across rural contexts
 - promote uptake (upscaling and ‘outscaling’) of innovations
- (ii) Where trade-offs exist between supporting innovations to enhance productivity / absolute production levels and equity / equality of access, how can these be managed in a participatory way?
- (iii) How best to address the gender dimension and equality of access?
- (iv) Which policies promote the active involvement of the rural poor in developing and sharing innovations at different levels?
- (v) What ongoing processes exist to draw lessons from successful partnerships to foster continuous learning and exchange between regional actors?

Thank you



Innovation WebPages and Electronic Survey

<http://www.fidafrique.net/rubrique703.html>

Workshop-Fair on Scouting and Sharing Innovation in WCA

June/July 2008

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Examples: Methodological innovation, Participatory pro-poor value chains, Ghana

- Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) in Northern Ghana, poorest region and most remote from markets
- Context of soaring food prices
- **Goal:** Improve food security by substituting import of maize and soybean with domestic production – reducing dependence on more expensive imports and increasing incomes for smallholders
- **Innovative approach:** Participatory value chain development in maize and soybean sub-sectors through the establishment of a Public-Private Partnership between Government, farmers organisations and private sector operators

Technological innovations selected

	Title of innovation	Institution	Country
1	Four Djlemo & Farine de manioc non fermentée	PNDRT (IFAD)	Cameroon
2	Domestication d'essences locales à travers nouvelles techniques de multiplication végétative	ICRAF	Regional
4	Irrigation goutte à goutte	PRODAM (IFAD)	Senegal
5	Séchoir à convection forcée	PAMER	Burkina Faso
6	Transformation du manioc par les femmes	Groupement de femmes	Burkina Faso
7	Improved soil fertility through the <i>tassa</i> technique (hand-dug planting pit technique)	PPILDA (IFAD)	Niger
8	Culture appât d'oiseaux et riz Nerica 4	PRAPE (IFAD)	Democratic Republic of Congo
9	Maruca pheromone trap	IITA	Benin, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria,
10	GNAFF	CTA	Ghana

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Institutional innovations selected

	Title of innovation	Institution	Country
1	ANOPACI	CTA	Cote d'Ivoire
2	Financial Services Associations	PADER (IFAD)	Benin
3	Dispositif pour le renforcement des capacités d'innovation collectives (la formation dans l'action)	ICRA et PRODAM	Senegal
4	Formation paysanne par les paysannes chez les paysannes	SAILD	Cameroon
5	Les champs de diversité pour la conservation <i>in situ</i> et utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques	IPGRI	Regional
6	Banque de soudure, un outil pour une meilleure gestion et prévention des crises alimentaires	PPILDA (IFAD)	Niger
7	Trois affiches: Elaboration de planning local des actions de développement à la base	PNGT 2 (IFAD)	Burkina Faso
8	Comité de gestion autofinancé du matériel	CILSS	Burkina Faso
9	Development of clusters and Value Chain to facilitate agricultural intensification and agribusiness development	IFDC	Regional
10	Approche ciblage pour un suivi-évaluation communautaire	PPILDA (IFAD)	Niger

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Policy innovations selected

	Title of innovation	Institution	Country
1	Monitoring system on the Rural Dimension of PRS	IFPRI	Regional
2	Intégration de la dimension genre dans la planification et programmations budgétaires du Ministère du Développement Rural et de l'Agriculture	UNIFEM	Senegal
3	Participation des OPPA à l'élaboration de la politique agricole régionale	ROPPA	Regional
4	Entente foncière	PADM II	Mauritania
5	Commissions Régionales des Partenaires	PLPR	Cape Verde
6	Consortium of universities, NGOs, development actors	PICOFA	Burkina Faso

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

