

Presentation and discussion Country Case studies *Session 2*

Practicing Agricultural innovation in Africa: A
Platform for Action

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Agricultural innovation case studies

- ◆ What?
- ◆ How?
- ◆ Why?

Agricultural innovation case studies

◆ What?

- Case studies were collected by country coordinators in each participating African country, as well as in Denmark
- In total **110** different case studies collected in agricultural innovation, showing a great dynamism at the country level

Agricultural innovation case studies

◆ What? (cont.)

- The case studies collected covered agriculture, agribusiness and rural energy
- Submissions were from Research institutes, universities and the Private Sector

Agricultural innovation case studies

◆ How?

- Country coordinators were mobilized at the national level, sending out an invitation to bid for case studies
- The cases were collected then compiled, and chosen on basis of 4 criteria: (i) scale, (ii) private sector involvement, (iii) agricultural producer organization involvement, (iv) contribution to poverty reduction

Agricultural innovation case studies

◆ Why?

- The case studies were collected to give a bottom-up picture of what is happening in agricultural innovation in each country
- To show locally generated success stories...

Agricultural innovation case studies

◆ Why? (cont.)

- ...but also to show the different constraints at the local level
- Finally, to promote innovation, there is a need to create confidence in capabilities, and case studies are a great way to do this

Lessons Learnt: Macro level (1)

- ◆ Financing innovation
- ◆ Bridging mechanisms and extension services are essential for success
- ◆ Bureaucracy and legislation issues
- ◆ Poor protection of intellectual property rights

Lessons Learnt: Macro level (2)

- ◆ Knowledge-sharing experience at a regional/international level fosters innovative ideas and applications
- ◆ Infrastructure (packaging, road, communications...) is a bottleneck

Lessons Learnt: Micro level

- ◆ Importance of producer organizations
- ◆ Research responding to demand seems to work best
- ◆ Participatory approach
- ◆ Training of peer farmers

The way forward ?

- ◆ Knowledge sharing and exchange at the regional level around innovative projects
- ◆ This was done in Francophone Africa last year
 - Creation at the national level of working groups on agricultural innovation
 - Exchanges stimulated the groups to create linkages between national level stakeholders (agricultural producer organizations, researchers, research institutes, ministries...)
 - Development of training material from and for the field (including videos) to facilitate dialogue between researchers and producers