

Summary of fourth Week E-Conference

Innovation systems for food security and nutrition: understanding the capacities needed - invitation to an e-conference

Discussions from 9 to 13 May on question 7 and general comments

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Question #7: When implementing the framework for capacity development for FSN-sensitive Agricultural Innovation Systems, how can the needs of often voiceless actors (e.g., small farmers, young people or female-led households) be incorporated and addressed?

- a) Commitment from Government (National and local) is essential
- b) Marginalized actors can be given a voice by organizing community groups. NGOs, extension and advisory services could play a significant role bridging between the public sector and communities. NARS could also play an important role. However, informal individual follow-up consultations may be useful to validate the results and insights derived from the group activities. Attention must be paid for orchestrated events.
- c) For these actors to be effective it is necessary to introduce flexibility in the design and implementation of projects.
- d) Involving some of the powerful actors (e.g., men in the family) in projects can produce profound changes
- e) It is important to implement inclusive policies targeted to the most marginalized populations, e.g. quality education and empowering women.
- f) Improve nutrition/livelihood of smallholder farmers by developing appropriate business models
- g) Add to the capacity development framework community workers, community leaders, smallholder farmers, agriculture labors, market handlers/managers and the consumers.
- h) Need for better understanding on how to integrate agriculture and nutrition, and poverty reduction and improved nutrition.
- i) Increase access to loans and grants by smallholder farmers
- j) Elicit the needs of marginalized actors and open new opportunities for them
- k) The reason for voiceless actors in Nepal, mainly women, is deeply rooted in culture and religion issues.
- l) ICT has the potential of reaching and supporting voiceless groups
- m) Voiceless actors can be other segments of the AIS, such as research, extension, education, public and private sectors, NGOs.
- n) Certain skills are needed for organizing groups, that need proper resourcing and development

During the fourth and last week of the conference, participants made general contributions or contributions related to previous discussed questions:

- o) However efforts are to educate rural and urban population on proper nutrition, attention must be paid on affordable nutrition, including the right energy and protein intake to fulfill intense rural labor
- p) Better attention to policies and its implementation, which target specific stakeholders
- q) Better understand on how to monitor innovation systems
- r) More evidence on the impacts which are results of systemic change and adaptation