

Stakeholder involvement in research, extension, and training: option or necessity?



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Overview

- Introduction
- Evolution
- Types
- Tools and techniques
- Challenges
- Concluding remarks
- Overview of presentations



Introduction

Stakeholders and participation:

- Are very popular terms in research, extension and training
- Are nebulous and fuzzy and
- Have varying meanings.



Evolution of Stakeholder Involvement

- Critique of the linear innovation model:
 - What is ‘the problem’ and what is ‘the solution’?
 - Weak linkages between research and technology transfer
- Development of knowledge system perspective
- Development of learner-centered approaches



Framework for Participation

- What kind of participation takes place at different stages and levels of a project?
- Who participates in each stage?
- How does the process of participation take place?



Types of Participation

- Passive participation
- Participation in information giving
- Participation by consultation
- Participation for material incentives
- Functional participation
- Interactive participation
- Self-mobilization



Types of Stakeholders

Owners

Who represents the
'powerful'

Community of
beneficiaries

Who are the assumed focus
of the transformation

Actors

Who needs to be involved in
the actions for change

Guardians

Who speaks of the interests
of those who cannot speak



Methods

- Workshop-based methods for collaborative decision-making
- Community-based methods for collaborative decision-making
- Methods for stakeholder consultation
- Methods for social analysis



Characteristics of Participatory Action Research

- Is a research process
- Promotes broad participation of stakeholders
- Raises awareness of stakeholders
- Supports actions leading to a more just or satisfying situation for the stakeholders



Challenges (I)

- Keeping the process dynamic
- Getting the science right
- Finding optimal levels of participation
- Motivating key stakeholders
- Addressing conflict situations



Challenges (II)

- Limiting complexity
- Keeping transaction costs low
- Scaling-up to regional and national levels
- Institutionalizing participatory approaches
- Implementing what you preach



Recommendations to Donors

- Coordinate your efforts and form communities
- Create funding opportunities:
 - That are less time-bound, more process-oriented and flexible
 - For evaluating the successes of participatory projects
 - For scaling-up and institutionalizing
- Become more participatory in your work



Recommendations to Scientists

- Create more empirical evidence
- Learn from each others experiences
- Focus on the “how” and not the “why”



Concluding Remarks

Stakeholder participation:

- Is a very convincing concept but very complex and difficult to implement
- Is a necessity but the what, who, and how depends on whether it is important, useful, and beneficial



Overview of Presentations

- A participatory appraisal of imperata (weed) management strategies for sustainable land use in the sub-humid savanna of Nigeria
- Wildlife co-management in Kenya: An empirical analysis of landowners' incentives for participation
- Institutionalizing demand-driven agricultural research: Experiences with the management cycle of agricultural research in Benin
- Agroindustry R&D partnerships in Chile and Uruguay: Cases of public-private partnerships for agro-industrial development