Place of Agronomic Research in the Process of Innovation in Africa: Looking through the lenses of the CAADP

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Innovation and Decision Support in Agriculture: Which Roles and Partnership for Research?

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Outline of Presentation

• Importance of agronomic research in Africa
• CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research in Africa
• Making agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets
• Conclusion
Importance of agronomic research

• Main challenges in Africa: reduction of poverty and food insecurity
• Poor performance of agricultural sector explains slow progress towards overcoming these challenges
• Agricultural growth has hardly kept up with population growth rate
Importance of agronomic research

Source: FAOSTAT, 2006

Figure 1 Growth trends in per capita value added output of agriculture
Importance of agronomic research

• Agricultural resources are main contributors to overcoming these challenges
• Agronomic research produces technologies potentially important for agricultural growth
• Effectiveness of agronomic research depends on relevance and response to farmers’ needs
• Adoption rate of products of agronomic research is relatively low
• Link agronomic research and its products with dynamic innovation processes to increase adoption rate and achieve impact
## Importance of agronomic research

Table 1: Agricultural technology and productivity by developing region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Share of area planted to modern varieties (a) (%)</th>
<th>Contribution of genetic improvement to yield growth (b)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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(a) From Evenson & Gollin, 2003; (b) Measured as a share of increase in productivity
CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research

• African governments are committed to raising agricultural productivity by at least 6% through CAADP

• CAADP Pillar IV addresses:
  - improving agricultural research and systems to disseminate new technologies
  - increasing support to help small-scale farmers adopt them

• CAADP Pillar IV, a legitimate African framework for linking agronomic research to innovation processes
CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research

• Innovation requires coordinated efforts of many actors

• Linkage and coordination is addressed using innovation narratives which translate:
  - ideas so that they are comprehensible and legitimate
  - emerging solutions that promote real-time problem solving

• Identification of clear innovation narratives around which agronomic research can be
Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP target

• Consultation with African stakeholders and partners revealed 10 principles for implementing CAADP Pillar IV referred to as FAAP.

• The first nine (9) of them are linked to:
  - institutional arrangements
  - capacity strengthening
  - end-users empowerment
  - strengthening farmers support services

• The tenth is linked to:
  - increasing investments and promoting resource alignment
Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets

- Ten principles proposed as innovation narratives:
  - End-user participation
  - Application of principle of subsidiarity
  - Evidence-based intervention
  - Integrated approach to agricultural research for development
  - Sustainable innovation
  - Improved management of information and communication systems
  - Cost sharing amongst all stakeholders
  - Integrated gender approach
  - Coordinated and aligned financial investment
Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets

- Diverse and overlapping
- Each has implicit hypothesis and specific questions
- Different institutional arrangement required to achieve the CAADP target
- As innovation trajectory unfolds research needs to be embedded in the innovation process in different ways
- This is to reflect roles played by different elements and stakeholders
Conclusion

• The proposed 10 innovation narratives will strengthen role of agronomic research
• They will help stakeholders address problems and strengthen Africa’s capacity for innovation
• They will enable agriculture to be an engine for development in Africa
• Understanding when and under what circumstances narratives are relevant will make a major contribution to agricultural development
THANK YOU

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