



Brussels Policy Briefing no. 34

Farmer-driven research to improve food and nutrition security

14 November 2013, JDE 52 (Jacques Delors Building, 99, rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, 5th floor)

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

Organised by CTA, the EC/DECVO, the ACP Secretariat and Concord
in partnership with INSARD (Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development)

8h15-8h45 Registration

8h45-9h00 Introduction and Opening of the Briefing: *Isolina Boto, Manager, CTA Brussels Office*

Introductory remarks: *DG DEVCO, EC; ACP Secretariat; CTA, INSARD*

9h00-11h00 **Panel 1: Approaches and instruments for ARD to be more responsive to smallholders' needs**

This panel will provide an overview of the key concepts, challenges and opportunities for agricultural research and development (ARD) to respond to smallholders' needs and own initiatives. It will discuss what is needed to support participatory processes and enhance the capacities of farmers to innovate and develop appropriate systems of resource management to achieve food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment using indigenous knowledge and creativity. It highlights the need to move from an exclusive focus on farms and technologies to broader aspects of innovation systems – to include also markets, institutions, politics and policy matters. This requires new skills, new partnerships and new institutional configurations in ARD systems.

Chair: *H.E. Brave Ndisale, Ambassador of Malawi*

Panellists:

- Promoting participatory innovation systems for smallholder development
Prof. Neils Röling, Emeritus Professor, of Innovation and Communication Studies, University of Wageningen
- Knowledge transfer is a two-way street
Dyborn Chibonga, Chief Executive Officer, NASFAM, Malawi
- Farmer-to-farmer services to strengthen institutional development processes
Cees van Rij, Agriterra on behalf of AgriCord
- Local innovation support funds: experiences and lessons
Ann Waters-Bayer, Prolinnova, ETC Foundation, Netherlands

11h00-11h15 **Coffee Break**

11h15-13h00 **Panel 2: Lessons and successes in farmer-led agricultural research**

This panel will present concrete examples of farmer-driven ARD successes from the field, highlighting the lessons learned and good practices of partnership between smallholders and other actors in ARD.

Chair: *H.E. Frédéric Assomption Korsaga, Ambassador of Burkina Faso (tbc)*

Panellists:

- Lessons from joint learning about innovation systems in African agriculture
Anne Floquet, Joint Learning about Innovation Systems in African Agriculture (JOLISAA), Benin
- Promoting local innovation and participatory ARD: the role of women
Chris Macoloo, World Neighbors Regional Associate President for Africa, Kenya
- Quncho: the first popular tef variety in Ethiopia
Kebebew Assefa, Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center, Ethiopia
- Participatory technology development in support of artisanal palm oil production in Ghana
Charity Osei-Amponsah, Researcher, CoS-SIS Programme, Ghana
- Women and young farmers as innovators in community-driven agro-ecological ARD
Bern Guri, Executive Director, CIKOD, Ghana

Concluding remarks

13h00 **Lunch** (*Atrium 6 in 6th floor*)