Regional Symposium on Innovation in Agriculture

Rachid Serraj
Regional Initiative on Small Scale Family Farming
FAO Near East and North Africa Regional Office
Innovation: the simple meaning

Research turns money into ideas; Innovation turns ideas into money

A process that combines:
- Technological breakthroughs or inventions: creation of ideas from research, but also from other sources
- Technological artifacts: embodiment of technology and ideas in new products and services
- Using ideas for gain: actions, practices and conditions that allow ideas to be put into productive use.

Knowledge may be brand-new, but usually it is new combinations of existing knowledge

Andy Hall (CSIRO)
Broad categories of innovation

- **Technological innovation**: Farmers adopting a new crop variety, a new agronomic practice, or animal feeding regime

- **Organizational innovation**: Farmers work collectively to market produce

- **Institutional innovation**: Developing new partnerships with farmers and companies to deliver solutions that give income and profits
GETTING FROM FARM TO FORK: ROADS, DRONES AND DIGITAL HIGHWAYS

Digital highway to shorten supply chain. e.g. Alibaba invest US$1.6bn over 5 y to create Rural centres in 100,000 villages - two-way distribution infrastructure and help farmers sell directly to city dwellers, and connect to the system—obviating need for scale

Partnering along supply chains - business leaders and policymakers turning to partnerships to address broader value and supply chain issues. e.g. India Public-Private Partnership for Integrated Agricultural Development (PPPIAD)
Disruptive innovations

Disruptive futures & Promising technologies in agriculture in different scenarios

- Future of the (global) food system
- Technological trends
- Societal, Economic, Ecologic, Political and Demographic Trends
- Alternative future scenarios to be considered for decision-making
Outputs

1. a **Call for Action** to unlock potential of ag. innovation for family farmers to achieve the SDGs;

2. Identification of **priority intervention areas** where key stakeholders, can support countries to unlock the potential of innovation

3. Identification of **potential actions & strategies for scaling up successful innovations** to meet needs of family farmers

4. **Policy recommendations**
1. GROWING FOOD IMPOSSIBLE PLACES (hydroponics)
2. A-MAIZE-ING! (DTM)
3. OUTSMARTING THE WEATHER (CSV)
4. PEST CONTROL ON THE FLY (App 4 Desert Locust)
5. A FRUITFUL ECONOMY (medit. fruit fly)
6. WHAT’S IN A NAME? (label for high-quality mountain products)
7. FARMERS OF THE FUTURE (Kaydara Agroecological School Farm)
8. A GOOD SEED) (Allanblackia tree seeds supply chain)
9. FARMERS’ WINDFALL (grant + insurance scheme)
10. FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED (climate information services)
11. REFRAMING THE GREENHOUSE (low cost wooden GH)
12. INNOVATION IN THE ANDES (Shelters and mobile livestock pharmacies)
13. FULL OF BEANS (biofortification)
14. UP IN THE CLOUDS (VFM: an App-based e-commerce platform)
15. MENDING THE CHINK IN THE COFFEE CHAIN (blockchain)
16. A WALK IN THE PARK (IITA agribusiness incubator)
17. IN DEEP WATERS (Seaweed industry)
18. EARTH-FRIENDLY STAMP (Organic label in Burkina)
19. HACK FOR HARVESTS (smartphones & drones for pest control)
20. MORE FOR LESS (rice sector)
Since 2014: over 30,000 farmers & agribusinesses for innovations in sustainable agriculture.

7th edition March 2020: 7,000 food producers from MENA

Egypt's agritech startups & entrepreneurs

Ahmini, an application to protect Tunisian women farm workers

Should help 500k workers with less than 3$/d

VIVA TECHNOLOGY
May 16 – 18 2019, Paris
The world's rendezvous for startups & leaders

Innovation @ NENA

TUNISIE RESEAUX D’INNOVATION:
Technopoles, Pôles de compétitivité, centres techniques & institutions R&D

Egypt's agritech startups & entrepreneurs

http://www.go-green.ae

Masdar City
The NENA Regional Symposium: Agri-Food Systems Innovation for SDGs

The symposium will focus on three major themes:

A. Precision farming for dryland and desert agriculture
B. Innovation for youth employment in agri-food systems
C. AFS innovation for markets and value chains

Harnessing two broad categories of innovation:

i. Artificial intelligence, technological & digital innovation
ii. Organizational, policy, social & institutional innovation

Dates & Venue: January 20-23, 2020
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia