Assessing agricultural innovation & extension systems for evidence based policies and investment

Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar
Agricultural Extension Officer, Research and Extension Unit, FAO

ESEE meeting
Acireale, Italy, 18 June 2019
Unlocking potential to innovate in FAO member countries by strengthening their Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS):

- Advocacy and awareness raising;
- Policy advice and strengthening national institutions;
- Develop capacities of the national agricultural innovation and extension systems based on a critical assessment and analysis of existing situation and demand
- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes (e.g. policy dialogues)
- Development of guidelines, policy & technical briefs, methodological tools and case studies, etc.;
- Working together with global, regional, national partners such as GFRAS, CGAIR, AFAAS, FARA, TAP, CIRAD, etc.
Transforming the national AIS/EAS

1. Improved enabling environment:
   • evidence-based policies and investment *(assessment)*
   • governance
   • financial mechanisms

2. Enhanced capacities at:
   • enabling environment,
   • organization, and
   • individual levels

POLICY/STRATEGY

Governance

Capacity development

INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENTS

FAO Capacity Development Framework
AIS Assessment Guide: Why and for whom?

Assessment as a necessary precondition to strengthen AIS/EAS

Purpose:
... guide and support actors, national policy and decision makers and other interested stakeholders to develop and implement evidence-based policies, planning and to better target investments towards strengthening AIS/EAS.

The Purpose of...

- **assessment** is to **INCREASE** quality.
- **evaluation** is to **JUDGE** quality.

Too short and not enough leaves. C-
Typology of existing (blue) and potential (red) indicators

Specific

- Agricultural organisation membership
- Agricultural science graduates
- Vocational training graduates
- Government expenditure on agriculture
- Agricultural researchers
- Foreign aid for agricultural education/training
- Public spending on agricultural research
- Extension service providers
- Extension agents
- Credit to agriculture

Agricultural policy costs
- Fertiliser regulation
- Market regulation in agr.
- Seed regulation
- Access to finance in agr.
- Quality of university education in agr.
- Quality of vocational training in agr.
- Agr. research-extension collaboration
- Agr. research-policy collaboration
- Adoption of certification Standards in agr.
- Demand-orientation of extension
- Demand-orientation of agr. research

Static

- Primary school enrolment
- Health expenditures
- Foreign aid received
- Total tax rate
- Patent applications
- Scientific and technical journal articles
- Domestic credit to private sector
- Legal rights index
- Credit information index

Systemic

- Start-up procedures to register a business
- Time required to start a business
- Mobile phone subscriptions
- Gross capital formation
- Quality of the educational system
- Ease of accessing loans
- University-industry collaboration in R&D
- Quality of scientific research institutions

Generic
To date, many assessments would:
• Focus on public sector extension;
• Give limited attention to enabling environment;
• Treat AIS/EAS as a group of individual providers, not as a system with its interactions and governance;
• Neglect a broader AIS context;
• Be upward accountable (towards managers/donors) with limited client participation.

Methodologically, focus mostly on quantifiable data:
• Human resources;
• Number of products and services;
• Number of participants reached;
• Farmer-extension ratio;
• Percentage of public Investments;
• Etc.
What’s unique about FAO Guide?

AIS and EAS is much more complex than what numbers can present.

New FAO Guide:

• Offers a **flexible** methodology with a set of core principles;
• Starting point - **new functions** needed v.s. what is available;
• **Optimum ignorance** - need to know vs. nice to know;
• **System perspective** - looks at AIS/AES as a system with collective capacity, performance, governance with relationships among actors;
• **Relevance** - takes into consideration the “clients” perspective;
• Offers a range of practical **qualitative and quantitative** methods to capture the complex reality of the AIS and EAS system;
• **Quantifies qualitative information** to better inform policy and investment decisions.
✓ The assessment is a process and not a data collection exercise;
✓ Is participatory, nationally owned and led;
✓ Is an endogenous process. Collective energy, motivation and commitment of stakeholders to engage in the assessment are fundamental;
✓ Accountability by all key stakeholders engaged in the assessment is critical
✓ Sufficient resources (financial, human, equipment, stationery, etc.) are needed to allow a thorough assessment
✓ Regular consultation and feedback mechanisms (double learning loop) between assessment team and key stakeholders are fundamental.
Validation through country-level testing:
Ecuador, Peru, Liberia, Tunisia, Gambia, Uganda, Madagascar, Swaziland, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and India
Output: AIS&EAS Profile

A decision-support tool to prioritize smart investments to strengthen agricultural innovation system

- Quick, easy to read and to understand
- Gives an overview of the agricultural innovation system
- Sheds light on key facts, data and information on AIS.
- Help AIS stakeholders, policy and decision makers to better understand the situation of AIS
- Generate generic and specific entry points for responsible investments to strengthen AIS/AES
AGDR work on AEAS - country level

- Builds countries’ capacities to assess their national AEAS;
- Provides advice and policy support to design and implement an effective AEAS reform towards creating pluralistic, demand-driven and market orientated systems.

Ecuador
El Salvador
Peru
Gambia
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Tunisia
Ukraine
Azerbaijan
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
India
Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar
Research & Extension Unit, FAO
Delgermaa.Chuluunbaatar@fao.org