Investment in Agricultural Research for Development: What Role for Agroecology?

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Introduction

- Agricultural R&D investments across the African continent are currently inadequate and under-funded.

- Specialized research, focusing solely on increasing production, do not tackle the root causes of present interconnected challenges such as natural resources loss, marginalization of smallholder farmers or climate change.
Purpose of the Study

- “A4A – Advocacy for Agroecology” implemented by Biovision and IPES-Food
- **Goal**: Strengthen integrated and systemic research on agroecology by assessing the current situation of research investments for Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Three case studies** have been selected to cover various aspects of research investments and actors of the agricultural research systems
Content of the Study

**Political Economy**
- Why do they fund?
- What are barriers/opportunities for AE?

**Stakeholder-Mapping**
- Who funds AR4D?
- Who conducts AR4D?

**Case Studies**
- Switzerland
- BMGF
- Kenya
Key Questions:

- How much money and what proportion of the agricultural budget is currently invested in AgR4D targeting Sub-Saharan Africa that promotes agroecology?

- What are the obstacles and opportunities for securing greater investments in research into agroecological solutions?
Methodology

- Assessment of agriculture research projects:
  - assessment grid was developed to analyse how a particular research project/programme contributes to the various principles of agroecology.
  - based on the analytical framework by Gliessman on the 5 levels of food system change and the 10 elements of agroecology by FAO.
Methodology (Cont....)

Level 5: Rebuild the global food system so that it is sustainable and equitable for all

Level 4: Re-establish connections between growers and eaters, develop alternative food networks

Level 3: Redesign whole agro-ecosystems

Level 2: Substitute alternative practices and inputs

Level 1: Increase efficiency of industrial inputs

Level 0: No agroecological integration
Methodology (Cont....)

- **Political Economy analysis**: analyse decision making behind research investments

- **Political economy** focuses on:
  
  a. analysis of priority setting and decision making in investment flows in the AR4D system based on a political economy framework developed by Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

  b. conduct key informant interviews with various stakeholders to find out “what their position and leverages are regarding the strengthening of agroecological research”
Donors

OECD and other donor countries (Bilateral and multilateral funds)

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture
National Research Fund

Government

IGO's e.g. FAO, FARA
INGO's e.g. CGIAR, RUFORUM, VICRES

International Research & Development Organizations

Private Sector

Foundations e.g. Rockefeller

Private Sector

Research Institutes

KALRO
UNIVERSITIES e.g. JKUAT, UON

Stakeholder Map

Preliminary Results Kenya (Cont.)
**Preliminary Results Kenya**

**Donor side**
- Bilateral funding
  OECD countries: >15 mio$ (79 projects)

- Multilateral funding
  WB, GEF, EU: >10 mio$ (>30 projects)
  AfDB, IFAD: missing

- Private foundations
  BMGF: 15 mio$ (63 projects)

- National funding
  National Research Fund: 9.7 mio$ (77 projects)

**Recipient side**
- NARS
  KALRO: 31 Livestock projects + xx Crops projects

- Universities
  JKUAT: 25 projects

- International Organizations
  CABI: 22 projects

Period: 2015-2018
Preliminary Results Kenya (Cont.)

Bilateral contribution (OECD countries): 17mio$ / 83projects
Philantropic (Gates Foundation): 15mio$ / 63projects

Top Donors

Recipient types

Source: OECD dataset for 2015-2018
Preliminary Results Kenya (Cont.)

Distribution of funding per AE levels
(Total Budget: 38.65 mio$)

- 28.2 mio$ for L0 Conventional agriculture (73%)
- 2.1 mio$ for L1 Increase efficiency (6%)
- 3.4 mio$ for L2 Alternative practices (9%)
- 1.9 mio$ for L3 Redesign agroecosystem (5%)
- 1.8 mio$ for L4 Redesign food network (5%)
- 1.3 mio$ for L5 Sustainable and equitable food system (3%)
- 12.5 mio$ for Enabling or symptoms (17%)

Gliessman Levels of Food System Change
Main trends

- Small support to agroecological research from bilateral funders
  - Similar to UK aid and USDA (Pimbert et al. 2018; Delonge et al. 2016)

- Dependence from external donors for Agri research agenda

Growing contribution of private philanthropy to Agri Research for Development

- Decision-making process: institutional and ideological lock-ins
Next steps

- Finalize data collection from key stakeholders in Kenya and from the other case studies
- Conduct interviews with stakeholders to identify current blockages and windows for agroecological research
- Dissemination phase with key actors
Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?

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