

Workshop 1.3: Reaching the unreached

Convenor: Huub Kerckhoffs

Reaching distant rural Māori communities in New Zealand through successful research partnerships

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In New Zealand the efficient and sustainable utilisation of Māori land is increasingly seen as essential to promote economic and social development. Traditional agricultural extension techniques have proven largely inadequate. This has prompted increased efforts to develop new participatory approaches. This paper explores the lessons drawn from close to seven years of such work which has brought together both physical and social scientists and a large number of different Māori communities. Despite some success, this approach has challenged all parties involved. The result is the development of a new approach and principles for work with indigenous, marginalised communities

Out of comfort zones, into realities: Research for development with upland ethnic minority communities in North West Vietnam

Elske van de Fliert, Pham Thi Vuong, Do Thi Minh Hien, Pradip Thomas, and Oleg Nicetic

Centre for Communication and Social Change, School of Journalism and Communication, University of Queensland, Australia A scoping study conducted for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research concluded that development in the North West of Vietnam, which is largely inhabited by ethnic minority groups, is primarily restricted by (1) limited infrastructure restraining people from accessing inputs, information, services and markets, and (2) degrading agroecological conditions due to increased population pressure, unsustainable natural resource management practices and unavailability of suitable innovations. Research tackling these limitations needs to apply a systems approach, work closely with the communities, and be backed up by the establishment of effective services and the development of suitable, ethnicity-specific communication models.

Communication as an effective tool in Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) dissemination: Implications for the future

Abigail Orbunde

Corporate Extension Centre, University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria The subject of this study is on the economic assessment of Communication as an effective tool in Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) dissemination among the Farmers' Community Based-Organizations in Middle belt region of Nigeria. The study employs discrete dependent variable models to estimate communication based output function of AMIS in the region using cross sectional data in a given production season. Empirical evidence from the analyses shows that most variables considered proved to have significant influence on pattern of AMIS dissemination. The result suggests that communication by way of AMIS dissemination respond to relationship with its determinants. Implicitly, the paper posits the privatization of extension facilities subject to the "participative" forces of demand and supply.

Enhancing livelihoods from community forestry in Nepal: Can techno-bureaucratic behaviour allow innovation systems to work?

Kalpana Giri and Hemant R. Ojha

Forest Action Nepal

For three decades, Nepal's Community Forestry program has been guided by several participatory approaches (e.g. technology transfer, needs-based service delivery) to address livelihood needs and sustainable management of forest resources. While all these approaches tend to put the users in the frontline, a nuanced understanding of the interface amidst multiple actors and its effect on equitable forest governance is often poorly understood. Building upon the lessons of an ongoing project in Community Forestry Program of Nepal, this paper analyzes the context and challenges of using innovation system perspective and suggests further avenues that can promote equitable governance.

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