0103 - Scaling & Youth Employment

Summary

No matter what solution you develop, at some point you need to scale to achieve sustainable impact! We help you achieve this safely, quickly and cost-effectively.

The operational framework strengthens the agricultural innovation system by facilitating interaction between actors. It consists of a three phased process, a toolkit and enabling concepts. Key concepts are:

- **Proximity**: The framework operates on a network of centers for professional agricultural at district level that organize young professionals and rural youth for the provision of innovation services to farmer groups and farmers.
- **Service delivery**: An innovative service delivery business model ensures the effective involvement of local organizations and youth in the action. It guarantees a quality service at affordable costs. The key principle is - PAYMENT UPON DELIVERY
- **Vocational training**: The skills of the various actors are reinforced by complementary tools of professional training including technical guides, distance learning (e-learning) and coaching.
- **Knowledge management**: A state-of-the-art information system facilitates coordination, dialogue, complete process documentation and real-time tracking.

The simplicity of the solutions, the modular structure of the operational framework, the flexibility and the affordable costs contribute to sustainability and facilitate the adoption to cover large areas.
Results

Networking
- 21 Centers for Professional Agriculture
- 173 municipalities
- 1,521 groups with 24,146 producers
- 250 trained young service providers

Innovation
250 young service providers and 40 experts collaborate with 325 farmers’ groups to promote the adoption of innovative technologies

Returns on investment into innovations:
- rice 70%
- soybean 174%
- maize 9%

Business development of youth:
- sales + 63%
- employment + 98%

Business
- 132 agricultural innovation days
- 12,774 visitors
- 176 demonstration fields for soybean
- InfoPrix – Market Information Service
- Question and Answer Service 12302 beneficiaries
Problem

Low adoption of innovative technologies and poor prospects for young people

Overview

An operational framework for innovation and youth employment at large-scale

Strategy

Phase 1 - Networking

- Link actors and build trust
- Establish the baseline
- Develop innovation guides
- Define the modalities for monitoring and evaluation
- Configure the information system
- Develop training material

Phase 2 - Innovation

- Select and train young service providers
- Support producers in adopting promising technologies
- Document the entire process in real time
- Analyze the performance of technologies
- Formulate recommendations for research, extension, business and policy

Phase 3 - Business

Enterprise

- Promote the adoption of beneficial technologies
- Promote better resource management

Enabling environment

- Promote entrepreneurship to strengthen value chains
- Networking, advice and advocacy
- Management of the commons

Toolkit

Key concepts and instruments

1. Strategic and technical council to facilitate institutional integration and promote the sustainability of all the developed solutions.
2. The health service delivery system to engage local organizations and enable inter-institutional collaboration.
3. Innovation Fund for an on-site training, to enable the experience of success and for the development of the factor capital at target group level.
4. Broaden the skill sets of local communities by existing college graduates and out-of-school youth to develop their economic activities filling IC gaps.
5. State-of-the-art information system for effective networking collaboration, complete documentation and real-time monitoring.
6. In context capacity development through on-the-job vocational training.
7. Facility to access timely advice and assistance.

Accompanying measures

Advisory Services
- Analyze the performance of technologies
- Provide advice for improved targeting
- Identify business opportunities
- Assess investment risks
- Make recommendations
- Update the innovation guides
- Disseminate information products
- Question & Answer service and InfoPix
- Monitor key development indicators

Vocational training
- E-learning
- Face to Face
- Field Training
- Supervision
- Business Coaching
- Networking

A Service Delivery Model

that assures the execution of well-defined tasks

1. Service fund
2. Service definition
3. Organization of service providers
4. Service delivery at the target group level
5. Documentation of results
6. Controlling
7. Payments upon delivery

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Key results

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Workflow of the Information Exchange Service

Objective

Put in place a mechanism to disseminate innovative technologies to foster their development instead

- Innovation
- Training
- Advice
- Advocacy
- Management
- Partnership
- Services
- Awareness
- Information
- Networking
- Business
- Advocacy
- Management
- Partnership
- Services
- Awareness
- Information
- Networking
- Business

Key elements of a task of a service

- Govt.
- NGOs
- Private sector
- MNOs
- Other agencies
- Community
- Technical assistance
- Financiers
- Other government agencies

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Data gathering and verification

Objective
Gather and share high quality data for an improved understanding and decision making

I. What data are to be collected? Knowledge management Team

II. Elaborate data gathering and processing procedures Knowledge management Team

III. Training of service providers Training team

IV. Gathering field data Service providers

V. Data submission Service providers

VI. Data verification Service providers

I. People

Network of Actors
- Value chains actors
- Service providers
- Experts
- College and university graduates
- The APRIS team
- Partners

Information system

Objective
Provide an organized set of resources that collects, stores, processes and distributes information

V. Data bases - Storing and sharing of data

VI. Structure

IV. Procedures - Payment of service providers

Software
- Conference wiki: online platform for cooperation
- Technology database
- Modules: e-learning portal
- RIS: problems and their solutions
- KIT's mobile money tool for the payment of service providers

Hardware
- Browser: internet for several people (at agricultural centers and mobile operators)
- Cell phone: service provider and KIT's mobile money tool
- Printer: KIT Manager
- Digital camera: service provider (extension agents)
- Tablets: graduates from agricultural colleges
- SIM: corporate: free and unlimited call between members of the network
- Notebooks

Collect

Publish

Store

Analyse and evaluate

3 Software

2 Hardware

1 People

Ressources

5 Data bases

4 Procedures

Process
Some examples of agricultural production and transformation guides that we have developed

- Soyabean production guide: Master - Guide - Soja - Production.pdf
- Parboiled Rice production guide: Master - Guide - Riz étuvé.pdf

Development of a price information bulletin called "Bulletin Infoprix" that provides wholesale prices for five agricultural products in the main markets of 21 municipalities in Benin

- Bulletin InfoPrix: 2019-09-08 InfoPrix - AFRIS.pdf
- Blog InfoPrix: https://wiki.afris.org/blog/AGN

Development of a service called "Information Exchange Services" that aims to link farmers and researchers in a constructive information exchange to overcome production constraints. The specific objectives are to collect farm data for a better understanding of production systems, to document the expertise of national experts and to make solutions to common production constraints accessible.


Meet the team

During the indicated periods, one of the team members is available for a video chat.

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