

Farmer Research Networks

These principles are intended to align efforts to achieve the following aims:

- a) To increase the agency and capabilities of rural communities to engage in research and innovation processes, with spillover benefits for improved agency in general;
- b) To increase the collective capacity of the R+D system to gather, share and interpret observational and experimental data, and thus to build the evidence base for agro-ecological intensification (AEI);
- c) To support AEI of smallholder agriculture.

Guiding principles (light blue) and operational principles (white)
1. Farmers who represent the social and biophysical diversity of their communities participate in the whole research process.
1.1 Farmer groups set research priorities and influence the research agenda.
1.2 Farmer groups and organizations are engaged throughout the research process, from diagnosis, design, implementation, analysis, and communication.
1.3 Efforts are made to include resource-limited and otherwise marginalized groups.
2. Research is rigorous, democratized, and useful, providing practical benefits to farmers as well as insights on biophysical and social variation.
2.1 Research effectively addresses farmers' problems and opportunities.
2.2 Research is based on sound and appropriate designs and protocols, and involves participatory data management and analysis methods that can reveal patterns and suitable options across diverse agro-ecological and social contexts.
2.3 Research is informed by the knowledge and interest of those involved, as well as relevant insights from other sources.
3. Networks foster collaboration and opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing.
3.1 Networks foster genuine and authentic collaborative engagement.
3.2 Networks facilitate learning and knowledge sharing across farmer groups with similar agendas, interests, and constraints.
3.3 Networks engage in integrated monitoring, evaluation and planning to guide inquiry, innovation, inspiration, learning and sharing.