



Mapping Agricultural Policies and Innovations

Deliverable No.: 5.1 Policies and Institutions

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Objective: To map agricultural policies and institutions related to diffusion and establishment of agricultural innovations in the six InnovAfrica case countries and propose possible adjustments in policies and institutional arrangements.

Understanding the challenges

In general, agricultural policies and institutional arrangements such as public or private services are currently not sufficiently conducive for diffusion and establishment of agricultural innovations. There are substantial variations among the six African countries, however, the general findings were: (i) Insufficient capability to implement policy, (ii) Profitability in agriculture is low and risk is high, (iii) Limited access to markets and financial services, (iv) Smallholders are poorly organized, and (v) Capacity and quality of extension and advisory services are poor

Malabo Declaration: Regarding suggestions for possible adjustments in policies and institutional arrangements, the *Mapping agriculture policies and institutions* report align itself with the *African Union Malabo Declaration* recommendations (AU 2018), which emphasizes areas such as increasing productivity in agriculture, improving access of men and women smallholders to financial and agricultural advisory services, more funds to the agricultural sector to meet the CAADP target of 10 percent, enhance resilience to climate related risks, facilitate and promote intra-regional African trade in agricultural commodities, and improve child nutrition.

Innovations: In InnovAfrica, extension and advisory service innovations such as *village knowledge centres*, *farmer participatory research teams*, *farmer-to-farmer-extension* and *integrated farm planning* play important roles. There is a fundamental challenge that extension and advisory service do not have the capacity to better cover the large number of men and women smallholders in Africa. Different kinds of partnership and cost-effective ways of strengthening EAS are of great importance for technological innovations to be scaled up. At policy level, more attention should be given to ensure that smart solutions such as ICT are explored to strengthen EAS. However, if the frame conditions for agricultural development are not conducive e.g., in relation to affordable inputs, it will be difficult for EAS to achieve successful impact.

Seed systems: Findings regarding use of seeds indicate that formal seed supply systems play a major role for a few crops such as maize and soybean, but even for these crops a large share of the seeds planted are local varieties and/or obtained through informal seed systems. For most of the crops the latter is the norm. While there is clearly a potential for improving access to improved varieties with a high yield potential through strengthening formal seed delivery systems, it is also necessary to ensure that informal seed systems have the legal space to operate in parallel with formal systems. There is great potential for integrating formal and informal elements through farmer group production of seeds that can be sold with Quality Declared Seed (QDS) labelling.

Women and youth: Since women and youth are the main targets of InnovAfrica innovations, WP5 integrate the findings from WP1 to make sure that special attention is given to these two groups when it comes to agricultural policy and institutions in relation to the low engagement of youth in agriculture and the situation for women farmers regarding discrimination, high total workload and limited access to production resources and services.

Up-scaling: For all the six countries, successful up-scaling of InnovAfrica innovations will, to a large degree, depend upon conducive policy frame conditions and enabling environments that promote

agricultural development, food and nutrition security. Since all the country teams were involved in writing the task 5.1 report, interdisciplinary capacity was developed in the field of linking InnovAfrica innovations with frame conditions of importance for successful up-scaling. At Multi Actor Platform (MAP) meetings, the findings from the mapping agriculture policies and institutions are discussed in relation to successful diffusion and establishment of agricultural innovations towards sustainable agriculture and enhanced food and nutrition security in Africa.

Country specific recommendations

Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop human capacity by focusing on modern and participatory extension and advisory services including gender-sensitive approaches. • Consider value chain approach to service provision rather than focusing merely on increasing productivity; strengthening the linkage among different stakeholders.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the fodder grass <i>Brachiaria</i> has a promising potential in Kenya, there is a need for better institutional arrangement for delivery of seed/vegetative material as well as more efficient ways of harvesting the grass and addressing water demands. • To further motivate extension personnel, they should be involved in both input and output rather than concentrating only on assessment of inputs invested in agricultural production
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low profitability in farming needs to be addressed. For example, better targeting of the farm input subsidy program (FISP) in favour of smallholders could be one way of assisting poor smallholders to afford inputs. Alternatively, realistic ways of increasing productivity without use of external inputs and without increasing the workload of women could be developed and promoted
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the fodder grass <i>Brachiaria</i> to be successfully scaled-up, there is a need to address the perceived low milk prices as well as better institutional arrangement for delivery of seed/vegetative material, more efficient ways of harvesting the grass and addressing the water demands when cultivating the grass
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallholder farmers need to be more directly involved in the development, validation and selection of the best SAI systems and on policy development for widespread adoption of the most promising SAI systems. Integrated farm planning (PIP) could be one way of facilitating such approaches • More demand-driven research and extension services are needed, promoting action-based and farmer-led research processes, including participatory on-farm trials, research-station based research and inclusion of both smallholder farmers and extension practitioners.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy needs to address this unpredictability in prices and markets to reduce risks faced by the farmers and to demonstrate towards farmers that it is worth the efforts investing in agriculture. In the focus group discussions, there was a clear plea for improved market access and more market power to farmers and it was voiced: <i>Do not demoralize farmers by telling them to grow something without a stable market.</i>

References

Haug et al., 2018: Mapping agriculture policies and institutions (D5.1)
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