Leaving No Farmer Behind: Enhancing Equity, Access and Use of Data for Sustainable Production

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1. How can farmers benefit from data?

Data to a farmer answers the 5Ws:

- What to produce (Commodities),
- When to produce (Seasonality),
- which way to produce (Technology),
- where to produce (Agro-ecological aspects) and for
- who (Consumers)?

2. Enhancing farmer participation in data Production

- Farmer feed back mechanisms.
- Accuracy and reliability of data collected enhances Farmer trust and participation
- Nature and quality of data outcomes; policies and decisions made.
- Timeliness of action taken using the findings
- Sensitization prior to data collection activities
- Incentives or no incentives?
- Translation of findings in various local languages and widely disseminate

3a. Equity in access of Information?

No Equity in access of information; the rich Corporate Farmers Vs. the Small ones (subsistence farmers).

- More investment in structures that enable more access and use of research findings by the rich than poor farmers.
- Limited internet connectivity, radio and Television network coverage.
- Limited ICT literacy; Ability to use ICT equipment and navigate the internet
- Cost of internet discourages the subsistence farmers
- Language barriers; reports are predominantly in single languages (official)
- Small scale farmers mostly depend on traditional knowledge while corporate use scientific knowledge from research.
- Not all data is free

3b. Enhancing farmer access to and use of Data

- Investing in farmer feed back and interface mechanisms .
- Create Agricultural data Open access platforms.
- Innovation in dissemination: Data visualition e.g. graphs, charts, diagrams etc.)
- Establish/Strengthen Farmer groups.
- Technology and innovation; Agricultural Apps for data sharing.
- Increased awareness and sensitization about relevance of data in Agricultural production and marketing.

4. Maximization of data innovations for farmers

Roles of the Public sector, academia, Private sectors and Farmer's Organizations

- Capacity building
- Awareness creation about the innovations to increase adoption.
- Increased funding and technical support for research
- Enhance collaborations between institutions in the data ecosystem.
- Integration of the innovations into the academic curricula.
- Integrate the innovations in methodologies by data producers to enhance comparability.
- Enhance data utilization

5. Recommendations

- Establishing/strengthening lower level Community information systems to enhance lower level information sharing and access

- Translated versions of statistics findings

- Enhance number and capacity of information sharing access points; extension workers, farmer groups, Agro-input dealers, resource centres, Apps etc.

- Innovation for more affordable and user friendly technologies like soil testing kits.

- More investment in generating small area estimates for lower level decision making

- Statistical literacy widely promoted up to lower level; Farmer groups

Leaving no one behind, Yes We Can.

Thank You