

# Farmer Participatory Technology Development

Its development framework,  
objectives and approaches

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# Targets of Agri Research and development

- Increase productivity
- Sustain productivity
- Solve production bottlenecks
- Increase farmers' incomes
- Improve rural and country's economy
- Improve the quality of lives

# Final objectives

- Human Development
- Poverty Reduction

# What is poverty

- At the material level: low income and basic needs are not met, lack of access and control of production assets, low quality of life
- At the social, political and cultural level: powerlessness, dependency and lack of self confidence, lack of critical thinking, adoption of the oppressors image (what is known as the “culture of poverty”)

# Culture of poverty, imp characteristics

- The failure of the poor to critically understand the external and structural reasons of poverty
- Failure to understand their own contribution to their poverty

# Objectives of the Farmer Participatory Technology Development

- To solve technological problems in agricultural production
- To provide learning and empowering platform for small farmers
- To assist farmers address other problems and constraints in improving their lives

# As learning platform

- Strengthen problem-solving capacity and skills to identify and understand problems and opportunities
- To generate and manage knowledge for their own use
- To identify options and risks in decision making
- Enhance confidence
- Strengthen critical thinking of society and themselves (self consciousness)
- Enhance capacity to experiment, test & adapt principles, guidelines and practices

# Empowerment platform

- To empower through knowledge
- To facilitate collective action and experiences
- Strengthen community cohesion and organization
- Help resolve conflicts
- Address external problems (policy and institutional reforms)



# As centers of learning and empowerment

- Knowledge & technology: from end users to active research partners adapting new science and technology for their interests
- Socio-economic & political: from powerlessness and “boxed” under unjust societies to building their own socio-economic & political structures to critically address forces and institutions
- Internal human domain: from culture of poverty to changed mind-sets, values, critical thinking and confidence as empowered individuals and communities

# Educational Principles

- Learning is a result of experience
- What is important is decided and discovered by the learner. Teaching only assists people to explore and discover
- The learner is the source of knowledge
- Collective approaches and learning is empowering and improve self worth
- Learning is evolutionary, free & open communication, confrontation, acceptance, respect and right to make mistakes
- Each persons experience is unique. As they learn and solve problems, they change and improve themselves

# Basic Learning methodologies

- Experiential
- Motivation to learn is both intellectual and emotional
- Problems identified by farmers, & farmers make own analyses, discover / develop potential solutions
- Aware of local social stratification
- Appropriate research and learning tools to facilitate use and learning
- Adapted to farmers' production systems

# Maintain linkage to science

- Demystification
- Adaptation
- Respect of other sources of knowledge
- Needed for policy and institutional changes

# Shift in extension paradigm

- From technology transfer to participatory technology development
- Farmers as partners in research
- Using farmers fields as important research sites
- Farmers move from assisting in observing research of others to conducting their own