

Tacking Research to Scale & Impact

J.J. Mbonigaba Muhinda

Rwanda Agriculture Board

Bon apres-midi a tout le monde et j'espere que vous êtes encore reveillé en cette fin d'une longue et intense journée.

- . Expressing my gratitude to organizers { IDRC & FANRPAN} for the opportunity given to me to speak during this High-level Policy Dialogue on Research to Feed Africa and share experiences on a few things that I think work or are working in terms of taking research to scale & development Impact,
- I. Consultations that took place with various stakeholders during the formulation of the A4P under the Leadership of FARA (which is a guiding tool that has been developed to address challenges of the CAADP Pillar 4 on Agricultural Research, Technology dissemination and Adoption) showed that Institutional, issues have been hampering the progress of the agriculture sector. Issues such as capacity weaknesses, insufficient end user and private sector involvement, and ineffective farmer support systems were persistent in most of Africa's agricultural programs and institutions.
- II. It has been cleared established that to achieve the objectives of CAADP Pillar 4 requires significant changes In approaches through making a paradigm shift away from a *principal technological package approach* to a truly integrated agricultural research approach and to ensure that researchers (national and international) work together with smallholder farmers, extension agencies, the private sector and NGOs, LOC.GOV to have impact on the ground.
- III. Regarding policy, agricultural institutional and services delivery reforms, there are things that I think have worked in Rwanda and that are contributing to tacking research to scale and development impact:
 - 1. For the last decade Rwanda has successfully developed and implemented its SPAT (2003 – 2008, 2008 – 2012 & 2013 – 2018). Under the current SPAT3, one of the major pillar focuses on Research and Technology Transfer, Advisory Services and Professionalization of Farmers. This component has been properly costed and captured in the current ASIP, under CAADP compact 2 that was concluded last June this year.
 - 2. With reference to CAADP Pillar 4 that I just mentioned, from the last three years, the country took a policy decision of integrating research and extension services into one single institution (case of Rwanda Agriculture Board) in order to be accountable for both research, technology transfer and capacity building to farmers as one single body. On my view it's a risk that has to be taken in order to shift from the classic approach of research feeding extension and extension to farmers, towards the so called Triangular participatory approach.

Currently research and extension programs are responsible for the chain development from technology generation, transfer and feedback.

3. In terms of participatory service delivery and empowerment of end-users/other value chain partners, under CIP and LIX and inputs subsidy policy that we have been implementing for the last 6 years, the involvement of private proximity extension and inputs delivery service providers has made substantial progress (private companies, NGOs, Universities, agro-processors, etc.) Additionally, through the FF5 program that we have been implementing for the last couple of years, farmer participation to empower farmers and foster a knowledge intensive sector has worked very well (2500 FF5 Fac, 5000 FFS Groups & 100,000 HH/farmers reached so far). The FF5 is a concrete example of an approach that take innovation to thousands of farmers and therefore make impact in terms of improving rural. HH's income and create employment. FF5 being a season long and intensive on-field and integrated learning process (researchers, Ext & farmers) farmers are able to become sufficiently skilled to find solutions to their own problems. Some FF5 facilitators today are being organized into cooperative companies and are capable of offering paid advisory services to farmer's groups/organizations. By this approach farmer organizations become progressively market – oriented and knowledge intensive. Its one way on unlocking smallholder's potential.
4. My last message that I have picked to give today in terms of showing what is working, is to do with the crop bio-fortification program, especially high – yielding and iron-rich beans varieties. This program has demonstrated that strong integration and partnership can take research to scale and make it work for the poor. Hon Minister Adenisa has recalled this morning that on that front, Africa is at least leading. I want to add-on that in Africa Rwanda is leading. I would like to recognize the great partnership with other organizations like Harvest Plus, CIAT, AGRA and ASARECA in developing this program.