

Participatory Technology Development in the Context of Integrated Natural Resource Management

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ABSTRACT

Technological change tends to occur as a non-linear process, driven by needs that derive from the lack of sustainability of current resource use systems. Technology that was adapted to one setting may provide inspiration for similar local adaptation elsewhere, but the risks and pitfalls of 'scaling up' farmer-developed technologies are not essentially different from those for 'researcher-initiated' technologies. Current focus in the international agricultural research arena is shifting from commodities and technologies to a broader view on integrated natural resource management (INRM). INRM involves multiple scales and multiple stakeholders, and often leads to a strong policy or institutional focus, as the way local institutions can adapt and respond to new challenges underlies many aspects of poverty that do remain in this new millennium.

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