

Side-Event Concept Note

Agricultural innovation system (AIS) assessment guidelines: fit for purpose

13 May 2019, from 18:00-20:00; Gembloux, Belgium

Venue will be announced later.

1. Aims

The side-event aims to:

- a. Raise awareness and solicit inputs and support to further refine and improve (fit for purpose) the draft guideline for assessment of national agricultural innovation systems (AIS);
- b. Discuss the potential of having/designing/producing an AIS country profile as a decision-support tool for guiding strategic investments in AIS;
- c. Articulate a shared vision and rally institutional support for the further development, testing and implementation of the AIS assessment toolkit / guideline at country level.

2. Background

The development of a guideline for AIS assessment is a first response to the recommendation of the 25th Session of FAO's Committee on Agriculture¹ to assist member countries in undertaking a comprehensive diagnosis of their national agricultural innovation system, in order to support the development of a national agricultural innovation strategy. Meeting the growing global demand for food in a context of changing climate, conflicts, crises and natural disasters and structural socio-economic change while protecting and preserving the natural resource base, requires major transformation of agri-food systems. A holistic, inclusive and system approach is needed, and must be/should be deployed at an unprecedented speed and scale. An agricultural innovation systems (AIS) approach is increasingly acknowledged as key to improving the economic, environmental and social performance of the agri-food sector. However, accurate, reliable and timely data and information vital to effective decision-making on the national AIS is hardly available. FAO and CIRAD joined forces in 2018, under the framework of the EU-funded CDAIS and working in consultation with experts drawn from national, regional and international organizations including TAP, to develop the guideline for assessing national AIS.

3. Structure

The side-event will be an open and interactive event fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange between participants. It will feature a brief overview of the AIS assessment guideline followed by a first round of questions and answers. A group discussion will follow to review the assessment protocol and make practical suggestions to improve its three components: a) structural assessment, b) functional assessment and c) the enabling environment. It shall conclude with an interactive plenary presentation of group recommendations.

4. Agenda

Welcome and opening remarks

Presentation of the draft assessment guideline

Interactive discussion

Breakout groups' discussion

Interactive plenary presentation of group recommendations

Concluding remarks and way forward

End

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr949e.pdf>