

Multi Actor Approach: A Key Device for Speeding up Innovation

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Abstract: The socio-economic and environmental dynamics affecting agriculture and rural development (demand of global markets, quality and safety problems, provision of public goods, urban-rural relationships, climate changes, etc.) require an open and responsive system for generating innovation, based on user-centric and multiactor approaches. These approaches focus on cross-fertilisation of different types of knowledge (scientific, technical, organisational, practical) and involvement of potential users in knowledge sharing and development of innovations, which is beneficial for the construction of ownership and, consequently, for their implementation.

In terms of policy designs and arrangements, the concept of co-creation of innovation calls for a shift from research policies to innovation policies, which emphasize the role of governments in preparing the ground for specific context innovations driven by farmers, through supporting the establishment of networks and multiactor partnership.

According to Horizon 2020, the European Commission fosters trans-disciplinary and multi-actorial interrelations between enterprises, research and education, through research and innovation actions and thematic networks, with the aim of encouraging new integrated and sustainable development models.

Particularly, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) seeks to speed up EU research and innovation in agriculture and rural areas by linking policies, instruments and actors through an interactive innovation approach undertaken by operational groups.

The Round Table addresses practical issues pertaining to how multiactor approaches work under different policy frameworks and respective delivery systems; their added value, the extent to which such approaches enable effective interactive innovations and bridge the gap among AKIS actors.