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Local innovation platforms: How do they play out in different basins and what are the key research questions?

**ALAN DUNCAN, KEES SWAANS, ANDRE VAN ROOYEN, HUBERT SOME, EVA LUDI,
JOSEPHINE TUCKER AND ALEMAYEHU BELAY**

International Livestock Research Institute

a.duncan@cgiar.org

Session: L2I, Share Fair, Africa platform

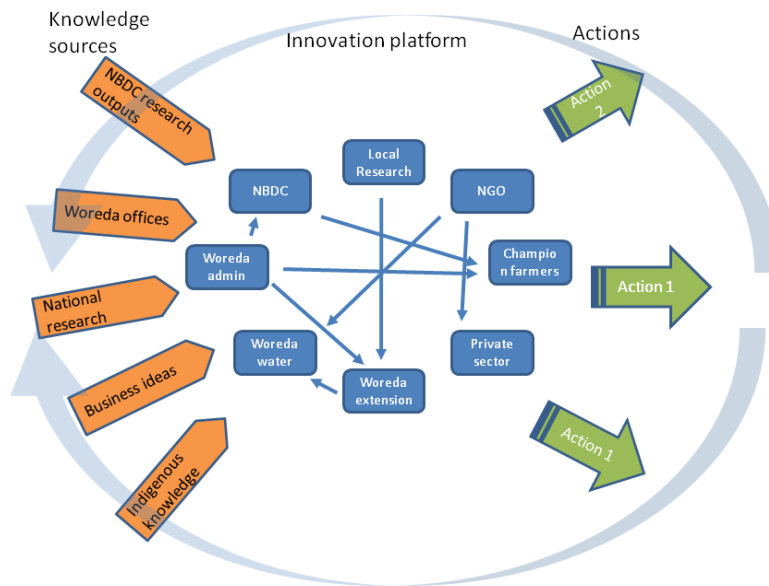
Key Message

Local innovation platforms are a promising mechanism for fostering rural change by catalysing knowledge exchange among key actors and stimulating joint action for enhanced land and water management. But designs vary across contexts, and so far there is only limited understanding of what works best under what conditions.

Summary

Innovation platforms are increasingly used as a mechanism to stimulate interaction between various stakeholders to enhance innovation processes. These platforms have some similarities, but their design varies across contexts. For example, across CPWF basins, innovation platforms in the Limpopo BDC are relatively large local platforms focused on market and value chains. The Volta BDC instead intends to establish relatively small district level platforms around crop and livestock value chains for areas with good opportunities to access to water versus water constrained areas. In the Nile basin, the focus is more on district level platforms with a focus on both NRM and value chains in three different districts. In this session we will look at the design of local innovation platforms in different basins and the underlying

motives/reasons for variation. The similarities and differences in design may provide new insight and scope for cross-basin research questions and will help to develop a common research agenda across several CPWF basins. Looking at different models of stakeholder engagement across different basin contexts will provide the opportunity to advance CPWF thinking on the utility of innovation platforms and will help to sketch out a coherent research agenda across different basins.



INNOVATION PLATFORMS