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## Trajectories of Agricultural Innovations in the Limpopo River Basin and their Impacts on Rural Livelihoods and Implications for Policy

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**Session: Basin [Limpopo] and Learning to Innovate, Research to Policy**

### Key Message

All interventions must be cognizant that rural livelihoods in the Limpopo basin are not solely dependent on agriculture, and that institutional arrangements more than anything else determine the success of innovation platforms.

## Summary

The study focuses on how and to what extent agricultural innovations that are introduced in rural communities shape access and control of resources by farmers of different socio-economic status by examining the multiple ways these impact on rural livelihoods, and what this means for national and regional policies. Biographies of different innovation platforms are being studied in terms of their conception, implementation and the emerging outcomes, and how they are influenced by local practices (such as livelihoods strategies and institutional formations) and the national and regional context. It is hoped that this will lead to an understanding of what innovation means to different actors and how different innovation platforms come into existence and are sustained. Preliminary findings show that innovation platforms, or any interventions that are promoted for that matter, are shaped by meanings that are attached by the various actors and stand a chance of succeeding if they are based on

understanding of local livelihood strategies, and institutional arrangements more than anything else determine the success of innovation platforms.