

Harnessing innovation platforms for sustainable intensification R4D experiences from Kongwa and Kiteto, Tanzania

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Key messages

- System interventions such as sustainable intensification require engagement of research and development partners to prioritize, guide and evaluate R4D processes through multi-stakeholders engagement.
- In Kongwa and Kiteto Innovation Platforms (IP), a multi-stakeholders mechanism has been used to improve effectiveness of technology integration and to elucidate contexts (R4D entry points, draw lessons and partnership opportunities) of R4D.
- The IP has also been used to engage policy institutions at district level to build support for scaling up of tested innovations and new research areas.

Objectives and approach

Purpose: To engage multi-stakeholders from Kongwa and Kiteto in dialogue and networking for the design, conduct and delivery of Africa RISING R4D.

Approach: The IP has been established at district level, with village level participation guided by the following principles.

1. A system wide approach that engages diverse stakeholders to jointly identify problems, device solutions, implement R4D and evaluate progress and outcomes.
2. Support demand-driven research in collectively identified focal areas.
3. Engage stakeholders at rural community and district councils to secure ownership and support for research and scaling out.

Annually, review and planning meetings are held with multi-stakeholders. In 2016 strategic meetings with District councils of Kongwa and Kiteto were held to inform and secure support for research and scaling out efforts.

Key results

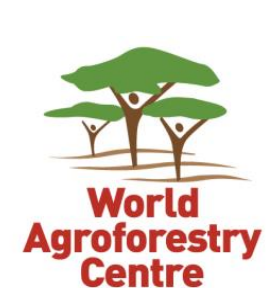
The platform has been operational for three years with the following key results:

1. **Research prioritization:** Using the IP, the Africa RISING team in Kongwa & Kiteto has refined R4D focus areas and built partnerships for implementation (Table 1).
2. **Engagement in research:** The IPs have been used to mobilize communities for research including variety selection and field experiments for crop, poultry, livestock and environment research.
3. **Engagement with policy:** In 2016, we engaged the district councils of Kongwa and Kiteto to secure their support for roll-out of tested innovations. This process:
 - Delineated roles and opportunities for improving access to technologies and knowledge by: (1) District Councils (district to Village levels); (2) District Agriculture and Livestock Offices; (3) Farmers and or their organizations and (4) Researchers.
 - Confirmed focus areas for further research and technology roll-out with informal seed systems, landscape level promotion of land and water management innovations, Knowledge management among others identified.

Significance and scaling potential

Through the IP both community and policy institutions have been engaged to support Africa RISING research outcomes and impact delivery. Pilot scaling studies are under way in 2017 in both districts.

Partners



Crops		Ratings	
Research area	Total scores	Rank	
Drought and water stress under unreliable rains	25	1	
Management of pest and diseases	22	2	
Improving access to knowledge and adoption	9	4	
Improving availability of agricultural inputs	15	3	
Improving access to good agricultural practices	9	4	
Improving access to markets	1	5	
Livestock			
Research area	Total scores	Rank	
Poor pastures and grazing lands	19	1	
Limited access to veterinary support and extension services	18	2	
Endemic livestock pests and disease	18	2	
Land conflicts between farmers and animal keepers	9	3	
Limited access to improved breeds of improved livestock	8	3	

Table 1: Innovation platform prioritized R4D action areas for improving crop and livestock production in Kongwa and Kiteto districts of Tanzania.



Photo A: Platform members engaged in field research activities, February 2015, Photo credit- Patrick Okori.



Photo B: Kongwa District Council Chair leads discussions on engagement entry points for Africa Rising innovations September 2016. Photo credit- Patrick Okori.

We thank farmers and local partners in Africa RISING sites for their contributions to this research. We also acknowledge the support of all donors which globally support the work of the CGIAR centers and their partners through their contributions to the [CGIAR system](#)



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