

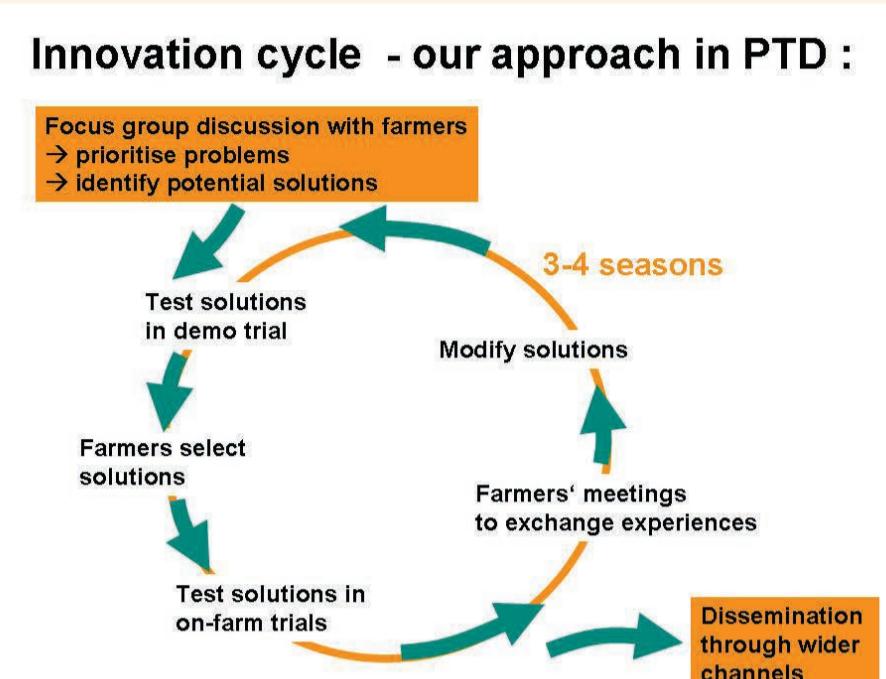
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Overview

Overall objective: Enhanced know-how on advantages and limitations of different agricultural production systems in three tropical countries contributes to sustainable agriculture.

Project component “Participatory technology development (PTD)”:

Research new locally-adapted technology innovations for major organic production systems and provide them for dissemination



Approaches and Results

1. Participatory identification of current practices, local knowledge and associated problems (focus group discussions, surveys)
 2. On-station (mother) trial, smaller on-farm (baby) trials
 3. After identification of most promising technologies:
 - Increase number of on-farm trials
 - Dissemination of information → leaflets, newsletters

Methodological Questions

How to:

- overcome obstacles related to cultural diversity (e.g. avoid smallholders thinking of us as saviors)?
 - integrate knowledge from different disciplines?
 - publish results for impact on different levels (farmers, policy, NGOs)?
 - find realistic options for implementation by farmers?



Discussion

How do we work in this field:

- How to identify problems, what are appropriate questions and methods?
 - Where and in which form to publish in order to have impact?
 - How do we deal with cultural barriers?

References

Forster, D., Adamtey, N., Messmer, M.M., Pfiffner, L., Baker, B., Huber, B., Niggli, U. (2012): Organic Agriculture – Driving Innovations in Crop Research. In: Agricultural Sustainability - Progress and Prospects in Crop Research. Bhullar, G., Bhullar, N. (eds.). pp 21-46. Elsevier

Forster, D., Schneider, M., Cobo, J.G., Zundel, C. (2011). What is the contribution of organic agriculture to sustainable development? Long-term farming systems comparisons in the tropics. Project document, FiBL, Frick, Switzerland.