

15th Triennial ISTRC Symposium

Session X: Participatory technology development information and innovation

Friday, 6 November 2009

Summary of Comments and Concepts

Moderators: R. Mwanga and M. McEwan

The session included concepts related to innovation systems, capacity building partnership, and participatory research.

O. Ortiz introduced the evolution of theories and approaches about innovation, which provided background for the rest of the morning.

W. Nelles discussed the possibility of using school books or other educational tools to disseminate information about technological options to school children.

C. Loech presented an applied case study using schools to disseminate information about OFSP and nutrition-related information, showing that when a combined approach providing technical and nutritional information is used, children learn better.

M. McEwan described on-going work related to partnership, presenting a good theoretical review on the subject and how those principles could be applied in a case study with a project implemented in Kenya and Uganda.

R. Mwanga described how participatory variety principles can be applied to select sweetpotato cultivars and the challenges involved.

S. Kuoko presented a case of assessing sweetpotato cultivars taking farmers' views into consideration.

Discussion in the different presentations included aspects such as how to define innovation in a better way, how to use the potential of rural schools as centers for information dissemination, how to strengthen partnerships with diverse organizations and how to conduct PR in a more efficient way. The audience raised many challenging questions and the presenters responded very well. The discussions had to be cut short, indicating that the session was interesting and useful to the participants.