POLICY BRIEF

Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies and Approaches Using Travelling Seminar as a Method and Tool in Nepal

KEY MESSAGE

- In Nepal, scaling-up of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) technologies and approaches, beyond the pilot project sites, has been a major challenge for government and non-government organizations involved in environmental and development fields.
- The "travelling seminar", conceptualised by LI-BIRD and CCAFS, appears to be an appropriate method and tool to promote and facilitate the adoption of CSA technologies across Nepal.
- The initial experience of using travelling seminars in the LIBIRD/CCAFS pilot field sites shows that for scaling purposes, it is important to design and target both elected leaders and government officials who hold key decision-making positions and control resources.
- Also important is the need to focus on both technical and social dimensions of scaling CSA. For example, in addition to "what or which" CSA technologies, some social and communication skills on "how" to go about scaling a CSA technologies would further help the participants to make a case to their governments.
- Some CSA technologies are simpler and require relatively little effort and resource to scale-up. Whereas some other technologies, such as solar powered irrigation system and harvesting and lifting seepage water from underneath the riverbed in the Chure and Bhaber region etc, are more complicated and their scaling-up demand for substantial additional technical, financial, material and organizational support, especially when they involve multiple households or groups of households.
- Finally, as with the projects designed for specific research and testing new ideas, the scaling-up of the tested technologies would also need specific projects with secured finance and other resources.

Introduction

In Nepal, scaling-up of proven CSA technologies and approaches beyond pilot sites has been a major challenge for government and non-government organizations involved in environmental and development fields. This "policy brief" uses the LI-BIRD/ CCAFS experience of "travelling seminar" designed and targeted for elected leaders, especially women leaders, with specific objective of scaling the use of proven CSA technologies, beyond the pilot sites. The "brief" also uses the findings of an impact assessment study to suggest how the future travelling seminars might be further improved.

Scaling Problems and Issues

Most projects have specific geographical areas and time of three to four years for field implementation of project activities. In such short period, the concerned projects are required to test and demonstrate new ideas, document experiences and lessons learned, and then share the information with the relevant government organizations responsible for supporting the projects and other stakeholders.

Project resources (finance, human, institutional etc) are strictly used within the project geographical area, and for activities that are specified in project documents. Such projects usually have specific budget allocated for producing reports and publicity material to share with concerned

stakeholders and the general public. They also tend to set aside some fund to support workshop at the end of the project term to share project results with the concerned stakeholders.

Apart from such communication activities, there is hardly any provision of budget and other resources to support scaling project results. Organizations, interested to take up project results, are expected to use their own resources. However, most organizations, especially government agencies, lack the necessary resources to include scaling activities into their regular programmes; consequently, most technologies (or information) generated by various research and development projects remain confined to pilot sites.

LI-BIRD/ CCAFS Travelling Seminars

LI-BIRD/ CCAFS travelling seminar is designed with the main objective of scaling CSA beyond pilot sites and targeted for the elected leaders, especially women leaders, who are in positions with access to government policymaking platforms. The travelling seminar is characterized by its emphasis and focus on;

- The CSA technologies that have already been tested, and are ready for scaling-up;
- The sharing and learning about the technologies through direct observations and interactions with the users and beneficiaries;
- The spending seminar time both in-house and in the fields, mostly in places where the CSA technologies are actually being applied; and more importantly,
- The provision of resources (finance, human, institutional & material) secured to use specifically for purposes of scaling the CSA technologies.

With such focused approach and secured resources, the travelling seminars have been reasonably effective in meeting the scaling objectives – i.e. in raising the participants' awareness and knowledge of the CSA technologies and approaches, and enabling them to use seminar learning for influencing their government's decisions for climate and gender sensitive agriculture programme.

Lessons from the Travelling Seminar Impact Assessment

An assessment of the travelling seminar impact showed that, in addition to the above aspects, future seminars should consider the following areas for improvement and make them more effective:

- Selection of seminar participants should be done more strategically. In addition to selecting randomly few elected women leaders, some other people - especially those holding key decision-making positions should also be targeted – as they also need to be aware of the climate and gender related agricultural issues, and of the availability of the CSA technologies. These people include, but are not limited to, the government's ministers and secretaries, municipality's mayors and executive officers, as well as representatives of the national and provincial policy and planning commissions.
- Given the difficulty faced by participants in applying seminar learning to convince their governments, the future seminars should consider some social and communication skills. Seminar participants would benefit from knowledge/skills on how they could use seminar learning for lobbying and building alliances with important people, and how to use the knowledge to make their case to their governments.
- As with the projects designed for research and testing new ideas, the scaling-up of the tested CSA technologies beyond pilot sites should also have specific projects with secured finance, human, material and institutional resources. Some technologies are simple and require less effort, resource and action for scaling. However, some other CSA technologies such as solar powered irrigation system, watershed protection measures, harvesting and lifting seepage water from underneath the riverbeds in Chure and Bhaber regions etc, are more complicated, and their scaling demand for substantial additional inputs in terms of technical, financial, material and organizational support, especially when they involve multiple households or groups of households.

References

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