



Barriers to Networking the Agricultural Innovation System in Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

E.M. El-Shafie; Z.H. Magd; Z.H. El-Sharief; A.M. Diab

Abstract:

This research aimed at determining barriers that face development of linkages within the Agricultural Innovation System in Sinai Peninsula (AISSP) and suggestions to networking that system. In order to achieve the above objectives, an empirical study targeted 220 respondents were conducted on the 10 main actors of the system in Sinai Peninsula, these actors are Policy making units, Research stations, Secondary Agric. Education, Higher Agricultural Education, Agricultural Extension organization, Private Consultants, Farmers & Producers, Agricultural Credit banks, Agricultural Private Sector, and NGOs. Samples of 16, 16, 23, 21, 33, 6, 35, 16, 29, and 25 respondents were selected to represent these actors respectively. Data were collected during the period from November-2011 to February-2012 through personal interviews with respondents using a questionnaire form. Frequencies, percentages, means, modes, standard deviations, and relative weights were used for data processing and presentation. Results of the study could be summarized as follows: There are several barriers faced sub-systems of AISSP, barriers related to policy such as Lack of appropriate sources of finance, excessive organizational fragmentation; barriers faced research system includes Multiplicity of type and dependency of research institutions; barriers faced agricultural education includes lack of finance limited physical resources unclear agricultural education policy; barriers faces Agric. Extension Organization includes organizational rigidities and long administrative procedures, weak cooperation with private & international organizations; more risky of agriculture, poor access to knowledge about new varieties, fragmentation of farm size were barriers faces farmers; complexity & long administrative procedures and highly interest ratio of agricultural loans are barriers that face agric. Credit.; barriers faces agric. private sector are poor communications with decision makers, long quality-control procedures; lack of financial capacities of FOs, decline of agricultural cooperatives' role are barriers faced NGOs. In addition to barriers such as poor of transportation infrastructure, lack of knowledge and information about agricultural innovations, and misunderstanding aims of linkages between actors. Suggestions to Networking AISSP: involve all stakeholders in all agriculture-related activities, formulate a national AIS policy, use activities for coordination including co-publishing, co-trainings & co-seminars, establish coordination unit in extension organization, establish AIS unit, and appointment an agent for every organization in other organizations are the highest frequent suggestion for networking AISSP.

Keywords:

Agricultural Innovation System, Extension, Barriers, Networking, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

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