

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT



Farmer First Revisited Innovation for Agricultural Research and Development

Edited by Ian Scoones and John Thompson
with a Foreword by Robert Chambers

Agriculture is an urgent priority worldwide and farmers in the developing world find themselves in the front line of some of the world's most pressing issues – climate change, globalization and food security. The problem with the agricultural research and extension which is meant to support these farmers is that it is often delivered in a linear, top-down fashion which is inappropriate to their social, physical and economic needs. Twenty years ago, the Farmer First workshop at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, started from this premise, and launched a movement to encourage farmer participation in agricultural research and extension so as to find better solutions to farmers' needs.

Since that time methodological, institutional and policy experiments have unfolded around the world – all aimed at putting farmers first. *Farmer First Revisited* presents accounts of such experiments which were brought by delegates to a workshop in December 2007 and which include successes and failures and the lessons that have been learned.

Agricultural innovation now takes place less within national public-sector research organizations and more in diversified public-private systems. This book asks: how do farmers engage in these public and private systems? In the context of increasingly globalized and complex agricultural supply chains, how do farmers take part in the policy processes defining access to markets, and in agricultural research and development?

Farmer First Revisited should be read by students, policy makers, agricultural scientists and social scientists aiming to bring the concerns of grassroots farmers to the fore.

'Farmer First Revisited is a powerful testament to the impact of the Farmer First approach. From an almost subversive critical movement that challenged the prevailing linear science-driven paradigm, Farmer First has won broad acceptance by rigorously proving its superior efficiency in making science work for the poorest and most marginal farmers...'

Joachim Voss, Independent Consultant, formerly Director General, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Colombia

'A brilliant account of why we need to continue questioning conventional assumptions about agriculture, and why multiple knowledges and sources of innovation are more important than ever.'

Judi Wakhungu, Executive Director, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya and co-chair International Assessment of Agricultural Science, Knowledge and Technology for Development

'Twenty years on and the concept and practice of Farmer First remain powerful and compelling and even more relevant in today's world.'

Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser, UK DFID and Professor of International Development, Imperial College, University of London

FARMER FIRST REVISITED

Innovation for
Agricultural Research and Development

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Foreword by Robert Chambers
Part I: Revisiting Farmer First
Part II: Systems of innovation
Farmer participatory research
and adaptive management
Engaging with markets and
the private sector
Part III: The politics of demand
and organizational change
Farmers' organizations
Networks and partnerships
Large public R&D
organizations
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networks
Rethinking agricultural
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