

Reference Links –etc.

- https://research4agrinnoation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Kenya_InnovationStudy.pdf, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258518012_Makini_FW_Kamau_GK_et_al_2013
- Operational Field Guide for Developing and Managing Local Agricultural Innovation Platforms KARI,ACIAR,AusAID Nairobi
- KALRO E-mimea website ,



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AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PLATFORM





Introduction

The gap between crop production and consumption in Kenya has continued to widen. Despite the diverse research and extension efforts, uptake has remained low owing to the linear top-down approach besides other reasons. The approaches have mostly been focusing on technical innovations and ignoring social and institutional issues that are necessary for technology uptake and scaling. Agricultural Innovation Platforms formed around an agricultural a value chain problem help to provide a solution to this shortcoming.

What is an AIP?

An agricultural innovation platform (AIP) is a forum established to facilitate interaction and negotiation of relevant stakeholders to identify, learn, reflect and source solutions to agricultural problems and opportunities. The stakeholders perform different but complementary roles in the development, scaling and adoption of knowledge for socio-economic benefit.

Why form an AIP?

An AIP provides a level field for stakeholders who provide a mix of skills and abilities to address any agricultural challenges at any node of the value chain. Every stakeholder is considered to have something unique to contribute and to benefit making it in a win-win collaborative mechanism. The end results are technological, institutional, or social-organizational arrangement.

Scope of AIP

AIPs can be at local, regional level or national levels. Local level platforms are at community (village or ward) level and are operational in nature and escalate issues to regional platforms. Regional and National platforms are umbrella bodies that are strategic in nature and address issues arising from the local or regional levels. The AIP can be value-chain, thematic or geographically based and can be formal or informal in character, but must always possess clear ground rules to guide its operations.

How to form AIP

There are four phases in AIP formation, which are Initiation, Establishment, Management and Sustainability. Each of the stages involve different stakeholders with roles that change from interest to collaboration and finally to ownership and support.

