



**Fostering complementarities
between traditional and scientific knowledge:
Agricultural researchers' perceptions**

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1. Background

- Piece of a wide project
- Knowledge combination (scientific and traditional) for sustainable innovation
- To reinforce dialogue
- Need to know reactions and perceptions of different actors along supply chain
- One end: agricultural researchers in public institutions dedicated mostly to agricultural commodities

2. Objective

To provide insights about

agricultural researchers' perceptions and motivations

towards their own activities as well as farmers' activities,

in order to generate knowledge for sound strategies

to foster dialogue between both groups and enhance

innovation

3. Sample and methodology

- 156 agricultural researchers
at public institutions (national and regional)
dealing with agricultural commodities
- Data analysed through PCA

4. Agricultural researchers' perceptions about farmers' knowledge and information sources

- Perceptions about farmers' knowledge
 - ✓ know how (5,9/9): only for local areas (78%)
 - ✓ farmers demand solutions for specific problems (7)
 - ✓ farmers consider poorly research centres (6,2/9)
 - ✓ mainly based on experience (7,9/9)
 - ✓ formal training (6,5/9) and tradition (6,3/9)
 - ✓ only 5% have formal training

4. Agricultural researchers' perceptions about farmers' knowledge and information sources

- Perceptions about farmers' information sources
 - ✓ technicians of cooperatives (7.3/9)
 - ✓ peer learning (6.8/9)
 - ✓ On the other end:
 - internet (5.6)
 - university (5.1)
 - scientific journals (3.9)

4. Agricultural researchers' perceptions about farmers' knowledge and information sources

- Associations between farmers' knowledge and information sources

Two main components:

33% variance:

formal training related to university, research centres and technical sector journals

14% variance:

intuition and traditional training knowledge related to information from peer learning and agricultural commercials

5. Researchers' perceptions and drivers for carrying out dissemination activities

- Researchers devote 23% of their time to dissemination activities
- Best interaction and communication channels:
 - ✓ informative workshops (7.6/9)
 - ✓ multiactor research and innovation projects (7.5/9)
 - ✓ personal channels preferred over internet
- Researchers' drivers to participate in dissemination activities
 - ✓ offer solutions for agricultural problems (8.3/9)
 - ✓ to do something useful (7.7/9)

5. Researchers' perceptions and drivers for carrying out dissemination activities

- Researchers' profiles and dissemination activities

41% variance:

scientific career focused researchers

preoccupied by funding, professional recognition, prestige

16% variance:

sector focused researchers preoccupied by

offering solutions to concrete problems or being useful

6. Researchers' perception about farmers and innovation

- 34% of researchers recognise that results are not transferred to the sector
- Researchers demand opportunities to meet with the agricultural sector, improve communication between researchers and farmers, and
- defining common research objectives

7. Implications

- **Researchers' direct dialogue with traditional farmers is difficult because their information sources are peer learning and agricultural commercials**
- **With trained farmers is easier**
- **One strategy is to find complementarities ways between scientific and experimental knowledge**
- **Support researchers' motivations**
- **Professional recognition for researchers focused on scientific careers and sectoral problems**

7. Implications

- Researchers recognise to spend one quarter of their time on dissemination activities and they believe that involvement should be since the beginning on research projects ready to solve problems
- There is a confrontation between believes and key elements for their careers: financing, prestige and recognition
- Promote real collaboration to enhance innovation
- Communication strategies with technical advisers (cooperatives and others)

Muchas gracias