



INNOVATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

in Agriculture and Food

International Symposium

June 28 to July 1, 2010 - Montpellier, France

Facing the crisis and growing uncertainties, can science and societies reinvent agricultural and food systems to achieve sustainability?

Call for papers

The world is changing rapidly. At a time of increasing global threats including climate change, the scarcity or degradation of resources, and population growth, the current economic crisis has triggered unpredictable short-term consequences, such as the aggravation of poverty, contracting export markets, and the tightening of credit and development funds. However, in the long term, the crisis may offer new opportunities, such as reducing the use of fossil fuels, moving towards more climate friendly types of production, encouraging regional integration and cooperation between science and societies. In this global context, agriculture and the food sector face an uncertain future, especially in some regions of the globe, and technical and political choices could play a determining role in ensuring the welfare of rural populations and avoiding social exclusion and environmental degradation.

The crisis has led to a situation of rupture, questioning realities that were formerly taken for granted. It has revealed the vulnerability of systems and the need for innovation. How can we anticipate better and develop our capacity for resilience? In uncertain times, when values and norms are changing, our societies need to be creative and to reinvent innovation systems with a view to the long term. Some agro-food systems have already demonstrated their ability to take sustainability into account: agro-ecology, organic farming, local food initiatives, indigenous or participatory plant breeding, agro-forestry, integrated resource management, green biotechnologies, or the use of renewable and biomass energy. While it is obviously important to capitalize on this experience, a new global paradigm is also required. Renewing systems does not only mean defining new solutions, but changing innovation processes and models by creating new bonds between research and society.

Following the 1993 international symposium organised by CIRAD, INRA and ORSTOM on “Innovation and Societies: What kinds of agriculture? What kinds of innovation?”, we would like to review changes in the way research contributes to innovation. Today, agriculture is not questioned for itself, but for its interactions with the environment and with society as a whole. The focus has moved from local situations to global challenges. And stakeholders are now widely accepted as an integral part of innovation processes. What these changes imply for research is a question that needs to be addressed collectively. This is why we invite researchers from all disciplines, as well as stakeholders and policy makers from Northern and Southern countries to seize this opportunity to reflect together on future choices, to make new concrete proposals for research agendas and for political action, and to discuss how innovations systems can better achieve sustainability.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 15, 2009. Abstracts will be selected according to their relevance in answering the hot topics listed hereafter.



Hot Topics

1. Innovating to link production and conservation: how to feed the world population and protect the planet at the same time?

What new production systems can be promoted to ensure sustainable agriculture in different regional contexts? Can agroecology and natural resource management systems reconcile production and conservation? What can be the contribution of new techniques such as green biotechnologies, genetics, and varietal selection? What arrangements, policies and integrative actions between social and economic organizations can favour the link between conservation and production? Do we need a new paradigm to orient our agricultural systems?

2. Questioning social equity: how can innovation reduce the fragility of poor populations and make them members of a sustainable society?

How can innovations help fight regional and social exclusion (social responsibility, resource sharing, access to land and credit, new exchanges, and rural policies)? How can public policies, regulatory frameworks and international agreements affect social justice in the creation and diffusion of innovation? How can sustainable innovation systems (in production, finance, and markets) be promoted for pro-poor development? How can innovation systems be made 'culturally sustainable', i.e. respect and enhance cultural identities? How is it possible to measure the social inequity generated by innovation?

3. Learning and being creative: how can different types of knowledge be combined to create innovation?

Given the need to alleviate poverty, hunger, malnutrition and to mitigate climate change, what can be the role of local and community-based knowledge in the construction of sustainable development? How to create innovation by involving different actors, distributed knowledge and competences? How to encourage dialogue and knowledge production among different frameworks and cultures (ICTs, information systems, training, participative projects, etc.)? Does the Knowledge Society paradigm leave room for acknowledgement of local knowledge?

4. Acting collectively: what kinds of institutions, policies, and forms of governance can strengthen society's capacity for resilience?

How can governance of innovation systems change to take sustainable development into account? What are the roles of consumers, standards and certification? How can we improve multi-actor innovation processes that include public and private stakeholders, and citizens, including farmers and women, at a territorial level? What policies could better enhance sustainable development?

5. Renewing research models and practices: how can research better fulfil its responsibilities to elaborate innovating solutions in collaboration with society?

In what ways does innovation for sustainable development require specific research positions and approaches (participatory approaches, involvement of stakeholders, interdisciplinarity)? How should research practices and organisations change to enable them to produce innovations for sustainable development and to evaluate them? What new forms of acknowledgement (legal, institutional) will encourage research, especially in Southern countries? What type of partnerships should be developed to encourage new forms of research cooperation between countries?

Objectives of the Symposium

To discuss how innovation systems can help achieve sustainability, we wish to bring together people from different communities and hopefully go beyond the usual confrontations to make a global review of the current situation.

To facilitate these exchanges, the symposium will be organised in such a way as to:

- Encourage dialogue between researchers from **Northern and Southern countries**,
- Develop linkages between **life sciences, technical sciences and social sciences**,
- Create an **interface between science and society** to get different actors involved in the scientific debate.

The symposium thus intends to provide an arena to reflect upon future choices, design appropriate scientific agendas, and help renew actions and policies.

Target public

Researchers from institutions in Northern and Southern countries and from a wide variety of disciplines including: agronomy, biology, genetics, animal sciences, food processing, sociology, anthropology, economics, management, geography, land planning, ergonomics, modelling, engineering sciences, educational sciences, political sciences.

To widen the scientific debate, we also invite stakeholders from all horizons: professional organisations, advisory and support services, development institutions, policy makers, etc.

Organisation

To encourage exchange and debate, the symposium will include different sessions:

- Key note lectures: Recognized personalities will present their views on the different hot topics in plenary sessions.
- Round table sessions: For each hot topic, key stakeholders will share their practices and reflections on the challenges research is currently facing.
- Parallel working sessions: a dozen thematic workshops will enable discussion on specific issues around the hot topics.

The working sessions will take place from June 28 – 30, 2010. On July 1, a field trip will be organized to enable discussions to continue through concrete examples.

Working languages will be **English, French, and Spanish**. Simultaneous translation will be available during all plenary sessions.

Side events

On Friday July 2, side events may be organized by institutions or networks who wish to continue particular discussions or hold their annual meeting. We will provide all the logistical support required for these side events.

Thematic workshops

Different workshops will be organised with a thematic or regional focus, and will combine several working sessions during the three day period to discuss hot topics. The topics of the workshops will be defined depending on the papers that are selected.

The five hot topics will be at the intersection of many fields of application: **farming systems, plant breeding, management of natural resources, food chains and firms, urbanization and agriculture, social innovations for rural development, innovation policies, knowledge in societies, etc.** Contributions in any of these fields are welcome.

Innovation is also geopolitical and we are currently witnessing the increasing development of networks for action and reflection on innovation. The regional dimension of innovation will be analyzed in special sessions focused on five main regions: **Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia, the Mediterranean, and Europe.** We welcome papers that present a global overview of the outlook in these regions around which regional debates can be structured.

Expected contributions and selection

As this is an international scientific symposium, the scientific quality of papers is a precondition. Nonetheless, we would like to encourage presentations based on exchange, especially **interdisciplinary papers** crossing life sciences and social sciences, and **papers involving researchers and stakeholders.** Two-voice presentations are welcome.

Reflections in all disciplines are welcome, including agronomy, biology, genetics, animal sciences, food processing, sociology, anthropology, economics, management, geography, land planning, ergonomics, modelling, engineering sciences, educational sciences, political sciences.

Papers can discuss theoretical and methodological aspects or present case studies as a basis for reflection.

All abstracts will be reviewed by an international panel formed by members of the scientific committee. **Abstracts will be selected according to their relevance to one or more of the hot topics.** To avoid limiting the time for oral presentations and to leave as much time as possible for real debate and exchange, the scientific committee will invite authors to submit either papers or posters. Posters will be included in workshop discussions. Both abstracts of papers and posters will appear in the book of abstracts. The conference archives with full papers and posters will be published on a CD-Rom and posted on-line.

Diffusion and impacts

For each workshop, agreements will be engaged to publish special issues in international journals (English-, French- and Spanish-language journals). Authors are encouraged to produce papers of the usual quality standards so that they can be submitted for publication in these reviews.

A special book will also be published to present a global view of issues dealing with innovation and sustainable development, including key note lectures and the syntheses of round tables and parallel workshops.

We will invite representatives of the general press as well as of professional reviews dealing with political issues or with advisory and support services. The results of the symposium will also be used in training workshops and research schools to feed reflection on research methods and practices in Northern and Southern countries.

Submitting an abstract

Submission will be open from July 1 to September 15, 2009. To submit an abstract, please follow the instructions available on the website:

http://www.isda2010.net/to_participate/submit_an_abstract

Guidelines for abstracts

Important notice: Abstracts that are not formatted according to our guidelines will not be considered for selection.

Abstracts must all be submitted in English. Full papers can be written in English, French or Spanish.

The abstract (2 pages, not more than 1000 words) should be clear as a stand-alone statement, and should be organized as follows:

- Title
- Author's name and affiliation
- 5 key words
- Hot topic(s) that is (are) addressed
- Objective of the paper
- Originality and main contribution
- Method
- Results

Paper: Times New Roman 12 should be used, single spaced with 2.5 cm margins on all sides.

Full papers will be limited to 10 pages. Guidelines for full papers will be provided to authors once their abstracts have been selected.

Deadlines

15 September 2009: Deadline for abstract submission

15 September-15 November 2009: Review process by the scientific committee

1 December 2009: Notification to authors

31 March 2010: Deadline for early-bird registration

31 May 2010: Deadline for full papers

15 June 2010: Participants will have free access to papers posted on Internet

Scientific Committee

Chair: B. Hubert (Gip IFRAI, France)

F. Aggeri (ENSMP, France)
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D. Requier Desjardins (IEP Toulouse, France)
P. A. Seck (ADRAO, Bénin)
R. Teulier (CNRS, France)

Local Organising Committee

Chair: Hubert Devautour
Project Manager: Emilie Coudel

Scientific organisation: M. Antona (CIRAD), E. Chia (INRA), D. Desclaux (INRA), G. Faure (CIRAD), P. Gasselin (INRA), P. Maizi (SupAgro), B. Prevost (UM3), C. Poncet (UM1), C. Soulard (INRA), L Temple (CIRAD), L. Temri (UM1), JM Touzard (INRA), B. Triomphe (CIRAD), E. Valette (CIRAD)

Logistic organisation and communication: M-F. Chazalotte (CIRAD), S. Le Blaye (INRA), C. Rollin (CIRAD), Délégation à la Communication (CIRAD), Délégation aux Systèmes d'Information (CIRAD)

With the contribution of:



Contact

Emilie Coudel
UMR Innovation (CIRAD-INRA-Montpellier SupAgro)
Bat 27, Campus de la Gaillarde, 2 place Viala
34060 Montpellier cedex 1 - France
e-mail: isda2010@supagro.inra.fr

