Wednesday Session B: Inventory, Analysis and Prioritisation of Research Needs for Policy Development by Sub-sector

VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM B, MILLENNIA

This priority setting methods was developed from methods used by other organizations like CSIRO, ACIAR, FAO, etc. The purpose is simply to develop research priorities, and determine strategic directions in the sub-sectors of agriculture (crops and livestock), and forestry for the Pacific sub-region.

Steps in Priority Setting

Some of the countries will give presentations; all should be filling the research and extension questionnaires sent out to the countries. There will also be concurrent sessions

- Emerging Roles and Needs of Private Sector and Producer Associations in REAS
- Role of academia in strengthening REAS
- Role of IKM and Social Media in strengthening capacity of agricultural REAS for better impact
- Strengthening REAS through Effective Partnerships
- Livestock REAS Needs and Priorities
- Priority REAS for Forestry

From all these issues will be distilled and participants will prioritize.

1. Deciding areas of research opportunity for each sector
2. Assessment criteria
3. Potential Impact
    - Potential benefit
    - Adoption likelihood
4. Feasibility
    - Scientific potential
    - Research capacity

Potential Benefits

The potential benefits can be in terms of extent of economic and social impact, extent of environmental impact and enhancement of research capacity. This will refer to research problems/ issues to be addressed, size and scope of the problem /or opportunity to be addressed, and nature of benefits arising. These benefits may or may not necessarily be independent and mutually exclusive, and need to be considered in assessing benefits and impact of possible research. Contribution of research innovation to development may be:

1. increased production/expanded production
2. increased productivity of resources/inputs
3. Reduced cost per unit of output
4. Increased cash income
5. increased employment and utilization of resources/inputs
6. Improved sustainability/reduced degradation of resources, and

7. Assured food security/improved nutrition/reduced risk

Adoption Likelihood

This will cover probable users of likely research outputs and services, past performances in adopting similar results, and major impediments and inducements to uptake outputs. Specific points to be covered are appropriateness of technology, uptake events and directness of impact, capacity to use/adapt and deliver, capacity of extension and other service providers, and impediments/incentives to uptake. Some of the strengths and opportunities assessed earlier may become inducement for adoption, while some of the weaknesses and threats may become impediments to adoption.

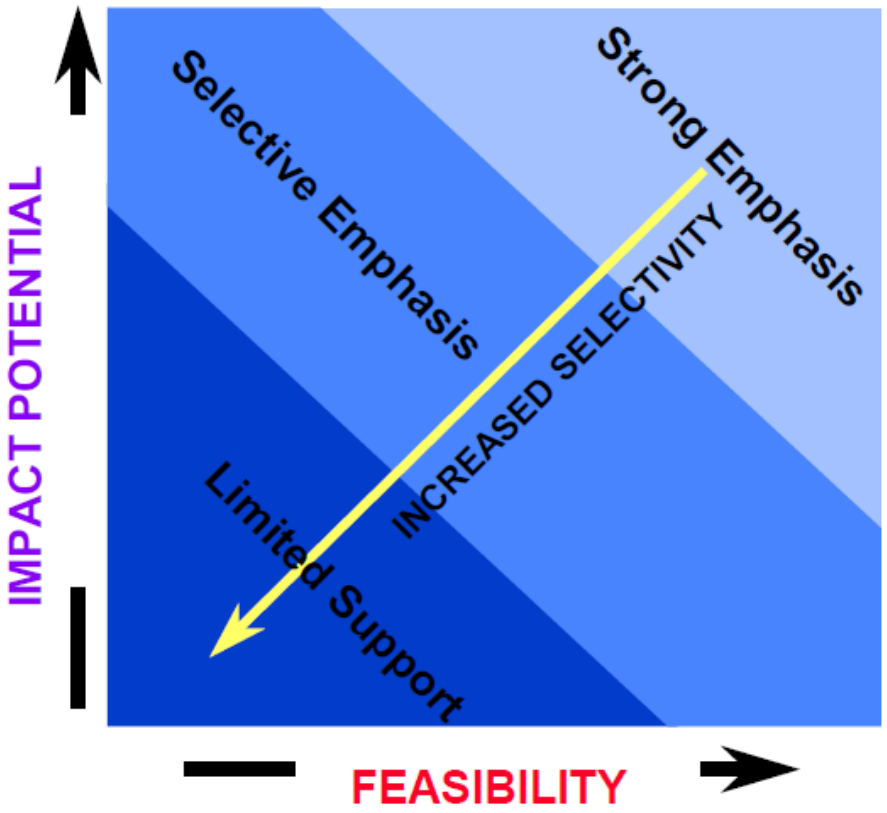
Scientific Potential

This can consider the availability of tools and techniques/ scientific advances, existence and availability of relevant disciplines/networks not only in the country but also in the Pacific sub-region, and probability of success in achieving research results, and time to produce research outputs.

Research Capacity

This accounts for and reflects the research/technical skills/quality and breadth of skills, critical mass of efforts, financial support and feasibility and quality of research infrastructure and support. This should take into account capacity and ability of organizations, networks and collaborative arrangements that are/or may be involved in the country or, to an extent, in the sub-region.

A diagram like below will be used to evaluate the research issues.


IMPACT POTENTIAL
Selective Emphasis
Strong Emphasis
INCREASED SELECTIVITY
Limited Support
FEASIBILITY