

Conceptualizing integrative, farmer participatory research for sustainable agriculture: From opportunities to impact

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ABSTRACT

This paper offers a conceptual model for participatory research projects that aim to improve the sustainability of agriculture and natural resource management. The purpose of the model is to provide a systematic framework that can guide the design of participatory research projects, their analysis, and the documentation of results. In the model, conceptual boundaries are drawn between research and development, development and extension and between extension and implementation. Objectives, activities, and actors associated with each of these realms need to be carefully selected, monitored, and evaluated throughout the course of a project using well-designed indicators. The depth of disciplinary and methodological integration, and quality of participation needed to reach the desired impact effectively and efficiently, however, needs to be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the context and issues surrounding each particular project.

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