



Effects of mapped agriculture policies and institutions

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Objectives: To i) identify the expected effects of mapped agricultural policies given the institutional environment and the local barriers (physical, technical, environmental, administrative); ii) map institutions in promoting the adoption of innovative sustainable agriculture intensification (SAI) practices; and iii) estimate the role played by the extension and advisory services (EASs) in innovation adoption under the policy context in the case countries.

Introduction

Increasing smallholders' productivity is expected to enhance food security in Africa. A paradigm shift towards SAI and innovation is required. Creating an enabling institutional environment will accelerate agricultural change. This task looks at the role played by institutions and policies in supporting the development of SAI systems by small-scale farmers in the cereal-legume and livestock feed (*Brachiaria* fodder) sub-sectors within the case-studies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania.

Methodology

The following steps and/or approaches were used:

Step 1: producing intervention logic diagrams (Figure 1) to identify national/local general/sectoral policies, governmental/private/pluralistic institutions and farm-/value chain-level barriers in the implementation of SAI systems.

Step 2: building Venn diagrams (Figure 2) to visualize formal institutions involved in extension agricultural services, and assess their weight and their sectoral/intersectoral links.

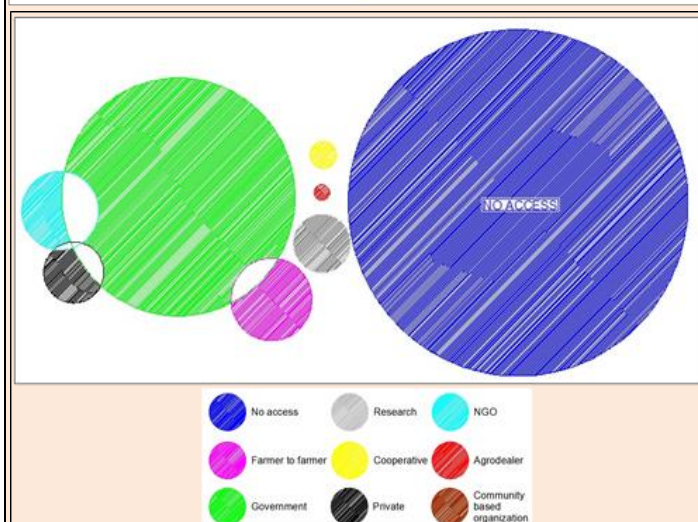
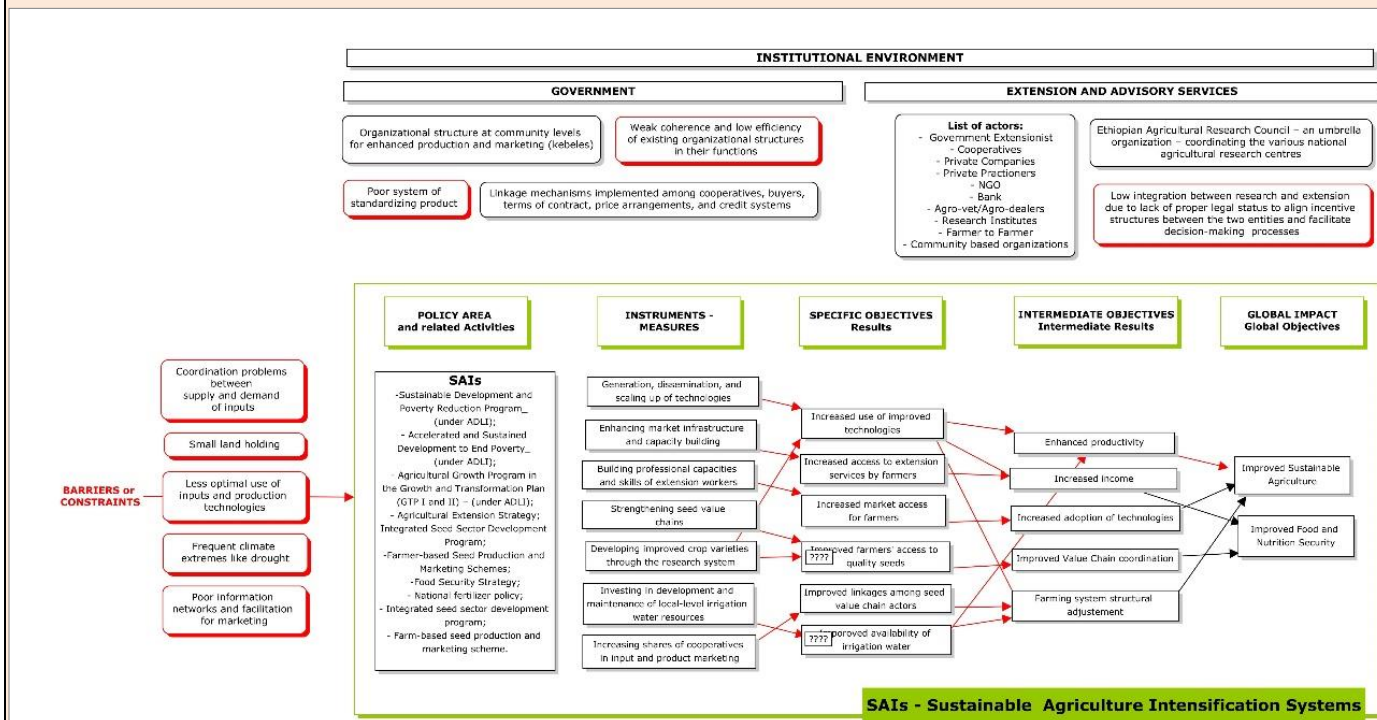
Step 3: conducting econometric analysis to estimate the effect of households' socio-economic characteristics, extension services, policy context, value chain actors to adopt the sustainable agricultural practices.

Main findings

Pluralistic EASs exist in the six case countries, with different degree of engagement by private firms, third sector and research institutions. For example:

- In Ethiopia, extension services are mainly provided by government agencies which benefit of relatively high public expenditure and innovation diffusion effectiveness.
- In Malawi and Kenya, knowledge dissemination is conducted through private firms, non-governmental organizations and farmer-to-farmer actions which support interventions from the public sector.
- In Rwanda, a relevant role in information dissemination is played by governmental research institutions.
- In Tanzania, farmers have relatively higher asset levels and would probably be able to pay for the extension services. There would be space for private sector to provide such services.
- In South Africa, innovation dissemination relies mostly on the farmer-to-farmer approach.

Figure 1: An example of intervention logic diagram



Results of the econometric model show:

1. Extension services system is a crucial link between innovators and farmers;
2. Collective action represents a suitable way to transfer knowledge of innovations within the communities
3. Access to stable markets provides incentives and profitability for investments
4. To larger public agriculture investments correspond higher innovation levels

Figure 2: An example of Venn diagram

Summary

Current sectoral policies and institutional arrangements in the case countries are not sufficiently conducive for the diffusion and establishment of agricultural innovations mainly due to:

- Poor knowledge and organizational capacity and limited resources of EASs;
- Ineffective policy implementation;
- Limited organizational structures for the smallholders; and
- Minimal access to markets and financial services in rural areas

References and links

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