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Title

Legume management: From process to market-led research

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Abstract (198 words)

The paradigm of involving farmers in research is based on strong evidence that enhancing farmers technical skills and research capabilities, and involving them as decision-makers in the technology development process results in innovations that are more responsive to their priorities, needs and constraints. Linking process research and the technology development process to market opportunities has the potential to promote links between investment in natural resources, markets, and adoption of technologies. Market orientated agriculture for reducing poverty and environmental degradation needs to centre on three related paradigms; strengthening biological processes in agriculture (to optimise nutrient cycling, minimise external inputs and maximise the efficiency of their use); building farmer's capacities (to learn and innovate focused on improving livelihoods through market opportunity identification and the management of natural resources); and developing forward and backward linkages (between natural resources, production and markets). Examples of TSBFs and CIATs legume research in understanding processes, targeted germplasm development, adaptive testing of technologies and dissemination strategies will be used to show the evolution of legume research for ISFM and how increased market orientation can lead to increased adoption of improved technology options, investment in natural resource management strategies and provide valuable feedback for the research process.