

CSO-CGIAR Forum: Lessons Learned from Partnerships

- For up-stream research, it is difficult to promise outcomes.
- Researchers need to take risks.
- It is often necessary to have an entity that serves as “bridge” (a service provider) between research programs and users.
- Outputs of partnership must be demand driven.
- Long-term funding needed as technology development takes time.
- Connection between science and community.
- Demand-driven approach in research.
- Generate appropriate incentives for inter-institutional collaboration.
- Start with partners from the beginning.
- Frequent monitoring and evaluation improves quality.
- Willingness to experience and capture lessons learned along the way.
- Partnership is built on existing local knowledge.
- Partners bring more than resources to collaboration. They bring information, knowledge, skills, experience, contacts.
- Partners’ roles evolve and change.
- Shared values and mutual benefits are critical.
- Partnerships have no impact unless they empower communities.
- Prior relationships can facilitate partnerships.
- Scientific research and local knowledge must be combined – NGO/CSO can be the bridge.
- Resources from initial work can be mobilized and scaled up.
- Build on NGO experience.

- Differentiate clients and products.
- Focus on learning.
- Long term frameworks and best practices should be considered together.
- Multi-stakeholder involvement from the onset is important.
- Availability of knowledge or technology as a “free” good is critical for the partnership.
- Use CSOs to effectively communicate research purpose/results. They are/could be great facilitators.
- Network: Individual relationships are key sources to finding partners nurturing and partnerships.
- Involve CSOs in identifying new topics for future research.
- Think early about funding of technology transfer of Centers’ outputs.
- Long term collaboration.
- Success: one village, one product.
- Economic incentives help conserve animal genetic resources.
- Chances of success go up when you have a local champion.
- Success: farmer-driven process.
- Success: synergy between farmers, researchers and policy makers.
- Success: synergy local and global levels.
- Changes have to occur at the grass-roots level to have a sustainable impact at the national level.
- Local champions are key to success.
- Functioning private sector involvement/investment gives dynamism and push for results.
- Need a common platform to discuss problems and issues.

- Partnerships should be inclusive.
- Need transparent information exchange.
- To get impact we should take time to learn and be sensitive to culture.
- Women's empowerment does not threaten men.
- Participatory resource mapping can help to bring communities together on issues of land management.
- Facilitate community to learn from each other and visit each other.
- Ensure certain percentage of funds from projects is allocated to communication.
- Adapt technologies to local conditions and needs of farmers.
- In CGIAR/CSO project formulation, participatory research should be one of the mandatory components.
- Importance of the facilitator who permits virtual alliances or connections.
- Participation of social scientists is CRUCIAL.
- Organization does not have to be formal.
- Ensure regional and thematic equilibrium and learning experience.
- Need to engage private sector to ensure delivery of the products of the partnership to a wider set of beneficiaries.
- Small farmers take decisions through participatory methods.
- It takes time to develop durable partnerships; therefore, they should be seen as long term endeavor.
- Partnerships need clarity in terms of role and responsibilities.
- Commitment and complementarity.
- Recognition and acceptance of value of what CSOs bring to the table.
- Need holistic approach for absorption of knowledge (and of training) and integrated use of knowledge.