

FRN Objectives:

- To increase the agency and capability of rural communities to engage in research and innovation processes, with likely spillover benefits for improved agency in general;
- To increase the collective capacity of the R+D system to gather, share and interpret observational and experimental data, and thus to build the evidence base for AEI;
- To support agroecological intensification of smallholder agriculture.

Guiding Principles:

Farmers that represent the social and biophysical diversity of their communities participate in the whole research process.

- Farmer groups set research priorities and influence the research agenda.
- Engage farmer groups and organizations throughout the whole research process from diagnosis, design, implementation, analysis, and communication.
- Ensure farmers who lack financial, social, and resource capitals are included.

Research is rigorous, democratized, and focused on understanding biophysical and social variation.

- Address agriculture's technical-social problems with research designs, data management, protocols, and sound analysis methods that can reveal patterns and suitable options across diverse agro-ecological and social contexts.
- Evaluate how technology, knowledge, and ideas facilitate inspiration or are adapted in the research and action processes so that others can learn from these experiences.
- Research designs are adequately representative with counterfactuals and comparisons.

Networks foster collaboration and opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing.

- Foster *genuine* and *authentic* collaborative engagement.
- Facilitate learning and knowledge sharing across farmer groups with similar agendas, interests, and constraints.