

Theory of Change for Farmer Research Networks (FRNs)

The Need

Rural organizations that support farmers are numerous and often strong; they form a collective rural infrastructure that could contribute to a grassroots research capacity.

Participatory methods have been effective on a small scale in producing rigorous and relevant research.

It is necessary to connect social, technological, methodological, and political capital to achieve widespread change.

The R+D system has potential to support AEI but needs to adjust its approach to be more inclusive in order to be effective.

R+D systems lacks the ability to produce research outputs that are matched to a wide variety of contexts (social and biophysical).

The CCRP Response

Study, evaluate, and document process, model, and learnings through FRN principles.

Cross-sectoral collaborations and convenings, with emphasis on farmer participation.

Capacity building on AEI, METI, participatory methods, managing power dynamics, leadership, and governance.

Pathway to Change

Developing underlying principles of, if, and how FRNs are successful.

Increased use of contextually appropriate options by farmers.

Analysis of larger datasets provides better understanding of principles and Options x contexts.

Farmers can derive and understand principles and learning which would not be possible by working alone or receiving extension.

Large, networked datasets that reveal useful patterns of performance and inspire further innovation.

More farmers and organizations participating in multiple parts of the research and innovation process.

Contextualized Outcomes that provide evidence for potential at scale

Stronger, more vibrant, rural organizations.

Other actors inspired by methodology and principles and FRNs spread.

Strengthened R+D sector (more relevant, sustainable and accountable).

More and better AEI evidence