**Farmer Research Networks**

**Desired changes/Goals**

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. To support agro-ecological intensification of smallholder agriculture.

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| **Guiding principle** |
| **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.  |