

Background and Objectives of the Workshop

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The CoS-SIS programme started in early 2009 with scoping studies by the Research Associates (RAs). The results of these studies were presented in June the same year at the International Workshop held in Elmina Ghana¹.

After one year of preparatory studies in Wageningen, most PhD students returned to their countries and started their Diagnostic/Baseline studies. The Scientific Coordination Committee (SCC) visited the three CoS-SIS implementing countries in May 2010 and wrote a rather critical report, in particular about the functioning of the Concertation and Innovation Groups (CIGs). In the context of this report, the first small international workshop in Bamako in June 2010 therefore came at a crucial moment in the history of CoS-SIS. The international workshop was preceded by an Agricultural Innovation Coach workshop organized by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) for the RAs and the national coordinators. Both workshops were carefully coordinated with a one day overlap. During the second week of the small international workshop PhD students and chairmen of the Programme Management Teams (PMTs) participated at the workshop.

The agenda for this international workshop focussed attention on a better understanding of the purpose of the programme, the composition and the functioning of the CIGs, the role of the Domain Advisory Groups, and the working relationships between RAs and PhDs. Also the communication between Wageningen supervisors, PhD students and RAs was addressed. The SCC was worried that the overall research design of the Programme had slipped and needed to be revisited. All this meant that the Bamako Workshop was considered a make-or-break moment in the Programme. These concerns are therefore reflected in the objectives of the workshop which are outlined as follows.

- To harmonise the relationships, entry points, research activities and publications of PhD students and RAs;

¹ Towards Enhancing Innovation Systems Performance in Smallholder African Agriculture. Proceedings of the first CoS-SIS International Conference, Elmina, Ghana 22 – 26, June 2009 (Arnold van Huis and Anthony Youdeowei)

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- To clarify and decide upon CIG functioning, purpose, formation and facilitation, as well as the design of the research to show what a Innovation System approach can achieve;
- To agree on publication and authorship policies and strategies;
- To agree on strengthening CoS-SIS team interaction with special reference to
 - To decide on Domain advisory groups,
 - Involvement of local supervisors;
- To formalise the Terms of Reference of RAs, now that activities are beginning to take shape and time commitment is expected to rapidly
- To clarify what is meant by institutionalisation of CoS-SIS (scaling up, replication) and ensure its documentation.

All participants considered the workshop an overall success. We are happy that it is documented in these proceedings.