From Research to implementation:

Improving impact through transdisciplinary partnerships

North–South Forum, Urs Wiesmann 5 May 2009
NCCR North–South: Research Partnerships for Mitigating Syndromes of Global Change

Goals: research, capacity, empowerment, structure

Themes: governance, health, livelihoods, natural resources

Contexts: highland–lowland, semi–arid, urban & peri–urban

Source: www.north.south.unibe.ch
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

Analytical model of household strategies of peasants in Laikipia, Kenya

Legend:
- Spheres of action which are directly related to the use of natural resources
- Spheres of action which are not directly related to the use of natural resources
- Action-guiding conditions which vary among the smallholders of Laikipia

Urs Wiesmann, 1998
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

- Water conflicts
- Insecure land tenure
- Health risks
- Markets & prizes
- Biofuels
- Labour shortage
- Etc. etc. etc.

Complex multi-strategies of small-scale producers
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

Users of river water and water conflicts

(+++) = great increase
(+) = increase
(0) = stable

Conflicts not expressed
Conflicts transformed
Conflicts locally expressed
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

Decision-making about water use

Dev. Agencies:       Planning:       Policy decisions:       Relevant levels:

Donors
Donors

Line Ministries

Politicians

Boards

Donors

District focus

Linking actors

NGOs

Communities

Communities

Households

(International)

National level

Province

Basin

District

Location

Community

Household
Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

Multi-level and multi-stakeholder strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant levels:</th>
<th>Enhance water supply:</th>
<th>Reduce water demand:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(International)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National level</td>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>Land tenure policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Negotiations &amp; control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Supply planning</td>
<td>Land use planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Catchment</td>
<td>Negotiations &amp; control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Water use efficiency</td>
<td>Off-farm jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Water use efficiency</td>
<td>Farming techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement
(1) Dealing with the complexity of sustainability
From sectoral demand to transdisciplinary encirclement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant levels:</th>
<th>Enhance water supply:</th>
<th>Reduce water demand:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(International)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National level</td>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>Land tenure policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Negotiations &amp; control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Supply planning</td>
<td>Land use planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Catchment</td>
<td>Negotiations &amp; control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Water use efficiency</td>
<td>Off-farm jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Water use efficiency</td>
<td>Farming techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dealing with the complexity of sustainability through transdisciplinary research partnerships

- Iteration between modes of research
- Recursive research process
- System, target and transformation knowledge
- Contextuality and generalisation
- Long-term partnerships and alliances
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue

Creating high-resolution poverty maps
Creating a generalised landscape mosaic

Compatible Geometries
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue

Number of affiliations to development interventions per stakeholder

© Messerli, 2008
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue
(2) Dealing with the complexity of policy & practice
From providing information to knowledge based dialogue

Governance landscapes of Lao PDR

Legend
Number of development interventions 02-08
- High: 12
- Medium: 6
- Low: 0
Improving impacts of development research through a transdisciplinary programme approach
Improving impacts of development research through a transdisciplinary programme approach

Institutional Capacities (Networks)

Transfer Capacities (PhDs)

Disciplinary Capacities (PhDs)

Innovative Capacities (Post Docs)

Concretionisation

Specialisation

Generalisation

Integrative Capacities & Core Institutions

Application

WPs

TP(P)
From Research to implementation:

Improving impact through transdisciplinary partnerships

North–South Forum, Urs Wiesmann 5 May 2009