



Fifteen years of the Neuchatel Initiative

What comes next?



The initial situation (1995)

- Representatives of several donor agencies (i.e., Swiss, French and others) did not agree with the World Bank's continued strong promotion of its T&V approach.
- The fact that in most countries of intervention several different extension approaches are implemented simultaneously creates confusion
- There was no platform where Donors might have the opportunity to discuss and agree upon the best approaches for agricultural extension.

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What has the Neuchatel Initiative done?

- Informal discussion forum, primarily for donors
- Platform for shared learning
- Base for agreement on 'common frameworks'
- Base for joint strategic studies
- Opportunity to forge relationships
- Starting point for coordination?

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The Prevailing Structure I

Affiliates

- There is no official membership. The NI prefers the term "affiliates".
- Each donor decides if it is worthwhile to participate.
- A preparation group plans and organises the annual meeting.
- Individual donors finance collaborators for specific tasks (the writing and editing of their publications, the organisation of the meetings, the facilitation of its meetings).
- On behalf of the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) Agridea is in charge of the facilitation.

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The Prevailing Structure II

Agreements

- The shared insights are not binding for the involved donors, they are solely considered as suggestions.
- Each representative takes care of the diffusion of the insights within his/her own institution.
- Each donor finances its own assistance and the work done by external collaborators.
- Each year the NI reconsiders if the platform should go on.
- There is no secretariat. Minimal services are rendered by Agridea.

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Products - Outputs

Hard

- Jointly developed guidelines
- Tools for the planning and evaluation of extension activities
- Shared actions in the field, mutual evaluations

Soft

- Networking for development of common vision

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Neuchatel Initiative – Products so far!

Green booklets	Source of funding
A General Common Framework for Agricultural Extension	MAE
Guidelines for Monitoring, Evaluation and Joint Analysis of Pluralistic Extension Support	GTZ and Sida
Common Framework for Financing Agricultural and Rural Extension	SDC, MAE, DFID and GTZ
Common Framework for Supporting Pro-Poor Extension	DFID and Sida
Common Framework for Demand Driven Agricultural Advisory Services	Danida, MAE, SDC, Sida and GTZ
Common framework for Market Oriented Advisory Services	MAE, Danida, Sida, GTZ, SDC

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NI and the future?

So far – NI has been successful in what it was meant to do

- Created a strong network and convergence in thinking extension
- Created new ideas and approaches to extension
- Seen a multitude of new approaches working

But conditions have changed and affiliates demand stronger impact in terms of alignment and harmonisation in extension

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Little progress on a new structure

- ❑ Discussions of a formal structure have led to proposals, but no funding and wavering commitments
- ❑ In 2008 focus on creating a support function for AFAAS, consensus but no funding

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Steinfurth Conclave

- ❑ In July 2009 a sub-group of NI affiliates and others decided to take action to transcend the impasse
- ❑ Decision 1: Create something different from NI, but building on the NI experience -"GFAAS"
- ❑ Decision 2: Move from a support function to AFAAS to instead help AFAAS to access core support as part of the CAADP process

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