



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT MECHANISMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING AND INNOVATION IN LINSAs AND HOW CAN THESE BE SUPPORTED?

LEARNING

Three broad types: LINSAs can use all. Learning becomes more formal as the LINSAs mature: not all LINSAs accord learning an equal priority.

- **Informal Approaches:** selective information needs, peer to peer, study circles and ad hoc learning (I Crisp, N Dairy, F Rad). Learning often individual, personal and tacit (E B and H).
- **Coordinated Learning:** experiential learning with local solutions but systematic and through co-ops and associations

(L Biogas, E Perm). Available learning opportunities and some consultancy (N Care). Some group learning (**study clubs**) and courses, but voluntary.

- **Formalised Learning:** takes place in larger (often national) more formalised LINSAs and is part of the LINSAs infrastructure (F Charter, S ACDF). Learning is more standardised and often certificated. Strong links with research, education and dissemination (G Women) including publications (G DLG) and the AKIS.

* **Study clubs:** Sustainable Dairy Farming, Netherlands (N Dairy): farmers come together with a facilitator and discuss different aspects of low external input farming. Topics can be nominated by farmers and there is learning by doing 'in the field'.

INNOVATION

The conversion of ideas, practices and/or knowledge into benefits. It comes from learning.

Radical and incremental: radical in its aspirations, incremental in its outcomes; depending also on contexts (F RAD, F Charter, E PA/LAND).

Multi-actor and multi-sector: importance of governance mechanisms to integrate visions and needs, knowledge and expertise.

Multi-dimensional: not only technical-technological, but also organizational, cultural, institutional, legal (I Crisp).

Retro-innovation: rediscovering an existing resource, mobilized and adapted to a new and emerging societal demand (L Fruit Growing; I CVR).

SUPPORT

External to the LINSAs:

- **Financial support** for training (grants and loans). Most LINSAs have had some of this but it can take time and be proscribed. But many LINSAs like to remain financially independent. Some community food groups don't have access to CAP funding.
- **Policy instruments**, for example technical support (F Charter, S ACDF); research (F Rad)

Internal to the LINSAs:

- Mutual learning and study groups (I Crisp), animation and facilitation. Often considered the best as it allows the LINSAs to remain independent.
- Support also is important to foster internal capacity building (at a cultural and organizational level) and all support benefits from being defined through involvement of interested actors.

