Participation in research and development projects

Ola Dolinska, Lisode
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO?
• French company (a cooperative), based in Montpellier
• Specialized in design and implementation of participatory process
• Areas of work:
  – Thematic: natural resources management (mainly water), agricultural innovation, urban planning, fishery, organizational change, etc.
  – Geographic: France and MENA. South America, West Africa, Caribbean, South Pacific.
  – Consultancy, research, training
We exist since 2008
We are 6 consultants

We have worked in 17 countries where we’ve conducted over 120 participatory processes.

We have trained around 1000 professionals and 3000 students in design of participatory process and in group facilitation.

We have facilitated around 500 workshops mobilizing almost 10 000 participants, from a citizen to a minister.

We have participated in 10 research projects and co-authored over 30 scientific papers.
Our experience in research

- We have worked as partners in several research projects:
  - assisting research teams in conducting participatory processes
  - assisting research teams in conducting interdisciplinary research

- Our own research activities on participatory methods and tools

- Knowledge production (and diffusion) on different topics (innovation process, interinstitutional coordination, evaluation of participatory process)
GUIDE DE CONCERTATION TERRITORIALE ET DE FACILITATION

PROPOSÉ PAR L'AGROPARIS TECHE ET L'INRA

1.まとめる

Thèse de doctorat

Dédiée à l'Institut des sciences de l'environnement et de l'agriculture (AgroParisTech)

Sous la conduite de

Alexandra DOLINSKA

Designing intervention to support endogenous agricultural innovation process in the South: identifying conditions for its effectiveness.

The case of an irrigated scheme in Tunisia.

Défense du 10/11/2016

Thèse présentée et soutenue à Montpellier, le 10 novembre 2016

Comité de jury:

H. Loïc TEMPLE, Directeur de recherche, UMR Innovation Crad
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PARTICIPATION
Why participation?

– To achieve better results
  • Produce better quality data
  • Gain better understanding of complex systems
  • Secure better uptake of results

– Because it matters (normative approach)
– Because we have to (constraint)
– To improve innovation process
And for the participants?

• « To take part in » - satisfaction from joining a collective action;
• « To contribute » - satisfaction from sharing knowledge, ideas, experience with others;
• « To benefit from » - looking to gain something in/from the process.

(Zack, 2011)
What is participation?

- Be informed
- Give an opinion
- Propose solutions together
- Decide together

Consultation, participation, co-decision
How much participation in a research project?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of participation</th>
<th>Participants’ role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Participants’ control</td>
<td>Decision making and action are fully delegated to participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Delegating power</td>
<td>Power over research process is partially delegated to participants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Partnership</td>
<td>Participants can negotiate with researchers, including negotiating their roles, responsibilities and the level of control over what is going to happen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Involvement</td>
<td>Participants’ opinions are taken into account but it is still the researchers who take decisions.</td>
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<td>4. Consultation</td>
<td>Participants give their opinions but have no control over if and how their opinions are taken into account.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Information</td>
<td>Researchers inform public about what has been done, is being done or will be done asking no feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Education</td>
<td>Researchers provide partial or biased information to a passive public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Manipulation</td>
<td></td>
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Position of researchers in research process

- SCIENTISTS PROVIDE THEIR SOLUTIONS TO STAKEHOLDERS
- SCIENTISTS ACCOMPANY STAKEHOLDERS IN FINDING THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS

Position of farmers in research process

- Data providers
- Research partners
- Farmer-led research

Adapted after Arnstein 1969
Participation and different innovation models

Linear model of innovation (technology transfer)

- Research: Innovation is produced
- Extension: Innovation is disseminated
- Users: Innovation is (not) adopted

Different components of innovation (Smits 2002, Leeuwis and Aarts 2011)

- Orgware
- Useware
- Software
- Hardware

Innovation system – different actors produce, exchange and use knowledge

- Policymakers
- Intermediaries
- SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS
- Innovation
- Market actors
- END-USERS
- Technology providers
What can be the role of research/technical expertise in innovation process? (1/2)

In the linear approach:

- Researchers/experts provide solutions
- Researchers/experts produce “innovation” (new technology) - they are its sole source
  - Comfortable, familiar position for researchers/experts
  - But what if users do not adopt provided solutions?
What can be the role of research/technical expertise in innovation process? (2/2)

In the systemic approach:
• Researchers/experts are **one of the many sources of knowledge**
• Researchers/experts **facilitate innovation process**
  – demand articulation with users (problem diagnosis, foresight exercises, etc.)  \(\Rightarrow\) **PARTICIPATION**
  – innovation network composition (linkages between relevant actors)  \(\Rightarrow\) **PARTICIPATION**
  – innovation process management (translating between different actors using different reference frames (users, markets, institutions, technology providers, research), establishing working procedures, etc.)  \(\Rightarrow\) **PARTICIPATION**
Participatory tools in research and development projects: role-playing games

Role-playing games can be used to:

- Simulate the implementation of a novelty with various stakeholders in order to identify:
  - elements of the context that will need to be “dealt with”
  - adaptations needed
  - resources needed
  - actions required
  - stakeholders that need to be included in the process

- Decision-support tool in innovation development (finding and testing innovative solution together)