Strengthening Research in Small Countries

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Participant Panel

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Important Issues: 1) Structure, Scale and Priorities
2) Regional and International Linkages

1. Agricultural Research is very "expensive" for small countries, however, small countries should do basic research also, not only adaptive. Need of a critical mass of scientists in order to achieve good quality research.

Importance of research as a means to feed the country. Smallness issues: limited resources, bargaining power and critical mass of scientists.

2. Examples of research coordination:

SACAR: Southern Africa Coordination of Agricultural Research
CONOSUR: Six South American Countries

Important of Linkages between:

a) extension, research and teaching
b) different Ministries doing research.
c) dealing with donors.
d) NARS's themselves.

Also linkages between private and public agricultural research, and between science and policy in order to mobilize support for agricultural research more effectively.

Importance of leadership in research groups

Importance of colonial heritage, avoid single commodity efforts

"Networking" as a solution to small country problems, also need external assistance (funding) especially in regional networks.