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COFFEE INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN ETHIOPIA AND RWANDA

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Coffee innovation systems in Ethiopia and Rwanda



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Background

- Coffee is one of the most important cash crops in developing countries
- High price volatility → farmers need to improve the skills and technologies they use in production and marketing
- Innovation Systems Approach (ISA) → aims at putting farmers at the center of the innovation system
- Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) → sustained collaboration among key actors influences innovation outcomes

Objective and research questions

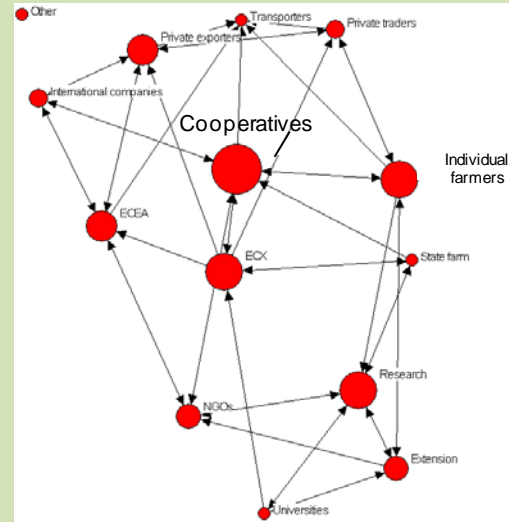
- Comparatively analyze the innovation systems regarding coffee value chains in Ethiopia and Rwanda
 - Who are the major actors involved in knowledge management?
 - What types of alliances exist among the different actors?
 - How is information disseminated?

Study approach

- Data from 105 household surveys in 3 *woredas* of Ethiopia and 3 districts of Rwanda
- Social network analysis

Results

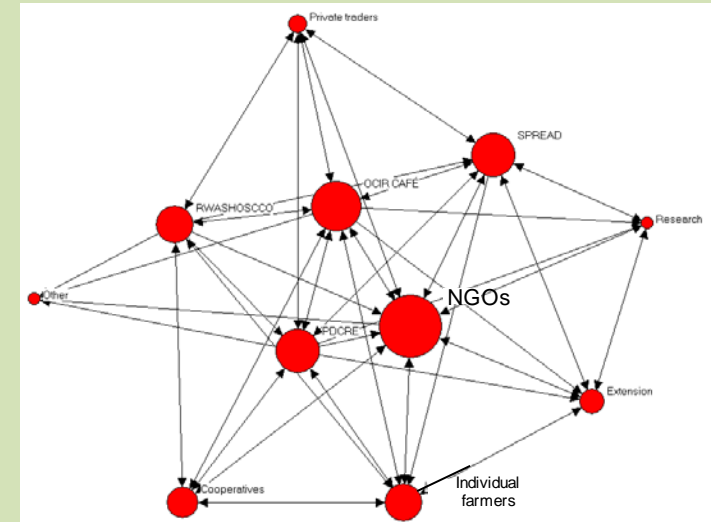
Ethiopia (13 actors)



Density: 0.25; Reciprocity: 0.59; Efficiency: 0.79

- While Ethiopian coffee farmers are rather information senders than receivers, Rwandan coffee farmers are rather information receivers than senders
- Cooperatives in Ethiopia and NGOs in Rwanda are the brokers of the respective coffee innovation system
- Some actors of the Ethiopian coffee value chain are unknown

Rwanda (10 actors)



Density: 0.59; Reciprocity: 0.67; Efficiency: 0.35

Conclusions and policy implications

- Coffee farmers in both Ethiopia and Rwanda are not at the center of the innovation system
- The coffee innovation network in Ethiopia is not as highly connected as the one in Rwanda
- The ISA and IAR4D paradigms do not seem to have been fully embraced in both countries
- For an effective support of value chain operators, it is advisable to strengthen the capacities of long-term organizations rather than those of temporary facilitators