

Abstract for consideration in CGIAR Social Research Conference

Session E. Future prospects, researchable topics and entry points for social researchers in the CGIAR agenda.

(could also fit under Session C. The status of social research in the CGIAR and its partners)

Bringing Institutions to Center Stage in the CGIAR: Experience of the System-wide Program on Collective Action and Property Rights

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This paper will present the experience of the CGIAR's System-wide Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI) in building a critical mass of social research on institutional issues. By developing a simple conceptual framework that demonstrated the linkages among the institutions of collective action, property rights, and the technologies and natural resource management practices promoted by the CGIAR, the CAPRI program has grown from 5 centers with a total of 13 projects related to these issues, to one involving all 16 centers and over 110 projects. The program began by linking the (often lone) social researchers who were interested in these issues at CGIAR centers and NARs institutions, and providing them with access to key social science literature and outside experts. After recognizing the importance of property rights, CGIAR centers have begun to explore the complexities involved in resource tenure, drawing from the legal anthropological field of legal pluralism. As more centers have recognized that collective action is essential for managing resources at the landscape level, and for development and dissemination of technologies through user groups, the CGIAR has become involved in innovative combinations of social and economic research, using both quantitative and qualitative techniques.