AgriFood Chain Toolkit
share – learn – collaborate – add value

Value chains are a powerful way to understand how people and institutions interact and engage to create, market, and consume agricultural products. It is especially important to help us link smallholders to markets.

Value chain analysis is an increasingly important approach used across CGIAR and its partners to determine demands, define pathways, frame solutions, and deliver agricultural innovation as well as institutional and technological interventions.

An AgriFood chain toolkit
Value chains, however, are often complex and expertise and experience to do this is scattered. Crucially, there are few links between value chain researchers and value chain practitioners. The AgriFood chain toolkit is designed to help researchers and practitioners overcome these challenges.

The Internet is a gateway to numerous websites, resources and tools to help us understand agrifood value chains or build the capacities of value chain actors and analysts.

The missing links in this agriknowledge chain are effective mechanisms to foster interaction and exchange among researchers devising value chain tools and field practitioners using them.

The AgriFood chain toolkit will act as a clearing house and learning platform – using   the power of information and communication technologies to bring together people and resources.

It will link the users of value chain resources to those who created them. It will support a community of practice drawing together researchers and practitioners to review, assess and improve value chain approaches. It will help the community create better-suited tools for value chain analysis and development.

Connect and collect ...
The AgriFood chain toolkit will combine two existing communication tools with the vibrant community of value chain practitioners, analysis and researchers.

The 'interaction' tool is Dgroups, specifically a community discussing ways of 'linking smallholder farmers to dynamic markets' (dgroups.org/cta/lf2m).

This LF2M group provides an open forum for the whole development community – research and development specialists, the private sector, farmers' organizations and policy based partners – to discuss, share and reflect on new initiatives and innovations. It acts as an informal communication point where ideas, concepts, success stories, new initiatives, projects, services, 'how to' guides and workshops are aired and debated with like-minded and interested parties.

The community platform is actively facilitated to ensure effective dialogue and sharing.

The 'library' tool is CGSpace (cgspace.cgiar.org). This is an open access platform that allows community members to capture, share, publish and disseminate relevant resources.

The sharing platform is actively curated to organize and check the quality of the resources to enable discovery and maximum re-use.

Combine and collate ...

Both platforms will bring in and add value to ongoing initiatives. LF2M brings us an existing dynamic group with links to many other institutions and processes; CGSpace already has relevant resources and specialized support from institutions working with value chains.

These virtual efforts will be extended and deepened through regular real-world conferences designed to collate and synthesize good practice of value chain tool users, practitioners and researchers. We expect the toolkit to launch in December 2012.

Collaborate

Join in creating and contributing to the Toolkit!

Join the Discussion: http://dgroups.org/cta/lf2m
Share a resource: Email details to Jo Cadilhon @ ILRI (j.cadilhon@cgiar.org)

www.dgroups.org/cta/lf2m

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April 2013