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National Policy Roundtable of the Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI)

31 July – 1 August 2017, Accra, Ghana

Policy Brief

PARI policy roundtable calls for enhanced investments in innovation to promote agricultural growth in Ghana

Accra/Bonn – 1 August 2017: Leading agricultural stakeholders from government, private sector, farmer groups, research and development cooperation met in Accra, Ghana, on 31 July – 1 August 2017 to discuss policy measures needed to promote agricultural development in Ghana. The Policy Roundtable was organized in the context of the [Programme of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation](#) (PARI) and hosted by the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Participants agreed that technological and institutional innovations are crucial for advancing agricultural growth in Ghana. They highlighted a number of priority areas for policy actions to target the necessary innovation investments:

Develop the entire value chain, not just production. Participants emphasized the need for a broader focus in agricultural research, policy and financing. A [study](#) by CSIR-STEPRI presented at the Roundtable shows that much of the agricultural research in Ghana to date has focused on crop varieties for only a few crops. Additional research along the entire value chain and for other products (including livestock and fisheries) and soil management practices is urgently needed since all these help to improve food production and food security in the country. To advance mechanization among smallholder farmers, appropriate and affordable machinery need to be developed and made available to improve production but also processing of produce to reduce post-harvest losses and add value.

Collect and share accurate and timely agricultural statistics. The importance of reliable statistics for decision-making was repeatedly stressed at the meeting. Participants called for improving institutional capacities and arrangements to collect and disseminate agricultural data. This should include bringing together existing data and investing in data collection and analyses. The statistics should be kept in one place to enable easy access by potential users.

Improve financing along the entire value chain. Participants warned that even though agricultural investments are improving in the country, agricultural growth is not keeping pace. To address this dichotomy, better targeting of investments at the right points or nodes in agricultural systems is need. An agricultural financing policy should be developed to improve access to finance for farmers and the private

sector. This improvement in agricultural financing should not ignore increases in funding for innovation research along the various commodity value chains.

Recognise, document and protect farmer innovations. Participants highlighted the innovative capacities of farmers to improve agricultural production as a complement to science-based innovations. Farmer innovations need to be documented and verified with the help of the research community and made available to a wider audience. As part of this effort, strong intellectual property protection for farmer innovations are required to protect the innovators and ensure that they benefit from their inventions.

Develop seed value chains. Access to high-quality seeds was highlighted as one of the main constraints to improving agricultural productivity in Ghana. Addressing this problem will require improving the entire seed value chain, including strengthening institutions mandated to facilitate seed production and multiplication as well as better financing for private sector seed companies, strong intellectual property protection for breeders and increasing the number of certified seed producers with effective quality control.

Participants stressed that these actions need to take into account the high heterogeneity in agricultural potential, agricultural efficiency and skill levels across the country in order to ensure that investments are adapted to local realities.

About PARI

The Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) brings together partners from Africa, India and Germany to contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and food and nutrition security in Africa and India. With the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, PARI offers independent scientific advice to the *One World, No Hunger* Initiative (SEWOH) of the German government which, among other activities, supports the improvement of food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural value chains through Green Innovation centres in 12 African countries and India.

PARI is coordinated by the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, Germany. Implementation in Africa is led by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the technical arm of the Africa Union Commission on matters concerning agriculture science, technology and innovation, and its national partners. Additional implementing partners include the African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP) facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, Africa Office), the University of Hohenheim (Germany), the Technical University Munich (Germany), and research collaborators in India. In Ghana, PARI cooperates the national research partner CSIR-STEPRI.

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