

Indigenous Knowledge Innovation In Uganda : Impact and Institutional Roles

by:

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The National Strategy

- developed in 1999 with the assistance of the WB (grant of US\$10,000 and technical expertise to work with local expertise)
- national IK Steering Committee was established in 2000. It is chaired by a US trained social science professor who is also the Director of Institute of Social Research at Makerere University, Kampala.

Application of IK : Where are we?

- in agriculture – farming systems incorporating traditional knowledge systems
- traditional medicine
- conflict management in low level governance structures
- environment management
- management of HIV/AIDS (treatment of opportunistic diseases using local medicine eg diabetes, diarrhoea, high fever, etc)
- agricultural biodiversity and local storage methods

Activities: Primary health care (traditional healers, maternal health, traditional medicine
(outstanding – is the rescuer project at Iganga that has been adopted in some 15 or so other districts of Uganda)

IK – being integrated in childhood development programme financed by the WB as part of IK mainstreaming policy and upscale of IK utilization for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

IK integrated in agricultural research, training and production through the ARTPII; civic action for promotion of organic agriculture, etc

Livestock disease treatment – Mbarara University (the Presidents stock is treated using such indigenous products as Phytollaca dodecandra for prevention of worm infestation watering dams

Conflict management; resolution of local community conflicts eg. Simple land issues, assault, simple crimes etc

Collection and documentation of IK by traditional healers. The information is being documented and published by the NFRD with the support from the WB through an IDF grant.

Accomplishments and Impact

Policy

- A national strategy for the development and application of IK was developed and is being implemented by different national public and private sector based institutions (NCL, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Gulu University, Makerere University, National Foundation for Research and Development etc)
- IK application as a mechanism of poverty eradication was incorporated in the national comprehensive development framework (CDF) (2002)

- Legal and regulatory environment for the promotion of IK in the country reviewed and recommendations made to the Law Reform Commission. The latter embraced the recommendations and a law to facilitate IK operational environment and the protection of IK has been drafted.
- Established a National Innovation Fund to support, inter alia, IK development (4 institutions have benefited from the Fund during the last 12 months to improve on agronomy, conservation, processing and packaging indigenous medicine for treatment of human and livestock diseases)
- From the Uganda experience, the Committee on Education, Research and Culture of the East African Community has adopted IK as one of the priority areas of focus

Infrastructure

- A national IK Coordination Secretariat was established in 2001 for coordinating IK development initiatives.
- Telecentres for training communities in collection and storage of IK) (4 TLC – Nakaseke, Buwama, Nabweru and Apac)
- Community Indigenous Resource Centres (7 CIKRC in 6 of the 54 districts of Uganda in 2 years)
- The NFRD is setting up a Centre for Development of Indigenous Knowledge that will house a national museum of indigenous knowledge. Mbarara University of Science and Technology is also setting up a regional center for research on IK. Further, government is considering establishment of a Centre for Analysis,

Validation and Standardisation of Indigenous Medicine and Natural Products that will work closely with other IK development institutions and the National Chemotherapeutic Laboratories that has been involved in the analysis of herbal medicine.

- Uganda IK Information Society (UGIKIS) established in May 2002 as a national community based organization. It acts as a Forum for IK stakeholders and a framework for collection and documentation of IK and for executing IK education programmes throughout the country. It operates through four regional action centers.

Training and Sensitisation

- Sensitisation of policy designers and policy makers has been going on including the sensitization of Members of Parliament through the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology has been going on as part of the WB/IDF funded project on institutional capacity building for integration of IK in the national poverty eradication programme
- Training of Community IK Trainers (4 courses in 2 years)
- Development of Training Materials (4 modules for Community trainers and two modules for community and general training)

Collaboration and linkages

- Collaboration and linkages between Ugandan IK programme and other regional IK initiatives in Africa have increased. And, following the EA/Asia Exchange visit, regional IK information exchange has also increased.

Advocacy and Awareness building

- Advocacy for and Awareness Building in support of IK have increased

Knowledge Sharing

- Lessons learnt and experience obtained in Uganda have been shared through regional fora and information exchange programmes (regional - ESA and South South cooperation programme; MoU have been initiated between Uganda and M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai and with Tropical Botanic Garden Research Institute in Kerala as well as with the National Science and Technology Commission in Sri Lanka.
- Guidelines for implementation of community to community (C2) programmes was developed and validated.
- A National IK Resource Centre established for collection and dissemination of information on IK (IK Update Newsletter produced and disseminated to over 45 national institutions and 23 donor and international development agencies including the WB

Collection and documentation of IK

- Identification of IK in agriculture and health sectors (Nakaseke, Mukono, Wakiso, Iganga)
- Documentation of Indigenous Medicine (captured and documented approximately 250 traditional medicinal for various ailments)

Documentation and Publication

Over 20 publications in form of reports, books, training manuals and articles have been produced over the last 3 years.

Impact of these accomplishments is increased IK visibility and increased support for IK application at the planning and policy levels and at the community utilization levels.

Where do we want to go?

Activity-based demonstration of impact of IK

What Issues do we want to address?

- policy on IK development and application: IK development policy studies
- IPR

Bank Role:

- Brokering – institutional linkages/person to person life learning exposures
- Building local capacity (institutional capacity building)
- Mainstreaming IK
- Awareness Building and Advocacy