

Initiative for developing and applying Partnership Principles to Research and Innovation projects

Organized by KFPE (Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries) and GFAR (Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation)

Premise: research carried-out in partnership between holders of different worldviews, knowledge, skills and resources has become the new modus operandi for innovation generation that is progressively replacing the conventional linear model, where some actors were in charge of developing solutions, other to transfer them and a third group to adopt them more or less passively. This linear model needed to be overcome for the severe adoption constraints experienced on the ground revealing the incapacity of the proposals to respond to the needs, life and socio-economic circumstances of the poor.

GFAR and KFPE have been both involved in the early debates, discussions and conceptualization to develop some type of objective, rigorous and measurable criteria that could enable the actors directly involved into collaborative research initiatives to appreciate the meaning, the value added and the quality of the type of partnerships needed to enhance research impact.

Step 1: An international webinar in April 2022 will open a broad discussion on the evaluation of research partnerships to sensitize and mobilize around the subject matter some key research and innovation actors that could later take part to a joint initiative promoted by GFAR and KFPE (see below) to further develop the existing guidelines to assess research partnerships, testing them and possibly turning them into a global quality standard.

Participants will include researchers with long experience in research partnerships, research funders and generally people involved in debates on research equity, ethical questions and the strengthening of research in the Global South, members of the KFPE, Regional Fora of Research and Members of GFAR Steering Committee interested by the theme and likely to participate in Collective Actions.

Step 2: In June 2022, we organize a second International Webinar with the main actors involved in the implementation of selected number of research projects/Collective Actions where the principles could be applied. The main purpose of the meeting will be: i) to start building/reinforce a culture of partnership quality; ii) to receive feedback on the principles from an operational perspective; iii) to agree on their voluntary use in the context of a cluster of participating initiatives. In order to prepare step 3, KFPE and GFAR will identify and invite the candidate projects/Collective Actions that could participate into the work

Step 3: based on a follow-up of the principles application throughout a year in the projects/Collective Actions that agreed to participate into this initiative, a webinar/face to face meeting will be organized where the actors in charge of implementing the principles will share their experience, in terms of their usefulness (maybe through also the development of indicators) in harvesting information helping to better guide the multistakeholder collaborative activities towards impact. This workshop will be broadened to high level officials, donors, decision-makers and other relevant players to sensitize them on the importance and usefulness of the partnership principles to better pilot co-research and co-innovation endeavours, but also to better design/select collaborative research projects (referring also to the "Choosing the right project" KFPE publication). This workshop could take place during May/June of 2023, ideally in Bern. A publication/report could be produced beforehand.

Step 4: based on the outcome of the Bern workshop, an international conference will be held to discuss the opportunity and need to develop a common standard to assess (through ex-ante, on-

going and ex-post evaluations) the quality of partnerships based on the criteria that were confirmed as applicable and useful in the joint KFPE/GFAR initiative. In addition to representatives of international organizations involved in research and innovation, we would invite other actors that have been engaged in the same effort (CORED, COSAI, etc.). Ideally the conference could be held at the end of 2023, and organized in FAO/Rome together with the Office of Innovation .