

15. Interactive policy research for rural innovation

Rajeswari S. Raina

Abstract

S&T policy makers use policies and policy research inputs that are inadequate to enable innovation for poverty reduction in developing countries. This paper presents lessons on technological and institutional change, from recent research on rural innovation. It argues that policy relevant information for innovation can be generated through processes that entail interactive learning. The indicators of innovation that policy makers can use are highly context specific process indicators. In order to enable rural innovation, policy makers must acknowledge that S&T is only one among several other sources of knowledge. Like all other components of an innovation system S&T policy has to go through processes of institutional learning and change.

Key words: S&T policy, Rural innovation, Indicators, Competency, Technology, R&D, Science, Technology & Innovation (STI)