



Addendum: Compendium of Actions

The following action points were mentioned by participants in sessions. The order does not reflect any prioritization and action points were not edited.

RESEARCH PRIORITY SETTING

1. On a national focus- look at priority areas for a country and see what needs to be addressed to encourage collective impact.
 2. Need for the government to come up with research aspect on the big four agenda on the key research areas that need to be addressed by research institutions and bring on board diversified research (identify clear needs relevant to consumers).
 3. Have coordinated efforts on identification of priority gaps.
 4. Funding should involve farmers and the research should be the solutions to problems that farmers are facing.
 5. To think about the end-user (consumer) needs - the agricultural markets' needs should drive the funding.
 6. Engage diverse players in developing criteria of how funding is prioritized.
 7. Private funders should work closely with the grassroots organizations because they clearly understand what is needed on the ground.
 8. Funders should involve farmer organisations and representatives of various food system actors.
 9. Private funders to look at priorities of a country and the country being funded should be able to negotiate (have an open mind with private funders)- the funders should be clear on the role of funding (is it solving a local problem) and those receiving the funds should be firm on their needs as individuals or institutions.
 10. A strategy for research funding in the county is lacking.
 11. Develop research projects within the priority areas of STI (based on National Priorities framework).
 12. Reduce fragmentation of research activities/ promote collaborative research projects to reduce competition.
 13. Prioritize funding for underutilized and indigenous crops: blending of flours as a concrete example of a research topic linking food security, nutrition and circular economy, underutilized crops and new areas such as big data – aligned with sustainability, equity, and autonomy.
 14. Promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects to deliver real solutions to societal problems.
 15. Develop or strengthen research funding strategy for the country.
 16. Strengthen the embedding of sustainability, integrity and ethical principles in research projects and ensure their implementation.
 17. Budget making is about lobbying with the parliamentarians to allocate more funds to agricultural research (various research institutions should take a step to lobby with parliamentarians to allocate adequate funding to agricultural research).
 18. The government should diversify and prioritize agricultural research areas that support economic development.
 19. More funding towards agriculture with the component of assessing the impact of research.
 20. Encourage interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research instead of monodisciplinary research e.g. value chain approach).
 21. Recognize ecological principles application in agriculture for developing sustainable systems.
 22. Promote integration in national policies for the diffusion and uptake of innovations from research projects at scale.
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23. Develop strategies for effective dissemination of research to policy-makers.
24. Review existing policies to determine the directions they provide for food systems research.

COLLABORATION

25. Close collaboration and partnership among research institutions working on different aspects of food systems.
26. Enhance coordination between research initiatives as to improve returns on agricultural investments and avoid channelling disproportionate agricultural research funds to few areas (e.g. website referencing ongoing research projects).
27. Encourage multidisciplinary research which incorporates dissemination of research findings to stakeholders outside academia and research.
28. Integrate researchers in research centres and those at the university. Also work with communities to see how we can use science and technology in supporting community problems.
29. Explore how blended financing can be applied in the agricultural sector by bringing in stakeholders from the private sector including banking and insurance, impact investors etc.
30. Reduce fragmentation of research activities/ promote collaborative research projects to reduce competition.
31. Consider areas covered by emerging narratives such as climate change and agroecology.
32. Building alliances between African and other international organisations to share experi-

ences, best practices and foster collaboration at local, regional, and global scales.

33. Alliance and networks between NGOs and science groups to tackle imbalances in power in access to funding.
34. Encouraging staff seconded to other institutions or companies for a short period of one to five years with a research partnership arrangement.
35. Increase collaboration between Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) and research institutions.
36. Build a national platform for multiple research institutions to collaborate, develop proposals together (including young scientists), which would include a science-policy interface where the researchers and policy-makers regularly exchange.
37. More bridges for staff to move back and forth between research and business.

OUTREACH AND DISSEMINATION

38. Look into the gap between research and the practice itself.
39. More funds to be allocated to youth farmer education of existing innovations especially on urban agriculture which requires less land.
40. User/Farmer interface is key plus private sector especially markets need to be brought on board from concept stages.
41. Invest in dissemination as part of the research projects and work closely with communicators: mobilize mass media, social media, publish in dissemination platform, organize science shows and innovation week.
42. Capacity building on the importance of agriculture in society, especially at high school level, encourage young students to choose agricultural courses at university, invest in changing the perception of agriculture through impactful advertising.
43. Capacity building of existing researchers and young scientists on problem identification, result orientated research and effective dissemination and adoption skills.
44. Develop innovation incubation centres within universities, like for instance Chandaria innovation centre in Kenyatta University.



45. Utilize IT and agriculture knowledge to create a logistic model to distribute agricultural products to the urban consumers.
46. Create an inventory of research done and innovation developed in each centre/university, build a common database of innovations to encourage further phases and dissemination effort.
47. Use innovation competition to fund and convert business ideas, showcase innovations ideas through conference/shows/fair for a wider audience.
48. Utilize IT and agriculture knowledge to create a logistic model to distribute agricultural products to the urban consumers.
52. Promote system thinking by including it in the curricula.
53. Develop strong monitoring and evaluation framework for food system research focussed on impact.
54. Track the adoption of technologies and innovations by farmers and practitioners.
55. Prepare proposals in advance to be ready for calls for proposals.

OPPORTUNITIES IN RESEARCH

48. Look into what drives people to do agricultural research and allocate adequate funds.
49. Allow pre-test of agroecological innovations on farms, markets and at different stages of the value chain.
50. Supporting proof of concept, pre-study and proposal development could help in this regard.
51. Increase capacity building in research proposal writing to be more competitive, and

DONOR CRITERIA

56. Change the criteria of the calls for proposal to promote interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research and long term research funding options.
 57. Donors have competing requirements; there is need to promote donor collaboration to enhance synergies.
 58. Funding is short to medium term yet impactful research needs to be conducted over longer timeframes.
 59. Shift towards long term funding models.
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