Technology Transfer for Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture: Case Studies in Ethiopia and Peru

Abstract:

Technology transfer has been identified as a key mechanism for addressing climate change. Climate change presents many challenges for development, with projections that, unless societies undertake significant adaptation in the near future, climate change may halt or even reverse development gains. These issues are particularly critical in the agricultural sector, because of the sector's dependence on rainfall and the important role that agricultural technologies could play in adapting to more extreme conditions. However, the history of technology transfer in agriculture is complex, with examples of technologies that failed to be adopted by farmers, or in some cases, even though successfully adopted, ultimately proved to be harmful to local farmers and the environment. In light of this history, this research project seeks to understand the role that adaptation projects can play in promoting climate-resilient agricultural technologies that meet the needs of vulnerable farmers. It also examines the extent to which technology transfer is occurring for adaptation purposes, how technology transfer for adaptation differs from other types of technology transfer, and what barriers and incentives may be most critical for adaptation. The first objective of this study was to describe the current status of technology transfer for adaptation. A database of adaptation projects funded by the Global Environment Facility through the Least Developed Country Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund was developed and technology transfer trends analyzed. Results show significant technology transfer promoted through the projects, although very few are funded through the "technology transfer" funding window. The second part of this study utilized a case study approach to study technology transfer processes in two agriculture projects. Stakeholders involved in adaptation projects in Ethiopia and Peru were interviewed, and particular attention was paid to the role of the enabling environment in each case. Key insights from the case studies will be presented.

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