





2nd Symposium on Participatory Research

to

Foster Innovation in Agriculture Fishbowl Session

STIFTUNG MERCATOR SCHWEIZ



Fishbowl Discussion

Fishbowl discussion consists of people sitting inside a circle talking and people sitting outside of a circle observing: like an aquarium.



Participants of **outer circle** carefully listen to the discussion. They can take place on empty seat of the inner circle to participate on discussion and returns to the outer circle afterwards. Take two-column notes of the discussion. In the left column write at least three important ideas that the group discussed. In the right column write your own response to each idea. Notes will be collected by facilitator.

Participants in **inner circle** have a discussion and share opinion on prepared questions. Keep discussion focused. Follow rules of respectful conversations.



Fishbowl Discussion

- Select questions by voting of participants
- Introduction of persons in inner circle (name, organisation, function, short statement on topic)
- Start discussion on first question for 20 minutes, then move to second question, etc.
- Allow participants from outer circle to enter inner circle
- After all questions finished,

feedback round of notes from outer circle

• Facilitator takes care that discussion stays focused, that all persons can share their opinion and regulates change from the outer to the inner circle in the open fishbowl



	3 main outcomes of inner circle	Up to 3 solution based own experience
1	•	•
	•	•
	•	•
2		
3		
4		

Fishbowl: Note taking of outer circle for feedback

Fishbowl Panel I : Engagement of value chain in transition to Sustainable development

(4 questions will be selected out of following questions)

- 1. Which innovations of the value chain (ginning, spinning, weaving, sowing) are needed in India to stay competitive to other countries or to synthetic fiber production?
- 2. How can circular economy and sustainable fashion be achieved? Which measures will be taken to slow down textile consumption and global fashion waste?
- 3. How can textile production be converted towards socially, economically and environmentally sustainable production? What is needed for fair benefit and risk sharing along the value chain from farmer, processor, textile worker, trader, to consumer?
- 4. How can consumer trust be build considering over 100 labels for sustainable textiles? How to distinguish true organic from Green washing? Will consumer be willing to pay higher price for organic and fair production?
- 5. Will true cost accounting, reduction of plastic waste and CO2 tax boost organic cotton production in the coming years?
- 6. How can sector development help to improve poor working conditions, gender equality and eliminate child and forces labour?

Fishbowl Panel II: Empowerment of Farmers

(3 questions will be selected out of following questions)

- 1. How can livelihood of smallholder cotton farmers be improved? How to avoid dependency of farmers from local trades? Does it need premium price for organic cotton? How to achieve more diversified income sources?
- 2. Who is responsible for facilitating innovations in rural areas? What is the role of the government, NGOs, farmer organisations and the textile sector to support rural development, gender equality and eduction? How to convert top down approaches towards more farmer engagement for agricultural innovation and development?
- 3. How can local market development, participatory guarantee systems and contract cultivation help to allow higher margins for farmers compared to global price fluctuation? How can this be implemented in India?
- 4. How can farmer encounter challenges of climate change? How to mitigate yield loss due to drought, flooding, new pests and diseases? How can these risks be insured or shared by whom? What kind of research is needed?
- 5. How to empower female farmers by participatory research, land and seed ownership? How to strengthen female networks in the different social context?
- 6. How to make farming an attractive job for young persons? How to improve self-confidence and self-esteem of farmers? How to avoid brain-drain to cities?

05 October 2020 6