



Broadening Participation at IGFA

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*IGFA
2006*

November 3,

What has been said about increasing participation

- Concerns about attracting and maintaining the attention from other members from around the world – important to include broader representation from national programs
- How do we make this (us) attractive and useful for the members
- Relevance: hard to know the “clients”, who and for what
- The community to which the programs are trying to be relevant is very disaggregated

Why increase participation?

- There are new research areas/interests and emerging issues
- No additional resources – additional sources and efficiency improvements necessary (we need to enlarge the pie)
- Interdisciplinarity requires diversification in participants / clients
- Need to maximize the benefit from investment made in global change research
- IGFA is saturated – need to find ways to engage natural partners
- Engage developing countries and contributing to capacity building – development is a critical issue (Stern review stresses the issue)
- Adaptation research brings opportunity for North-South cooperation and to engage other disciplines and agencies
- Policy is sometimes moving faster than science – the case for adaptation

Considerations

- Are there any components missing? Other agencies or other parts within the ones we represent?
- Is there a role for other sectors, like private sector, foundations, or civil society?
- There is a gradual broadening of the constituencies
- Often not a matter of getting policy maker's attention, but of having them understand the message
- What is the optimum level of participation that we want or are able to sustain?

How do we want participation to change?

- Broadening - more of the same people / organizations
- Deepening – the same, but more intensely
- Diversifying – including different people / organizations with whom we have had little contact, but should have more

Who do we want to attract / engage?

- Members / Programs
- Clients – policy makers and practitioners
- Stewards (donors, founding agencies)

Barriers

- Practical – space, resources, manageability, bureaucratization
- Difficulties in finding common ground
- Perception – organizations must see a value in their participation
- Linking participation-building to the core values and purpose of IGFA

Possible actions

- Alliances and networks (with other sectors, development community / aid agencies, etc.)
- Development of common ground – for instance with “clients” – link inputs to outputs
- Invitations – specific to EU, LA and other prospective members, especially underrepresented groups – preparation of information packages and distribution to new members and new representatives from existing members
- Make activities attractive and discussion useful for a broader audience
- More thematic content of meetings
- Meetings and activities open to relevant stakeholders, depending on topic
- Increase and highlight the value/impacts of participating
- IGFA could provide some stimulus for interdisciplinary research
- Additional indicators of success for members and programs including: broader representation (in donors for instance)/ “democratization” in prioritization process – IGFA does not know what sorts of organizations have already been approached by the programs
- Develop/propose assessment indicators that encourage interdisciplinarity
- Look for a better articulation between scientists and politicians
- Link research (to the extent possible) to local and short term needs and problems
- Strategic planning is needed, particularly to assess the issue of broadening participation
- Catalyze members and programs engagement in efforts to broaden participation
- Listen to those already in about what they are doing to broaden participation, and what else they would want to do / who they want to include



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