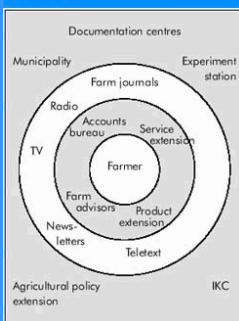
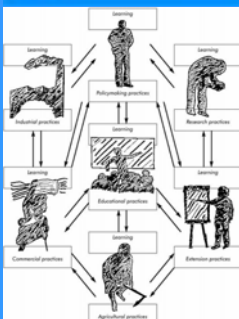




Knowing for development

Learning and acting our way into a sustainable future...?

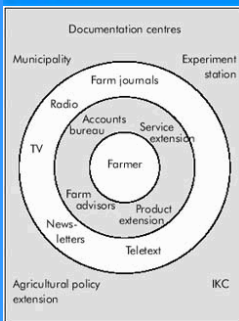
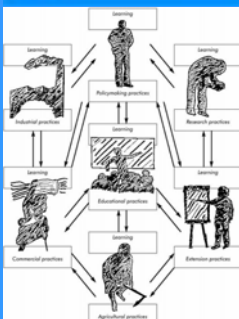


Dr Ir Paul G.H. Engel



Contents

- ❑ Our domain of inquiry: What are we looking at?
- ❑ Three decades knowledge systems thinking
- ❑ The governance of knowing for development
- ❑ Some insights and many questions



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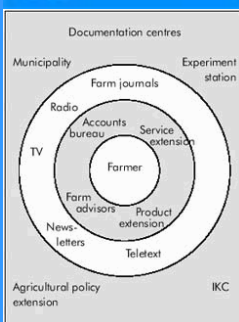
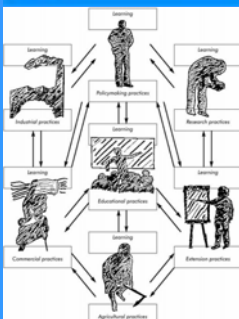
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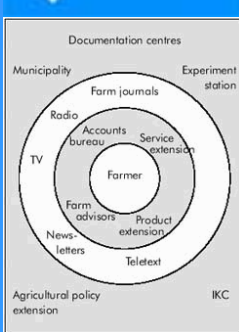
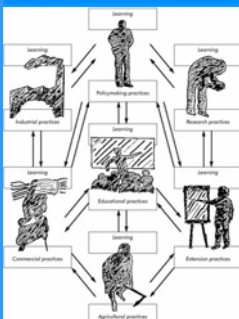
What are we looking at?

- ✓ Innovation: a complex process of social interaction among multiple stakeholders.
- ✓ Knowing systems: How do multiple actors learn and act their way into the future?
- ✓ Governance: How are these processes governed, if at all?
- ✓ Research: What should we know in order to enhance, rather than impair effective learning for development?





Three decades of knowledge systems thinking

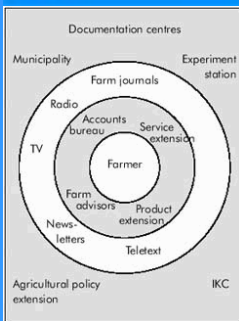
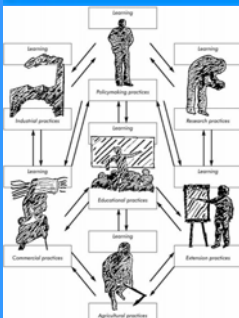


- ❑ *Seventies*: planning for innovation and the Green Revolution
- ❑ *Eighties*: decentralizing technology development
- ❑ *Nineties*: soft systems, social inquiry and learning
- ❑ *A new age?* Structural coupling, joint action and governance



Governance of K4D: *Dealing with Multiplicity*

- ✓ Multiple actors: multiple perspectives, interests and levels of influence
- ✓ Multiple practices: multiple relevant strands of knowing – beyond science's prison?
- ✓ Multiple levels: multiple levels of social aggregation and administration
- ✓ ...



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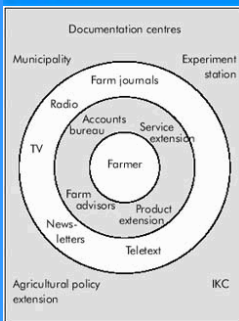
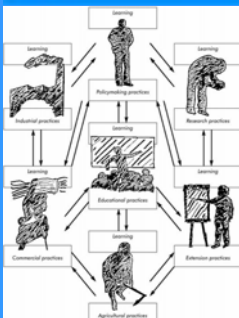
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5



Governance of K4D: *Emerging Patterns of Social Organisation*

- ✓ Social formations: convergences, communication, resource coalitions
- ✓ Power differentials: driving forces, enabling and impairing factors
- ✓ Alliances: empowerment, resource-based identities, action
- ✓ Networks: learning, mutual support, and advocacy
- ✓ ...



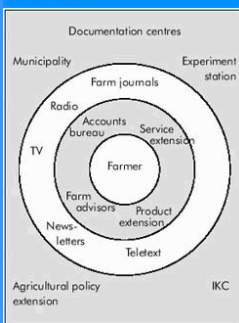
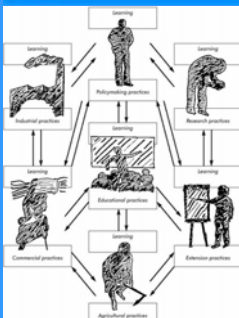
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6



Governance of K4D: *Combining systems of inquiry & learning*

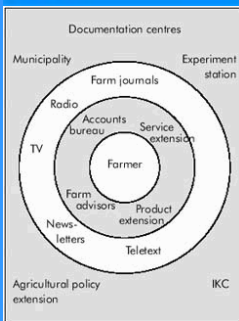
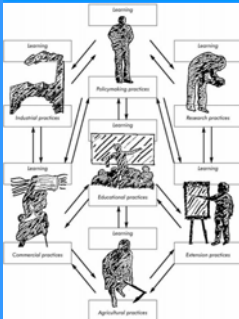


- ✓ Social action: learning-in-practice
- ✓ Participatory action-research: learning-by-doing
- ✓ Networking: learning-among-practices
- ✓ Exploratory research
- ✓ Conclusive research??
- ✓ ...



Some insights to date (1)

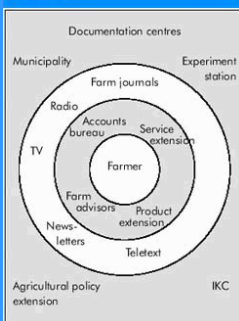
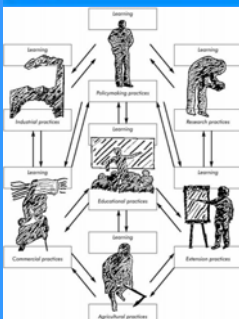
- ✓ Structural coupling: Resource-based identity and territorial action perspective.
- ✓ Multiplicity/diversity: A rich approach including a combination of approaches, methods and tools.
- ✓ No single model of “good” governance: Stakeholders to develop their own guiding metaphors.





Some insights to date (2)

- ✓ Capacity development: A joint capacity for situation analysis, planning, weighing options, self-organization, communication and learning is to be built up.
- ✓ Dealing with power differentials: Empowering the disempowered means enabling them to effectively contribute their own perspective, experiences and insights.
- ✓ A need for transparency and mutually agreed principles and procedures of governance.





Governance of K4D: many questions...

- ✓ Poverty alleviation: First things first...?
- ✓ Is empowerment of local stakeholders a condition *sine qua non*?
- ✓ What makes up a conducive policy environment?
- ✓ What are the impairing influences of donor or elite-driven models of intervention on local, collective processes of knowing? And how to avoid them?
- ✓ Is facilitation possible? Can researchers be facilitators?
- ✓ What methods and tools help build effective inquiry and learning practices locally?

