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Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Social inclusion and gender equality
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Multistakeholder platforms
Keyword 2	: Social innovation systems
Keyword 3	:
Title of Entry	: Do multi-stakeholder platforms support inclusive innovation in rice value chains?
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation

Abstract : Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP) in agricultural innovation systems are anchored towards supporting inclusive innovations where such networks would support the development of new goods and services aimed at serving the welfare of low income groups. Learning Alliance (LA) is one of the MSPs that have been used to facilitate changes in the rice value chain. For research projects, using this approach aims at enabling changes that create supportive conditions for farmers and farming communities for adopting and adapting to new technologies. The question remains, however, on whether LA supports innovations that are inclusive of the poorer segments in the farming communities? A study was conducted in Myanmar where LA was implemented at village level to understand whether this platform supports the way smallholder farmers can access, participate in, and benefit from innovations. This examined a project that facilitated joint learning activities centered around using improved postharvest management practices and exploring markets that could pay premiums for the improved quality. Stakeholder analysis and social network maps were used to characterize the stakeholders involved. Secondary documents from joint learning activities in the LA were also reviewed to derive insights regarding the participation and initial outcomes, paying particular attention to smallholder farmers. From 2013-2015, the significant involvement of different types of stakeholders confirmed the inclusivity of the approach. While some farmers in the villages were involved in the network, not many poor farmers were strongly involved. Examining the characteristics of these farmers revealed that farmers with innovation capacities immediately became interested. As a further step in this study, analysis will be done on whether benefits from network interactions could be passed on to poor farmers and whether they can absorb the resulting innovations and benefit from them.

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