The change process involves a complex interaction of feedback loops, associated with adjustment of the technical innovation during piloting, adaptation and learning.

Actual practice is more complicated, with three cycles to identify the scope, plan the innovations and their dissemination, and provide supportive framework.

**TYPES OF INNOVATION**

**Productivity-enhancing innovations**
They improve returns to land, labour and capital by means of incremental changes to farm business, including forestry and fisheries.

**Transformative innovations**
They bring major change to farming system structures and functions by introducing new enterprises or radically different ways of farming and post-harvest technologies.

**Asset strengthening**
Beneficiary health enhancing

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**INNOVATION**
Agenda 2030 recognizes innovation as a cross-cutting element directly relevant to SDG 1, 2 and contributing to others.
Managing successful innovation demands transdisciplinary skills.

The simpler the innovation the greater the chance of it being sustained.

Some innovations only show their benefits when implemented at scale.

A set of technical innovations, such as System of Rice Improvement, provides a simple focus for project design.

Environmental damage may arise from innovation supporting both diversification and asset growth as well as productivity.

Technical innovations to promote value chain development require careful preparation.

Effective partnerships are essential for input supply, technical advice, group development, dissemination and marketing.

CONCLUSIONS

Most technical innovations enhance productivity. They are low risk and well suited to the needs of many farmers.

A smaller number of innovations are transformative as they are more risky and require higher investments in resources and knowledge.

Impact tends to come from a package of innovation measures, not a single element.

IFAD’s portfolio is very diverse with innovations responding to local context and needs – a challenge for scaling up.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance focus on transformative practices within IFAD’s approach to technical innovation while continuing to promote low risk improvements to productivity for the majority of poor smallholder farmers.

2. Systematically monitor, evaluate and learn from innovations.

3. Use the forthcoming Corporate-Level Evaluation to explore IFAD’s readiness to promote transformative innovations.