



# KNOW-HOW<sub>3000</sub>

*Experience*

*AT A GLANCE*

## Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI)

### What is it about?

Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) is a strategic approach that strengthens the capacity of farmers to identify and develop competitive market opportunities while enhancing household food security and securing the natural resource base.

### Why an intervention?

Agriculture remains the dominant source of livelihoods of rural households in developing countries. Since subsistence farming is no sufficiently effective strategy to escape from poverty, access to markets is of paramount importance for improving farmers' livelihoods at household level.

### What does it change?

Farmers take an active role in the development of their livelihoods. They are enabled to calculate costs, develop enterprises, do marketing, organize themselves, design action plans, and monitor their development.

### How does it work?

The ERI approach integrates a wide spectrum of participatory methods into a framework of five core modules, which happen parallel and affect the other. Farmers play an active role in the process; it's about strengthening the farmer groups and communities, market research and identifying opportunities; testing different crops in production and on the market. The farmers themselves also monitor and evaluate the project.

### Who are the beneficiaries?

- Rural population
- Farmer groups/communities (especially women in those groups)
- Organisations and their staff

### Who could use that approach?

- Farmer communities
- Public Institutions
- Other NGOs
- Research institutes

### Who is already using it?

BOKU, CIAT, UEEF, Africa 2000 Network, CARITAS MADDO, YARD, APOOLO NA ANGOR and SNF in Uganda; ACT MARA and KOLPING SOCIETY in Tanzania; as well as first test groups within the Senegal Programm of HORIZONT3000. TRIAS Uganda and ZOA are currently implementing ERI in other regions.

**HORIZONT<sub>3000</sub>**

AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**Sector:** Rural Development - Natural Resource Management

**Period:** 2013 – 2015 (East Africa)

**Further material:** <http://eri-approach.info/>;

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