A mixed qualitative—quantitative—participatory methodology: a study of the agricultural knowledge and information system (AKIS) of small-scale farmers



University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

QQML 2009 Chania, Greece, 26-29 May 2009



Presentation outline

Introduction

Findings & discussion

Methodology & methods

Conclusion



Introduction

- Kenya 80% of the population lives in rural areas
- 80% of farmers are smallholders



- Creates wealth & employment
- Employs > 80% of Kenya's workforce
- Contributes 25% of the GDP
- Provides raw materials to the manufacturing sector



- Growth declined from 4.4% in 1996 to -2.4% in 2000
 - Improvements from 2002 (1.8%) to 2005 (6.9%)
 - Dropped to 2.3% in 2007

... Introduction



Barriers to attaining full production

- Poor access to agricultural information & knowledge
- New technologies do not refarmers
- Low output & productivity
- Weak institutional capacity & coordination
- Inadequate markets & market information
- Weak linkages between actors

The need to:

- Increase production
- Improve access to markets
- Address the limited supply of agricultural information & knowledge
- Improve linkages between agricultural actors

Understand the agricultural knowledge & information systems of small-scale farmers (AKISs)