The "system" assumed most frequently in this book is the agricultural production system, but the approaches assumed will accommodate other systems as varied as the farm household and the world market. Part of "understanding the relevant farming system" is understanding how the other systems influence it.

Likewise, the concept of "farm" is not restrictive. It can be a simple family owned and operated farm, a tenant farm, a farm with several households, a farm that depends on private plots and communal lands, even a plantation. No matter what the "system of farming," it is necessary that research and extension workers understand it.

G. Emphasis on Models

Great emphasis is placed on models throughout this book. A model has two purposes. It helps to think through a problem or process, and it greatly facilitates communication among all the many actors from varied backgrounds who are involved in technology innovation and in donor projects that support it. Technology innovation is a social process, not readily observable, and not well understood. Organizing and managing agencies to achieve innovation is even less so. Each of the many actors and groups of actors involved will have her/his own concepts based on experiences. A model helps to achieve some commonality of concepts.

This book makes heavy use of the Technology Innovation Process model and derivations of it. It serves to provide a common starting place for the many actors. It has been used and modified to fit particular needs and situations. Use of the TIP model does not indicate any particular defense for it as much as it does encourage the use of models. If you do modify the TIP or develop your own model that proves useful, please share it with the FSSP.

H. Review Panel

Experiences that fed into this draft came from too many sources to acknowledge. Working Draft #2 was formally reviewed in a workshop in January 1985. No approval was requested from the workshop participants, and there is no implication that this draft was formally approved. Many review notes and comments have entered this draft. However, all responsibility for synthesizing the range of experience rests with FSSP.

Participants in the January 1985 workshop were: Jay Artis, Michigan State University; Earl Kellogg and J. B. Claar, University of Illinois; Robert Tripp, CIMMYT; Robert Hart, Winrock International; Richard Harwood, IADS; Donald Voth, University of Arkansas; Eugenio Martinez and Loy Crowder, Rockefeller Foundation/University of Florida; Robert Waugh and James Meiman, Colorado State University; and Dan Galt, Jim Jones, Ken McDermott, Susan Poats, and Chris Andrew of the Farming System Support Project.

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