It has been noted above that stability of the institution depends on leadership that is diffused throughout the institution and not dependent on one or a very few persons. This may be thought of as a diffusion of power, internal diffusion. Stability also requires a diffusion of power externally as well. Society will value an organization through the activities of specific groups who have interests that the institution's program serves. To the extent that these specific groups (indeed special interest groups) have a role in helping decide program and even helping defend program and other institutional aspects they become a stabilizing force. They need to know the organization's program and how the program serves their needs. There is always danger of dysfunctional distortions, but there are also many interests served by research and extension, and the interest groups are frequently not aware of it.

Institutions that deal largely with small-scale farmers face some difficulty in identifying interest groups that can lend stability, since the small-scale farmer is seldom organized.

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