

The Conference

Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research for
Development



Theme 5
Ensuring better rural futures

A few words about Forward Thinking

Robin Bourgeois, GFAR and CIRAD

« It is better to pump even if nothing happens, rather than risking something worse happening if we did not pump »

Being pre-active: preparing ourselves for what we believe will happen in the future (if the trends do not change) is important

but more important is

Being pro-active: acting now to shape the future as we want it (changing the trends)



What does it mean?

Use the future....



... to change the present

... to change the future

How to do it

*A change in mindset,
become future-smart,
agents of change (attitude)*



and



*Acquisition of knowledge
and skills (tools and methods)*

Who can do it?

You...

Me...

Them...

Everybody...



...Together

In forward thinking there are no beneficiaries, we are all actors/doers