

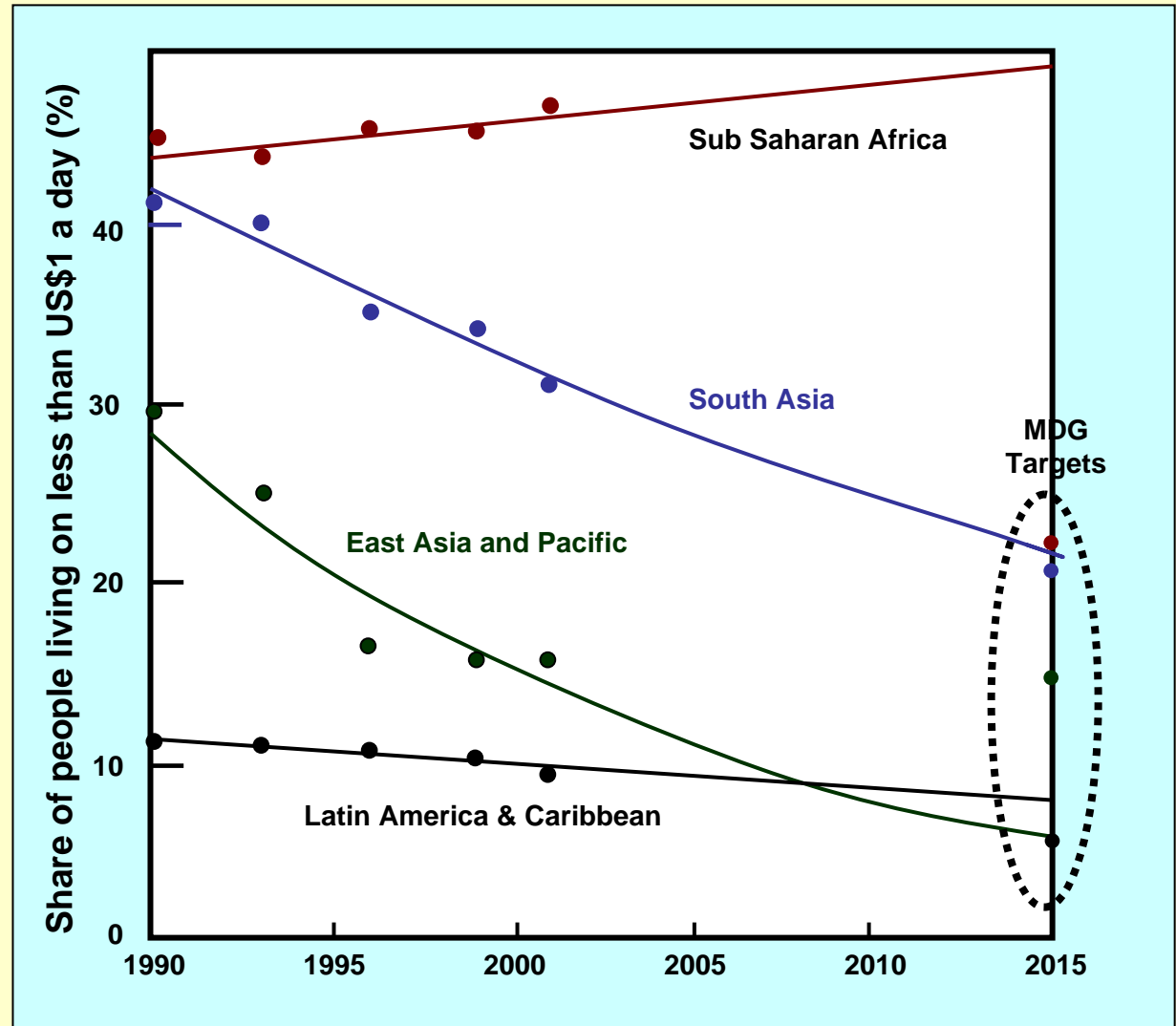
Partnerships for Improving the Performance of Agricultural Research in sub-Saharan Africa: *The Case of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP)*

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Sub-Saharan Africa: time to reverse trends

The SSA-CP aims to contribute to reversing these trends through large scale cascading innovation



The Challenge

Consultations that led to the formulation of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (SSA CP) concluded that the principal shortcoming to date of African agricultural research and development efforts has been the **failure to translate research outputs into developmental impact at significant scales.**

What is different about the SSA CP?

- Its focus on **innovation systems** and understanding on how to reliably replicate their evolution
- Tests the conditions under which research is effectively integrated into processes of Development – the first scale relevant, rigorous test of IAR4D

What is unique about the SSA CP

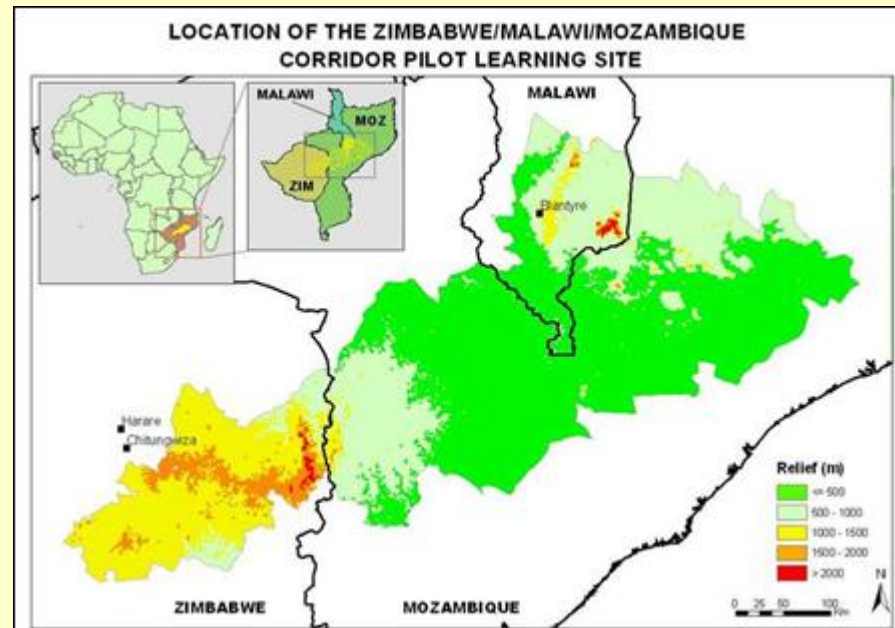
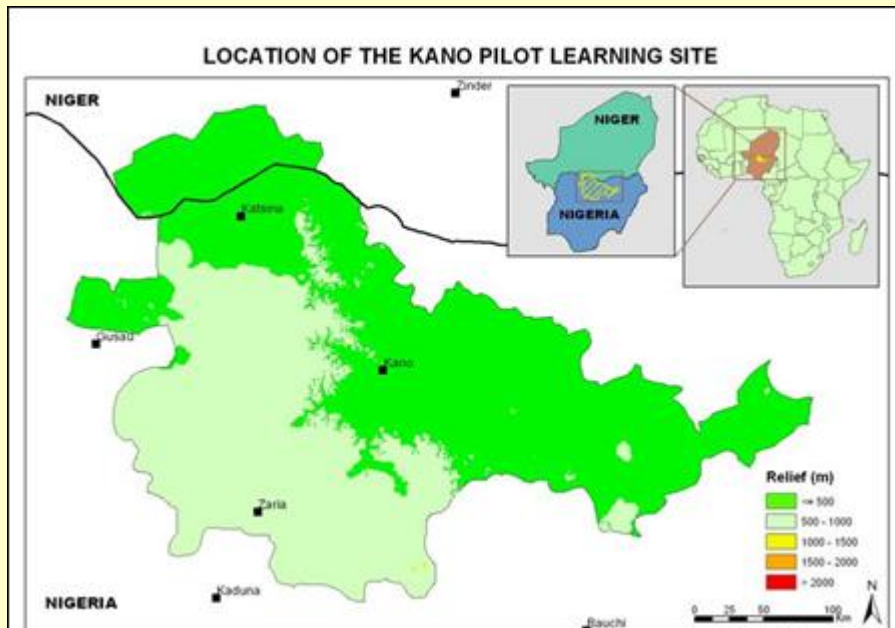
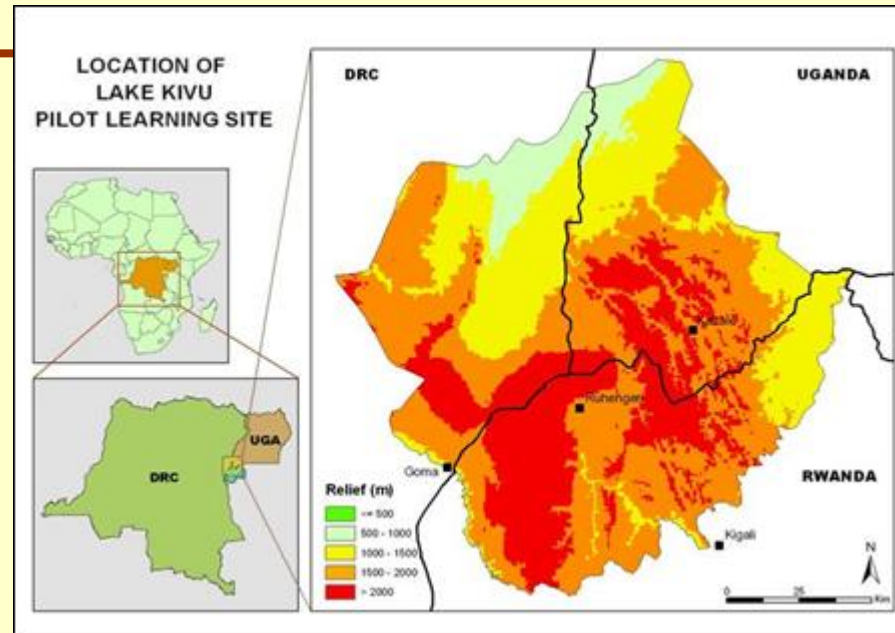
- The SSA CP is not unique in working within an innovation systems framework—this is widely used by private sector in industrialised economies.
- The SSA CP is unique in being the first initiative to conduct rigorous research into IAR4D processes at appropriate scales, to establish its relative value

Objective

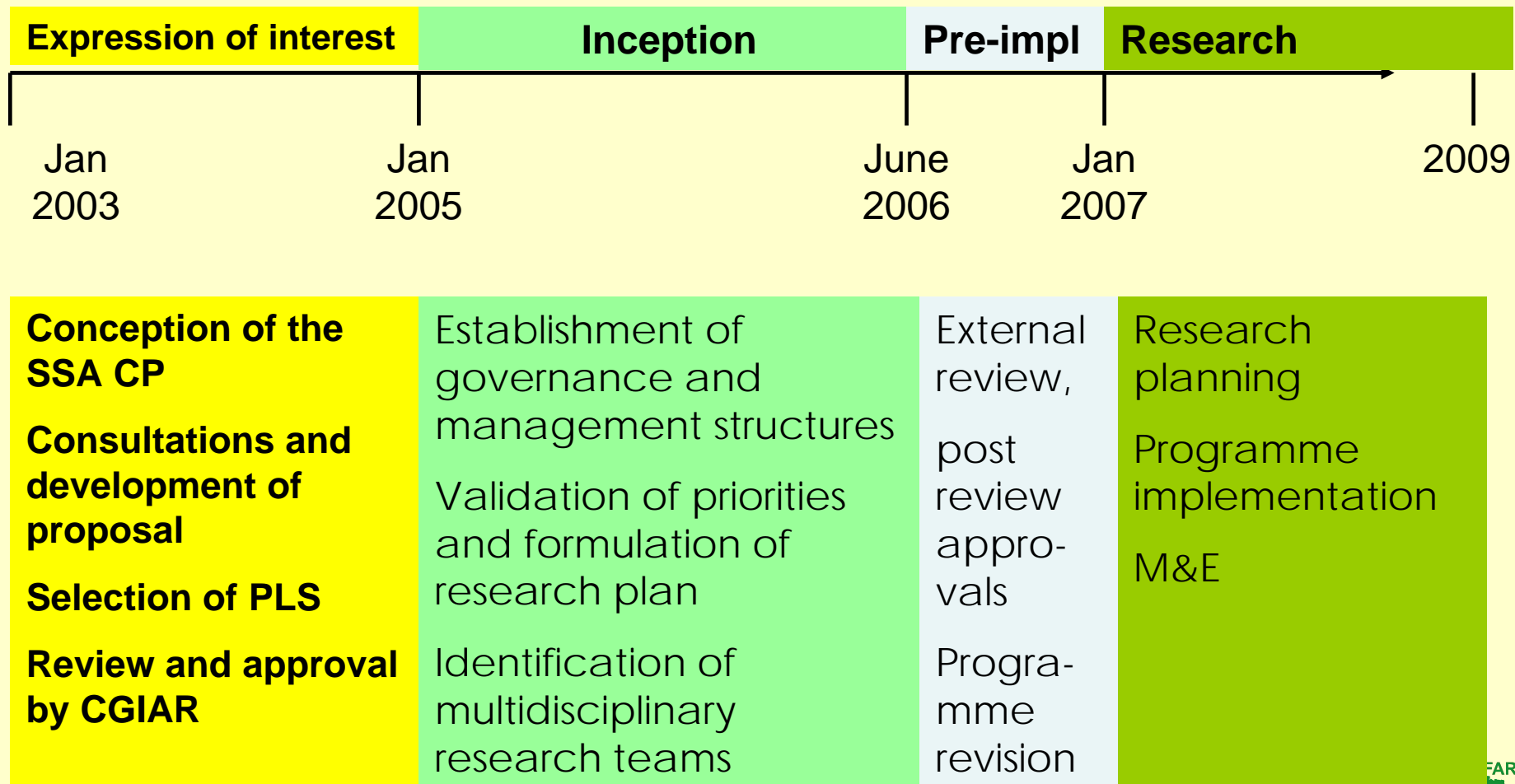
- to extract lessons from the action research on IAR4D principles and guidelines for structuring such forms processes of organizing actors in an agricultural innovation system

SSA-CP Pilot Learning Sites (PLS)

- East-Central Africa: Lake Kivu (DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda)
- West Africa: Kano-Katsina-Maradi (KKM) (Niger & Nigeria)
- Southern Africa: transect in northern Zimbabwe through central Mozambique and into Southern Malawi (ZMM)



SSA-CP poised for implementation



IAR4D in SSA

There are examples of its use in SSA, but it has not been validated under the African context at scale

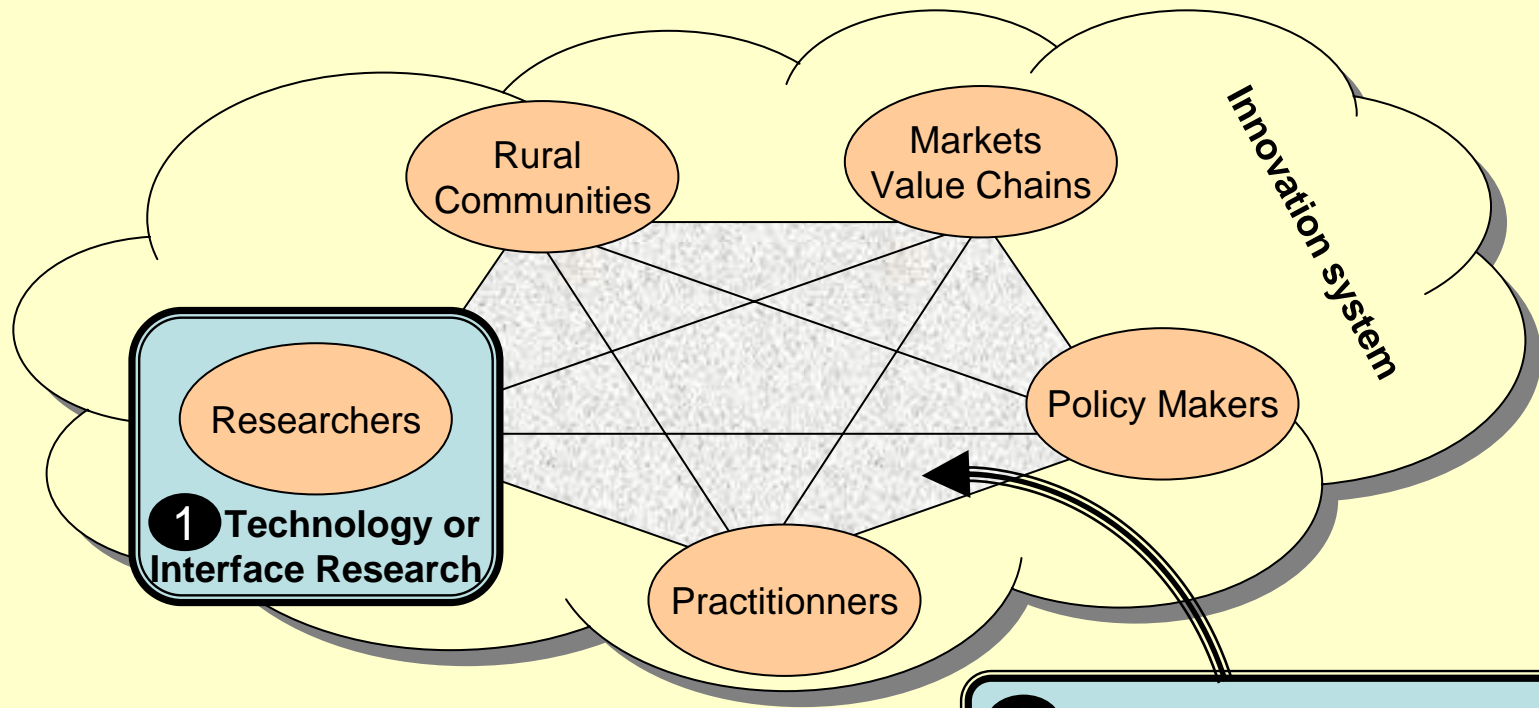
The SSA CP's research aims to answer the questions:

- 1. Does IAR4D work in SSA?**
- 2. Does IAR4D deliver more benefits to end users than conventional approaches**
- 3. How sustainable and usable is IAR4D outside the test environment**

Researchers in the SSA CP

- Are part of the innovation system—providing specialist technical knowledge and generating public goods (local, regional, international)—**Level 1 research**
- Facilitating the development of the system as an action research process— **Level 2 Research**
- Investigating the innovation process to understand how innovations come about and how they lead to development impact—**Level 3 Research**

The 3 levels of research in the SSA CP

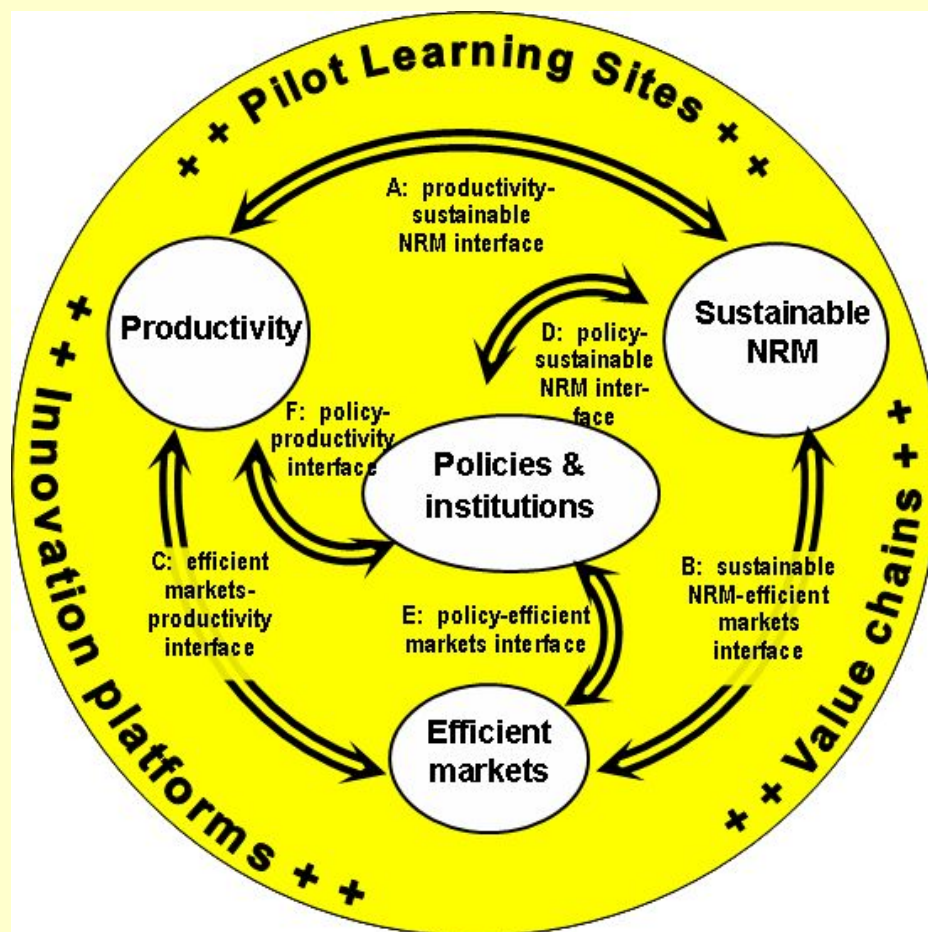


2 Action research to increase the effectiveness of innovation system

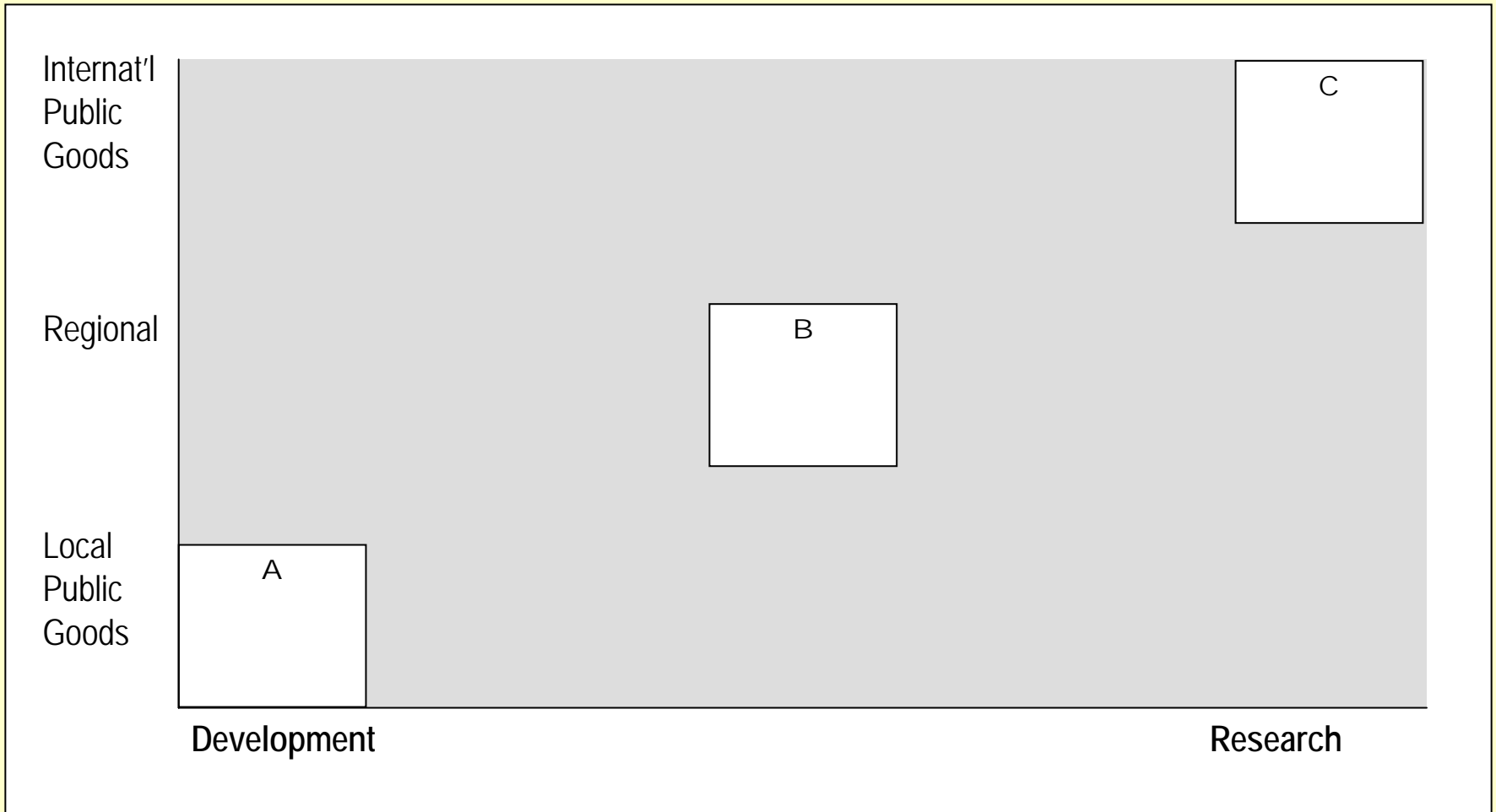
3 Investigating the process to generate principles for developing & Improving effectiveness of Innovation Systems

Level 1 Research

- Is context-specific
- Focuses on interfaces
- May include research along “traditional lines”



Research & action domains, & outcomes of the SSA CP



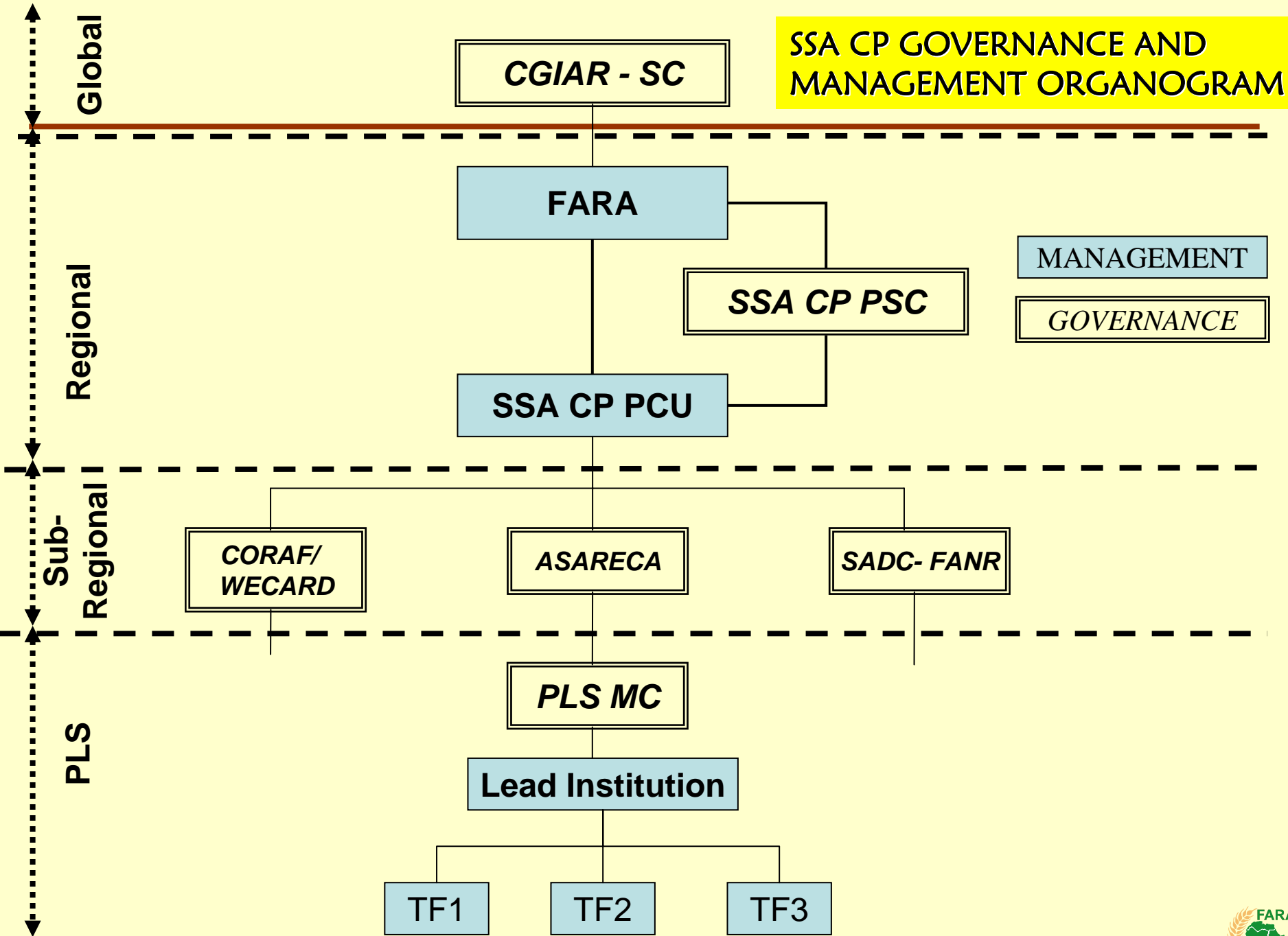
Expected Outcomes from the SSA CP

- Increased capacity of systems of innovation (partnerships) to generate, use and promote technologies and institutional arrangements for sustainably improving agricultural productivity, access to markets and returns from agric. enterprises
- Increased effectiveness and efficiency of ARD organisations in discharging their mandates and fostering agricultural innovation;
- Increased return on investment in agricultural research and reduced research to development lag time

The partners

- Taskforce teams
- Process facilitators within taskforce teams
- Actors within innovation platforms including farmers and communities
- Knowledge and information management specialists
- Cross site research team
- Lead institutions
- Management committees
- FARA, coordination unit and ExCo
- CGIAR, Members, Secretariat, ExCo and Science council

SSA CP GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ORGANOGRAM



Conclusion

- The SSA CP is the *only* scale relevant research on developing innovation systems in complex socio-agricultural systems
- It is systems research that focuses on:
 - delivering development impacts,
 - deep insights into harnessing innovation effectively
 - Contributes to advancement of science
- The state of the art in terms of research into harnessing socio-agroecological systems for sustainable human development
- It is the most exciting large scale research program of its kind in the world