

**FARMER ACCESS TO INNOVATION
RESOURCES (FAIR):**

Local Innovation Support Fund

Pilot in South Africa

**FARA GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

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PRESENTATION CONTENT

- **FAIR Pilot Project**
- **Local Innovation Support Fund**
- **Institutional arrangements**
- **Selection Criteria & LISF Proposals**
- **Types of activities assessed**
- **Lesson learnt**
- **Conclusion**

FAIR Pilot Project

Aim: Finding ways to channel funding for Research and Development at local level and particularly to facilitate farmer-driven research

Specific Objectives:

- To identify, design and pilot Innovation Support Funds to promote sustainable local innovation
- Build institutions to ensure sustainability and effective management of funds
- Document and disseminate lessons learnt

Local Innovation Support Fund

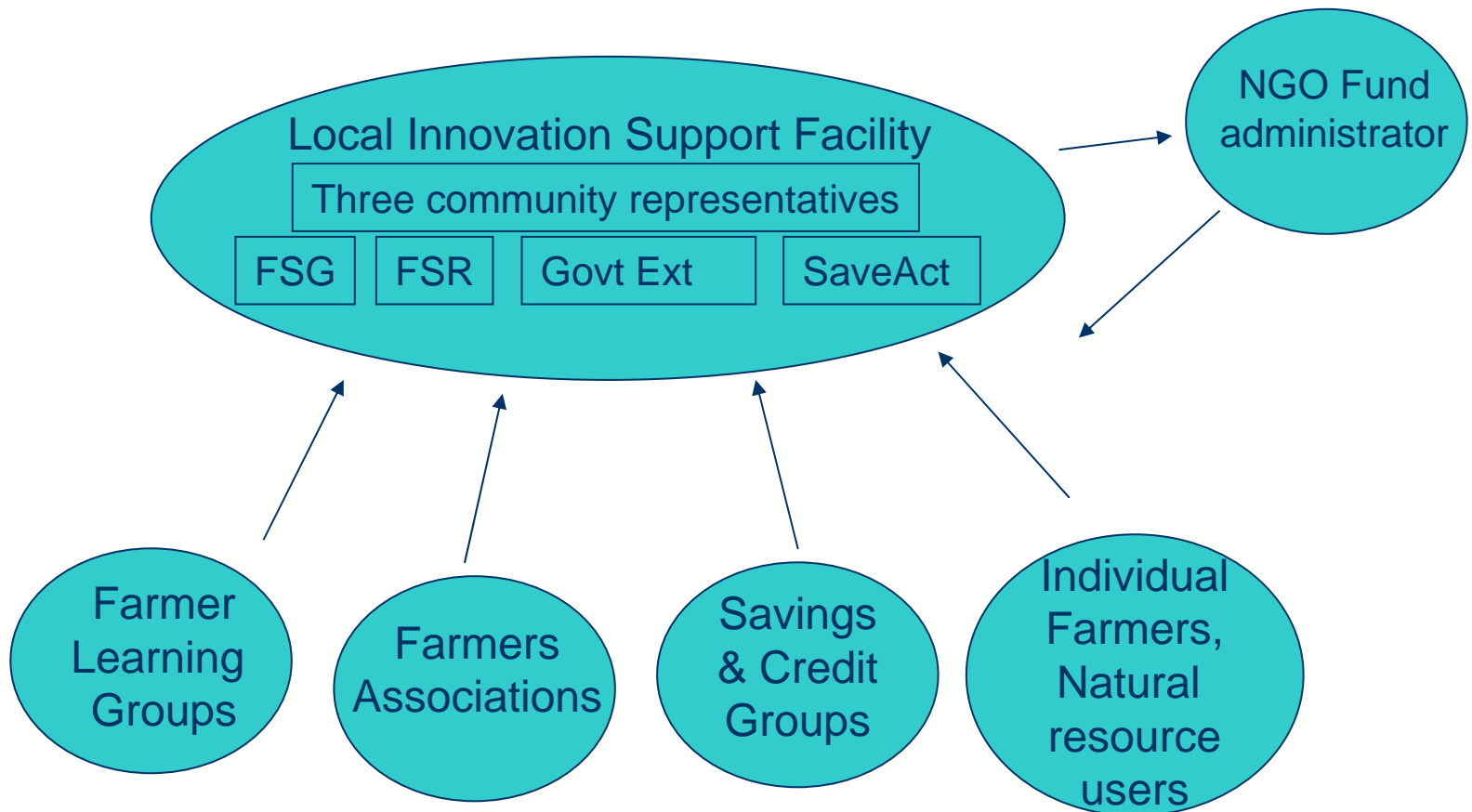
LISF:

Piloted in 4 African Countries (incl. South Africa)

South African Context:

LISF is Local Innovation Support Facility with the understanding of offering a 'comprehensive support service'

Interim institutional arrangements



Selection Criteria & LISF Proposals

- Technically/economically/institutionally feasible
- Idea owned/driven by applicant (s)
- 70% funds to support technical innovations and 30% for non-technical innovations
- Idea is replicable amongst poor and vulnerable

39 applications submitted & screened



LISF Screening Committee assessing applications in South Africa

Types of activities assessed

Approved

- Technology development/ experimentation
- Cross visits to see social & marketing innovations
- Learning visits to stimulate innovation

Rejected

- Many submissions not appropriate
 - Project orientated initiatives
 - Supply driven environment
 - Lack creative thinking & Innovation by its nature

Activities undertaken to date

Funded

- **Exchange Visits**
Amazizi Craft Coop
& Qaqumqondo Savings
& Credit Group



Progress & Outcomes

- Improved Craft Products & Marketing (consignments)
- Increased networks, business linkages and sharing of ideas
- Exchange raw materials
- Investment in agriculture

Lessons learnt

- Demand driven actions are beginning to emerge
- People are accustomed to handouts and also just see an opportunity
- Some understanding lost during translation of technical terms -“innovations”
- We need to ascertain true cost of innovation process

Conclusions

- Existing policy framework not enabling
- Complementary programmes are important, as they assist in establishing a better environment for local initiative and innovation
- Support Team needs to play a referral and supportive role on applications falling outside the mandate of the LISF
- Co-management of funds not yet possible as community institutions are still weak

**On behalf of the
SOUTH AFRICAN – FAIR Team**

**SIYABONGA....
THANK YOU....
REA LEBOHA...**