

Diffusion of Information & Knowledge to African Farmers



FARA/COL
Lifelong Learning for Farmers Workshop
FARA Annual Conference, South Africa
2007, June 10

OBJECTIVE OF COLLABORATION

- Use Information and Communication Technology to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of Africa's Agricultural Sector.

Collaboration

■ Issues

- Virtual University – Farmers can't leave their farms to attend formal class room teaching sessions. Information has to be disseminated using accessible and flexible methods.
- Farmers role in Research – Bottom up synergy is very important when research is being carried out. Farmers must be involved and must buy in or the implementation of solutions from the research will not be very effective, as the farmers will not implement the suggestions made by the Researchers in a top down approach.

COLLABORATION

Issues:

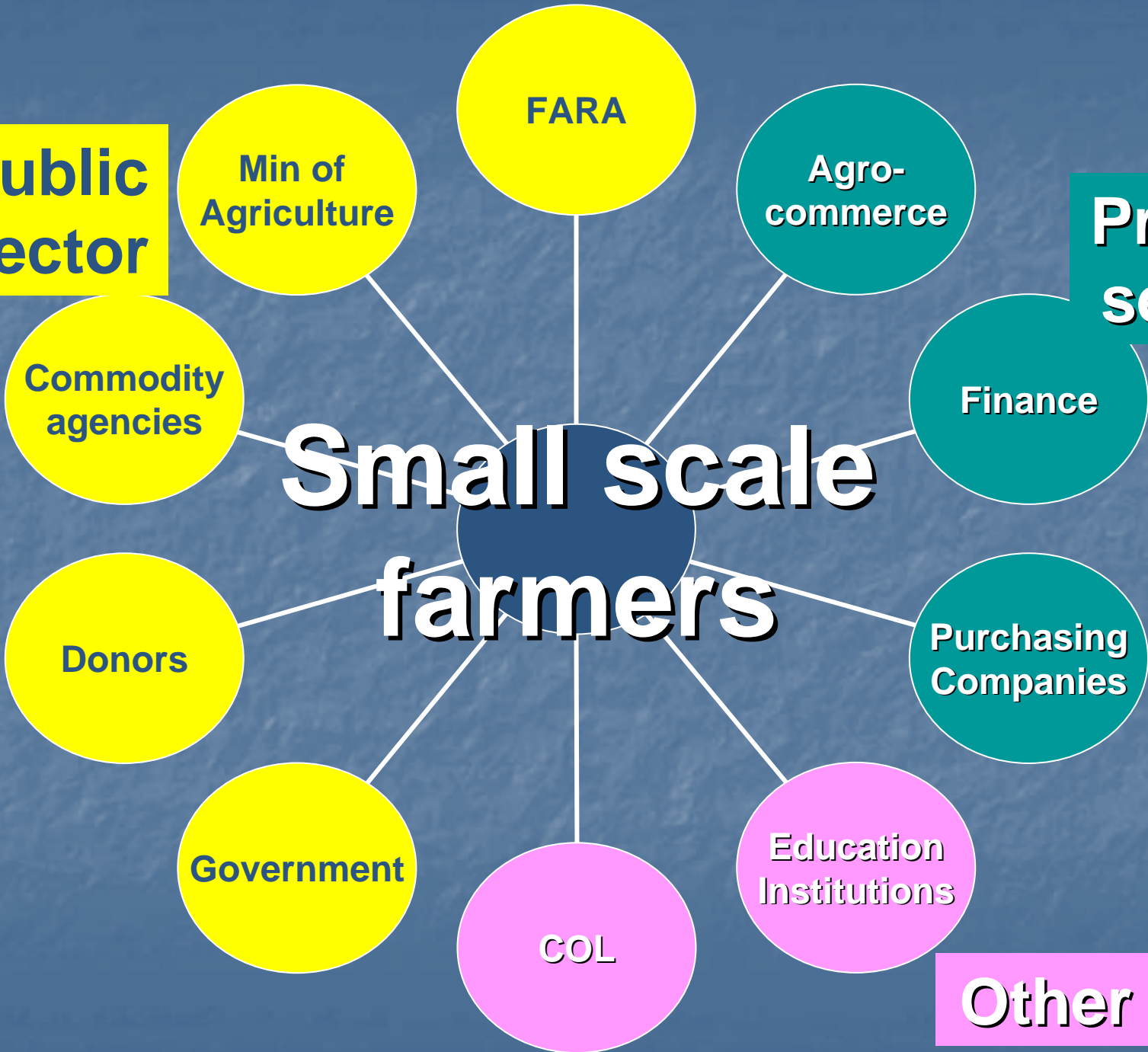
- Role of other Educational institutions – farmers
- need for information and training extends to more than just how to farm. They need to learn business development skills, book keeping, marketing etc.
- Stakeholders situation analysis
- Affordable, flexible liaison
- Sustainability
- International collaboration

Public sector

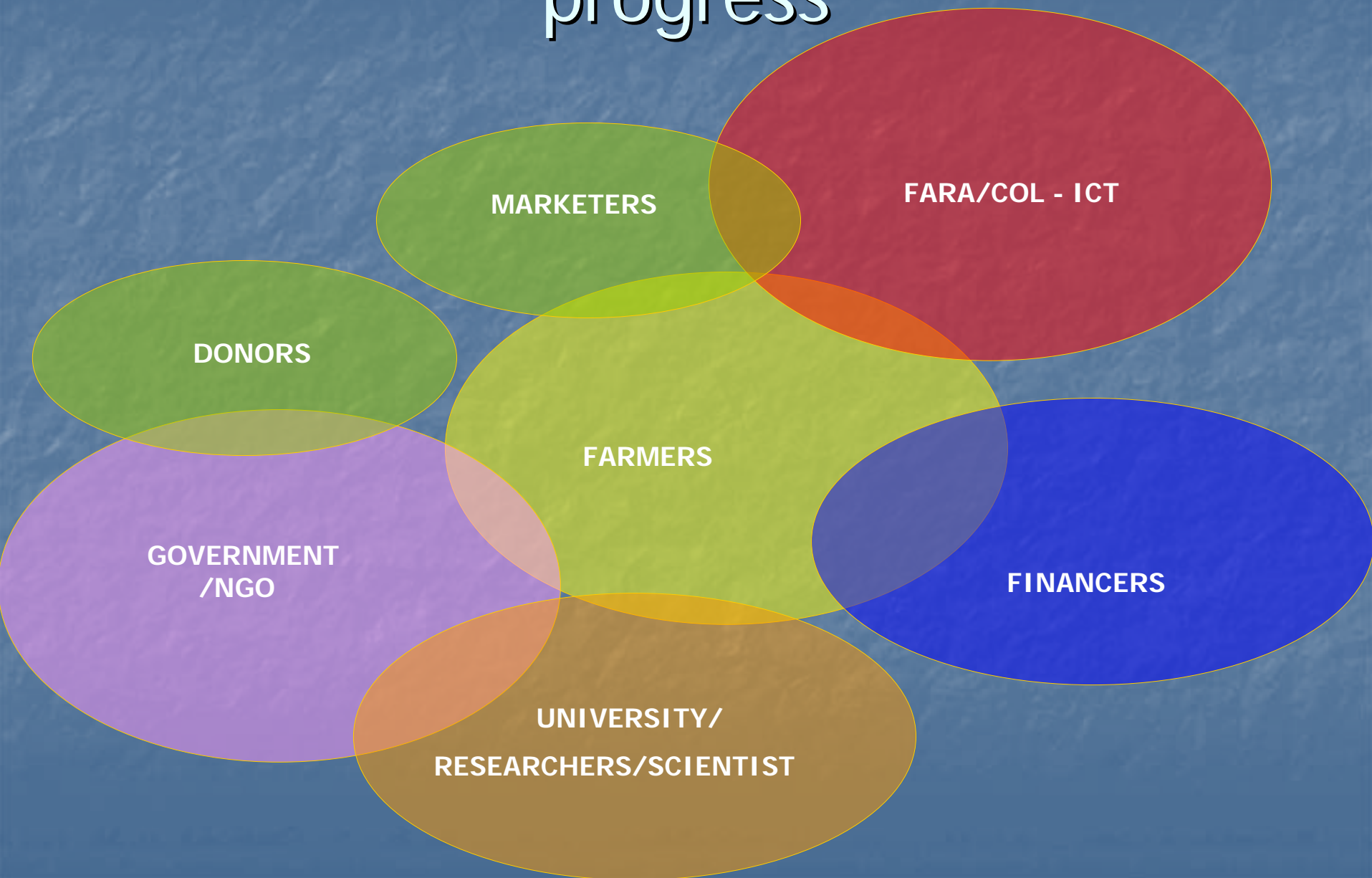
Private sector

Other

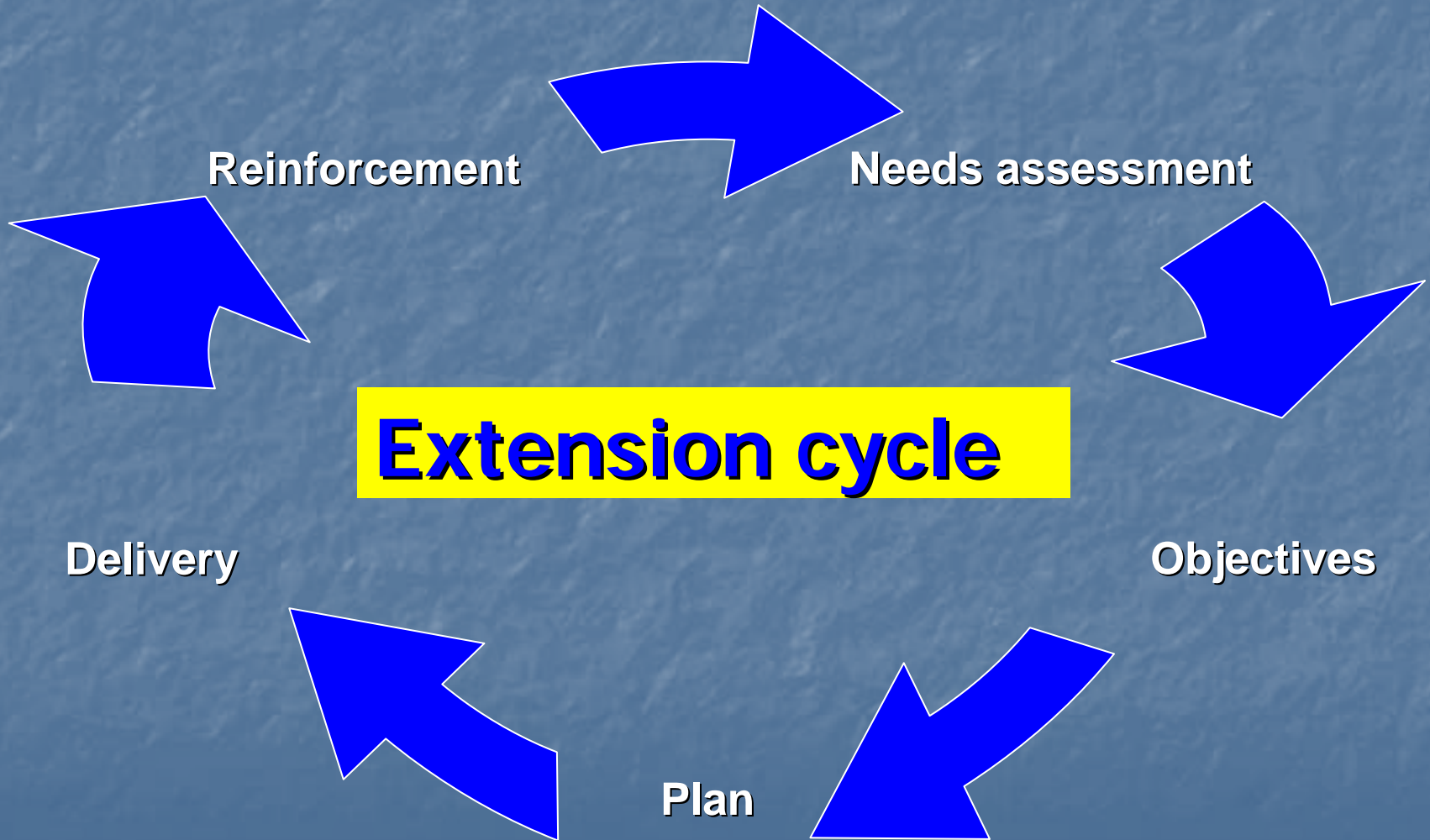
Small scale farmers



STAKEHOLDERS – Partnership for progress



FARA Extension services



COLLABORATION

FARA/COL

L3 FARMERS INITIATIVE

- Bottom-up
- Farmer-based
- Facilitation
- Hands-on/demo/discussion; live/written/AV aids
- Principle focus
- Constant evaluation & modification
- More resource-demanding

The Way Forward

- FARA mandate (Strategic plan)
 - Priorities (Flexibility)
 - Work plan
 - Training/re-training
 - Ongoing assessment
 - Rewards/penalties
 - Collaboration
- Information and Communication Technology
- Modern farmer cadre & support infrastructure

Collaboration conclusion

PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS (PFP) is the only way forward to assist small Farmers in Africa

FOR THIS TO HAPPEN FARA (THROUGH COL) HAS TO BRIDGE THE MISSING LINKS AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS