

FARA General Assembly Sub-Theme 3:

Learning From Past Success of Research In Influencing Agricultural Policies

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The Wanjiku-2005

- Land owned -1 hectare
- Main crops- Staples
- No Livestock
- Yield Maize 200kg/ha
- Seeds used-recycled
- Fertilizer used: 0.1 of recommended levels
 - Agricultural Implements owned-hand hoe, Remittances++++



LINKING RESEARCH TO POLICY

The WHAT and the HOW!

10% national budgetary allocations to agriculture!

1. To be spent on what?
2. Overall economic impact?

“Policy research on African agriculture is long on prescriptions for what needs to be done to spur agricultural growth but short on how...”
(Omamo, 2004)

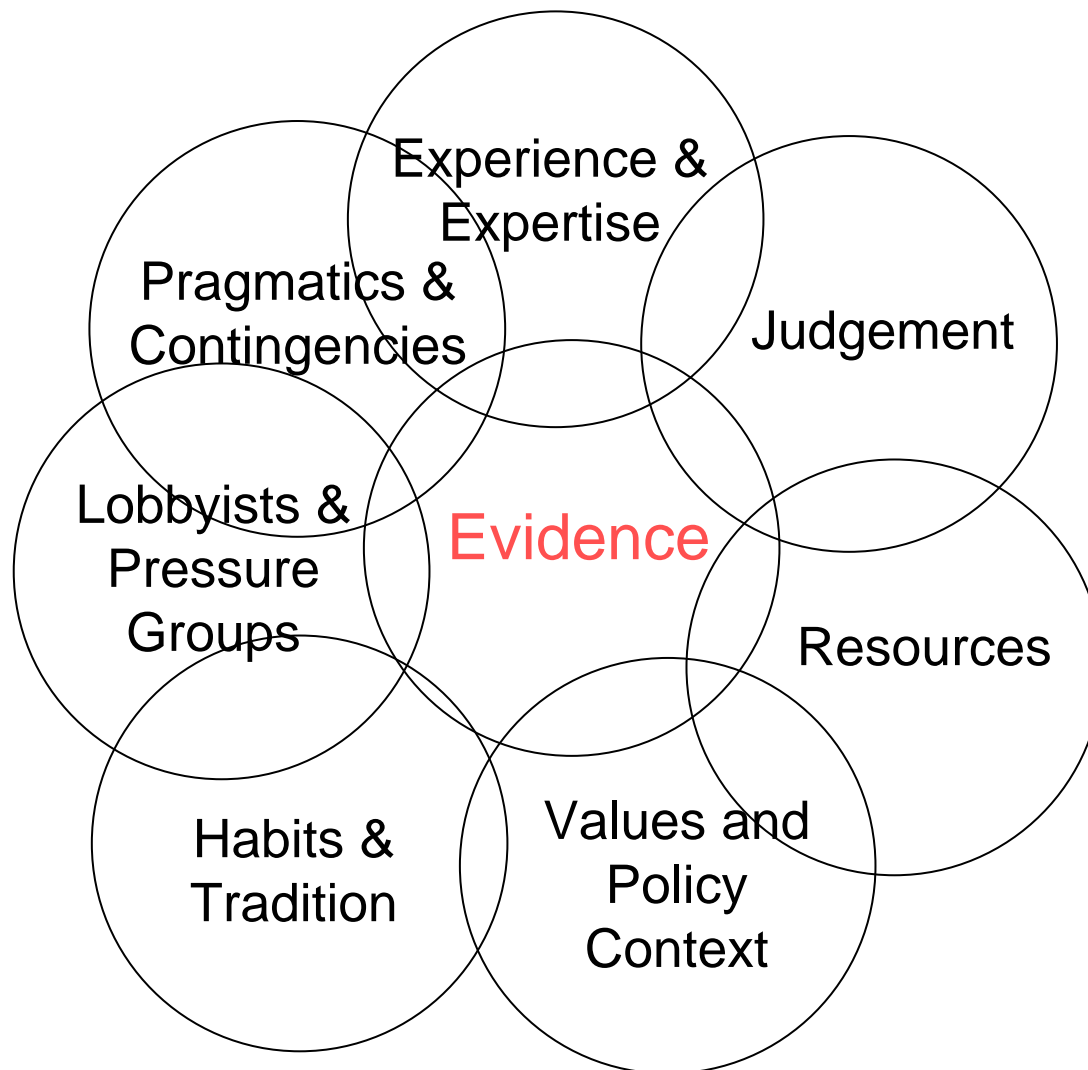
Outline

- The African Farmer
- The Link Between Research and Policy Development?
- How are Policies created?
- Case Studies Demonstrating Research-Policy Links
- Lessons for Researchers

Research-Policy Link

- Research: *“any systematic effort to increase the stock of knowledge”*
- Policy: *a “purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors”*
- Evidence: *“the available information supporting- or otherwise a belief or proposition”*
- Evidence-based Policy: *“public policy informed by rigorously established evidence”*

Factors influencing policy making

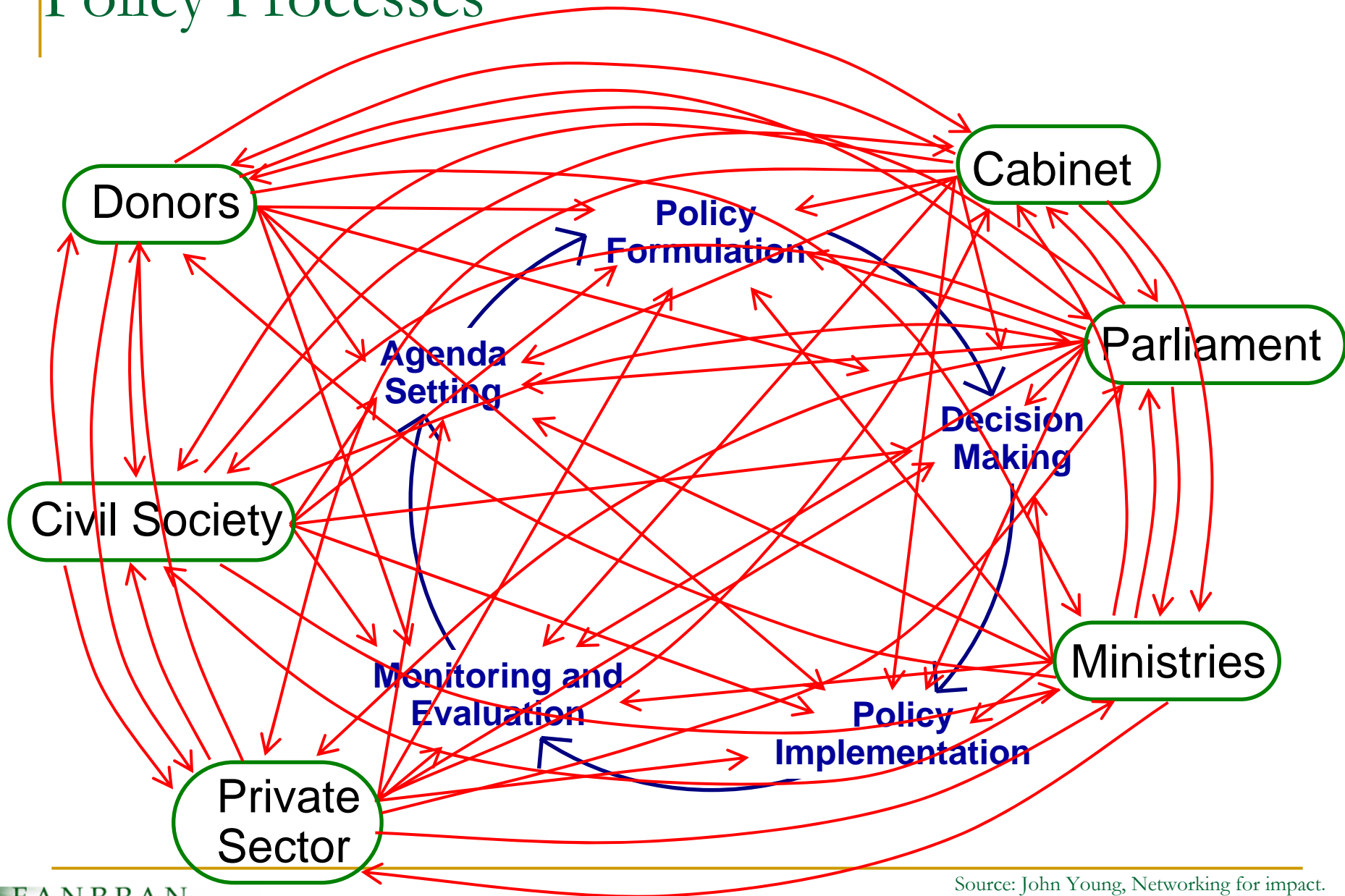


Stakeholders in Policy-Making

Stakeholders are “those who must be satisfied with the policies or those who gain or lose something from a given policy”.

- Policy makers
- Legal professionals and politicians, farmer organizations
- Researchers, technicians, policy analysts and media professionals, agri-business
- Activist groups , Ordinary citizens
- People with experience, influence and expertise

Policy Processes



Research Policy Link-The Reality!

- *“The whole life of policy is a chaos of purposes and accidents. It is not at all a matter of the rational implementation of the so-called decisions through selected strategies ¹”*
- Policy development is embedded in a much broader cluster of progressions that are needed to collectively bring about policy change.

Research Policy Link-Entry Points?

- Agenda setting?
- Policy dialogue?
- Policy options and design?
- Policy delivery?
- Linking the various geographical levels?
- Capacity of specific stakeholder groups to influence policies?
- Farmers' livelihoods?
- Economic growth?
- Project, Program, Institutional?

The Role of Research in Policy Making

- Research is a **learning process** that is integral to the development process
- Need to promote interactions between research, knowledge use and policy development-
INNOVATION SYSTEMS APPROACH
- **Civil society** plays a pivotal role as a connector

Case Studies

- **3 case studies selected to demonstrate agricultural research link to policies at local, national and regional levels**
- **Maize Marketing in Southern Africa**
FANRPAN, Michigan State University
- **Policies for Community Animal Health Services in Kenya**
Kenya DVS, KVB, AU-IBAR
- **Regional Seed Harmonization**
SADC Seed Security Network, ICRISAT, IOWA State University, FANRPAN

Maize Marketing in Southern Africa

FANRPAN nodes 3 countries and Michigan State University

- Maize marketing and trade is controlled
- 40-60% of cost borne by consumers of maize meal
- High Inter-district levies
- Imports controlled-in favour of Formal large scale millers
- Two maize marketing channels in the Southern Africa region:
 - Formal grain marketing/processing system
 - Informal, generally small-scale marketing/processing system

Formal, large-scale marketing system



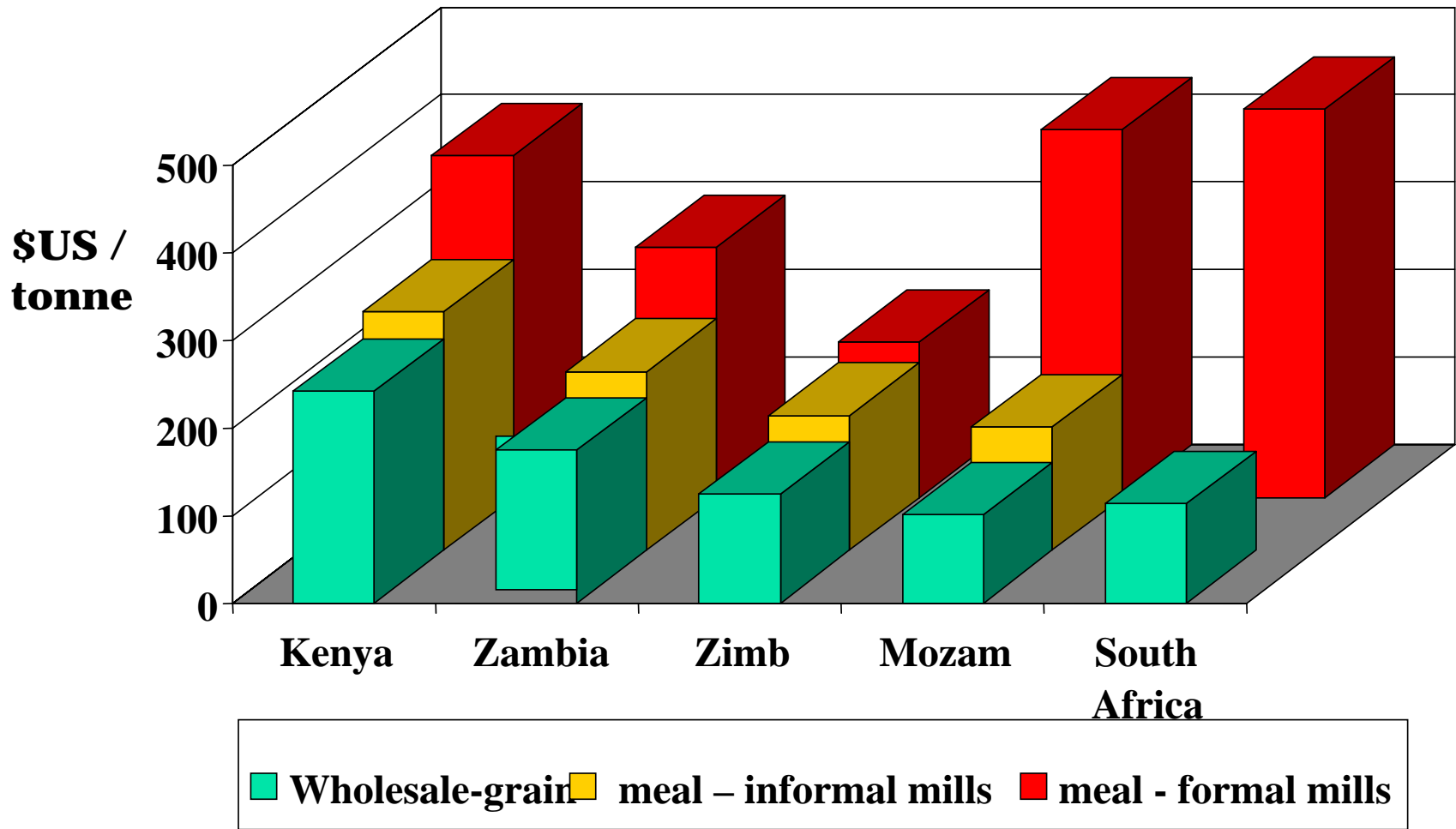
Informal Marketing Systems



Problem Statement

- Prosperity of small farmer maize production will depend on:
 - reducing costs and barriers to *informal* trade
 - better integrating *informal* and *formal* channels
- Importance of strengthening informal trade derives from the need to:
 - improve marketing incentives for small farmers
 - reduce the cost of food for consumers

Maize grain and maize meal prices, 1996-2001, informal vs. formal channels



Policy Interventions-in Maize Marketing

- Research results presented to policy makers in Zambia
- Immediate reduction in inter-district levies
- Immediate waiver on tariffs for maize from Sept 2005- March 2006
- Demand for follow up studies

LESSONS LEARNT

- Multi-disciplinary regional research team including government, university, international staff sharing a common network- FANRPAN
- Evidence fits political pressures
- Problem agreed upon at the beginning of the study
- Trust, credible evidence, results immediately applied

Kenya Animal Health Service Delivery

70s	Professionalisation of public services
80s	Structural adjustment (Sessional paper) Collapse of public service Paravet projects emerge
Late 80s	International NGO (ITDG) projects: collaborative action research ITDG Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs-paravets) network Privatisation of Vet Services
90s	Rapid spread of paravets in pastoral areas, NGO supported Change in Vet Services directorate, shift in perspective International workshop in Kenya raised profile Kenya Vet Board Letter published in Newspaper Hubl Study demonstrates effectiveness of CAHW Multi-stakeholder workshops, new policies outlined, acting director backed change

Key Interventions cont.

2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Change in DVS directorate, reduced support for Paravet approach
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Regional acceptance of CAHW, guidance from AU-IBAR❑ Kenya DVS draft guidelines for training❑ New policy framework developed❑ Policies still not approved/ passed formally

Lessons from CAHWs Process

- Actors – key champions (individuals) – in and outside formal policy organizations; international actors; ITDG & AU-IBAR
 - Bureaucratic politics – DVS, KVB, ITDG, etc. Opening up and closing down spaces for engagement, Gate keepers
 - Strategic opportunities/timing – early workshops, KVB letter, multi-stakeholder response
 - Multiple policy dialogue engagements
 - Networks – alliances continuously re-crafted
 - Informal policies – action research moving faster than policy on paper
 - Role of international players – ITDG networks, AU-IBAR, donors.
 - It takes time --, needs persistency
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Regional Seed Harmonization

- Seed recognized as an important precursor to improved agricultural productivity.
- SADC seed industries at different levels, most under-developed.
- The system of certification differs, causing confusion especially with the nomenclature being used.
- Limitations in human resources and lack of sound laboratory equipment, has caused reluctance to accept test results.
- Difficulty of trading seed freely among member states, unfriendly seed systems, time consuming, complex and complicated.

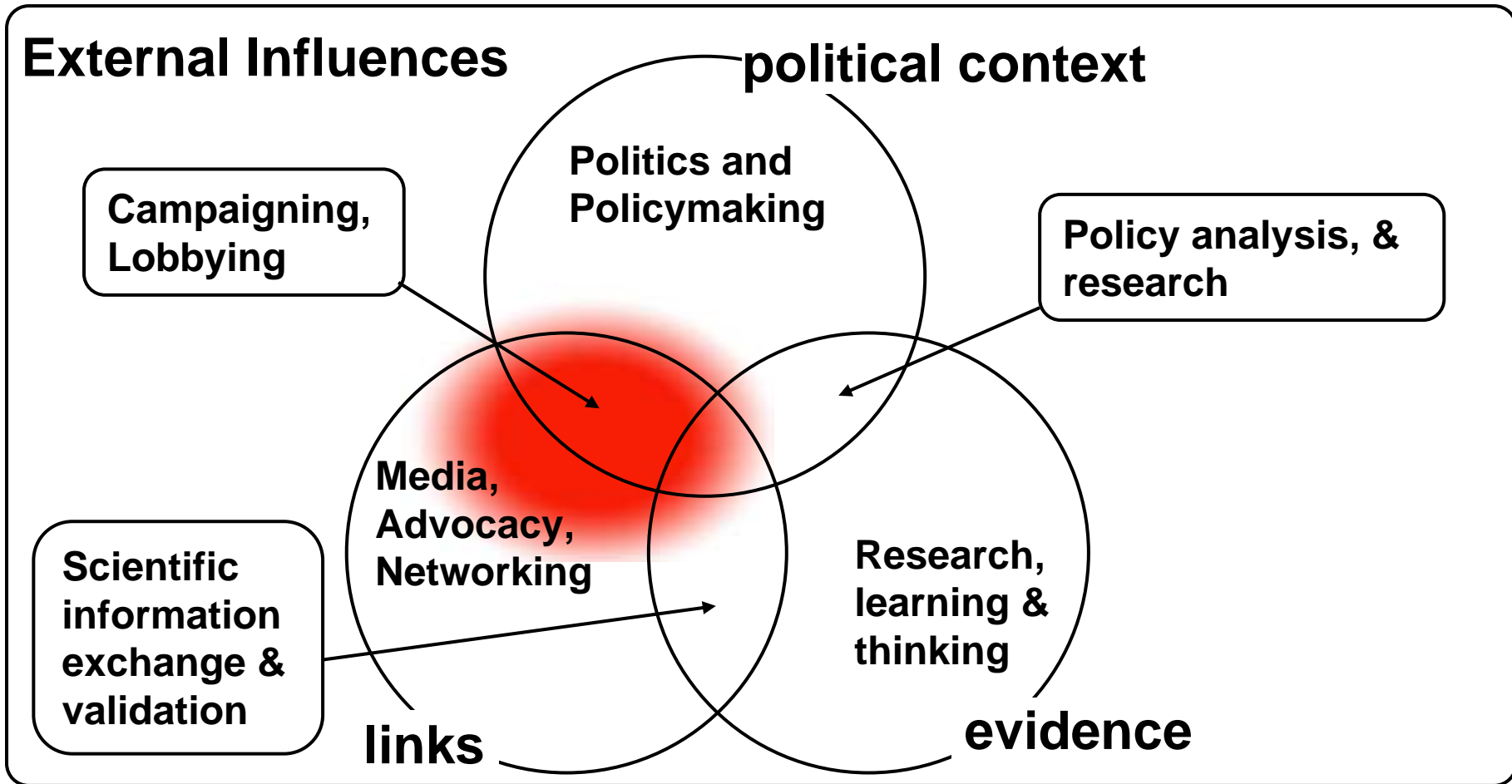
Key Interventions

94	Discussions on harmonization of seed rules Regional stakeholders agreed on need for harmonization
	Funds mobilized for SADC Seed Security Network (SSN) setup - FA0
99	Funds mobilized for workshop (Belgian) Regional meeting: defined technical issues for research
2000	Launch of Action Plan (WB) Start-up workshop
2001	SSN finally set up
2003	Draft variety release
2004	IOWA-University provided technical inputs OECD based Draft Regional seed certification system Phytosanitary proposal for seed measures Workshop for Policy & Planning directors & Private Sector from agriculture and trade and industry Lobbying member states
2007	Submissions to Integrated Council of Ministers Agenda Heads of State Summit

Lessons learnt

- Harmonization of seed rules and regulations in the SADC region have been painfully slow 13 years
- Delays caused by:
 - The lack of technical capacity and limited funding
 - Limited space for CSO engagement-government driven
 - Fragmented and uncoordinated donor efforts
 - Lack of a regional institution authoritative on seeds
- Many meetings at national and regional level-afforded an opportunity to: share experiences, appreciate the problems, know each other and seek solutions
- The research support by international seed research organization (2005-7) accelerated the policy process

A Practical Framework



What Researchers need to know

The political context:

- Is there political interest in change?
- Is there room for manoeuvre?
- How do they perceive the problem?

The external environment:

- Who are the key actors?
- What is their agenda?
- How do they influence the political context?

The evidence:

- Is it there?
- Is it relevant?
- Is it practically useful?
- Are the concepts new?
- Does it need re-packaging?

Links:

- Who are the key actors?
- Are there existing networks?
- How best to transfer the information?
- The media?
- Campaigns?

What Researchers need to do

Political Context:	Get to know the policymakers, work with them Identify friends and foes Prepare for policy opportunities, policy windows Prepare for known events Respect deadlines for commissioned work and do not “leak”
Evidence	Establish credibility, Provide practical solutions Anticipate issues and research before issues become emotional Establish legitimacy - use pilot projects Present clear options Build a reputation Good communication
Links	Get to know other players in the game, build partnerships Work through existing networks, or build new ones Identify key champions, networkers, social marketing agents Use informal contacts

Recommendations

For Researchers to influence policy, they need to:

- Understand the political context
- Have credible evidence
- Engage with the policy makers from the onset and throughout the research process, and be persistent- it takes time

Challenging areas

- **Involving ‘new’ stakeholders: e.g. parliamentarians, policy advisers, media professionals, ordinary citizens**
- **Retooling the Researchers to view research as learning, embrace Innovative systems approach to development generate evidence relevant to development needs package evidence to attract policy makers**
- **Effective communication with policy stakeholders
Creating networks to facilitate participation and engagement
From information management to knowledge management**
- **Managing expectations of stakeholders including funding partners**

Recommendations

For Researchers to influence policy, they need to:

- Set targets –Define the what and how-coordinated policy framework
- What resources do researchers need to achieve targets-as set by researchers
- What is research's contribution towards Wanjiku's Dream

Wanjiku -2015

- Land Owned -1 hectare
- Staples& high values

Crops

- Yield Maize 3t/ha
- High quality seeds
- Fertilizer used: 0.7 of recommended levels
 - Agricultural Implements
- hires a tractor,
- 2 dairy cows,
- Earns income from farming

