

Catalysing innovation in agriculture: Replicating the IAR4D approach across Africa

**The Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Programme:
from inception to implementation**

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Convener



Innovation

- **Innovation** is the process of creating and putting into use combinations of knowledge from different sources.
 - Putting knowledge into use adds value to existing resources and creates **IMPACT**.
- **Research** is associated with the generation of knowledge. It is one of the sources of knowledge for innovation

IAR4D

An action research approach for investigating and facilitating the *organization* of groups of stakeholders (including researchers) to *innovate more effectively* in response to *changing* agricultural and natural resources management contexts, in order to achieve developmental *outcomes*.

SSA CP Research Questions

- Does the IAR4D concept work and can it generate deliverable international and regional public goods for the end users?
- Does the IAR4D framework deliver more benefits to end users than conventional approaches?
- How sustainable and usable is the IAR4D approach outside the test environment (i.e. issues of scaling out for broader impact)?

Evolution of the SSA CP

T₁ Goodwill and expectations of the continent (political will)/CAADP Pillar 4

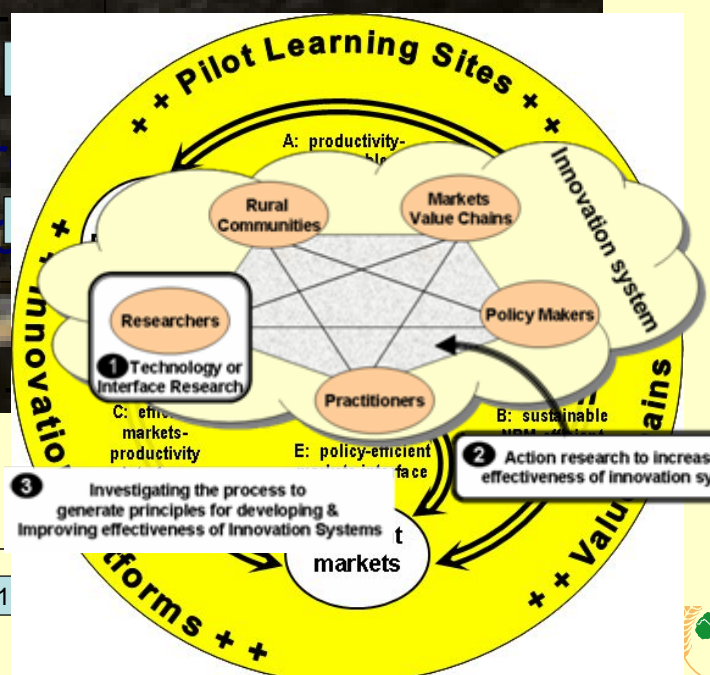


T₂ Building a consensus around IAR4D as a scientific challenge

T₃ Transforming 9 fragmented projects from CGS process into a coherent site level programme



T₄ Developing a transcontinental research programme for testing, validating and replicating IAR4D as a vehicle for cascading innovation and impact



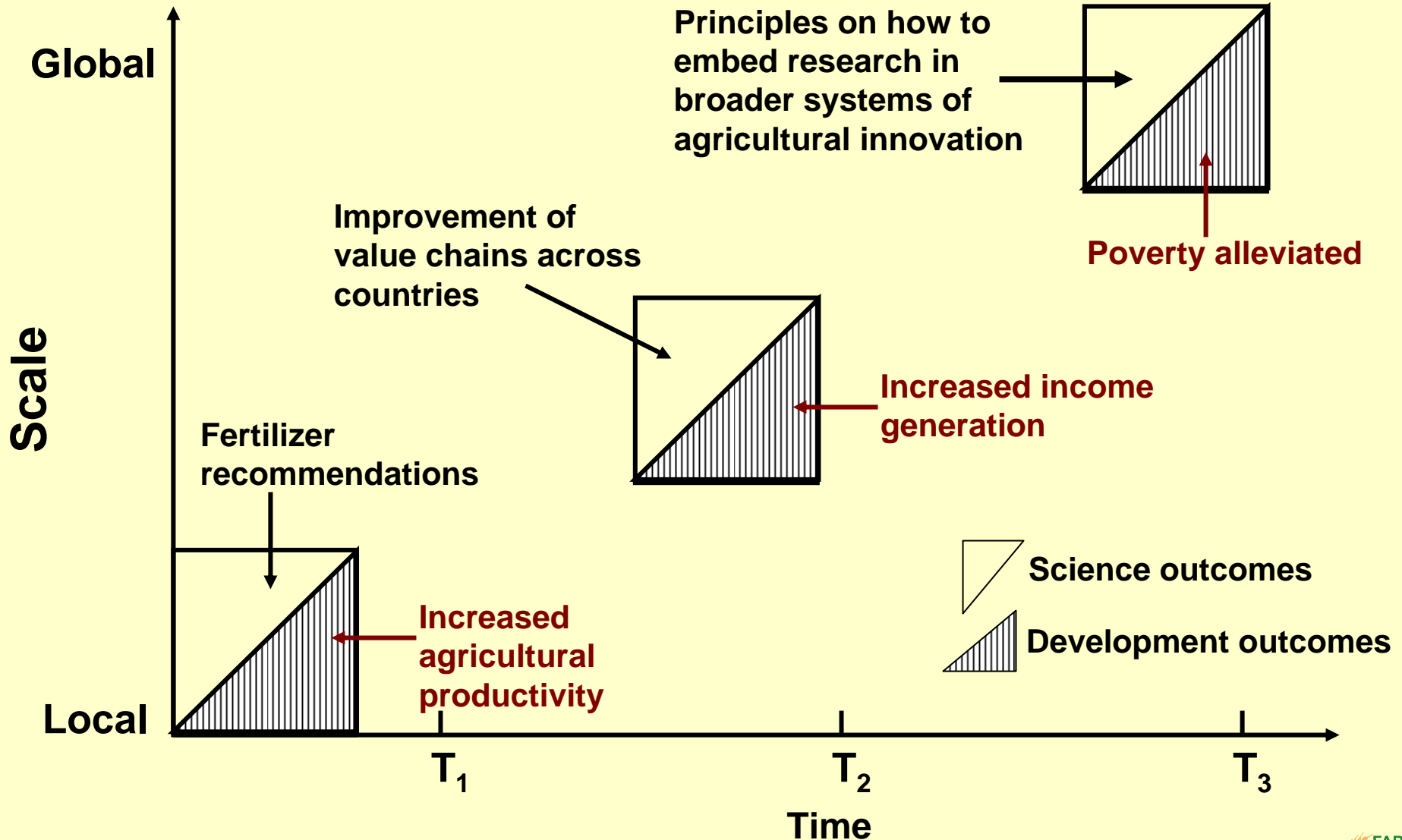
T₅ Viable pragmatic but challenging programme of cutting edge research

TF1





Outcomes x time



Next steps

- **Commence action research to develop innovation platforms**
 - **Technologies**
 - **Institutional arrangements**
 - **Markets access etc**
- **Baselines, participatory monitoring and evaluation as a basis for establishing the counterfactual**
- **Capacity building of research teams with inputs from the cross-site research support team**

Conclusion

- **Building consensus is time consuming but will prove to be the foundation for success of the programme**
- **Transaction costs are often confounded with investments**
- **Innovation requires partnerships**
- **Structured learning is the basis for innovation**

Acknowledgements