Innovation Platforms for Local and Regional Success in ARD: Experience from SSA CP

'Wole Fatunbi and Jonas Mugabe

A Presentation at the Sweet Potato Support Platform Meeting, CSIR-INSTI, Accra, Ghana

26th June 2012

Outline

Purpose

Contribute to strategies for delivery of Innovations from the activities of the sweet potato support platform in West Africa

Outline

1. **Background: Why the Innovation Platform?**
2. **Essentials of a functional Innovation platform**
3. **Success Stories from SSA CP**

The Challenge

Returns on investment in agricultural research has fallen far below expectation with a lot of technologies on the shelves, rather than on farmers fields.

African ARD has had numerous successes

However, the impact of the technologies did not match their potentials

- **Institutional setting of the research system can not support scaling up of the technologies.**
- **Approaches to R&D is not all encompassing.**
- **Inadequate human and financial resources**

..on constraints

- **Technologies are designed to solve technical constraints which limit the realisation of socio-economic opportunities**
  - E.g. lack of a suitable sorghum variety for brewing beer

- **But other constraints – (institutional; policy; and infrastructural) limit the use of technical possibilities / opportunities**

Providing a solution to the current situation requires a different partnership approach

Differences in the system

Reflecting of Evolution of ARD systems scenarios

ARD System Scenario	Partners engagement						Market consideration	Value chain consideration	Research demanded by Users
	Research	Extension	Farmer	Policy	Private	End user			
Traditional linear model for research and extension	yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Farming systems perspective (OFR/FSP	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Participation/participatory research methods	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Action research	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rural livelihoods									
Agri-food systems/value chain	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	yes	yes	No
Positive deviance	yes	No	yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Knowledge development, dissemination and use	Yes	No	yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Doubly green revolution	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rainbow revolution	Yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	yes	No	No
IAR4D	Yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

About IAR4D ?

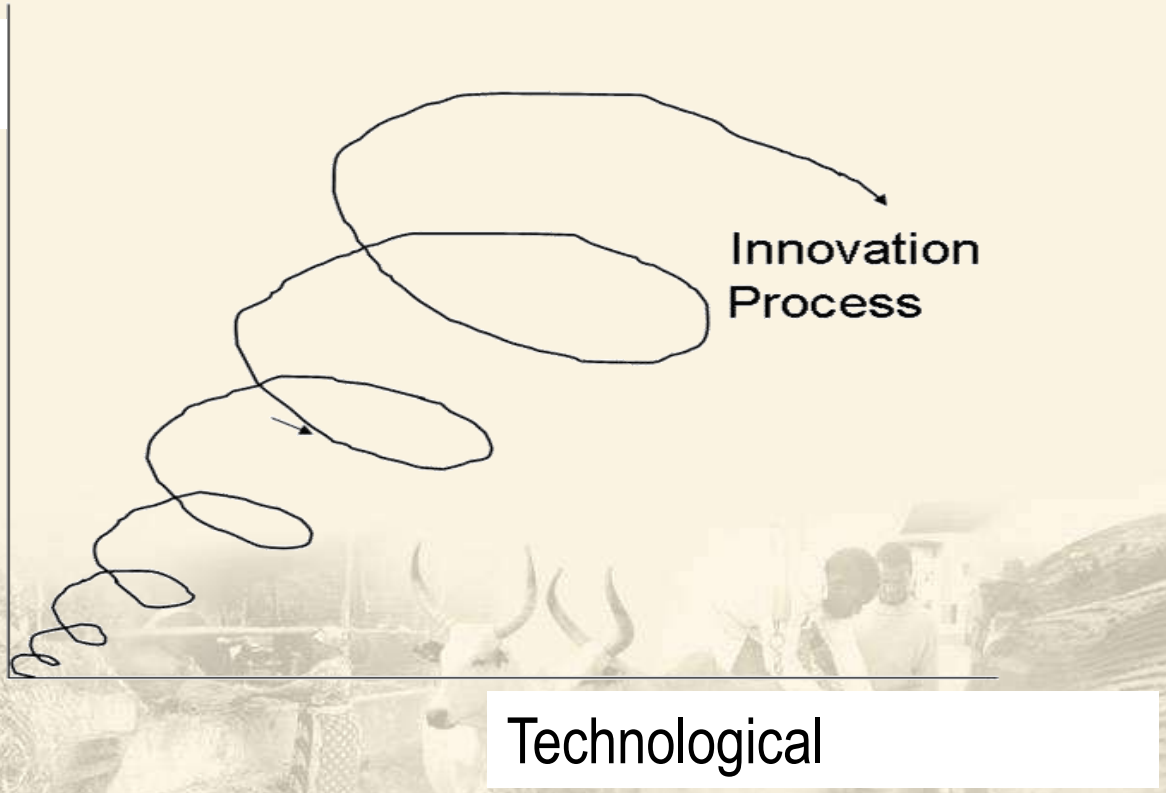
IAR4D is d[illegible]rcome the [illegible]&D

IAR4D concept entails a multi-sectorial, multistakeholders orientation to agricultural problem diagnosis, and draws on integrated approaches using 'hard' and 'soft' sciences to provide solutions, while maximizing the available

IAR4D is premised on the innovation systems approach and requires systemic interaction among all stakeholders around specific commodity or production system.

IAR4D..

simultaneously works on **technological** and **Non-technological (policy, institution and infrastructure)** dimensions



IAR4D Operation Principles

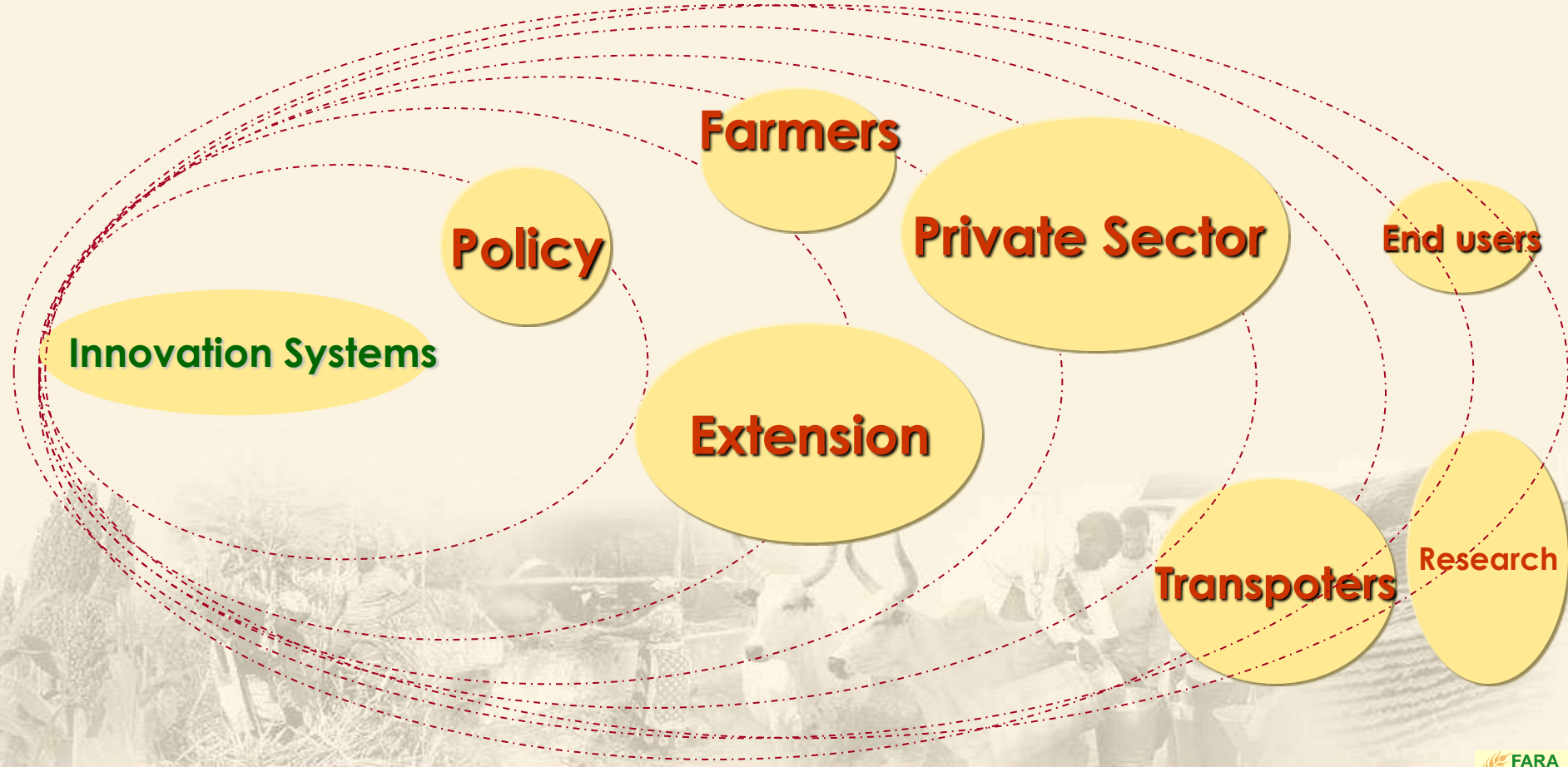
- **IAR4D is a multi-stakeholder – approach.**
- **IAR4D will engage stakeholders beyond the rural communities.**
- **IAR4D proposes to carry out research in a demand driven mode.**
- **IAR4D will involve the policy makers at different levels of governance.**
- **IAR4D will adopt the innovation systems approach and create innovation platforms**

What is an Innovation Platform ?

An Innovation Platform is a physical or virtual forum established to facilitate interactions, and learning among stakeholders selected from a commodity chain analysis

Their interaction leads to participatory diagnosis of problems; joint exploration of opportunities and investigation of solutions leading to the generation of agricultural innovation along the targeted commodity chain

IAR4D - Participation and Gainful Interaction



Output categories from the Research Action

Innovation Platform

- •Research Themes
  - Productivity
  - Natural Resource management
  - Market
  - Policy
  - Product Development
  - Nutrition
  - •Gender

- Technological Innovation
- Institutional Innovation
- Infrastructural Innovation

Socio-economic Benefits

Peculiarities of IAR4D IP Concept

A. IAR4D simultaneously addresses research and development as a fused continuum for generation of innovation.

B. All stakeholders in an IP have a contribution and benefits which sustain their interest and continued participation

C. Innovation generated using IAR4D will benefit all stakeholders on the platform.

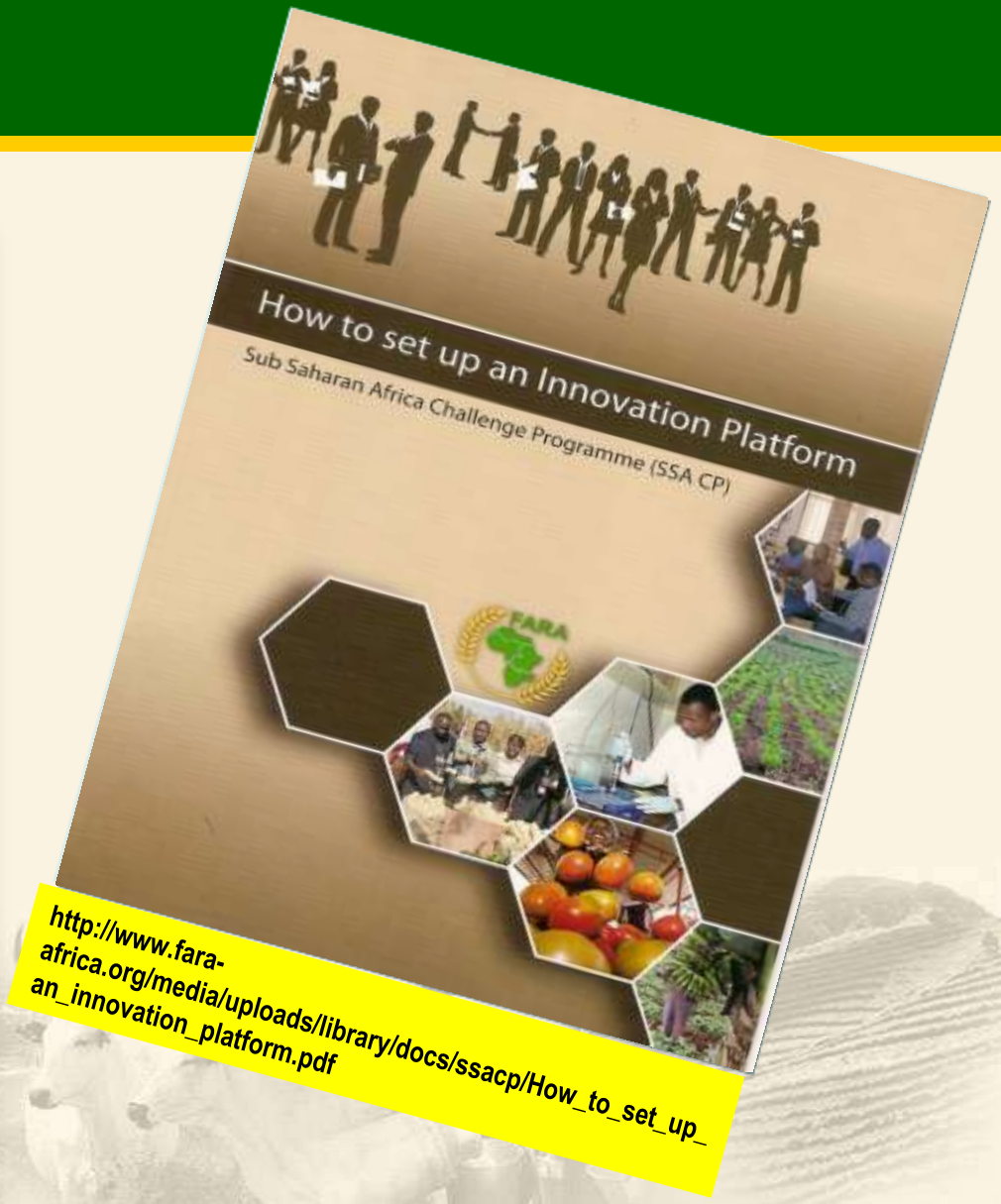
D. IAR4D engages the policy makers at different levels all along the process of R&D till innovation is generated.

E. IAR4D ensures a smooth public-private partnership in ARD.

Why IAR4D is suitable for Africa

- **All inclusive partnership arrangement to address technological and non-technological issues.**
- **IAR4D links all kinds of research endeavors (blue sky, strategic, basic and adaptive research) for the benefit of the farmers.**
- **IAR4D ensures an effective engagement and capacity strengthening of the NARS.**
- **IAR4D delivers benefits through its unique partnerships.**
- **IAR4D fits in within the CAADP framework for continental agricultural development.**

How to set up an Innovation Platform and Implication for Sweet potato support platform



http://www.fara-africa.org/media/uploads/library/docs/ssacp/How_to_set_up_an_innovation_platform.pdf

Implication for Sweet potato Support Platform in WA

1. The need to train and create space for IP facilitation in program implementation.
2. Change of mindset to work with other stakeholders in a business mode.
3. Advance research endeavor beyond the point of knowledge and technology generation to the point where innovation is generated.
4. Need to work with system perspective, and allow a blend of different form and intervention endeavors.

Success Stories

Technological Innovation

- Two of the **improved maize** varieties outperformed the locals by **13-62%** on farmers' plot in both States
- Two of the **improved sorghum** varieties out-performed the locals by **18-46%**
- **NERICA4 and NERICA3 rice** varieties outperformed the local checks by **71 and 86%, respectively.**
- Improved **soybean varieties** out-performed the late varieties by **100-681%**
- Two improved **cowpea varieties** outperformed the locals by **27 to 107%**

Engagement of Policy Makers

Product Development & Market Innovation

Success story…. Uganda

Mamera now in the supermarket

Mamera

- Product of indigenous knowledge strengthened with modern science and contributions from the University of Makerere
- willing entrepreneurs
- Producers looking for market
- Input dealers looking for market
- Cooperation of Policy makers and extension
- Stanbic Bank
- Win-Win Partnerships

Success story…. DRC

Kasiksi & Mutobe

- **Product of indigenous knowledge strengthened with modern science and contributions from the University of Goma, DRC**
- **willing entrepreneurs**
- **Producers looking for market**
- **Input dealers looking for market**
- **Cooperation of Policy makers and extension**
- **Mecrego Microf-innance**
- **Win-Win Partnerships**

Sheep Market from fattening program

Tremendous advantage for marginalized women

Enhanced Vegetable processing and marketing

Innovation Platform

Innovation platform is a fundamental institutional innovation

Potato packaging in Rwanda

Vegetable Box in Malawi and Mozambique

Increasing farmers access to inputs

Innovative Partnerships through IAR4D

Increasing income and reducing poverty

Rice in Northern Nigeria (and other grains)

Livestock in Southern Niger

Mamera in Uganda

Banana drink in DRC

Vegetables in Malawi

...and others

Institutional Innovations

- Inventory credit in southern Niger

- **Solving problems of access to cash and cash flow for producers**

Outcome and Impact

- **Farmers increased productivity of soybeans from an average of 900 kg/ha to an average of 2 tons/ha in northern Nigeria.**
  -120% increase for a total of 150,000 farmers.
  -an additional income of USD 500/ha/ season for each farmer.

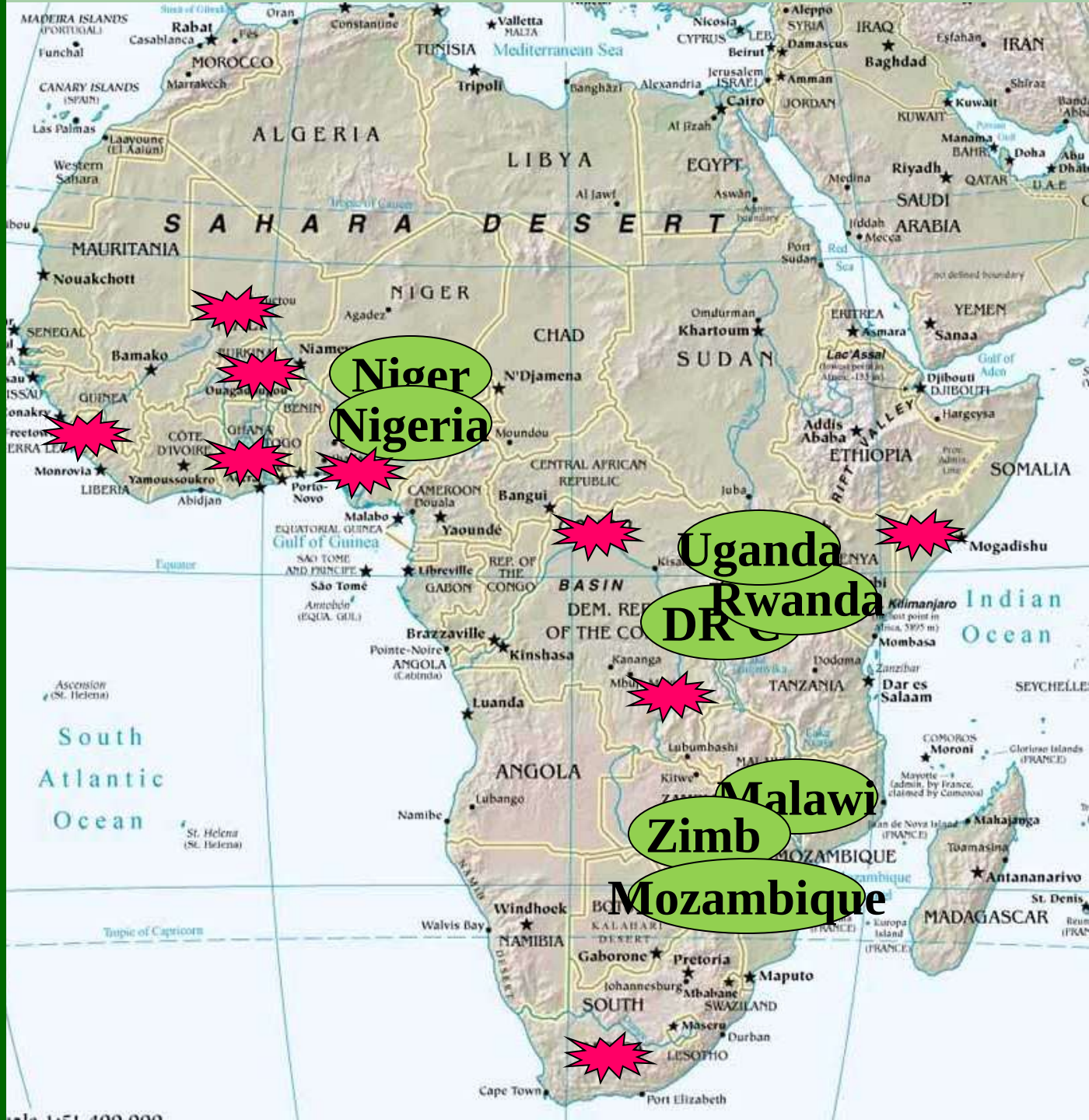
- **Engagement of banks on the IPs in southern Niger mobilized an additional USD 6 million for agricultural production and yielded a profit of USD 960,000 to the financing agencies**

Outcome and Impact

- **Through Mamera drink, 5000 farmers increased their income by an average of 80% in Uganda**
- **Kasiksi drink developed at the University of Goma in DRC increased the income of 2500 banana farmers by an average of 200% in DRC**

- **Introduction of new packaging of potatoes doubled the income of 2000 farmers from USD 0.2/kg to USD 0.4/kg per farmer, with each farmer making an additional average profit of USD 1,600 per season from potato production.**

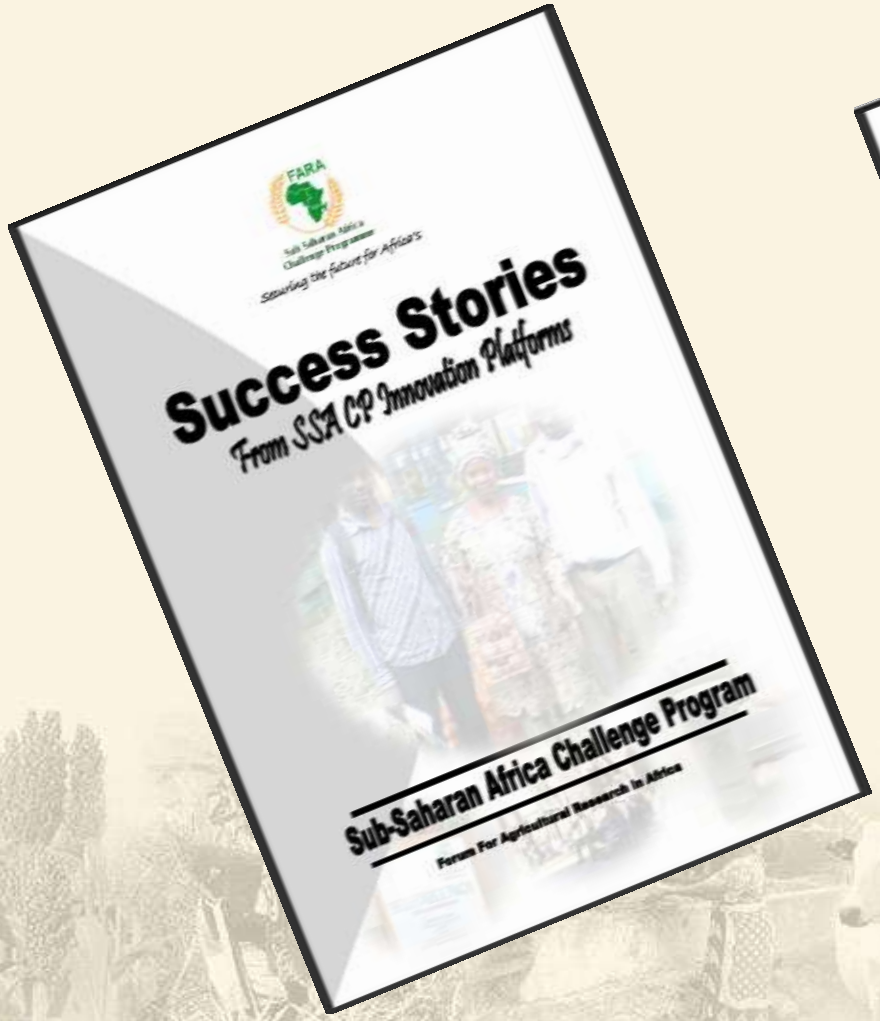
IAR4D is spreading In various Countries



Conclusion

- **IAR4D provides a holistic approach to solving the problems of agricultural research in Africa.**
- **IAR4D concept is implemented through the innovation platform.**
- **Innovations are generated at the interface of the interaction of all stakeholders along the commodity value chain on the IP.**
- **The adoption of IAR4D concept is fast spreading among ARD stakeholders and countries in Africa.**

Relevant SSA CP Documents



http://fara-africa.org/media/uploads/library/docs/ssacp/unlocking_the_potentials_for_partnerships_youdowei.pdf

Thank you