Establishing Innovation Platforms in Ghana –Principles and experiences

Sweetpotato Support Platform meeting, CSIR-INSTI, Accra, Ghana

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by

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Traditional agricultural technology development and transfer models

- Linear technology development and transfer
- Researcher managed on-farm research
- Farmer managed on-farm research
- Demonstrations and field days
- Farmer field schools
- Framer field fora
- Research-Extension-Farmer Linkage Committees

Research as the primary source of knowledge

Shortcoming

- not much innovation to bring about the necessary agricultural transformation

What is IAR4D

- **Innovation Platform (IP) process along value chains**

  -a new paradym to catalyze **technological** and **institutional** innovation

FARA 2006

Principles of IAR4D

- bring together the perspectives, knowledge and actions of a **diverse set of relevant stakeholders**, to address **a common challenge**
  - research, extension and farmers
  - **market agents, policy makers, rural finance organizations, farmer organizations, consumers etc**
  - The identified development challenge or problem is the entry point for IAR4D → **innovation**

What is innovation?

Process by which **knowledge is created**, diffused, accessed, adapted, and put into **use,** to create **socio-economic impact** .

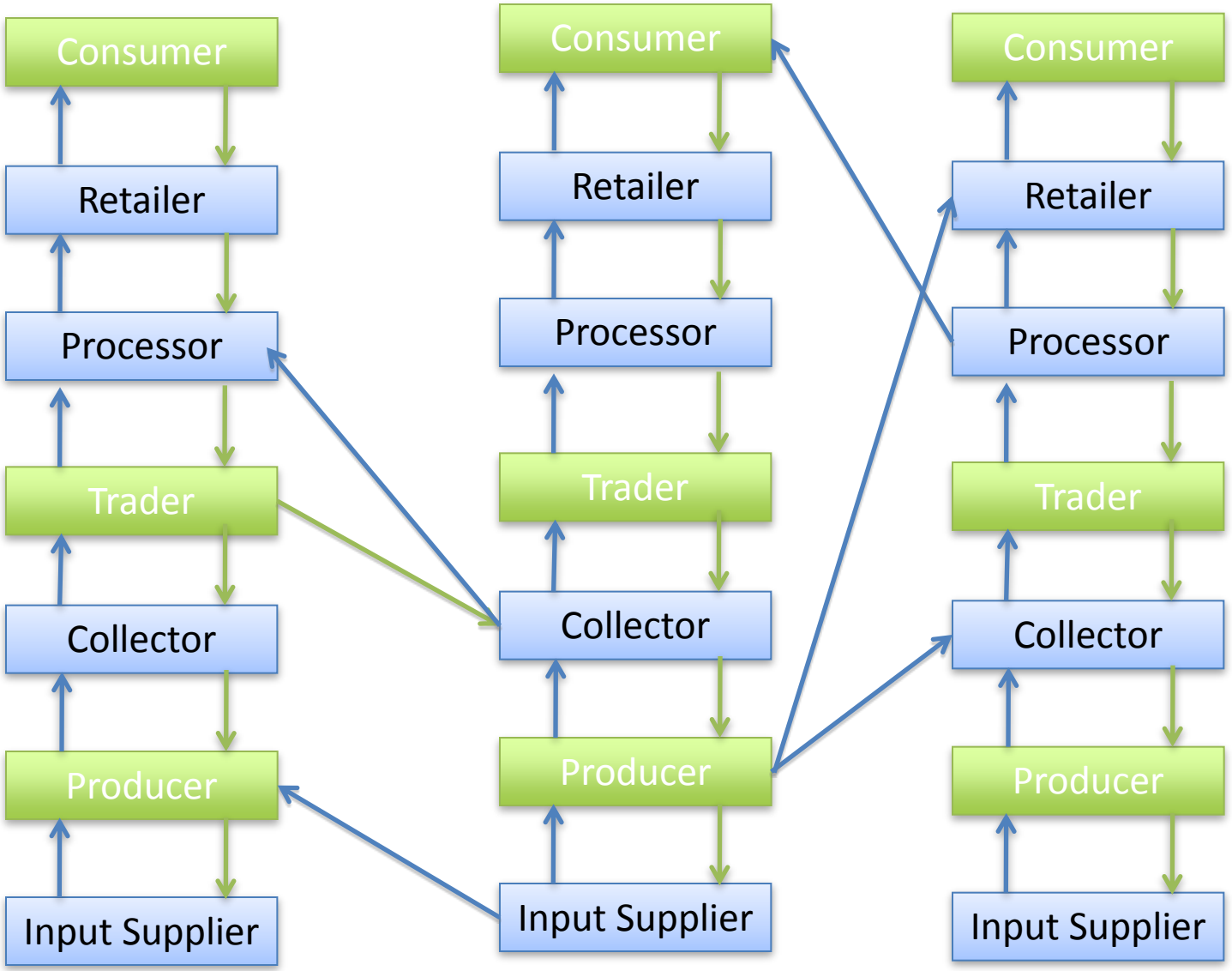
- Technological
- Institutional
- Organisational
- Policy

What is value chain?

- Different functions and stages, from production to marketing, including support services

-Coordination and governance

Diagrams of value chains



What is Innovation Platform?

Innovation platform is a **coalition of actors along the value chain** formed to **address particular constraints** to upgrade the value chain through the use of **knowledge and mutual learning**.

Innovation Platform and Value chain

- Along the value chain, identify the interdependent components.

  -Eg. The components/sub-units of a vehicle that make the entire vehicle function as a unit.

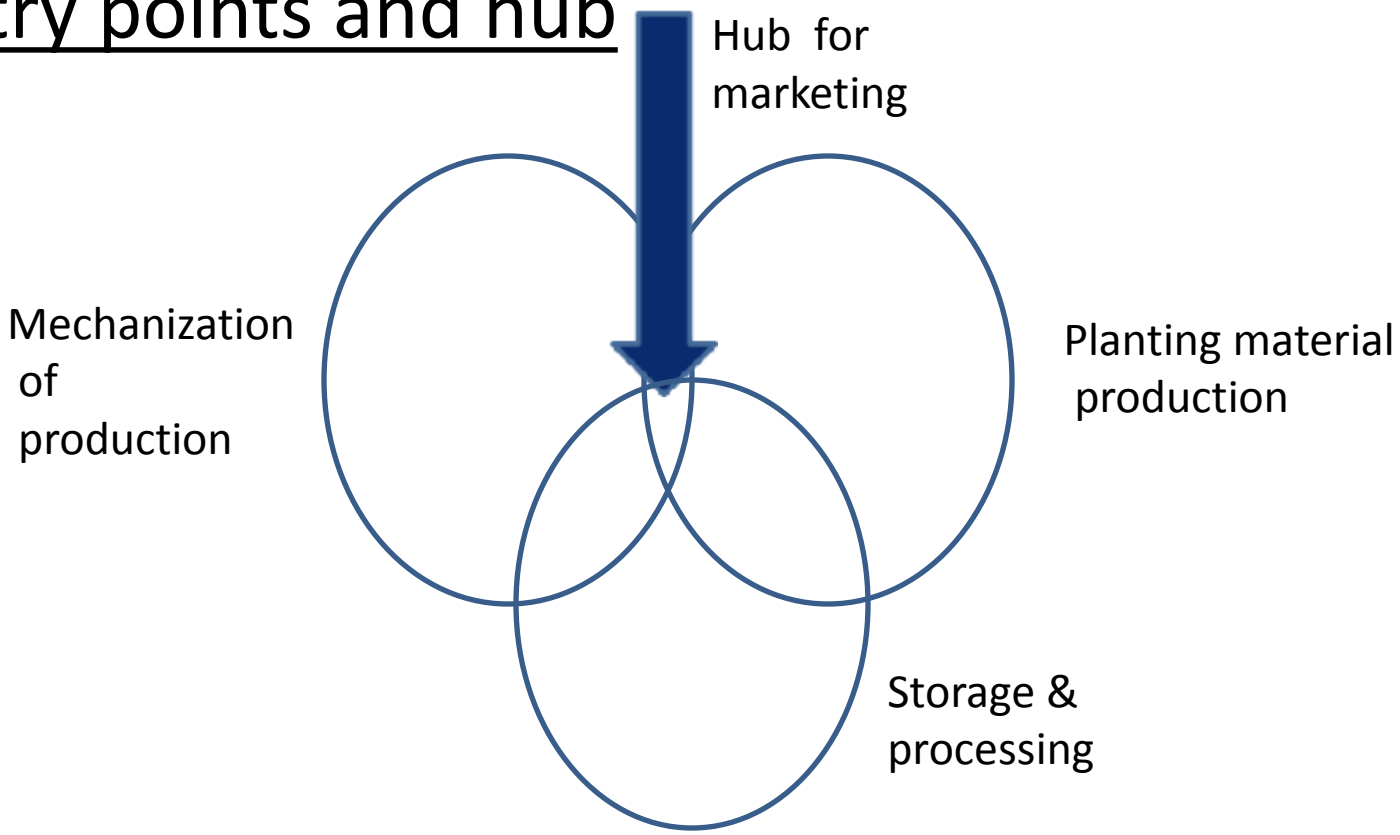
- How do we improve on the sub-unit (Innovation Platform) to make the unit (Value chain) more efficient?.

Consider Gender issues in IPs

- Analyze gender roles in value chains
- identify entry points/niches along the chains for women & youth involvement
- create enabling conditions for women's effective participation in IPs

Eg. Potential Innovation Platforms along sweet potato value chain

Entry points and hub



Forming Innovation Platforms

Issues to consider- Why?, What?, Who? , Where?

- Task definition: **Why** and **What** do you want to achieve in the project site and what does the IP need to do to achieve goal?
- Membership: **Who** will be the members of the IP and size? The producer however is a key actor in the development of the IP.
- Information and analysis needed and the sources, (**Where)** and location of platform.

Forming Innovation Platforms cont'd

- Facilitation: Who would facilitate and what type of skills are required from the facilitator?

  -people skills

  -relevant technical skills

  -commands respect/authority
- Resource management and IP sustainability
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities

Establishment and maintenance functions of IPs

Establishment Functions	Maintenance functions
• Identify members of the IP Identify, negotiate and align diverse interests • Define expectations to work together • Identify common interest • Map individual strength and weakness Establish relationships • Building trust • Commitment	• Co-ordinate activities • Facilitate communication -ensure continuous inflow of information • Needs assessment and capacity building • Nurture relationships • Evolve incentives to motivate participation • Develop and deliver services and activities • Monitor and evaluate.

Dealing with conflicts in IPs

- Conflicts can arise out of challenge, geographical, cultural, gender, religious and emotional, organisational differences
- Aim at preventing conflicts through good team building.
- Develop shared interest
- Ensure effective facilitation

CORAF/WECARD DONATA Maize Value Chain IP in Burkina Faso: A Success Story

11,579 tons of grain maize produced

50 tons grain maize processed into flour

Storage & marketing of quality grain maize

2,500 tons commercial grain maize to SONAGES, Poultry Farmers & ATCB @ CFA 150/Kg

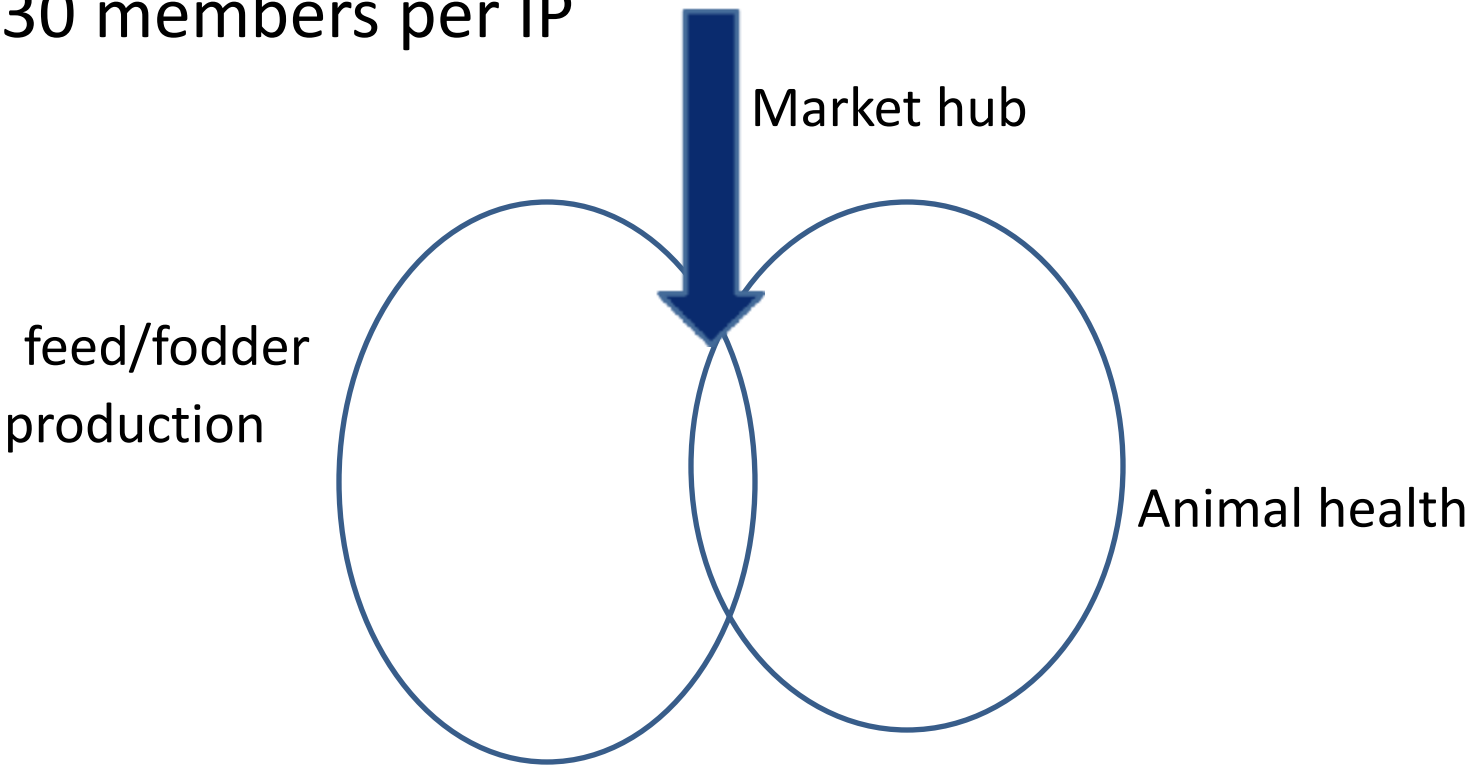
Famer seed entrepreneurs

220 tons certified seed maize @ CFA 500/Kg

Source: Sidi Sanyang 2012

CORAF/WECARD CSIR Crop –small ruminant integration IPs

- 8 IPs established in 4 communities in 2012
- 20-30 members per IP



Action research in crop-small ruminant IP
Soil water and nitrate monitoring in a cowpea/maize rotation-

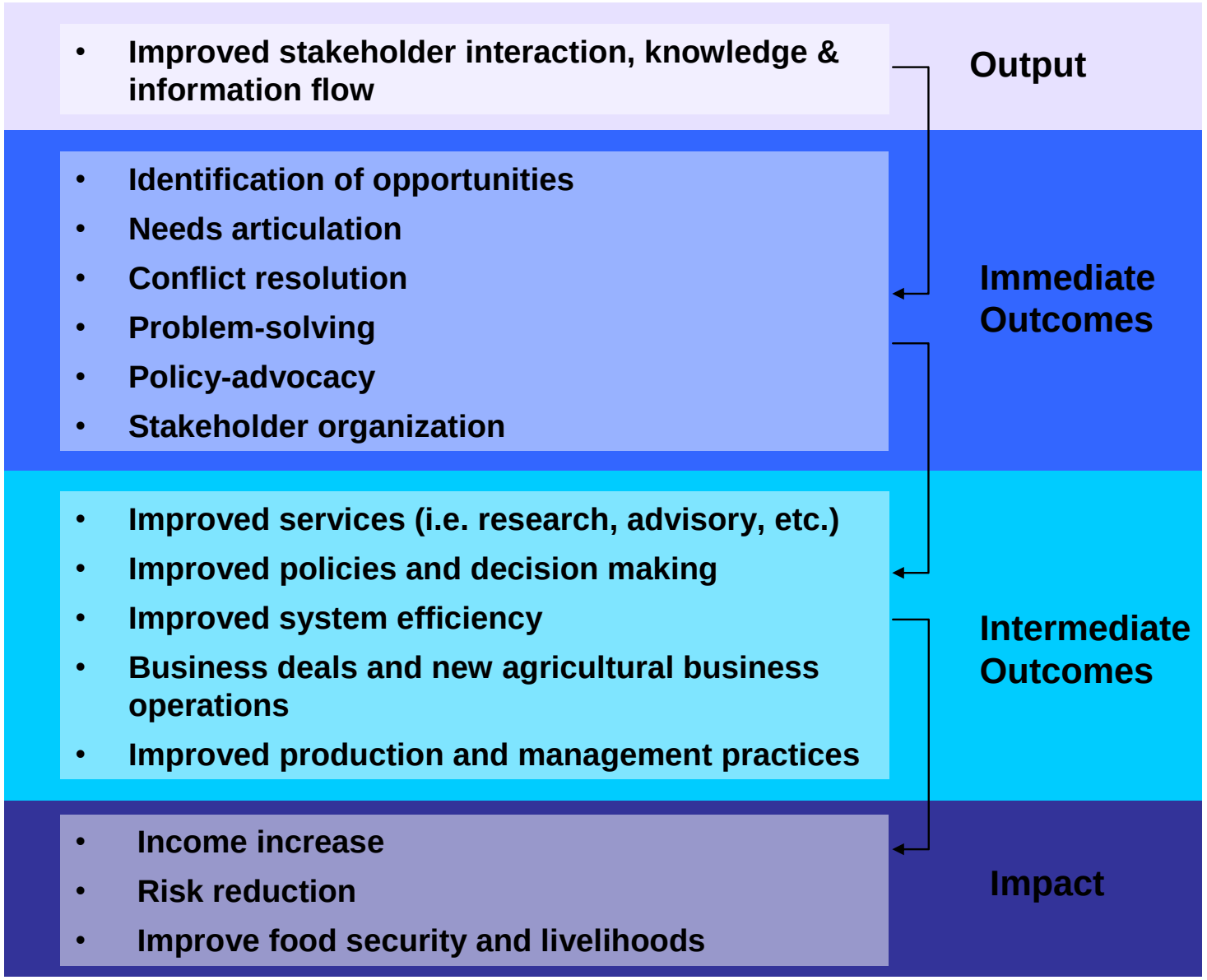
Soil water and nitrate monitoring data presentation for adaptive/participatory learning in crop-small ruminant IP

	16-Mar-12	23-Mar-12	28-Mar-12	30-Mar-12	02-Apr-12	4-Apr-12
30 cm	24	30	28	34	55	2
60 cm	0	5	8	10	13	3
120 cm	1	3	2	1	1	0
30 cm		2	9	7	2	2
60 cm		92	26	2	18	22

	16-Mar	23-Mar	28-Mar	30-Mar-12	2-Apr-12	4-Apr-12	6-Apr-12	9-Apr-12	11-Apr-12	13-Apr-12	16-Apr-12	18-Apr-12	20-Apr-12	23-Apr-12	27-Apr-12	30-Apr-12	2-May-12	7-May-12	9-May-12
30 cm	24	30	28	34	55	2	1	1	0	0	5	9	2	1	4	6	16	52	7
60 cm	0	5	8	10	13	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
120 cm	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 cm		2	9	7	2	2	16	22	10	3	4	2	1	1	2				
60 cm		92	26	2	18	22	15	10	7	4	5	6	8	1	4				

Potential use of Mobile phones

Innovation Platform (IP) Impact Pathways



Characteristics of successful IPs

Action Research

- **Develop methods, to generate and use existing or new knowledge to impact livelihoods**
- **Technologies and best practices as entry point(s)**

Participatory Approaches

- **Participatory research and learning (PRLA), participatory extension approaches (PREA)- farmer testing, demonstration, Farmer Field Fora (FFF);**

Dissemination Pathways

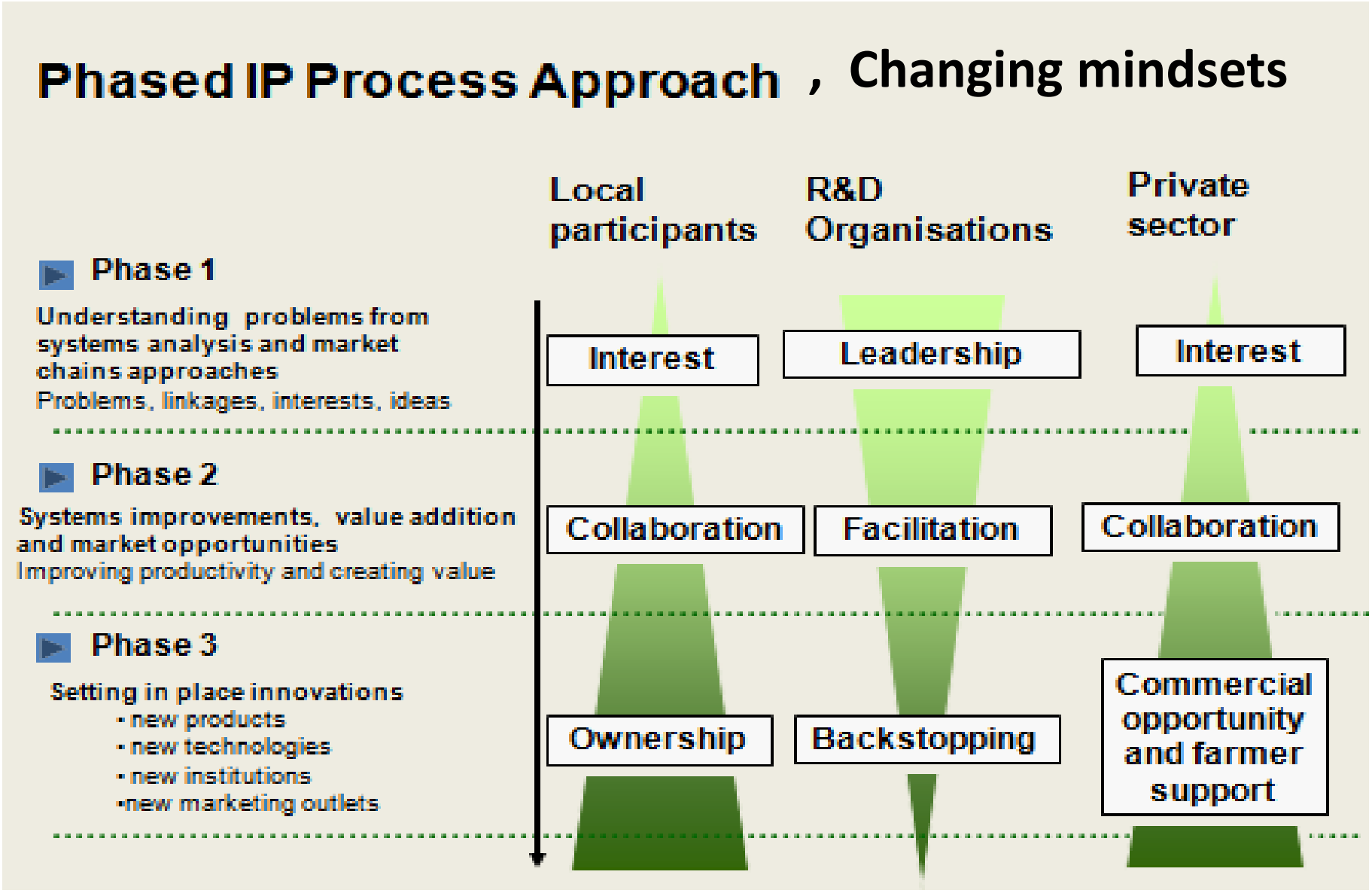
- **Farmer-to-farmer learning; Farmer collective action; Market led technology adoption; MEDIA**

Characteristics of successful IPs

- Facilitate Functional Learning
  - **Manage interactions and relationships among IP actors and build TRUST & CONFIDENCE**
  - **Build capacity**
  - **Willingness to share experiences, information and knowledge**
  - **Effective facilitation**
  - **Document and publish case studies / success stories**

Sustaining Innovation Platforms

Phased IP Process Approach , Changing mindsets



Wayforward-Institutionalize IAR4D

- Awareness creation of IAR4D
- Training
- Coaching and mentoring of key actors during implementation

Thank you