

Impacts of farmer-led approaches to agricultural research and development:



Lessons learnt



PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, ETC Foundation, Leusden, The Netherlands

**in partnership with the CGIAR Research Programs on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS)
and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS)**

Background and approach

- ❑ **Formal ARD institutions looking for ways to make research more relevant for smallholders**
- ❑ **AAS & CCAFS approached PROLINNOVA to explore approaches, outcomes, impacts of ‘informal’ ARD**
- ❑ **6-month desk study**
 - **>100 case studies, long list of 41, short list of 13**
- ❑ **Main criteria**
 - **farmer-led, ‘informal’, support of CSOs, structured interaction with others, documented evidence of impact, several years ago or going on for couple of years**

Case studies

1	<i>Zai</i> in Burkina Faso
2	<i>Campesino a Campesino</i> in Central America
3	MASIPAG in the Philippines
4	Farmer experimenters in Honduras
5	Farmer participatory research in Tanzania
6	Smallholder action research in Burkina Faso
7	Participatory innovation development in Mali
8	Local agricultural research committees in Honduras
9	The participatory extension approach in Zimbabwe
10	Institutionalisation of participatory technology development in Vietnam
11	Institutionalisation of farmer participatory research in Ethiopia

Outcomes & impact

Impact on ARD institutions

- Formal (government)
- Informal (CSOs)

Innovation capacity

- Individual capacity
- Organisational capacity
- Links to support org. and sources of info.
- Involvement of women
- Spaces for experimentation and learning

Dimensions

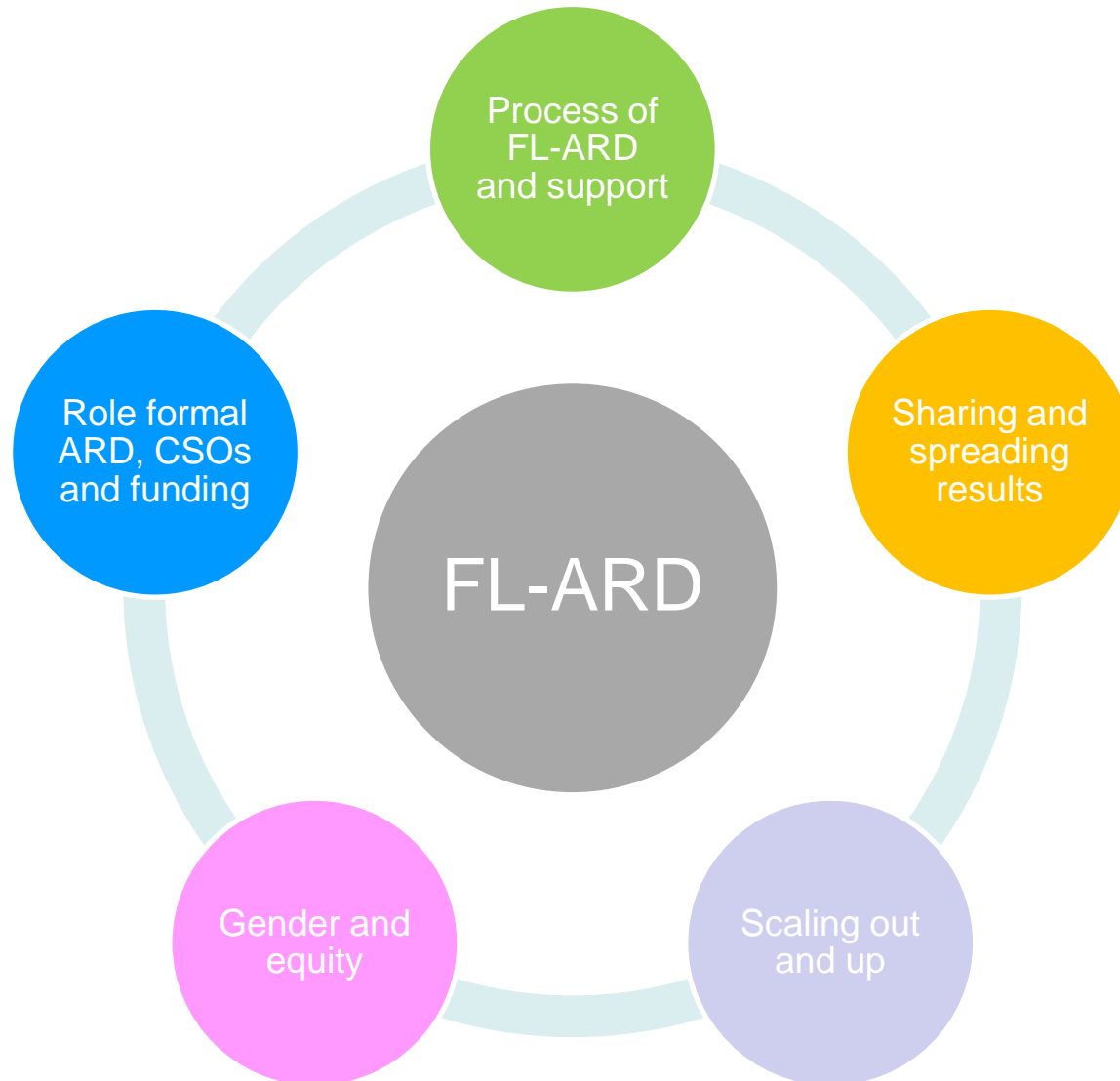
Impact on livelihoods

- food and nutrition security
- resilience to risk
- household income
- saving and economic assets
- labour productivity
- community level impacts
- gender and equity

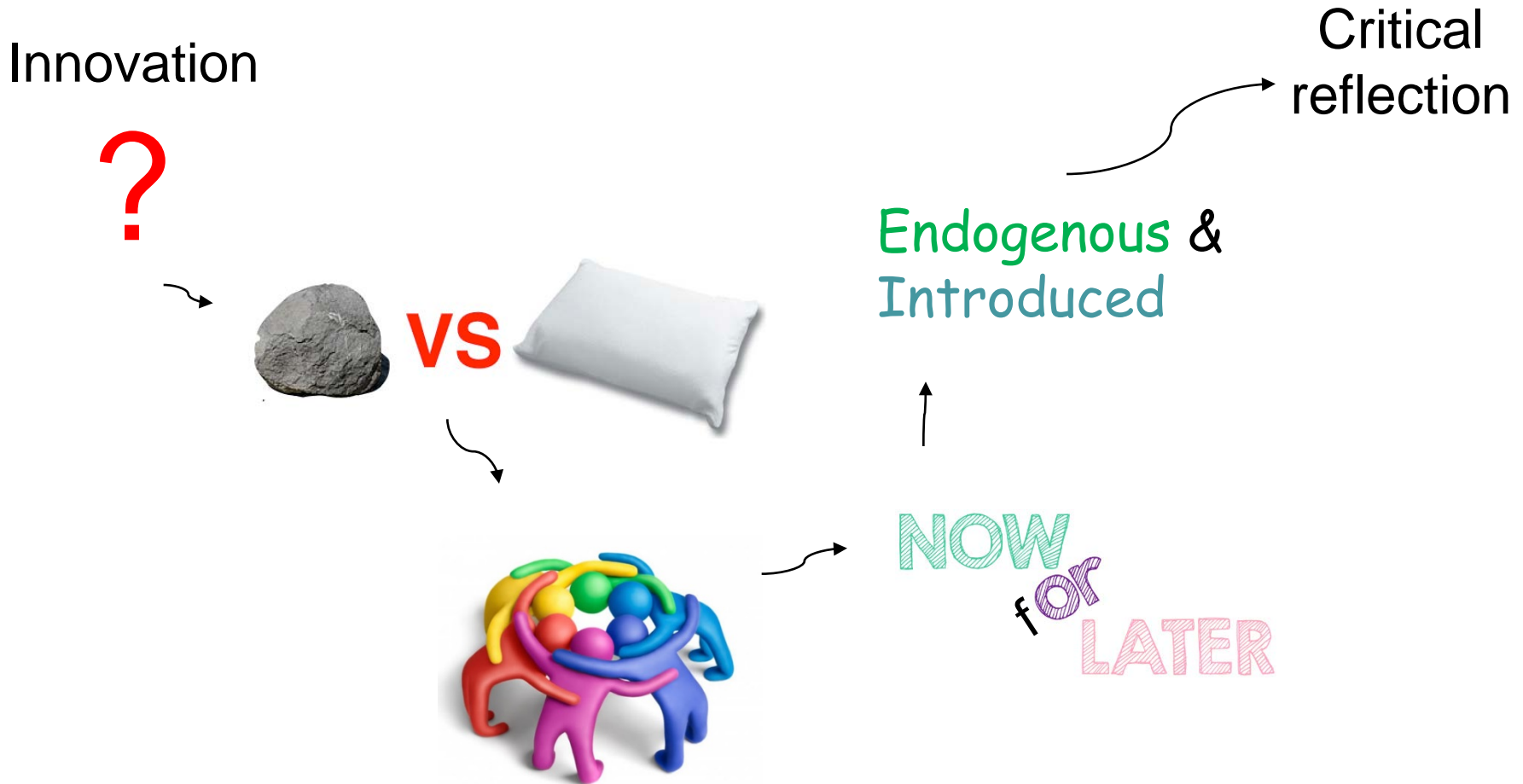
FL-ARD findings and dissemination

- Types innovations and experiments
- Documentation and dissemination of process and results
- Record farmers trials
- Process & approach
- Ways of sharing
- Extent of spread
- Limits

Lessons learnt



Process of FL-ARD

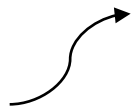


Sharing and spreading results



Site and household specific

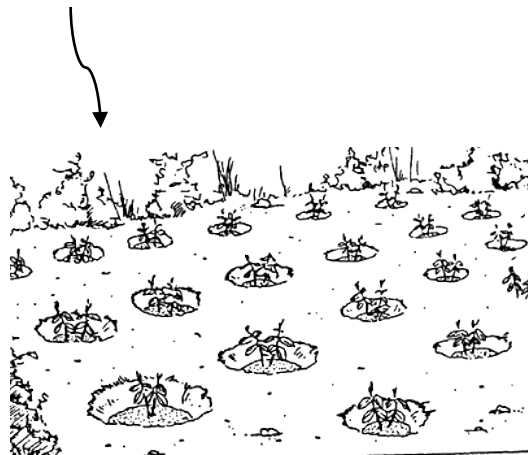
IPR!



Disseminating
RESULTS
But also
PROCESS



Relevant
innovations
spread
spontaneously



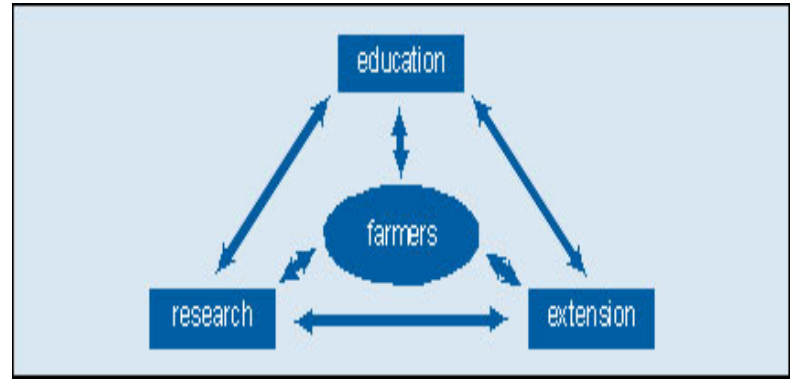
Scaling out and up

Process!

START



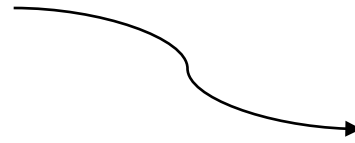
 Small



CSOs

Stimulate curiosity

Gender and equity



Observation
and
continuous
adjustment

Role formal ARD, CSOs, funding

Scientists

Share, document,
make credible,
systemise

CSOs

Capacity building
Support para-professionals
Facilitate collective action
Policy dialogue and advocacy

Extension
link and
broker



Small, but long term

Group assignment

(mixed groups)

Group 1 and 2	Group 3 and 4
<p>Q1. How do these lessons resonate with your own experiences?</p> <p>Q2. What would be the implications for your work?</p>	<p>Q1. What are the surprises, issues you did not expect, or aha moments for you?</p> <p>Q2. What would be the implications of that for your work?</p>

- Reflect on both questions (30 min)
- Write max 5 cards for each question to express some key issues (write big, 3-5 words, one issue per card)