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A Two Dimensional Outcome Pathways for a Research for Development (R4D) Program

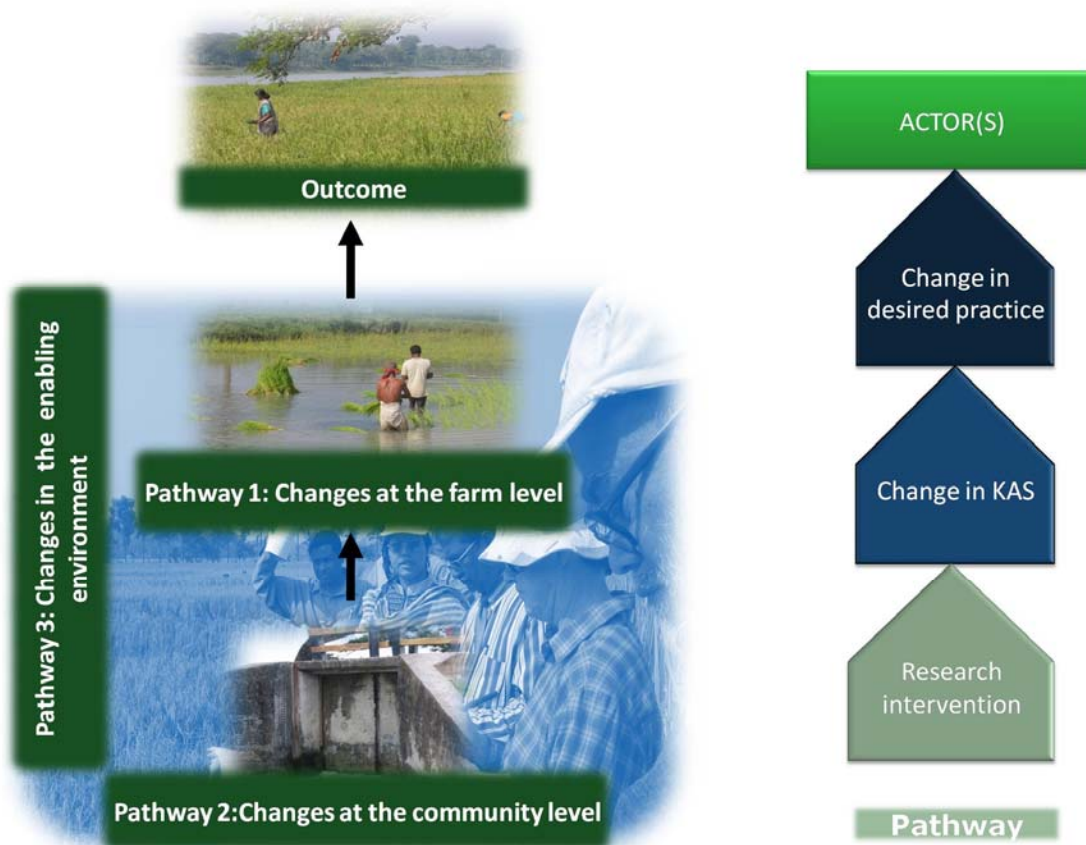
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Session: Sharefair and Learning to Innovate



Key Message

The Basin Development Challenge Programs in CPWF Phase 2 use the two-dimensional outcome pathways framework to plan for wide-scale and sustainable adoption of technologies. Each program is composed of three to four interrelated projects, with one or two projects dealing with community-level change and policy advocacy.

Summary

The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food is an innovative research for development program that aims for resilient social and ecological systems through better water management for food production. It brings together a broad range of scientists, development specialists, policy makers, and communities to address priority development challenges in six major river basins. Each basin research program is a coherent set of research for development (R4D) projects that work along integrated outcome pathways. To help successfully meet the basin program goal, a theory of change is specified that makes explicit the cause and effect logic by which research is expected to achieve developmental outcomes. The CPWF makes the project and program theory of change explicit by specifying outcome pathways that depict the changes in knowledge, attitude, skills (KAS), and practice (P) by an actor group. In Phase 2, the CPWF expresses theory of change using outcome pathways in a two-dimensional logic model, with institutional scale as the second dimension. The two-dimensional outcome pathway model consists of interdependent outcome pathways on at least three institutional scale levels: farm, community, and the enabling environment. The model describes how project research will influence behavior of actors at the three scale levels and how these pathways support each other. The pathways are interdependent and they support each other to achieve an outcome. Typically, the first pathway is at the farm level, in which the actual beneficiaries of the project adopt the technology; the second pathway is at the community level, in which changes in resource management (e.g., improving access to water) are made; and the third pathway is an enabling environment to promote the change (e.g., policy).