

Background

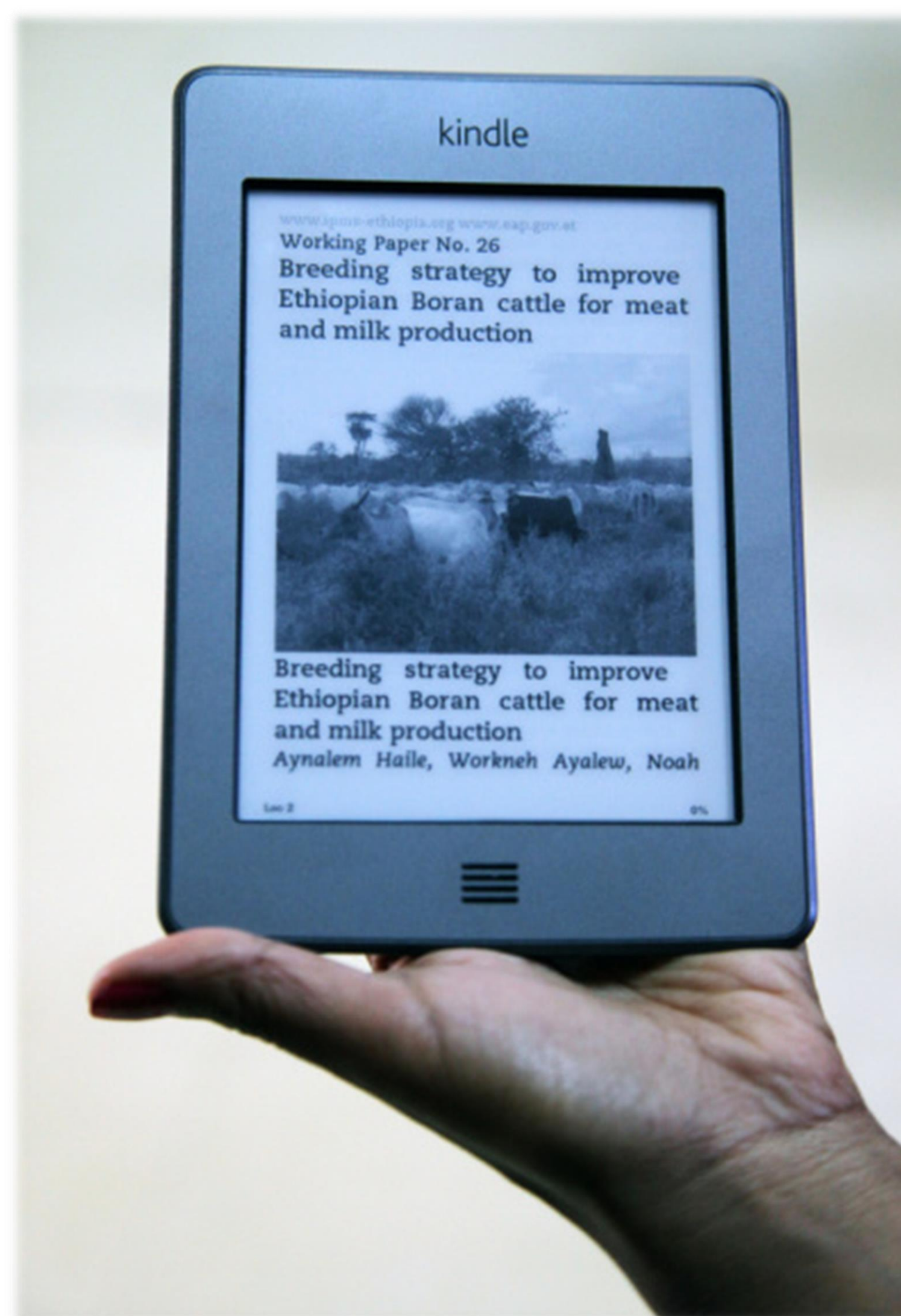
- Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) have improved extension service delivery in many countries.
- E-book readers carry many publications and enable longer reading time with a single charge.
- E-book readers may have a potential to support extension experts to deliver better services to producers.

Objectives

- Understand contextual factors that facilitate/challenge use of e-book readers for agricultural extension work.
- Analyze feasibility of e-book readers in the Ethiopian context to enhance agricultural extension service delivery.

Method

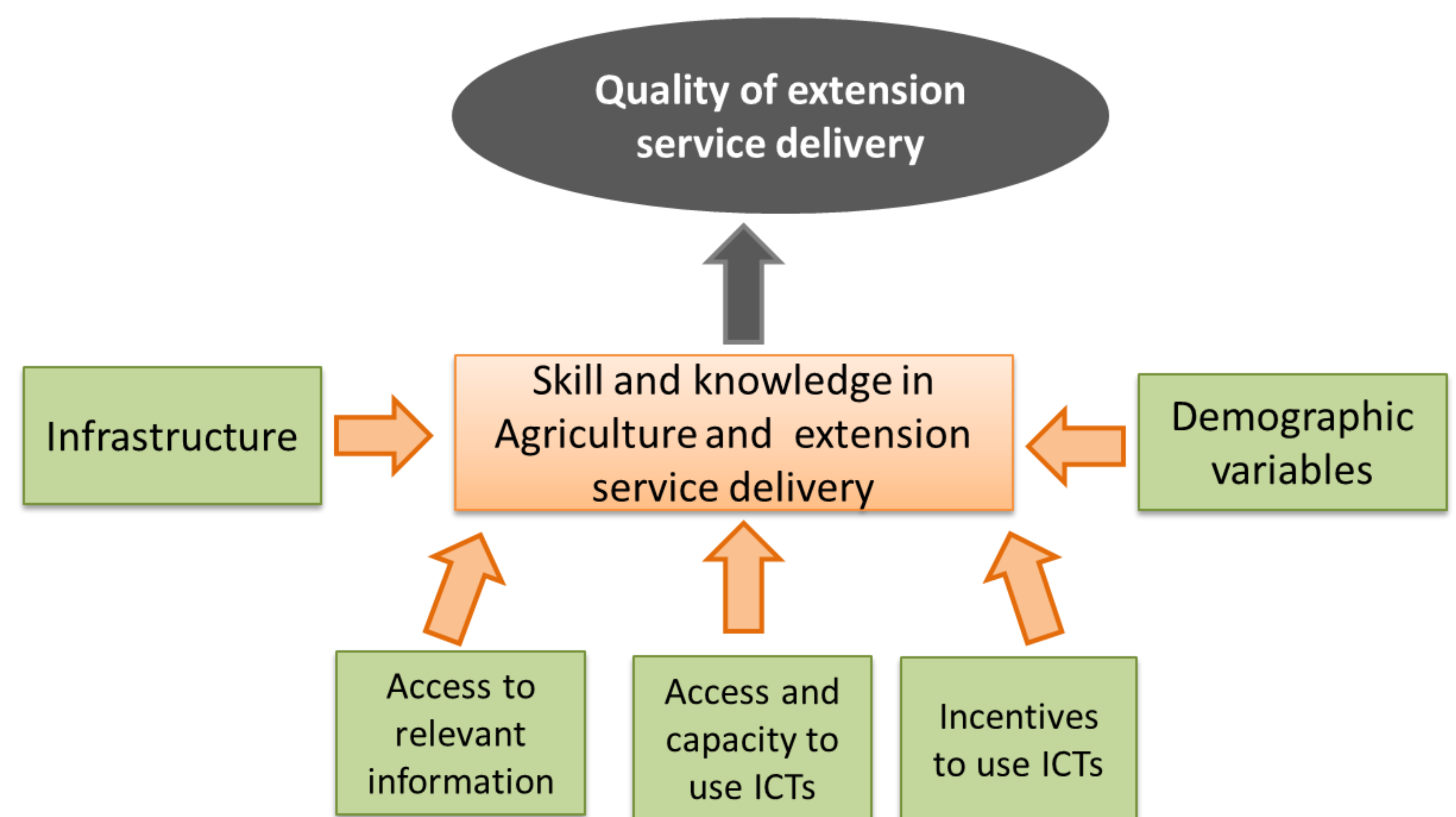
- 120 Amazon kindle touch e-book readers imported.
- 200 resources on agriculture transferred to e-book readers.
- Training sessions on *how to use e-book readers* conducted.
- pre and post use assessment on information sources and usability of e-book readers.



Conclusion

- Aspects of technological attributes, infrastructure, accessibility to resources are determinants for the usability of e-book readers to gain information and knowledge that supports agricultural extension service delivery.
- Working language and exposure to technologies as well as the demand for up to date knowledge contributed to the extent of usability of e-book readers.

Conceptual framework



Results

Demographic variables and Incentives

- 60% of e-book reader recipients were practitioners working in grassroots levels.
- Personal interest and pressure to read influenced use.
- Age and sex had no effect on usability.
- Level of education and language skill contributed to extent of use.
- Longer battery life and easier mobility created interest and motivations.
- Susceptibility to virus and complicated file transfer discouraged many from transferring own resources.

Infrastructure, Access, and capacity

- Inaccessibility to computers and internet increased motivation to use e-book readers.
- Capacity to use/manipulate computers influenced extent of e-book reader use.
- Low access to newer technologies influenced ease of use of e-book readers.