



# **Scaling out research through innovation platforms**

## **(The MilkIT and imGoat projects, India)**

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# The Challenge

- Research needs to draw on **local contexts** as well as **insights** of local actors and stakeholders
- **Inclusiveness** in research for development increases possibilities for uptake
- To be scaled out, results and interventions need to be taken up and **owned** by different stakeholders

# Innovation platform (IP)

**An approach to break the boundaries of different types of knowledge holders to come together and solve common issues**

## **Composition:**

- Producers
- Service providers
- Input suppliers
- Processors
- Market actors
- Researchers

## **Function:**

- **Jointly identify issues**
- **Develop innovations**
- **Collective /individual action**
- **Continuous engagement**

## **Level:**

- State /district /village levels
- Issue based (IP on feed /marketing /policy)

# MilkIt in Uttarakhand

- Many dairy oriented schemes in the state; many actors
- Everybody working in their own direction
- The “only thing lacking was a platform for getting to specific local constraints and to help target these.”
- **The ILRI facilitated Innovation Platform combined communities, state govt., research, banks, co-ops, universities, NGOs**
- **Members together diagnosed problems, identified opportunities and found ways to achieve their goals.**



# MilkIT IP - Results

1. Income of participating IP farmers increased five times compared to non-participating farmers
2. Package of feed interventions (feed trough, forage chopper, fodder crops and dual purpose crops) generated additional fodder for 50 days
3. Work load of women reduced considerably





# imGoats, Rajasthan



Consumers



Butchers



Wholesalers



Traders



Farmers

1. Innovation platform stimulated all value chain actors to jointly identify issues, develop solutions and implement collectively
2. Package of interventions (feeding, health control) could reduce mortality by 20%
3. Put in place transparent mechanism for animal sales based on live weight (against guestimates)
4. IPs brought service providers (DAH) closer to farmers

# Key lessons

- **Involve different actors** – so they are ‘insiders’ to the thinking and the results
- Scaling ‘requires’ partnership (development partners). Ensure that the ‘scaling partners’ are with you **from the start**
- It’s important that partners are not just ‘involved’; they need to become **‘co-owners’ and ‘co-constructors’**
- Tangible evidence is convincing; but **make the evidence visible** through ‘noise’ by ‘telling’ people about it

# More information on IPs



Homann-Kee Tui, S., et al. 2013.  
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*Thank you for your Attention !*

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