

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Systems Research: Experience from Africa RISING



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics

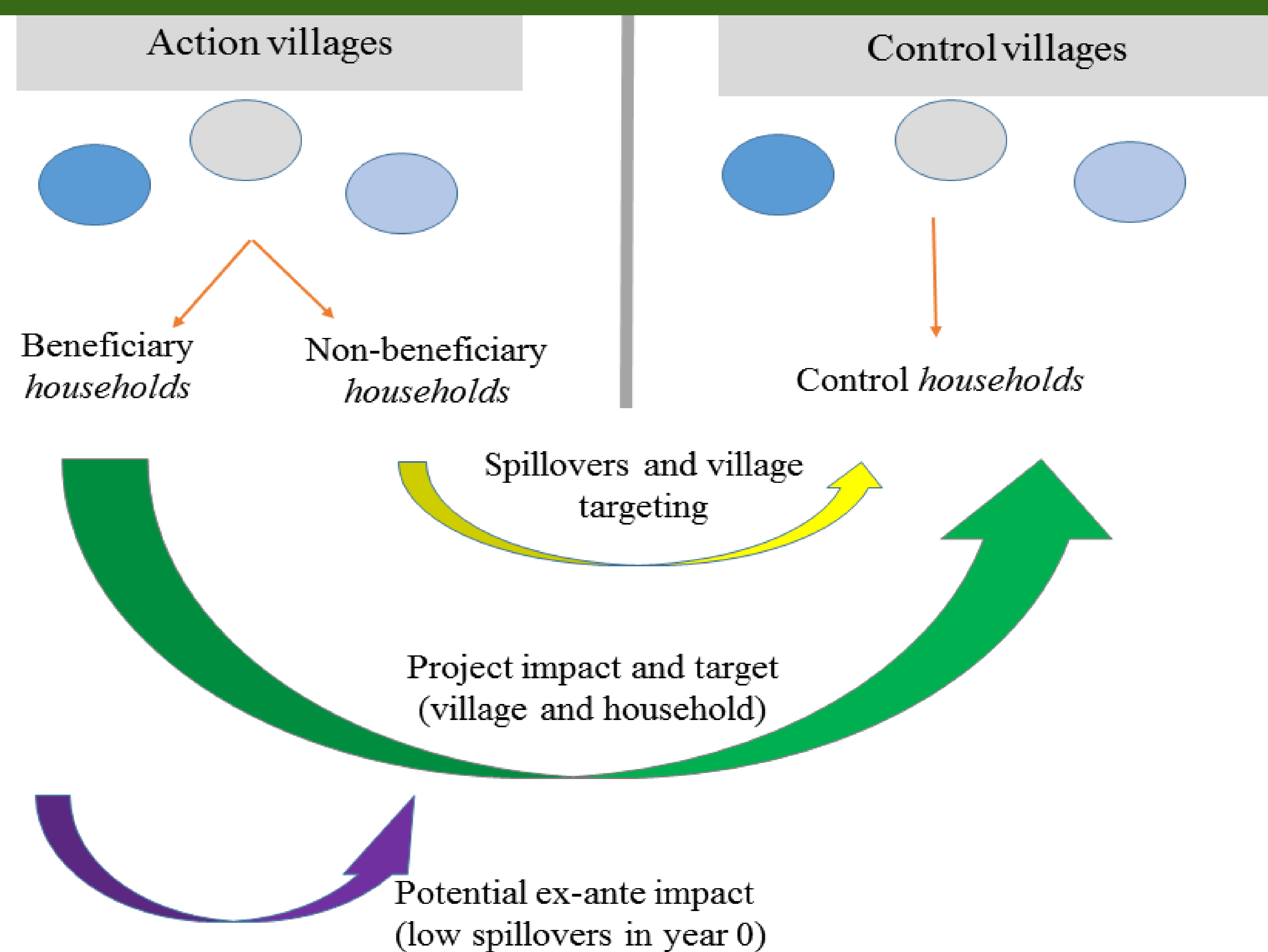
1. Background on Africa RISING M&E system

- Complex sets of tangible and intangible sustainable intensification (SI) innovations
- Different agro-ecologies; multiple dimensions (with possible tradeoffs), scales, and partners; context-specific solutions
- Demand-driven, participatory approach with self-selected farmers
- Relatively large agronomic and socioeconomic data needs
- Presence of multiple constraints -- cost (financial and human), confidentiality, incentives, institutional challenges
- Making research outputs and data searchable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable
- Improving accountability, efficiency, collaboration, and impact; reducing data redundancy and respondent burden
- **Multi-component M&E system**

2. Key elements of the M&E system

- Program-wide data management plan and guide for monitoring data requirement
- Web-based project mapping and monitoring tool (PMMT), with mapping and data entry applications
- Beneficiary and technology tracking tool (BTTT) to uniquely identify participating households, while ensuring confidentiality
- Online data cataloguing (CKAN), confidential data with a fixed embargo period
- Consistent, harmonized, extensive, comprehensive multi-topic household and community surveys (ARBES) for cross-country analysis across Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia
- Analysis of plot-, household-, and landscape-level (geo-spatial) data
- Indicators of sustainable intensification along five dimensions: economic, productivity, social, human, and environmental
- A quasi-experimental evaluation design, summarized below, to establish attribution (both direct and indirect)

3. Evaluation within Africa RISING



Key contacts

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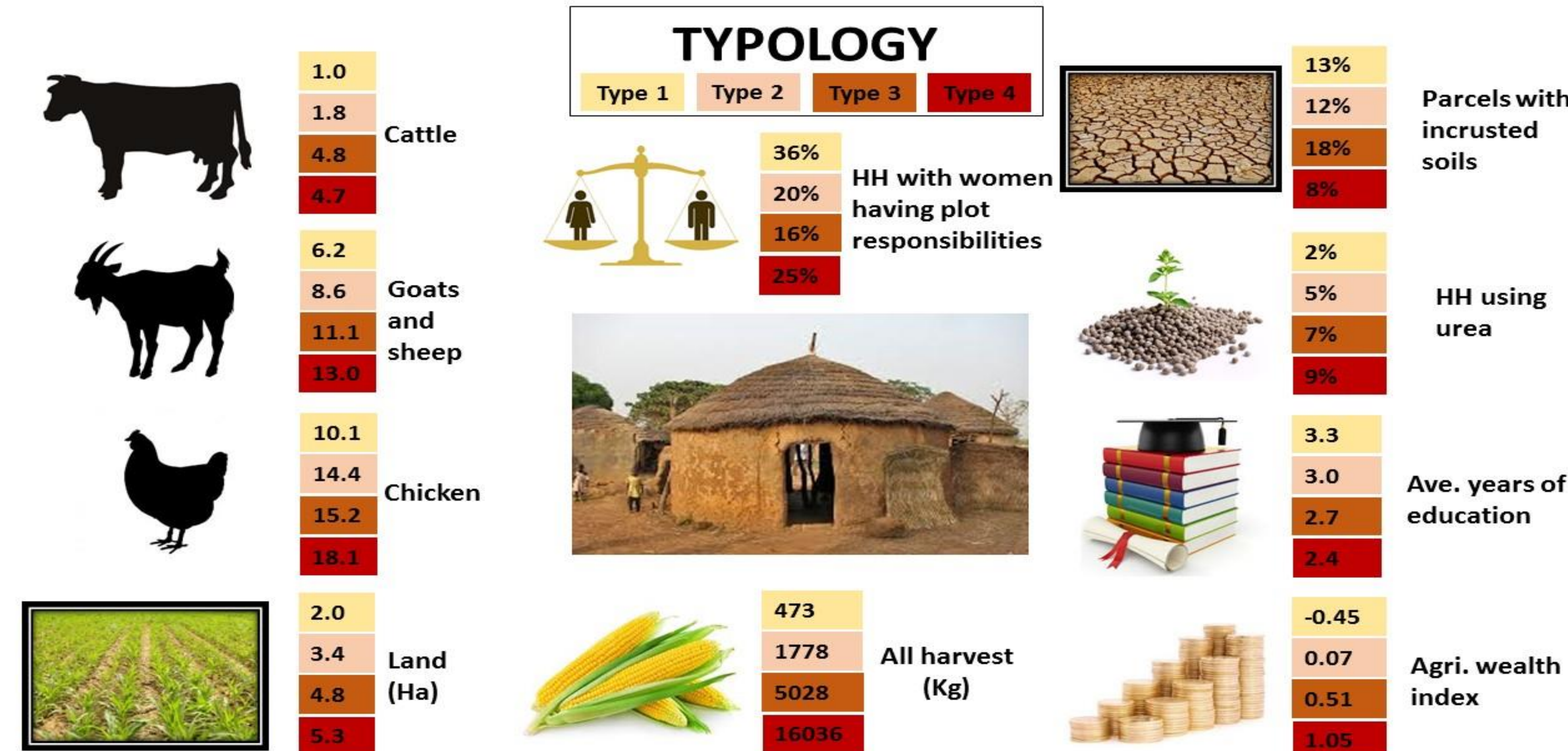
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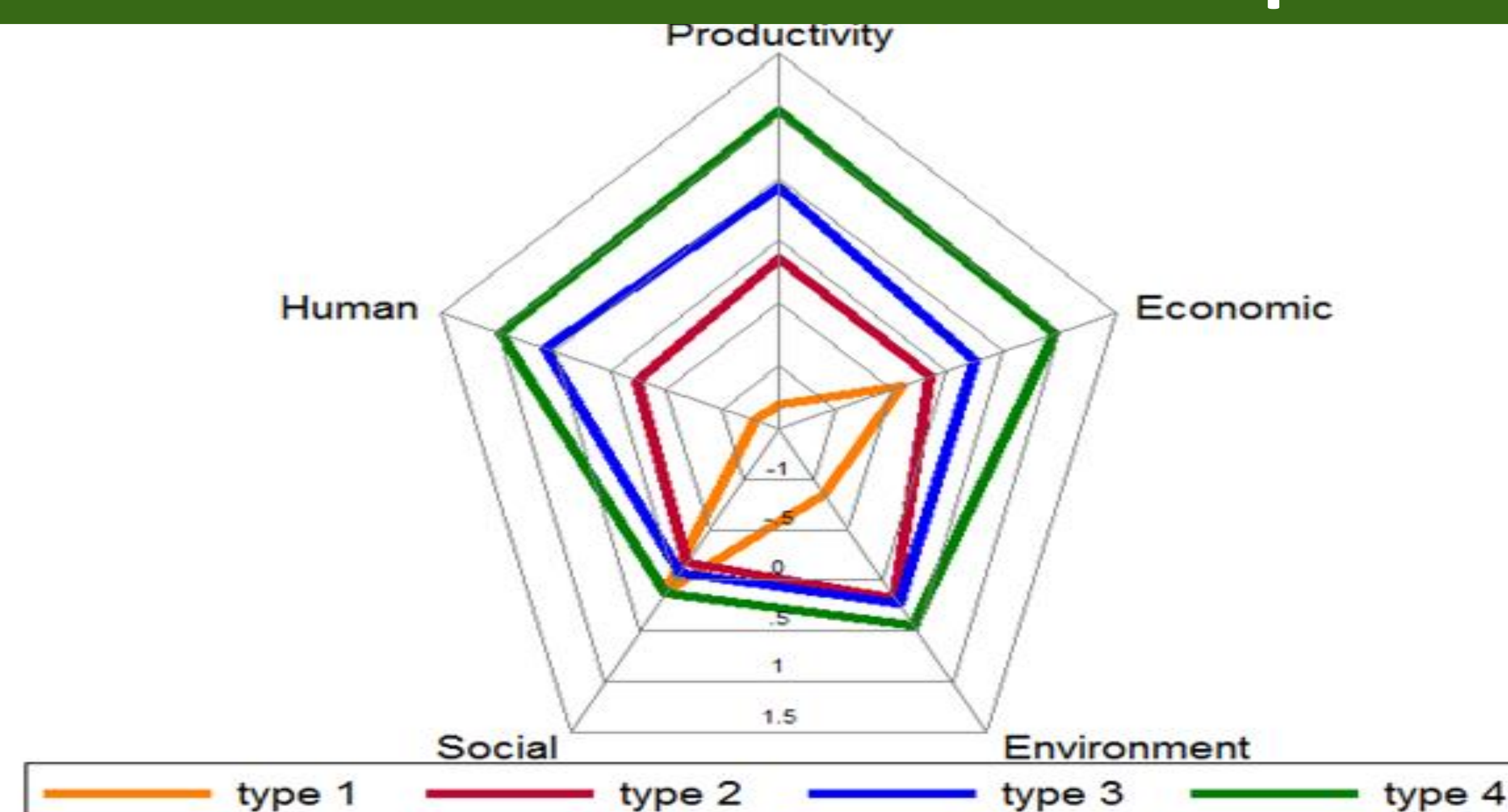


4. Typology of farm households: Ghana example



- **Type 1:** Female-headed with low to medium endowment
- **Type 2:** Younger with medium endowment
- **Type 3:** Medium to high endowment with cattle
- **Type 4:** High productivity and high endowment

5. Dimensions of SI: Malawi example



6. Lessons learned

- Compliance to data management guidelines
- Incentives to collect, hold and share sectorial data
- Connectivity challenges in the field, overcome by combining web-based monitoring tools with offline options
- Operationalization of household typologies to improve targeting
- Increased field presence of monitoring specialists
- First results: 1. systematic targeting of households might jeopardize internal and external validity; 2. differential agro-economic responses found depending on agro-ecologies

7. Some resources

- Wikipage: <http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/>
- Data repository: <http://data.ilri.org/portal/group/africarising>
- Web-based project mapping tool: <http://apps.harvestchoice.org/africarising/>
- Cross-country baseline evaluation surveys: <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/five-comparable-country-datasets-africa-rising-now>

Key partners

IITA and ILRI: Africa RISING implementing partners

IFPRI: Africa RISING M&E lead



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