



Africa RISING Phase II

What's new?

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Phase II in a nutshell

- A continuation of Phase I with some major changes
- *A research project but....*
- *committed to generating measureable impacts at scale (~ 1.2 million households)*
- Another \$50m investment by USAID
- Same country focus



Program Purpose

To provide pathways out of hunger and poverty for smallholder families through sustainably intensified farming systems that sufficiently improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base



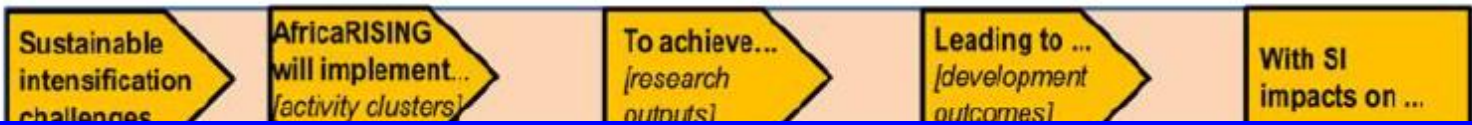
Some New Key Elements of Phase II

- Theory of Change
- “Research in Development” model
- Program-level initiatives
- Vision of success / targets
- New partnerships, esp. for scaling

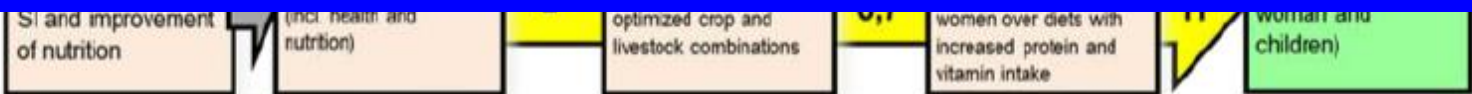


Theory of Change

- Research generates, adapts and validates Sustainable Intensification innovations
- Adopting these, rural households make more efficient use of available resources
- Increased efficiency → increased production without compromising the needs of future generations
- Increased production is associated with a range of livelihood benefits (income, nutrition, human capacity)



Method support





Research-for-Development (R-for-D)

Diagnosis of problems

↳ Development of solutions

↳ Validation of solutions

↳ Promotion of solutions

↳ Who wants these???



Research-in-Development (R-in-D) - operationally

- (i) research issues are **prioritized following the specific needs** of development partners and their beneficiaries, including prioritization in case of multiple demands,
- (ii) the geographical focus **area of the research program is aligned with that** of the development initiative, whereby variation in context variables that could affect the performance of products and solutions is expected to be integrated in such program,
- (iii) the **output and outcome targets of the research program** are aligned to those of the development initiative, and
- (iv) any research, demonstration, or adaptation activities take place with **direct engagement of the farming households and associations targeted** and the development partners facilitating these



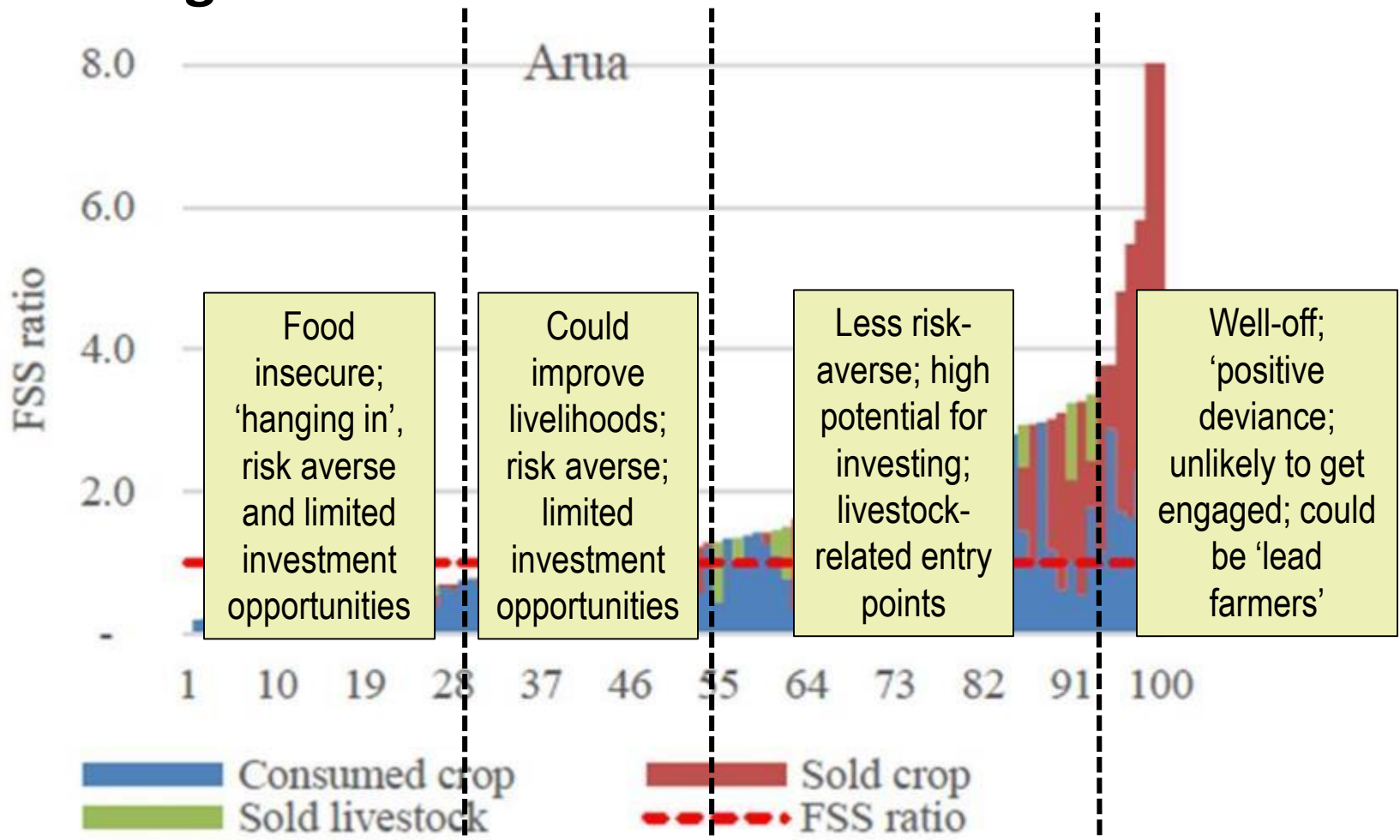
Research-in-Development (R-in-D) - advantages

- (i) **variation** in performance of improved interventions within the target environments **is embedded** in the research process,
- (ii) through participatory evaluation, ‘best bet’ options are transformed into **‘best fit’ options**, addressing farmer’s production objectives and resource constraints,
- (iii) improved options are **evaluated as these interact with livelihood systems**, operating beyond individual plots or farms, and
- (iv) M&E processes can generate **new research questions** based on the identification of secondary problems affecting system productivity



→ Typologies and technologies: Which interventions could be interesting for whom?

$$FSS\ ratio_i = \frac{\{\sum_1^p (QtyC_p * E_p)\} + \{ (VP_{sold} - C_p / 1200) * E_m \}}{\sum_{j=1}^n K_j}$$





Program-wide initiatives

- SI indicator framework
- Common research questions
- Program-wide analyses
- Communities of Practice



Indicator framework for SI

- AR mandate is to provide pathways out of hunger and poverty through sustainable intensification of farming systems
- Sustainable ag intensification has various dimensions: Productivity, Economics, Environment, Social, and Human conditions
- How can we measure the trajectory of SI in these domains?
- Indicator framework has been developed by a group of scientists from different institutions, incl. Africa RISING
- Africa RISING is adopting this framework in phase 2
- It is a set of indicators for each domain with appropriate metrics and methods for measurement
- It allows measuring change in the 5 domains at different scale (plot/field, farm, hh, landscape/admin unit) and assessing intervention trade-offs and interactions between scales



Research Questions

- 1. Trade-offs and synergies:** What are the environmental, economic, human and social consequences (according to the SI framework) of productivity-enhancing interventions?
- 2. Adaptation/ adoptability:** How are these interventions adapted to the endowments of diverse farmer typologies in the target areas and how do enabling conditions (e.g. access to markets, agro-inputs, finance) affect this adaptation process?
- 3. Livelihoods:** How do changes in the management of specific activities or combination of activities within a farm (e.g. a field or a livestock unit) affect overall livelihood conditions for different farmer typologies?
- 4. Enabling:** How do enabling conditions affect the nature (variety, agro-inputs, complexity, diversity) of promising interventions moving towards SI?
- 5. Equity:** How does social capital affect community productivity, cooperation and well-being along with the scaling of SI innovations?



Program-wide analyses

- Across countries, IFPRI will undertake studies to provide more evidence to support research adaptation, targeting, scaling, innovation adoptability, decision making, *ex-ante* impact assessment, ...



Communities of Practice

- Better coordination and capitalization of existing expertise across the projects, more science outputs, more cross-site learning, more streamlined activities across countries and partners
- CoPs bring together scattered people with a common interest in improving what they are doing
- **5 initial** CoPs to advance our science and achieve our goals:
 - ***Socio-economic Assessment of Technological Innovations*** (Proposed Champion: Asfaw Negassa, ILRI).
 - ***Nutrition*** (Proposed Champion: Caroline Sobgui, WorldVeg)
 - ***Private Sector Engagement for Better Linkages of Farmers to Input and Output Markets*** (Proposed Champion: Patrick Okori, ICRISAT).
 - ***Livestock intensification and integration*** (Proposed Champion: Augustine Ayantunde, ILRI)
 - ***Translating Research Outputs into Scaled Innovation*** (Proposed Champion: Haroon Sseguya, IITA)



Vision of Success



Impact trajectories	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Households participating directly in AR research	6,921	10,007	12,195	14,329	16,997	20,332	24,501
Households directly engaged in AR development partner activities	7,967	111,413	257,625	392,190	588,149	840,365	1,119,438
Total households encompassed in FTF zones of influence	6,148 million	6,715 million	6,901 million	7,088 million	7,274 million	7,460 million	7,647 million



Scaling Partnerships

- **Frontline public and NGO delivery systems** e.g. agencies implementing Ethiopia's National Growth and Transformation Plan
- **USAID Mission-supported large development initiatives** e.g. partnership with Tanzania Staples Value Chain Activity (NAFAKA)
- **Public-private partners** e.g. legume technology dissemination and marketing by N2 Africa



Element	Phase I approach	Phase II approach
Research focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● System diagnosis ● Typology identification ● Identification of intensification trajectories ● On-farm testing/ validation of SI options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research to backstop scaling initiatives. ● Generic research on systems evolution/ intensification ● Application of typologies—analysis, targeting
Research management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meetings among regional team only during learning events, and regional review and planning meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More regular (a minimum of two) meetings among chief scientists to harmonize activities and cross learning
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement of more biophysical research partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement of more development partners
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No clearly defined capacity building strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harmonization of capacity building strategies
Multi-stakeholder platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding and establishment of R4D and innovation platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More broad-based R in D approach to multi-stakeholder platforms



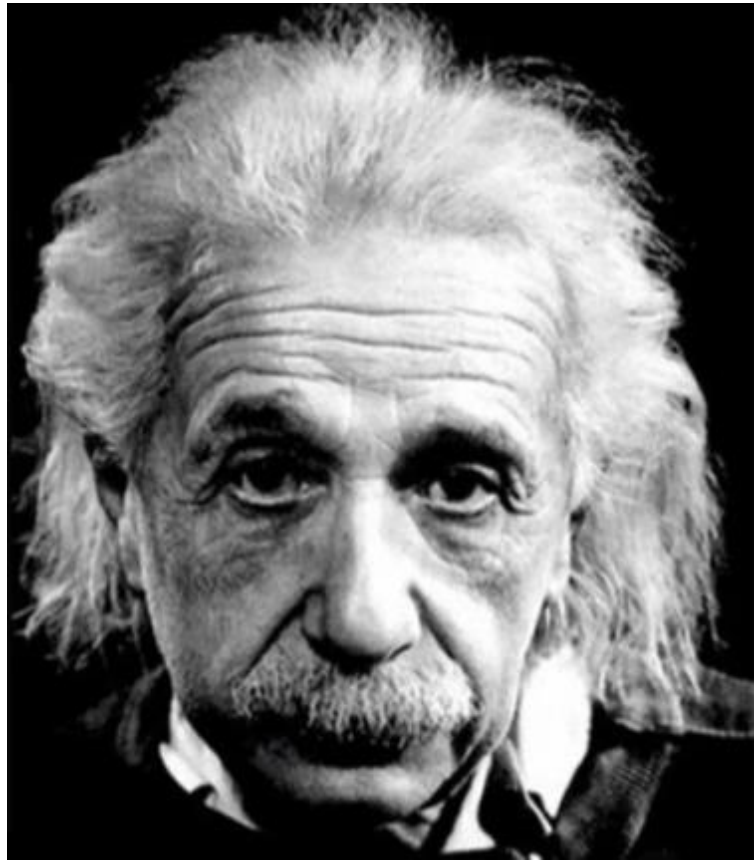
Element	Phase I approach	Phase II approach
Regional harmonization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ad-hoc cross-learning and establishment of common approaches ● Program Coordination Team (PCT) provides overall technical and managerial advice and coordination across the three projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program-level development to ensure opportunities for cross-scaling and wider dissemination of research outputs ● PCT to ensure maximum harmonization in approaches and high degree of cross-learning. ● Application of program approaches and principles in all projects and countries
Scaling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus more on action research, less emphasis on deliberate scaling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proactive engagement with development partners and public institutions ● Different approaches tested and documented



Element	Phase I approach	Phase II approach
Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring and evaluation undertaken together and centralized within IFPRI ● FTF indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring decentralized to regional teams, while evaluation continues to be undertaken centrally by IFPRI ● Strengthen custom indicators in
Data management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing data sharing tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partners comply with data management policy and make use of data sharing opportunities ● All data fully accessible



Element	Phase I approach	Phase II approach
<p>Communications and knowledge sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-media products with internet, images, video, reports, blog posts ● Process and event facilitation and documentation ● Much 'grey literature' ● Communicating about the science ● Intra-program and project 'internal' communications and documentation ● Annual learning events and peer visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More beneficiary-targeted communication in countries to support technology adoption and scaling ● Communicating 'the' science ● Greater media outreach ● More sophisticated web presence ● Gender-differentiated communication products to address differing abilities and interests ● Regular cross-regional and cross-country exchange visits by researchers ● Program-wide communities of practice around specific topics



Insanity:
doing the same thing
over and over again
and expecting
different results.



Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation
africa-rising.net



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