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Scaling Readiness: An Approach to Assess and Accelerate Scaling of Agri-Food Systems Innovations

Scaling Readiness has been developed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Wageningen University (WUR) under the CGIAR research program on Roots Tubers and Banana (RTB). Scaling Readiness supports research, development and donor organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of efficient scaling strategies.

- 9 READY**
Validation of the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives in natural /real /uncontrolled conditions without support from an R4D initiative
- 8 INCUBATION**
Testing the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives in natural/real/uncontrolled conditions with support from an R4D initiative
- 7 PROOF OF APPLICATION**
Validation of the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives in controlled environments
- 6 WORKING APPLICATION**
Testing of the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives in controlled environments
- 5 WORKING MODEL**
Validation of the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives using existing applied-sciences-evidence
- 4 FORMULATING WORKING MODEL**
Researching the capacity of the component to meet specific objectives using existing applied-sciences-evidence
- 3 BASIC MODEL**
Validation of principles that component can meet specific objectives using existing basic-sciences-evidence
- 2 BASIC RESEARCH**
Researching the hypothesis that component can meet specific objectives using existing basic-sciences-evidence
- 1 IDEA / HYPOTHESIS**
Formulating an idea that a component can meet specific objective. Development of the key hypothesis about the elements of the initial concept (e.g. objectives, functions, intended users)

Scaling Readiness uses science-based methods to identify and overcome bottlenecks for scaling of innovation. It breaks down innovation packages and analyses its individual technological, policy, market and partnership components along a 9-Level Scaling Readiness Ladder (Figure left). Levels range from low readiness for scaling (Levels 1-4: innovation is idea of which individual components have been tested theoretically), to medium readiness for scaling (Levels 5-7: individual components or innovation package tested in controlled environment), to high readiness for scaling (Levels 8-9: innovation package proven to work in uncontrolled environment). Similarly, Scaling Readiness analyses whether innovation components are commonly-used in scaling locations to inform scaling potential. Scaling Readiness builds on the premise that components with low Scaling Readiness obstruct the whole innovation package from scaling. Such information guides government, public and private scaling partners in designing, implementing and monitoring better scaling strategies.

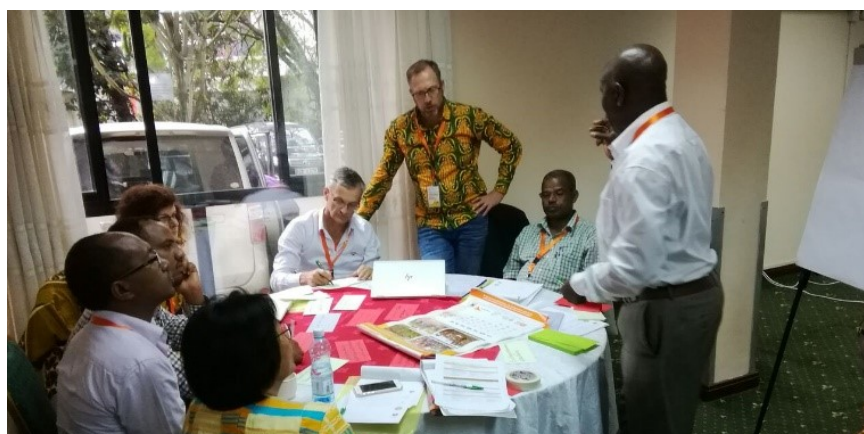


Photo: Project team agrees on investments in activities and partnerships to overcome bottlenecks for scaling sweet potato seed multiplication using the Scaling Readiness Approach.

Scaling Readiness is currently used by R&D organizations in 12 countries covering 4 continents. For more information, please visit www.scalingreadiness.org or contact Dr Murat Sartas (m.sartas@cgiar.org).