

Scaling up food security innovations Lessons from the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund

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Abstract: Scaling up innovations to achieve impact at scale is increasingly embraced by researchers, development agencies, donors and governments as an effective strategy to generate wider benefits from development investments. Over the last nine years, the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund CIFSRF, a CA 124 million program jointly funded by the International Development Research Center and Global Affairs Canada, supported the development, testing and scaling-up of promising innovations that aim to improve food security and nutrition in the global south. This poster presents an overview of the experience and lessons derived from CIFSRF programs efforts to scale up a large portfolio of agricultural innovations. It describes how different scaling up approaches and pathways were used for different types of innovations, discusses key outcomes of the program and offers insights into key factors that enabled or constrained the sustainable spreading and adoption of agricultural innovations at a large scale. It considers projects that i) deployed successfully pilot-tested innovations to reach and benefit a maximum number of beneficiaries ii) used innovations as an entry point to catalyze long-term systematic change in the food and agricultural sector through capacity building efforts. CIFRSFs scaling up initiatives provide valuable insights for agriculture research for development.