



FEED^{THE}**FUTURE**

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC)

Introduction to DLEC



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

digitalGREEN



What is DLEC?

- 5 year, Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement Award
- 10 million USD with opportunity for mission buy-in up to 35 million
- Implemented by Digital Green with IFPRI and CARE
- Focused on strengthening extension and advisory services (EAS) through novel combination of ICT solutions, community-based social organizations, and systemic change



Admin, Management, Staff (1)

Project Management Committee (representatives from Digital Green, IFPRI, CARE), responsible for overall project coordination

- Kristin Davis, IFPRI
- Alex Dunlop, Digital Green
- Rikin Gandhi, Digital Green
- Scott Merrill, CARE
- David Spielman, IFPRI

Admin, Management, Staff (2)

- Technical Advisory Committee (multi-disciplinary expert sounding board to provide advice, further refine the project's theory of change, implementation)
- Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning officer
- Communications officer
- Support from regular Digital Green staff



Resource Partners

Core team

- Digital Green
- IFPRI
- CARE

Resource Partners

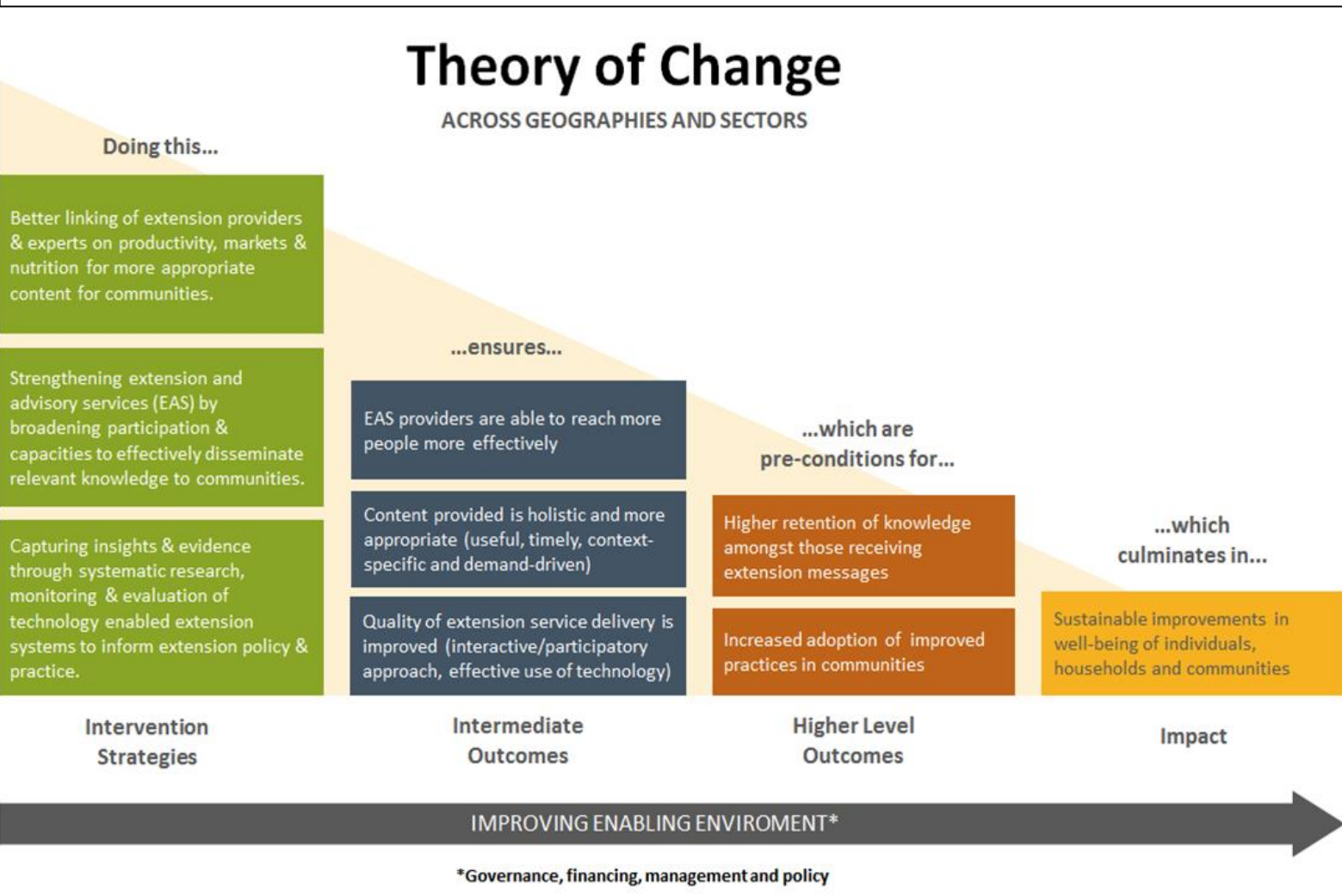
- AGRA
- Awaaz.de
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- Dimagi
- Farm Radio International
- Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
- John Snow International
- Practical Action
- Other universities (UC Berkeley, Georgetown, U Michigan, Cornell)
- Independent consultants

Program Strategy

- EAS often ineffective due to:
 - Weak linkages between sources & users of knowledge, e.g. national agricultural research systems, universities, extension agents, entrepreneurs, community-based organizations, or farmers
 - Poorly-designed methods for information dissemination & lack of experiential learning approaches
 - Insufficiently-robust mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, & provide feedback on which EAS approaches, tools, & systems work or don't



DLEC Goal and Theory of Change



By helping country extension and advisory services (EAS) become more pluralistic, with an increasing number of state and non-state actors having improved capacity and linkages to generate relevant knowledge and effectively disseminate and monitor its use, local EAS systems will become more effective, accountable, scalable, and sustainable.

Theory of Change → DLEC Objectives

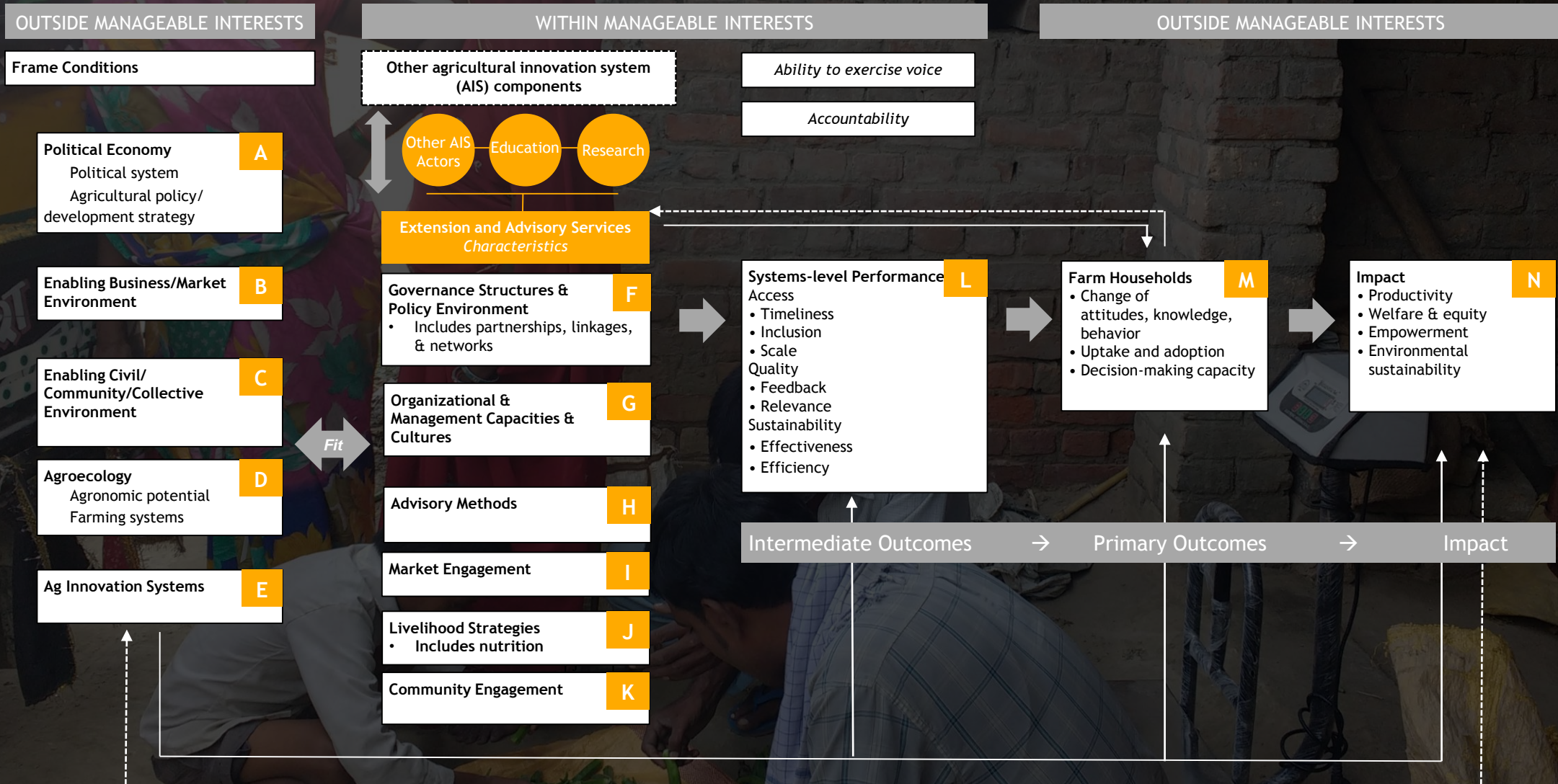
1. Build evidence and apply EAS-related solutions on the ground

- Diagnostics
- Country engagement

2. Build Communities of Practice

- Engagement with USAID
- Communication and engagement with EAS Stakeholders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

DLEC Analytical Framework for Designing and Analyzing Extension and Advisory Services



*Adapted from Birner, et al. "From Best Practice to Best Fit." December 2009.

Impact pathway

Influencing factors

Feedback line

4 Building Blocks of EAS

- Customer – farmers & their unique needs
- Content – knowledge being shared
- Methods – how information & knowledge is shared
- Provider – who shares information & knowledge



Activities (1): Diagnostics*

Identify Opportunities and Leverage Points to Catalyze Change

1. Map stakeholders in 21 Feed the Future/aligned countries
2. Conduct desk studies (21)
3. Conduct in-depth EAS assessments (6)
4. Conduct in-country stakeholder meetings (10)
5. Synthesis reports based on assessments and meetings
6. Conduct other diagnostic studies and evaluations

*Further details on each will follow

Diagnostic Details

1. **Stakeholder mapping** will identify key actors in EAS ecosystem. Outputs: country-specific matrixes, electronically available.
2. **Desk studies** will provide information on status of EAS and help determine possible potential interventions. Outputs: country-specific reports.
3. **In-depth assessments** give sufficient contextual information and recommendations for engagements in a country. Outputs: country reports. Based on the reports, DLEC will produce four regional syntheses.
4. **Stakeholder meetings** will validate conclusions of existing EAS assessments in ten FTF countries. Outputs: reports for the regional syntheses.

Activities (2): DLEC Engagements

Pilot, Document, and Share EAS Strategies

1. Ethiopia: Possible women-centric extension study
2. Malawi: Digitize farmer field business school with community-based video and compare efficacy vs. traditional CARE model” during a 2-year pilot
3. Bangladesh: Facilitate aggregation of market information and other services, particularly around inputs with private extension
4. Exploring potential interest in Rwanda, Mozambique, Nigeria

Focus EAS Characteristics	Ethiopia	Malawi	Bangladesh	Honduras
Governance Structures & Policy Environment - coordination and incentives				
Organizational & Management Capacities & Cultures - performance measurement - human resources				Priority
Advisory Methods - targeting - participation - technology	Priority			
Market Engagement - aggregation - financial services			Priority	
Livelihood Strategies - role of provider - gender roles - integration		Priority		
Community Engagement - where farmers go for information - mechanism for farmer demand - how to build trust				

Activities (3): Knowledge Sharing

Communicate, Reach Out, Share Knowledge

1. Communication & outreach strategy
2. Web-based knowledge platform/community of practice
3. Stakeholder roundtables
4. Host or participate in national and regional EAS fora

Web Platform

- Virtual knowledge management platform to foster regular exchanges at global & national levels between in-person events.
- Platform will host webinars, possibly through Agrilinks.
- Platform will house research data, studies, multimedia training materials, evaluations, country & analytical studies, best-fit practice notes, & other resources and tools, allowing all parties interested in improving extension to contribute and learn from one another.
- Platform will spread best-fit practices & stimulate new studies & adaptation of improved EAS knowledge & products.
- Platform will link to existing case studies from MEAS; the GFRAS website, which features a global good practice series aimed at EAS program managers; and other resources.
- The knowledge management platform will be operational by 2nd quarter FY17.

Creating an EAS Community of Practice

- Share common concerns and best practices, evidence, & create new knowledge to advance EAS
- Engage an expansive range of stakeholders (incl. companies, NGOs, government agencies, researchers, donors) that cuts across sectors (incl. ag, health, and nutrition)
- Advocate for systems changes to enable action beyond project activities & change the perception of EAS to a technology-laden driver of change
- Ongoing interaction, starting in Nairobi in September 2016

Community of Practice

- Continue to explore and co-develop ideas from small groups
- Adopt the DLEC framework and advocate for systems change
- Engage others in the CoP
- Document, evaluate and share learning
- Take action for impact

Sign Up! <http://tinyurl.com/dlec-cop>

Roundtables

- Present solutions & move evidence to action
- Review progress on mission engagement & ongoing activities
- Share updates with USAID & other interested stakeholders, & propose ideas for new activities.
- Events will be made available virtually whenever possible.
- Regional roundtables in Central America, Asia, East & Southern Africa, & West Africa will be timed with release of country assessments & regional synthesis reports.

Convenings under CoP

- Virtual community of practice convening in January, 2017
- In-person convening in July, 2017
- Other planned, in-person convenings in which DLEC will participate include:
 - GFRAS Annual Meeting side event in Cameroon, participation by DLEC, October 7, 2016
 - World Economic Forum in India, hosted by DLEC, October (TBD)
 - Global Food Security Symposium in Washington, DC, 29-30 March 2017





THANK YOU

Questions and Comments?

www.feedthefuture.gov

www.digitalgreen.org

All photos from Digital Green