



## **CTA-Wageningen UR ACP/EU Think Tank Pre-Conference Event**

**Partnerships for Research, Capacity Building, Innovation and Foresighting:  
*Managing Water for Agriculture and Food in ACP Countries***

**28 October 2012**

**Punta del Este, Uruguay**

In collaboration with

# Greening Rural Development and Growth in Sub Sahara Africa

Benefits from discussing Green Economic Growth to support Paradigm  
Changes and Integration

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# Avoid green-washing of business as usual

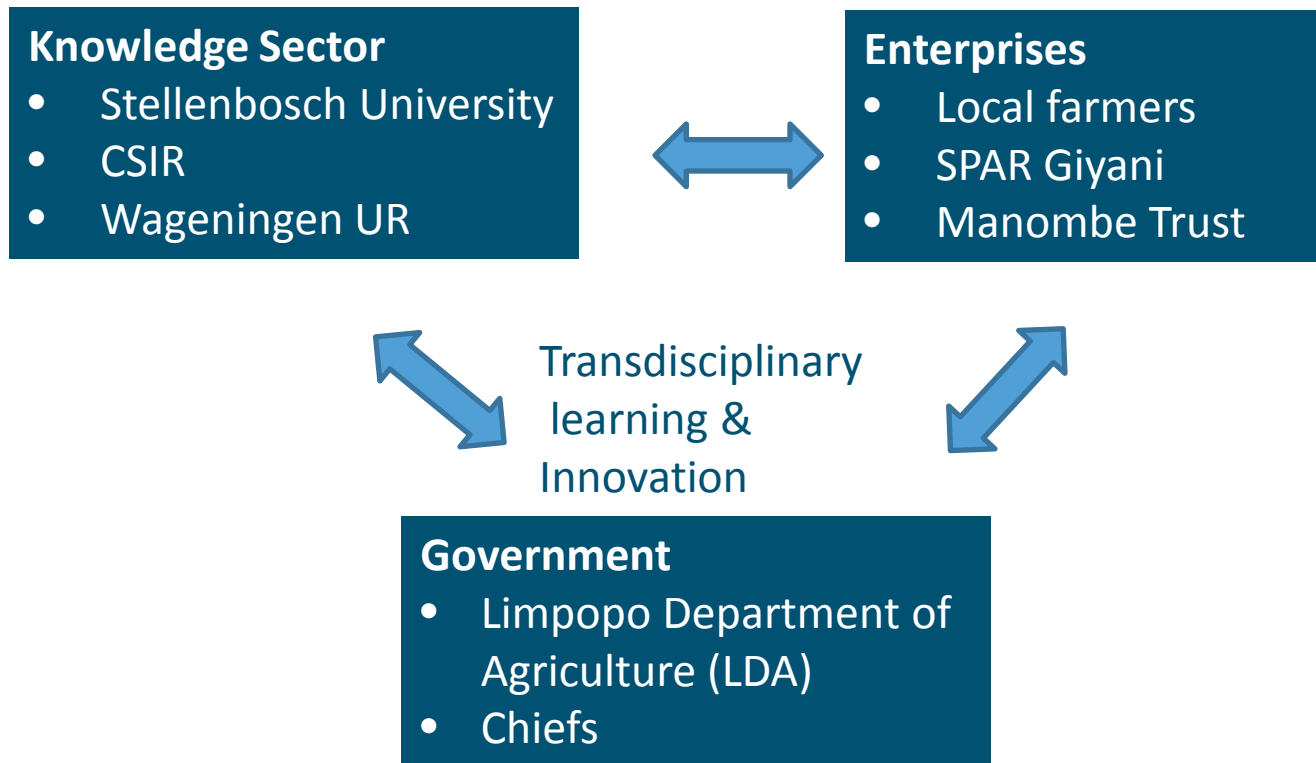
- Do not restrict discussion to *Green Economy* technologies as the only future, but use the momentum for fostering innovation and growth
- Understand Green Economic Growth as opportunity to focus on growth, setting new impulses for innovation, true participation of rural communities, and to avoid overconsumption of resources
- Read Green Economic Growth as Sustainable Growth with emphasis on innovation

# Major bottlenecks

- Bridging land and water management is not a straightforward task
- Rural collapse
- New products and new processes to get these products must be exploited
- Existing enterprises go for low hanging fruit or to concentrate on strategic innovation in markets they already dominate
- CG Institutes rather sector oriented (ILRI, IRI, IWMI)
- There is a need for a platform on integrating agribusiness innovation & capacity building for sustainable growth

# Giyani Innovation Initiative

Network to support agribusiness innovation and rural development in practice



# Building blocks - Knowledge



Example for testing innovation within the EAU4Food project:

- Tomato seedlings, varieties commonly used
- Supplied by local suppliers
- Planted with the assistance of LDA.



Comparative testing of irrigation scheduling :

- plots with fertigation/irrigations scheduled according to farmers' experience and according to soil moisture monitoring



# Building blocks – private sector



- Manombe Trust (local chiefs, private investors)
- Refurbishing old local mill
- Rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes
- Local processing & branding
- Cradle to cradle
  - Maize for consumption – at a cheaper rate than the maize brought in from the Freestate province.
  - Chicken food – for the local poultry business
  - Residue going for compost manufacturing.

# Building blocks - Government



- Revised Limpopo Growth and Development Strategy (LGDS) (2005)
- Revitalisation of Smallholder Irrigation Schemes (RESIS)
- Key service delivery approaches
- Tractors available
- Accompanying activities



Female Entrepreneurs awarded in Maruleng and Giyani

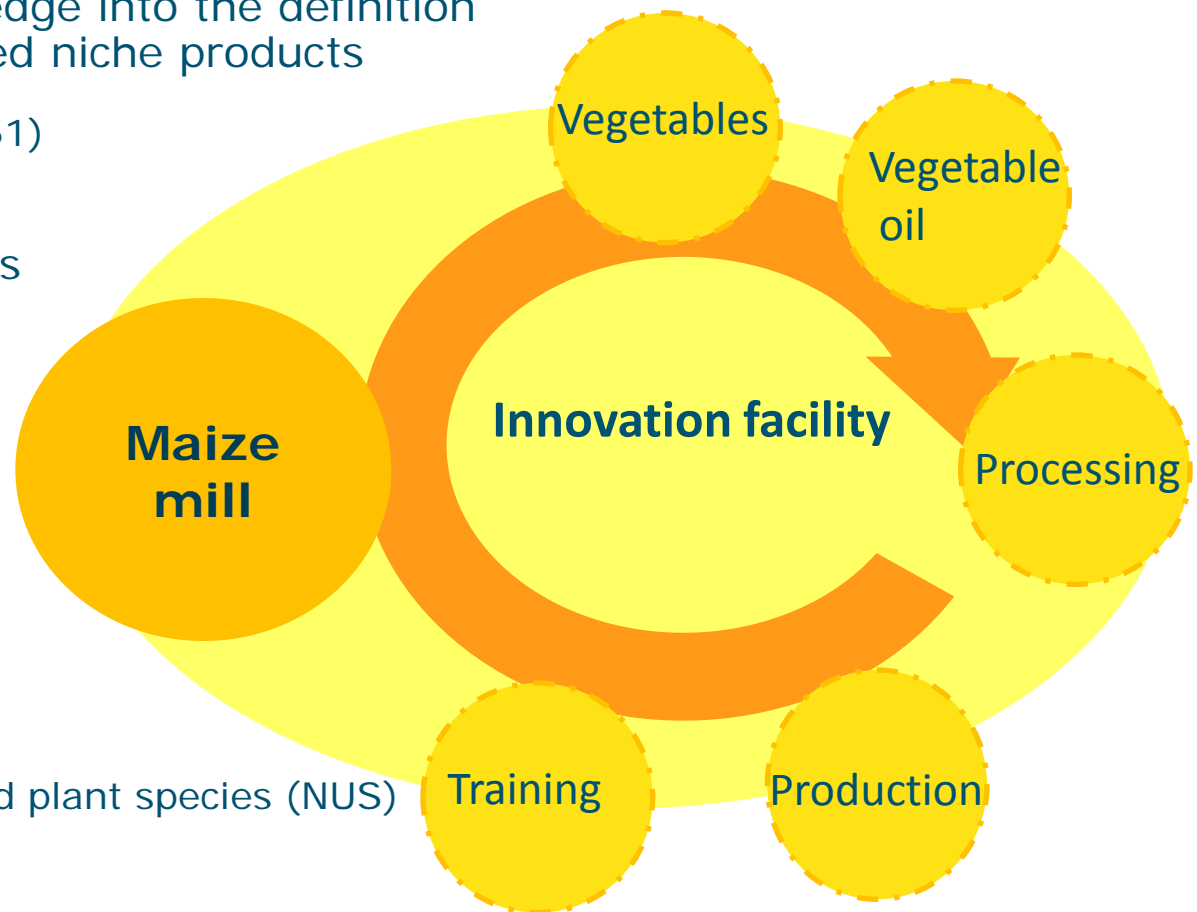


# The way towards agribusiness innovation

Open innovation processes are key – do not stick to vertical value chain extensions alone

Integration of SSA knowledge into the definition and creation of bio - based niche products

- Indigenous plants/ NUS<sup>1)</sup>
- Special foods
- Combination of products

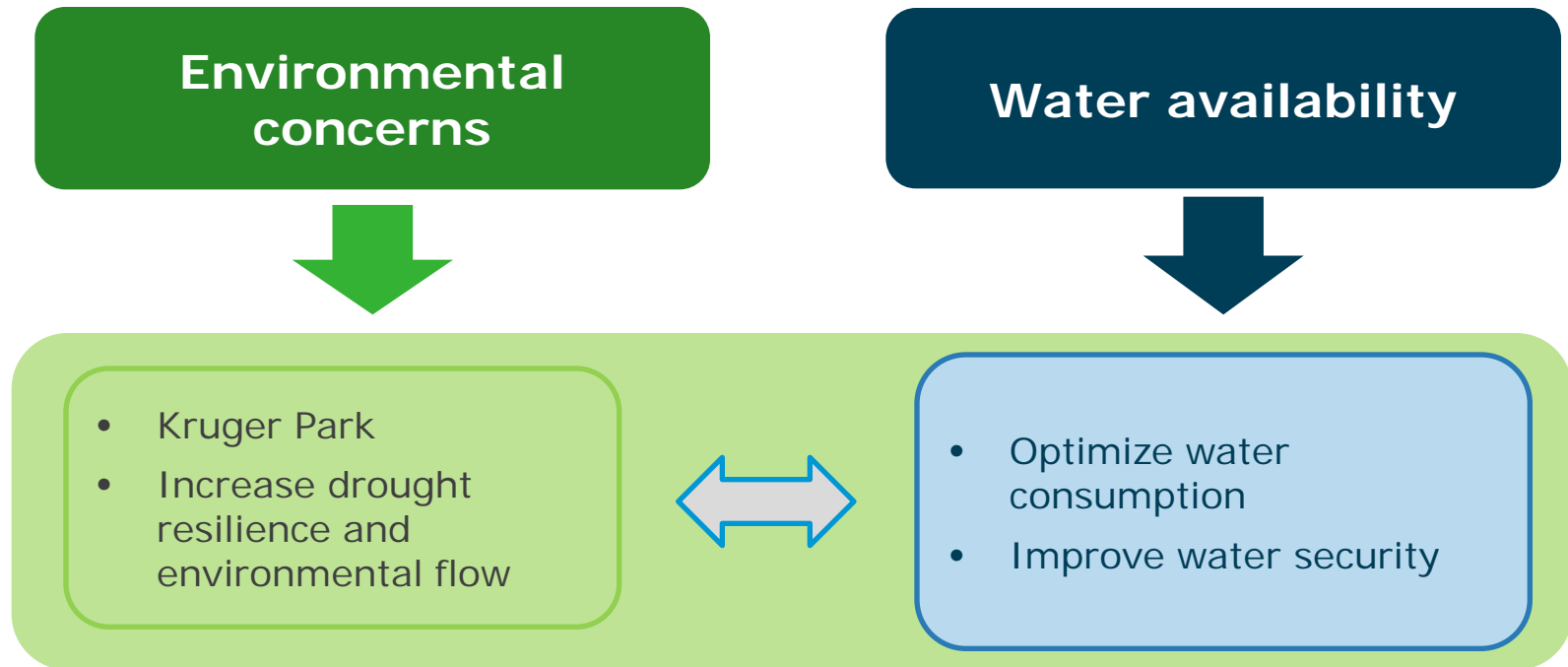


1) Neglected and underutilized plant species (NUS)

# Think wider than *local for local*



# Balancing resource use

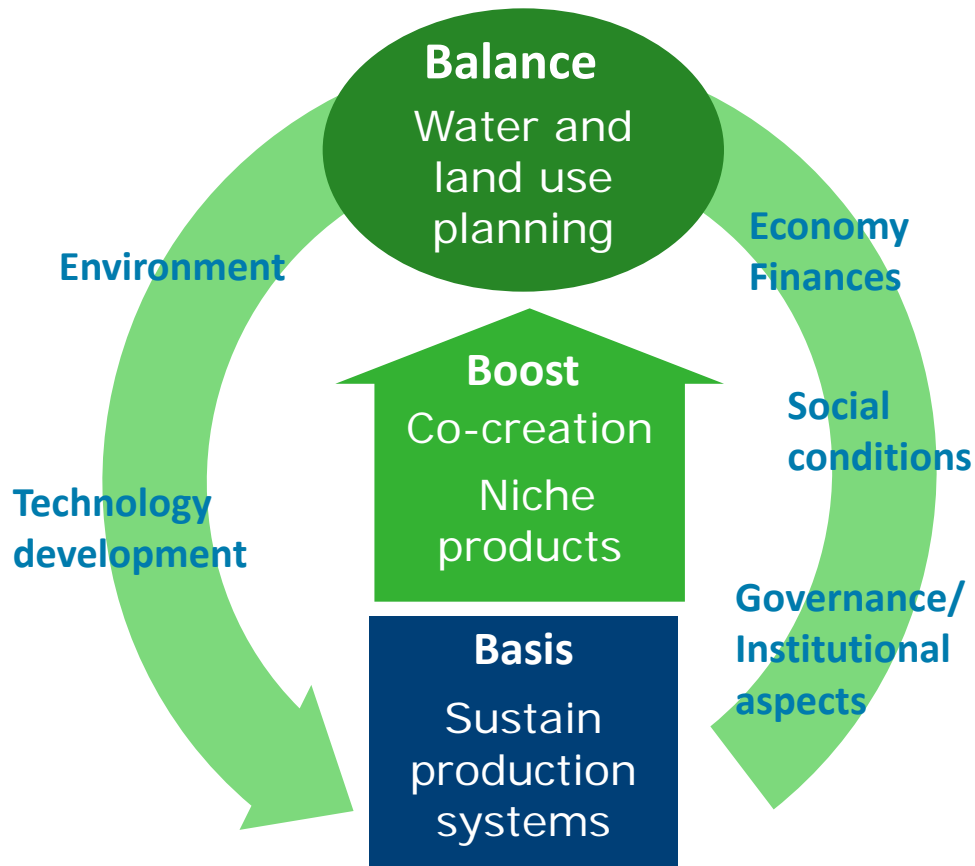


Sustainable production must consider the water availability/ consumption at the whole catchment in space and time



# Green Economic Growth

Actual sustainable growth requires to address three key domains :  
basis – boost – balance and the dynamic management of their interaction



- **Basis** - maintaining the productivity of ecosystems
- **Boost** – dedicated business innovations
- **Balance** – careful allocation of land and water resources

# Three succinct messages

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- Sustainability is often interpreted as a conservation paradigm, not giving enough priority to growth and development dynamics
- Instead of green-washing of bio-based economy we need a paradigm shift, leading to actual sustainable growth
- Key is an open innovation process leading to optimal use of resources and to the maximization of benefits