

Strengthening Capacity for IAR4D in Africa

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International Centre
for development oriented Research in Agriculture

European CGIAR donor group:
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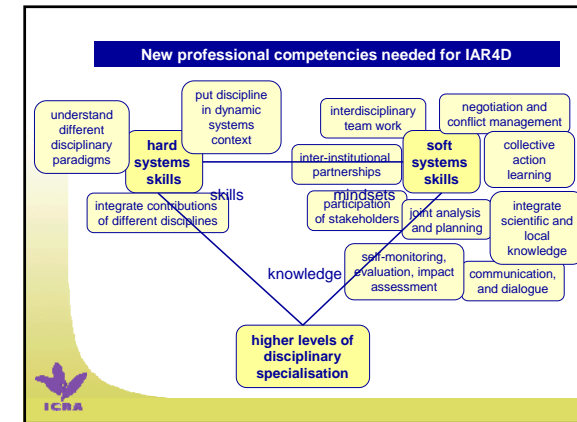
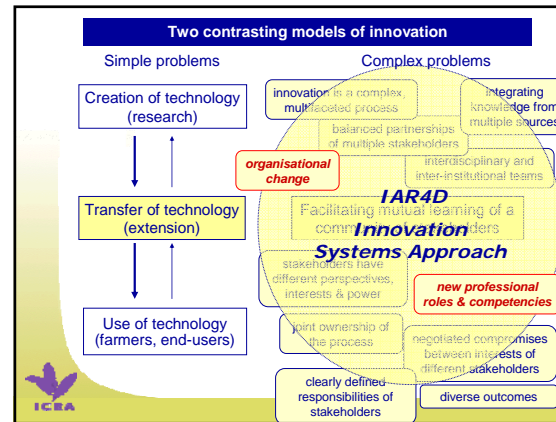
Main messages (1)

- IAR4D follows an innovation systems approach
- Conventional education & training is not enough
- We need new approaches to strengthen IAR4D capacity – using “*learning cycles*”:
 - Based on learning *by doing*, i.e. through collaboration between key actors in *real* innovation initiatives
 - *Empowering* all actors (level the playing field)
 - Enhancing *transdisciplinary* knowledge & skills
 - Promoting *mindsets & behavioural changes*



Main messages (2)

- Learning cycles will not work without accompanying changes in the participating R&D organisations
- Who will coordinate & facilitate IAR4D learning cycles? A new role for universities ...?
- ICRA is a partner in strengthening national/regional capacity to facilitate IAR4D learning cycles



How to strengthen these capacities?

Strengthening hard and soft systems skills for IAR4D requires:

- ❑ New ways of learning – in mixed teams, by doing, in professional context, with stakeholders, aimed at achieving real results over time ("learning cycles")
- ❑ Enabling institutional environments to learn, utilise and mainstream IAR4D
- ❑ Use of learning cycles as an instrument for organisational change

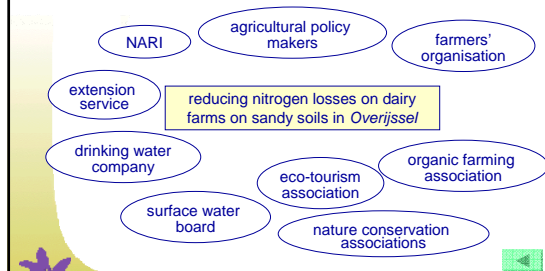


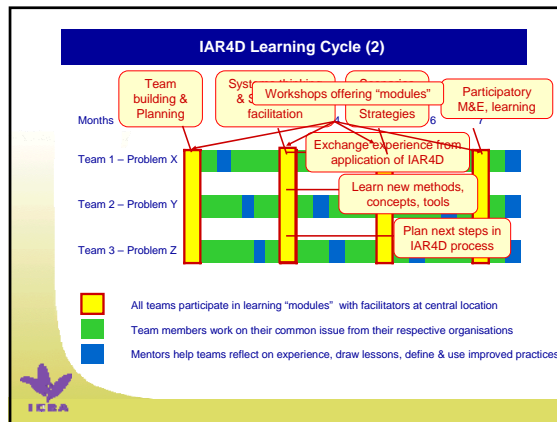
IAR4D Learning Cycle (1)

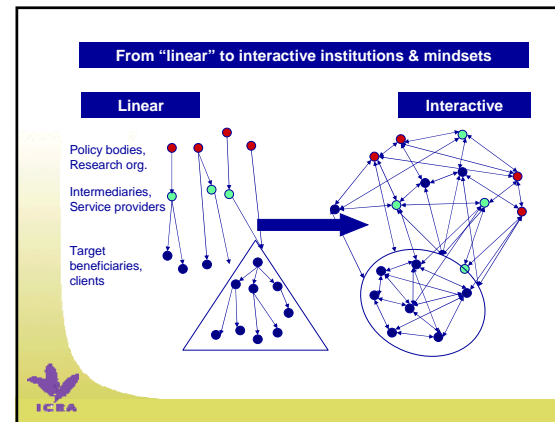
- Focused on multi-stakeholder teams involved in addressing a common issue
- Assisting each team to:
 - ❑ Analyse the issue from the different perspectives of the various stakeholders (current situation)
 - ❑ Achieve and negotiate a shared vision of desirable improvements (future situation)
 - ❑ Define a common strategy to address the issue and realise the improvements
 - ❑ Form a partnership to implement the strategy (roles & responsibilities)
 - ❑ Share, access, generate and use new knowledge

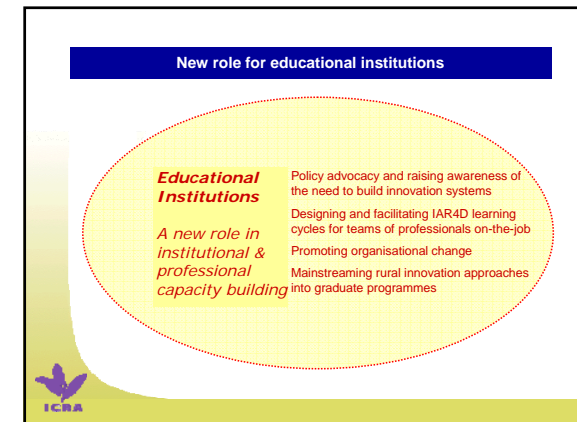


Stakeholders involved in addressing a common issue









ICRA's role in strengthening IAR4D capacity

- ❑ Respond to needs (R&D institutions, universities, donors)
- ❑ Stimulate formation of national innovation platforms
- ❑ Facilitate development of national vision, strategy, action plan to introduce & mainstream IAR4D
- ❑ Help strengthen national/regional capacity to design, plan, organise and facilitate IAR4D learning cycles
- ❑ Stimulate changes in the way educational institutions educate their students – involvement in innovation processes, curriculum change ...
- ❑ Facilitate documentation and exchange of lessons learned from experience and good practices



Partnerships in progress with ICRA



Thank you for your attention

