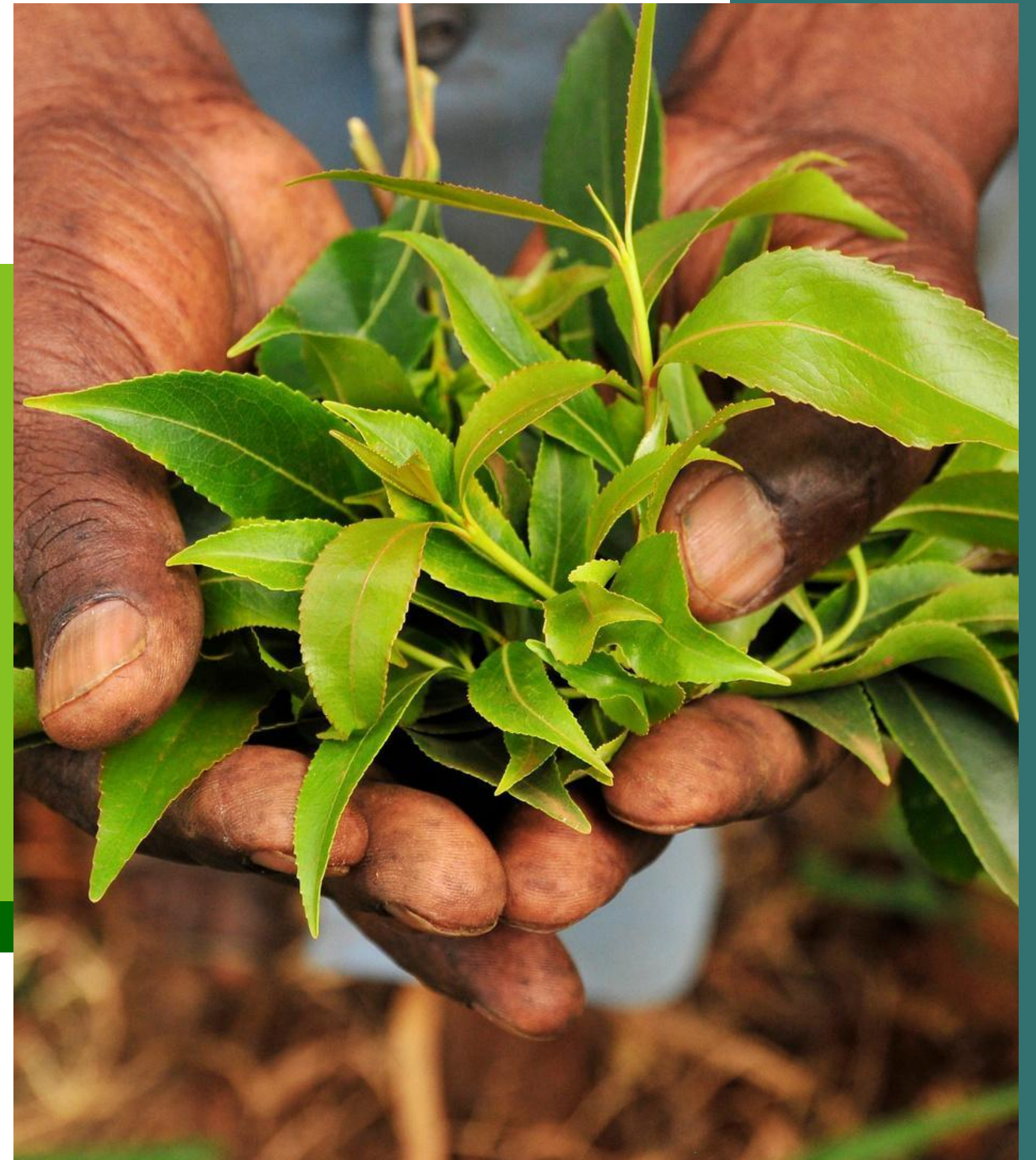


Capacity-Lift Service Model

Service 1 – Community of Action and Reflection - CoAR

Renaud Guillonnet



A CoAR what for and why ?

Main objectives

- Internal to DLIFT as support facility: bridge support activities, pool knowledge production and communication
- External to the community of DeSIRA projects and stakeholders: provide a space for joint reflection on actions conducted and their impact

Rationale

- DeSIRA projects' needs could only be partially answered through training (5 Core capacities) targeting project management and implementation.
- Broader issues affecting all projects and broader stakeholders (uncertainties, role of research, alignment of innovation agendas) required building a joint reflection on the issues.
- Identifying and sharing the impact of the DeSIRA initiative as a whole and feeding the reflection/elaboration on DeSIRA+ required mapping and awareness raising of similarities in processes and outcomes across projects beyond context specific features.

Supporting AIS networks

Service 1: Facilitating the Community of Action & Reflexion

Local & internat. organisations of professionals take AIS forward within their field of expertise, e.g. M&E associations, MSP facilitators, etc.

Local Innovation Facilitation

Service 2: Training of innovation facilitators in DeSIRA project teams

Projects receive support in development of AIS offered by Local Innovation Facilitators

DeSIRA Community of Action and Reflection Knowledge co-creation hub

Collaboration in AIS strengthening and learning between professionals and organisations in the regions.

- Synergies of actors and of impacts
- Common language and mutual learning in the course of action
- social relationships
- Common goals

Cap to manage for impacts

Service 4: Group coaching on MEL for AIS

Project decision-makers, MEL officers, and IF are knowledgeable of PM&EL for AIS improvement.

Open Cap4AIS development

Service 3: Self-paced trainings on the core capacities to manage for impacts

Online platform that provides access to leaning materials, network of facilitators and trainers, and learning events.

CoAR as community space – online interaction

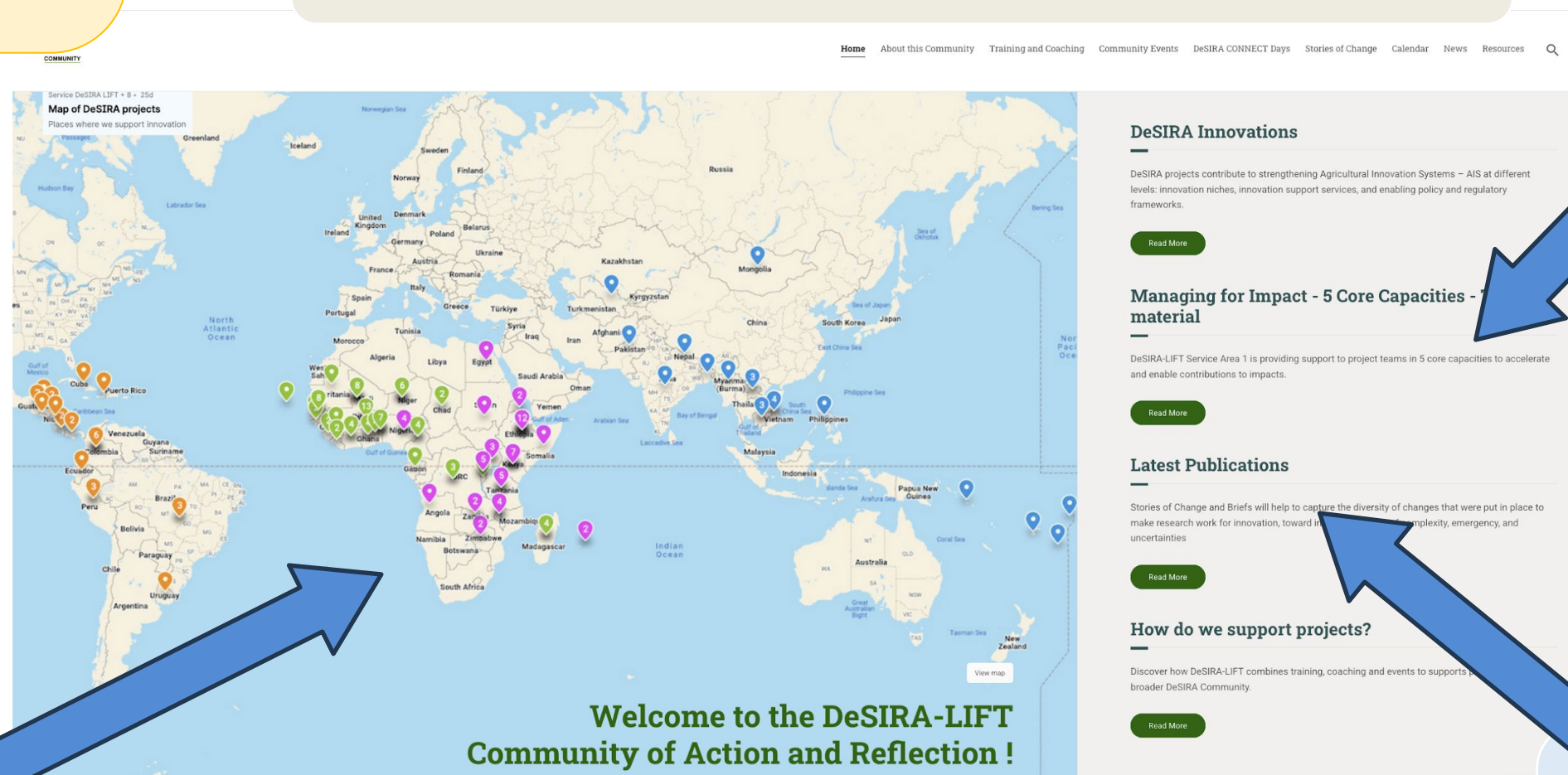
Supporting AIS networks

- A platform for thematic reflections sessions (Webinars).
- A platform for knowledge sharing (produced by DLIFT and from the community)
- A platform for communication
- An interactive map for projects to communicate information and results

An interactive and constantly evolving website mapping projects and sharing knowledge from DLIFT and the Community

Local Innovation Facilitation

A repository of training processes and a live community of innovation facilitators



Cap to manage for impacts

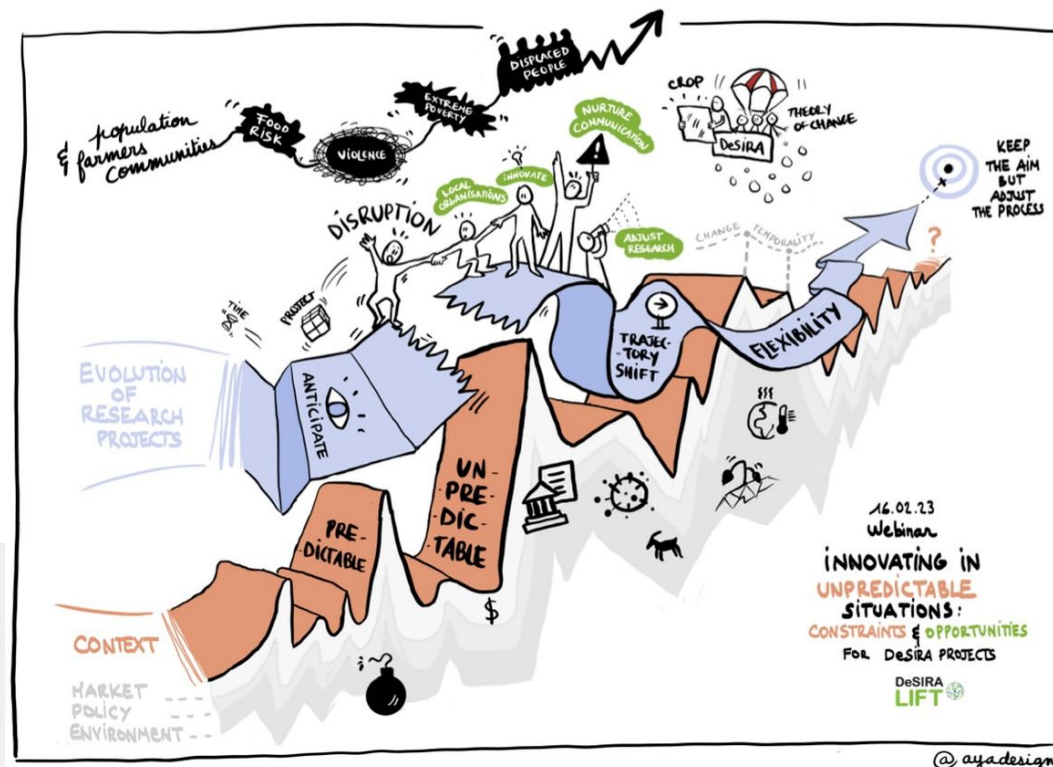
A repository of outcomes, briefs and methodologies for MEL for AIS

Open Cap4AIS development

A repository of past training material and link to the dedicated e-Learning platform

CoAR as knowledge space – DeSIRA outcomes

Synergies and joint reflection among actors on multiple topics related to project managements, management of innovation, critical external factors.



CoP webinar 2: Innovating in unpredictable situations: constraints and opportunities for DeSIRA projects

Reflection on CoP webinar 2: Adaptations, agile management and creativity: experiences from DeSIRA-LIFT projects on innovating in unpredictable situations

On February 16th, 2023, DeSIRA LIFT carried out the webinar 'Innovating in unpredictable situations: constraints and opportunities for DeSIRA projects'.

The webinar objectives were to review the challenges faced by DeSIRA projects operating in unpredictable situations and/or insecure environments; to identify and discuss the adjustments in their innovation strategy as well as the opportunities for innovating that these constraints might generate. This topic had been identified as a cross-cutting issue of the DeSIRA projects, and how to navigate these complex situations is a challenge for any project manager and team.

Key takeaways

Among the responses and strategies for overcoming these conflicting scenarios, the projects reported having successfully intensified and adapted their interactions with their many stakeholders, from farmers to donors, and improved the level and quality of the communications. One thing that was sure for all projects: they have evolved their action-research methodologies and adjusted the timing of the activities, as well as their capacities to use digital tools and carry out events online, which allowed the continuation of activities during the worse of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local procuring for some field activities was done on several occasions to compensate for the lack of mobility by project staff. Budget relocation, changes in the projects' human resources, and agile project management, all contributed to success in the adaptation of project activities during unforeseen events.

The panel discussions helped to identify specific managerial challenges, tips and tops related to the different types of adaptive strategies across the six projects who shared their experience:

- Others already planned contingencies for some projects: while some projects experienced disruptions due to unforeseen donor or partner requirements, others navigated more easily thanks to anticipation and agile capacities of the lead organization based on previous experience,
- Quick reaction to disruptive events meant shorter research timeframes, new ad hoc research practices, such as the use of digital technologies to access the field without being there, empowering local organisation, or relying on key local informants, which in turn question both the "quality" of the research, researcher's skills and the research profession itself.
- Greater structural changes in the project partnership strategy required specific communication skills to bring the partners closer together, and transformed direct partners into indirect partners;
- The Project's innovation agendas appeared as adjustment variables either to better meet the basic needs of affected populations or to take advantage of the disruptive event that affected project implementation.

Identification and analysis of critical success factor for impactful R&I

Four Critical Success factors for impactful Research & Innovation

Effective R&I Project Design & Management

- Early engagement of non-research actors (private sector, farmers, civil society)
- Clear partnerships with shared responsibilities and governance
- Flexible monitoring and adaptive management approaches

Strengthened Agricultural Innovation Systems

- New connections with diverse actors (startups, private firms, civil society)
- Innovation support services (like advisory services) for scaling
- Access to diverse funding mechanisms throughout innovation lifecycle

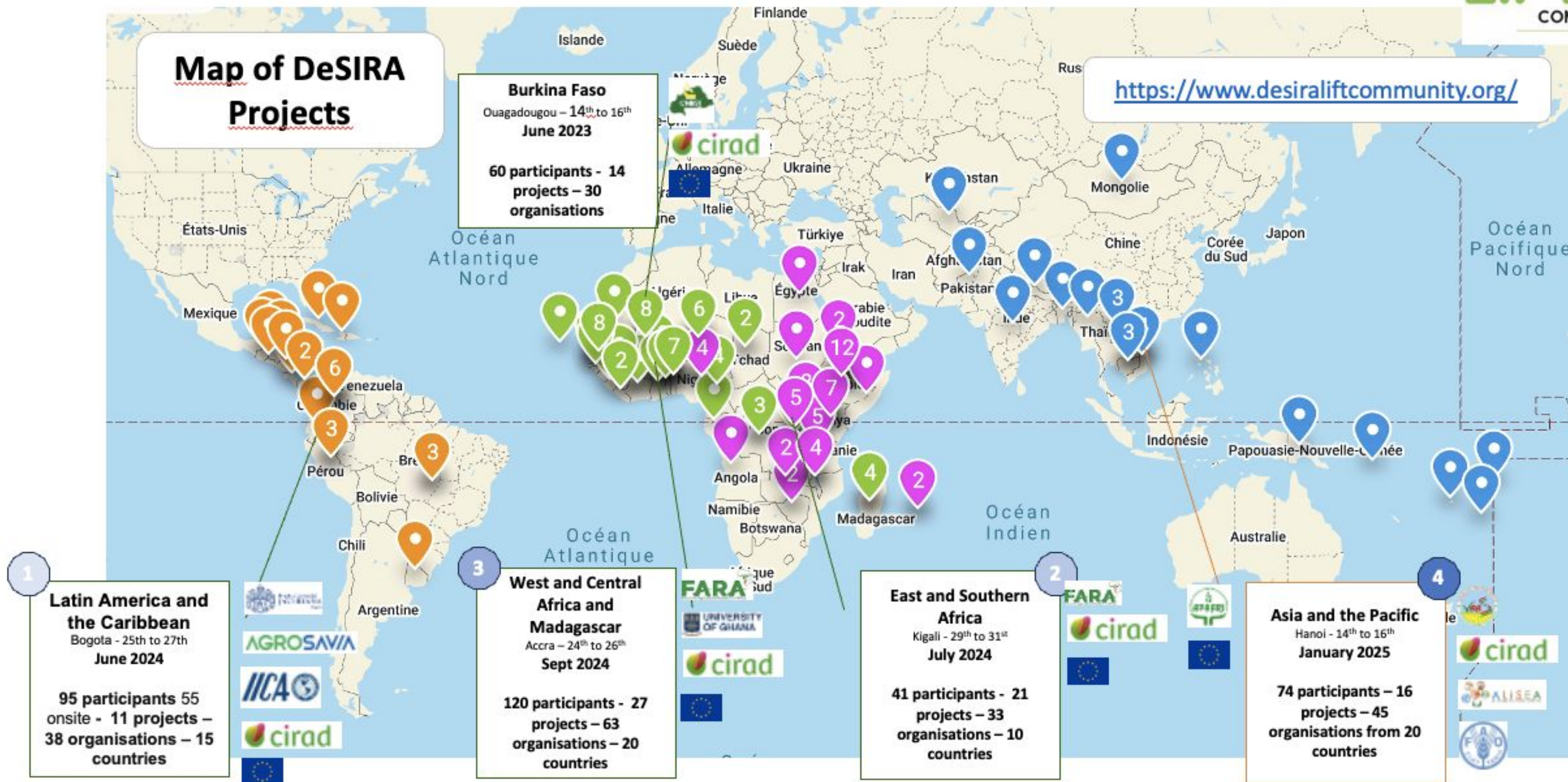
Multi-stakeholder Collaboration for Co-innovation

- Building on pre-existing innovation platforms and networks
- Demand-based approaches connecting multiple stakeholder levels
- Dedicated innovation facilitators who bridge diverse actors

Enabling Policy Environment

- Evidence-based policy dialogue requiring long-term engagement
- Strategic alignment between R&I interventions and national priorities
- Regional networks enhancing policy coherence across countries

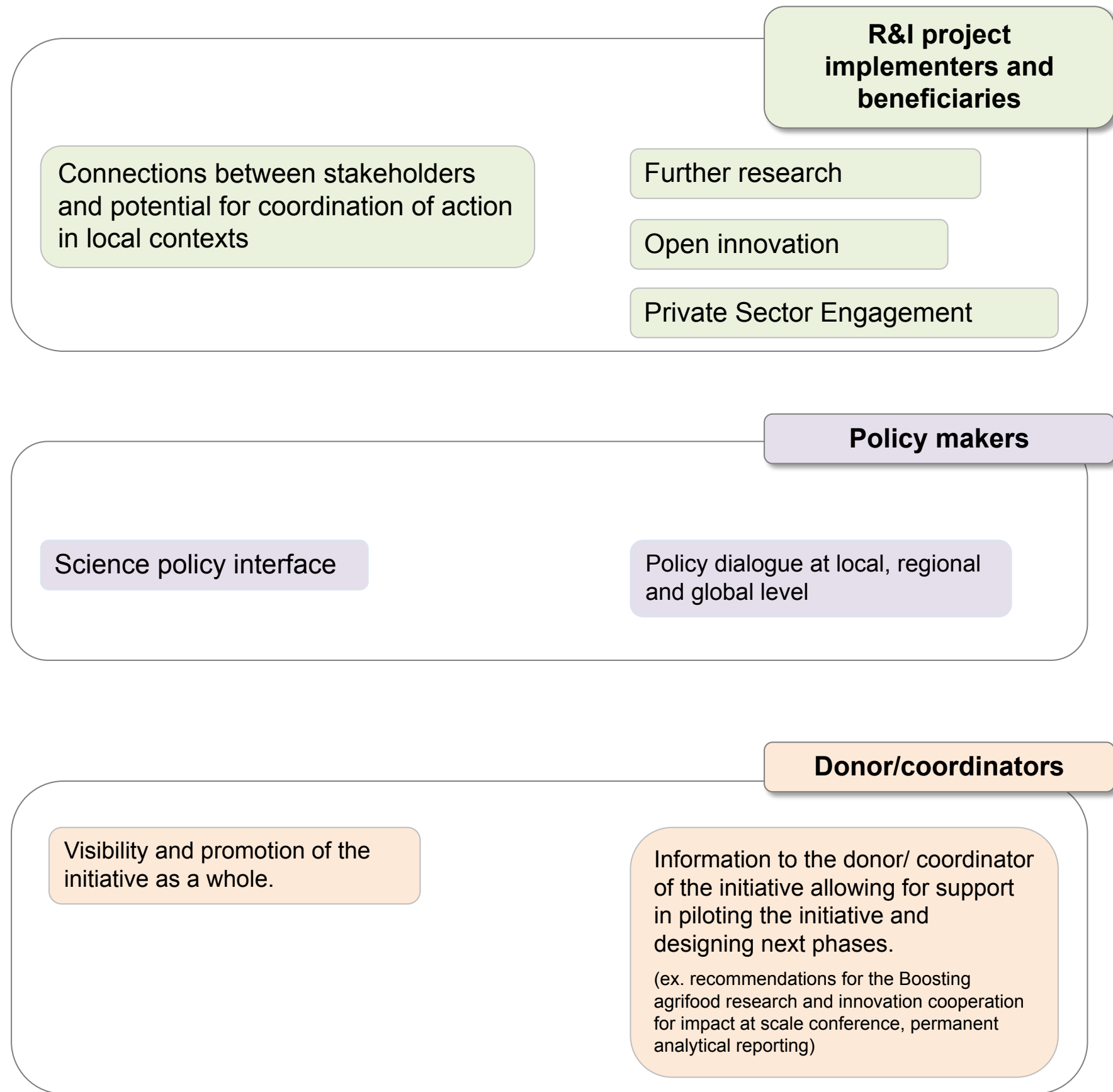
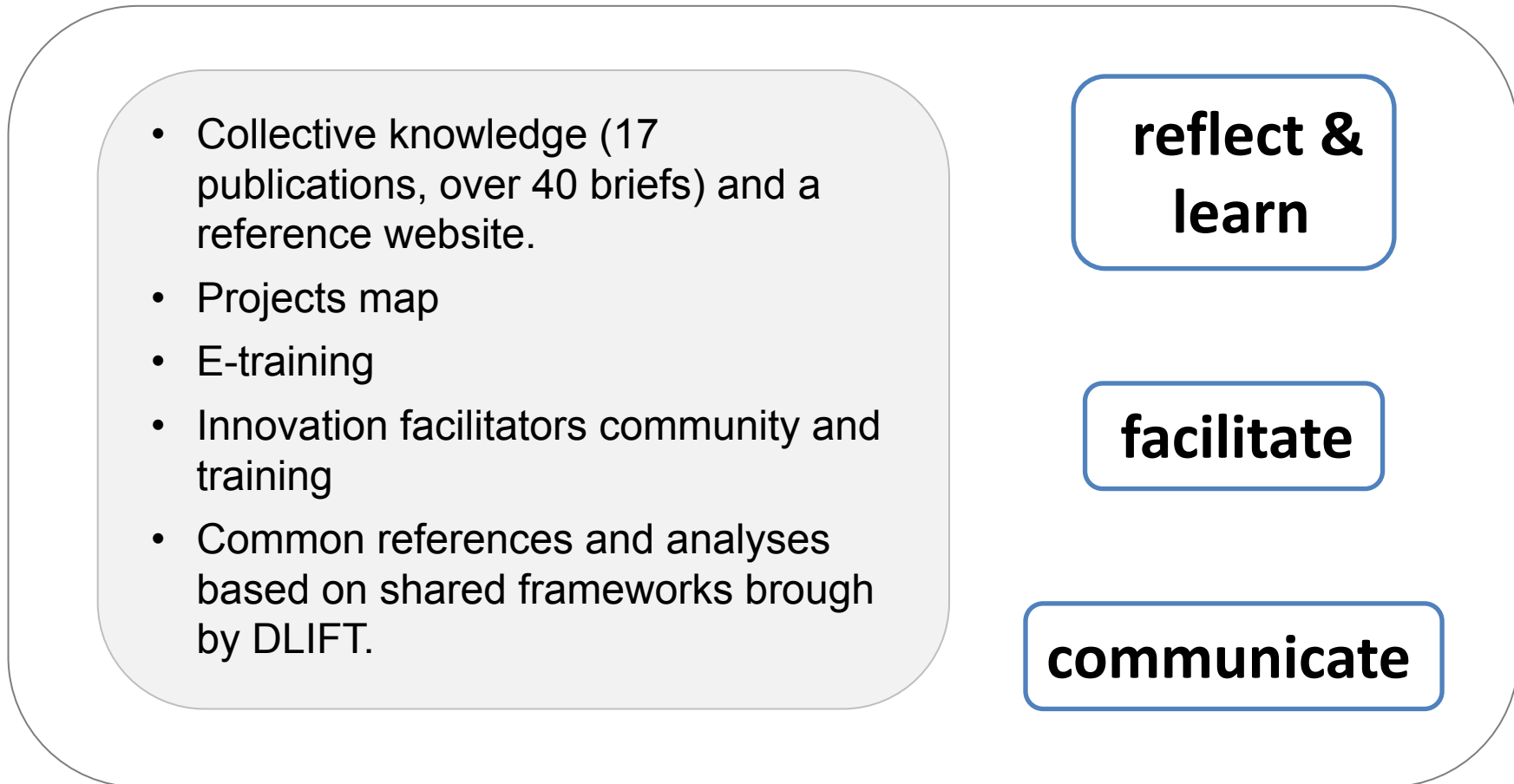
The DeSIRA Connect Days



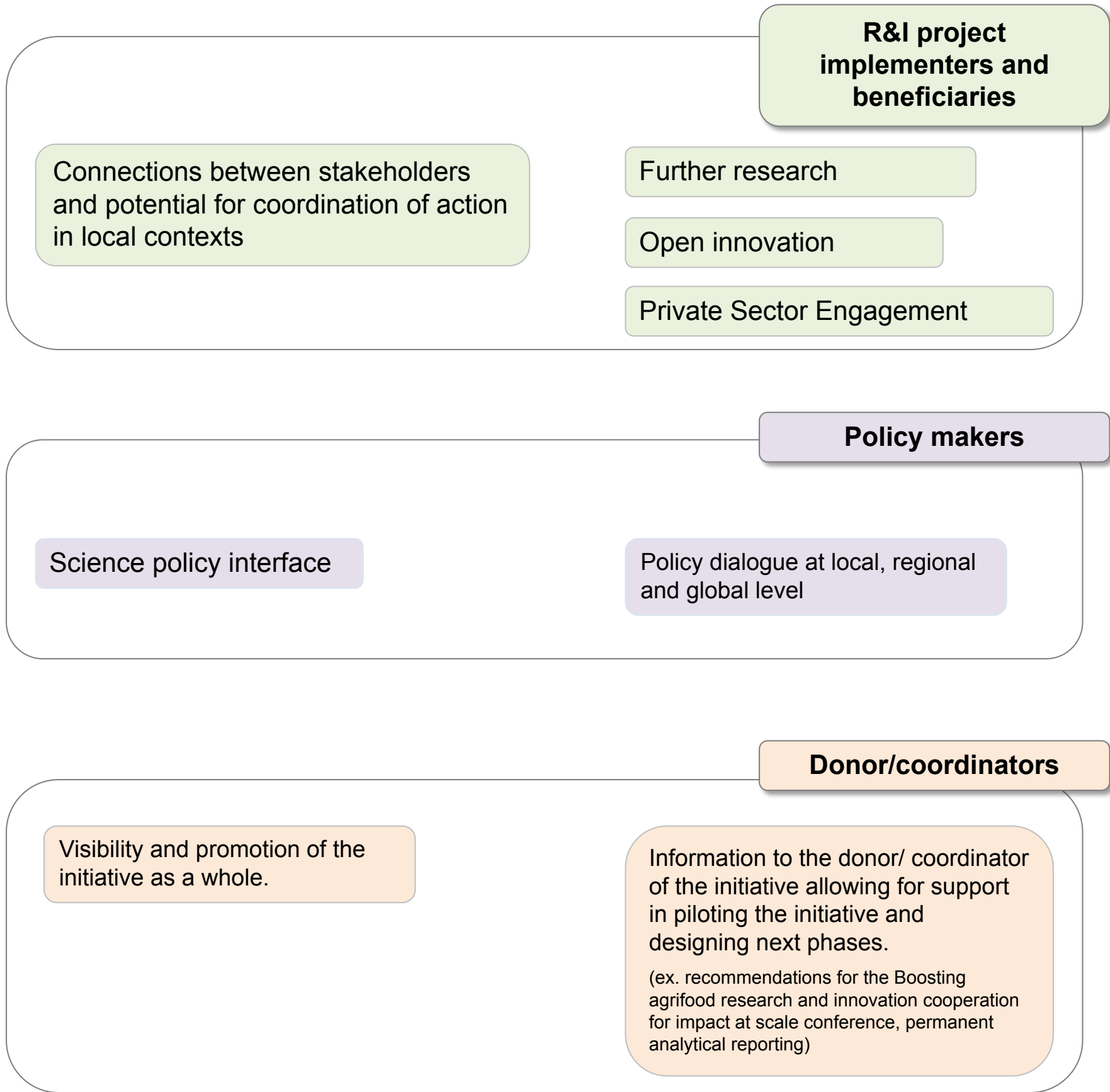
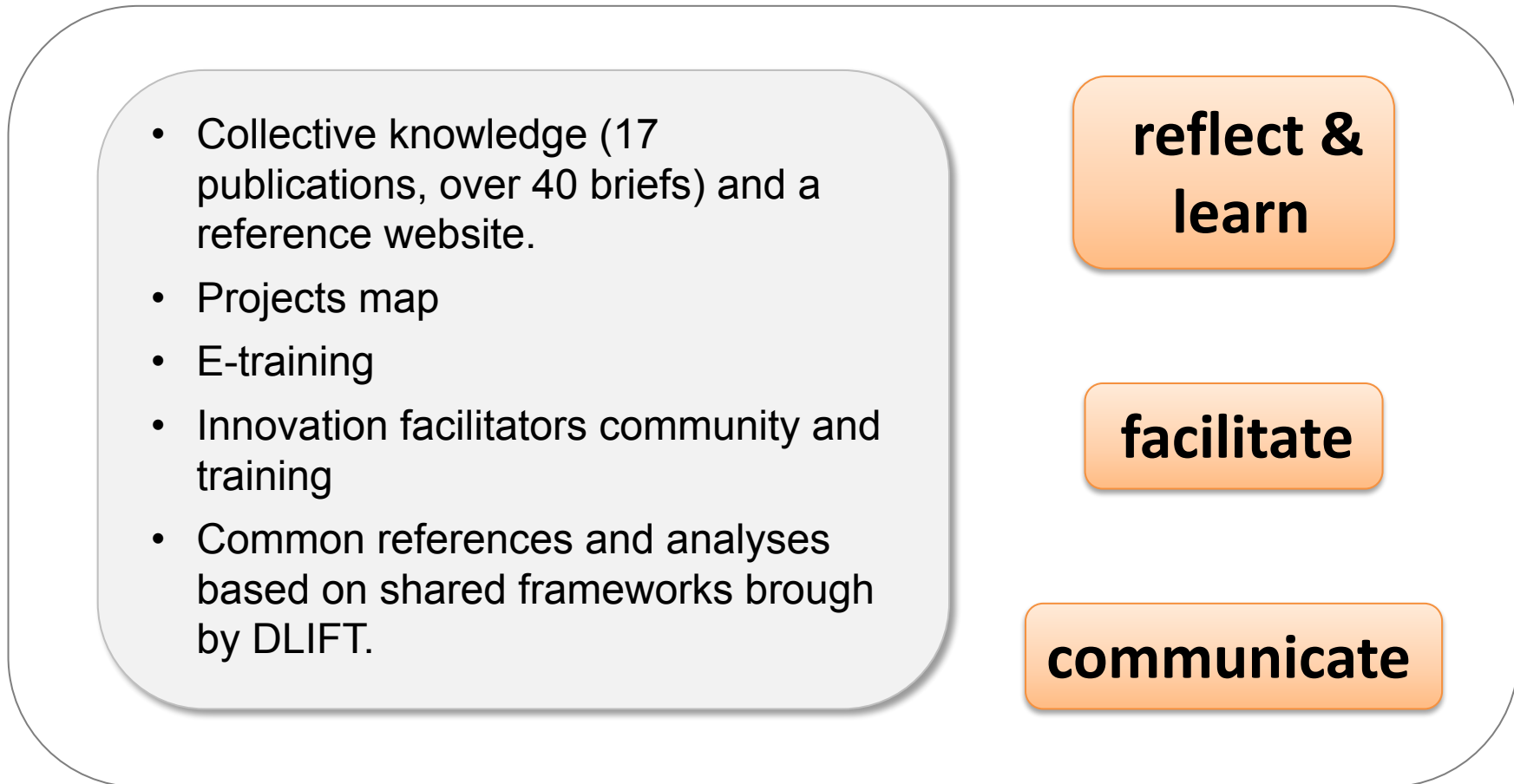
Over 350 participants, and 180 regional organisation, national bodies, NGOs, FOs, Private Sector and Civil Society organisations

A unique overview of the DeSIRA initiative as well as key learnings about DeSIRA projects and how they contributed to national, regional and international agendas

CoAR uses – Knowledge < feeding > action



CoAR uses – Knowledge < feeding > action



Thanks

www.desiraliftcommunity.org