

How do actors understand and address the scaling of innovation?

Guy Faure, DG INTPA

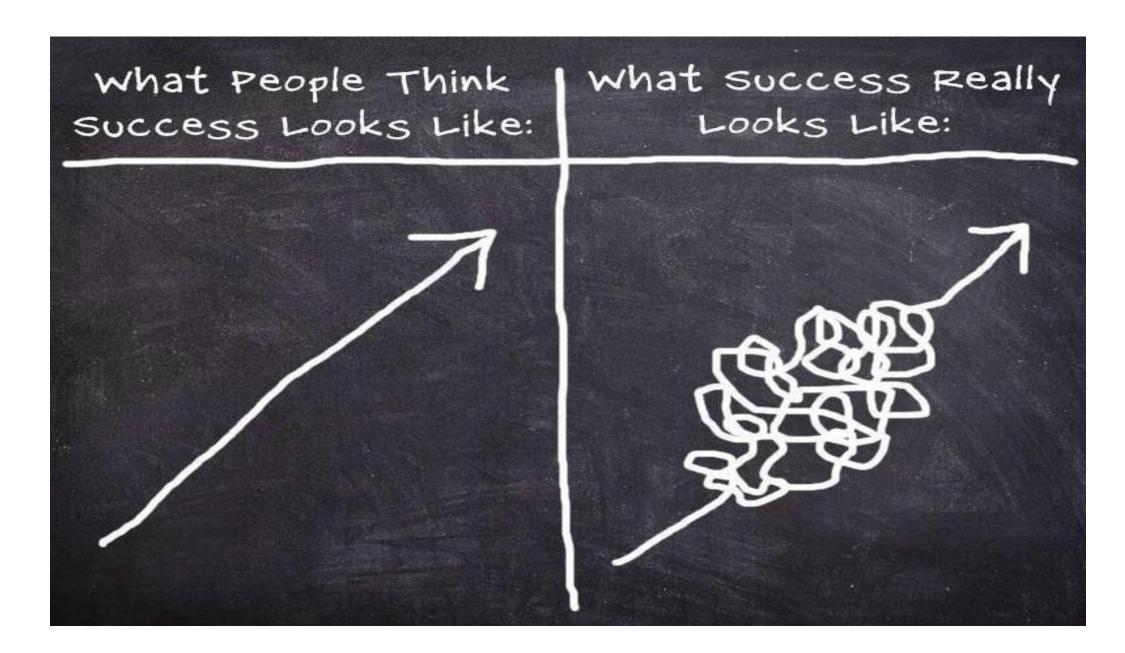
Boosting agrifood research and innovation cooperation for impact at scale

March 11-13, 2025

Brussels, Belgium



Can we manage the innovation process?



Some people argue that innovation could be planned

• From prototype to innovation at scale through different steps

Some people argue that innovation process is complex and unpredictable

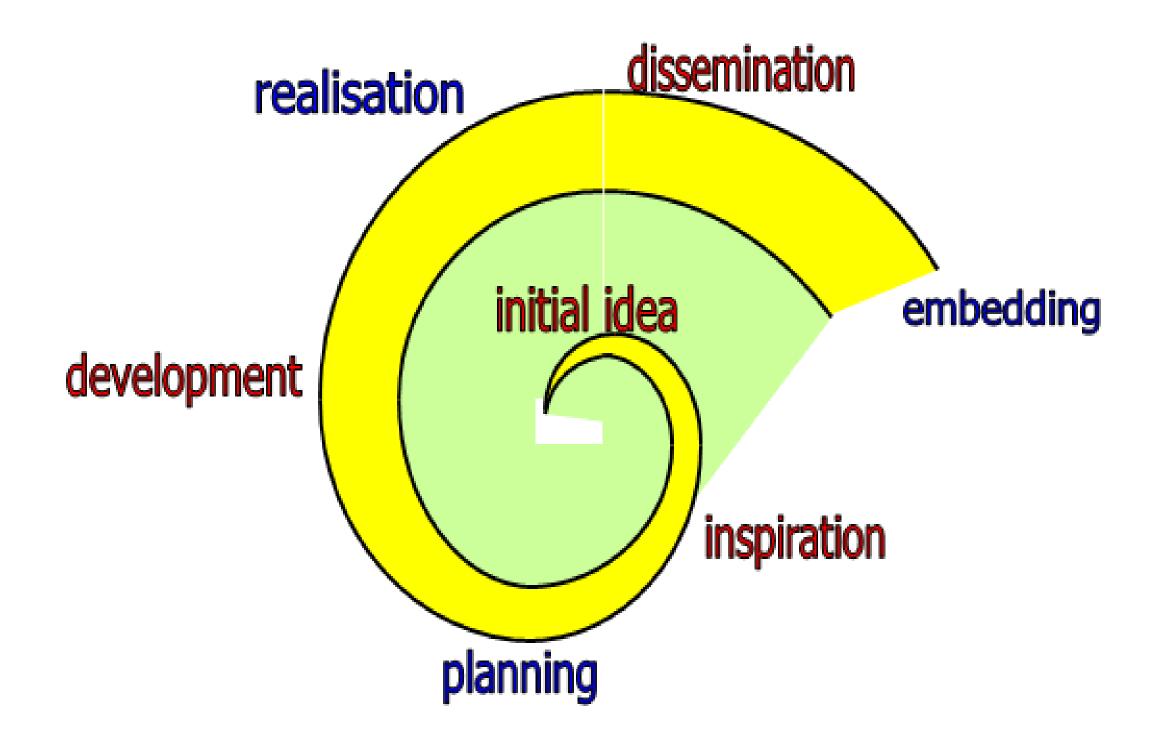
Strategic and flexible management





The spiral of innovation

Different steps and iterative process



SCALING: TO GO FROM ONE STEP TO ANOTHER (including feedback loops)

It takes time!

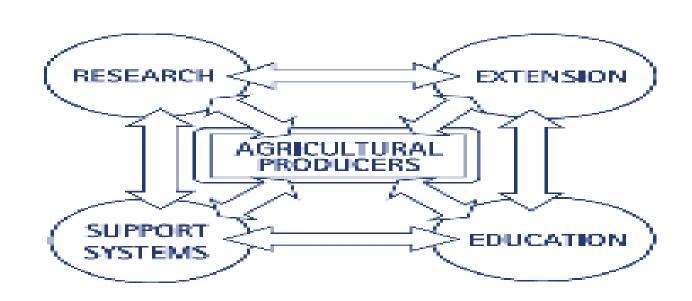




Two pathways for scaling under debate

Innovation is a collective process with network of actors sharing objectives, resources (HR, €), knowledge

- Importance of AKIS, ecosystems, innovation platforms
- New value chain for organic pine apple in Togo



Innovation is driven by the figure of the entrepreneur

- Start-up, incubators
- New firm producing organic fertilisers in Kenya

TIME Z FUTURE TARGET ON MOTIVATION PROMOTIVATION PROMOTIVA

In fact both are important

- Collective vision: economic entrepreneurs/social entrepreneurs are agents of change
- Entrepreneurs need to develop relationships with other actors (downstream and upstream), are embedded in networks

Scaling is a complex process!





The basic of scaling

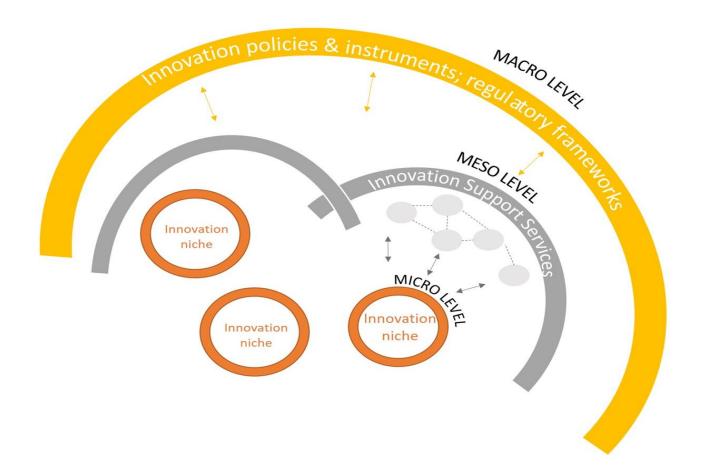
INTENSITY OF SCALING

- Scaling out (more actors involved such as farmers or entrepreneurs, more areas covered)
- Scaling up (change in institutional settings : new organisations, new networks, new policies)
- Scaling deep (change of values, perceptions, etc.)

Impacting greater numbers: Replication and dissemination, increasing number of people or communities impacted Impacting laws and policy: Changing institutions at the level of policy, rules and laws Changing relationships, cultural values and beliefs, 'hearts and minds'

LEVELS OF SCALING

- Niche level with innovation at local level
- Innovation support service to help actors to innovate: advisory services, facilitators, incubators, innovation platforms, etc.
- National Agricultural Innovation System







The role of research to support scaling

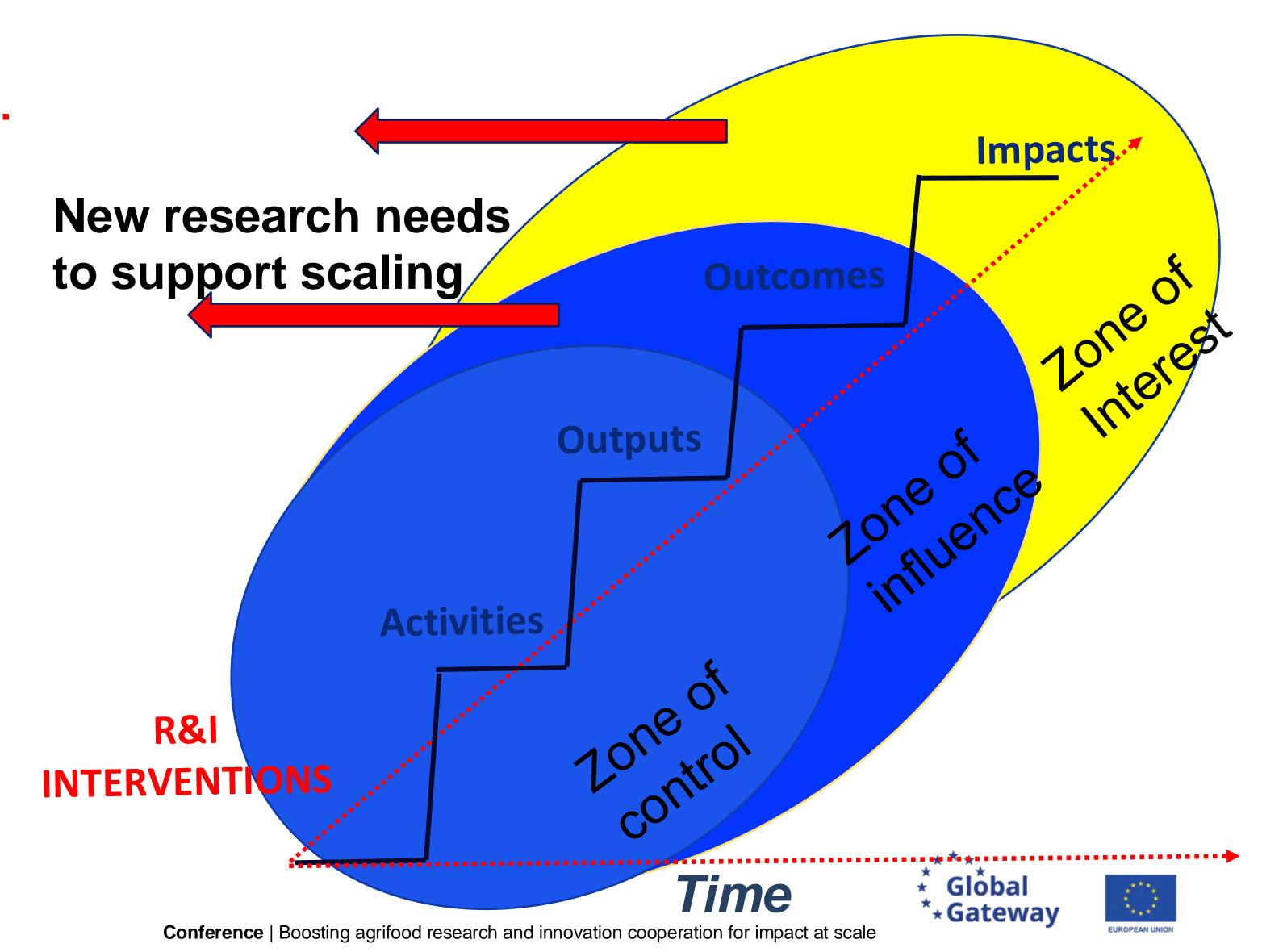
If research plays a key rôle....

Knowledge production

Co-design of innovation

Support to actors

Capacity strengthening



Key ingredients for scaling : capacities, funding, policies

Capacities strengthening:

- capacity of actors to innovate: individual/organisation, functional/technical
- capacity of ecosystems to support innovation

DeSIRA Recommendation: Strengthening of functional and managerial capacities of innovation partners contributes to effective uptake and scaling of innovations were key to foster co-learning and co-innovation process.





Key ingredients for scaling: capacities, funding, policies

Private and public funding mechanims:

- different type of funding at different level of the innovation process (seed money, risk investment, traditional credit)
- Access to market to generate added value

DeSIRA recommendation: Access to a diversity of public and private finance to support innovation at different phase of development was missing to support the scaling efforts of many DeSIRA projects.





Key ingredients for scaling: capacities, funding, policies

Policies for innovation at scale

priorities, norms, taxation, subsidies, innovative mechanims to support R&I, derisking mechanisms

DeSIRA Recommendation: Policy built on evidence may shape an enabling environment for innovation. In fact, researchers and their partners require improved collective capacities to actively and effectively participate in science-policy interfaces.





Thank you!

<Add your contact details and logos here>

