

More information:

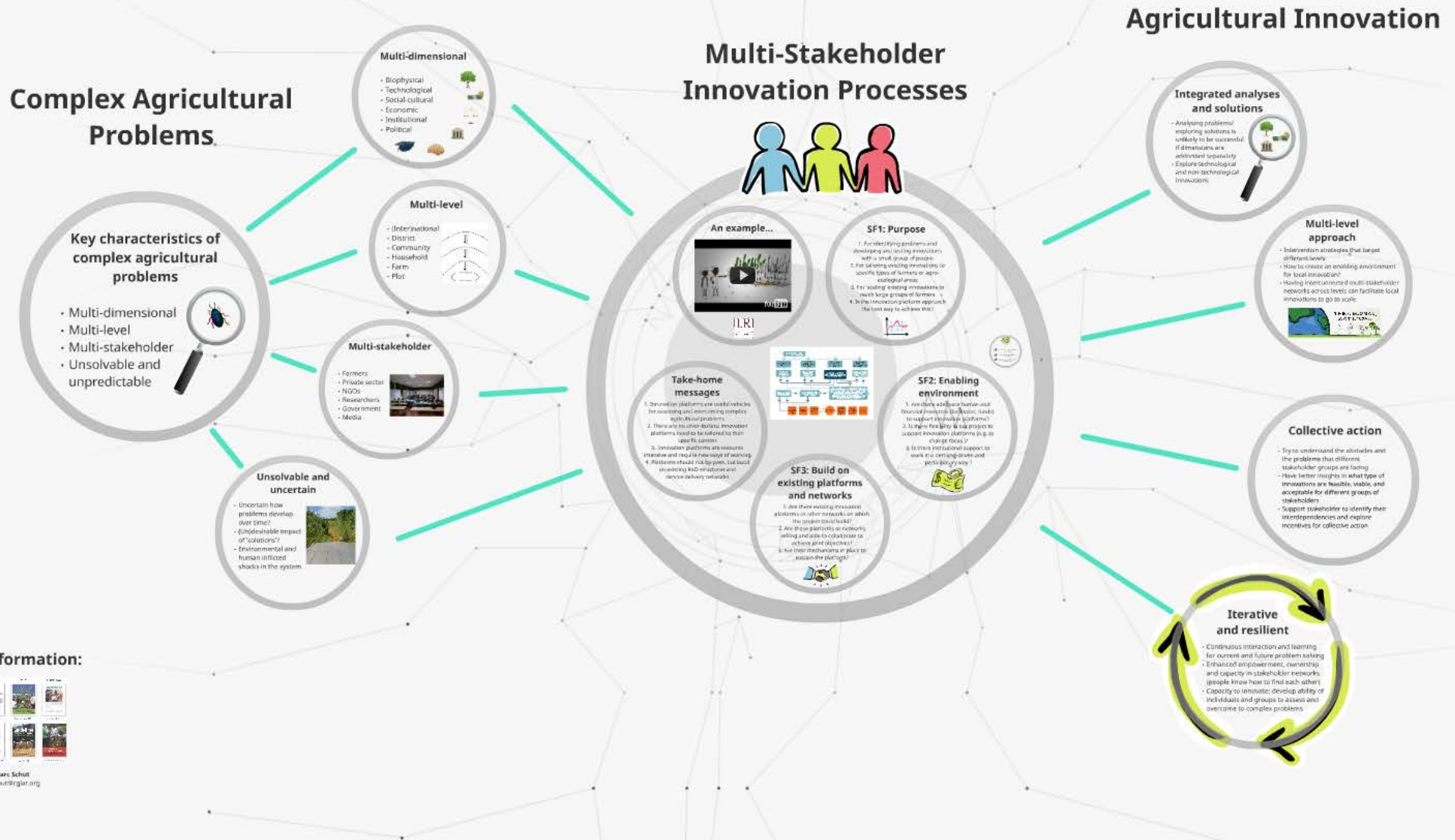


Marc Schuit
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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Roots, Tubers
and Bananas

Innovation platforms for agricultural development



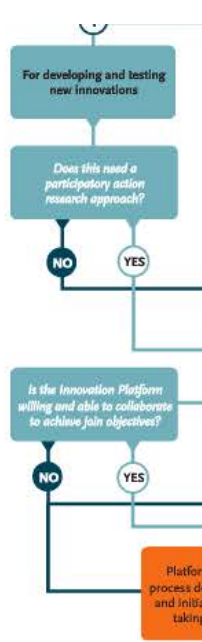
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Take-home messages

1. Innovation platforms are useful vehicles for assessing and overcoming complex agricultural problems
2. There are no silver-bullets: innovation platforms need to be tailored to their specific context
3. Innovation platforms are resource intensive and require new ways of working
4. Platforms should not by-pass, but build on existing R4D structures and service delivery networks



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Complex Agricultural Problems

Key characteristics of complex agricultural problems

- Multi-dimensional
- Multi-level
- Multi-stakeholder
- Unsolvable and unpredictable



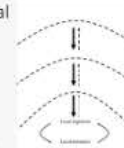
Multi-dimensional

- Biophysical
- Technological
- Social-cultural
- Economic
- Institutional
- Political



Multi-level

- (Inter)national
- District
- Community
- Household
- Farm
- Plot



Multi-stakeholder

- Farmers
- Private sector
- NGOs
- Researchers
- Government
- Media



Unsolvable and uncertain

- Uncertain how problems develop over time?
- (Un)desirable impact of 'solutions'?
- Environmental and human inflicted shocks in the system



- ### Table
1. Innovation platform for assessing agricultural...
 2. There are no platforms needed...
 3. Innovation intensive and re...
 4. Platforms should be based on existing service...

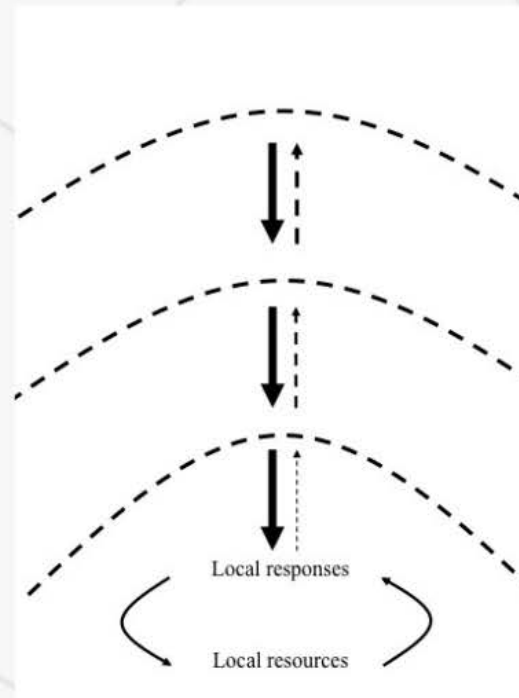
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Unsolvable and uncertain

- Uncertain how problems develop over time?
- Considerable impact of "solutions"?
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Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Processes



An example...



SF1: Purpose

1. For identifying problems and developing and testing innovations with a small group of people
2. For solving existing problems or specific types of farmers or agro-ecological areas
3. For testing existing innovations on much larger groups of farmers
4. In the increasing scale approach, is the last way to achieve this!

Take-home messages

1. Innovation platforms are useful vehicles for assessing and developing complex agricultural problems
2. There are no silver-bullet innovation platform models to be followed to their own detriment
3. Innovation platforms are resource intensive and require new ways of working
4. Platforms should not be seen as a tool for solving R&D-intensive and science delivery networks

SF2: Enabling environment

1. Are there adequate human and financial resources (budget) available to support innovation platforms?
2. Is there flexibility to adapt project to success innovation platforms (e.g. to change focus)?
3. Is there institutional support to work in a certain/divers and participatory way?

SF3: Build on existing platforms and networks

1. Are there existing (existing) systems or other networks on which the project could build?
2. Are prior efforts or networks, willing and able to collaborate to achieve joint objectives?
3. Are their mechanisms in place to sustain the platform?

Agricultural Innovation

Integrated analyses and solutions

- Analysing problems requiring solutions is unlikely to be successful if dimensions are:
 - adversarial
 - unrepresentative
 - Explore technological and non-technological innovations

Multi-level approach

- Intervention strategies that target different levels
- How to create an enabling environment for local innovation?
- Having interconnected multi-stakeholder networks across levels can facilitate local innovations to go to scale

Collective action

- Try to understand the obstacles and the problems that different stakeholder groups are facing
- Have better insights in what type of innovations are feasible, viable, and acceptable for different groups of stakeholders
- Support stakeholders to identify their interdependencies and explore incentives for collective action

Iterative and resilient

- Continuous interaction and learning for current and future problem solving
- Enhanced empowerment, ownership and capacity in stakeholder networks (people know how to find each other)
- Capacity to innovate: develop ability of individuals and groups to assess and overcome to complex problems

More information:



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Agricultural Innovation

Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Processes



Example...



ILRI

SF1: Purpose

1. For identifying problems and developing and testing innovations with a small group of people
2. For tailoring existing innovations to specific types of farmers or agro-ecological areas
3. For 'scaling' existing innovations to reach large groups of farmers
4. Is the innovation platform approach the best way to achieve this?



SF2: Enabling environment

1. Are there adequate human and financial resources (facilitator, funds) to support innovation platforms?
2. Is there flexibility in our project to support innovation platforms (e.g. to change focus)?
3. Is there institutional support to work in a demand-driven and participatory way?



SF3: Build on existing platforms and networks

1. Are there existing innovation platforms or other networks on which the project could build?
2. Are those platforms or networks willing and able to collaborate to achieve joint objectives?
3. Are their mechanisms in place to sustain the platform?



Integrated analyses and solutions

- Analysing problems/ exploring solutions is unlikely to be successful if dimensions are addressed separately
- Explore technological and non-technological innovations



Multi-level approach

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Multi-Stakeholder Innovation Processes



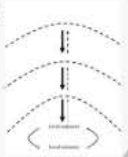
Multi-dimensional

Physical
Biological
Socio-cultural
Economic
Institutional
Political



Multi-level

International
District
Community
Household
Individual



Stakeholder



Integrated and solutions

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An example...



ILRI

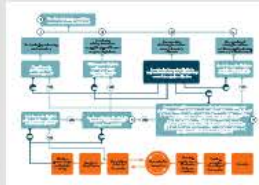
SF1: Purpose

- For identifying problems and developing and testing innovations with a small group of people
- For tailoring existing innovations to specific types of farmers or agro-ecological areas
- For 'scaling' existing innovations to reach large groups of farmers
- Is the innovation platform approach the best way to achieve this?



Take-home messages

- Innovation platforms are useful vehicles for assessing and overcoming complex agricultural problems
- There are no silver-bullets: innovation platforms need to be tailored to their specific context
- Innovation platforms are resource intensive and require new ways of working
- Platforms should not by-pass, but build on existing R&D structures and service delivery networks



SF2: Enabling environment

- Are there adequate human and financial resources (facilitator, funds) to support innovation platforms?
- Is there flexibility in our project to support innovation platforms (e.g. to change focus)?
- Is there institutional support to work in a demand-driven and participatory way?



SF3: Build on existing platforms and networks

- Are there existing innovation platforms or other networks on which the project could build?
- Are those platforms or networks willing and able to collaborate to achieve joint objectives?
- Are their mechanisms in place to sustain the platform?



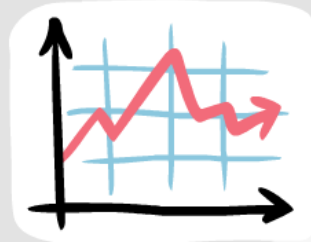
An example...

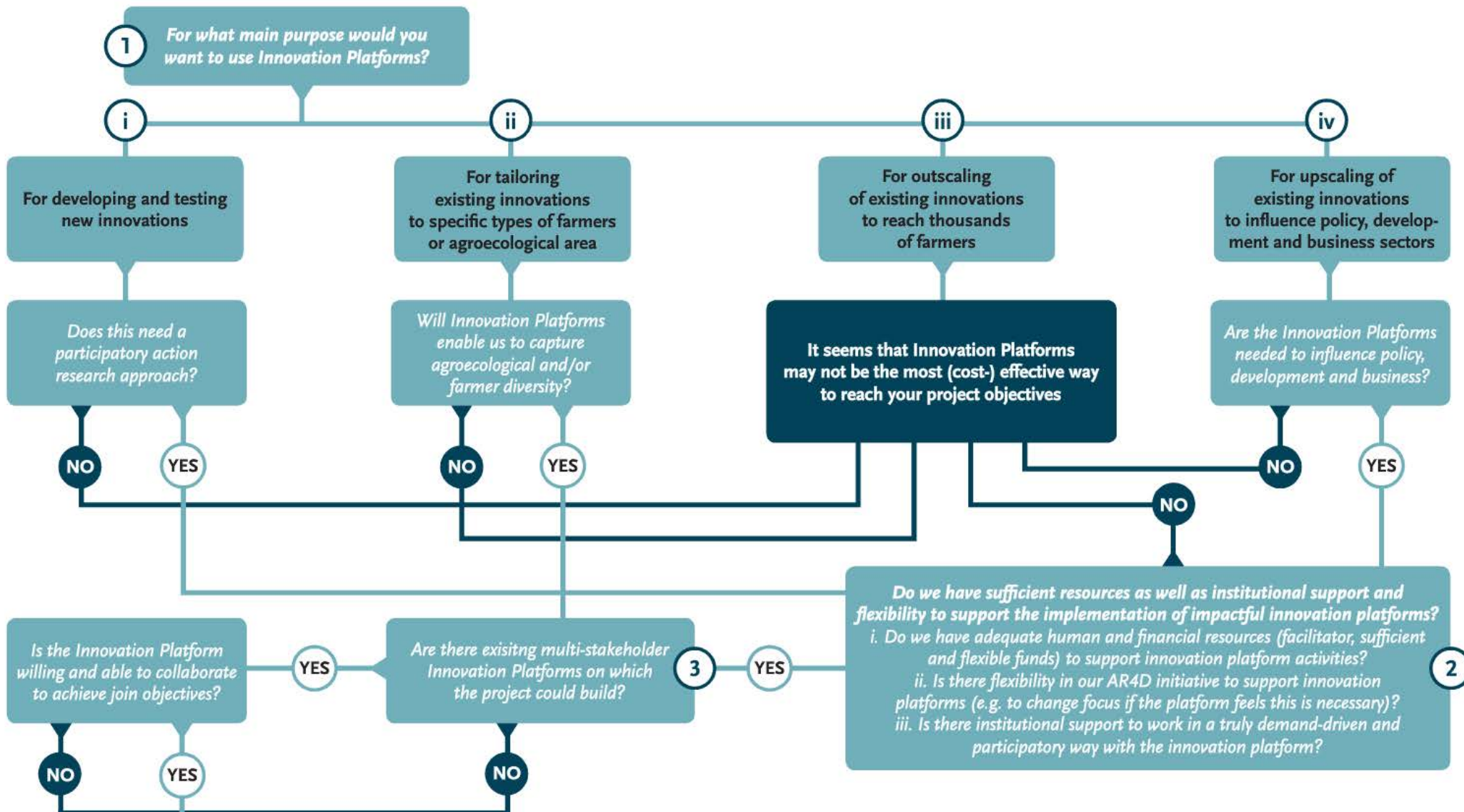


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INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

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For upscaling of existing innovations to influence policy, development and business sectors

Are the Innovation Platforms needed to influence policy, development and business?

NO YES

As institutional support and impactful innovation platforms? (facilitator, sufficient resources, sufficient platform activities) (2)
How to support innovation (form feels this is necessary)?
Is it a truly demand-driven and innovation platform?

Develop strategies scaling of innovations
Transition

SF2: Enabling environment

1. Are there adequate human and financial resources (facilitator, funds) to support innovation platforms?
2. Is there flexibility in our project to support innovation platforms (e.g. to change focus)?
3. Is there institutional support to work in a demand-driven and participatory way ?



ms



\$125,000



Innovation platforms - \$85 f/yr ->
1500 farmers



Farmer Field Schools: \$53 f/yr ->
2500 farmers



Gov extension system: \$7,50 f/yr
-> 17,000 farmers

It seems that Innovation Platforms may not be the most (cost-) effective way to reach your project objectives

Are the Innovation Platforms needed to influence policy, development and business?

NO

YES

NO

YES

Do we have sufficient resources as well as institutional support and flexibility to support the implementation of impactful innovation platforms?

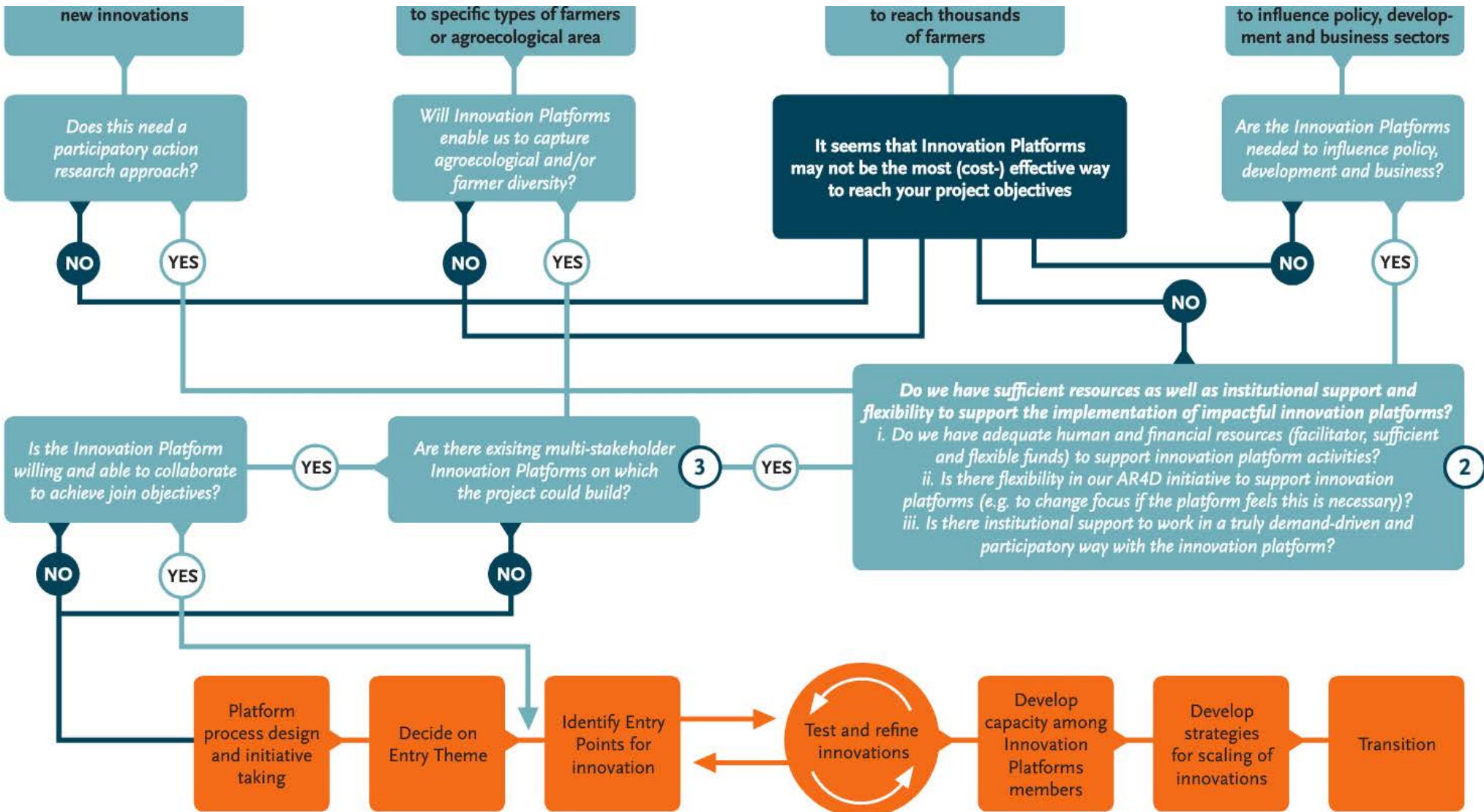
- i. Do we have adequate human and financial resources (facilitator, sufficient and flexible funds) to support innovation platform activities?*
- ii. Is there flexibility in our AR4D initiative to support innovation platforms (e.g. to change focus if the platform feels this is necessary)?*
- iii. Is there institutional support to work in a truly demand-driven and participatory way with the innovation platform?*

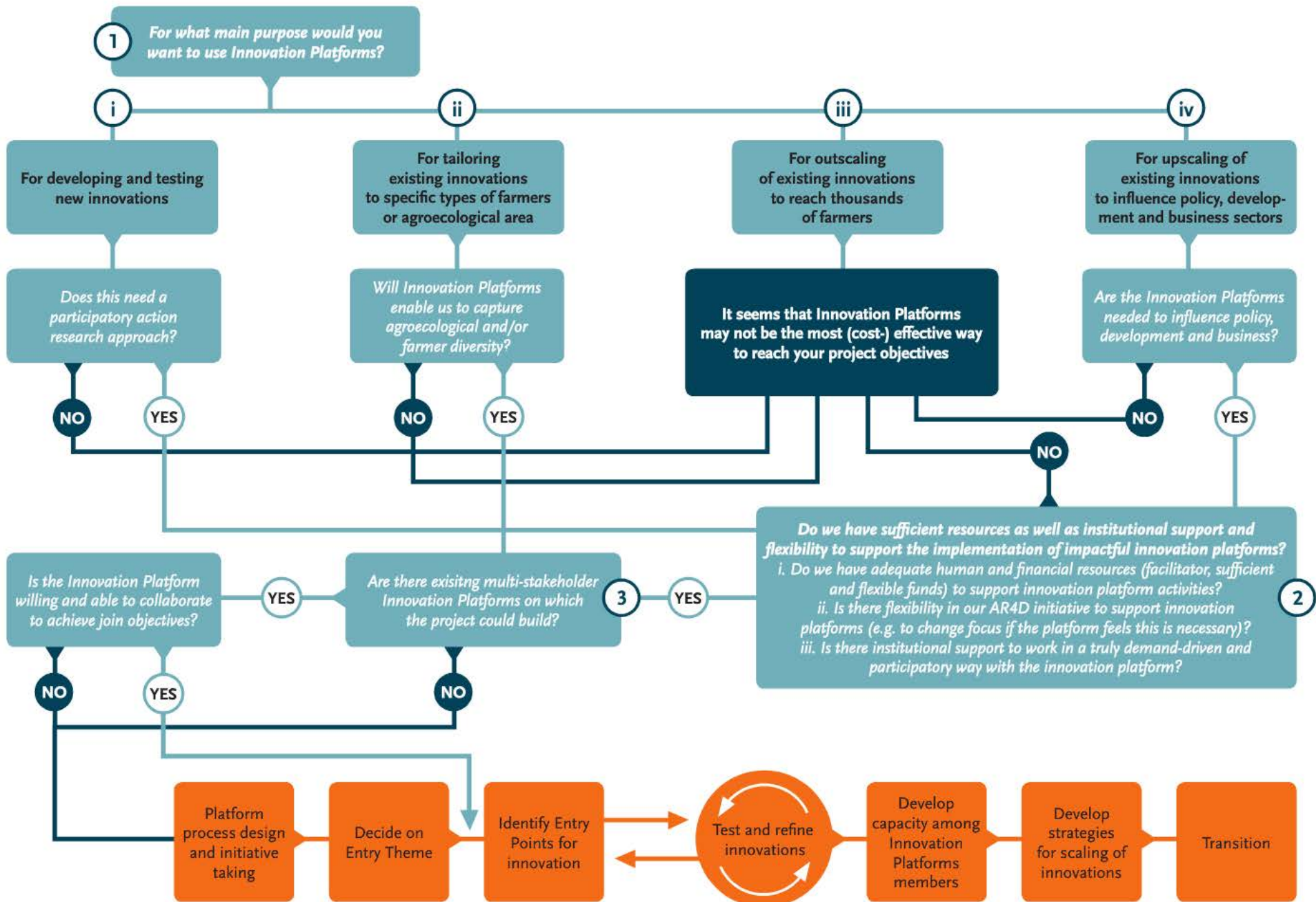
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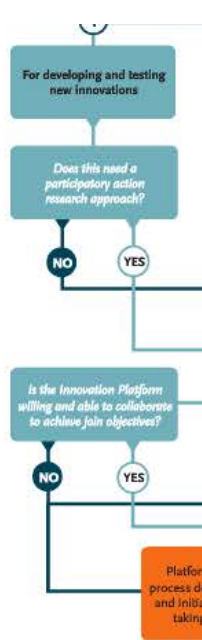






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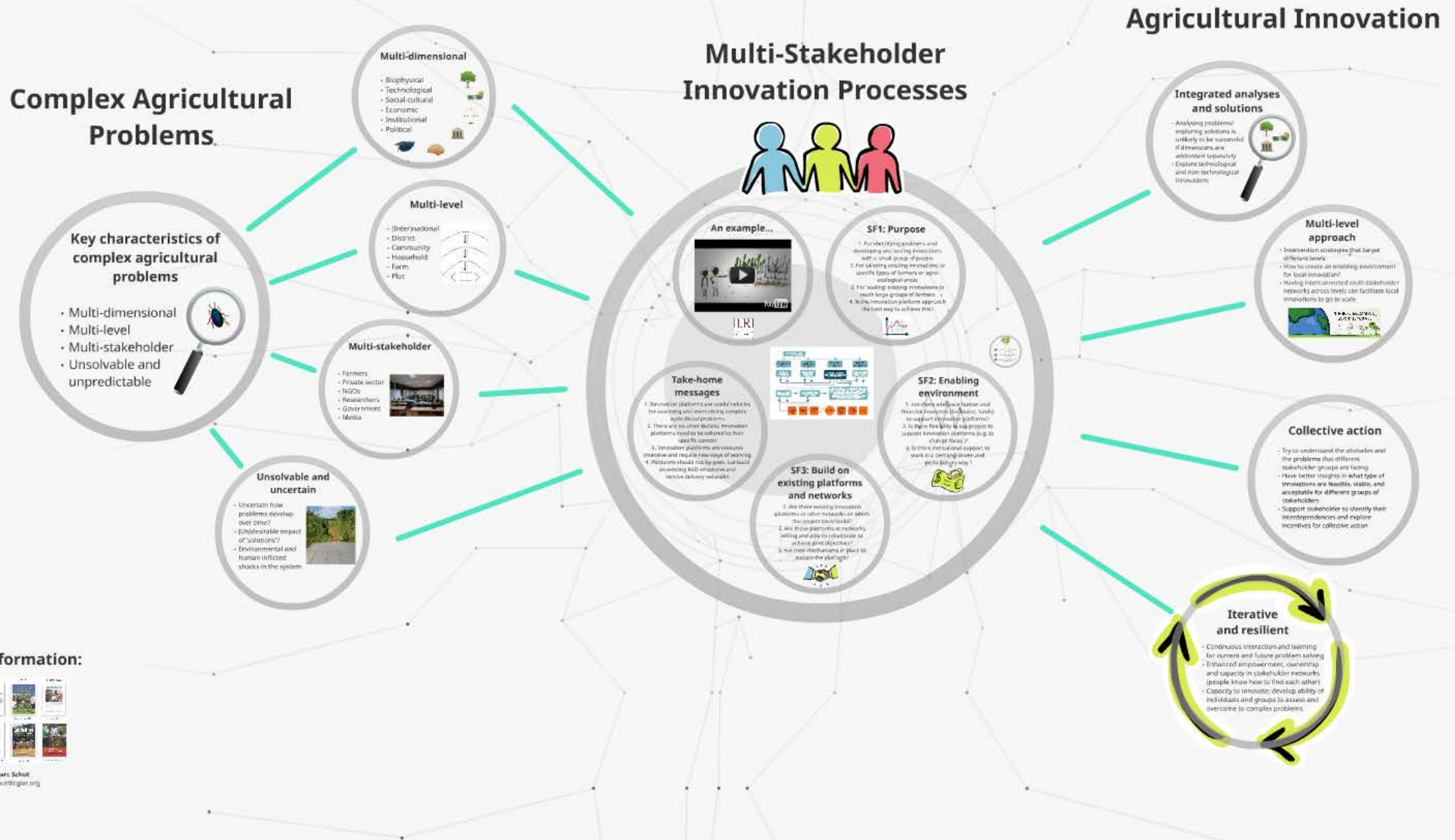


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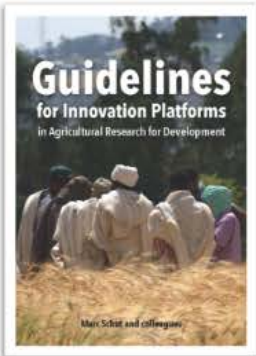



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More information:

| Science papers | Books | Case studies |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>Compositional dynamics of multi-stakeholder innovation platforms in agricultural research for development</p> |  <p>INNOVATION PLATFORMS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> |  <p>Multi-stakeholder innovation platforms landscape</p> |
| SPP 2017 online | Earthscan 2016 | Farming Matters |
|  <p>Do multi-stakeholder innovation platforms make a difference in agricultural research for development? A meta-analysis of case studies</p> |  <p>Guidelines for Innovation Platforms in Agricultural Research for Development</p> |  <p>Multi-stakeholder processes in Central Africa</p> |
| Exp Ag 2017 online | CGIAR RTB | CGIAR Humidtropics |
|  <p>Innovation platforms: experiential with three practical dimensions</p> | | |
| PLOS 2017 12(2) | | |
|  <p>Innovation platforms: experiential with three practical dimensions</p> | | |
| Exp Ag 2016 52(4) | | |

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