

Assessing agricultural innovation & extension systems for evidence based policies and investment

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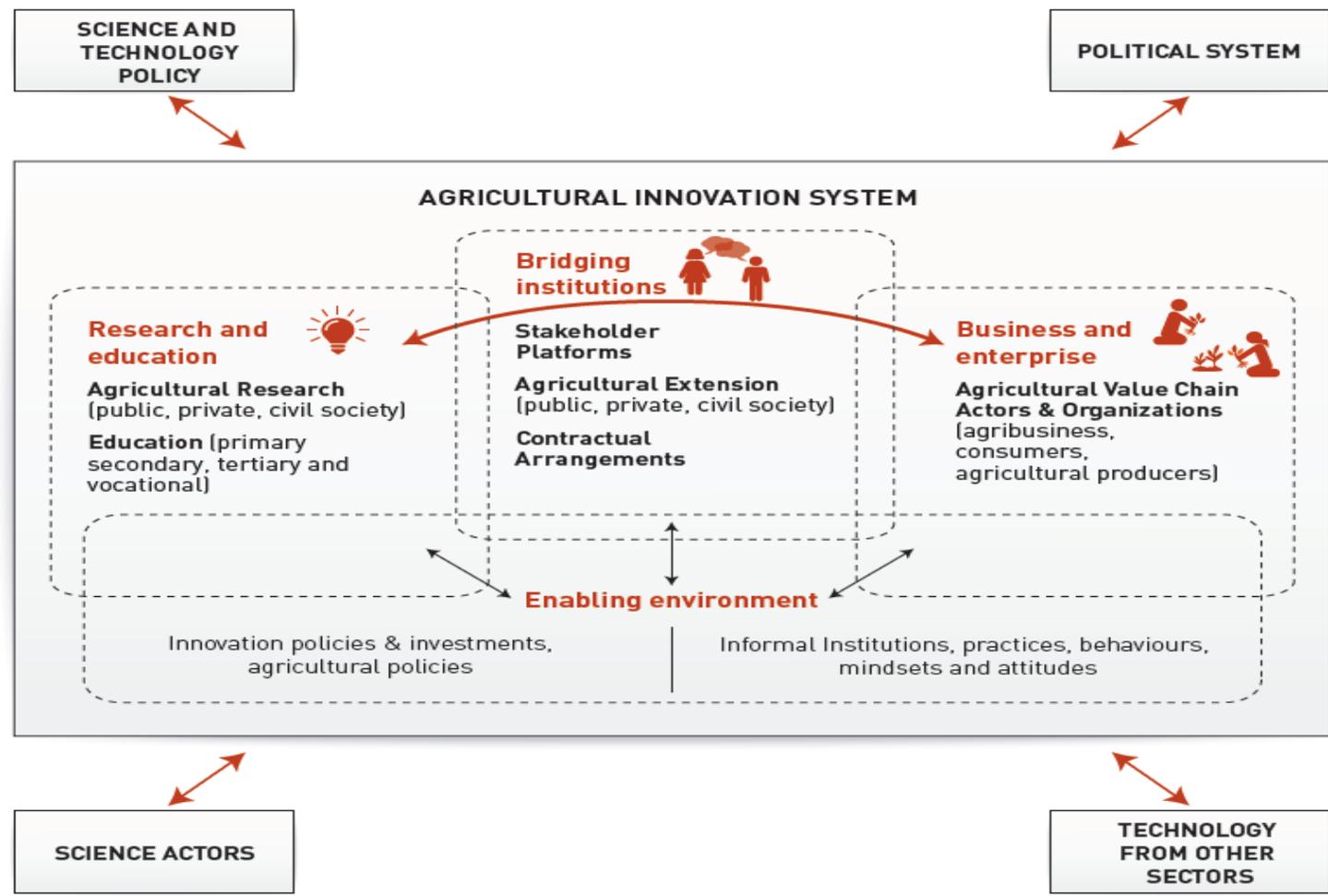
FAO Research and Extension Unit (AGDR)

Unlocking potential to innovate in FAO member countries by strengthening their Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS):

- Advocacy and awareness raising;
- Policy advice and strengthening national institutions;
- Develop capacities of the national agricultural innovation and extension systems based on a critical assessment and analysis of existing situation and demand
- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes (e.g. policy dialogues)
- Development of guidelines, policy & technical briefs, methodological tools and case studies, etc.;
- Working together with global, regional, national partners such as GFRAS, CGAIR, AFAAS, FARA, TAP, CIRAD, etc..



AIS FRAMEWORK



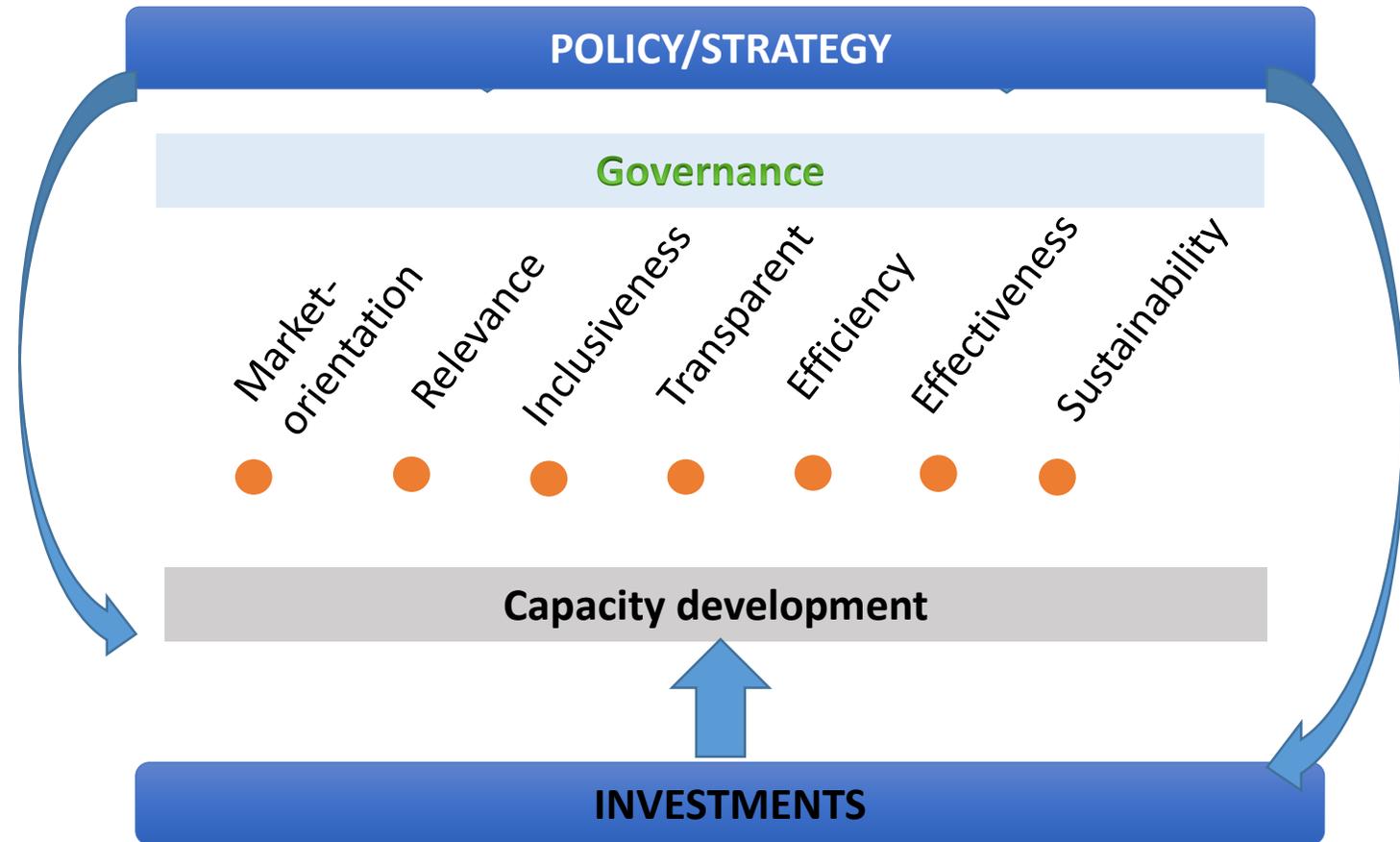
Transforming the national AIS/EAS

1. Improved enabling environment:

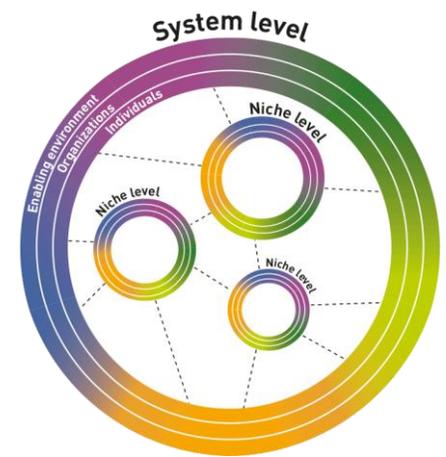
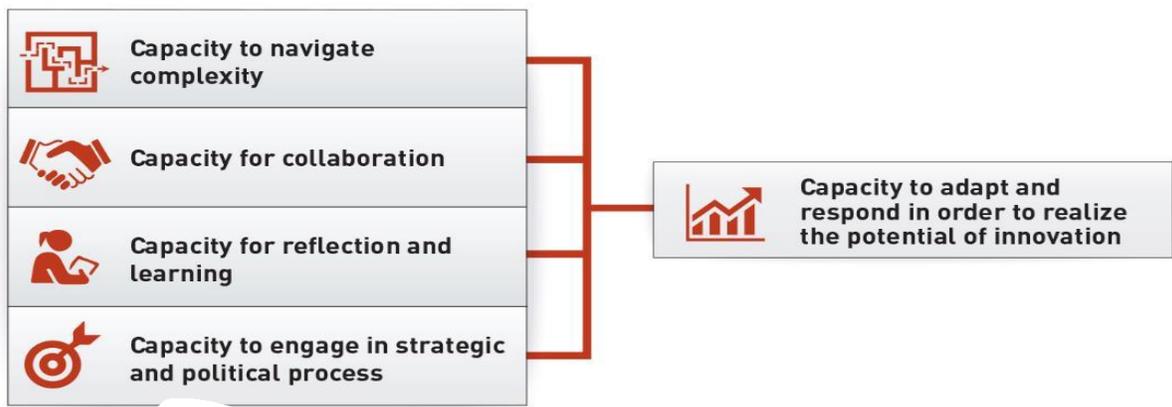
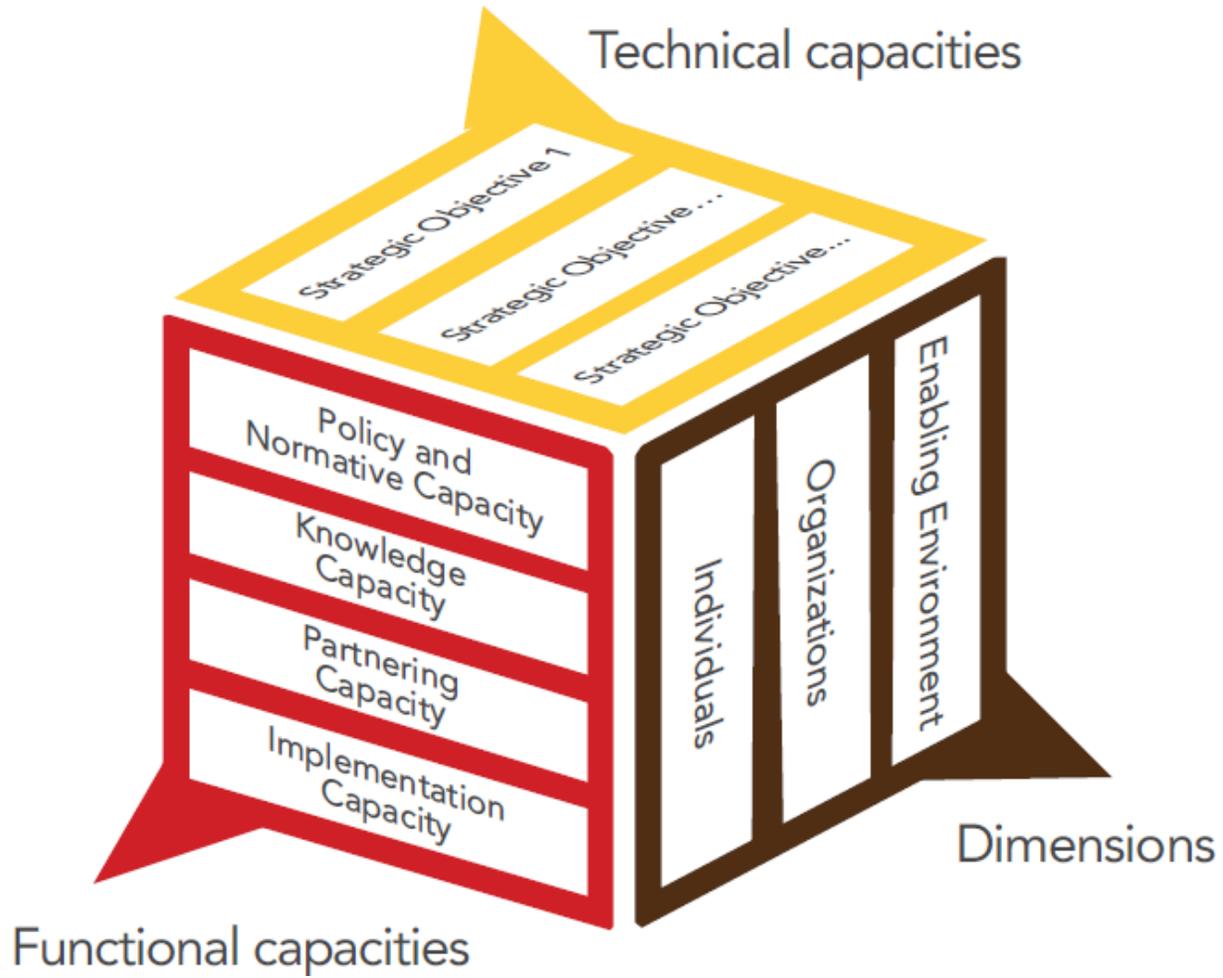
- *evidence-based policies and investment (assessment)*
- *governance*
- *financial mechanisms*

2. Enhanced capacities at:

- *enabling environment,*
- *organization, and*
- *individual levels*



FAO Capacity Development Framework



FACILITATION
is a continuous process that enables the interaction of actors in the system and strengthens capacities for change.

REFLECTION, LEARNING & DOCUMENTATION (RL&D)
happens among the actors in each stage and feeds into the M&E process.

MONITORING & EVALUATION (M&E)
aspects need to be considered in each stage in order to effectively track and assess the performance of interventions.

AIS Assessment Guide: Why and for whom?

Assessment as a necessary precondition to strengthen AIS/EAS

Purpose:

... guide and support actors, national policy and decision makers and other interested stakeholders to develop and implement evidence-based policies, planning and to better target investments towards strengthening AIS/EAS.

The Purpose of...

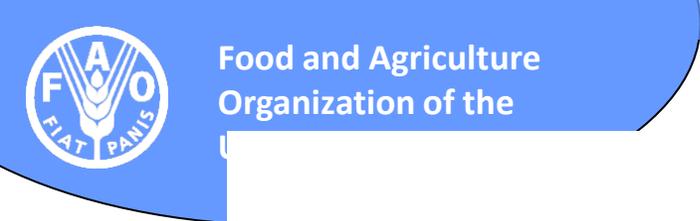
assessment
is to
INCREASE
quality.



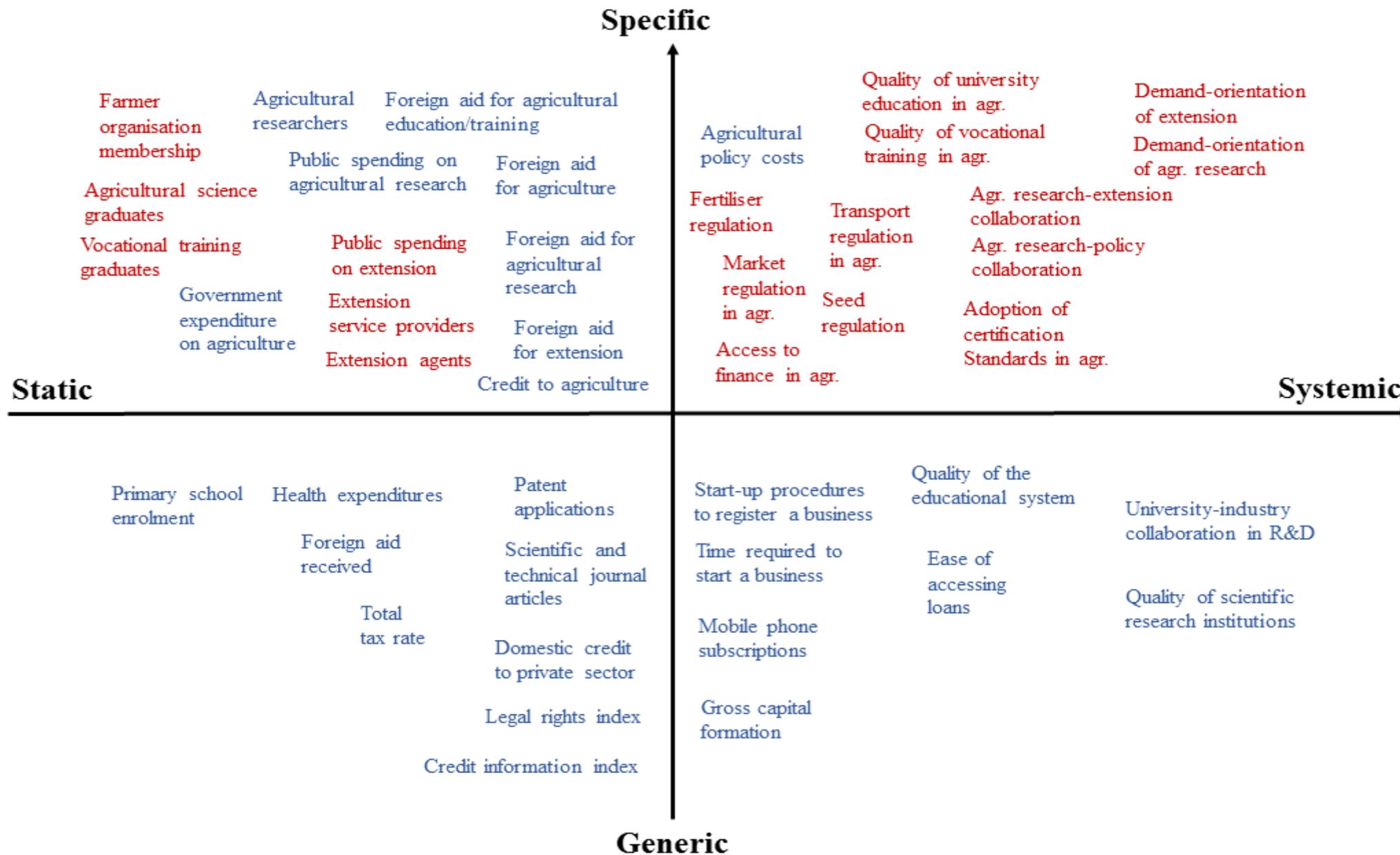
evaluation
is to **JUDGE**
quality.

Too short and not enough leaves. C-





Typology of existing (blue) and potential (red) indicators





To date, many assessments would:

- Focus on public sector extension;
- Give limited attention to enabling environment;
- Treat AIS/EAS as a group of individual providers, not as a system with its interactions and governance;
- Neglect a broader AIS context;
- Be upward accountable (towards managers/donors) with limited client participation.

Methodologically, focus mostly on **quantifiable** data:

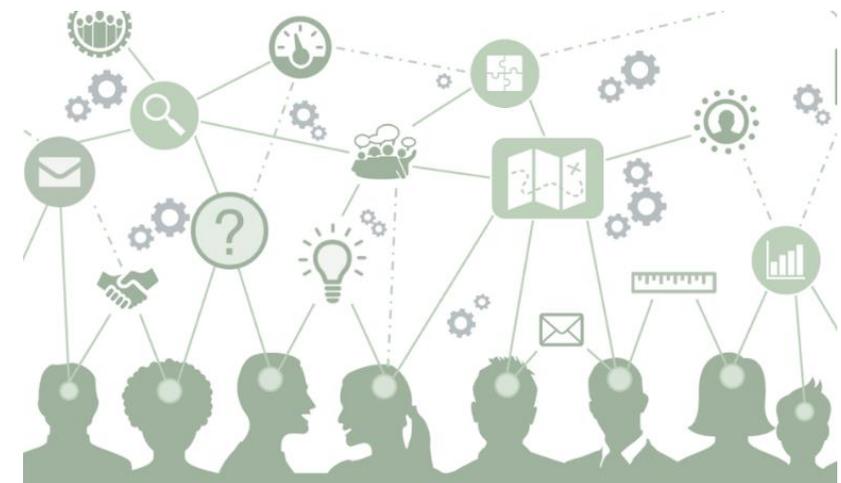
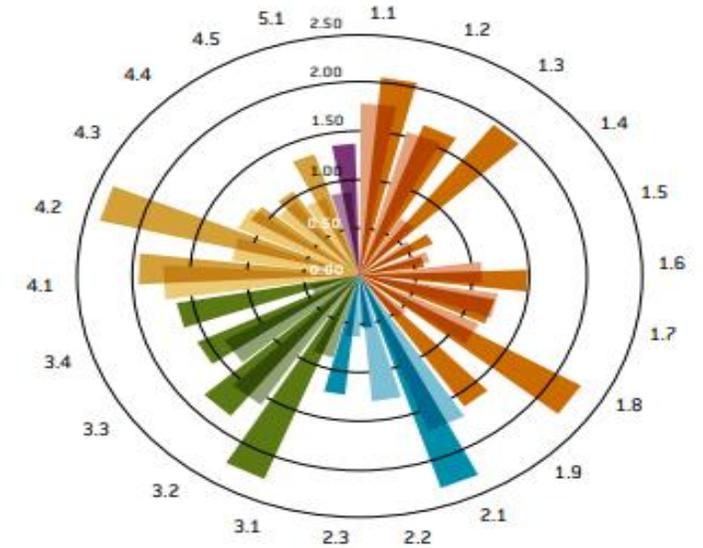
- Human resources;
- Number of products and services;
- Number of participants reached;
- Farmer-extension ratio;
- Percentage of public Investments;
- Etc.

What's unique about FAO Guide?

AIS and EAS is much more complex than what numbers can present.

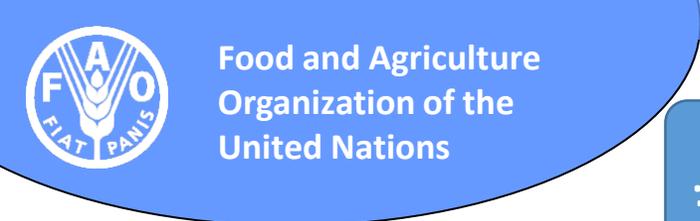
New FAO Guide:

- Offers a **flexible** methodology with a set of core principles;
- Starting point - **new functions** needed v.s. what is available;
- **Optimum ignorance** - need to know vs. nice to know;
- **System perspective** - looks at AIS/AES as a system with collective capacity, performance, governance with relationships among actors;
- **Relevance** - takes into consideration the “clients” perspective;
- Offers a range of practical **qualitative and quantitative** methods to capture the complex reality of the AIS and EAS system;
- **Quantifies qualitative information** to better inform policy and investment decisions.



AIS and EAS assessment: lessons learnt

- ✓ The assessment is a process and not a data collection exercise;
- ✓ Is participatory, nationally owned and led;
- ✓ Is an endogenous process. Collective energy, motivation and commitment of stakeholders to engage in the assessment are fundamental;
- ✓ Accountability by all key stakeholders engaged in the assessment is critical
- ✓ Sufficient resources (financial, human, equipment, stationery, etc.) are needed to allow a thorough assessment
- ✓ Regular consultation and feedback mechanisms (double learning loop) between assessment team and key stakeholders are fundamental.

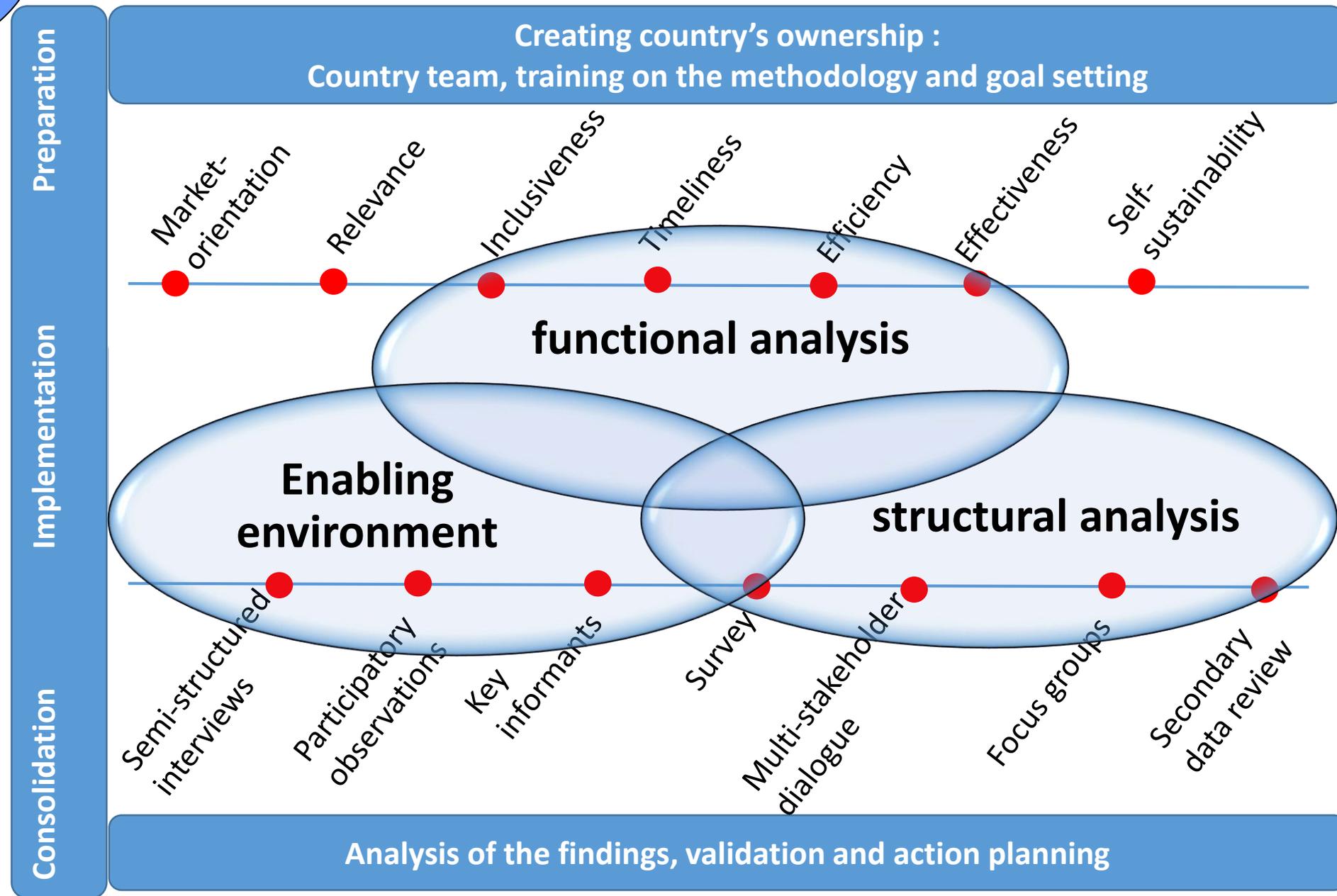


Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Assessment Guide: structure and process

Validation through country-level testing:

Ecuador, Peru, Liberia, Tunisia, Gambia, Uganda, Madagascar, Swaziland, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and India





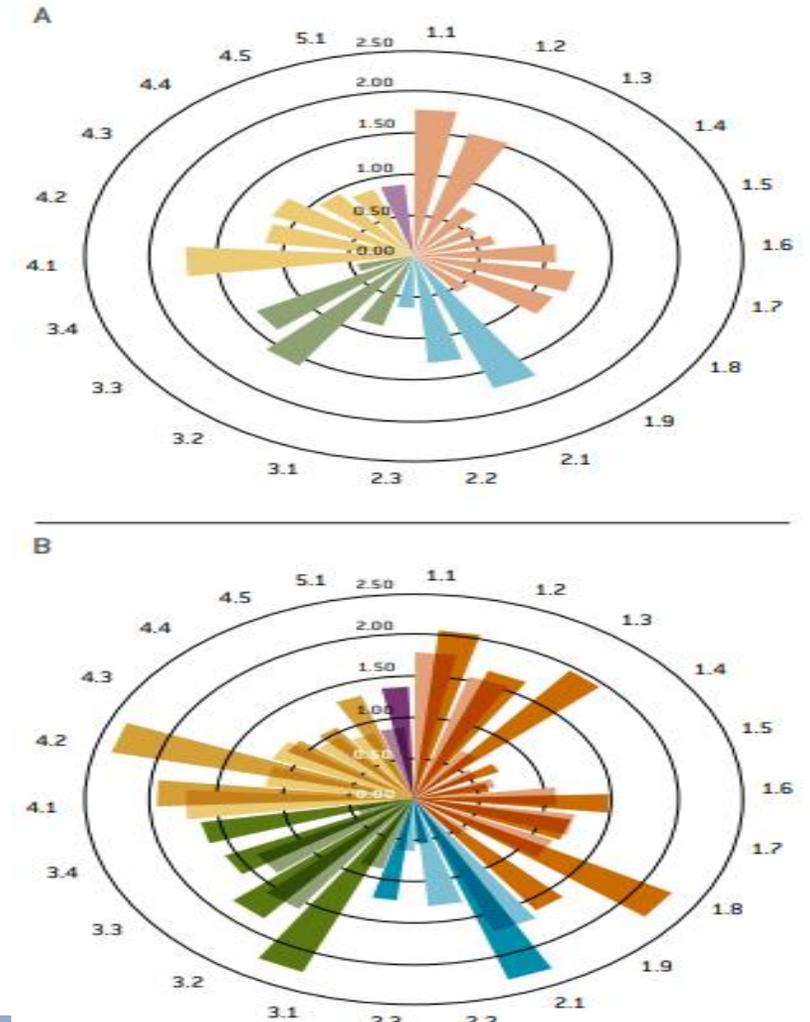
Output: AIS&EAS Profile

A decision-support tool to prioritize smart investments to strengthen agricultural innovation system

- Quick, easy to read and to understand
- Gives an overview of the agricultural innovation system
- Sheds light on key facts, data and information on AIS.
- Help AIS stakeholders, policy and decision makers to better understand the situation of AIS
- Generate generic and specific entry points for responsible investments to strengthen AIS/AES

Baseline

Reform/action plan

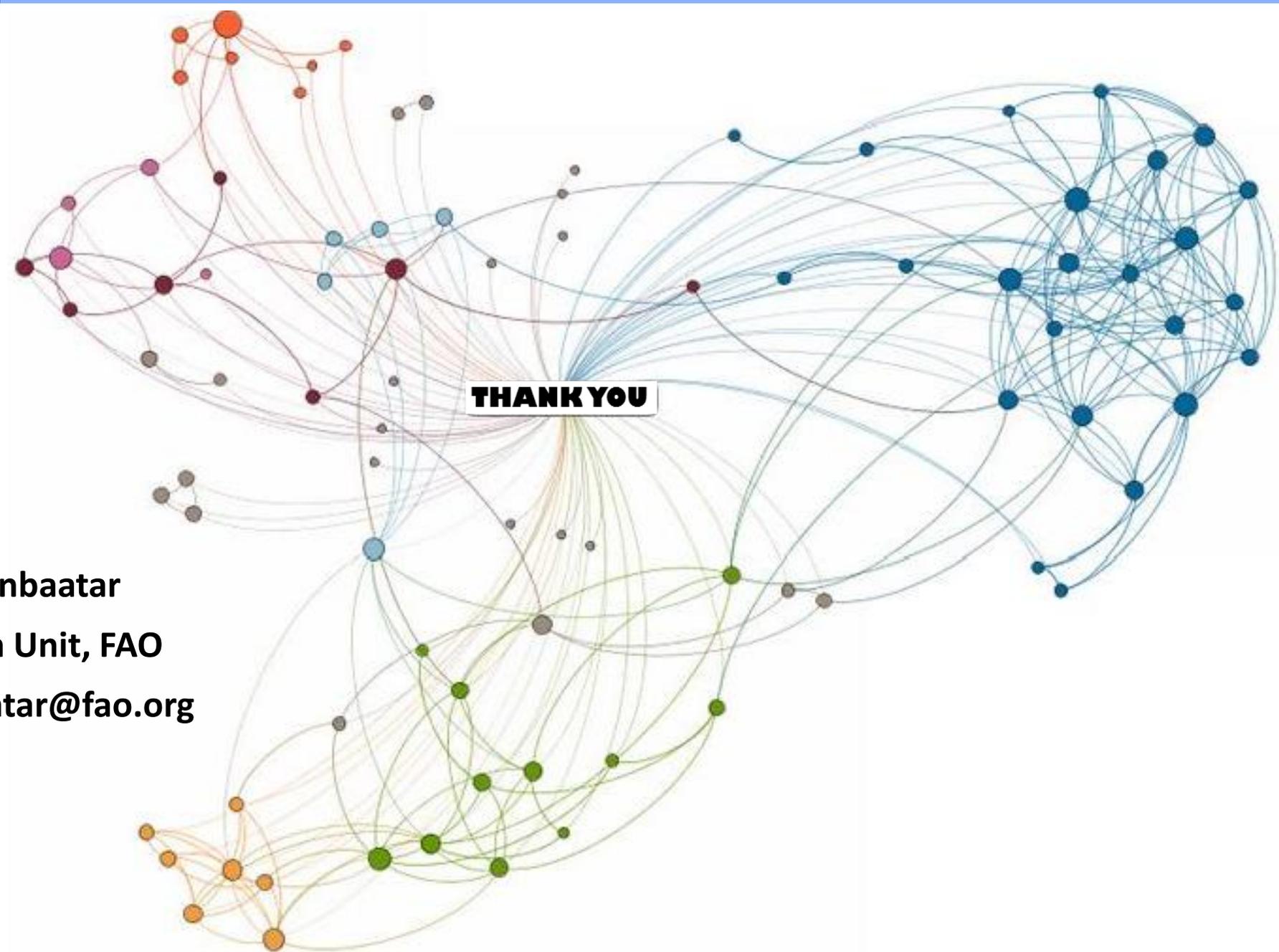
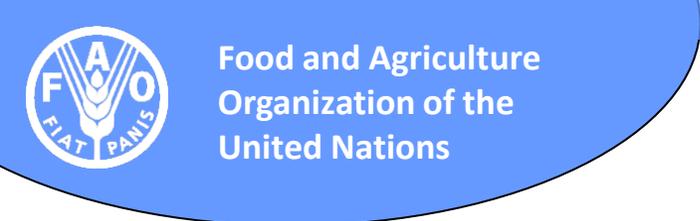


AGDR work on AEAS - country level

- Builds countries' capacities to assess their national AEAS;
- Provides advice and policy support to **design and implement an effective AEAS reform** towards toward creating pluralistic, demand-driven and market orientated systems.

Ecuador
El Salvador
Peru
Gambia
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Tunisia
Ukraine
Azerbaijan
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
India





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