

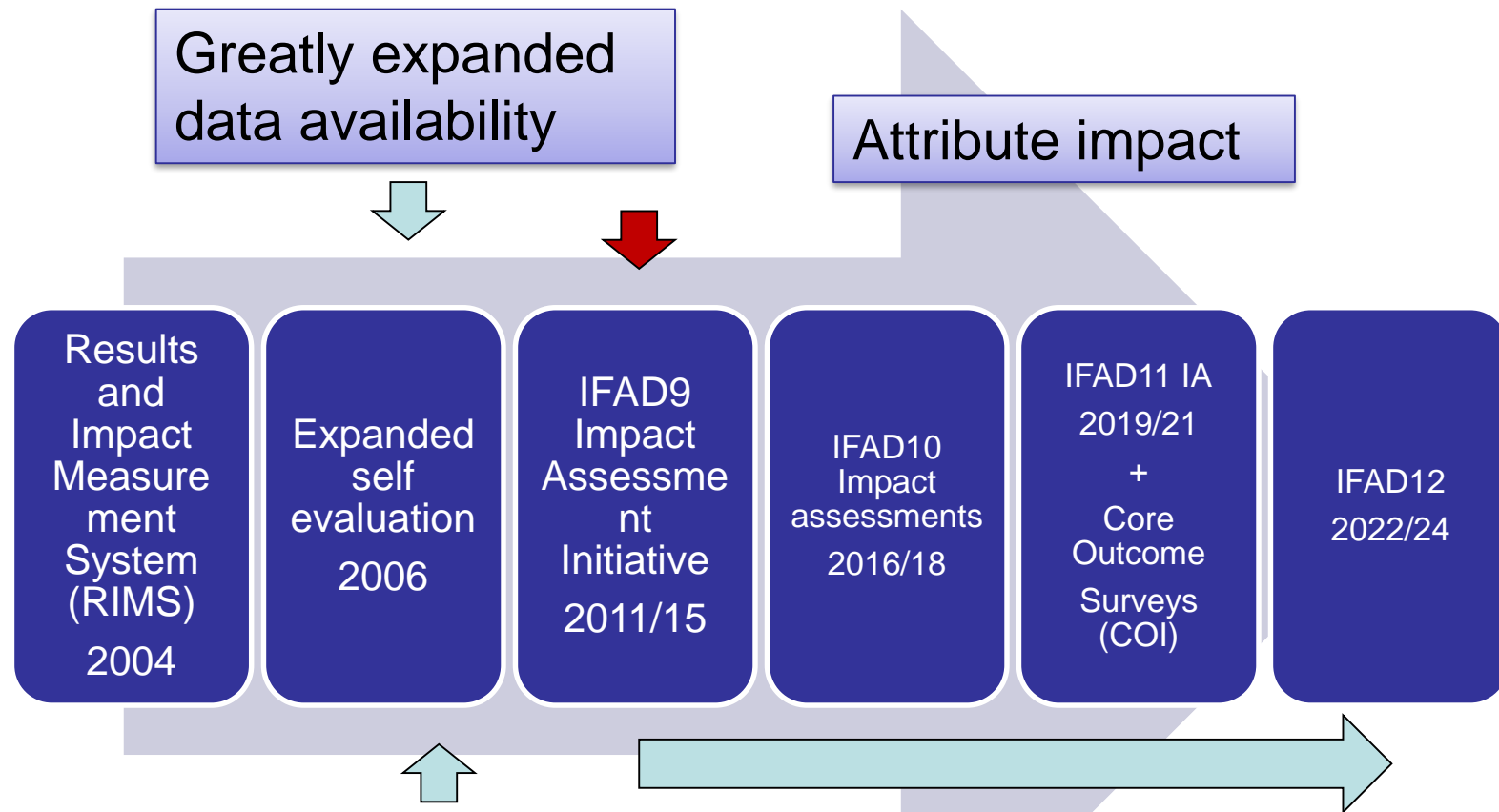


Using Evidence Gap Maps to inform Agencies' Programs of Impact Evaluations: the Experience of IFAD

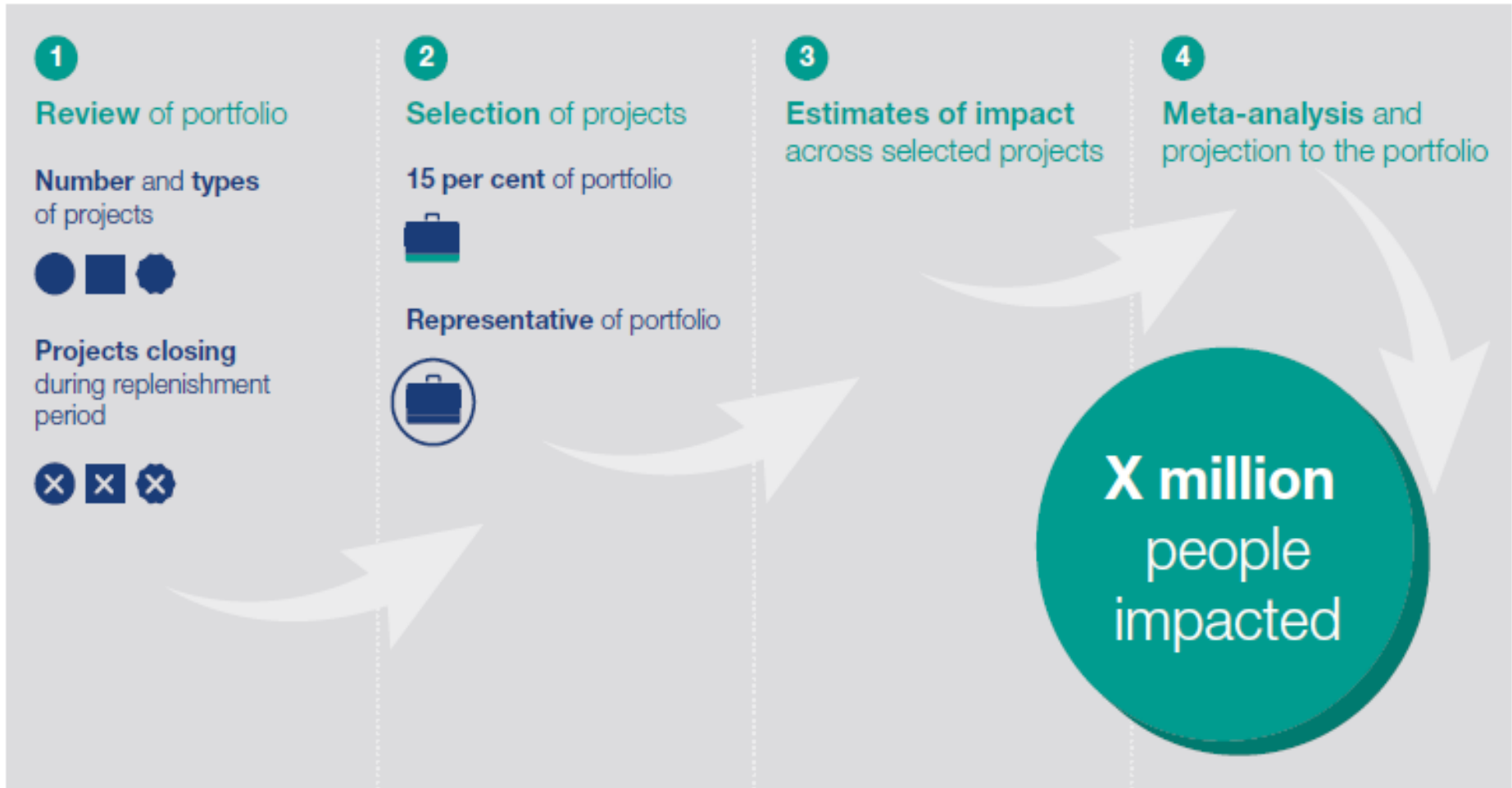
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Monitoring and Evaluation at IFAD: historical overview in a nutshell



IFAD Approach for measuring impact



Three objectives of IFAD9 IAI

1. METHODS

- To explore and identify best methodologies to assess impact

2. RESULTS

- To measure, to the degree possible, the impact of IFAD-financed activities on rural poor people

3. LESSONS

- To summarize lessons learned and advise on rigorous and cost effective approaches to **attribute** impact

Process for setting priorities for AI Window

Thematic windows: grant-making mechanisms which allow to increase the body of evidence in specific sectors **to maximize policy relevance and impact**

- Grant-funded Thematic Window on **Agricultural Innovation (AI)**
 - Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) & the UK Department for International Development (DFID)
 - Managed by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
 - IFAD and AGRA interested in evaluating their projects
 - Steering committee (AGRA, IFAD, DFID, 3ie, BMG)
 - 40 studies to be funded
 - 30 from IFAD (6 ex-ante; 24 ex-post)
 - 10 from AGRA
- **Objective of the Window:**
 - **to increase rigorous evidence on what works in agricultural innovation in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa in the areas of knowledge transfer, contractual arrangements, adoption, and soil health.**

Scoping study & Evidence Gap Map



Review of the Agencies Strategy: TEN KEY AREAS

- Policy (7)
- Research and Development (5)
- Adopting more productive technologies (6)
- Agriculture service provision (6)
- Producer organisations (4)
- Markets and value chains (7)
- Resilience and adaptation to climate change (6)
- Finance (6)
- Gender equity and women's empowerment (5)
- Nutrition (5)

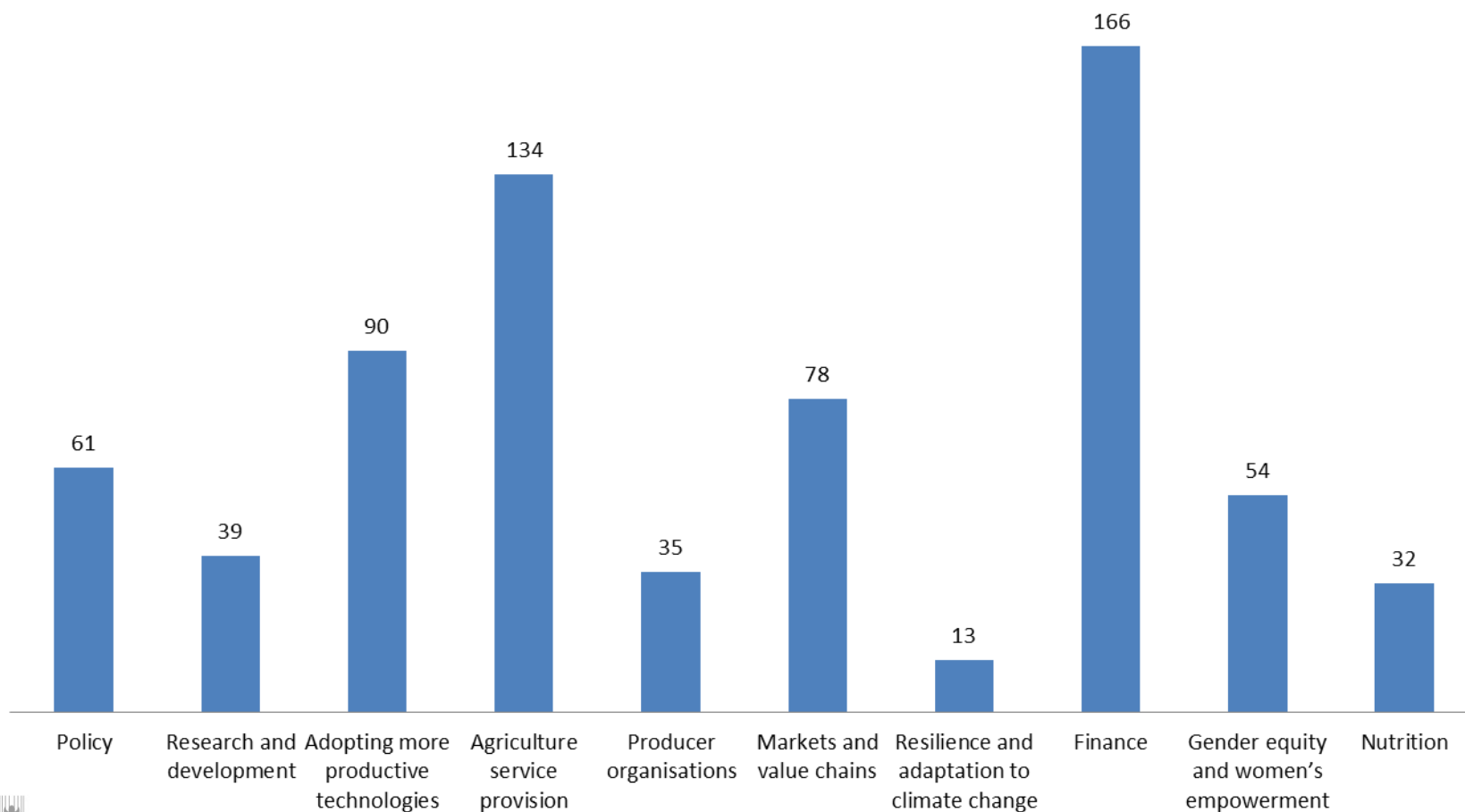
What the interviews told us....

What agencies say they are focusing on	Pressing areas for more interventions	Lacking evidence
Transformation of the smallholder sector	Transformation: Understanding adaptive capacities of smallholders	Understanding change at beneficiary level Adoption
Strengthening farmers' position in markets/value chains	Increasing private sector investment Post harvest storage and processing	Irrigation Rural roads
Technological innovation; crops, livestock, seeds, soil	Increasing household resilience	Improved seeds
Institutional perspectives; models, learning, systems	Nutrition	
Use of ICTs	Gender	Use of ICTs
Financial innovation		Micro-insurance Subsidies

Assessing the Evaluative landscape: Inventory of IEs

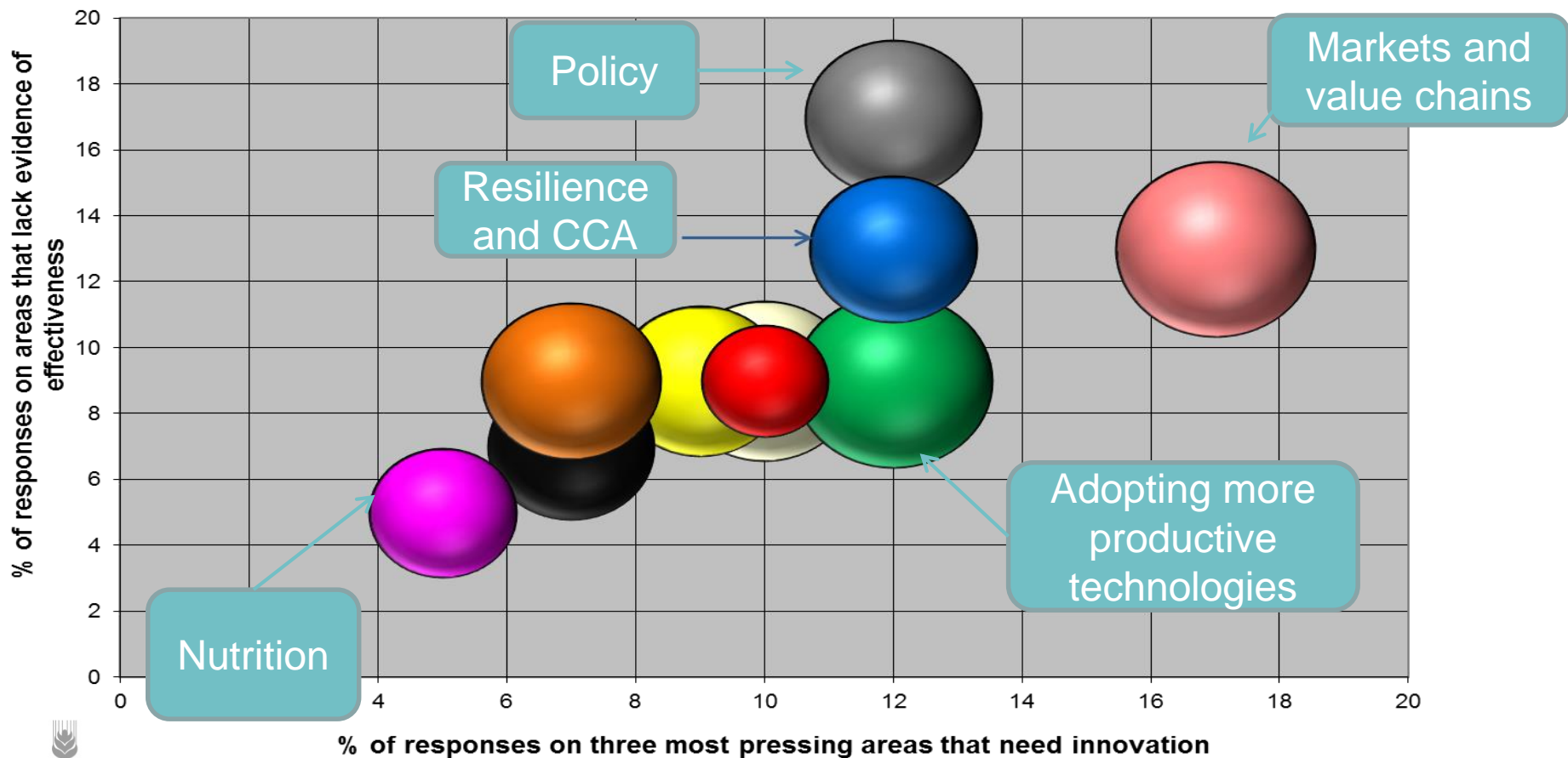
- 183 impact evaluations
- 16 systematic reviews
- Rigorous impact evaluations identify the impact of the respective intervention through comparison with a control group, either experimentally or quasi-experimentally
- Majority of impact evaluations in the inventory quasi-experimental

EGM: Number of Impact Evaluations in Each Area of Intervention



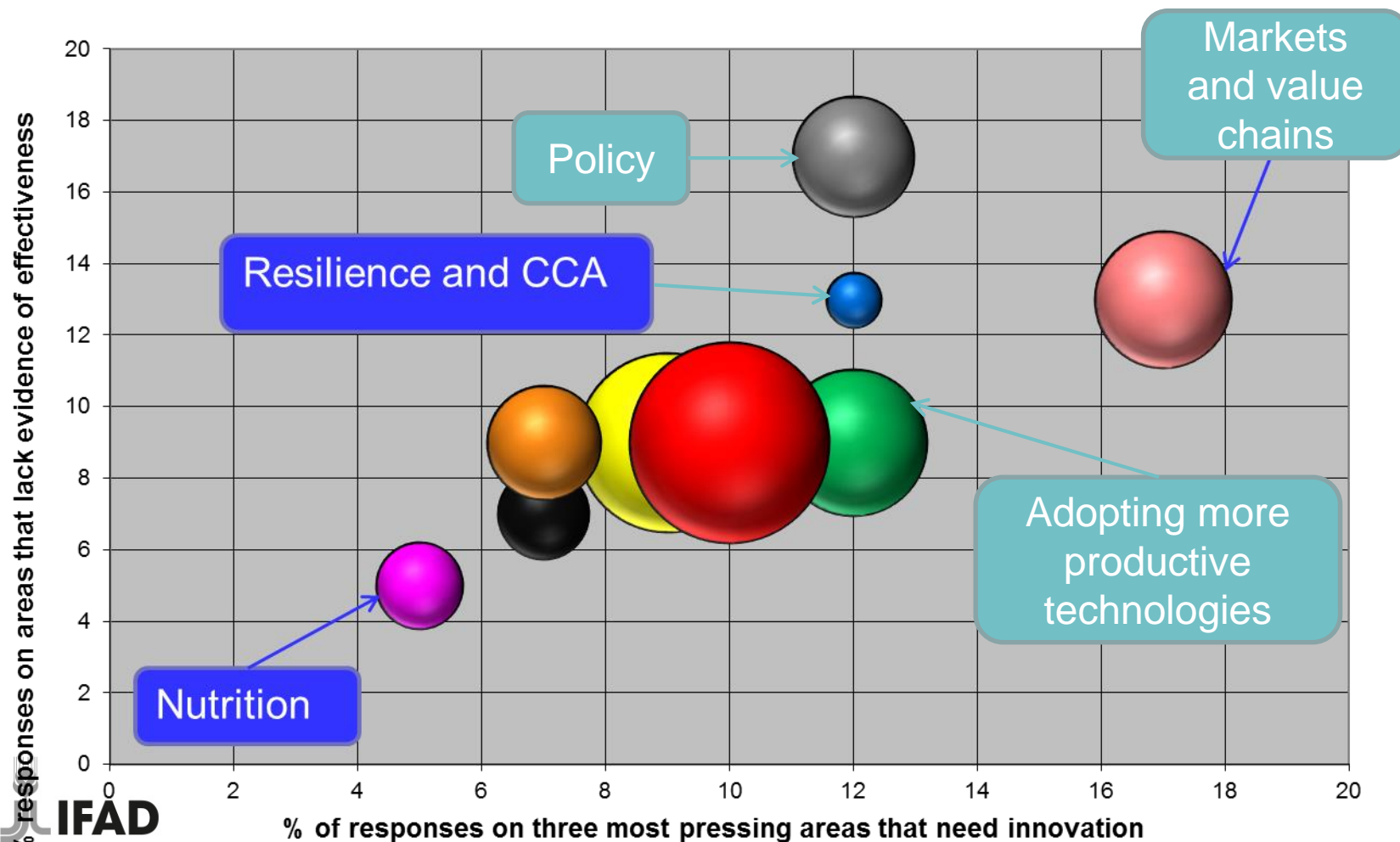
Stakeholders Survey findings

Matrix of Most Pressing intervention areas and need for more evidence
Bubble size reflects number of respondents working in/supporting that area



Comparison between Survey and IE Inventory findings

Matrix of three most pressing intervention areas and need for more evidence
Bubble size reflects number of impact evaluations undertaken



KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Raised in all 4 instances of (1) interviews, (2) priority areas survey, (3) lacking in evaluation survey and (4) lacking evaluation inventory/gap map

Intervention category	Specific priority areas
Adopting more productive technologies	Agriculture technology innovation and development
Research and Development	Climate smart agriculture Sustainable intensification
Agricultural service provision	Mechanisms to enhance technology innovation, adoption and scaling up
Finance	New forms of innovative finance

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Raised in 3 of 4 instances of (1) interviews, (2) priority areas survey, (3) lacking in evaluation survey and (4) lacking evaluation inventory/gap map

Intervention category	Specific priority areas
Markets and value chains	Commercialisation of smallholder farms and farming
Resilience and adaptation to climate change	Agricultural productivity interventions that improve household resilience to shocks and or/climate change
Adopting more productive technologies	Scaling up
Producer organisations	Enhancing producer organization roles in value chains and markets
Nutrition	Integrated agriculture, nutrition and health programmes and policies

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on specific interventions within each of the following categories:
 - Markets and Value Chains
 - Resilience & Climate change adaptation
 - Adopting more productive technologies

RECOMMENDATIONS - **Markets and Value Chains:** possible areas

- **Transformation of smallholder farming** including
 - Adaptive and transformative potential of smallholders
 - The relationship between smallholders and commercial farmers
 - Gender impacts of commercialisation of agriculture
- **Policies** regarding large scale investments in commercial agriculture & Issues related to “land grab”
- Enhancing producer organisation roles in value chains and markets & Enhancing roles of agro-dealers
- **Post harvest management:** post-production value addition & managing post harvest losses

Recommendations - Resilience and climate change: possible areas

- Agricultural productivity interventions that improve household resilience to shocks and/or climate change
- Diversification of farming systems
- Sustainable intensification
- Climate smart agriculture
- Climate change adaptation policy
- Strengthening women's access to assets

Recommendations - **Adopting more productive technologies**: possible areas

- Agriculture technology innovation and development (including ISFM and conservation agriculture)
- Scaling up (including institutional and gender issues) and adoption
- Women's access to resources
- Relative consequences of enhanced agricultural technology, innovation and productivity for men versus women
- Use of ICTs
- Mainstreaming gender and youth in application of innovation systems approaches

IN SUMMARY

- Impact evaluations of specific interventions within the following areas were recommended:
 - Markets and Value Chains
 - Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation
 - Adopting more productive technologies

Stakeholders Workshop

- **Stakeholder Consultation Meeting** (Nairobi in June 2013)
- **Objective:**
 - Narrow down from EGM themes & identify research questions
 - Identify pipeline of projects with stakeholders
 - Projects selection criteria:
 - **Ex-ante:**
 - Timing
 - Geographical coverage: Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
 - Thematic relevance (EGM)
 - **Ex-post:** representative of the portfolio

Research Topics

4 key research questions identified revolving around the topic of adoption of new technologies:

1. How should **information be packaged** and delivered to improve farmer decisions and uptake of improved seeds, and better practices and technologies?
2. What types of **contractual arrangement** increase smallholders' market power, food security marketed surplus and net returns?

Research Topics

3. What are the **cost effective mechanisms** to incentivize smallholders to adopt improved seeds, and better practices and technologies?
4. What combinations of **Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) technologies** are most cost effective in increasing agricultural productivity and smallholder incomes?

Conclusions

EGM and stakeholders surveys → strong value addition in setting priorities for under-evaluated areas and prioritize IA research programs

- **EGM:** objective assessment that identify where evidence is present/lacking
- **Stakeholders interviews/surveys/consultations:** complement objective assessment with the policy makers perception and views about information gaps in policy areas of interest
- Eventually this is a **match making exercise** between:
 - What policy makers would like to know
 - What evidence is available to inform their needs



Conclusions

- **Take away:** design projects and embed evaluation research ex-ante to test hypotheses able to both address knowledge gaps and inform strategic policy priorities (in view of achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2030)

Thank you

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- <https://www.ifad.org/en/impact-assessment>

Any questions?

