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Getting to impact: enriching Logframes with Theories of Change

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Darbas, T.¹ Maru, Y.T.¹ Alford, A.² Brown, P.R.³ and Dixon, J.²

¹ CSIRO Land & Water; ² ACIAR; ³ CSIRO Agriculture

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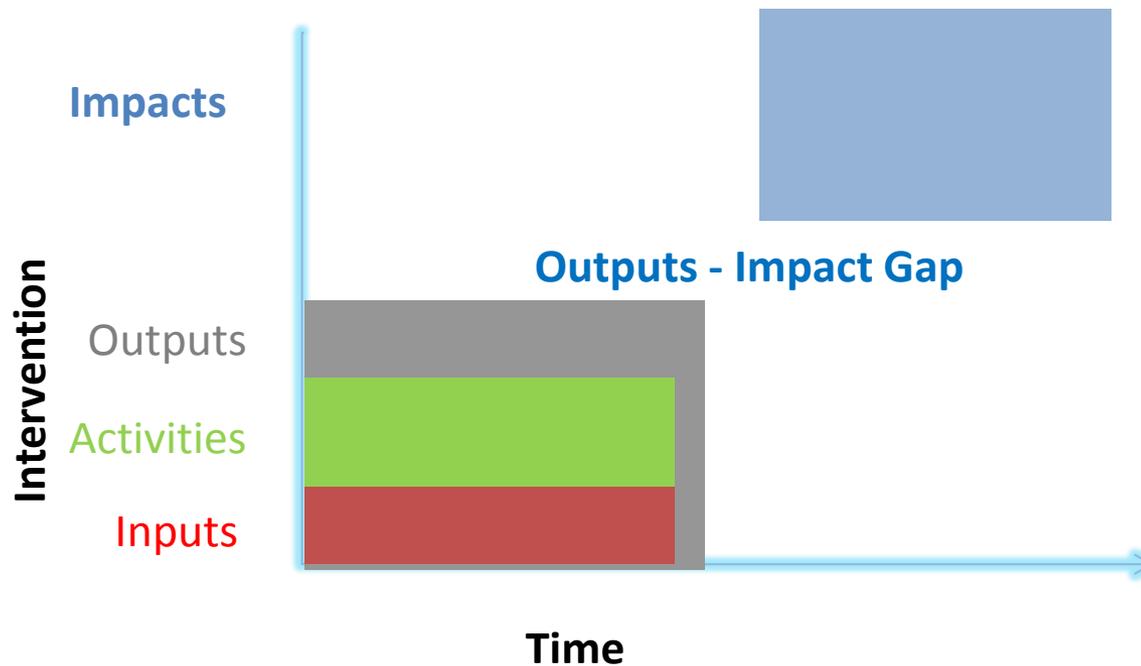
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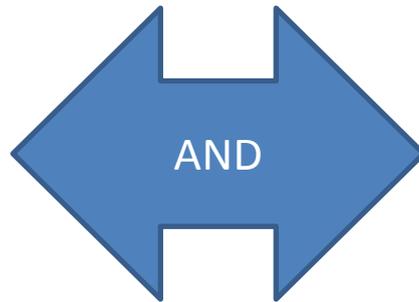
The “Missing Middle” or “Miracle Moment”



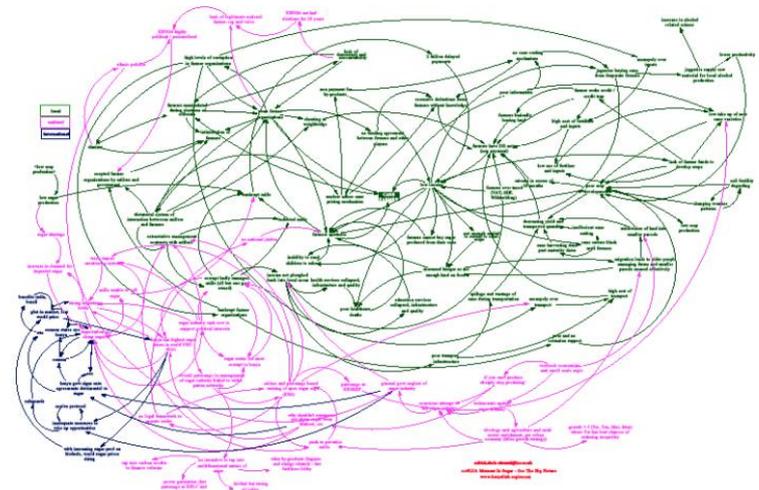
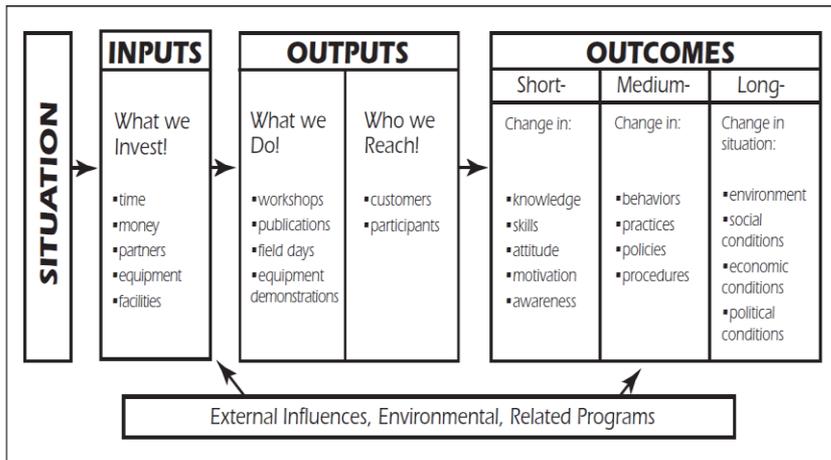
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Logic Models



Guiding change in complex situations



What does change really mean for a major crisis farmer?



What are Theories of Change/Impact Pathways

The **description of a sequence** of events that is expected to lead to a particular desired outcome (Davies 2005)

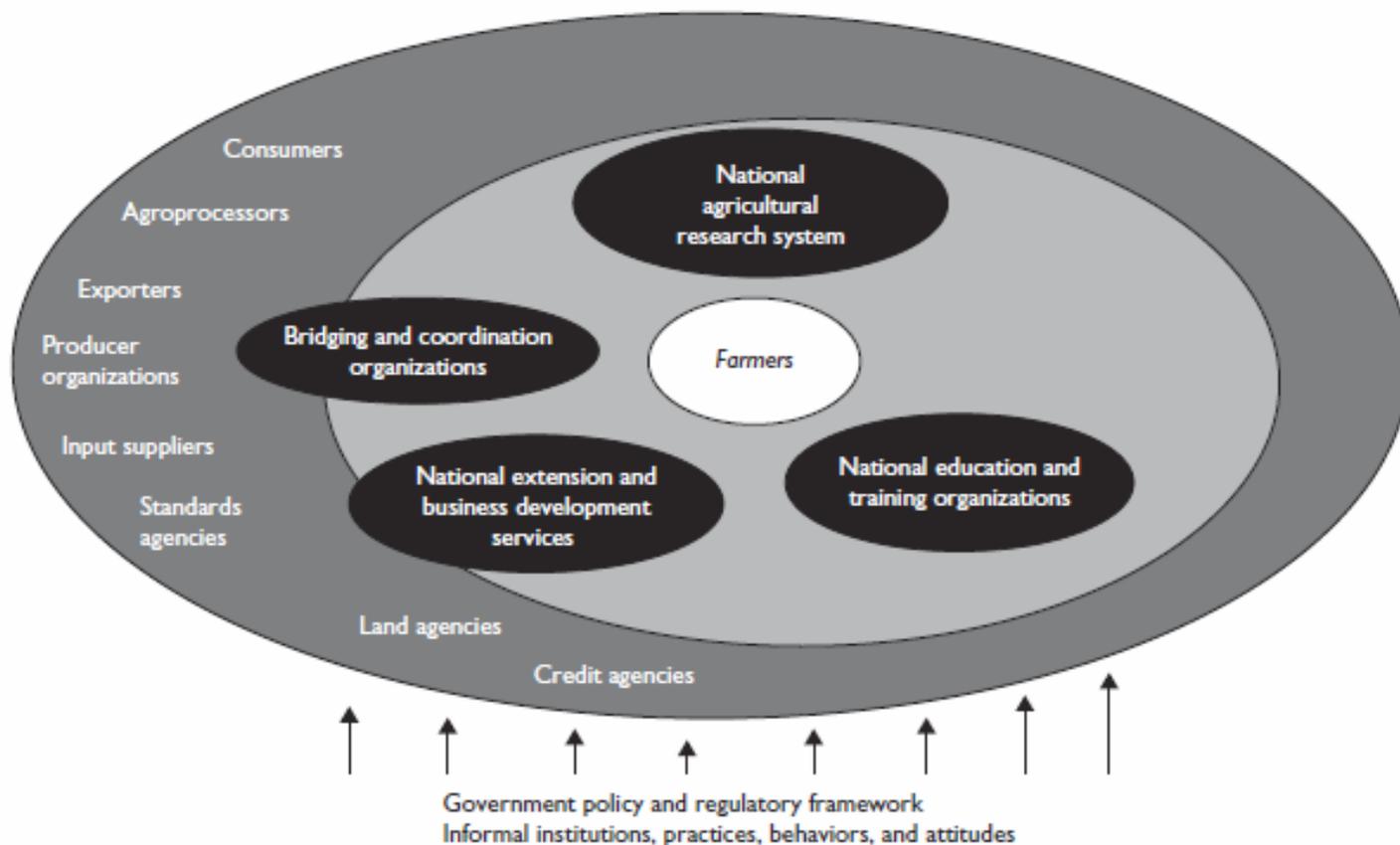
Plausible theories that explain how and why intervention's intended impacts are or will likely be achieved (Vogel 2012)

A deeper reflective process: a mapping and a dialogue-based analysis of values, worldviews and philosophies of change that make more explicit the underlying assumptions of how and why change might happen as an outcome of the initiative ([Stern et al., 2012](#))

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Agricultural Innovation System





Food Systems Innovation (FSI) Initiative

Application of more effective, evidence-based approaches to the development, implementation and evaluation of agriculture, food security and nutrition interventions”

1. Strengthen analytical & evidence base for food security interventions
2. Link research outputs with improved development practice
3. Greater coordination & integration between Australian agencies
4. Promote organisational learning to build professional capacity

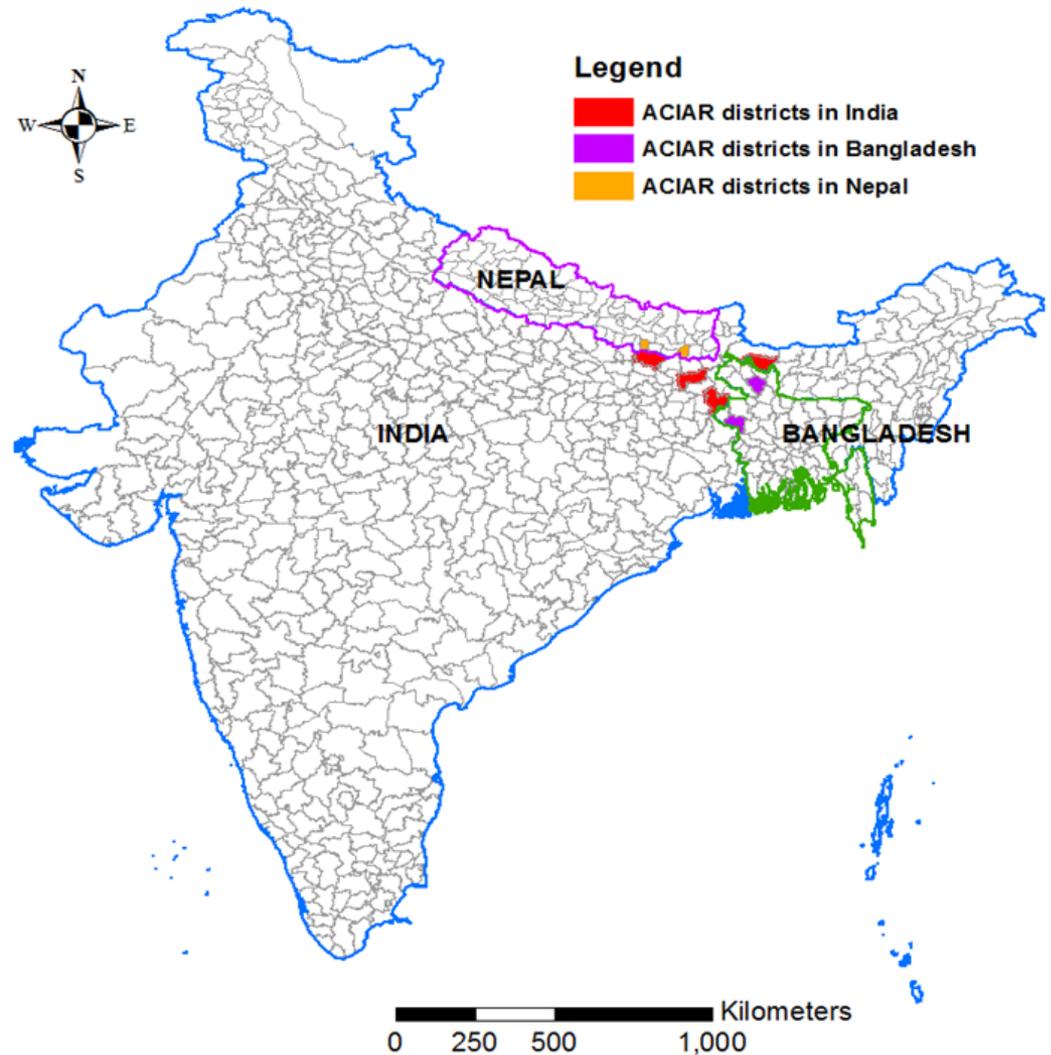
<http://foodsystmsinnovation.org.au/>

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Sustainable & Resilient Farming Systems Intensification Project to unfold in 8 districts in 4 jurisdictions in 3 countries with 50 partners on the Eastern Gangetic Plains

ACIAR districts in South Asia





Conservation Agriculture

CA practice	Advantage	Smallholder adoption barrier
Minimum till	Improves soil water storage & soil structure	Requires new/modified machinery, e.g. direct drill seeders Requires chemical weed control
Retention of crop residue	Improves soil water storage & soil structure	Conflicts with use of residue as livestock fodder
Rotations with minimum 3 species, including legume	Systemic management of pests & diseases, fixes nitrogen	Requires significant level of experimentation, learning, planning and management skill

Nebraska Declaration on Conservation Agriculture, CGIAR, 2013:1

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The scaling challenge is to fill the gap or 'missing middle' between the SRFSI outputs and 3-3.5 million adopting households (esp. women-headed) with AUD \$1.50/Household

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SRFSI Workshops on ToC & Scaling

Workshop	Participants	Focus
<p>India – New Delhi Strategic Planning Meeting Three days May, 2014</p>	<p>Major SRFSI partners: ACIAR, DFAT (SDIP), CSIRO CIMMYT, IWMI, IFPRI ICAR, UBKV, BARI, NARC iDE + speakers USAID India, NFSI</p>	<p>Kharif (monsoon) trial planning M&E as component of SDIP M&E Out-scaling SRFSI: principles & strategies</p>
<p>Australia – Brisbane FSI Symposium Four days June 2014</p>	<p>Program & project staff from South Asia (SRFSI socio-economists), Indonesia, Timor Leste, PNG & Sub Saharan Africa</p>	<p>ToC & pathway to impact (panel 4 speakers + activities + SRFSI team network mapping activity) Integrating nutrition into projects Partnering and Innovation (including pro-poor value chains and public private partnerships)</p>
<p>Nepal – Dhulikhel SRFSI ToC, Inception, Planning & Scaling Workshops Six days July, 2014</p>	<p>All SRFSI partners ACIAR, CSIRO, UNE, UQ, USyd CIMMYT, IFPRI, IWMI Bangladesh: BARI, RDRS India: ICAR, DoA, UBKV, CABI, CRISP, JEEVIKA, Sahki Nepal: DOA, NARCC, iDE</p>	<p>Clarify project logic/M&E to facilitate adaptive implementation Network mapping exercise in four jurisdictional groups to refine impact pathways Share current understanding of scaling principles & strategies for local to national scales Develop elements of SRFSI scaling project to support full proposal development</p>

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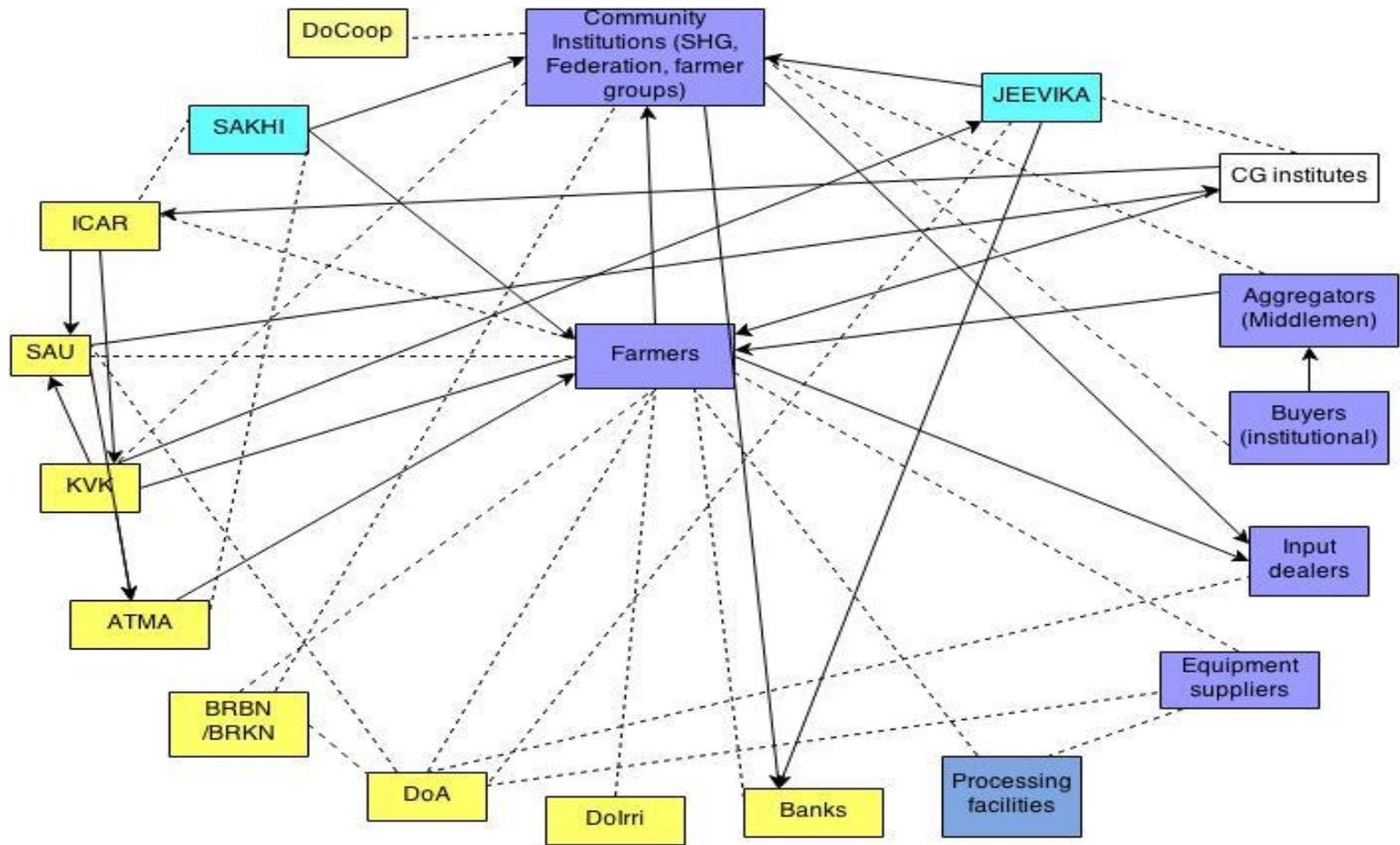
Lesson 4: The *participants* have knowledge to be elicited, valued & utilised

Problems/constrains	Solutions/opportunities
Insufficient quantity of quality seeds available	Decentralise seed production — Bihar Rajyar Beej Nigram Ltd (BRBN) – provides quality seeds, CBOs as traders
Equipment & machines not available or affordable to small holders	Establish a tool Bank so small holders can rent equipment and machines; Develop CBOS members as individual entrepreneurial service providers
Lack of integration of research & extension with farmer priorities	Undertake upstream participatory farmer research
Lack of local procurement & distribution	Avoid transport costs by decentralising the Public Food Distribution System by leveraging subsidies to create local storage facilities
Lack of market linkages Primitive rice milling technologies (high moisture content and broken grains)	Carve market niches by aggregating demand and produce; upgrade primary processing to access quality sensitive markets

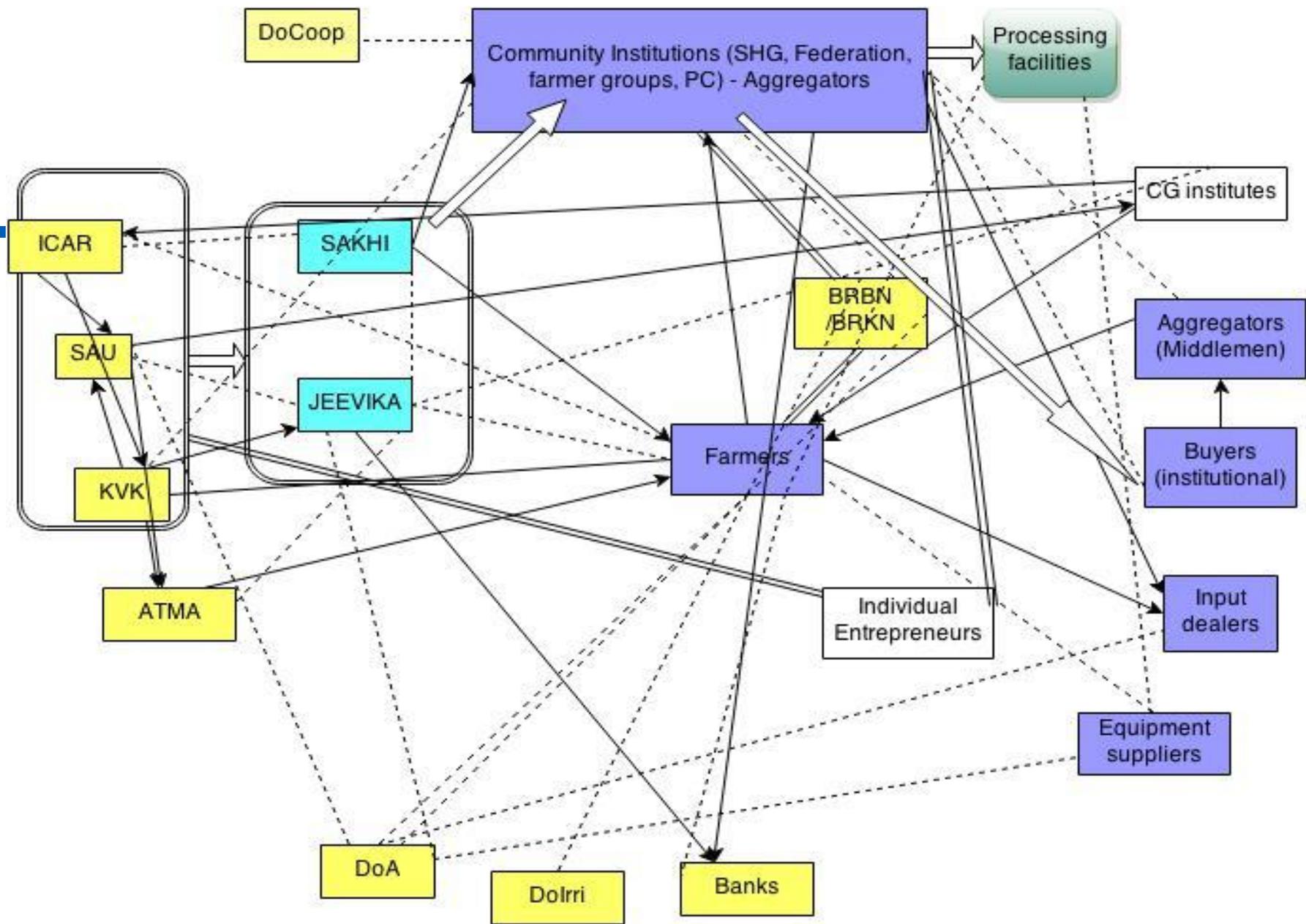
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Current network of SRFSI players, Bihar



Dotted lines show weak linkages



Dotted lines show weak linkages



Innovation Platform: a forum for learning and action

A forum for learning and action involving a group of actors with different backgrounds and interests: farmers, agricultural input suppliers, traders, food processors, researchers, government officials, etc. These actors come together to develop a common vision and find ways to achieve their goals. They may design and implement activities as a group or coordinate activities by individual actors.

(Homann-Kee Tui et al, 2013:1)



Scaling up as well as out

Up-scaling

CA agricultural
policies & programs;
Public investments
In infrastructure

Private investments
In processing;
Creation of high premium
markets; access to
international markets

**Down-stream
(farmer)**

**Up-stream
(consumer markets)**

Traditional
farmer-to-farmer
extension

Aggregation of
inputs & outputs;
collection centres

Out-scaling



Conclusions

1. Tendency for powerful actors to try & close down discussion (risk of deliberative truncation)
2. Risk of compliance pressure rather than collaborative learning (especially if ToC is made mandatory)
2. Goal of institutional change through collaborative learning unlikely in 4 year project timeline (but could be catalytic beginning)