

Working towards “out-scaling strategies” for WLI technologies

WLI Socio-economic Thematic Group

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Assessing the Research-Extension-Farmer Linkages

- Over 30 agricultural technologies and/or innovation packages that are ready for dissemination
- Adoption very slow
- Adoption begins with transfer of knowledge – hardware and software

Researchers

Extension

Farmers

Technology generation
(Dev't, adaptation, & testing)



Technology transfer



Technology utilization

Data sources and methods used

- Six countries
 - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Tunisia
- Mixed-methods
 - Survey and key informant interviews
- >300 farmers surveyed
- 34 Researchers interviewed
- 17 extension agents interviewed



Phase 1: Technology generation

Development, adaptation, testing – proof of concept

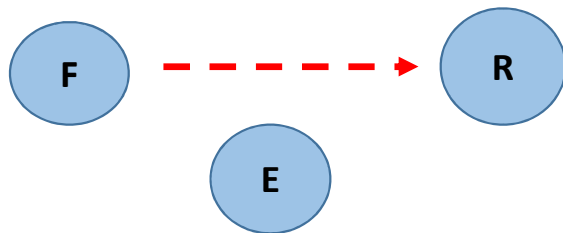
Phase 1 a: Problem identification

Phase 1 b: Adaptation and testing

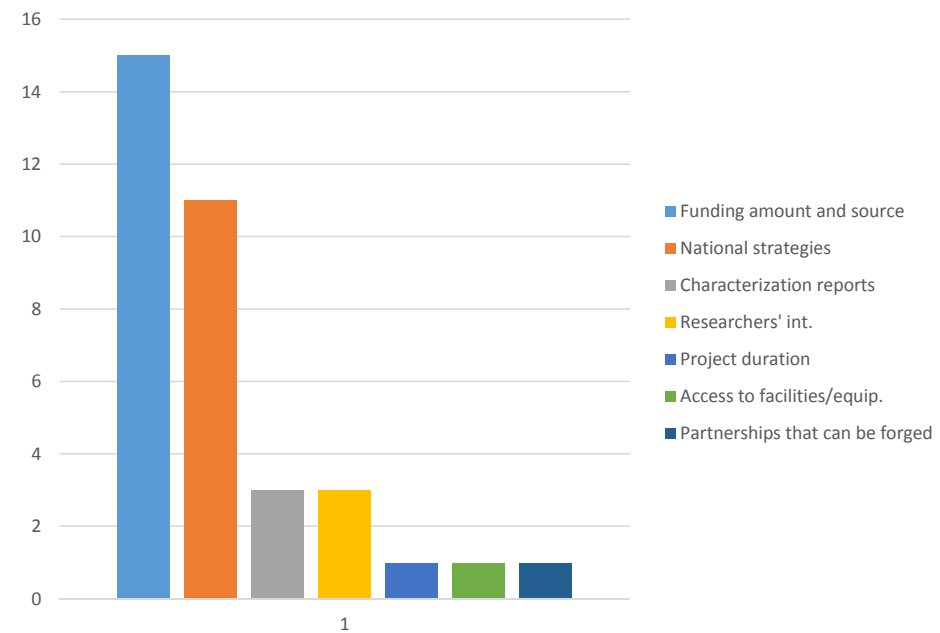
Phase 1 c: Proof of concept & dissemination

Phase 1: Knowledge Transfer

- Extension – facilitation role
- Farmers – socio-economic characterization



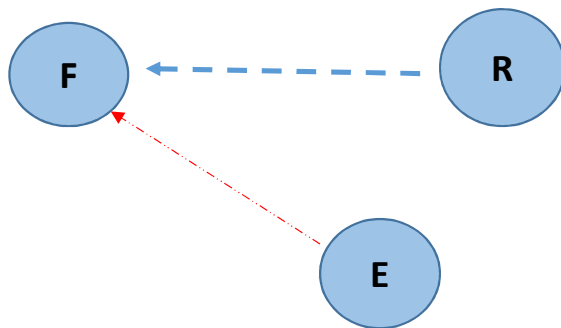
Research topic identification – main deciding factors



Phase 1 b: Adaptation and testing

- Applied research **on farm** conditions
- Role of farmers and extension agents --- facilitation

Knowledge Transfer:



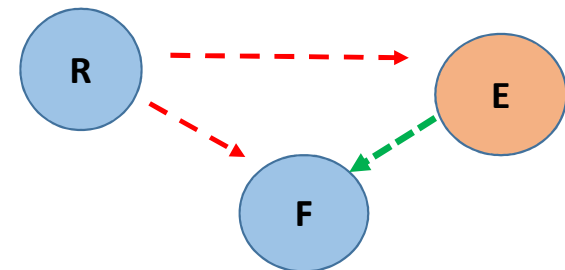
Phase 1 c: Proof of Concept & Dissemination

Main method of dissemination:

- Field days, site demonstrations, etc.

Transfer of knowledge:

- Level of communication between R and Ext very low – no or minimal formal training
 - mobilization, facilitation
- Extension – informal training
- Farmer – sees the evidence, some level of knowledge transfer



Phase II: Extension

Technology generation
(Dev't, adaptation, & testing)

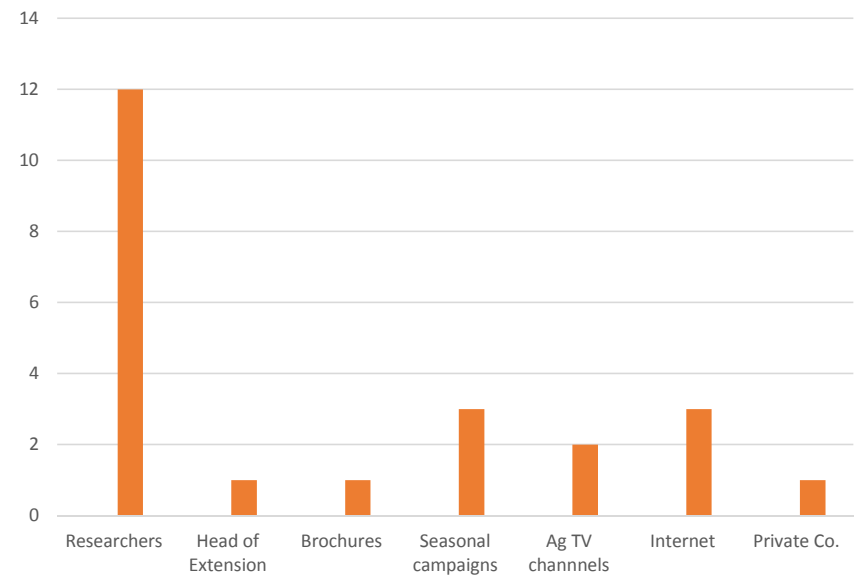


Technology transfer
(Extension)



Technology utilization
(Farmer)

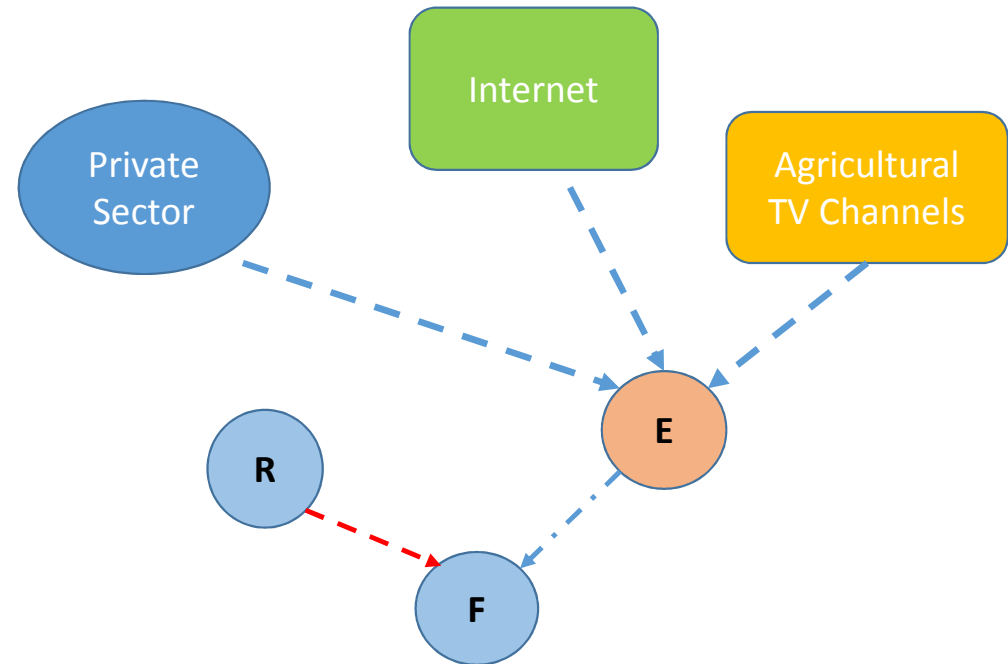
Sources of information for extension agents



Common challenges with extension as the main source of information for farmers

- (-) Trust
- (-) understaffed
- (-) under-funded
- (-) low incentive
- (-) proficiency...confidence
 - Mostly educated (BA) and experienced (over 10 yrs)
- (-) poorly linked with other organizations
- (-) gender sensitivity

“Clarity of the information on the technology determines the quality of information passed to the farmers” Egypt (R)



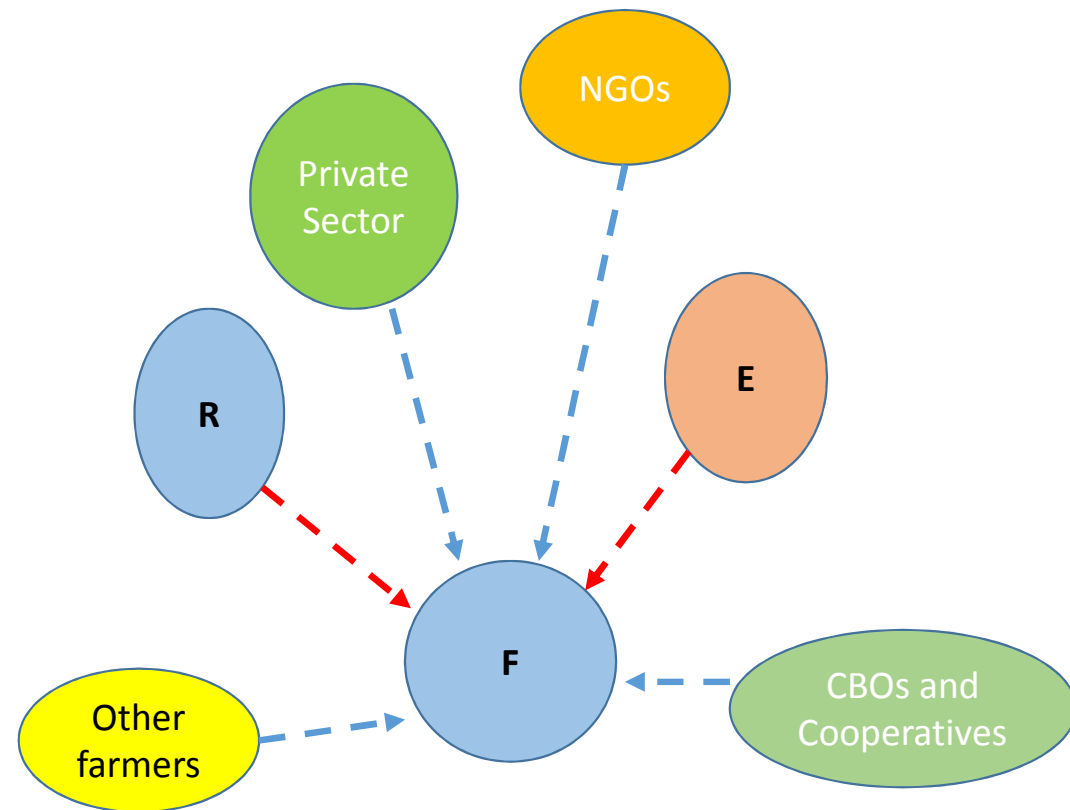
“Sometimes technology is ready but extension does not see benefit from results so [we] go back and forth” Tunisia (R)

Phase 3: Technology Utilization

Farmers' Main Sources of Information

- Extension agents
- Researchers

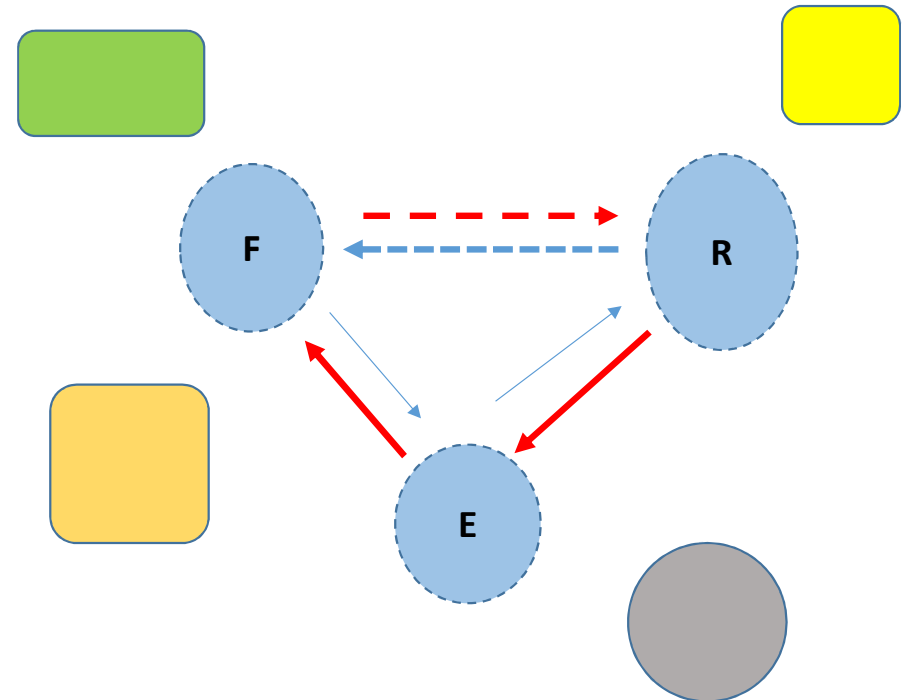
Knowledge gap evident in all the country level studies



Questions to consider

- Who is the farmer?
 - Land owner, renter
 - gender considerations
 - Age, education level, etc. ----targeting?
- Packaging and targeting extension information
 - Type of knowledge transferred?
 - Scientific Vs transferable knowledge
 - Hardware and software
 - How important is the back loop?
- Whose responsibility is it?
 - Can researchers substitute as extension agents?
 - Should extension agents do research?
 - Who else should be included in the mix? And what should the relationship look like?
- Sustainability?
 - Full or partial provision of technical and material inputs to none
 - Proficiency of extension agents (quality of knowledge transferred) – if at all involved (Iraq and Lebanon)
 - Involvement of other partners
 - Follow up – quality control and oversight
 - Institutionalization of a formal communication structure

- What should the communication channel look like?



Thank You