

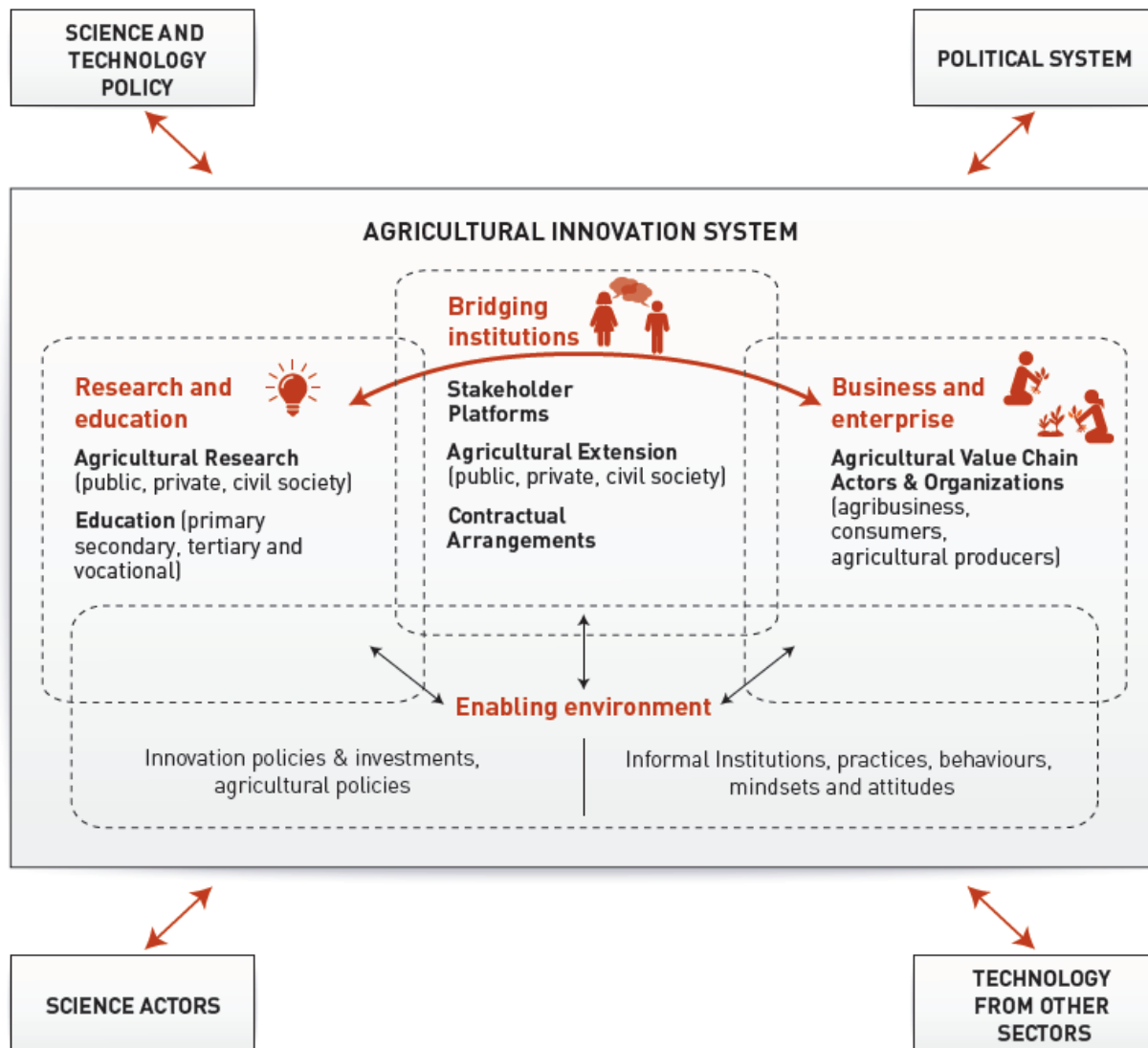
What is AIS?

Understanding Agricultural Innovation Systems

Common Framework on Capacity Development
for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CD for AIS)

Training of National Innovation Facilitators

Agricultural Innovation System (AIS)



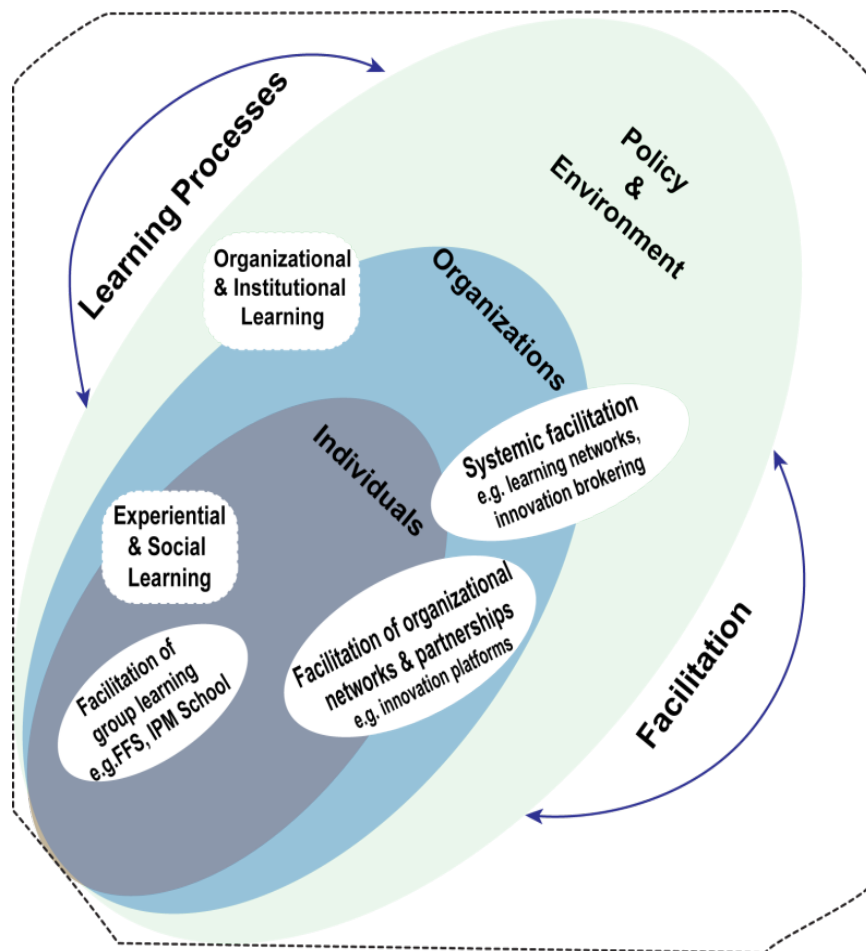
The Common Framework promotes a **system perspective** on agricultural innovation, since agriculture increasingly involves complex interactions among stakeholders at multiple levels.

Agricultural Innovation System Definition

A network of actors or organisations, and individuals together with supporting institutions and policies in the agricultural and related sectors that bring existing or new products, processes and forms of organisation into social and economic use.

Policies and institutions (formal and informal) shape the way that these actors interact, generate, share and use knowledge as well as jointly learn

Agricultural Innovation System



Key Elements of AIS

- **Reflection and Joint Learning**
- **Partnership and Network Building**
- **Co-Creation of Knowledge**
- **Process Documentation**
- **Facilitation/Brokerage**
- **Facilitative Leadership**

Actors

Roles in AIS

Farmer/Farm Family

- Users of knowledge to create, test and adapt new technologies to field conditions.
- Apply and suggest innovative products and practices to increase agricultural productivity and market accesses.

Farmer Organizations

(includes commodity networks and platforms)

- Represent farmers (interests, needs, opportunities) in value chains and the community and policy arenas.
- Brokerage of knowledge and technology between farmers and other actors.
- Facilitating access to agricultural inputs, credit and markets.
- Helping organize value chains.
- Promoting specific innovation through collaborative research & organizing logistical support.

Advisory services (private, non-governmental and public)

- Brokerage of knowledge and practices between farmers and other actors.
- Making new knowledge and practices available to farmers and other local actors.
- Forging networks, and supporting organization of producers.
- Facilitating access to credit, inputs and output services.
- Promoting equitable participation- especially disadvantaged groups such as, rural women, smallholders.

Agro-dealers (input suppliers and processing)

- Providing (new) agricultural inputs and output markets.
- Identifying, piloting and mainstreaming new market opportunities.
- Defining quality standards of agricultural products.
- Facilitating investment in physical and human resources for process and product development.
- Linking agricultural actors to rest of the market.

Tertiary education institutes

- Improving general educational level of all actors.
- Education and training of professionals in the agricultural sector.
- Development of better knowledge and associated skills for farmers and other actors.
- Facilitating investment in human resources for process and product development.
- Developing approaches and methods of experiential and multi-actor learning.

Researchers (public, non-governmental, private & universities)

- Developing and improving technologies, practices and processes relevant to local/regional/national contexts.
- (Joint) Testing of locally developed (indigenous) technologies and processes.
- Documenting the ways new practices and technologies are adapted and further innovated with (for both men and women, poor and rich), to feed into other agricultural research efforts and policy decisions.
- Cooperating with researchers of other countries / international organisation.

Policy makers

- Providing strategic orientation for the AIS.
- Formulate, implement and enforce strategies, policies and regulations.
- Allocate resources for research and human resources development.
- Provide incentives to innovate and collaborate.
- Enabling networks and partnerships

Consumer organizations

- Influence research priorities and innovation practices.
- Facilitate consumer acceptance.
- Facilitating and brokering information of new products and processes.

Facilit

	Transfer of Technology (ToT)	Farming System Research	Agricultural Knowledge & Information Systems (AKIS)	Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)
Periods/Era	Central Since 1960s	Starting in 1970s & 1960s	From 1990s	Since 2000s
Purpose	Supply technologies through linear processes	Learn farmers' constraints through surveys	Collaborate in research (participatory research) & extension	Co-develop innovation involving multi-actor processes and partnerships
Scope	Productivity increase	Efficiency gains (input-output relationships)	Farm-base livelihoods	Value chains, institutional change
Innovators	Scientists	Scientists and extensionists	Farmers, scientists and extensionists together	Multiple actors
Role of Farmers	Adopters or laggards	Source of information	Experimenters	Partners, entrepreneurs, innovators exerting demands
Role of Scientists	Innovators	Experts	Collaborators	Partners, one of the actors responding to demands
Key Changes Sought	Farmers' behaviour change	Removing farmers' constraints	Empowering farmers	Institutional change, innovation capacity
Market Integration	Nil	Nil	Low	High
Capacity Development Outcome	Technology adoption and uptake through development of technical skills & infrastructure	Technology adoption and uptake through development of technical skills & infrastructure & integration of agro-ecological and farm-economic conditions	Enhancing communication between actors, co-evolved technologies better fit to livelihood systems	Capacities to interact, innovate & learn, creating enabling conditions