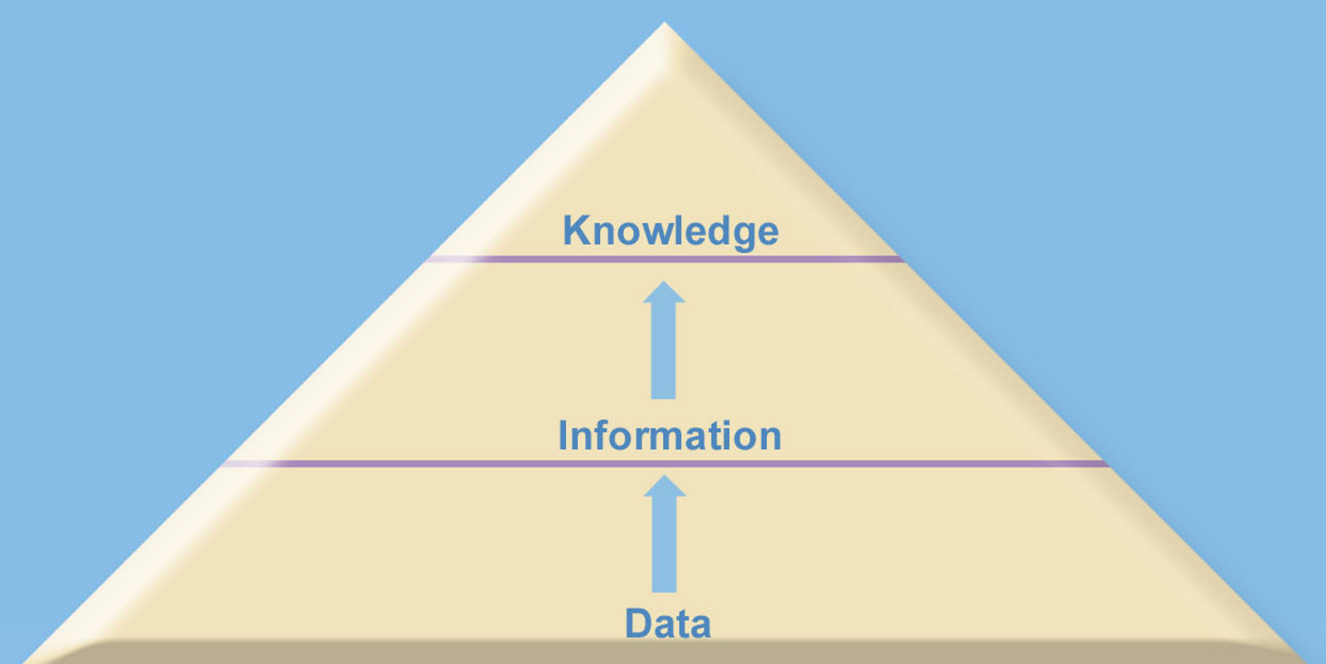
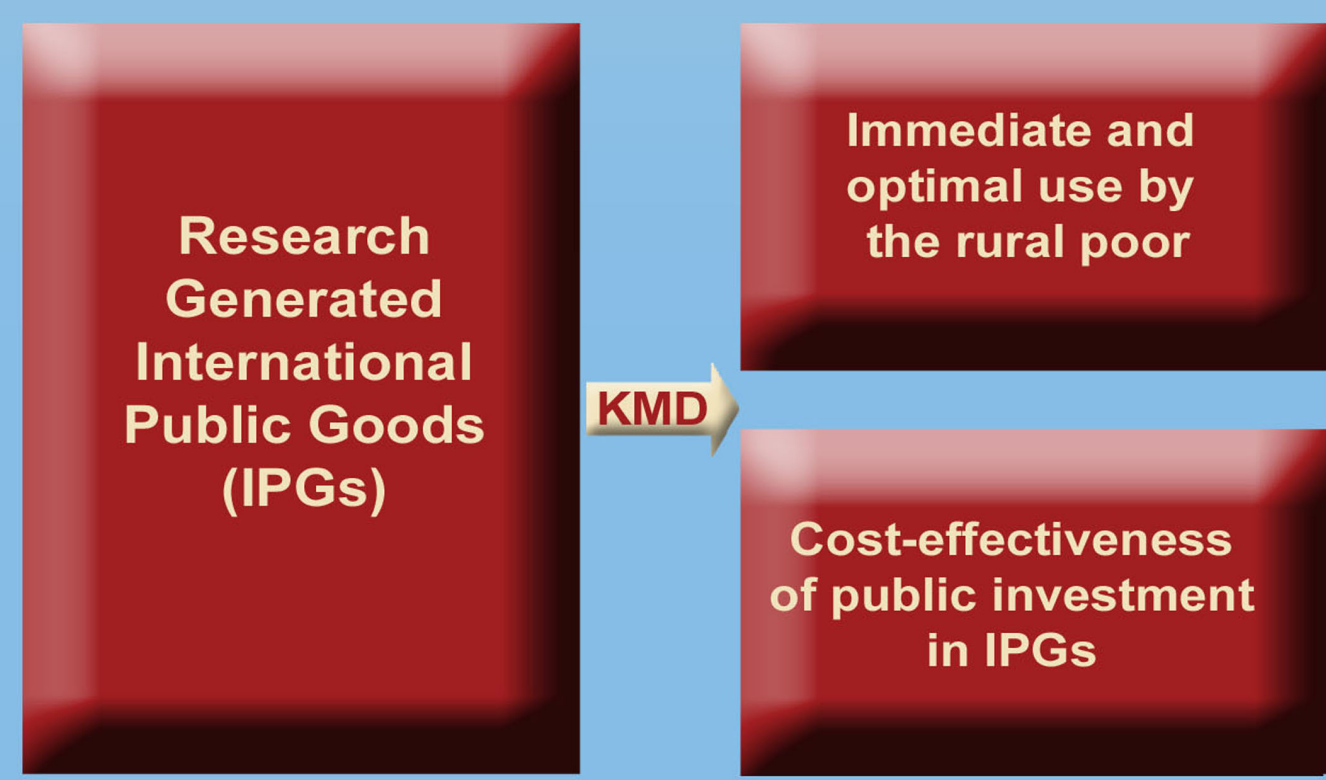


Ahmed E Sidahmed, Director KMD ICARDA
Tropentag 2006, Bonn Germany

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo Syria

Why KMD?



The pathway from data to information to knowledge could be illustrated as a triangle where a wide range of data are condensed into various types of information and messages useable for knowledge generation.

ICARDA Knowledge Management Model (Summary)

Knowledge Generation

Knowledge Generators

- Modern Knowledge & Technology
 - ICARDA scientists
 - NARS
 - Regional
 - International
 - Scientists, peers and mentors
 - Private sector
- Local, Traditional Knowledge
 - Farmers
 - Herders
 - Other rural communities

Knowledge Generated

- Products
 - TIPO-Packages
 - Best Bet Practices (BBPs)
- Knowledge
 - Dissemination
 - Methodologies
 - Innovations
 - Skills

Dissemination Processes & Instruments

- Partnership, Training & Capacity-building
 - FFS, on-farm testing & adoption
 - Co-learning, sharing & training
- Mainstreaming: Upscaling & outscaling ICT
 - Publications
 - Websites
 - Intelligent & Expert Systems
 - Journal, Articles
 - Workshops
 - Conferences
 - TV & Radio
 - Village drama groups
 - Networking
 - Portals, ITC structure in donor/development agencies

Dissemination & Transfer Agents

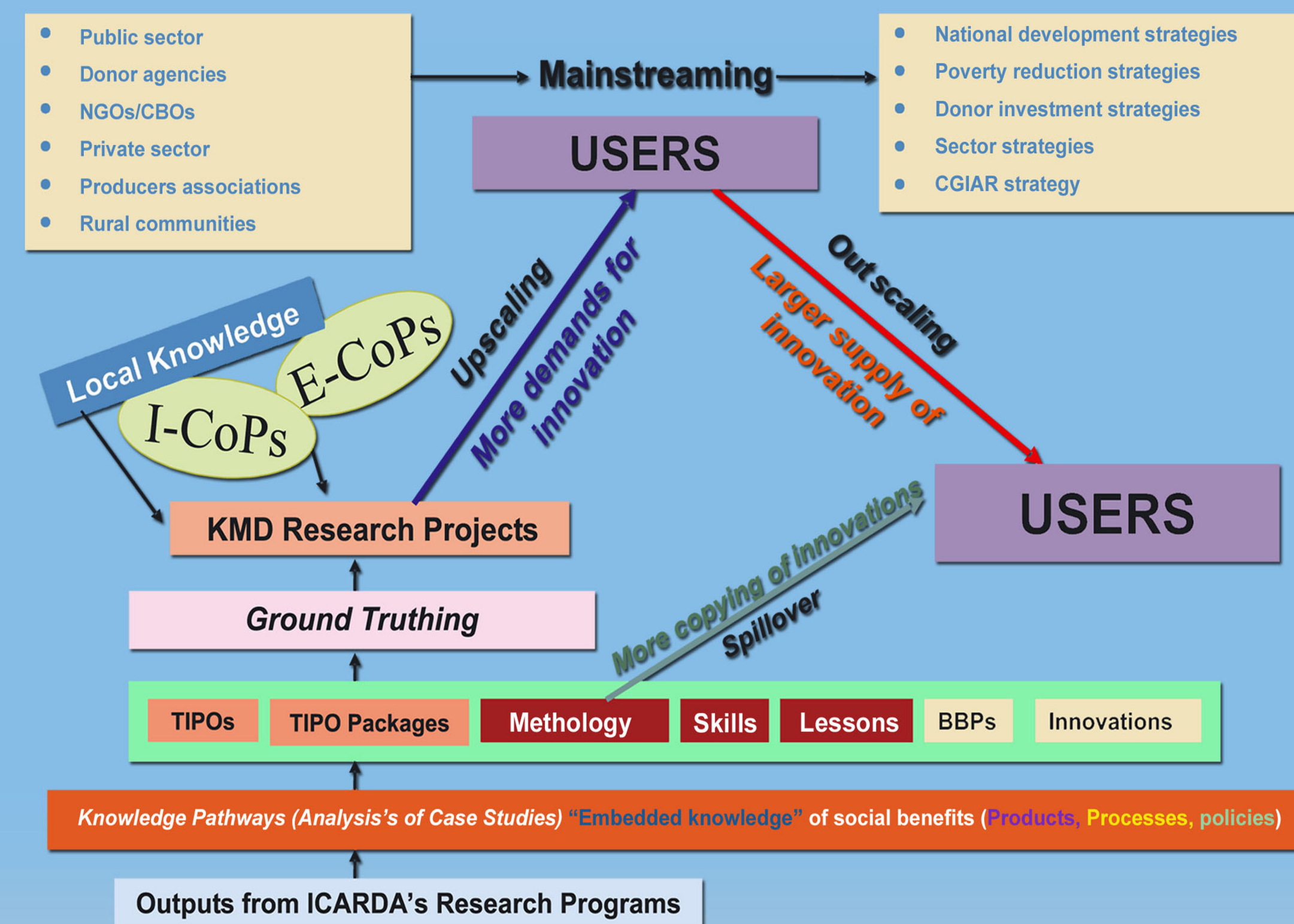
- Extension workers
- NARS
- Community/grassroots agents
- NGOs
- Private sector
- Donor-supported rural poverty reduction investment projects

Beneficiaries

- Farmers
- Herders
- Other rural communities



Framework and processes for analysis of the knowledge pathways, identification of the key agricultural knowledge elements (KAKEs), ground truthing, dissemination, mainstreaming, upscaling and outscaling



The ICARDA Approach for Knowledge Management and Dissemination (KMD): Generation and use of International Public Goods (IPGs) for Rural Poverty Reduction

Ahmed E Sidahmed, Director KMD ICARDA
Tropentag 2006, Bonn Germany

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo Syria



ICARDA's approach for KMD

Mission:
Effective contribution to rural poverty reduction, livelihoods enhancement and food security in the dry areas through management and dissemination of knowledge generated from ICARDA's research.

Vision:
To enable ICARDA effectively share and deliver the knowledge it generates from research

Understanding:
Research results generated from international agricultural research are potential International Public Goods (IPGs)
Therefore KMD Program must undertake research rooted in the principles of co-learning and sharing with a broader community of stakeholders

What happens to research results?

Examples of Common concerns raised:

The Scientists:

- Where does the information generated from research results go?
- How to make the information readily available?
- What is the reason for the lack of analytical reports of the research work done over the past years?
- Why so many released crop varieties are unknown to the farmers?
- Etc.

The Extensionists:

- The current linear Technology Transfer (TT) system is not adequate
- More investment to include TT as early as possible in the research is needed. This will multiply the value of the research product.
- The current system which delays access of farmers to new varieties (while waiting for variety release) reduces the anticipated benefits from the improved varieties

Causes of poor access and use of agricultural knowledge

- Inadequate analysis of existing knowledge generated from research projects
- Lack of innovative methodologists for knowledge management (documentation, co-learning, sharing and dissemination)
- Limited exploration of advances in information and communications technologies (ICTs)

What knowledge to deliver?

The Key Agricultural Knowledge Elements (KAKEs)

- Outputs:** Technological, institutional and policy options (TIPOs).
- Lessons learned:** Knowledge of the positive/negative factors, circumstances and conditions that affect projects and outputs.
- Methodologies:** Approaches and methodologies developed in generating and disseminating this knowledge.
- Best bet practices:** Innovative procedures, approaches and tools (e.g. Expert Systems, Decision Support Tools) that offer win-win scenarios for pro-poor growth through agriculture.
- Technical advisory notes (TANs):** Concise communication guides of selected TIPO- packages suitable and adoptable by a range of users and stakeholders.
- Innovations:** Improved/cost-effective new learning, ideas and approaches that address problems/opportunities faced by the rural poor. The "approaches" could be TIPO-packages, BBPs, networks, partnerships, ect.

Current approaches for delivery of research results to end users

Delivery considered a linear hierarchical process from the researchers through extension agents to the farmer

- Demonstration plots
- Training and Visit (T&V)
- ICTs (publications, media, etc)
- etc

Problems: access is limited only to flexible and capable farmers

Innovative approaches for delivery of research results

The partnership between researchers, farmers and the stakeholders (TT agents, Policy makers, etc.):

Participatory research (e.g. PPB)

Farmers Field Schools (FFS)

- Associations that allow for accessing and evaluating new agricultural technologies

Knowledge Management and Dissemination (KMD)

- Use of Knowledge (human experience) in the development and dissemination of new technologies, methodologies and innovations

Benefits: Immediate and optimal use of IPGs by the rural poor

Problems: New research area, struggling for recognition, acceptance and support

Possible researchable areas in KMD

- How to integrate dissemination into research and development projects?
- In what ways could ICTs speed up dissemination?
- What delivery mechanisms (oral, print, multi-media, etc.) for new knowledge are most effective in the social/cultural (especially gender) context?
- What is the effect of farmer-to-farmer extension on uptake and adoption of research results?
- How can ICARDA's knowledge-generation capacity complement the KMD capacity of other partners NARS, Universities?
- How to measure credibly the impact of delivered knowledge from the ICARDA-generated technology (e.g. impact of innovations)?
- What are the best KM approaches that makes knowledge optimally accessible to a user community?
- Is knowledge delivered to client populations/partners making difference in the lives of the poor in the region?
- What are the best examples of pro-poor innovations (in a country, region, ecoregion or at global level)?
- Can pro-poor innovations be replicated or upscaled, if so, how?

Whose responsibility is management and dissemination of knowledge generated at public cost (IPGs)?

Who?

- The scientists take the responsibility and explore beyond research output (Decentralize KMD); or
- The scientists assure that it happens!! How? (Centralize or outsource KMD to intermediaries/specialized communicators)

Where?

- The CGIAR centers who are mandated to generate knowledge at public cost
- The public funded collaborating partners such as NARS, Universities and ARIs

In either case the approach should be realistic without stressing the already crowded time of the individual research project scientists.

How to manage and disseminate knowledge generated at public cost (IPGs)?

A strongly integrated ICT and KM that operate through strategic linkages between Research, services and development is needed.

Research

- to develop demand based International Public Goods (from current or new research)
- to identify the most appropriate policy and institutional frameworks needed to promote the production and mainstreaming of IPGs

Services

- ICTs: Advanced and flexible systems capable of assimilating, representing knowledge and other human experiences, supported by:
- Capacity Building programs that aim to enable the NARS and the TT and extension organizations to conduct participatory and multidisciplinary community based research and to extend the results to large number of users

Development

- dissemination:** aims to increase the level of uptake and adoption through sharing, co-learning, networking and building partnerships
- Up-scaling:** expansion from small scale (test and adoption trials) by creating more demand for innovations (IPGs), awareness, capacity building
- Out-scaling:** responding to demand and provision of a larger supply of innovations (IPGs) nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Mainstreaming:** developing favourable environments - supportive of low risk, cost effective approaches - that allow equitable use of research results