



ICRISAT Development Center

Undertaking large-scale uptake of science-backed technologies to achieve major impact in reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation across Asia and Africa



There is a need to integrate technologies and products into a 'package' to achieve large-scale impact.

Much of the scientific research work reaches a pilot-level and proof-of-concept scale covering hundreds of farmers to maximum tens of thousands of households.

However, to achieve the desired impact it is necessary to reach millions of farmer households. The ICRISAT Development Center (IDC) bridges this gap through large-scale uptake – both scaling-up and scaling-out¹ - of proven and scalable technologies. This is a translational Research for Development (R4D) that integrates the technologies and products into a 'package' along with the enabling policies and institutional support that are needed for achieving impact.

Large scaling-up and scaling-out is a new science/study that can be strengthened and developed further. It takes us to the next level – past pilot research, project-based research and project-based uptake strategies, as well as beyond individual projects and individual technologies.

This new approach incorporates all relevant technologies to create packaged and customized solutions.

IDC will also be a platform to capture lessons learnt. This is a new area of science/study where monitoring, evaluation and learning (ME&L) will be undertaken.

¹ *Scaling-up involves expansion along the whole value chain. Scaling-out involves expansion within one sector of the value chain.*

Approach

IDC will identify and transform proven technologies into system-wide solution packages for scaling-up/out.

The new science of scaling-up/out for development and impact is quite a challenge as it needs blending of new science tools like remote sensing, GIS, water management, land management, improved crop cultivars, identifying climate smart production systems along with social and institutional science, economics and most importantly behavioral science. New and innovative methods of monitoring and evaluation also need to be integrated.

The scaling-up/out involves integrating the outputs from research across the whole value chain – from natural resource management to crop improvement, to on-farm and post-harvest practices and technologies. This will also include crop improvement; and farming and processing technologies for a variety of crops in different production systems, as well as strategic research outputs from the resilient dryland systems, and supportive policies. In addition, it calls for undertaking the development through scaling-up/out of improved technologies and products with private corporations, NGOs and government organizations, and involving policy makers and most importantly the smallholder farmers.



To benefit smallholder farmers, a consortium approach involving multiple stakeholders is essential.

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ICRISAT's large-scale uptake success to date

Bhoochetana

Recently, the scaling-up/out model was perfected in *Bhoochetana* in Karnataka, India through a unique partnership with the Government of Karnataka. ICRISAT played the facilitation role as bridge, broker and catalyst. The impact achieved through *Bhoochetana* in terms of reaching 3.7 million farmers and covering 5 million ha area has resulted in kickstarting the stagnant agricultural growth rate in Karnataka.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

A number of CSR projects with Power Grid Corporation Ltd; Rural Electrification Corporation; JSW Foundation; SAB Miller, India; Coca Cola Foundation, India; and Asian Paints Ltd are poised for takeoff over the next five years. IDC is in a position to develop win-win propositions for the corporate sector and the public by channeling CSR projects to benefit millions of smallholder farmers as well as protecting the environment to achieve sustainable development.



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, of whom 644 million are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT innovations help the dryland poor move from poverty to prosperity by harnessing markets while managing risks – a strategy called Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD).

ICRISAT is headquartered in Patancheru, Telangana, India, with two regional hubs and six country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food secure future.

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