



Evidence for **MS** Platforms

enhancing the effectiveness
of multi-stakeholder platforms
in agrifood

Aims

Identify evidence needed to assess effectiveness of multi-stakeholder platforms

Identify existing evidence base and identify new approaches to fill gaps

Help platforms to credibly assess their contribution, leading to improved effectiveness

Support decision-makers in making strategic and prudent investments in multi-stakeholder platforms



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Why is this needed?

- Platforms seek sustainable solutions to complex agri-food system challenges.
- Typical goals: higher productivity, more jobs, more smallholders reached with higher revenues, better food security.
- Platform activities focus on enabling conditions -> indirectly linked to goals.
- Stakeholders and platforms struggle for relevant, credible evidence to assess effectiveness and make strategy or investment decisions.



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Key questions

What is the platform theory of change (ToC)?

What does the evidence tell us (so far) about platform effectiveness against the ToC, and where are the evidence gaps?

How could the evidence base be improved?

And: What is the general learning across platforms about the evidence of effectiveness and how this evidence base can be improved



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What we'll produce

- 40+ structured platform scans
- Network map of platforms
- Platform typologies
- General approaches to relevant evidence structures per typology
- Detailed (confidential) recommendations and trialling of 'deep-dive' collaborators
- All generic findings publicly and actively shared



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The Ghana Grains Partnership

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Section A

General info

The Ghana Grains Partnership started in 2008 as a value chain initiative. It invites bottom up dialogue with various stakeholders from private companies to farmer's association regarding Maize in Ghana. The platform was initiated by Yara (international fertilizers company) and Wienco (Ghanaian inputs trader).

Members & funds

Core members are The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, global crop nutrition producer, Yara, local inputs provider, Wienco, farmer's associations and international NGOs.



Section B

Why?

The platform aims to improve existing low agricultural productivity and profitability for smallholder farmers due to the lack of access of high quality and affordable inputs.

The platform allows for collaboration stakeholders ensuring improved efficiency throughout the grain value chain, as well as, conjoining commercial and development objective at the national level.



Section C

For what?

The platform's role is to act as a focal point to ensure all stakeholders work collaboratively in regards to resources, physical inputs/ outputs, easing entrance into markets and financial/ technological and educational services, in order to increase food productivity with a special attention to small-scale farmers.

GGP presents a holistic approach and promoting open dialogue regarding farmer's needs as well as the public and private sector that provides financial benefits for the value chain stakeholders.



Section D

Activities

No information



Section E

Arrangements

The members of the platform contribute in various ways; Yara brings knowledge via previous experiences with PPPs, as well as supplying fertilizer to the projects, whereas Wienco provides the warehouse facilities.

Both companies have financed the initial input requirements by establishing a revolving fund for input credits and logistics by granting two long term loans totaling USD 3 million and of the platform. Yara and Wienco have additionally trained farmers' association called Masara N'Arziki, who would then sell inputs and train farmers, as well as buy their produce.



Section F

Monitoring

M&E is overlooked by extension and zonal managers, ensuring that farmers are using new practices they have acquired. Technoserve (NGO) follows up on the training provided to farmers to ensure improved governance between farmer groups.



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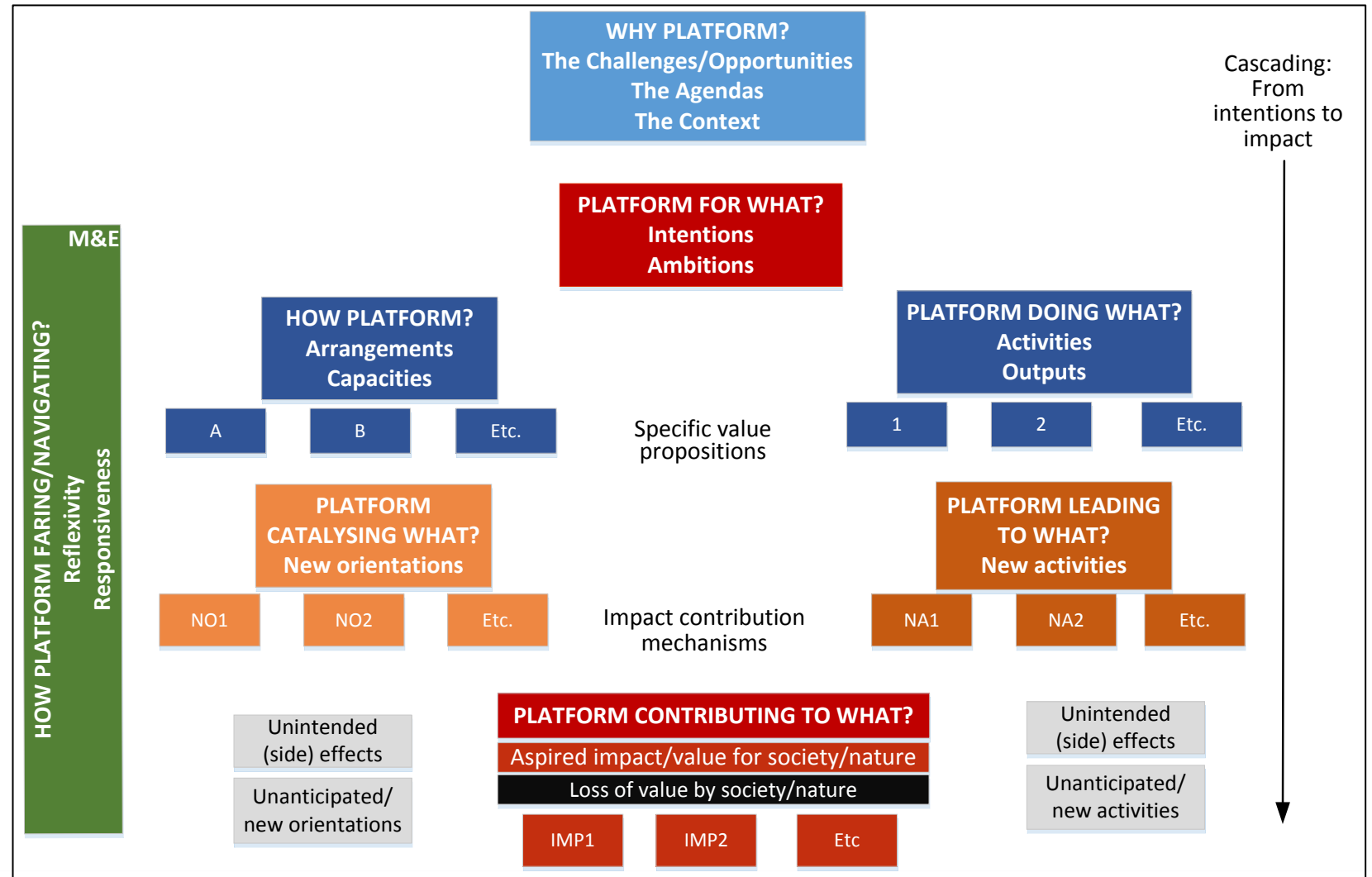
Extra possible resource slides



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Framework



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Program work includes

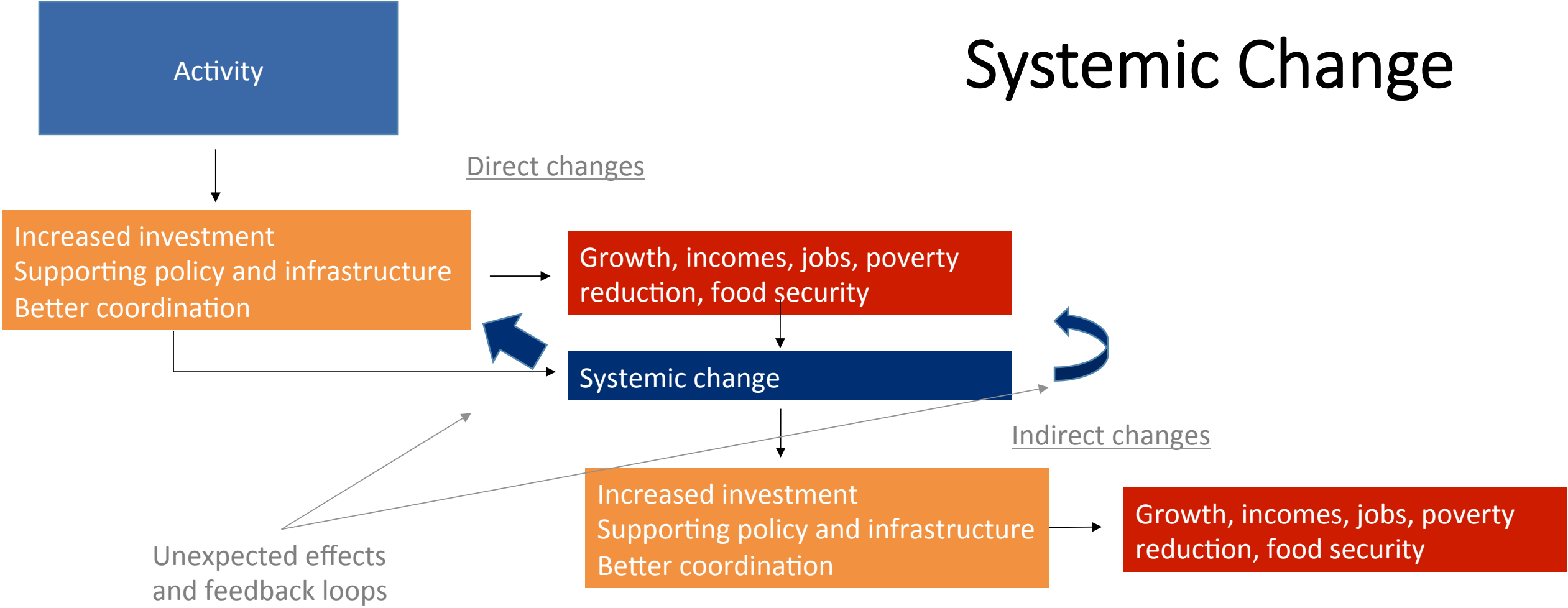
- Mapping of the ‘universe’ of multi-stakeholder platforms and the connections between them
- Structured scans of platforms based on public information
- In-depth collaboration (‘deep dives’) with a limited number of receptive platforms to identify existing evidence base and explore new approaches to fill gaps.



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Systemic Change



Source: Adapted from F. O'Sullivan, 2016, BEAM Exchange



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What we will not do

- Carry out an evaluation of the platform

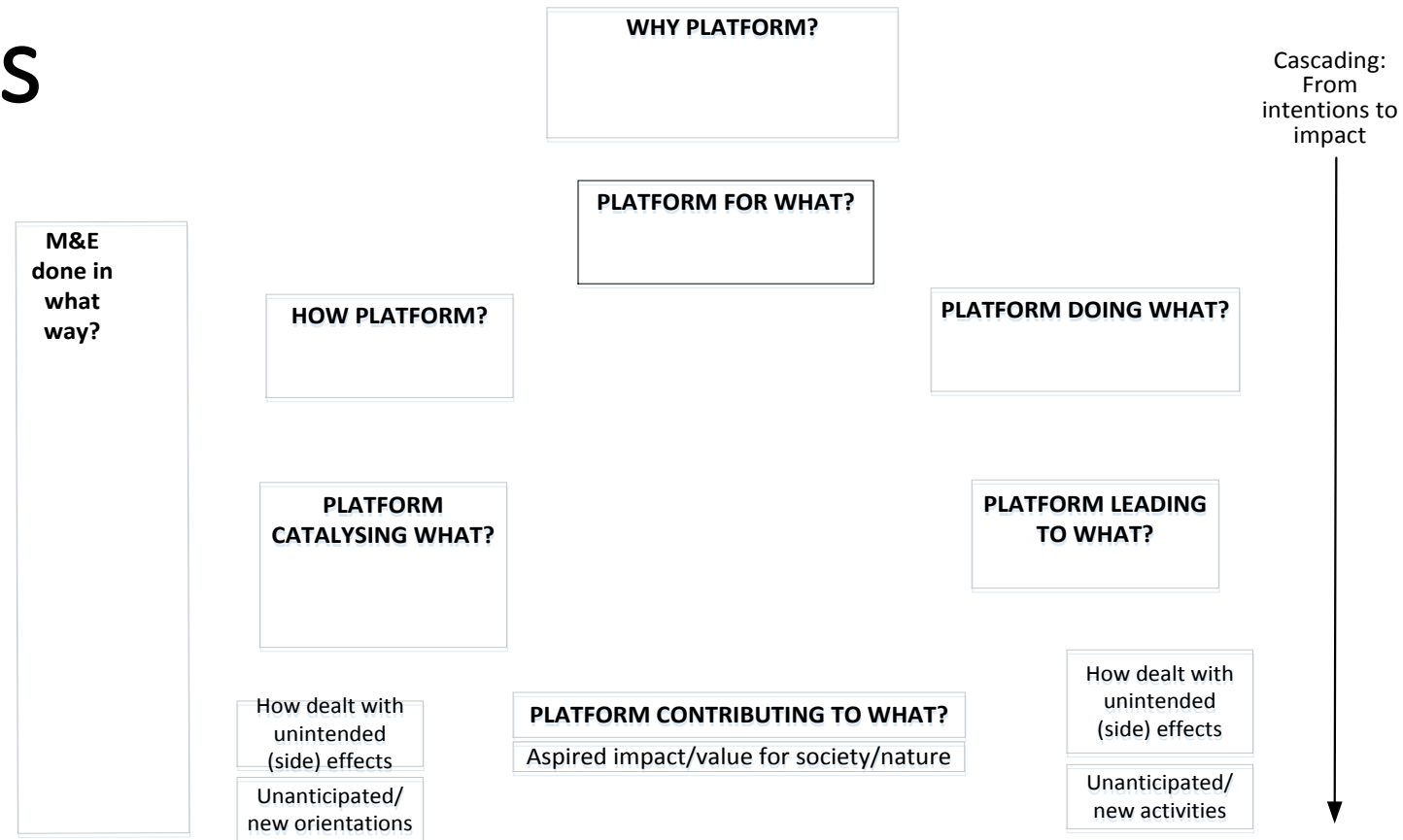


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'Deep Dive' Outputs

- Platform theory of change, with:
 - Cascade levels
 - Evidence needs at each level
 - Existing evidence
 - Needed evidence
- Narrative report addressing, e.g. potential/appropriate sources of information, methods, capacity needed, attribution/contribution
- Mapping and comparative analysis with other relevant initiatives.



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Key participants

- **Project team:** Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Centre for Business and Development (IDS), Sustainable Food Lab and Ashley Insight
- **Advisory Group:** Mercy Corps, YieldWise, AGRA, SAB-Miller, DFiD
- **Platforms:** Grow Africa, SAGCOT + others in discussion
- **Funder:** Rockefeller Foundation



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Contact details

Centre for Development Innovation

Lead investigator: Joost Guijt, Senior Advisor Inclusive agribusiness

Tel: +31-317-481405

Mobile: +31-6-23203701

Email: joost.guijt@wur.nl



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