



RESEARCH
PROGRAMON
Dryland Systems

Global Land Outlook Writeshop: Summary of Discussions

11-13 April 2016
Amman, Jordan

In partnership with:



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Overview

This report provides a brief summary of the discussions in and key findings of the Global Land Outlook Writeshop that took place 11th - 13th of April 2016 in Amman, Jordan. The writeshop was organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems, in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and ICARDA.

The purpose of the writeshop was to bring working authors together to discuss and share knowledge and lessons learned on successful examples of sustainable land management best practices and common challenges and success factors that determine the scalability of these practices, to include in the GLO chapter commissioned to ICARDA/CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems.

More about the Global Land Outlook Report

The 1st edition of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) Global Land Outlook (GLO) will be published in 2017 in both print and digital formats. The GLO is expected to be the new flagship publication of the UNCCD, akin to the CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and the UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO).

The GLO will be a strategic communications platform and publication that demonstrates the central importance of land quality to human well-being, assesses current trends in land conversion, degradation and loss, identifies the driving factors and analyzes the impacts, provides scenarios for future challenges and opportunities, and presents a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

Key Resources

1. Writeshop [Agenda](#)
2. Facilitator and Participants' [Workbook](#)
3. [Event announcement](#)

DAY 1 – Learning Contract

The learning contract is a list of what the participants said they expected to get out of the writeshop.

- Be clear of what is expected of me after the writeshop
- Learn how evidence is generated for claimed success on scaling up and out
- Establish a team for long term collaboration and practice on scaling frameworks and tools
- Different experiences in scaling up under different contexts
- Conceptually connect research agendas and social innovation and social learning with the GLO themes
- Establish new collaborations for future research projects
- Learn from each other & create networks beyond writeshop
- Why is the obvious not being done?
- Learn from diverse people and network
- Finalize the framework of the chapter
- Zero draft of the scaling up, 5-10 committed authors
- Know each other and cooperate with cross-disciplinary institutions
- Understand the operational framework for SLM and different cases
- Clear meaning of up scaling with real cases, mainly to harmonize the scaling concept
- Learn about scaling up under different concepts
- Establishing the relationship between L.U.M., planning and poverty reduction
- Clarified principles: framework of upscaling
- Learn compelling cases (in contexts)
- Common understanding on where we are on scaling up
- Share SLM experience across different regions
- Agree on the main issues to be addressed in the paper
- Learn new ideas and bring value to the knowledge generated by WRI in the scaling space
- Some practical steps (that ultimately get implemented)

DAY 1 – SESSIONS 1 & 2

Sessions 1 and 2 allowed participants to explore and expose critical factors in the success and/or failure of strategies and practices for scaling up and out best SLM practices by presenting their own experiences (research/intervention) and learning from the experiences of others, putting the interdisciplinarity of the writeshop participants into good use.

Group A notes on critical success/failure factors

Most/least successful interventions

- Rajasthan holistic multidisciplinary community level
- GIS assessments
- Financing organization for upscaling profitability
- Pilot-demonstrate-integrate financing
- Facilitating mechanisms must be created
- Organize different administrative levels complete community involvement
- Results evaluation frameworks need to be clear

Critical factors/observations that stood out?

- Participation and collaboration
- Economic viability and time
- Initial investments change government investments and incentives
- Scientific assessments, LCA and EIA
- Mapping of private investments
- Subsidies for ecosystem services
- Market platforms and incentives
- Enhancing value chains
- Involvement of vulnerable populations
- Payments for ecosystem services
- International efforts should inform better capacity building
- Priority inclusion into country plans
- Action plans
- Dissemination platforms local vertical and global networking between stakeholders, donors, NGOs, governments IS ESSENTIAL
- Sharing and optimization of resource use
- High value commodities

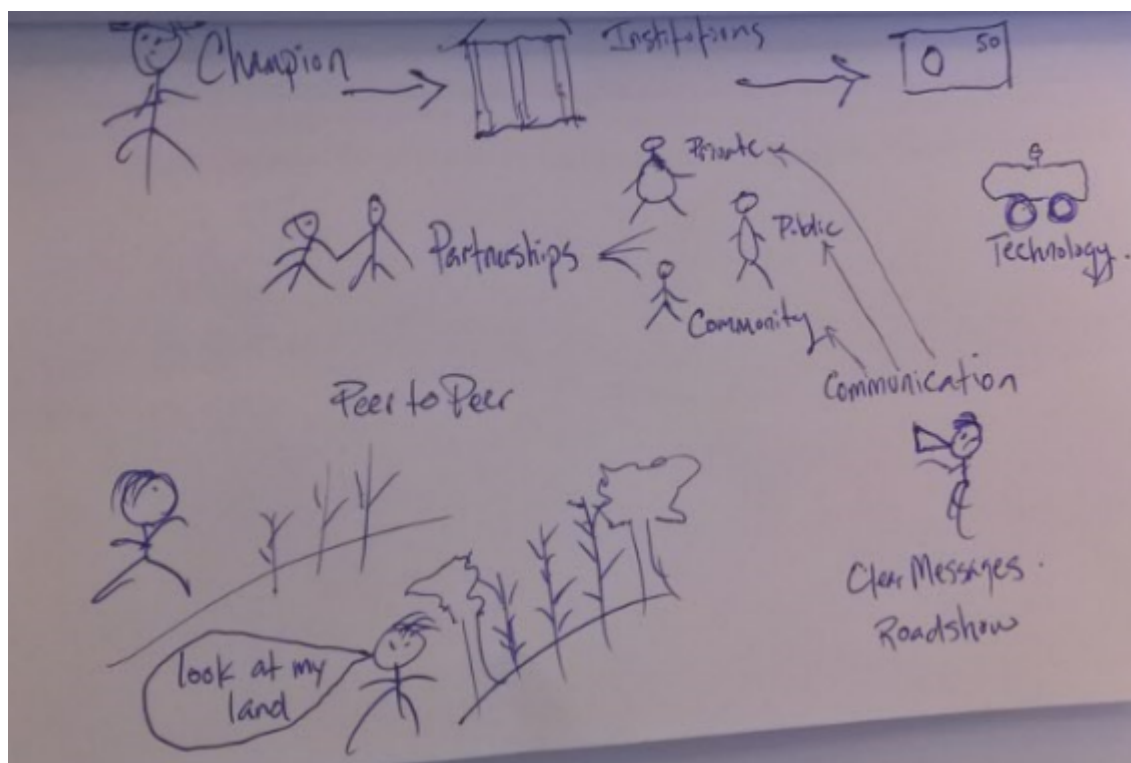
Critical factors to ensure success

- Ex-ante assessment
- EIA, socio-economic assessment, and LCA built into local assessments
- Private sector involvement
- National action plans identify niches and opportunities
- Analyze global knowledge management platforms
- Synergizing within stakeholders and donors, pooling resources
- Value ecosystem services
- Value social services
- Value avoided damage
- Lost value by inaction
- Spiritual value of enhanced biodiversity/enhanced ecosystems
- Recreational value of restoration/ecotourism
- Value propositions to solutions

What actions make sense now

- Payment for ecosystem services

Group B notes on critical success/failure factors



Group C notes on critical success/failure factors

Key Factors:

1. Design up/out scaling into projects from the outset; combining top-down and bottom-up approaches from local to national scales in parallel (with clear milestones relating to scaling up and out)
2. Identify all relevant stakeholders and understand the motives of each group
3. Get early, tangible impacts to keep people engaged and build momentum e.g. focusing on livelihood benefits
4. Engage at the highest policy levels to get co-innovation and ownership (as well as local stakeholders) and manage the dynamics of power and trust
5. Feedback loops: learn from success/failure between different groups continuously, sharing good practice
6. Partnerships and institutional leadership
7. Sufficient resources
8. Capture economic (and other) values of ecosystem services

Group D notes on critical success/failure factors

Key lessons learned / lessons that stood out from stories shared

1. Context-specific participatory process of LWC + medical plant + value chain in Rajasthan/India
2. Inappropriate interventions regarding policy changes and processes
3. Morocco's case: Funding mechanisms balancing governmental and local contributions

Factors / aspects to consider

1. Scale-sensitive in defining goal, instruments and indicators

2. Consider governance and policy goals
3. Consider the private-public balance of interests

Why these lessons are important

1. It is not always necessary to start with “innovation”. Innovation can be a smart way of combining
2. Things up-scaled can be changed: a long learning process (unpredictable)
3. Common understanding of benefits from private and public partners (case of restoration in South Africa)

What actions make sense based on these lessons

1. Integrated, holistic way of problem identification and intervention prioritization
2. Need to understand typology of stakeholders: type-specific needs, priorities, capacity, and preferences
3. Need to understand and take into account the essential roles of policy on the local, national and international levels.
4. Need to have a clear plan for monitoring, evaluation, learning, and communication of results

How can we ensure the worst result possible in scaling up and out SLM practices?

- Inappropriate SLM Technology
- No Ownership
- Lack of Proper Benefit Sharing
- Poorly coordinated institutional arrangements
- Political Barriers

Solutions

- Co-Design
- Political leadership
- Local engagement – participatory approach

Bicycle Shed

This facilitation technique was used to track important items, ideas and issues that were not useful to discuss at a given point in time, but were returned to at a later stage. These issues were given priorities, as shown below.

We Heard You

- Use the learning wheel approach to identify weak points and navigate the complexity
- Illustrate critical factors with specific case studies
- Consider the elements of capacity building: who is responsible for managing this process, how do we ensure continuity (“we train people but then they leave”)
- In order to avoid unnecessary discrepancies with other scaling up/out initiatives, we should use concepts like TOC/impact pathways in our approach
- Learn from success and failures alike
- Let’s be ambitious – GLO is an important way/effort by UNCCD to affect/influence donor strategies and funding

- GLO is conceptualized as a transformative vision to set the agenda and affect global policy as well as change at ground level
- Capitalize on other opportunities to pitch our success such as “green climate”, etc.

Must Not Forget

- Communication is a critical element that often gets sidelined – need to tailor messages to target audiences
- Consider public-private partnerships and how to successfully leverage these for scaling up
- Assess the profitability of SLM options: various audiences/stakeholders make different cost-benefit calculations; must base call of action on this
- Scaling up is fundamentally a social process: we must examine and “exploit” the power/trust issues at play amongst different actors

Must Address

- Must not forget the science layer into the whole chapter
- Must not simplify the cost-benefit aspects and incentives for different sectors
- Need to move away from simply stating our good intentions about what’s important and critical to scaling up by paying attention and adapting to the funding streams (donors, private sector, foundations, research organizations, governments, etc.) and the limitations dictated by them. Our approach must be tailored to funding considerations.
- Must include success stories examples that illustrate both bottom up and top down approaches
- Need to assess and examine which tools and technologies, or combination of, work best. Pay greater attention and highlight the options to context approach
- In the GLO chapter we have to include some key messages/call to action targeting policy makers and make those messages very prominent and visible in the document

DAY 2 – SESSION 3 – Incentives

Session 3 invited the participants to discover and invent the incentives and solutions that enable scaling up and out of best SLM practices at different levels, as well as prompting the engagement of essential stakeholders.

Private Sector Incentives

1. How do we know when incentives are lacking?

- Degradation itself is the basic sign of lack of incentives
- Absence of Private sector investment
- If private sector is not investing in SLM, it’s not attractive. India invested into the contract farming and attempted to get in touch with farmers. Difficult to manage large number of farmers. Contractual problems. Quality control.
- Transaction costs are high
- Information no value
- Rate of returns
- Risk – is high
- Common Property – Regulation and enforcement

- Guarantees are missing in India – companies to promote contract farming. Enforcement of contracts not done.
- Lack of woodlots. Scaling out policy frameworks of woodlots in Ethiopia farmer woodlots
- Watershed not being restored in catchment of Malawi.
- Lack of land rights – 10,000 Bedouin communities have no land rights in Negev, Israel
- Investment is missing - Israel
- Agriculture is extensive - Israel
- Restoration is basic -Israel
- Honey companies go out of business in Tigray, Ethiopia
- Lack of investment Best available evidence make sense but it's not happening
- India – agroforestry, only few success stories

2. How do we put incentives in place?

- Government Funding - Israel government invest 50% into SLM flower, Orchards, Livestock more intensive, restore land.
- Property Rights – lease Private reserves – enables people to protect nature and wildlife in South Africa for example and Israel.
- South Africa – Private-Public partnerships, 50% of restoration cost.
- Dutch experience – invest
- India 12,000 Rupees for land water investment program - Watershed Program
- Profits – to look at companies making money out of that. GCF Project Gambia – SLM harvesting baobab fruits – harvest and sell to Europe.
- Honey production – GCF – 23 million.
- Discover the value of the land – trees, wildlife, and forest
- Potential displacement of the local people
- Evidence of success stories – India

3. What prevents stakeholders from adopting and/or scaling up SLM?

Presence of VC in Zambia.

- Absence of intermediary – facilitator (NGOs) bring people together - Zambia
- Government intermediary
- Government incentives
- Lack of enforcement/property rights
- India Pulp and Plywood –
- Risk of investment

4. Identify organizations that have been successful in putting the right incentives in place?

- Dutch Guy – Spain
- Department of Environment Affairs – subsidies for land restoration in South Africa
- Government ministries - Sustainable Laboratory – Israel
- Ethiopia – Ministry of Industry
- German Government for private companies in Israel.
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Jayne irrigation Systems – 30% of India micro Irrigation systems.

5. What are your ideas?

- Corporate Social Responsibility vs profit
- Green Credentials for SLM – UNCCD endorsed

- CSR - India. Company with certain turnover invest 2% of profits as CSR. Ethiopia, Malawi
- Green Initiatives, SLM initiatives e.g. Coca-Cola, Pepsi (water)

6. What is your plan of action?

- Creating Investment Guarantees in SLM together with Provide Appropriate model for Private-Public partnership
- Funding intermediaries to broker the deals.
- Business Cases for investment in SLM
- Tax breaks
- Standardize machinery production quality plan of action
- Reasonable return for restoration

7. Have we forgotten anyone? Who?

- Prominent public role – key role for the government.

General Notes

- Private sector: Institutions which want to make a profit
- Tourist sector – Jordanian Forest Reserve – private sector must be aware of value of forest, clean it maintain etc. Restaurants etc
- Private investors: Banks giving loans for land restoration. Government guarantees
- Machinery: Equipment suppliers, provide for local manufactures – locally manufactures and modified to implement
- India. Company with certain turnover invest 2% of profits as CSR.
- South Africa – similar in CSR.
- Green Initiatives, SLM initiatives e.g. Coca-Cola, Pepsi (water)
- Ethiopia Green Economy in all sectors asked to use environmental friendly technology – companies promoting themselves as being green companies – regulation needed.
- Green Credentials – UNCCD certify that.
- Land restoration initiatives – e.g. UNCCD Private Sector will get incentives.
- Certification – of standards
- UNCCD – countries need to have their own prioritisation.
- CSR – important
- Profits – to look at companies making money out of that. GCF Project Gambia – SLM harvesting baobab fruits – harvest and sell to Europe.
- Honey production – GCF – 23 million
- Zambia WB and IFC – businessmen to spend 3-4 million reserve in order to make money out of wildlife and breed impala selling game meat, 5000 bee hives. 30 Year lease over the reserve. Local communities need to bring in. Tourism jobs.
- Discover the value of the land – trees, wildlife, and forest
- Property Rights – lease
- Potential displacement of the local people
- Certification Process. Palm oil – rush and certification. Round table.
- Shia tree – continued to be used sustainable.
- Legal frameworks

- Honey Production in Tigray. Reclaimed areas to promote honey production. There were 3 companies and invested on water, grass and tree planting and it took 3 years to work on this. Now out of business as government was asking for money.

Research Level Incentives

1. How do you know when incentives are lacking?

- Incentives are mostly there, but not well conceived by researchers
- Overgrazing
- Land degradation
- Drivers for wrong practices
- No money available
- Lack of awareness
- Public vs private benefits in the shorter and longer term
- Cultural
- Identify barriers to transform/create the right incentives
- The need to align individual needs and incentives in the short term with those of society in the long term
- Monitoring of ecological indicators (soil, water, land)

2. In your experience, what do you have to do to put the right incentives in place?

- Bring government and local communities together for dialog
- Devolve decision making to the community
- Harness traditional knowledge
- Interventions should be demand driven
- Demonstrate the benefits
- Reduce uncertainty

3. What prevents the farmer / researcher / policy makers / private sector actors from scaling up/out and/or adopting best SLM practices and/or policies?

Suggest to rephrase question to “What prevents research from being implemented?” (from researcher point of view)

- Gap on linking research results to policy interventions related to incentives
- Not a researcher job – do not implement
- Research should be linked to on the ground action
- Sometimes research can be too abstract for on the ground implementation
- Research should demonstrate impacts of rehabilitation – linked to policy relevant evidence of benefits of upscaling
- Long term nature of upscaling and associated costs of long term interventions
- Researchers needed to be recognised and associated with upscaling
- Researchers have little control on politics and policy
- Researchers are not very good at translating their research results into actionable evidence relevant for decision makers
- Misuse of scientific evidence/results by policy makers

4. Do you know anybody who or any organization that has been able to frequently put the right incentives in place? What behaviors or practices made their success possible?

- FAO examples on Kagera River Basin
- Dryland Systems/ICRISAT Rajasthan example
- Local involvement is key
- Tanzania CARE – payment for ecosystem services

5. What are your ideas?

- innovation platforms to bring stakeholders together
- participatory processes
- bring back and tweak traditional processes
- Hima site example in Jordan
- incentive - government land given over the community to manage to gain direct benefits to community
- creates ownership - links management of resources directly to benefits generated from it

6. What needs to be done to make these incentives happen?

- understand context
- stakeholder requirements and needs
- platform for collaboration
- identify portfolio of intervention options and possible incentives
- financing mechanism

7. Are there any actors who need to be involved and whom we have not considered?

- Not only agricultural sector brings in health, education, labor, etc.
- researchers should be more involved
- identify champions

Policy Makers Incentives

1. How do you know when there are no incentives?

- No SLM scaling up or out
- No budget allocated to promote SLM
- Weak environment/agriculture department
- Limited connection between political needs of policy-makers and SLM: how will promoting SLM affect the image and electability of politicians?

2. What do you have to do to put the right incentives in place?

- Consult with policy community from outset to co-design upscaling
- Offer solutions and a future vision for the future that can characterize their work and form part of their legacy
- Appropriate legislative framework
- Business case for SLM scaling up and out

3. What prevents policy-makers scaling up & adopting the best SLM policies?

- Competition with other policy priorities

- Resource constraints
- Political/ideological constraints

4. Success stories

- Champions from the political world (e.g. endorsement of Great Green Wall)
- Working with NGOs from within Government rather than in confrontation (e.g. Marine Conservation Society)
- Spend time negotiating to achieve win-wins (e.g. AU illegal fauna & fauna trade legislation)
- Indian Compensatory Afforestation Management Fund: funding upscaling while highlighting unsustainable practices

5. Ideas

- Link to competing priority areas and create multi-sectoral policy platforms
- Make economic value of agricultural land (via ecosystem services) and costs of development (via externalities) explicit so SLM can compete with development
- Analyze which stakeholders are more/less incentivized to target new incentives better
- Keep SLM on the agenda and maintain momentum via international meetings
- Evidence tangible benefits that have political salience e.g. socio-economic and jobs
- Understand and adapt framing to ideology of those in power
- Invest in communication to indirectly influence decision-makers

6. What needs to be done

- Communication strategy: target the right modes of communication and arenas including face-to-face with trusted contacts
- SLM performance index (via UNCCD work)
- Stakeholder analysis of the international business community to identify CSR opportunities and those who may influence national policy

7. Who is missing

- Private sector (see action above)
- Identify and engage dominant ministries
- Local government and devolved administrations may have different interests and ideologies
- Landless poor and tenant farmers
- Urban populations (via ecosystem services)
- Other UN and international agencies

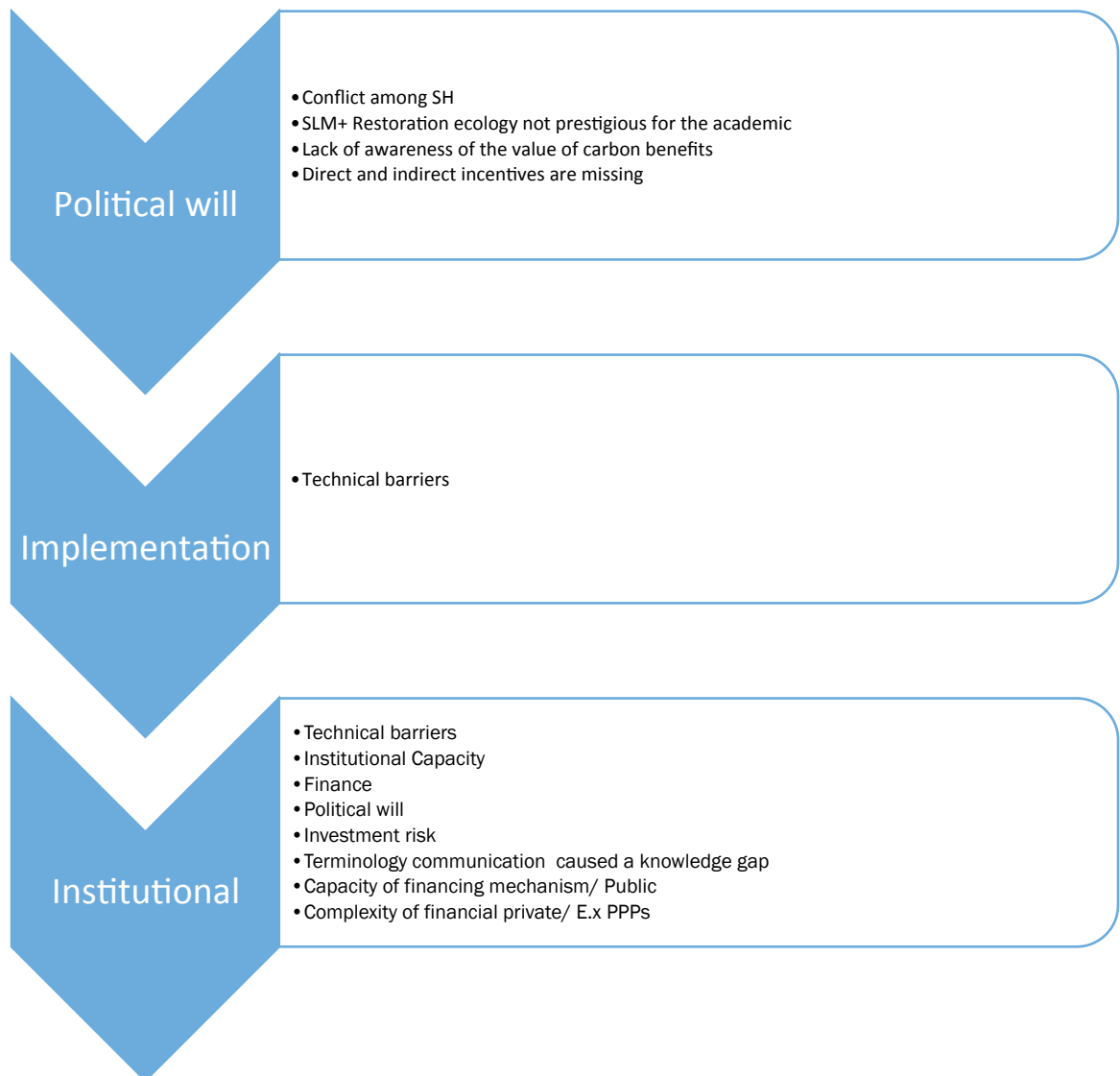
DAY 2 – SESSION 4 – Barriers

Session 4 allowed the participants to explore the main barriers to scaling up and out best SLM practices, including economic as well as socio-political barriers (land ownership patterns, cultural norms, etc.)

Q1: General barriers

- Technical barriers
- Institutional Capacity
- Finance
- Political will
- Conflict among SH
- Investment risk
- Terminology communication caused a knowledge gap

- Capacity of financing mechanism/ Public
- Complexity of financial private e.g. PPPs
- SLM + Restoration ecology not prestigious for the academic
- Lack of awareness of the value of carbon benefits
- Direct and indirect incentives are missing



Q2 Personal experience

- Personality clashes of major players (Egypt/ south Africa)
- Accessibility of decision makers
- Staff turnover / loss of champions e.g. south Africa and Mauritania
- Tunisia funding priorities mitigation VS SLM

Q3 Steps to help overcome barriers

- Lobbying and advocacy targeting decision makers
- Conflict management/ facilitation the innovation
- Capacity building/ institutional imperatives
- Stakeholder analysis at entry point

- Identifying a proper financing mechanism/ evaluation

DAY 3 – SESSION 5

Session 5 addressed the key elements required for designing a strategic research agenda and determining its success. A Purpose (i.e., why the work is important to each participant and the larger community) was generated by each of the 3 groups, and the additional elements—Principles, Participants, Structure, and Practices—were designed to help achieve the purpose. By shaping these five elements together, participants clarified how a strategic research agenda can be organized in order to adapt creatively and scale up for success.

Group 1 Researchable Questions notes

Task

We understand the task: to clarify knowledge gaps. What should the strategic research be, to allow setting strategic research priorities?

Starting points

Research is seen here as an iterative process and research questions arise as the scaling process is implemented, and the research questions could be biophysical or socioeconomic and policy and some of these will be related to the out scaling process while other will be basic biophysical or socioeconomic questions about the problem and context at hand.

Research design would be different when out scaling is the primary goal and the team feels that they are accountable to that goal.

Research questions where gap exists:

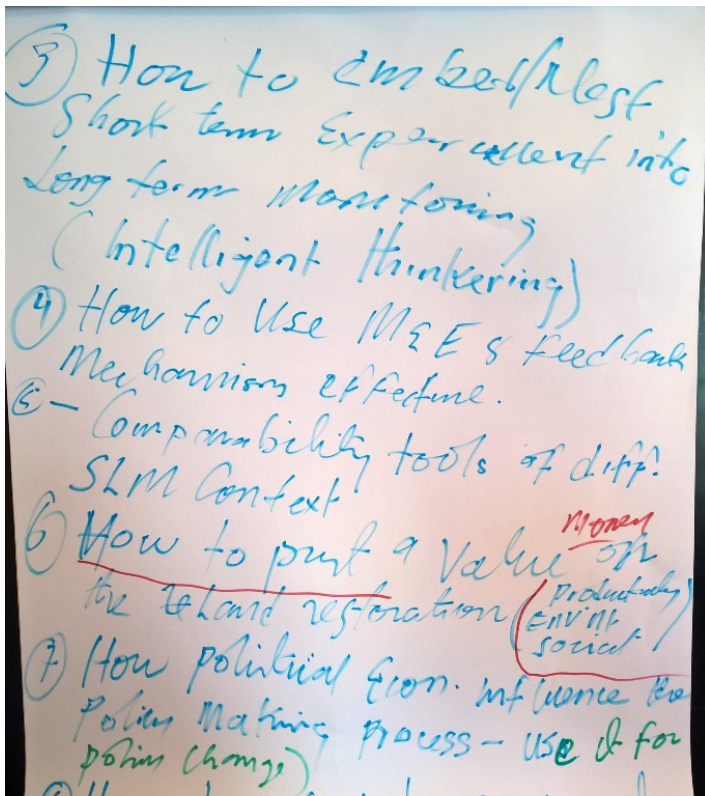
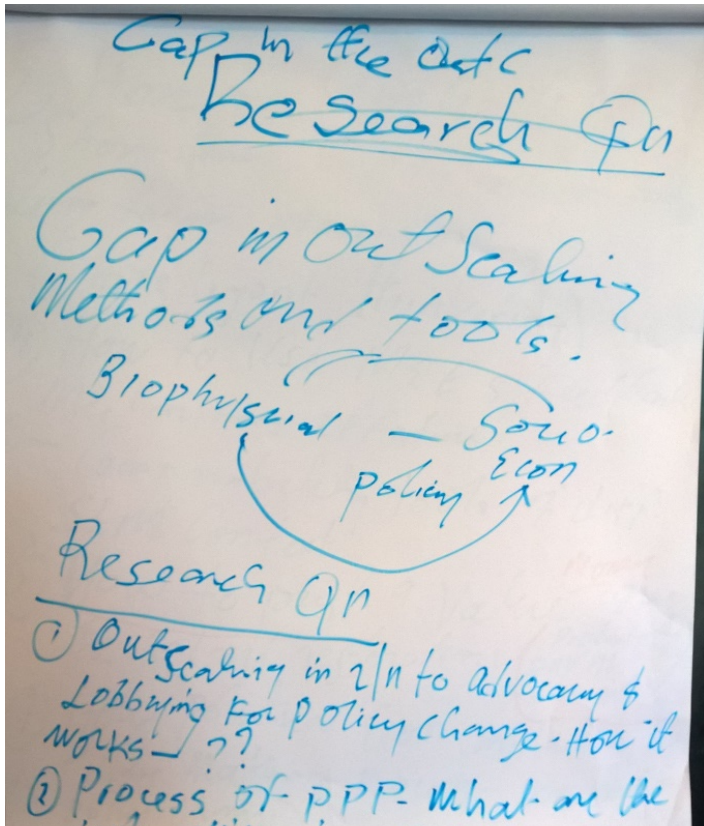
1. **Advocacy & Lobbying:** How to learn from and use advocacy and lobbying effectively to bring about the change we aim for? There are specific skills and tools that need to be developed and tested. This also included how to exploit social media and mass media, ICTs, to support SLM out scaling. The impacts of such approaches are needed?
2. **PPP:** How to develop effective public private partnership that can achieve the goals of SLM out scaling? Those who have skills on this include: bankers, treasury, engineers, finance professions in big accounting firms - for SLM to get private investment skills in forging the PPP is needed and approaches tested.
3. How to exploit the possibility of nesting (embedding) short term experiments in long term process to drive innovations. While waiting results of long term results we can learn tactically from the short term experiments.
4. **M&E:** How to use M&E and feedback loops effectively to learn and facilitate out scaling SLM? The M&E feedback loops are not now effectively used or they are not timely to influence the process. This may include different monitoring tools, sample design, nested designs, remote sensing, supported by detailed measurements; there is also related issue of comparability of data and information across different SLM initiatives and what is needed is common tools, indicators that are comparable, such as minimum setoff indicators. Examples are WOCAT/LADA, etc. We should find ways of using artificial intelligence and expert systems to monitor landscape changes and provide insights
5. **Context:** There is a need to define how SLM best practices perform in different contexts and how they adapt to the dynamic changes both environmental (like climate change) and social

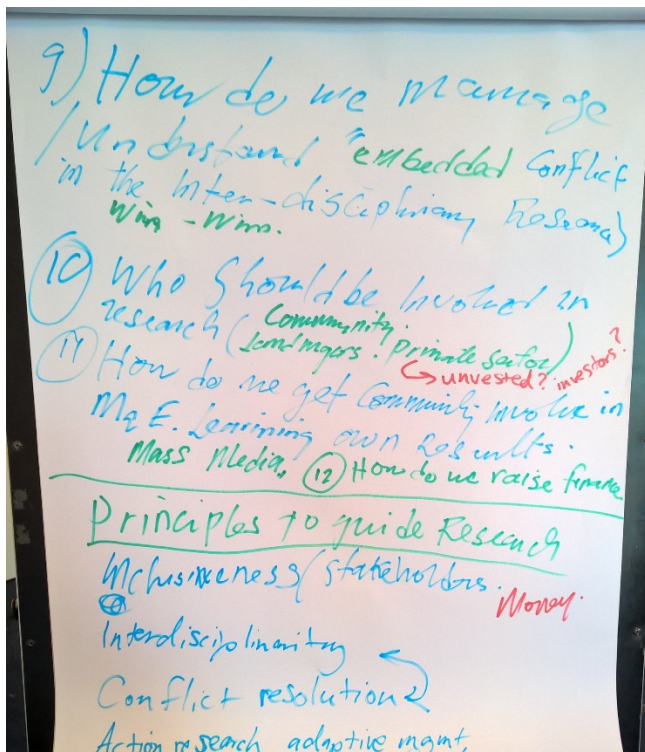
benefits that influence decision making (local, policy and private levels) affect the out scaling outcome. There is a need for developing plausible typologies of contexts that will be used to project that adaptation (success) of SLM out scaling. Here, the chances of success will be determined by the context, and use that how to make out scaling more of an adaptive process.

6. **Low investment in Dry areas:** How to increase Dryland investments in both research and development- It is agreed that drylands research and development are the least invested in by both public and private sectors and the reason is that they have bad reputation/image and they are considered of low value, which leads to the next point.
7. **Valuation:** There is still a gap in the valuation of SLM and land restoration, and part of the problem is to estimate something which does not exist yet-so there is data problem. However, there are small scale success stories that are available and which can be analyzed and used for estimating the value at larger scales. There value should be estimated in terms of productivity environmental and social benefits.
8. **Political economy** is an important dimension of policy making and there is research needed to understand the political economy that drives the policy changes.

Principles for research

- Inclusiveness involving as much stakeholders as needed, community actors, gender consideration, policy makers, interdisciplinary in action research in adaptive management and citizen research which is driven by what is happening on the ground. The multidisciplinary research team should have a big research/development question and there is clear and direct linkage on how each disciplinary research question is related to the big question with clear accountability.
- The need for research to work together and strengthen cooperation.
- We need new science on how to translate knowledge at a large scale and synthesis.
- Conflict management: There is inherent conflict in any situation where there are multi-stakeholders, and research is not an exception. Skills and tools and incentives should be developed and applied in mediating conflicts, because these conflicts will eventually come out and it is better to manage effectively rather than assuming they do not exist. This approach will create win-win situation.
- We need more thinking who else we should involve in research planning; communities who are managing and using the landscape, we should bring private sector who are familiar in the area, and may be involved as investors. What networks we use to identify actors to include?

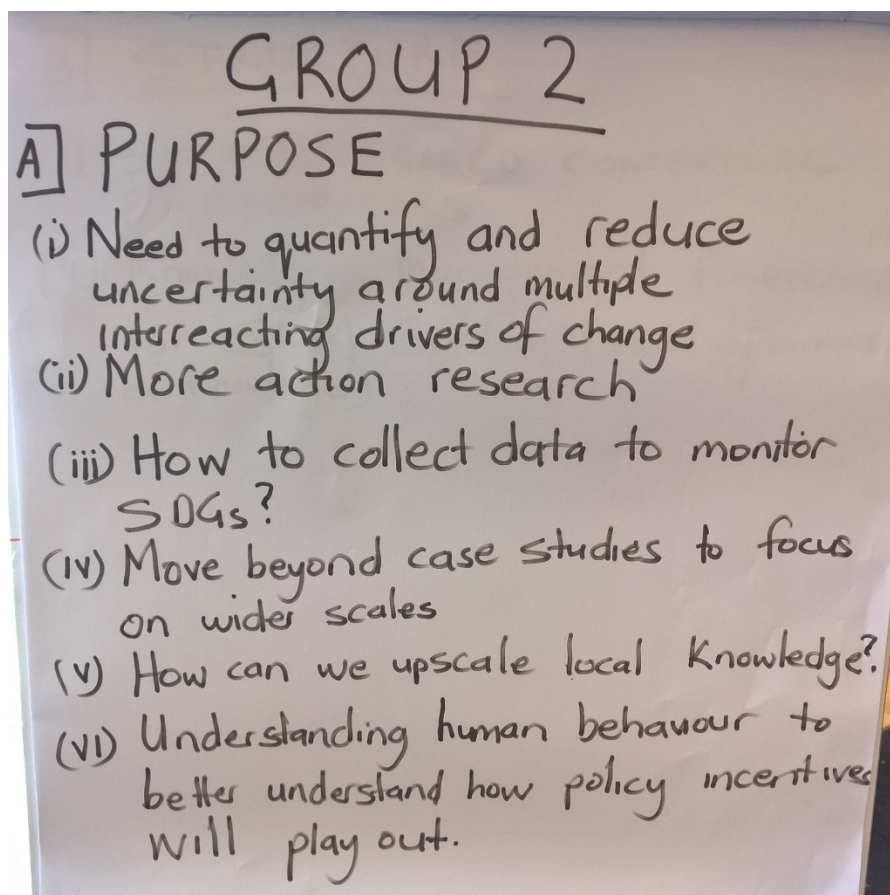




Group 2 Researchable Questions notes

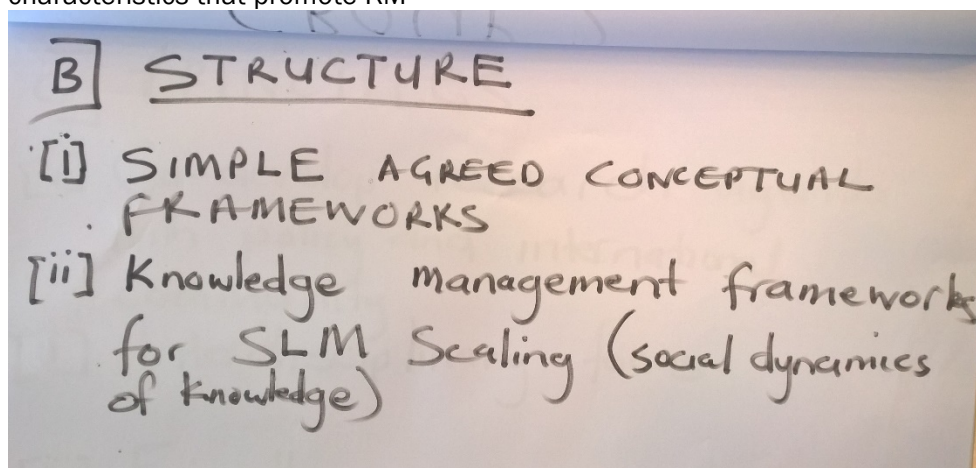
Purpose:

- Strategic research is needed, given the dynamic complexity of interacting global drivers of change e.g. land degradation and climate change, which will influence the success of SLM scaling. Research is needed to quantify and reduce uncertainty arising from the interactions between these drivers of change
- We also need to consider interactions between SLM and climate adaptation options to avoid maladaptive strategies and ensure they do not arise
- The way we do research and how we connect with practice is important to consider. There is a need for more action research (rather than theoretical work) to ensure that SLM scaling works on the ground
- Research is needed to work out how to collect relevant data to monitor SDG and other indicators. Issues of scale are particularly challenging: collecting data at international scales and downscaling to national and regional scales where they can inform decision-making, so that it can connect with livelihoods
- Research is needed to develop indicators that can more effectively assess changes in livelihoods, considering winners and losers (e.g. gender perspectives and age sensitive research)
- The majority of research is case study focused, and there is much less that explicitly focuses on the process of scaling up and out to wider spatial scales
- More research is needed into “SDG accelerators”, specifically considering how progress towards SLM may contribute towards meeting multiple SDGs e.g. poverty, water, energy, food, environment etc.
- Research needed to understand how local knowledge across multiple countries for upscaling. Most research on local knowledge is case study based
- How do policy incentives actually play out in the field? ABM and other behavioral modeling approaches can provide insights e.g. SOILCARE



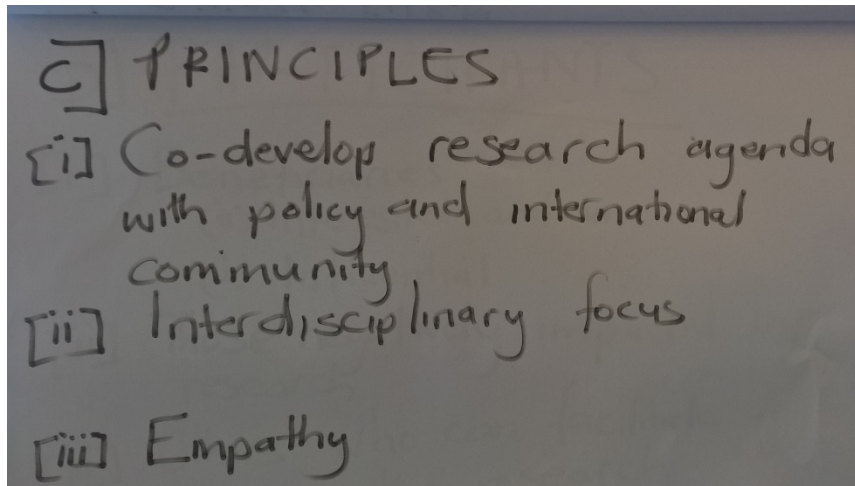
Structure:

- Data and tools are needed to assess progress towards SDGs
- We need a coherent, simple conceptual framework that is agreed and used by all key actors. See UNCCD Impulse Report and Reed and Stringer (2016) and GEF STAP resilience assessment framework
- KM is important for SLM scaling: we need to understand target audiences, what form do we supply knowledge, who supplies it. It is important to distinguish between information management and knowledge management. Putting information on the internet is not enough; we need to identify who needs that information and facilitate them to learn about it so it becomes useful knowledge they can apply. We need to understand the social network characteristics that promote KM



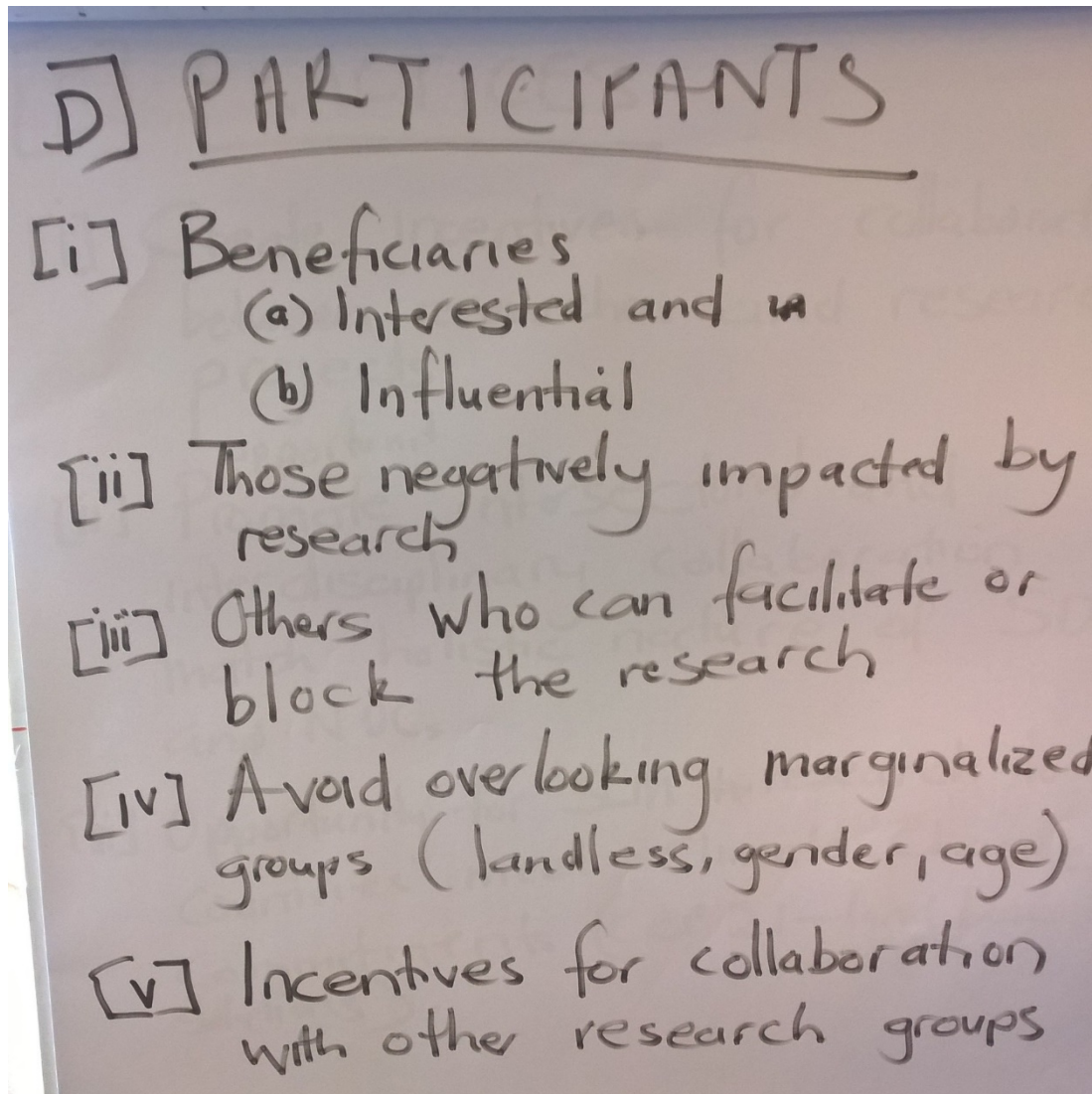
Principles:

- Co-develop research agenda beyond the research community so research is connected with wider policy and international strategic priorities
- Interdisciplinary focus
- Empathy
- No new ideas: research should be cost effective, impactful, relevant for donors, locals should be involved



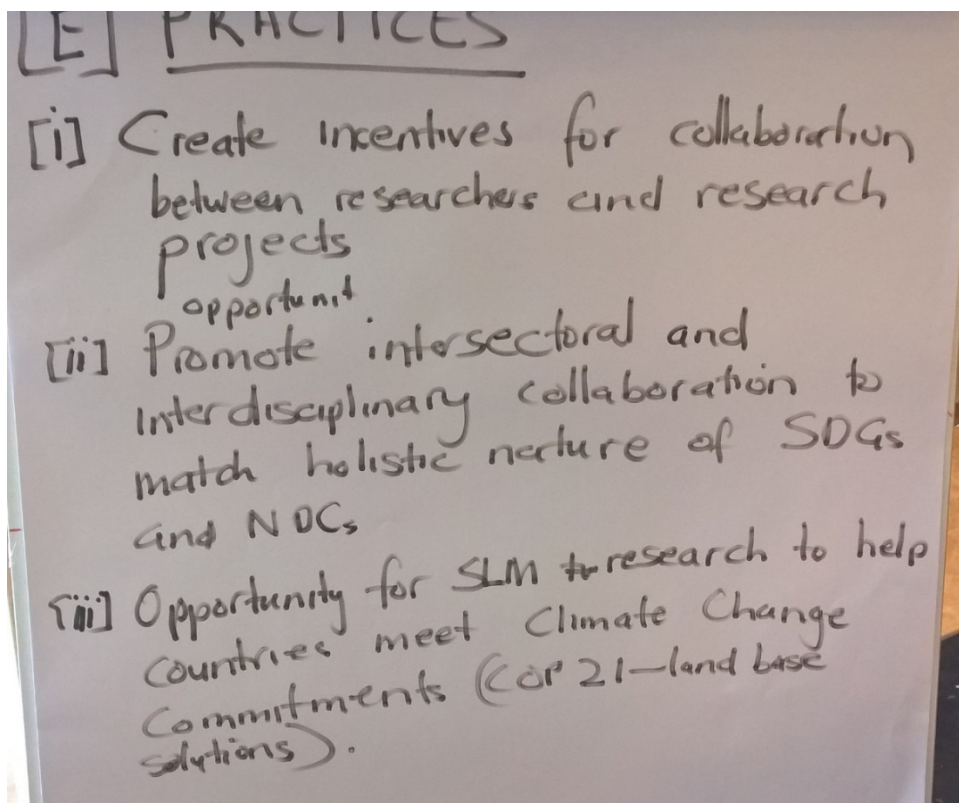
Participants:

- Take a more strategic approach via stakeholder analysis considering those with greatest interest and capacity to facilitate our research. However, we must not forget those who may be opposed to or might block our research, and we must not marginalize those who may be disadvantaged by our research or are interested in other ways but have limited influence
- Ensure we do not overlook local communities, especially marginalized groups e.g. landless poor
- Researchers who feel excluded from the process can compete in unhealthy ways and create inefficiencies for the research process
- Include researchers from different disciplines to take a multi-sector and holistic approach, especially considering a range of social science disciplines
- Need to find incentives for collaboration rather than competition in the funding of research programs



Practices:

- Need to find ways of linking different projects and managing research programs in more interdisciplinary and holistic ways
- Opportunities to promote inter-sectoral collaboration due to the holistic nature of the SDGs and NDCs
- To mitigate climate change we have historically looked at industrial sector, so UNCCD proposed in Paris COP21 that land-based solutions could offer the opportunity to reach the 2-degree target. This represents a significant opportunity for SLM research



Group 3 Researchable Questions notes

Purpose:

We do not know / need to know:

1. The potential of degraded land, and, therefore, the value of benefits. What are the rates of returns on investment by sustainable management of degraded land? Consider: Income, Employment, Resilience, Malnutrition and Health, and Political Stability.
2. Why some communities succeed in scaling SLM and other don't
3. How to facilitate multi sector coordination
4. Why the systems approach is not adopted despite successful cases being available
5. Do we have a successful pilot for scaling up?
6. What should the monitoring mechanism be to ensure that the project is leading to main goal of SLM for livelihood improvements?

We need a new agenda because:

1. Current one is fragmented, unaligned with global priorities (e.g. CC)
2. Researchers want to be relevant and impactful
3. We face huge challenges.

Structure/features of new research agenda:

1. Systems approach
2. Data mining
3. Wealth of case studies
4. Analyzes human-landscape interlinkages

5. Focus on livelihood
6. Aligned with the global agenda
7. Guidance for researchers
8. Operationalize monitoring mechanism

Science of scaling

- Three dimensions of scaling up: Social, Economic and Ecological. Integrated system wide research needed.
- Local context need always to be analysed. Look at unique elements to scaling leg/reg/admin/infra
- Forecasting the governments' agenda wrt to SLM which leads to livelihood improvement, so that they can align in meeting SGDs through SLM framework.

Principles

- The approach must lead to livelihood improvements, and be inclusive, integrated, and aligned to local agenda.
- Needs leadership, trade-offs
- Governance and property rights related lands (degraded)
- Global competitive assessment of LD + recommendation for SLM (Economic/ social/ ecological)

KM

- Alignment with the agenda (policy, local)
- Strengthening need for indicators / short term need for info
- Role of international bodies

Key ideas from plenary discussion about Researchable Questions

- Link to SDGs is crucial for a strategic research agenda – need to emphasise the opportunities for SLM research and practice to contribute towards multiple SDGs
- Is it possible or advisable to upscale local knowledge? Need to take hybrid approach to integrate universal knowledge from science to apply local knowledge to comparable contexts
- We still talk too much about land degradation assessment and not enough about SLM – need to promote SLM and research the factors that contribute towards sustainable management more
- Need to focus more on areas that are beginning to degrade where there is greater potential to prevent or reverse degradation compared more severely degraded sites
- Need to research the balance between carrot and stick approaches to upscale and scale out SLM and how these different approaches influence land management decisions in different contexts
- What is the difference between SLM and ecosystem restoration? SLM varies from weak to strong sustainability approaches
- Need to think beyond projects and programs when upscaling and focus on reaching policy-makers with power to incentivize SLM at national and international scales. Research is needed to understand knowledge flows between the research and policy communities and to identify entry points, social network structures and positions within these structures that are particularly influential, and to identify key influencers

- We need an iterative process of testing and refining SLM indicators e.g. KM: Land pilot tested SLM indicators in 5 countries and found that ministries of planning and finance were particularly influential in selecting indicators that were cost-effective to monitor (and many of these have subsequently been adopted by UNCCD).



RESEARCH
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Dryland Systems

The CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems aims to improve the lives of 1.6 billion people and mitigate land and resource degradation in 3 billion hectares covering the world's dry areas.

Dryland Systems engages in integrated agricultural systems research to address key socioeconomic and biophysical constraints that affect food security, equitable and sustainable land and natural resource management, and the livelihoods of poor and marginalized dryland communities. The program unifies eight CGIAR Centers and uses unique partnership platforms to bind together scientific research results with the skills and capacities of national agricultural research systems (NARS), advanced research institutes (ARIs), non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors to test and develop practical innovative solutions for rural dryland communities.

The program is led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

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