Scaling out research through innovation platforms
(The MilkIT and imGoat projects, India)

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The Challenge

- Research needs to draw on local contexts as well as insights of local actors and stakeholders.

- **Inclusiveness** in research for development increases possibilities for uptake.

- To be scaled out, results and interventions need to be taken up and **owned** by different stakeholders.
An approach to break the boundaries of different types of knowledge holders to come together and solve common issues

**Composition:**
- Producers
- Service providers
- Input suppliers
- Processors
- Market actors
- Researchers

**Function:**
- Jointly identify issues
- Develop innovations
- Collective /individual action
- Continuous engagement

**Level:**
- State /district /village levels
- Issue based (IP on feed /marketing /policy)
MilkIt in Uttarakhand

• Many dairy oriented schemes in the state; many actors
• Everybody working in their own direction
• The “only thing lacking was a platform for getting to specific local constraints and to help target these.”

• The ILRI facilitated Innovation Platform combined communities, state govt., research, banks, co-ops, universities, NGOs
• Members together diagnosed problems, identified opportunities and found ways to achieve their goals.
MilkIT IP - Results

1. Income of participating IP farmers increased five times compared to non-participating farmers

2. Package of feed interventions (feed trough, forage chopper, fodder crops and dual purpose crops) generated additional fodder for 50 days

3. Work load of women reduced considerably
imGoats, Rajasthan

1. Innovation platform stimulated all value chain actors to jointly identify issues, develop solutions and implement collectively

2. Package of interventions (feeding, health control) could reduce mortality by 20%

3. Put in place transparent mechanism for animal sales based on live weight (against guestimates)

4. IPs brought service providers (DAH) closer to farmers
Key lessons

• **Involve different actors** – so they are ‘insiders’ to the thinking and the results

• Scaling ‘requires’ partnership (development partners). Ensure that the ‘scaling partners’ are with you **from the start**

• It’s important that partners are not just ‘involved’; they need to become **co-owners** and **co-constructors**

• Tangible evidence is convincing; but make the evidence visible through ‘noise’ by ‘telling’ people about it
More information on IPs

What are innovation platforms? 
Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. 
http://hdl.handle.net/10568/34157

Innovation platforms to improve smallholder dairying at scale: Experiences from the MilkIT project in India and Tanzania. ILRI Project Report. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. 
http://hdl.handle.net/10568/67890
Thank you for your Attention!

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