



# **CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Roots, Tubers, and Bananas**

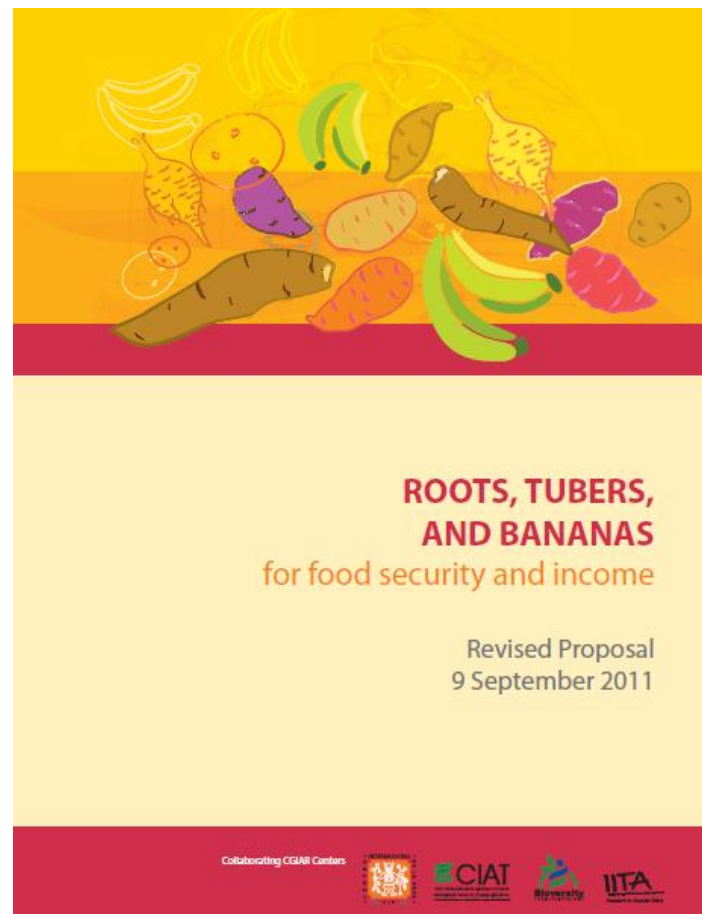
## **Rationale, strategy and impact**



**Research  
Program on**  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas

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**16<sup>th</sup> ISTRC Symposium**  
**September 25 2012**

# 1. RTB program: rationale



**Research  
Program on  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas**



## Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas

**A collaboration of:**



**+ a wide spectrum research-for-development  
stakeholders & partners**

# Our crops



**Banana  
Plantain**



**Cassava**



**Potato**



**Sweetpotato**



**Yam**

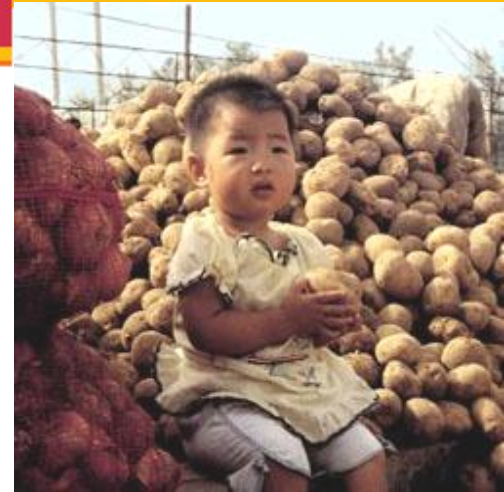


**Other R&T**



## Why Roots, Tubers, and Bananas?

- Major staples (among top 10)
- Cheap sources of energy & nutrients (14-60% daily calories)
- Locally produced/traded (less subject to global grain price fluctuations)
- Backbone of food & income security for 180 million— especially poorest of poor & women



# Why Roots, Tubers and Bananas?











## RTBs share

- Genetic complexity (> grains), marked consumer preferences for particular varieties
- Vegetative propagation, similar seed systems
- Perishability, bulkiness and post harvest/value chain options

- High potential: > yields & impacts
- Low profile: “women’s crops”
- Under-investment (!)



# Cross center collaboration

CENTER	PRIMARY CROP EXPERTISE					OTHER ROOTS AND TUBERS	
	BANANA	CASSAVA	POTATO	SWEETPOTATO	YAM	AROIDS	ANDEAN
Bioversity							
CIAT							
CIP							
IITA							



## Program “value added”

**To do together what we cannot do separately**

- **Increased scale**
- **Greater capacity**
- **Exploit synergies: genuine “win-wins”**





## 2. Strategy

- Program structure
- Research products
- Partnership
- Gender mainstreaming



# Program structure: Integrates 7 Themes





## **Program structure: Integrates 7 Themes**

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- Theme 1: Conserving and accessing genetic resources
- Theme 2: Accelerating the development and selection of varieties with higher, more stable yield and added value
- Theme 3: Managing priority pests and diseases
- Theme 4: Making available low-cost, high-quality planting material for farmers
- Theme 5: Developing tools for more productive, ecologically robust cropping systems
- Theme 6: Promoting postharvest technologies, value chains, and market opportunities
- Theme 7: Enhancing impact through partnerships



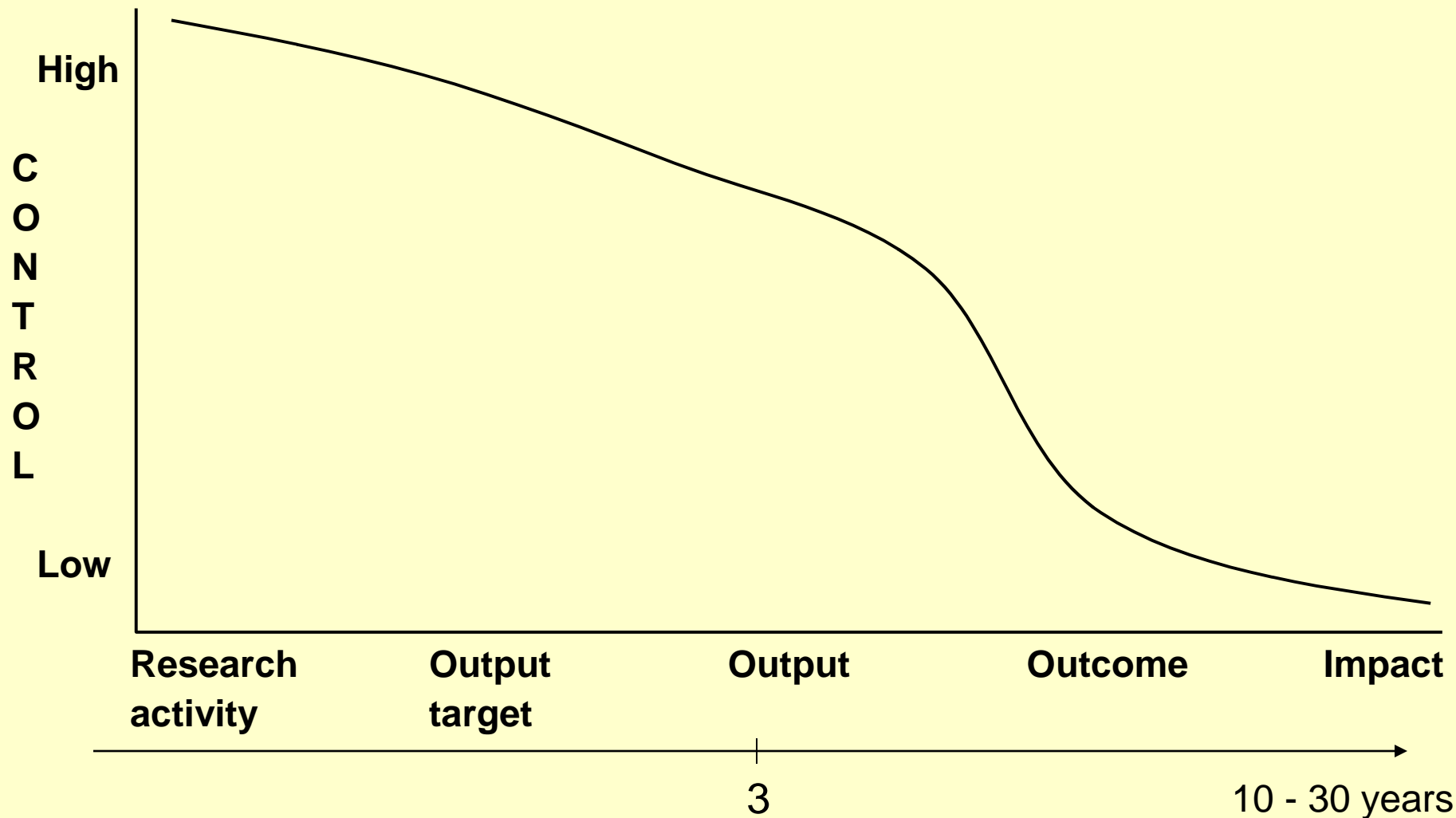


## **RTB: shared research products**

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- **Common processing traits**
- **Heterozygote hybrids**
- **Models to predict degeneration and pathogen virulence**
- **Lower cost, more effective mass propagation methods**
- **Expanding utilization, reduced perishability**

## Impact pathways: what probability of impact?



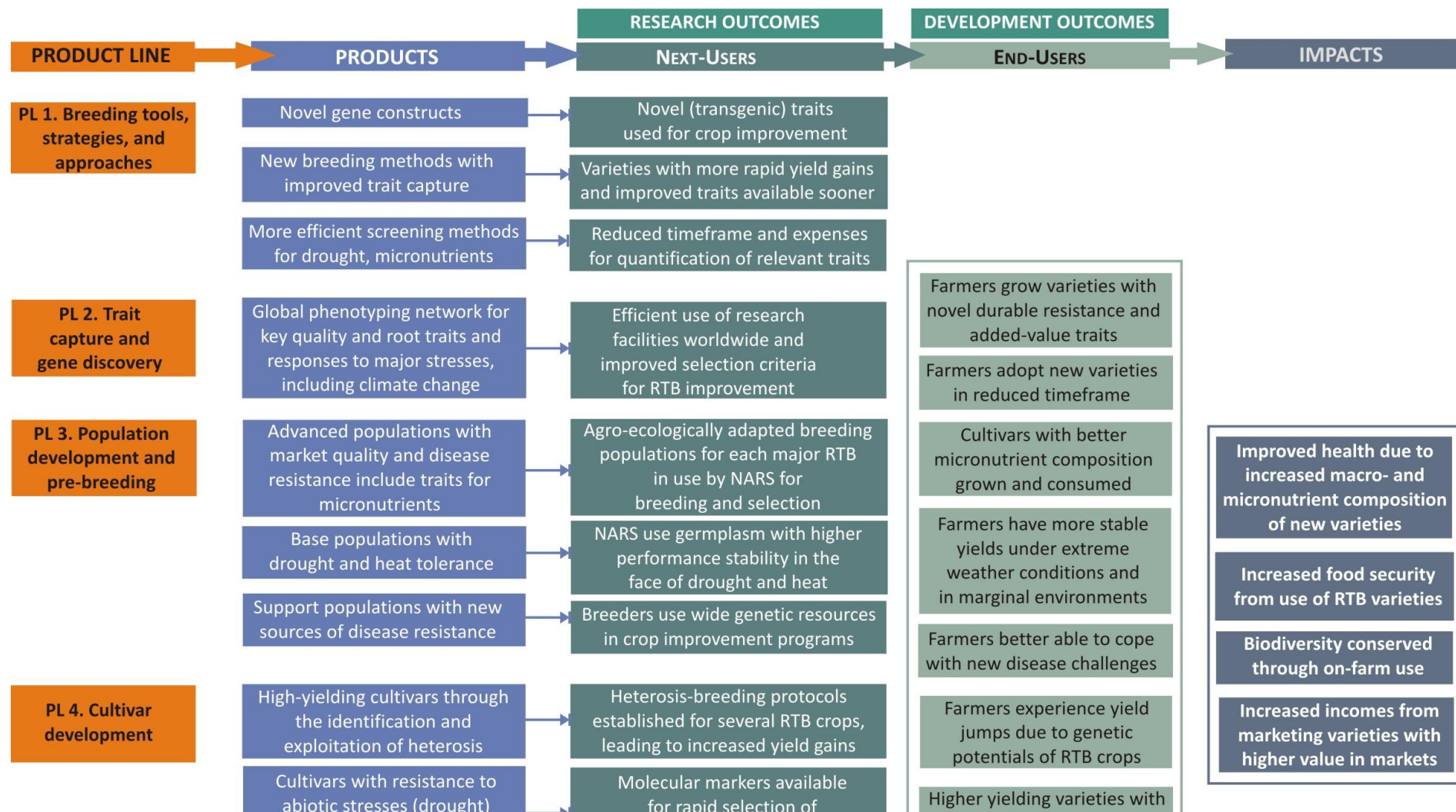
### 3. Impact

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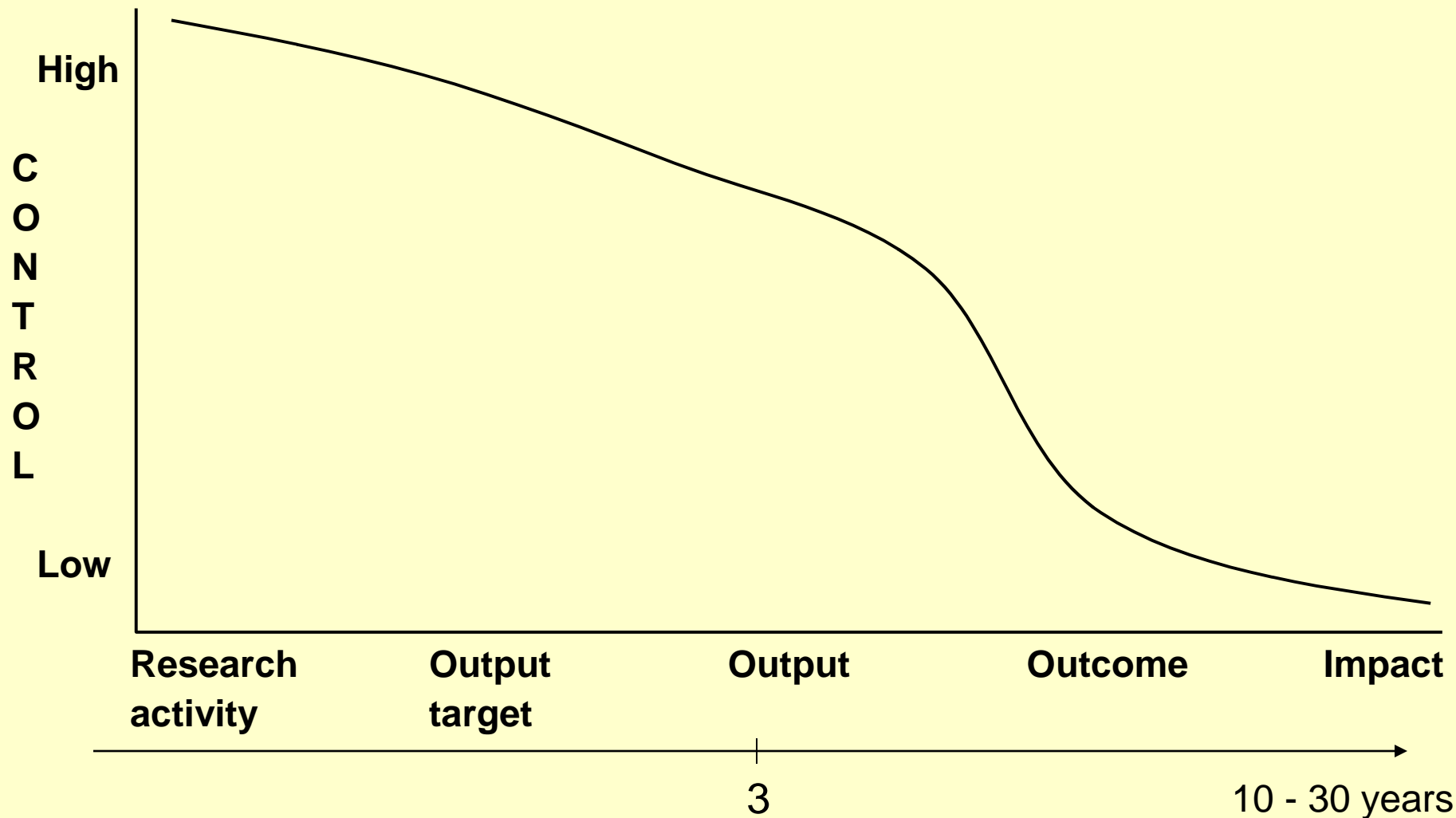




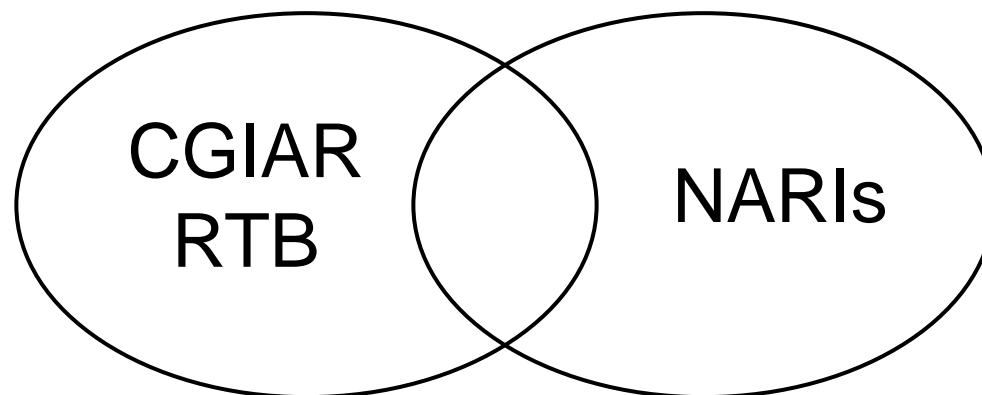
# Impact pathways: which product?



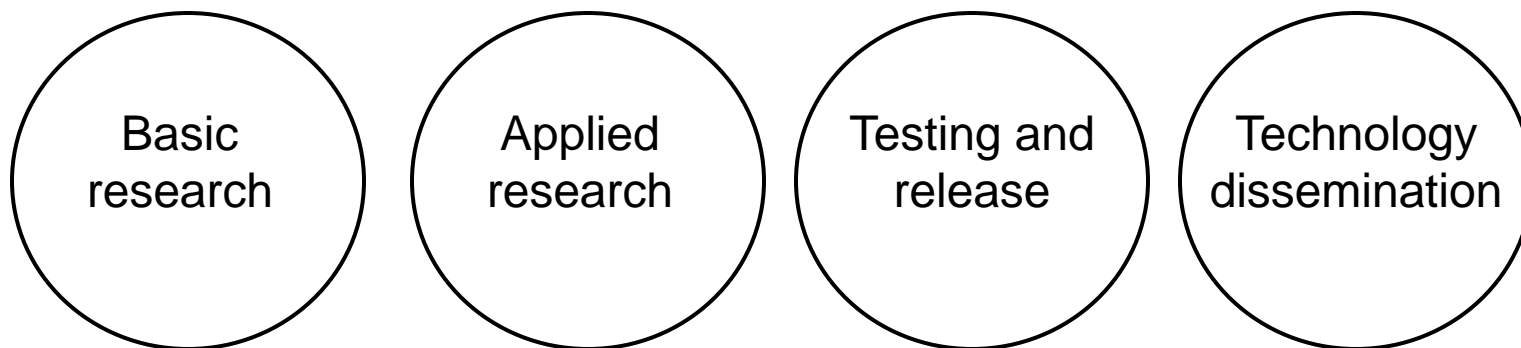
## Impact pathways: what probability of impact?



## CGIAR-Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme alignment (CAADP)



Upstream and downstream complementarities along the impact pathway covered?



CGIAR + ARIs

NARIs, NGOs, firms

Extension, NGOs, farmers





## **CAADP: burning questions**

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- **What priorities have been established for technology and innovation investments in African countries?**
- **What is the aggregate landscape of planned investments across sub-regions or across Africa?**
- **What are CGIAR (& SROs/NAROs) investment plans? On what themes, where? (by CRP/all CRPs).**
- **How well do National and CGIAR investment plans align? Can we identify R&D areas that are over- or under-represented relative to national needs?**



## **“Best bets” for impact on poverty and food security from cassava research**

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- **Many possible research options (products)**
- **Lengthy impact pathway**
- **Geographic diversity**
- **Impact on poverty, food security and gender equity**
- **Resources limited**
- **Evidence + expert opinion + economic analysis = best bets**
- **Priority setting guide to decision making**
- **Alignment with regional, sub regional and national priorities**



## Key points

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1. **CGIAR reform created 15 CRPs**
2. **RTB collaboration of 4 CG centers + other partners**
3. **Commonalities across root, tuber and banana crops**
4. **Seven themes**
5. **Impact pathways and alignment with partners**
6. **Best bests for research**



# Thank you



Research  
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