



The ILRI CapDev Grand Challenge

Growing Transformational Future Livestock Sector Professionals

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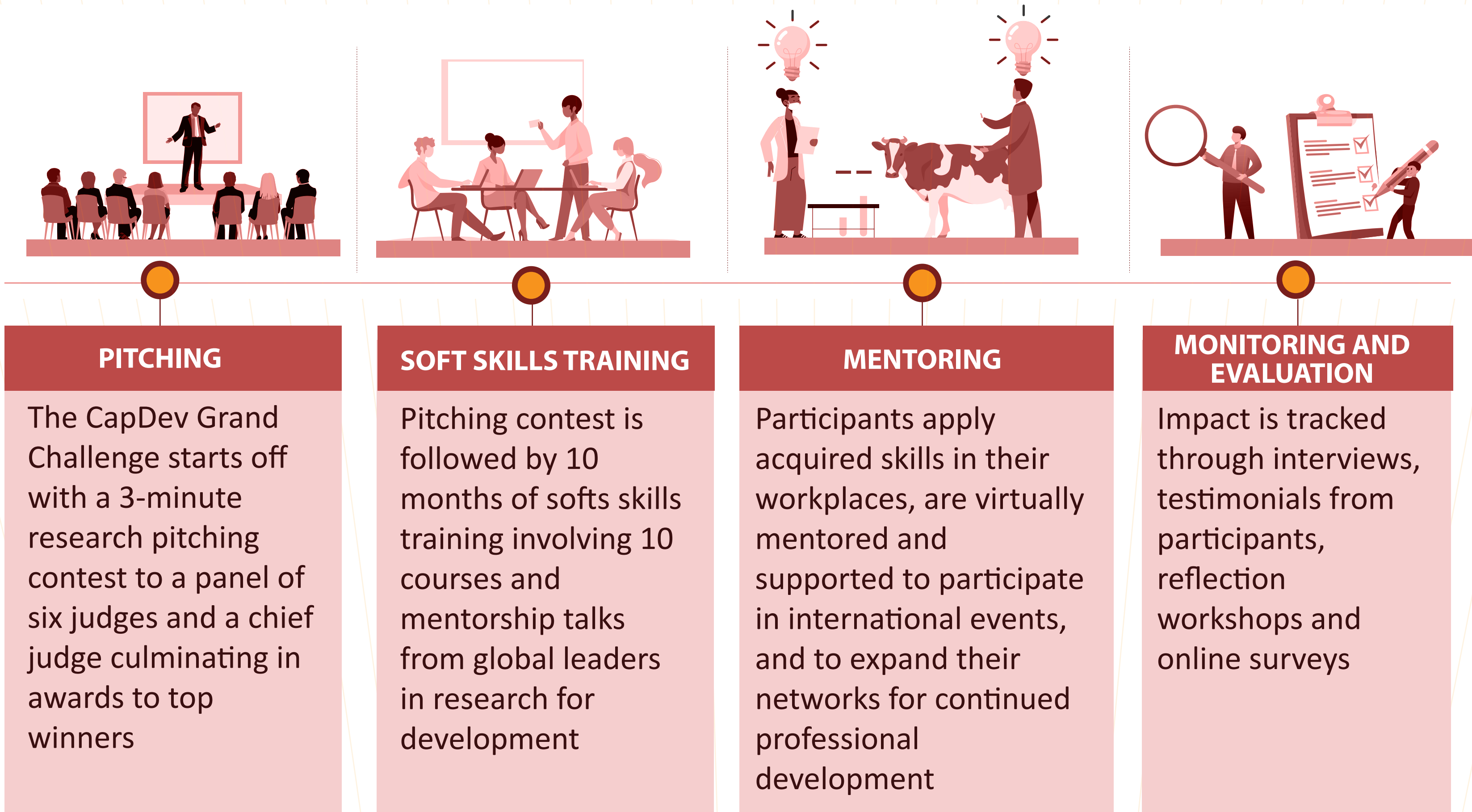
INTRODUCTION

ILRI created the CapDev Grand Challenge process to strengthen its capacity development offering to graduate students and early career researchers from national research organizations in West, Eastern and Southern Africa, East, Southeast and South Asia. Annually, the Institute hosts 100 – 150 graduate students and early-career researchers within its research programs.

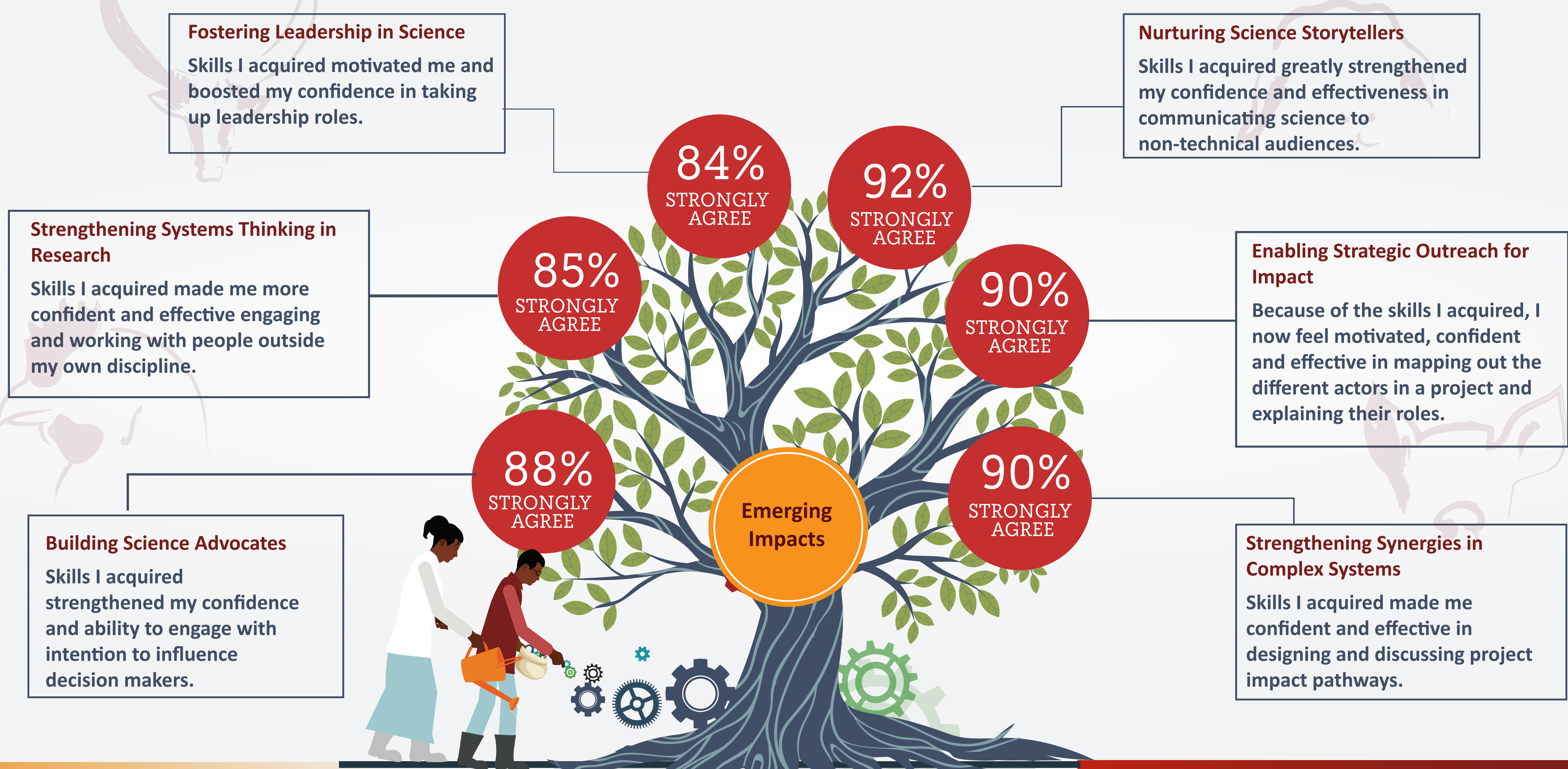
Launched in 2019, the process aims to equip next-generation livestock sector professionals with leadership and interpersonal skills they need to be effective research leaders, science communicators and influencers in the agriculture landscape in countries where ILRI works, and beyond. One cycle of the CapDev Grand Challenge takes 12 months. By the end of the cycle, participants are expected to be better at:

- o Informing and influencing decisionmakers
- o Working across disciplines, stakeholders and sectors
- o Delivering on leadership roles
- o Communicating science to non-technical audiences
- o Designing effective mechanisms for engaging stakeholders
- o Designing Impact Pathways

METHODS



RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

After 18 months of implementation, the CapDev Grand Challenge demonstrated the potential for:

- Creating next-generation livestock sector professionals who are effective communicators, able to inform and influence decisionmakers
- Creating systems thinkers able to contribute to agricultural research addressing global challenges in a fast-changing world
- Fostering synergies and sustainability in complex livestock food systems
- Catalyzing strategic outreach for accelerated impact

TESTIMONY FROM PARTICIPANT:

“Apart from equipping me with new skills, I now realize I really needed this experience for my science and technical skills to be effective in creating change. The experience has given me a totally fresh way of looking at research and how we ought to think in a systems perspective if our research findings are to create real change, and faster.

Daniel Korir, ILRI PhD Graduate Fellow – Sustainable Livestock Systems, and winner of the 2019/20 CapDev Grand Challenge



#CapDevChallenge

