Building resilience through policies, institutions, and capacity development:
Examples from Food Security Policy Innovation Lab

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INNOVATION LAB FOR
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What is resilience?

USAID's definition:

- **Resilience is the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.**

- **Types of shocks and stresses:**
  - Weather, natural disasters
  - Conflict
  - Market (price, demand, trade, financial)
  - **Pests and diseases**
  - **Political instability**
  - Unemployment

Building resiliency through investments in agricultural R&D: FTF Innovational Labs

Levels

- **Individual (crop, farm)**
- **Community**
- **Sector**
- **National/regional**
- **Global**

FSP IL's focus & strategy

How?

- **Technology**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Institutions**
- **Policies**
- **Markets**
- **Capacity building**

FSP IL's focus & strategy

FSP IL: Goal

- **To promote inclusive agricul**
productivity growth, improve
nutritional outcomes, and enhanced
livelihood resilience *through*
*improved policy environments*
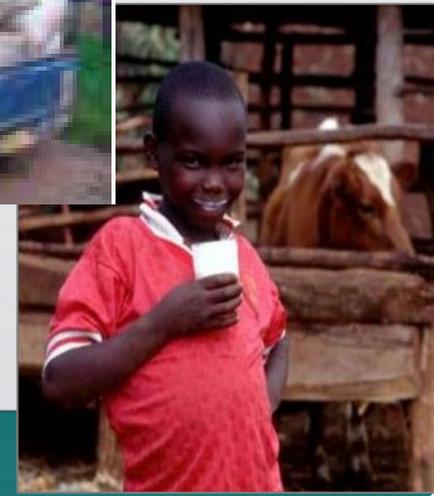
Objectives

- **Address critical evidence gaps for informed policy debate and formulation at country, regional and global levels.**

- **Foster credible, inclusive, transparent and sustainable policy processes at country level.**

Approach

FSP program is organized around three types of activities:

- **Policy relevant agrifood system research**

- **Policy system analysis**

- **Country level support for policy change**
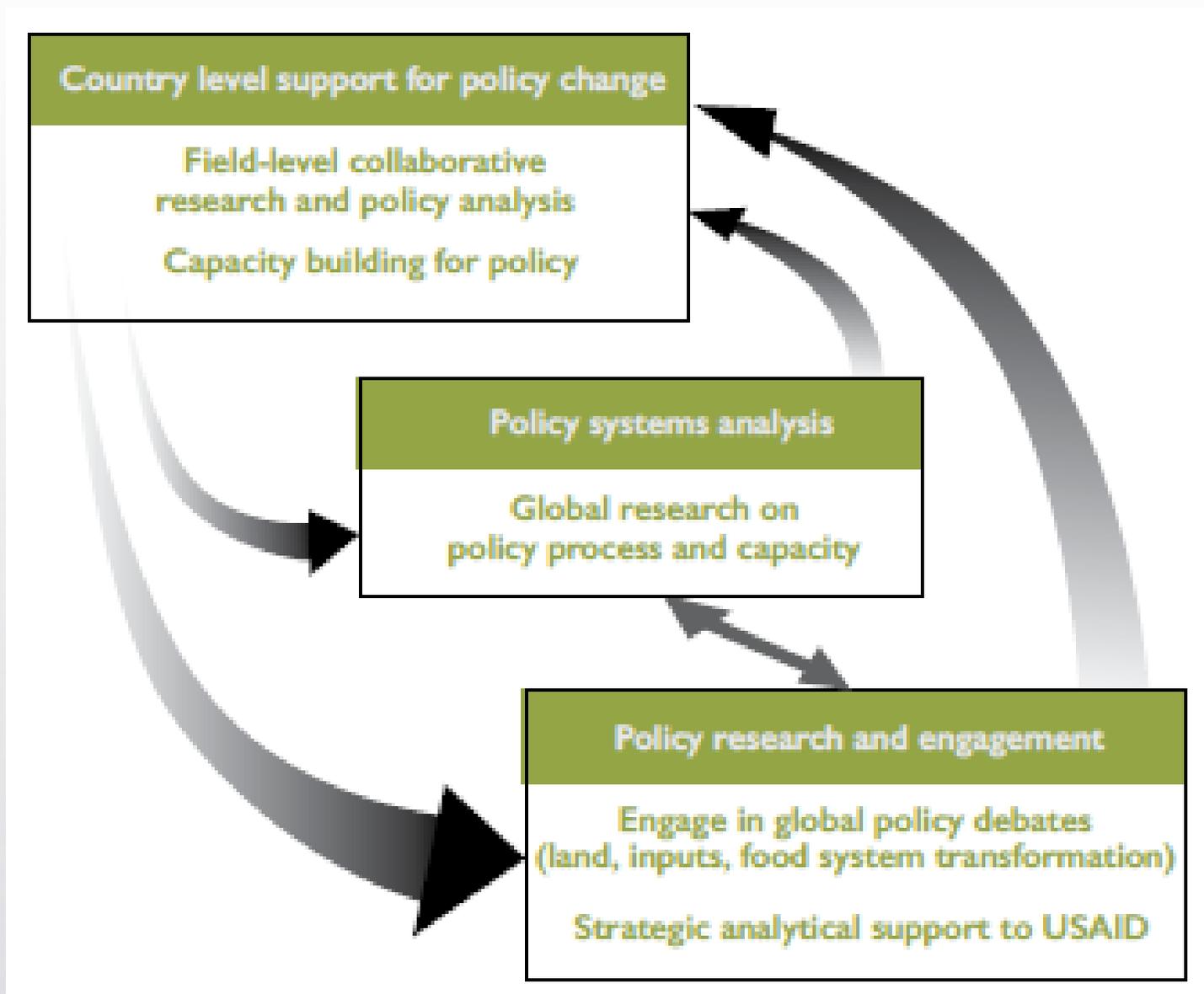
Research Areas and Examples of Policies and Institutions to Build Resilience

- **Institutional architecture for improved policy formulation**

  - ➢**FSP supports and promotes country and regional level multi-sectoral Working Groups, Stakeholder consultation forums / platforms**

  - ➢**Developed toolkit for practitioners based on the K-model**

  - ➢*How it builds resilience?*

    - **Fosters communication, coordination, and sharing of research-based evidence for timely response to shocks and emergencies, and investments in long-term growth and development**

    - **Promotes understanding of policy systems to influence change**

Research Areas and Examples of Policies and Institutions to Build Resilience (cont'd)

- **Enabling environment for private sector investment**
  - ➤ **FSP supports and promotes tax and regulatory reforms to ensure private sector access to finance, markets, business environment (e.g., cess tax reform in Tanzania)**
  - ➤ *How it builds resilience?*
    - Increases private sector investments, healthy competition, government revenues, and economic growth
    - Ensures functioning and efficient supply chains to move goods and services to target population during emergencies

Research Areas and Examples of Policies and Institutions to Build Resilience (cont'd)

- **Agricultural inputs and market policy**
  - ➤ **FSP provides research based evidence on the effectiveness of policies that govern farmer access to quality inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, mechanization)**
  - ➤ **Promotes policy reforms in the delivery, cost, and availability of farm inputs and outputs (e.g., e-voucher system in Zambia, e-payment of produce cess in Tanzania)**
  - ➤ **Promotes reforms in agricultural research and extension system**
  - ➤ **Develop models for regional market forecasts for staple crops**
  - ➤ *How it builds resilience?*
    - **Increases farmer adoption of improved quality and climate smart technology (inputs), alleviates factor market constraints, helps diversify, provides access to markets, reduces uncertainty—all of which increases farmer productivity, income, and resilience**

Research Areas and Examples of Policies and Institutions to Build Resilience (cont'd)

- **Efficient utilization of land and natural resources**

  - ➢ **FSP provides research based evidence on the changing land use patterns, farm size, demand for land, water and other resources**

  - ➢ **Promotes regulatory reforms in land tenure system**

  - ➢ *How it builds resilience?*

    - **Increases farmer access to land and land rights that increases investments, equity, security and employment opportunities, and decreases conflicts – all help towards building an inclusive and resilient farming sector**

Research Areas and Examples of Policies and Institutions to Build Resilience (cont'd)

- **Resilience and agricultural risk management policy**
  - ➤ **FSP works to characterize household resilience and vulnerability to develop and analyze scenarios for vulnerable areas and assess the effectiveness and relative costs and benefits of investment and other response options (e.g., irrigation, credit, post-harvest processing infrastructure)**
  - ➤ *How it builds resilience?*
    - **Increases farmer access to irrigation and other infrastructure that can reduce farm production and marketing risks, and make them more resilient to weather and market shocks**

FSP's Approach to Capacity Development through Different Country Level Organizational Models

- **Project office with linkages**
  - **Mali, Nigeria**
  - **NARO / university /Ministry linkages**

- **Think Tank embedded**
  - **Burma, Zambia**
  - **Host institute national champion lead**

- **Ministry embedded**
  - **Tanzania, Malawi, Senegal**
  - **Trusted national as TA lead**
  - **Ministry leadership in setting policy agenda**

Types of country level capacity building

- **Building up: partner capacity**
  - In house courses (Zambia, Burma)
  - One-on-one mentoring (Nigeria)

- **Building out: system capacity**
  - University capacity (Tanzania, Mozambique, Nigeria)
  - Civil society (Burma, Malawi)
  - Journalists (Malawi, Tanzania)

- **Strengthening regional connectivity (peer learning)**
  - Re-SAKSS, Agrodep, ReNAPRI

How Capacity Development Builds Resilience?

- **Capacity to conduct research and generate evidence to challenge and feed into policy making**

- **Builds strong linkages between research (evidence) and policy making, investment decisions**

- **Ensures a national champion leads the policy change process**

- **Promotes leadership in setting policy agenda and ownership to policy change process and outcomes**

End results: Better policies, transparent and inclusive process, and stakeholder support in making timely decisions to respond to shocks and stresses

Thank you

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