Yesterday: Launching the expanded RTB / WUR partnership
Three main areas of collaboration

- 1. A methodology to assess and enhance ‘innovation and scaling readiness’

- 2. Mobilising ICT to address collective action problems

- 3. Social processes shaping the distribution of seed

Common thread: a new theory and practice of innovation and scaling

- improved seed and other innovations
1. A methodology to assess and enhance ‘innovation and scaling readiness’

- Scaling of a technology is affected by interdependencies
- Farmers cannot change unless others also change
  - e.g. actors in the broader enabling/disabling environment (e.g. value chain)

[Diagram showing the food chain with numbers and actors like farmers, manufacturers, suppliers, etc.]
3. A methodology to assess and enhance ‘innovation and scaling readiness’

- Scaling depends often on mutual expectations, agreement, trust and coordination in networks.
- These do not emerge and diffuse by themselves.
3. A methodology to assess and enhance ‘innovation and scaling readiness’

- Builds on EU typology & language
- From idea to maturity / suitability in intended environment

- We add:
  - Attention for interdependencies
  - A learning and enhancement process
Identifying and assessing interdependent technologies / practices
Identifying and assessing the ‘enabling environment’
Combining them to assess socio-technical ‘innovation readiness’
Reflection on feasibility and further efforts and investment

- Is there agreement on the desirability of scaling?

- What are the limiting technical / institutional factors?
And what strategies may enhance innovation and scaling readiness?
First testing of the framework / methodology

- Scaling **banana wilt control** in DR Congo and Uganda (led by Bioversity International)

- Scaling **best cassava agronomy practices** in Tanzania and Nigeria (led by IITA)

- Early warning systems for managing **cassava pests and diseases** in Vietnam (led by CIAT);

- Decision support for **potato late blight management** in Ecuador (led by CIP)
3. A methodology to assess and enhance ‘innovation and scaling readiness’

- It helps technical scientists to foster better conditions for scaling
- It allows comparative analysis for a new science of scaling
- It develops indexes that help to monitor progress
2. Mobilising ICT to address collective action problems

- Addressing agricultural challenges often requires collective / concerted action

- Horizontal (communities) or vertical (value chains)
When and how can digital platforms change the logic of collective decision-making?

- Radical change in ICT availability in Africa
- New opportunities for connectivity
- New opportunities for ‘big-data’ and ‘citizen science’
Environmental Virtual Observatories for Connective Action

image from Arun Pratihast
Environmental Virtual Observatories for Connective Action

- WUR invests 1,2 million euro
- 11 PhD African PhD candidates
- 7 co-funded 50/50 by CGIAR
  - potato diseases (CIP)
  - tick control (ILRI)
  - agr. service delivery (IITA)
  - BXW control (RTB)
3. Social processes shaping the distribution of seed

- RTB seed systems are special
  - vegetative, bulky, perishable, accumulation of disease

- Highly dependent on farmer multiplication

- What social factors shape the distribution and diffusion of improved varieties?
Seed tracing studies: e.g. improved potato varieties in Chencha, Ethiopia

- Wealthy farmers are better sharers
- Women share less, but there is no gender exclusion in sharing
- In 2 years: 7 times more farmers use improved varieties

Seed tracing studies: e.g. improved varieties in Chencha, Ethiopia

- But: resource constrained farmers cannot make optimal use.
  - no labour to make ridges
  - limited access to fertilizer, fungicide, diffuse light store
Outlook

- We are excited about the strengthened collaboration!
- Good complementarity in expertise / networks
- Great opportunities for combined
  - research
  - development
  - capacity building