



Agriculture & Health Research Platform

An Update

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Overview

- Origins of the platform: why?
- What is it?
- Objectives
- Conceptual framework
- Research
- Events
- Looking ahead

Why?

- Agriculture affects health
- Health affects agriculture
- Poverty is entwined with both
- ...but the two sectors do not communicate
- Potential “win-win” solutions to shared problems
- Environmental degradation, climate change, globalization raises urgency

Intersectoral communications need....

- Agreement on common goals
- Shared values and principles
- “Rules of engagement”
- Common notions of validity of knowledge and evidence
- Language and tools for communication
- An open space/forum/platform....

What is a Platform? Not an oil rig...



...more like a dance floor



AHRP objectives

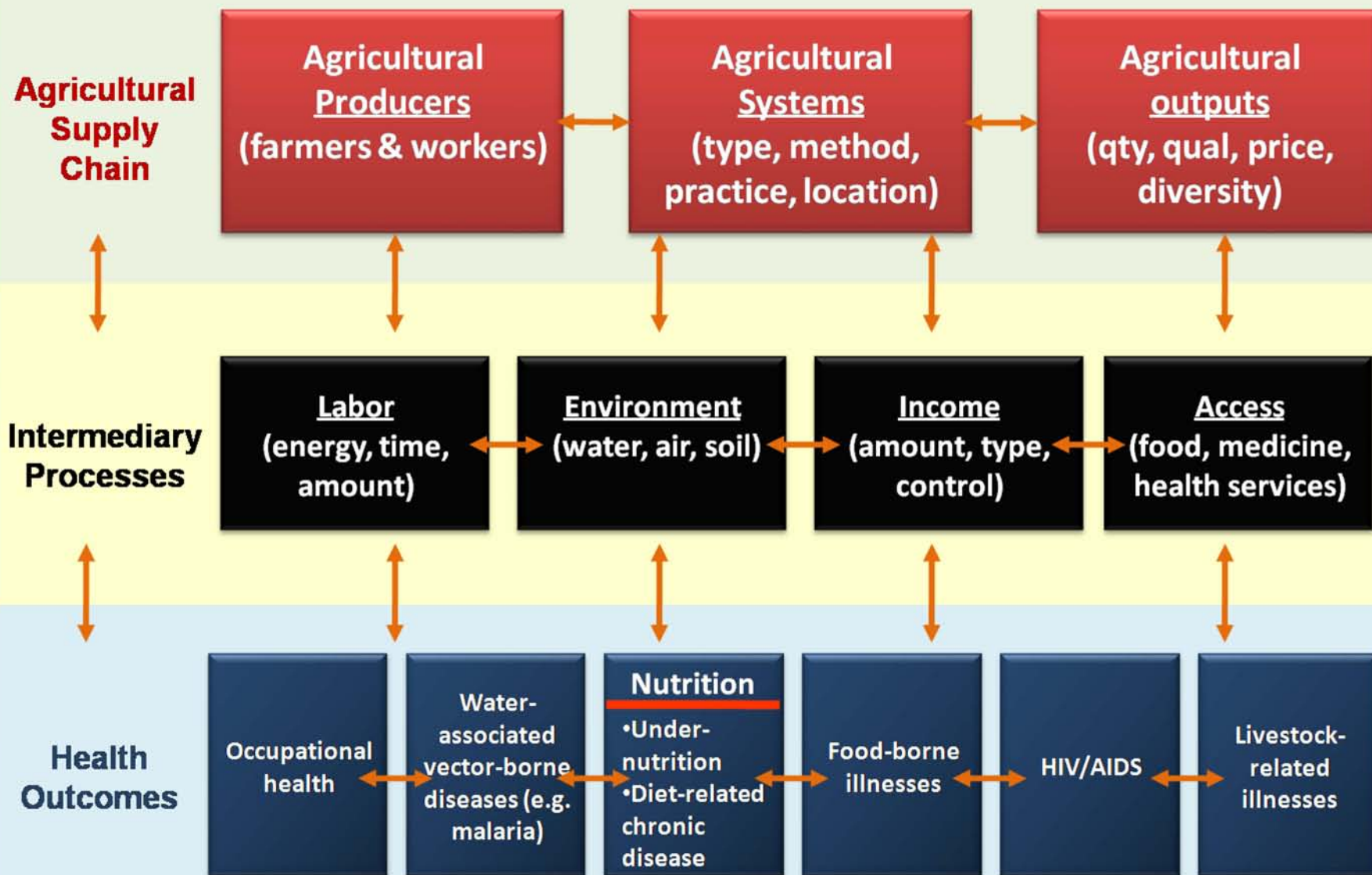
- to develop partnerships between agriculture and health sectors that draw on mutual strengths in filling major knowledge gaps at the interface between agriculture and health;
- to build on common ground between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners;
- to develop and adapt methodological tools to link agriculture and health in research, policy, and practice;
- to communicate through publications and outreach

Origins and timeline

- Late 2004: CGIAR working group on health and agriculture was formed.
- June 2005: Roundtable held at IFPRI, Washington DC
- April 2006: Agriculture and Health Research Platform was endorsed by the CGIAR Alliance Executive.
- 16 policy briefs published in IFPRI's 2020 series
- Oct 06: Increasing links with health sector, notably WHO.
- June 07: CGIAR/WHO co-hosted workshop, Geneva.
- Special issue of Food and Nutrition Bulletin
- Dec 07: World Bank Report on agriculture and nutrition
- April 2008: New funding from IDRC

The Linkages between Agriculture and Health

Policy and Policy Process/Governance



June 2007 recommendations

- Ownership
- Structure/architecture
- Function (research orientation)
- Visibility
- Sustainability

Activities in 2008

- Establishment of platform architecture
 - Core group
 - Advisory panel (initially health)
 - Management team
- Fundraising – major grant from IDRC
- Communications
 - web, online resource guide, AgHealth Updates
- Detailed stakeholder and issues map for India
- Call for proposals (on three themes)

Priority research themes

1. Nutrition, diet and health
2. Food-borne disease, food safety, supply chains
3. Water-related disease and water management
4. Zoonotic disease and livelihoods (incl avian flu)
5. HIV, nutrition and agriculture
6. Occupational health

The Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL)

Facilitated by IFPRI, RENEWAL brings together national networks of

- Researchers
- Policy makers
- Public and private organizations
- NGOs



to focus on the interactions between HIV/AIDS, food and nutrition security

www.ifpri.org/renewal

Pro-poor Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) risk management

Project objectives:

1. Provide scientific basis for **cost-effective** and **equitable** HPAI control strategies
2. Inject insights into national, regional and global **policy processes**
3. Build **capacity** for evidence-based formulation of disease control policy



Criteria for identifying knowledge gaps

- Issue of concern to *both* agriculture and health sectors
- relating to at least one of 3 identified themes
- a clear magnitude of need has been established
 - Size, severity of problem
 - Demand for solutions
- better addressed *jointly* by health and agricultural researchers working together
- Study lends itself to transdisciplinary methods
- addresses cross-cutting issues (incl. gender and equity)
- Results have potential for large-scale impact (scale)
- Opportunities for undertaking the work are clearly evident
- Probability of success is high.

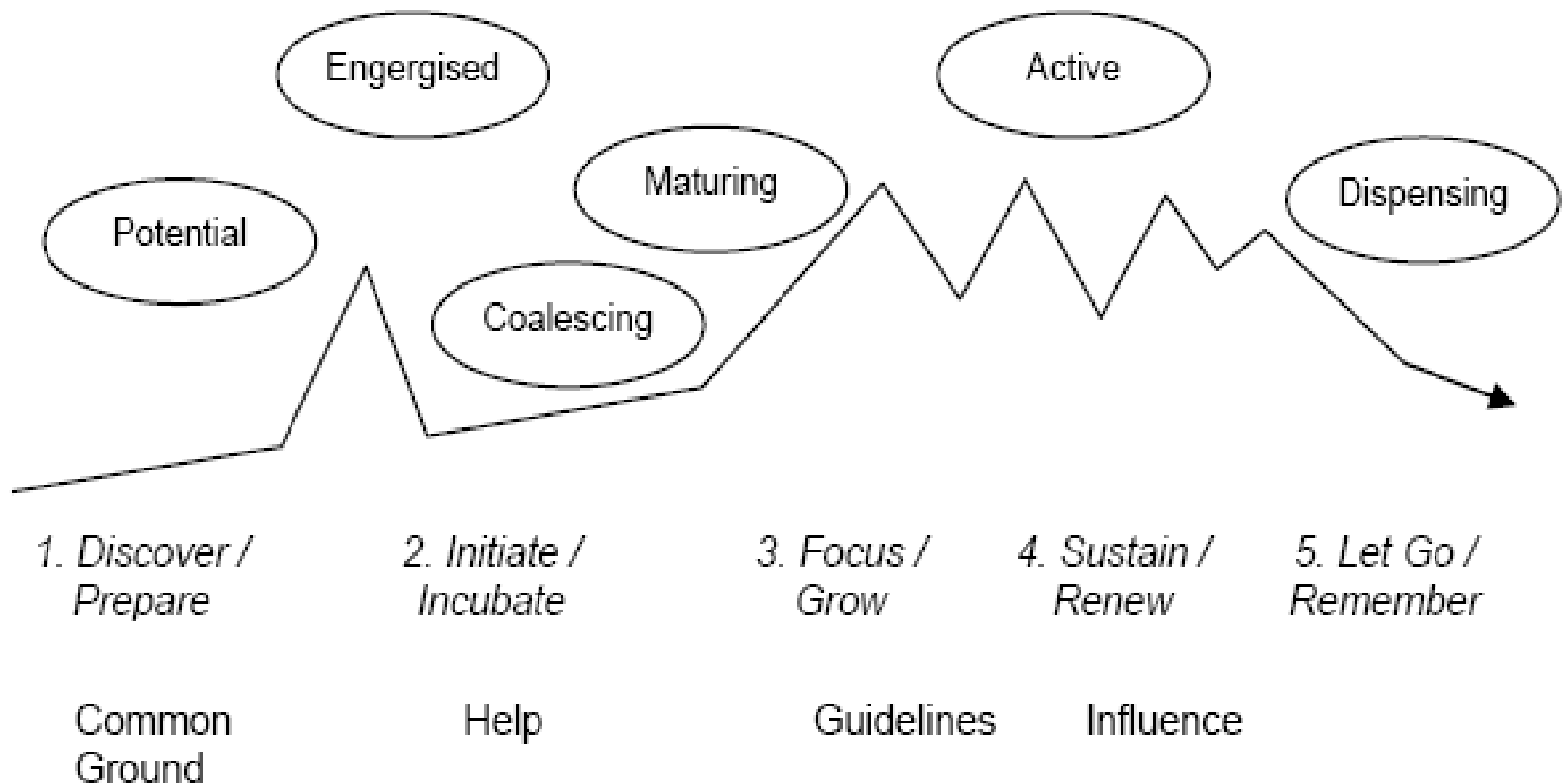
Review process

- 133 concept notes received
 - 72% from Africa, 22% Asia, 6% Latin America
- External peer review
 - Advisory panel and independent experts
 - Screening, shortlisting
 - 9 full proposals invited
 - 3 selected (one from each theme)
- \$230k limit for each study
- 1-3 year timespan

Some key events in 2008

- Africa region conference on research for health, Algiers
- International AIDS Conference, Mexico
- Human Health and Forests, CIFOR consultations
- Global food systems and impacts on health, New York
- TDR Thematic Reference Group on Environment, Agriculture and Infectious Diseases launch, Beijing
- Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, Mali
- EcoHealth Forum, Mexico

Development of communities of practice



Looking ahead.....for discussion

- What is the 'value-added' of the platform, and how to achieve it?
- Global/regional/localization
 - Thematic knowledge hubs?
 - Regional hubs/networks?
- Breadth or depth? (geographical, thematic)
- Future research
 - More operational research?
 - On policy processes, institutional obstacles?
- Establishing models for collaboration
- Monitor and evaluate intersectoral policies
- Communications and capacity strengthening