

Taking technologies to scale: Africa RISING's unique partnership with Iles de Paix, Tanzania

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Photo: C. Mutungi/IITA



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Introduction

The Africa RISING program was launched in 2012 to develop, test, validate and scale technologies that equitably address food insecurity and income challenges among small-holder farmers. Scaling within Africa RISING builds on a vision to continue to generate research outputs that support farm-based households to improve their livelihoods. Farmers have different reasons for engaging in farming. This implies a diversity of intensification pathways to realize sustainable intensification. Africa RISING targets to reach 300,000 households by 2021, through strategic partnerships with development partners. In July 2018, a unique partnership with Iles de Paix, a Belgian NGO, was commenced (Figure 1).

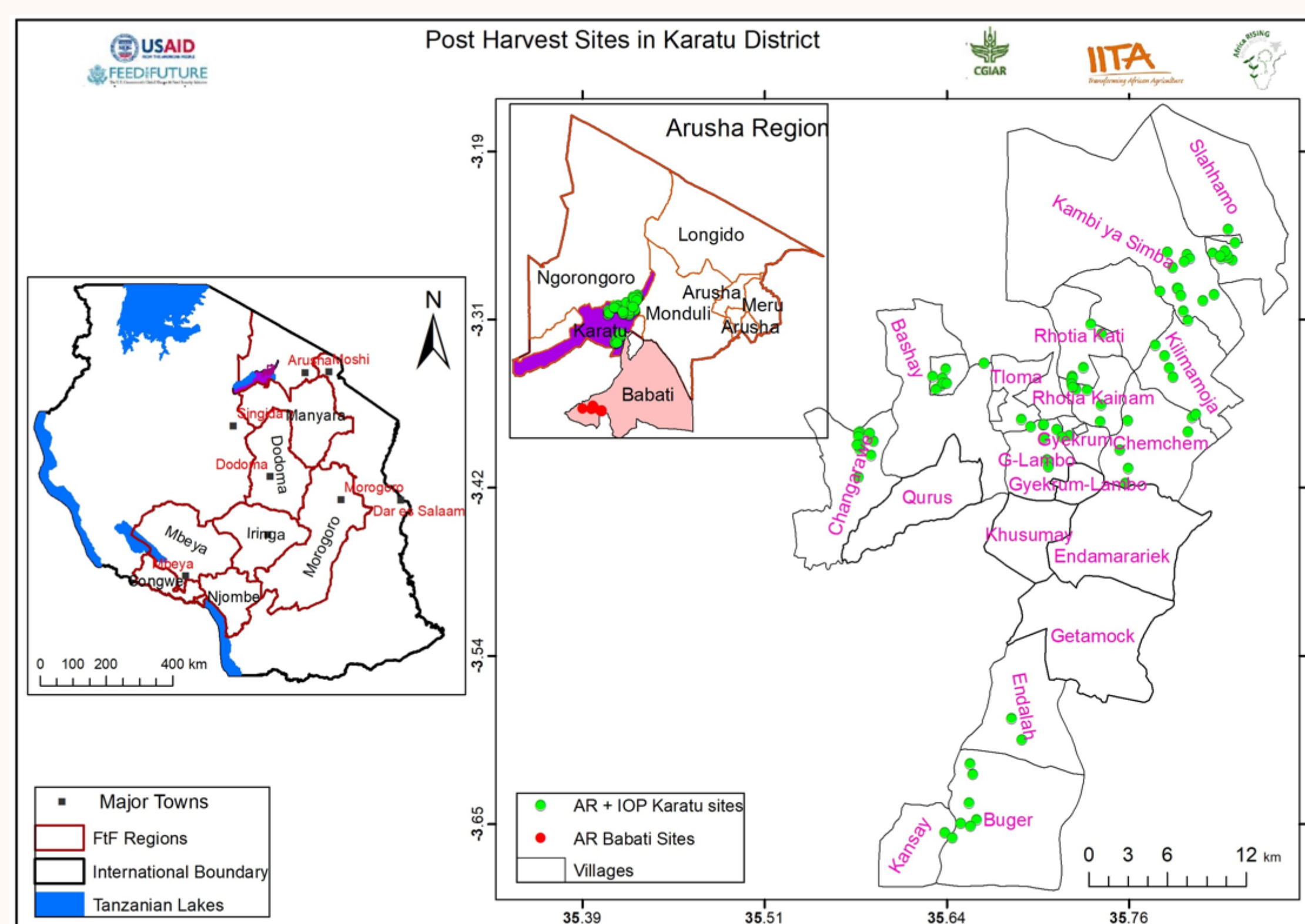


Figure 1. 2018/19 Partnership sites in Karatu District.

Methods

Kilimo Endelevu (KE) is Iles de Paix's implementing arm. It comprises two local organizations: MVIWATA-Arusha (MVIWATA is National Network of Small-Scale Farmer Groups in Tanzania) and RECODA (Research, Community and Organizational Development Associates). Iles de Paix coordinates the partnership. Farmer challenges are identified through baseline studies conducted by RECODA following which, KE mobilizes the farmers into producer groups with the support of the local district extension services. RECODA proposes technology options to address the challenges and demonstrates these to farmers, while MVIWATA addresses the business side of the interventions in terms of access to credit, entrepreneurship skills etc. Africa RISING strengthens RECODA's role by providing validated (SI) technologies in these demos, and continues to collect data to refine the technologies (Figure 2).

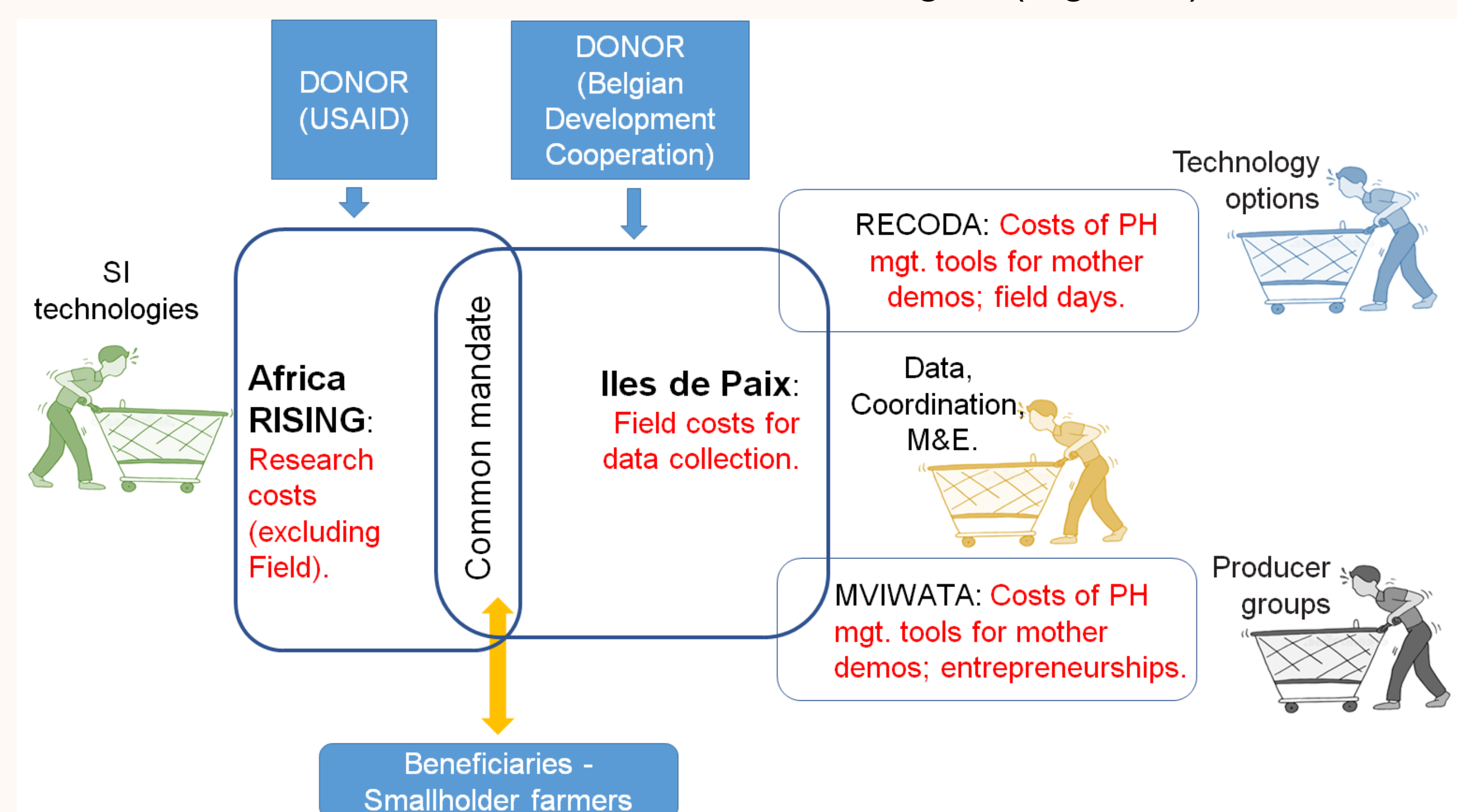


Figure 2. Partnership arrangement

Objective

Improve productivity, economic, social, and human conditions of 7000 farmers, and benefit 34,000 household members in Karatu district through tested and validated **postharvest** and **vegetable production** technologies (Figure 3)

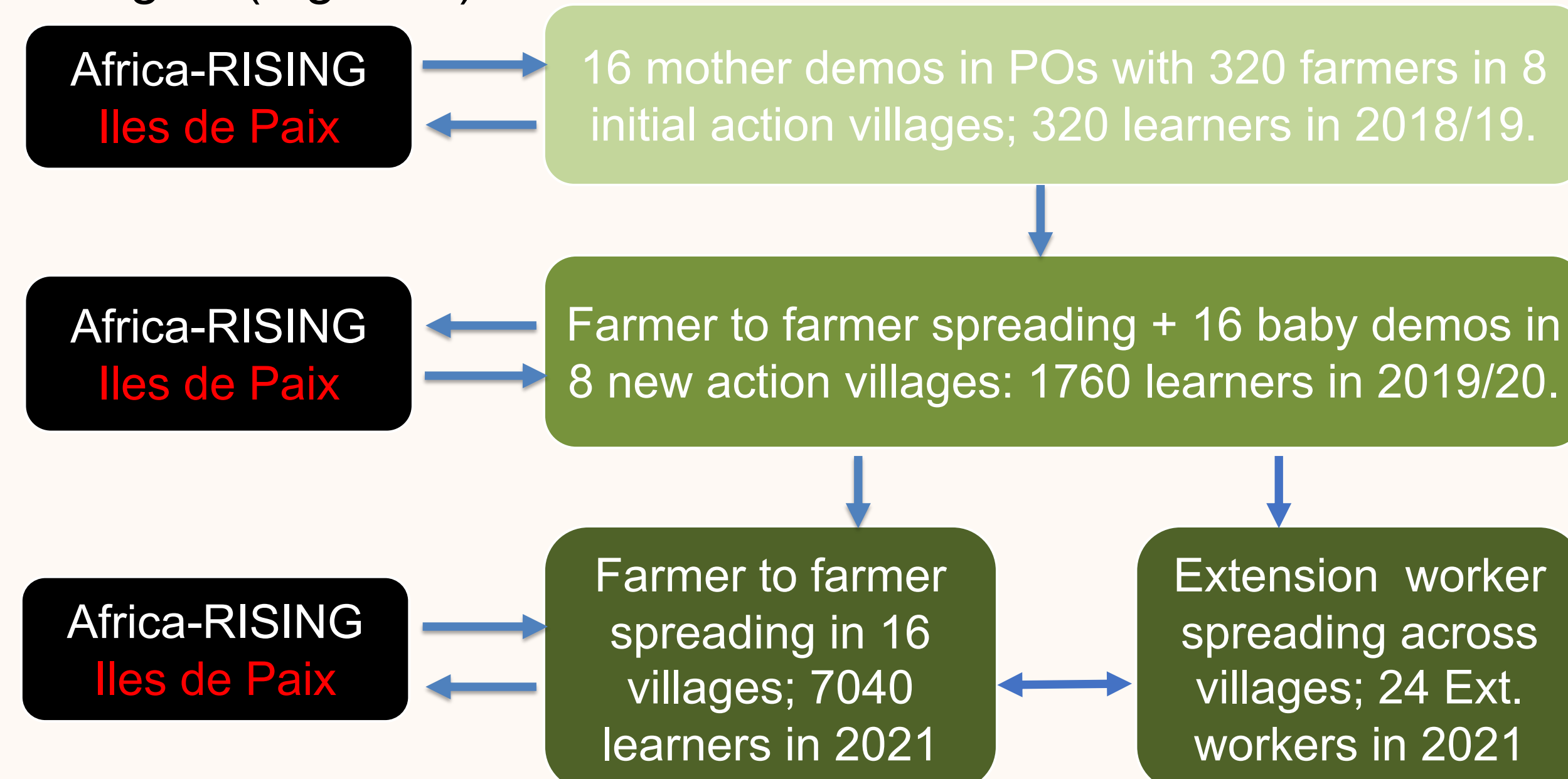


Figure 3. Scaling model

Discussion

This partnership is innovative and unique. Technology delivery and scaling model involves:

- Real cost sharing to support needs identification and research for technology improvement and adaptation;
- Real allocation of roles to partners to sustain impacts at scale:
 - KE through RECODA and MVIWATA collects baseline data; identifies areas of support
 - Iles de Paix apportions resources for capacity building
 - Africa RISING demonstrates validated technologies
 - Farmers install and manage self-owned demo plots;
 - Africa RISING continues with research on the farmer demos to generate research outputs and refine the technologies.
 - Iles de Paix strengthens farmer learning, involvement extension services, and collects and shares M&E data.

Underlying success factors

- Ensuring coordination between the partners;
- Harnessing commitment of team members;
- Supporting local institutions.

Conclusions

- Iles de Paix's mission to promote sustainable family farming and responsible food systems coincides well with Africa RISING's goal.
- Partnership will build the capacity of Iles de Paix, and leverage on their approach for success in taking Africa RISING's research outputs to scale.

Reference

Gramzow et al. (2018) Taking agricultural technologies to scale: experiences from a vegetable technology dissemination initiative in Tanzania. DOI: 10.1080/14735903.2018.1473103.

Acknowledgement

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