



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SCALE

Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture
Livelihoods and Environment

Resilient Agriculture

SCALE Award Resources Showcase Series

November 9, 2022

*This presentation is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
The contents are the responsibility of the SCALE Award and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*



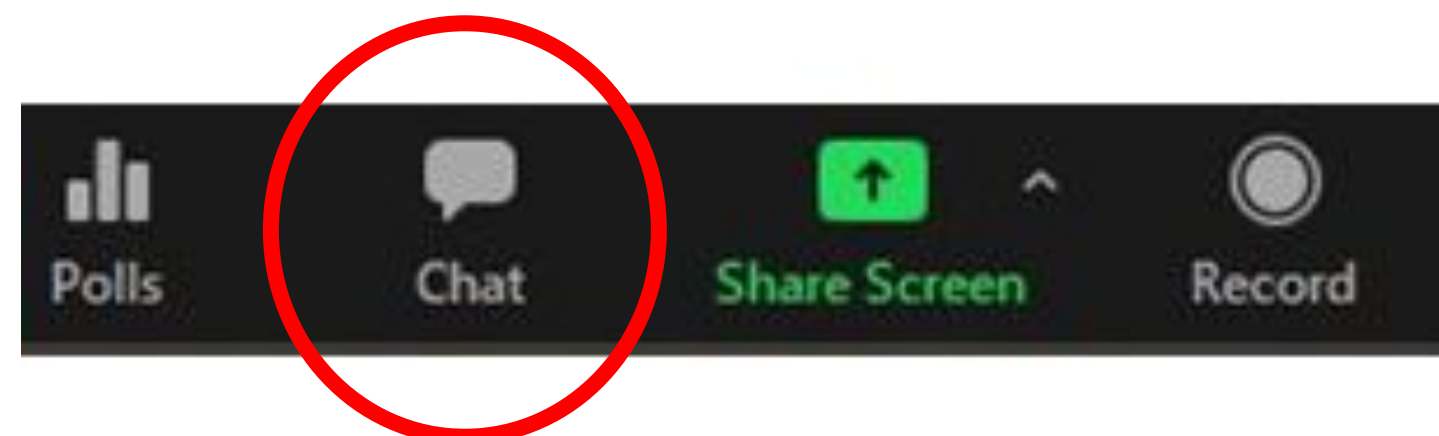
Before we begin...

Select your language!

Click on the globe “interpretation” at the bottom of you Zoom window and select English or French.



Post your questions in the chat box at the bottom of your screen.





AGENDA

- 1 What is SCALE?
- 2 Why Resilient Agriculture?
- 3 Design Phase
- 4 Training Phase
- 5 Scaling Up Phase
- 6 Monitoring Phase
- 7 Research Phase
- 8 Q&A





Today's Presenters



MARCEL NIBASUMBA

AGRICULTURAL MARKET SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, FSP RFSA, DRC



FORTUNE TAFIRENYIKA

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & RESILIENCE
SPECIALIST, TAKUNDA RFSA, ZIMBABWE



JONAS RWANIKA

CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
REGIONAL ADVISOR



KRISTIN LAMBERT

DIRECTOR, SCALE AWARD



JEN MAYER

COLLABORATION & LEARNING ADVISOR,
SCALE AWARD



What is SCALE?

- SCALE is an initiative funded by USAID BHA
- 5 years: January 2018 - January 2023
- Implemented by Mercy Corps in partnership with Save the Children
- Technical areas: agriculture, NRM, off-farm and non-farm livelihoods
- Capacity strengthening, knowledge sharing and learning, research and development of technical resources and guidance

The background features a green gradient that transitions from a lighter shade on the left to a darker shade on the right. Overlaid on this gradient are several stylized, light green leaf shapes with dark green outlines, scattered across the frame. A white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the title text.

Why Resilient Agriculture?

Land Degradation & Climate Change

Recurrent Cycles of
Floods and Droughts



Poor Land Use Practices



Accelerating Erosion
and Loss of Soil Health





Resilience Design Approach in 4 Steps



Observe and Assess



Analyze



Design



Monitor and Adjust

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment | **MERCY CORPS**

Piloting a Hill Approach for Resilient Agriculture in South Kivu

SEPTEMBER 2022

WHY A HILL APPROACH?

Smallholder farmers in South Kivu experience high levels of food insecurity and poverty, with low agricultural productivity and few off-farm income opportunities. Much of the farmland on the hills that are nestled between Lake Kivu and Kahuzi Biega National Park suffers from soil erosion and low soil fertility, resulting in low crop yields. Many of these hills are owned by absentee landlords who rent out plots to smallholder farmers. The lack of tenure security discourages farmers from investing in soil and water conservation measures that could reduce erosion and increase agricultural productivity. By working jointly with landowners, tenant farmers and local authorities, the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) funded, Mercy Corps-led Food Security Project (FSP) supported the rehabilitation and improvement of farmland on 18 hills on a pilot basis between 2017 and 2022.

The Hill Approach has improved the livelihoods of tenure farmers on the hills:

- Crop production and crop sales have increased. Farmers increased their crop yields by adopting improved agricultural practices, in particular the use of organic soil amendments.



USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Resilience Design Checklist

Name:															
Date:	Transect #1					Transect #2					Transect #3				
Location:	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Permagarden Technical Checklist Guidance

October 2021

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Resilience Design in Smallholder Farming Systems Approach Technical Checklist Guidance

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment | **MERCY CORPS**

Impact Assessment of the "Hill Approach": a Resilient Agriculture Food Security Project in DRC

AUGUST 2022

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

PERMAGARDEN STANDARDS FOR ECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Resilience Design Mentorship Pilot: Research Findings, and Lessons Learned

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

How permagardens and kitchen gardens contribute to household food security: An Assessment of Gardens in Nepal

March 2022

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TRIGGERING CHANGE

Five Pivotal Moments in Permagarden & Resilience Design Training

Insights from the Fall 2021 Zimbabwe Training

January 2022

Summary

From October 4-15, 2021, SCALE led a Permagarden and Resilience Design (RD) training of trainers (TOT) for the Takunda and Amalima Loko Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) teams in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The eight minimum standards of permagarden and RD formed the backbone of this training, grounding each session in the principles for good resilience design in smallholder farming systems: that community-led, resource-efficient, adaptively managed landscapes can improve soil health, water management and biodiversity.

SCALE (Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Environment) is an initiative funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented by Mercy Corps in collaboration with Save the Children. SCALE aims to enhance the impact, sustainability and scalability of BHA-funded agriculture, natural resource management, and off-farm livelihood activities in emergency and non-emergency contexts.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Resilience Design Training Facilitator Guide



USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

SPONGE VILLAGE: THE STORY OF ATEGO

RESILIENCE DESIGN FOR WATER AND LANDSCAPES

A Field Companion / A Permaculture Primer

DRC REFUGEE COUNCIL | **DANIDA** | **USAID** FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

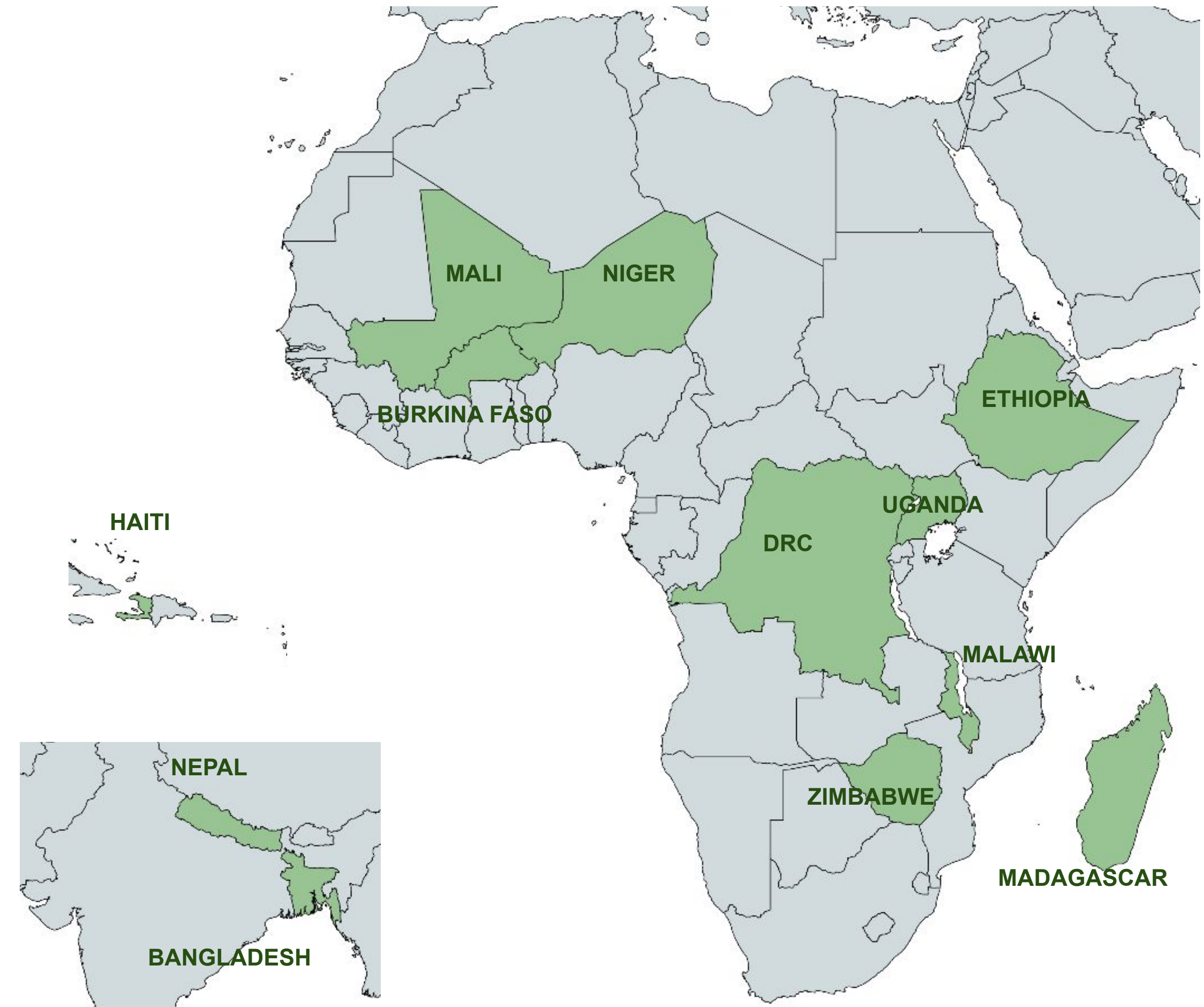
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **SCALE** Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment

Fertilizing with Organic Materials for Smallholder Farmers in Emergency and Non-Emergency Contexts



Who has SCALE supported?

- **Bangladesh** (Nobo Jatra, SHOUHARDO III, SAPLING)
- **Burkina Faso** (ViMPlus)
- **DRC** (Budikadidi, Tuendeleo Pamoja II, FSP Enyanya)
- **Ethiopia** (Ifaa, PReSERVE, SPIR/SPIR II)
- **Haiti** (Ayiti pi Djanm)
- **Madagascar** (FIOVANA, Maharo)
- **Malawi** (Titukulane)
- **Mali** (Albarka)
- **Nepal** (PAHAL, SABAL)
- **Niger** (Girma, Wadata, Hamzari)
- **Uganda** (Apolou)
- **Zimbabwe** (Takunda, Amalima Loko)



A white rectangular box with a thin black border, centered on a green background with faint leaf patterns. It contains the text "Spotlight on:" and "DESIGN".

Spotlight on:

DESIGN



Permagarden

Technical Manual *Second edition*



Resilience Design in Smallholder Farming Systems

*A Practical Approach to Strengthening
Farmer Resilience to Shocks and Stresses*





Design | Challenges & Key Learnings



- PG and RD programs are different to more conventional ag and gardening activities
 - Time scale - observation + iteration
 - Labor
 - Reliance on local resources
- Yet programs were designing/budgeting for more standard approaches
 - Not enough time built in for training/cascading
 - Not enough time built in for mentoring, follow up, adaptation
 - Unrealistic targets



Design | Permagarden Proposal Tipsheet



- Provides practical guidance on how to plan, budget and staff PG interventions
 - Realistic targeting
 - Adequate budgeting + staffing
 - Timing of interventions
 - Considerations for short term programs
- Designed for practitioners

Spotlight on:

Training

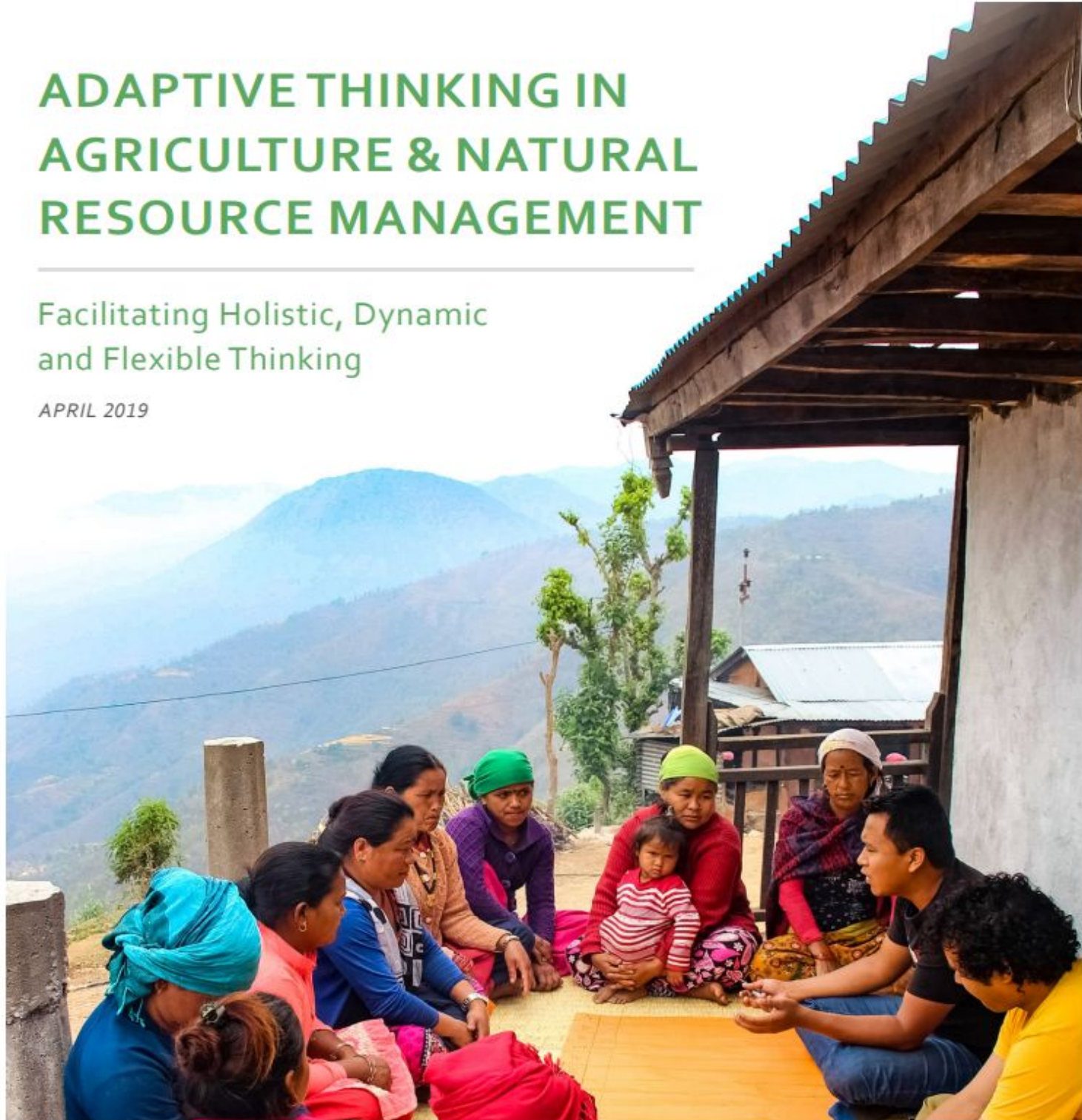



Training | Challenges & Key Learnings


ADAPTIVE THINKING IN AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Facilitating Holistic, Dynamic and Flexible Thinking

APRIL 2019



 **USAID**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

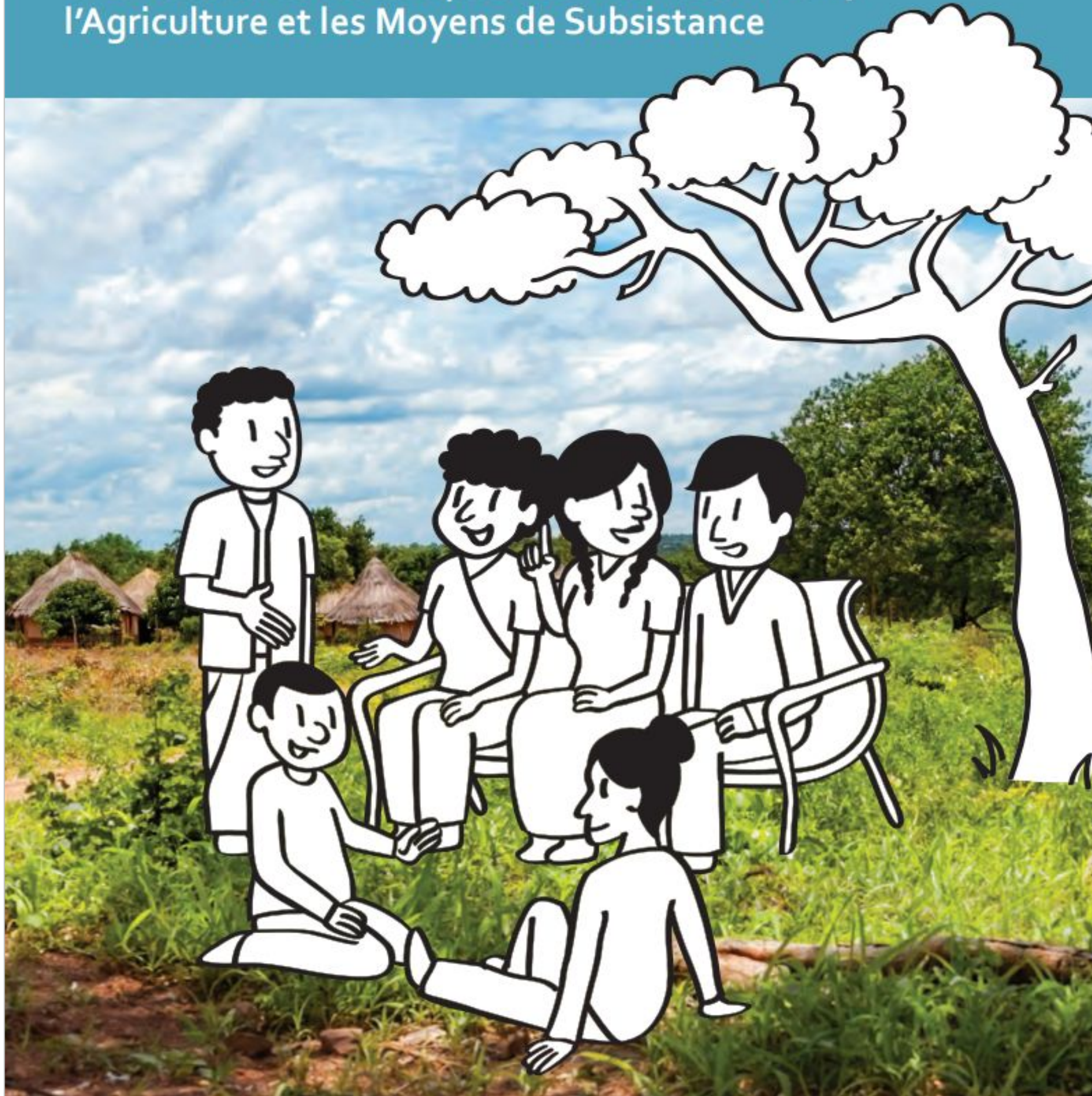
 **SCALE**
Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture
Livelihoods and Environment

- Mindset shift, “adaptive thinking”
- Quality, consistent training
 - Participatory, hands-on
 - Demonstration
 - Community engagement
 - Farmer-led, locally adapted solutions
- Communication, facilitation
- Behavior change



FAITES DE MOI UN AGENT DE CHANGEMENT :

Une Ressource de CSC pour les Activités WASH,
l'Agriculture et les Moyens de Subsistance



Make Me a Change Agent

- Effective Communication
- Effective Facilitation
- Negotiated Behavior Change
- Empathy and Respect
- Storytelling for Behavior Change
- Cross-Site Visits
- Action Planning
- Gender and Gender Bias
- Shared Household Roles and Responsibilities
- Planning to Facilitate and Train Others



COVID Pivots



TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING REMOTE LEARNING

Lessons Drawn from SCALE's Online Capacity Strengthening Efforts
June 2021





Online Courses | MMCA

CURRICULUM

Make Me a Change Agent for Agriculture, Livelihoods, and WASH

Last Updated 10/27/2022 Duration 12 hours, 45 minutes  15

Details

In this 13-hour curriculum, you will learn fundamental skills in social and behavior change for agriculture, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities. As you go through this training, you will explore different techniques to strengthen your communication, negotiation and facilitation skills to support the successful and sustainable implementation of agriculture, livelihoods, and WASH activities.

Objectives:

- Identify key communication, negotiation, and facilitation skills that program staff working in agriculture, livelihoods, and WASH can apply to promote positive social and behavior change in others.
- Describe tools and tactics to promote behavior change related to agriculture, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities.
- Determine adult learning principles and participatory training approaches to use in agriculture

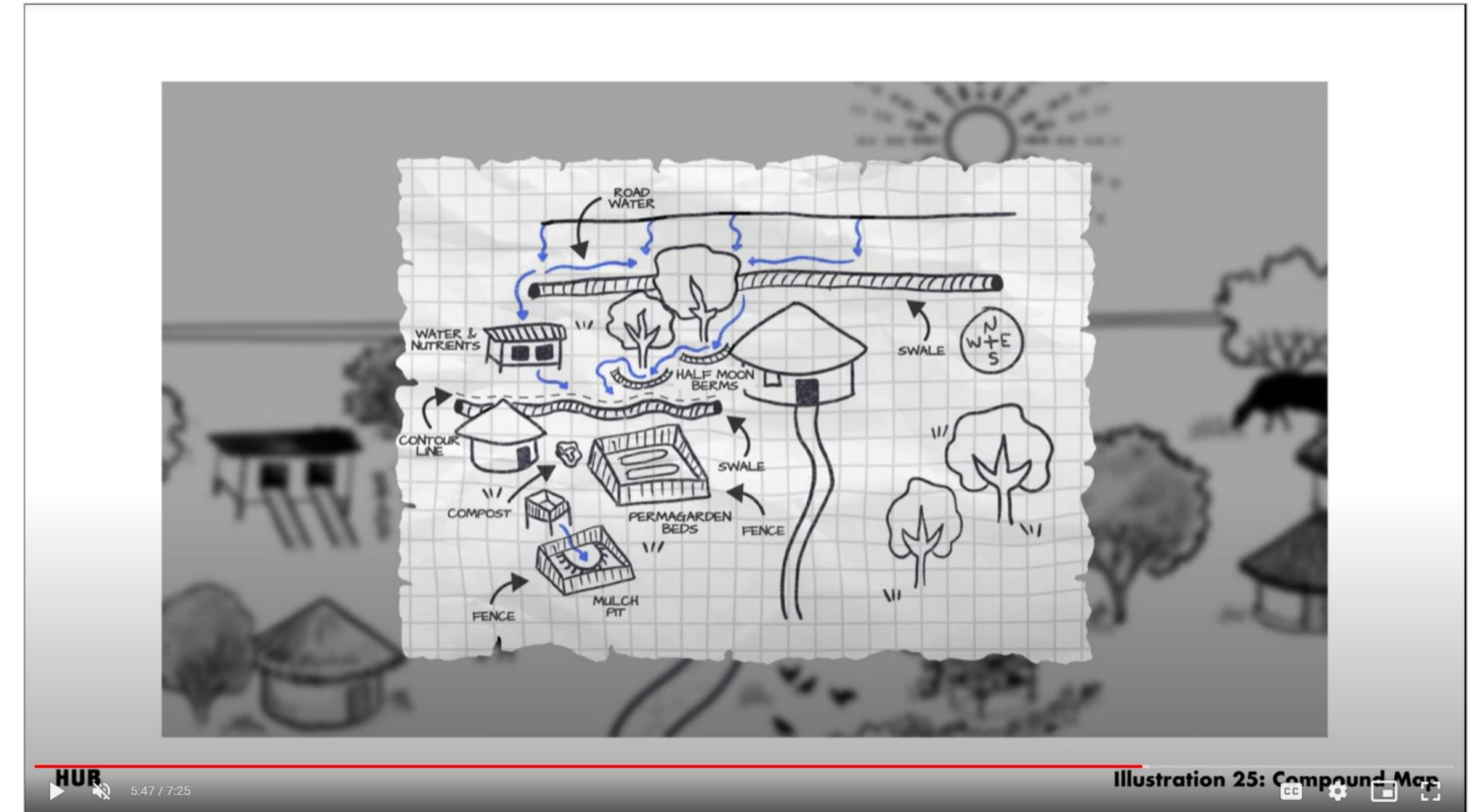
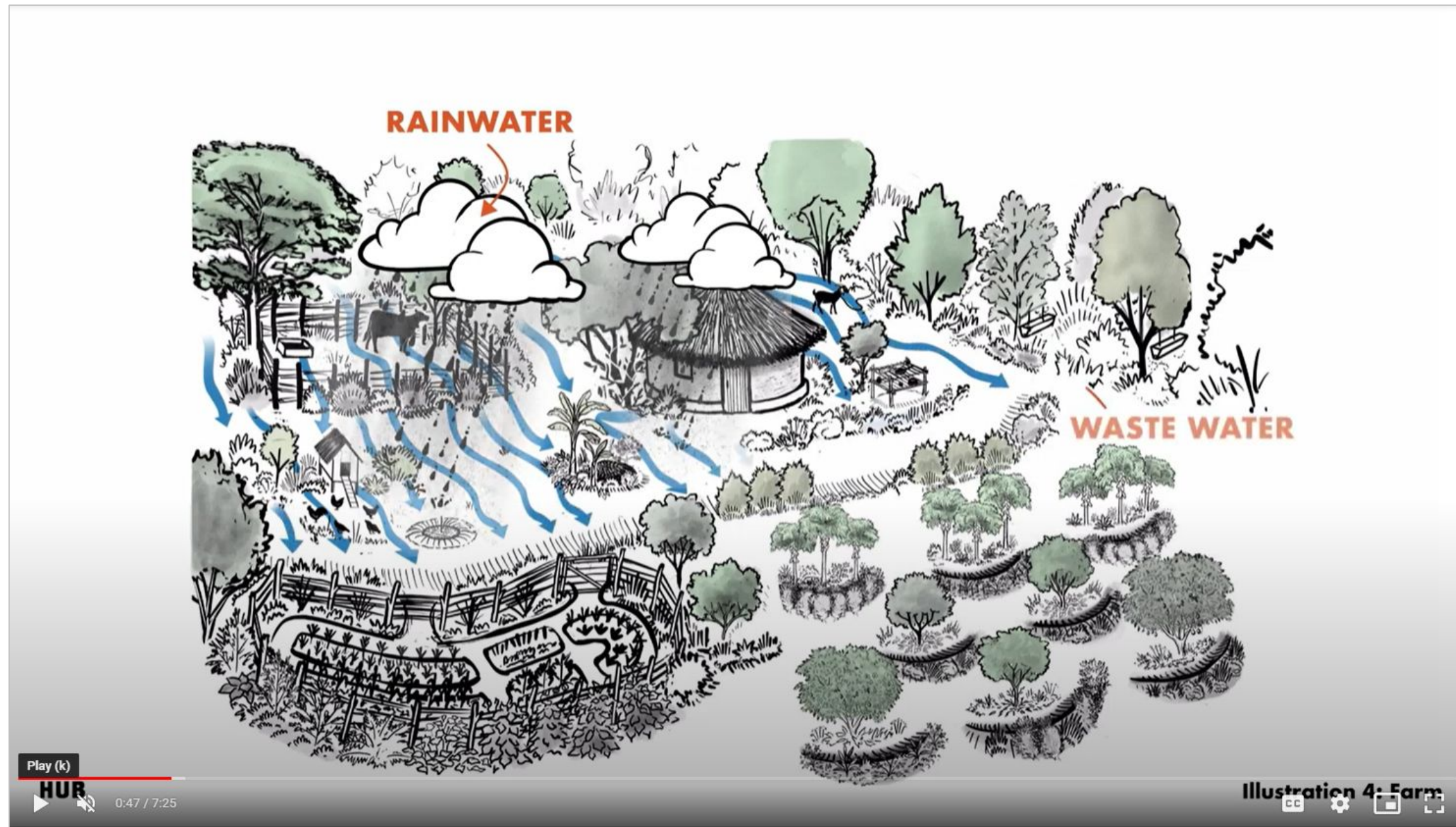


In Progress

Open Curriculum 



Online Courses | Permagarden Foundations





Training | Takunda + Amalima Loko RFSAs Zimbabwe



- Pivotal moments during the training:
 - Seeing examples of RD in practice
 - The A-frame, theory made real
 - Sponge demonstration
 - Translating rainfall to banked water resources
 - Witnessing abundant biodiversity
- What were some of the things that resonated with you?

Spotlight on:

Scaling Up



Scaling Up | Challenges & Key Learnings



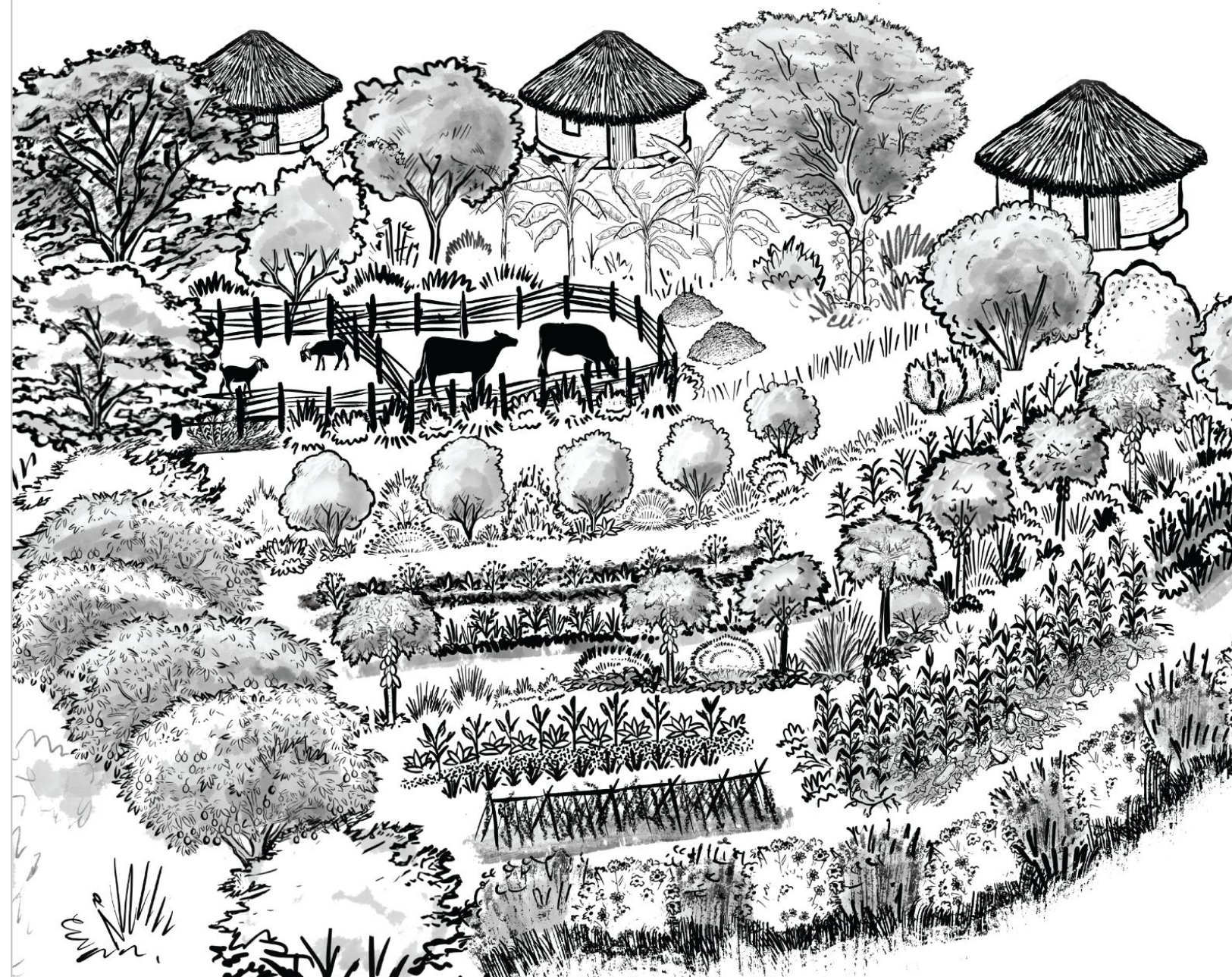
- One-off training is not sufficient
- Consistency of message during roll out/cascading
- Difficulty troubleshooting
- Lack of practical, field-ready tools



Scaling Up | RDFG - practical tool for scaling



Resilience Design Training Facilitator Guide



FACILITATOR NOTES

How to calibrate an A-frame

STEP 1

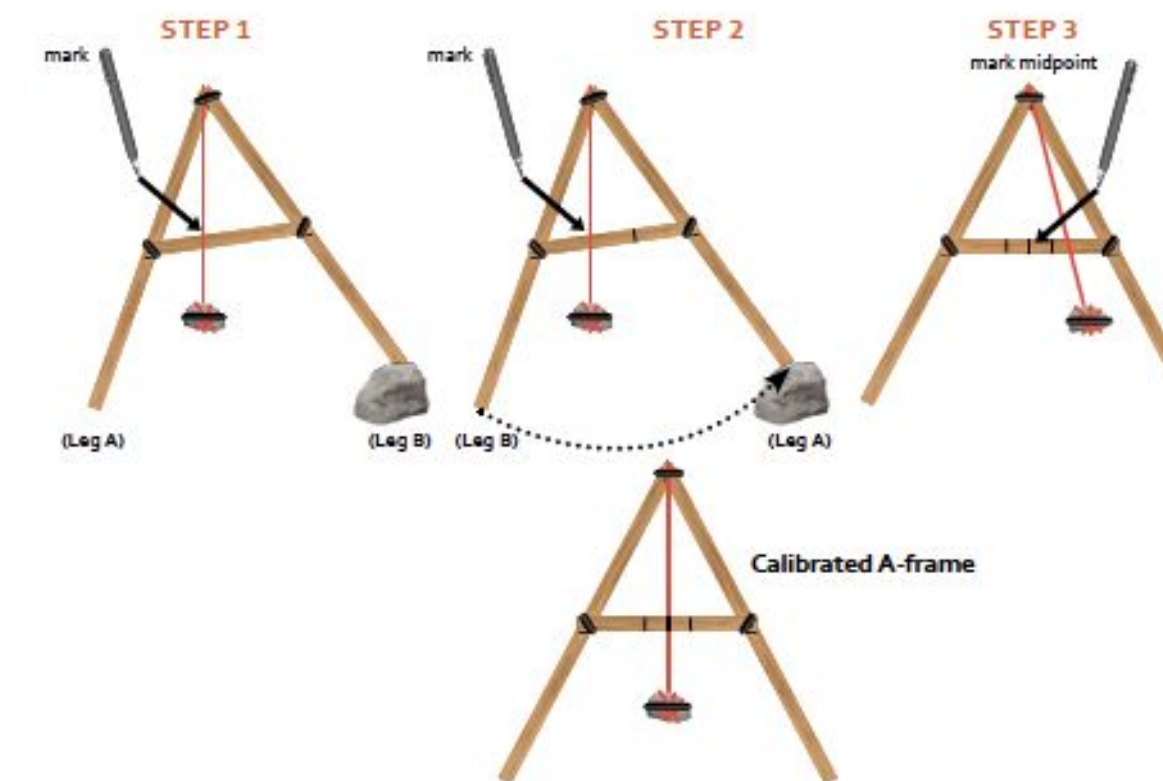
- Place the A-frame so that both legs touch the ground.
- Elevate one leg of the A-frame about 3–5 cm off the ground using a stone or piece of wood.
- In the soil, mark where the leg of the A-frame and the stone/wood support under the other leg is resting on the ground. These markings will allow the A-frame to be rotated later and then returned to the same spot.
- Allow the string and rock to naturally stop swinging and then use a pencil or charcoal to mark the exact place on the crossbar where the string falls. Do not carve the mark with a knife because the string will not swing freely.

STEP 2

- Rotate the A-frame legs 180° so that the elevated leg is now on the mark on the ground and the leg from the ground becomes elevated. Be sure to place the legs on the existing marks on the ground.
- After the string and rock stop swinging, mark with the exact place where the string stops along the crossbar of the A-frame with charcoal or a pencil.
- You should now have two charcoal or pencil lines on the crossbar.

STEP 3

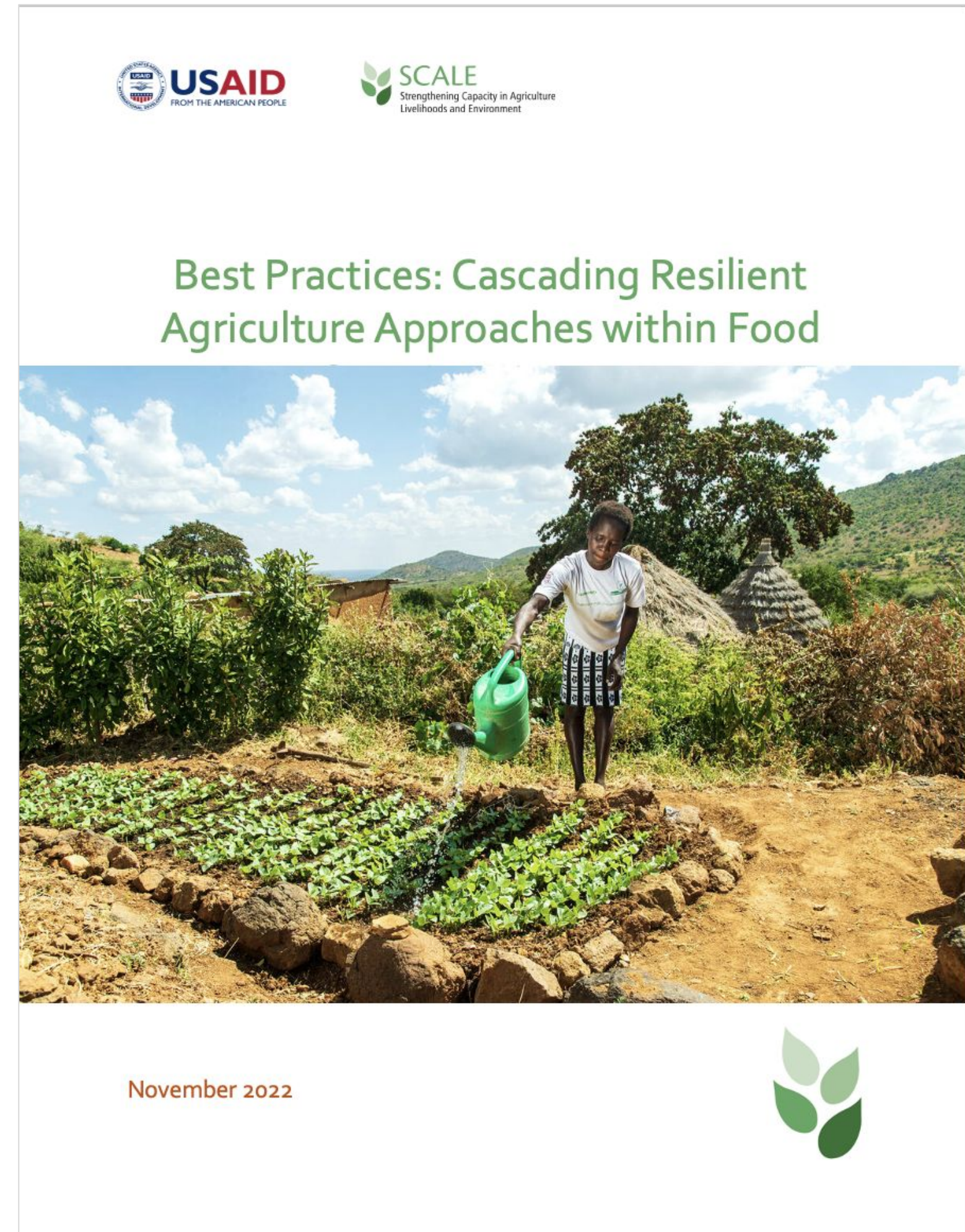
- Use a string, piece of paper, or blade of grass to measure the distance between the two marks. Fold it in half to find the halfway point. This is called the “center-mark.”
- Mark the center-mark with pencil or charcoal. This center-mark completes the calibration.





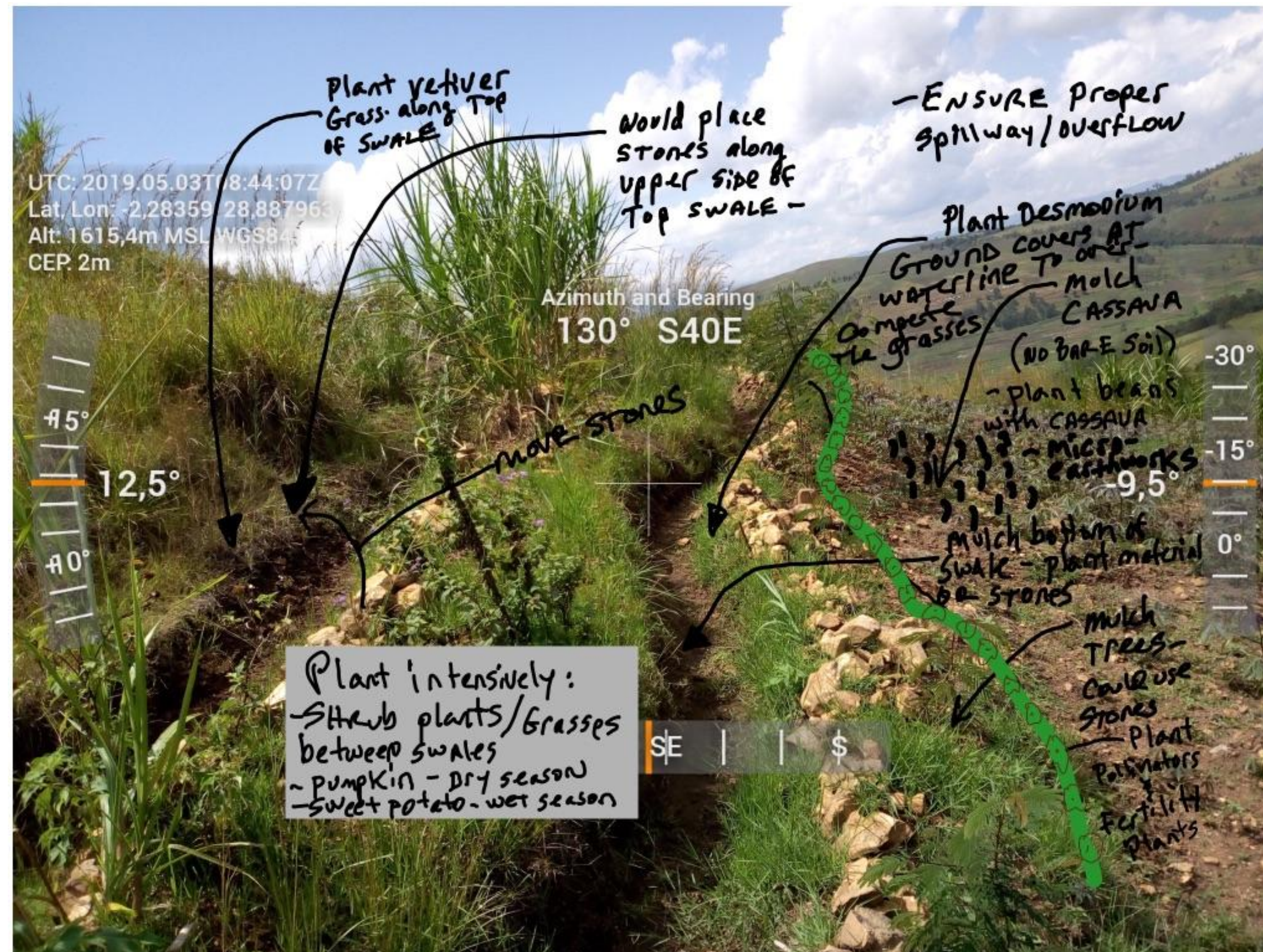
Scaling Up | Best Practices in Cascading Resilient Ag

- Farmer-led approach
- Community & local partner buy-in
- Mix of expertise
- Mentorship, coaching, refreshers
- Showcase successes
- Use demonstration sites
- Monitor per min standards
- Budget appropriately





Mentorship



- Supports knowledge sharing
- Reinforces observation & adaptation practices
- Aids with troubleshooting
- Promotes identification/integration of local solutions
- Highly valued by IPs



Mentorship / What did it provide FARM?



- Technical and strategic guidance
- Strengthening and sharing technical skills
- Building team unity and confidence during implementation
- Quality monitoring of field interventions



Mentorship / Impact - FARM



- Program strategy
- Team and partners capacity
- Quality control
- Participation of the private sector



Mentorship / Lessons Learned - FARM



- Mentoring timeframe
- Mentorship technology
- Staff availability
- Partner participation

Spotlight on:

Monitoring



Monitoring | Challenges & Key Learnings



- Maintaining quality
- Focus on feedback & learning
- Observation, iteration and adaptation



Monitoring | Standards and Checklists



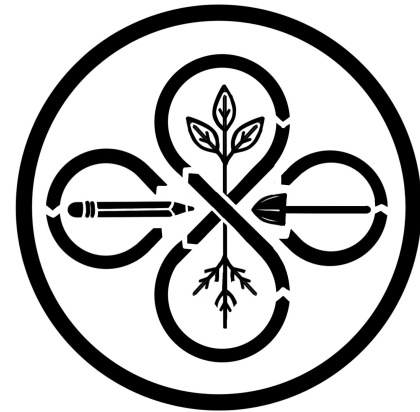
- Established Minimum Standards
- Resilience Design Checklist
- Permagarden Checklist



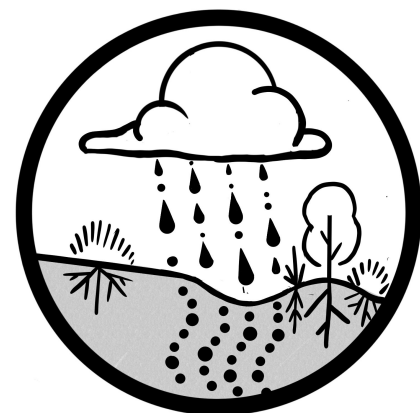
SIX CORE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS FOR RD SITES



RESOURCES - maximizes the use of locally available natural and man-made materials and waste streams



DESIGN- optimizes resources and external influences for improved efficiency, production, resilience and regeneration



WATER - has multiple strategies to slow, spread, sink and manage rainwater and other water resources.



SIX CORE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS CONT'D



SOIL HEALTH - creates a healthy soil food web that supports sustained production and regenerative growth



BIODIVERSITY- has plants, trees & animals that work together to support the overall health & production of the growing environment



PROTECTION- includes strategies to protect soil and plants from any negative effects of people, animals and external influences



RD Technical Checklist

Scoring Key

Score	Description
√-	Practice is of low quality or not present.
√	Practice is in place and of adequate quality, meeting the RD Minimum Standard. Every field site applying the RD approach is expected to achieve at least a √ for each practice listed below.
√+	All practices in the √ field have been met or exceeded, plus additional Resilience Strengthening practices are in place. This is ideal Resilience Design.
*	All practices in the √ and √+ fields have been met or exceeded. Practices demonstrate innovation and problem solving in ways that enhance production and smooth water, food and nutrition gaps throughout the year. All practices on demonstration sites should meet the * level.



Let's take a

WALK

Spotlight on:

Research



Research | Challenges & Key Learnings



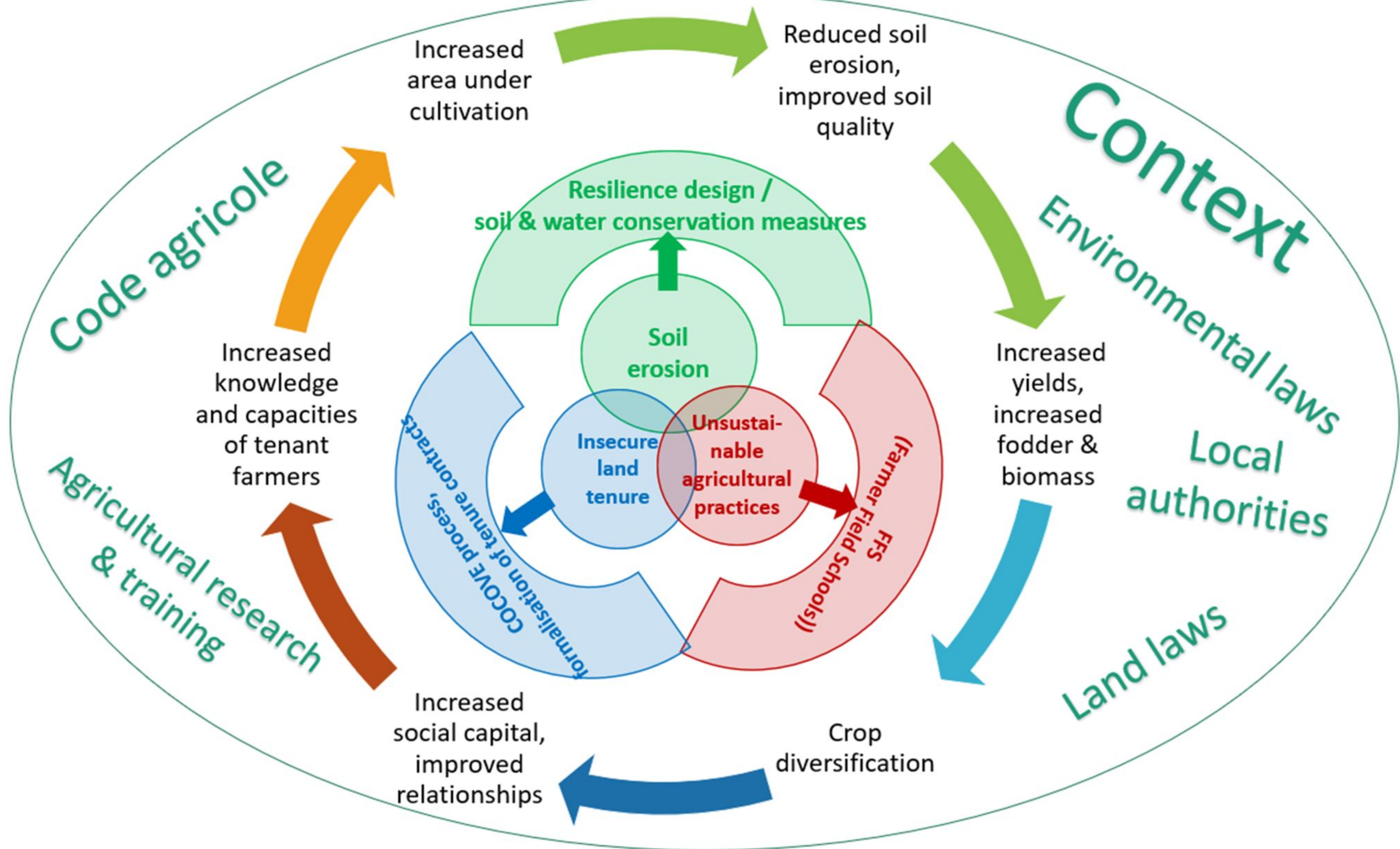
- Lack of evidence
- Inconsistent indicators
- Knowledge sharing
- Research → practice gaps
- Early research planning (R&I stage) key
- Peer-to-peer exchange
- Sensemaking and validation workshops



FSP RFSA, South Kivu, DRC | The Hill Approach



A virtuous cycle...





Sustainability and Replicability

Time for

Q&A



SCALE



www.fsnnetwork.org/scale

Sign up & receive updates and event invitations!



scale@mercy Corps.org

THANK YOU!