

# A brief on Innovation Platforms in the Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC)



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Training of Trainers workshop on the use of the Livelihoods Characterization/Benchmarking Tool (SLATE), Jeldu, Ethiopia, 1-5 April 2013

# How do we address these issues?

One component of the NBDC project has been focusing on establishing multi-stakeholder **‘innovation platforms’** to develop integrated rainwater management strategies which address some of these issues

1. Jeldu Woreda
2. Diga Woreda
3. Fogera Woreda

Participants include: Government line departments (Admin, Agriculture, Natural Resource, Water, Women, Cooperatives, Land Use, Livestock), Agricultural Research Centers, Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (NGO), community representatives

# Overview of NBDC project...

Nile Basin Development Challenge aims to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the Ethiopian highlands through a **landscape** approach to rainwater management.

Base-line research conducted in three NBDC sites at the start of the project identified the following NRM issues:

- Focus on isolated technical interventions
- Lack of cross-sector collaboration and coordination
- Weaknesses in technical design
- Poor follow up and monitoring
- Lack of relevance to local priorities
- Lack of voluntary collective action



# Why Innovation Platforms?

## Push RWM interventions & technologies

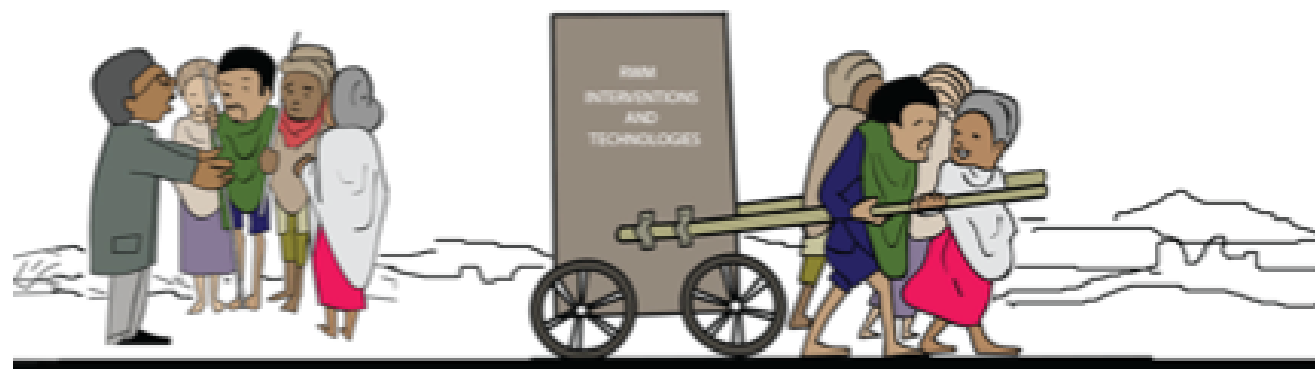
→ Achieve short term quotas



Or...

## Empower & engage actors in RWM strategies

→ Achieve sustainable landscapes & improved livelihoods



# But how do innovation platforms change how things are done?



Contributes to new knowledge

Action 3

Changes habits and practices

Includes different sources of knowledge

Involves wider institutions, policies and markets

Facilitates learning

Builds capacity to innovate

Empowers actors

Leads to joint action

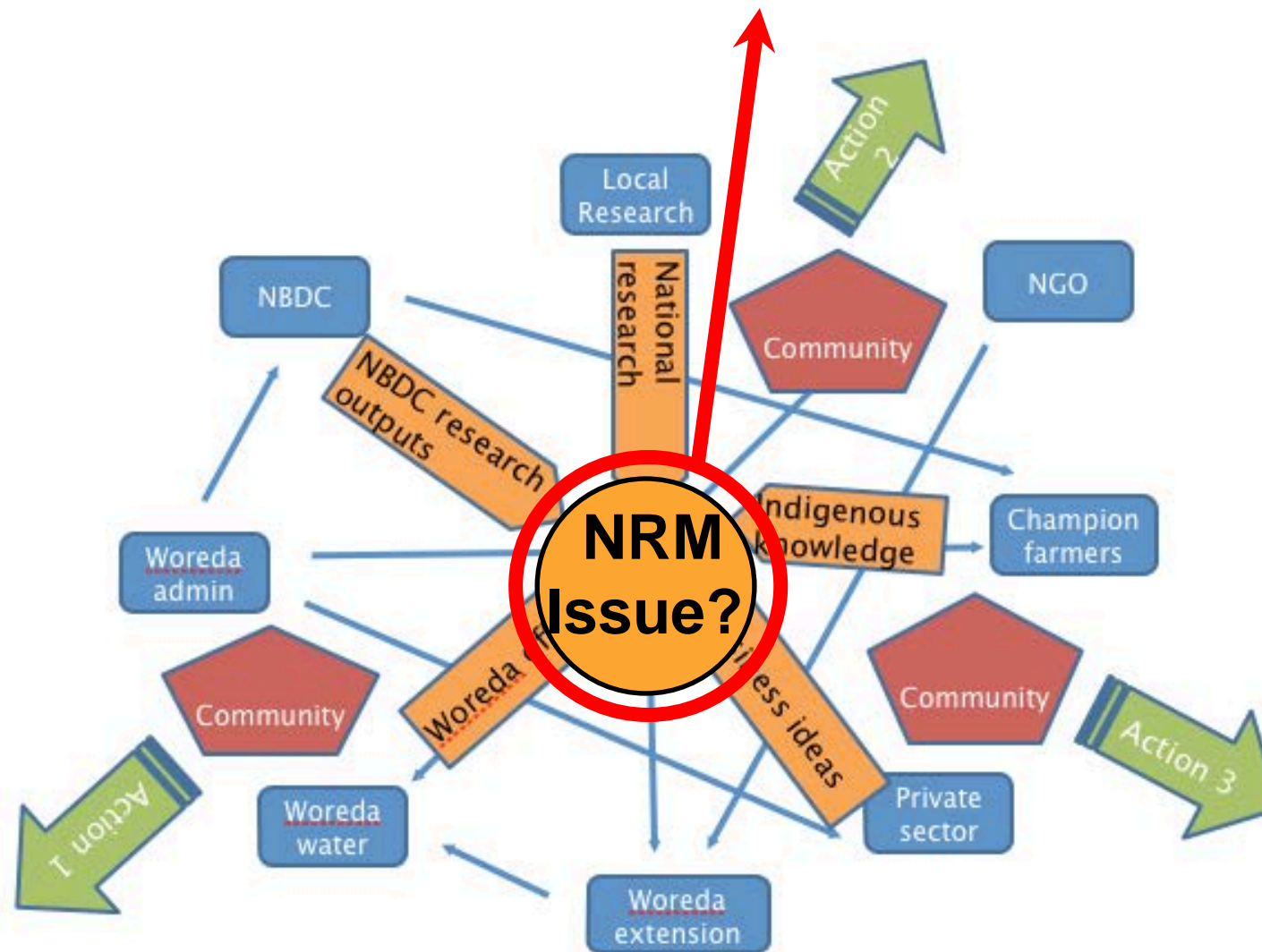
Encourages local actors to own the process

Addresses wide range of issues

Improves communication between stakeholders

# First steps...

Joint identification of common NRM issue to ensure collective action



This takes time!

# Platform meetings...





# Community engagement

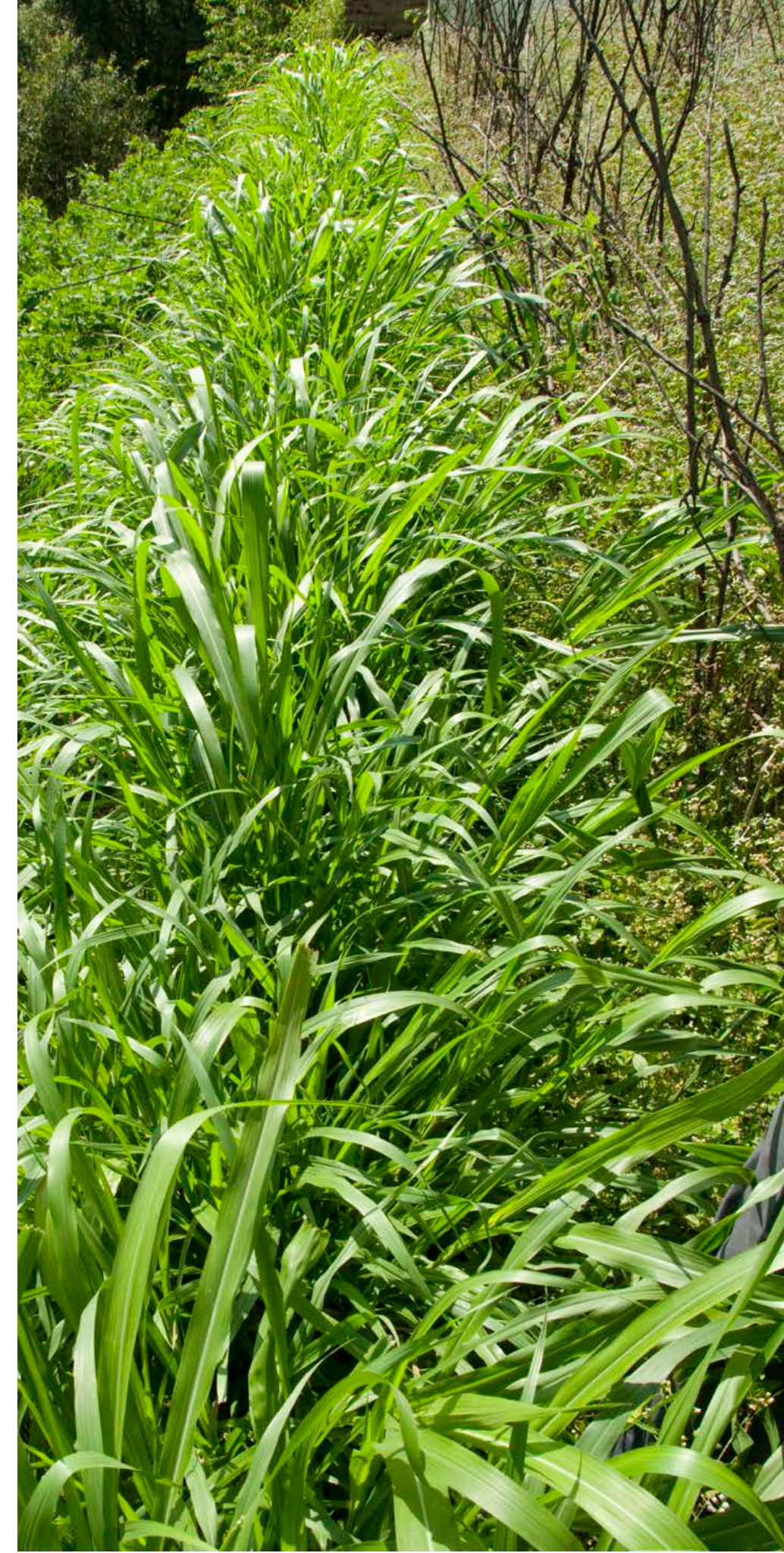




# Issue Identification

Fogera		
Actors	Main issue	Related issue
IP members	Unrestricted grazing	Land degradation
Community	Restricted grazing	Shortage of grazing/fodder
	Water scarcity	Shortage of water
	Soil conservation	Organization of campaign work

**Fodder** development was chosen as a priority issue for pilot interventions due to the common concerns around the issue of grazing





# IP fodder interventions to complement SLM campaign



# Innovation Fund



- 80,000 ETB was allocated to the platform to fund action research activities
- Proposals and action plans were developed by IP members according to defined criteria
- Actions should be cross-sectoral, participatory, designed to address RWM issues and targeted to suitable area
- A sites was selected within the designated NBDC watershed
- Action to take place at household level, farmland and communal land



## Pilot interventions to date



- Activities started in faced difficulties due to lack of community engagement
- Pilot interventions were moved to Limbichosh village which has so far proved more successful
- Few households are involved with the current activities which include enclosure and improvement of communal grazing area and backyard fodder development
- A field day was organized in the three woredas to review the activities and share knowledge with other farmers

# Technical Group Members in IP

1. Woreda livestock agency
2. Woreda natural resource
3. Research Centre
4. University
5. NGO (Local Facilitators)
  - Active participation in IP meetings,
  - Design and assist the action research on fodder intervention
  - Providing trainings
  - Facilitating and coordinating the linkges



# Stakeholder Capacity Building

A lot of talk about 'participatory planning' but difficult to put it into action.

WAT-A-GAME- Participatory planning for NRM  
([www.watagame.info](http://www.watagame.info))





<http://nilebdc.org>