

Competing claims for natural resources in the Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia: From global drivers to local action

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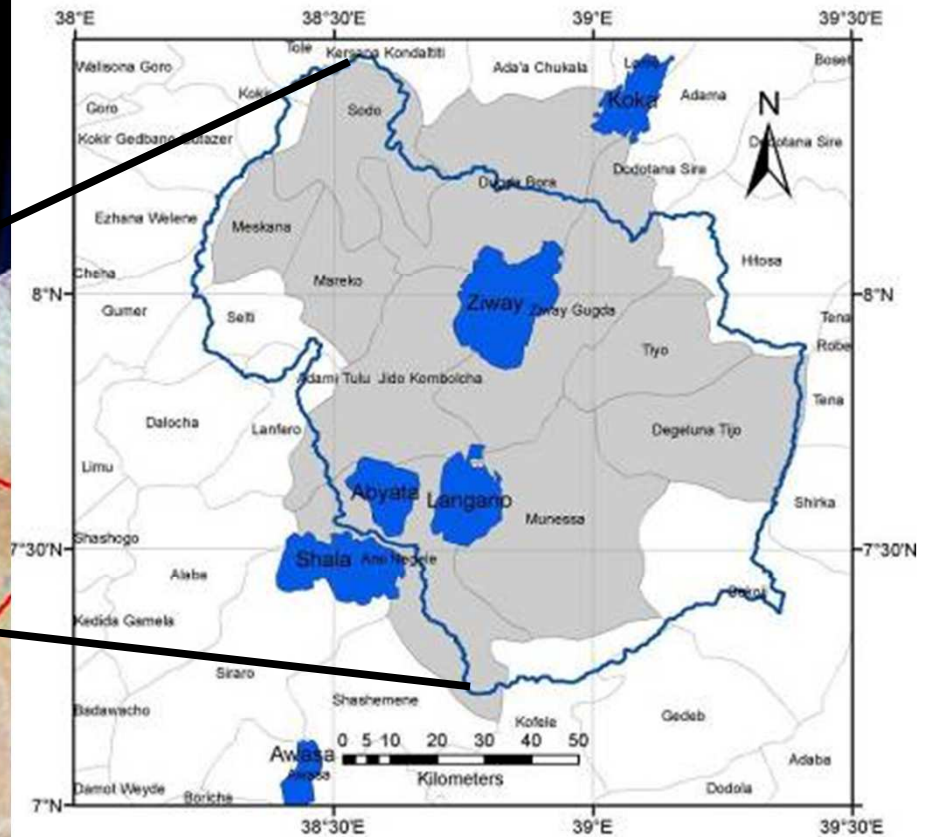
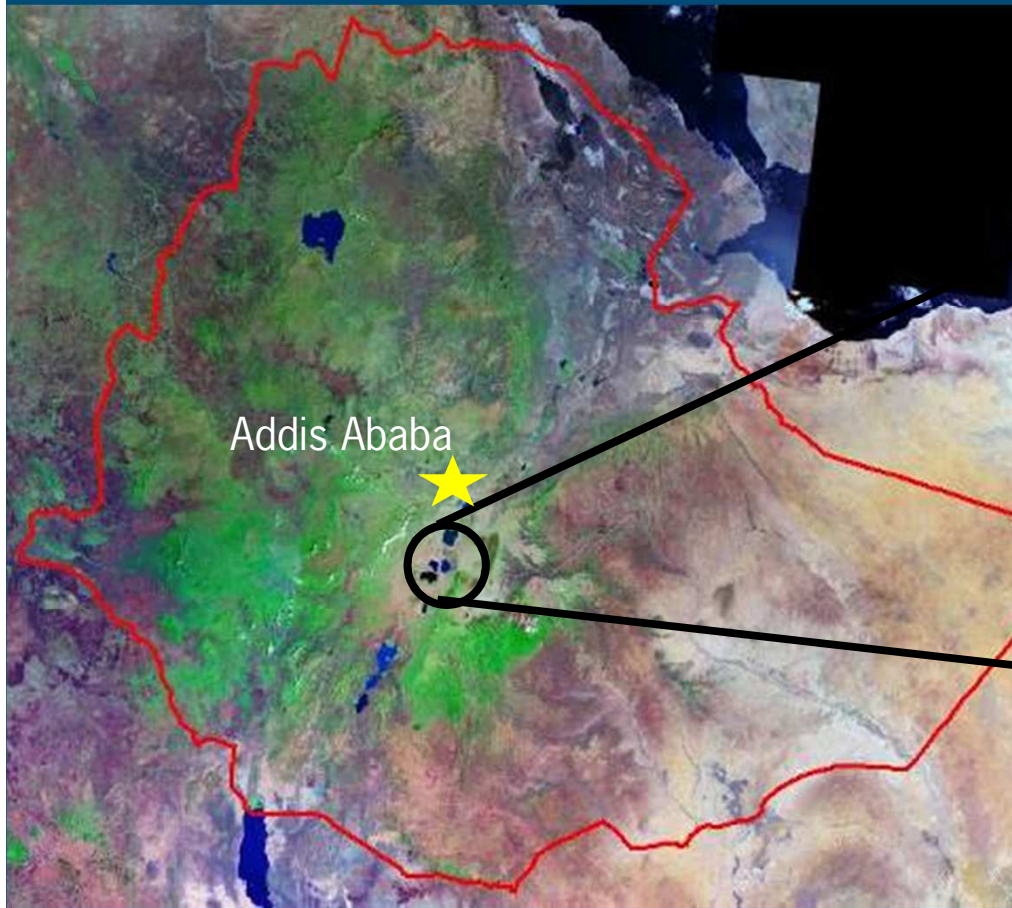
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Content

- Introduction to the Central Rift Valley
- Drivers at different scales affecting local responses
- Competing resource claims and impact
- Approach to stimulate stakeholder dialogue and initiate R&D activities
- Lessons learned



Central Rift Valley in Ethiopia



Area \pm 1 Mln ha
Population \pm 1.5 Mln

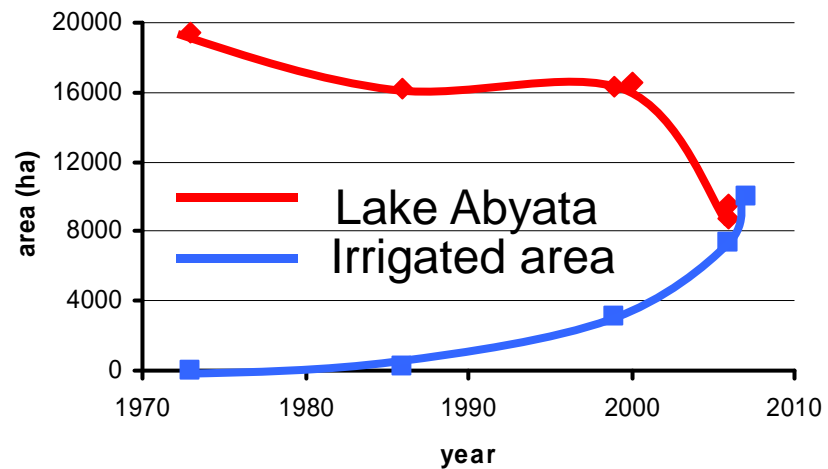


Drivers at different scales.....consequences:

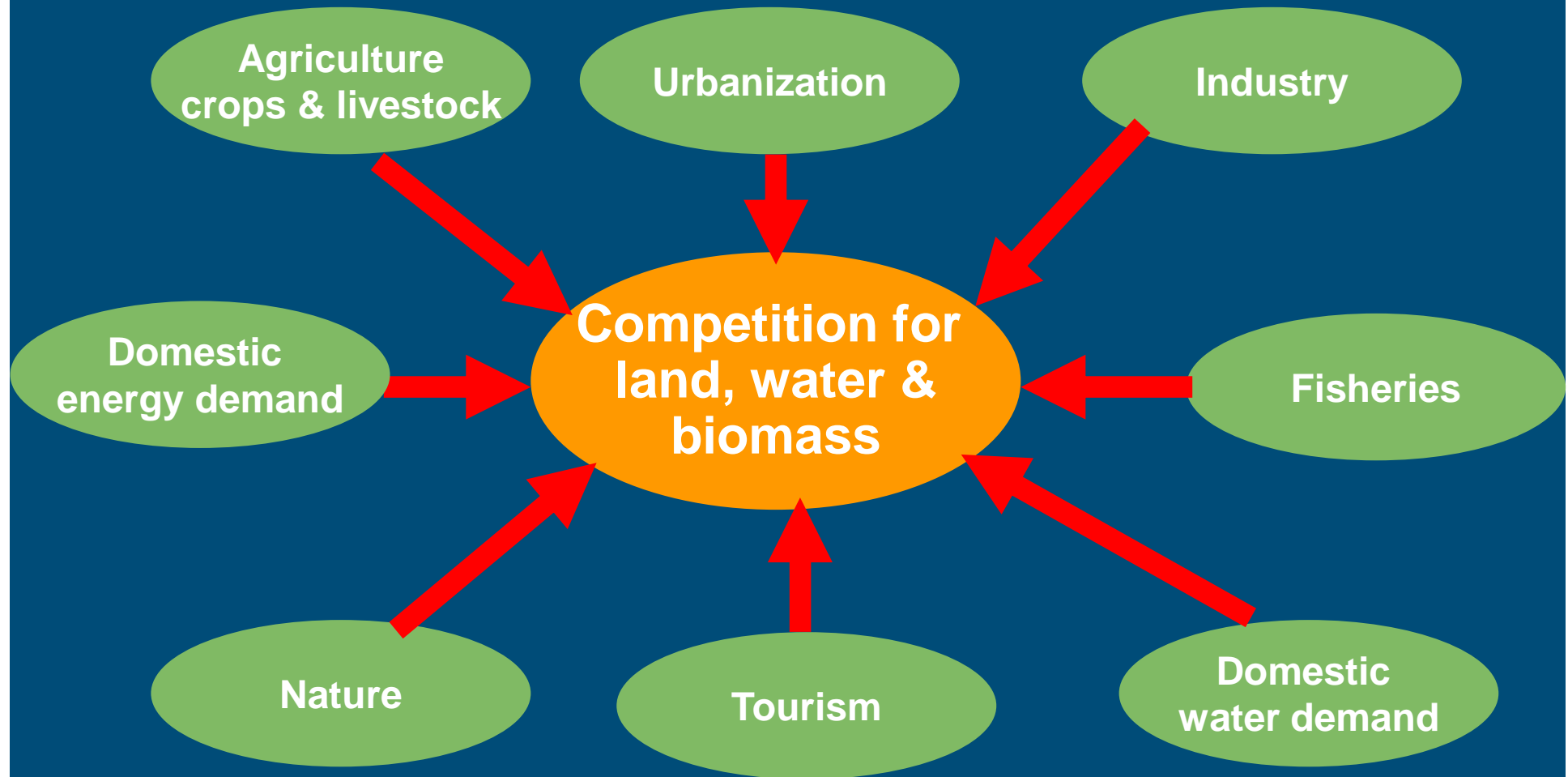


Local responses and feedback to driving forces from higher scales are limited

One of the symptoms of increased competition for water resources: Downstream Lake Abyata is drying up



Cross-sectoral claims for natural resources

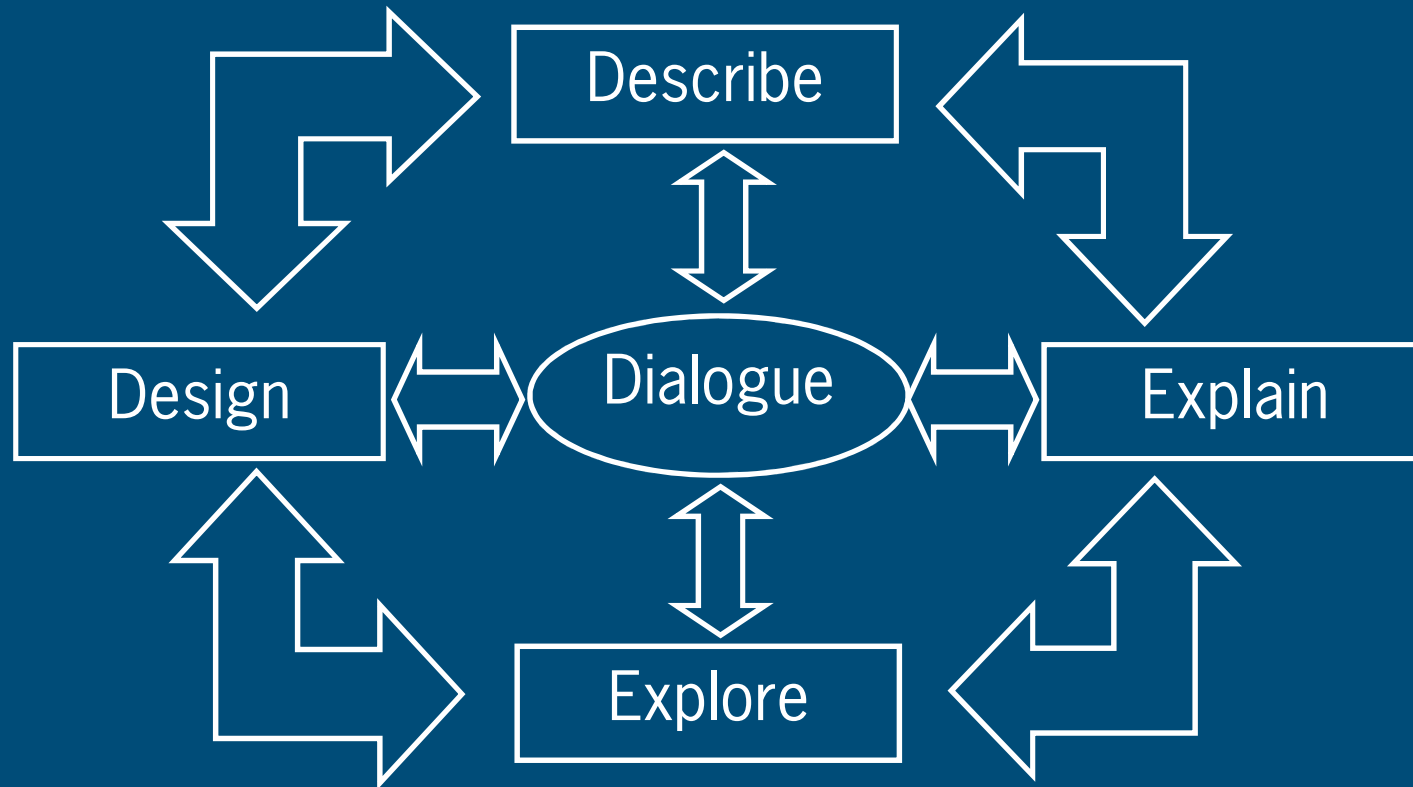


General objective

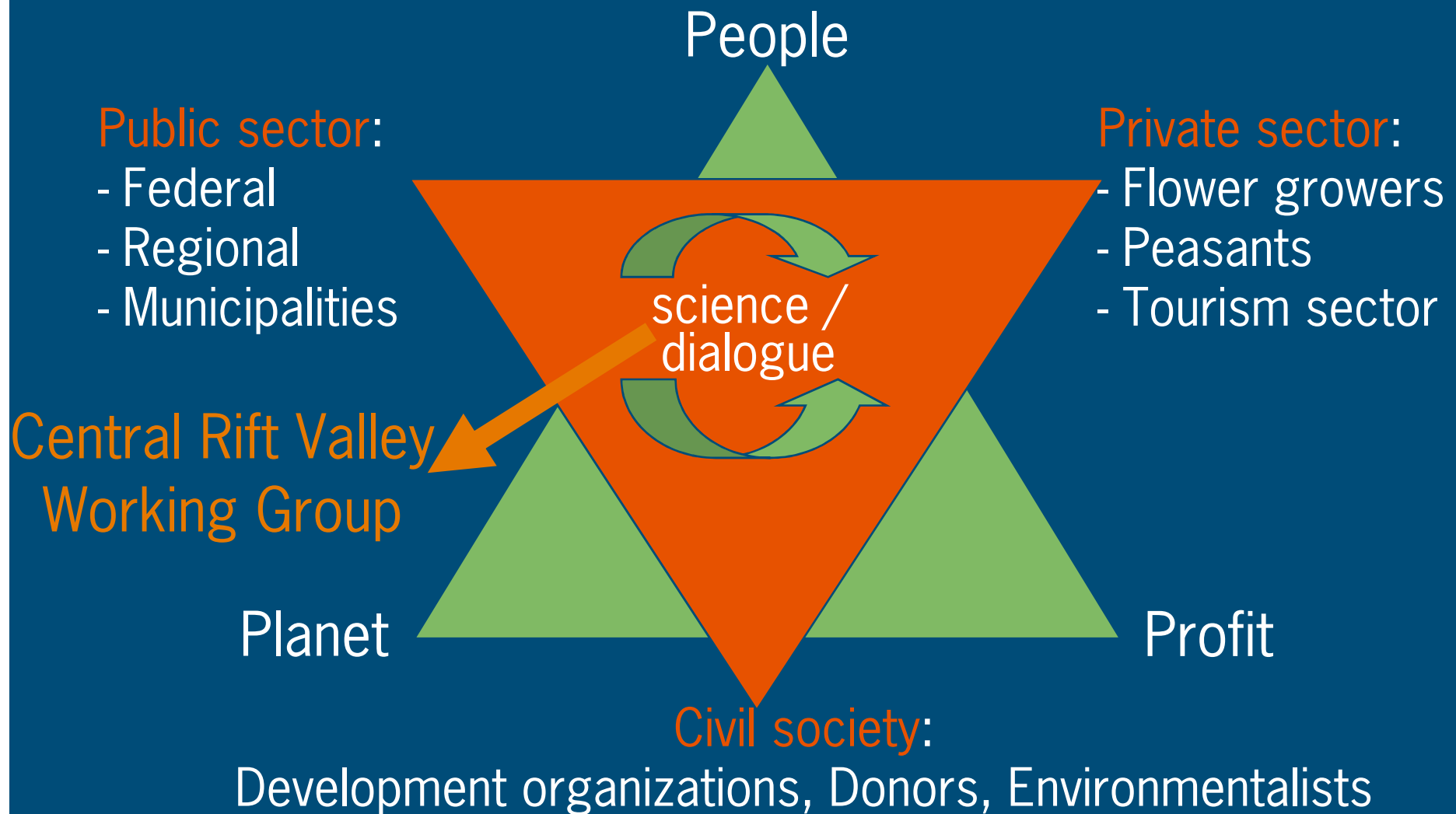
To strengthen the capacity of local authorities, development organisations and private sector with the aim to mitigate competing claims for natural resources, and to improve resource use management and the livelihoods of the rural population in the CRV.



Methodological NE-DEED framework to analyze resource claims and to support stakeholder dialogue



Stakeholder dialogue to stimulate sustainable development



Approaches to stimulate policy dialogue

■ Develop joint knowledge base

- Action-oriented research (science, civil society, private sector)
- Reports and website: www.crv.wur.nl

■ Raise awareness

- Presentations at public events (e.g. World Water Day)
- Multi stakeholder workshops
- Policy briefs
- Connect different dialogues and discourses

■ Capacity building

- Training of students and staff (e.g. extension)
- Introduction to new research and participatory planning methods



From policy dialogue to local action

Two premises:

- Driving forces from higher scales difficult to be influenced by local stakeholders.
 - Local stakeholders have own mandate and capacity.
- Actions should be in line with findings of analysis, e.g.:
 - Furrow-irrigated sector largest water user.
 - Environmental and economic performance of smallholder irrigation sector is quite low.
 - Agricultural intensification may affect water quality.
 - Develop livelihood strategies that consume less fresh water resources than irrigated agriculture.



Participatory developed R&D activities

New alliances of public, private and civil society organizations resulted in 4 activities:

1. Training of horticulture extension.
2. Water quality monitoring to raise awareness and to stimulate thinking about required institutions.
3. Buffer zones along lakes and rivers to reduce emissions from agriculture and preserve the landscape.
4. Promotion material for tourism as alternative source of income.



Lessons learned

- Involve stakeholders in understanding resource claims and developing solutions.
 - Joint action-research was helpful to validate information.
 - Jointly developed knowledge base contributed to acceptance of conclusions.
 - Policy dialogue resulted in trust among stakeholders.
 - Policy dialogue resulted in new partnerships.
- Policy dialogues at different scales; it is the art to connect these and to provide them with relevant information.
 - Science and knowledge for policy development at different levels.
 - Develop adaptive capacities of local stakeholders.



Lessons learned

- Stakes are high in Ethiopia, i.e. strong drivers to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty:
 - Little knowledge/experience with agricultural intensification.
 - Environmental concerns neglected.



Thank you

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