



**Research design, innovation and theory of change:**  
**CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas**

**Graham Thiele, Director**



**RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas**



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Roots, Tubers and Bananas

# Program Objectives

RTB is working globally to harness the untapped potential of those crops to improve food security, nutrition, income, climate change resilience and gender equity of smallholders



Banana  
Plantain



Cassava



Potato



Sweetpotato



Yam



Other R&T



# Program structure: Flagship Projects (FP)

DISCOVERY	DELIVERY		
<p><b>FP1:</b> <u>Enhanced genetic resources</u></p>	<p><b>FP2:</b> <u>Productive varieties &amp; quality seed</u></p>	<p><b>FP3:</b> <u>Resilient crops</u></p>	<p><b>FP4:</b> <u>Nutritious food &amp; added value</u></p>
<p><b>DI1.1</b> Breeding CoP <b>DI1.2</b> Next generation breeding <b>DI1.3</b> Game changing traits <b>DI1.4</b> Genetic diversity</p> <p><b>Single crop/problem</b></p>	<p><b>CC2.1</b> Access to quality seeds/varieties <b>BA2.2</b> User preferred banana cultivars/hybrids <b>CA2.3</b> Added value cassava varieties <b>PO2.4</b> Seed potato for Africa <b>PO2.5</b> Potato varieties for Asia <b>SW2.6</b> User preferred sweetpotato varieties <b>YA2.7</b> Quality seed yam</p>	<p><b>CC3.1</b> (Pest/disease management) <b>CC3.2</b> Crop production systems <b>BA3.3</b> Banana fungal &amp; bacterial wilts (Foc/BXW) <b>BA3.4</b> Banana viral diseases (BBTD) <b>CA3.5</b> Cassava biological constraints, Asia/Americas <b>CA3.6</b> Cassava biological threats, Africa</p>	<p><b>CC4.1</b> Post-harvest innovation <b>CA4.2</b> Cassava processing <b>CA4.3</b> Biofortified cassava <b>SW4.4</b> Nutritious sweetpotato</p>
<p><b>FP 5: <u>Improved livelihoods at scale</u></b></p>			
<p><b>CC5.1</b> Foresight and impact assessment <b>CC5.2</b> Sustainable intensification and diversification for improved resilience, nutrition and income <b>CC5.3</b> Gender-equitable development and youth employment <b>CC5.4</b> Scaling RTB agri-food system innovations</p>			

Multi-crop

Glue!



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# Research design: where is glue?

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## RTB crops share:

- Genetic complexity (> grains)
- Vegetative propagation, similar seed systems
- Perishability, bulkiness and post harvest/value chain options

# Research design: seed systems

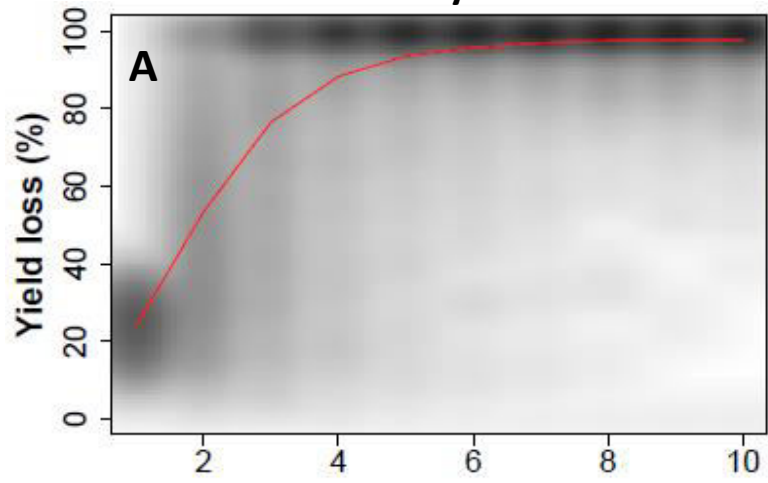
- **Yield loss viruses and seed system major shared constraint**
- **Knowledge gap on actual losses and degeneration**
- **Common framework: banana, cassava, potato, sweetpotato, yam**



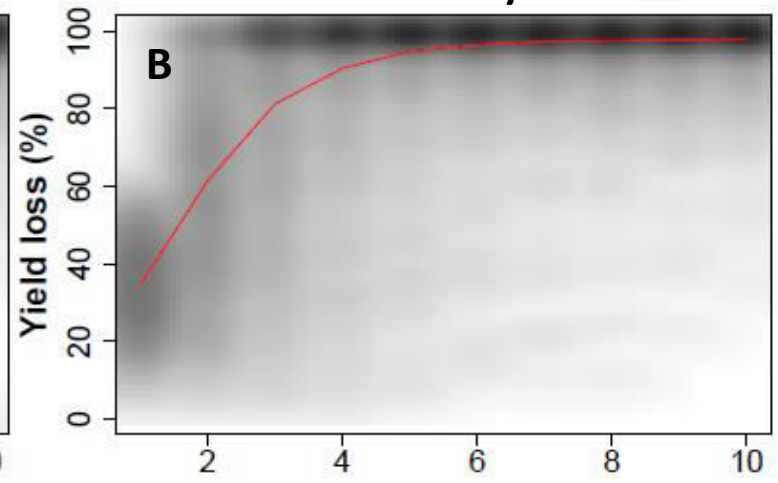
# Research design: seed systems

Early-season roguing

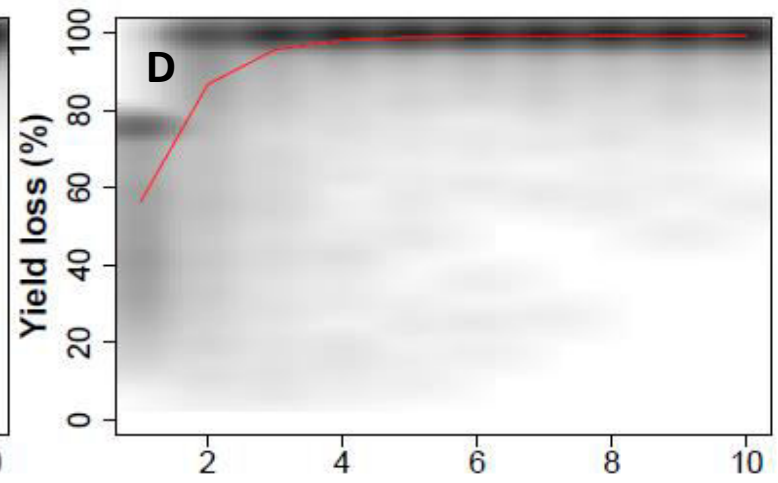
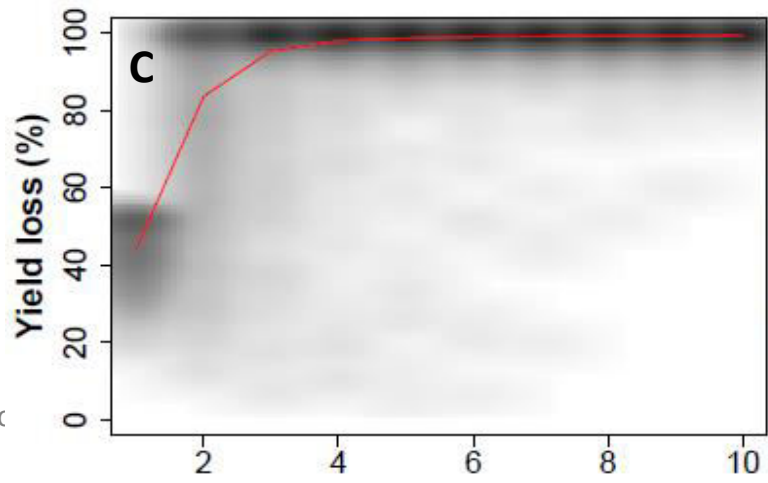
Late infections have no effect on yield loss



Early and late infections have same effect on yield loss



Late-season roguing



# Research design: seed systems

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JOURNAL OF CROP IMPROVEMENT

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15427528.2018.1476998>



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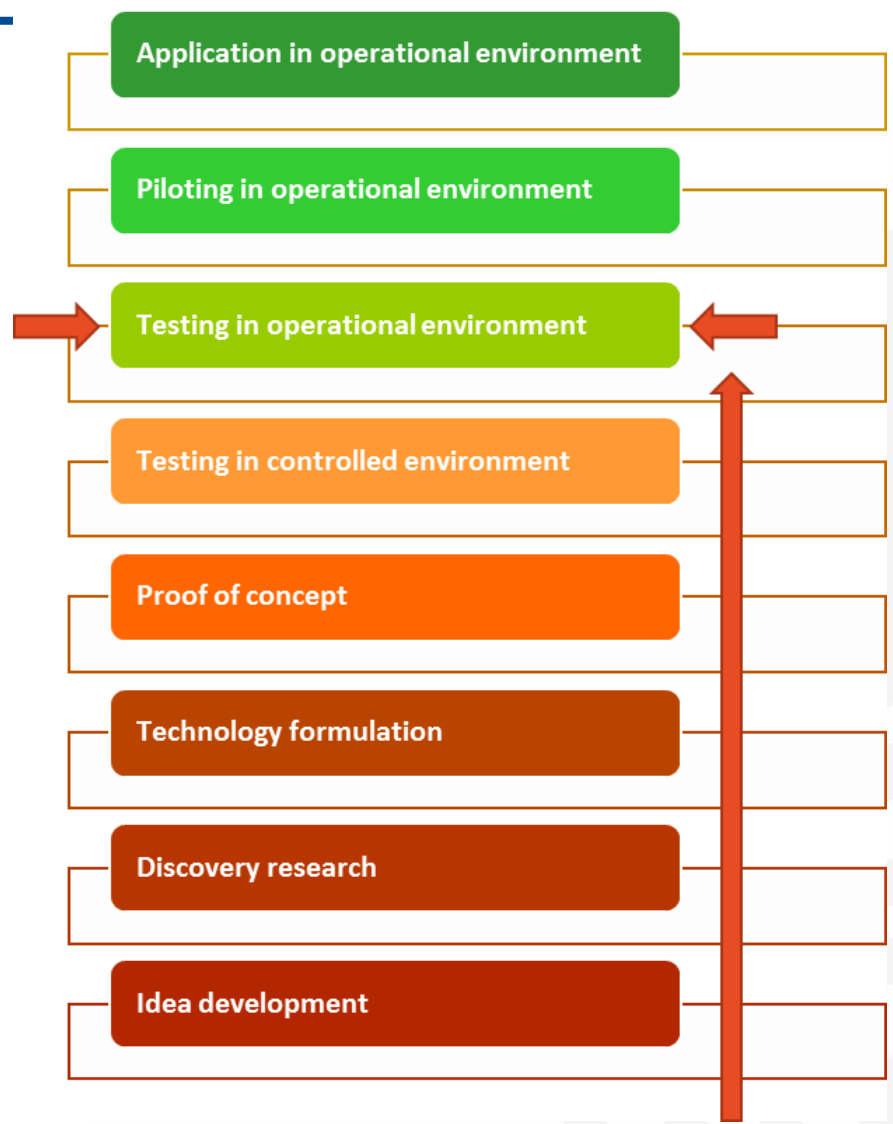
## Understanding root, tuber, and banana seed systems and coordination breakdown: a multi-stakeholder framework

Jeffery W. Bentley<sup>a</sup>, Jorge Andrade-Piedra<sup>b</sup>, Paul Demo<sup>c</sup>, Beloved Dzomeku<sup>d</sup>, Kim Jacobsen<sup>e</sup>, Enoch Kikulwe<sup>f</sup>, Peter Kromann<sup>g</sup>, P. Lava Kumar<sup>h</sup>, Margaret McEwan<sup>i</sup>, Netsayi Mudege<sup>j</sup>, Kwame Ogero<sup>k</sup>, Richardson Okechukwu<sup>l</sup>, Ricardo Orrego<sup>b</sup>, Bernardo Ospina<sup>m</sup>, Louise Sperling<sup>n</sup>, Stephen Walsh<sup>o</sup>, and Graham Thiele<sup>p</sup>

# Innovation

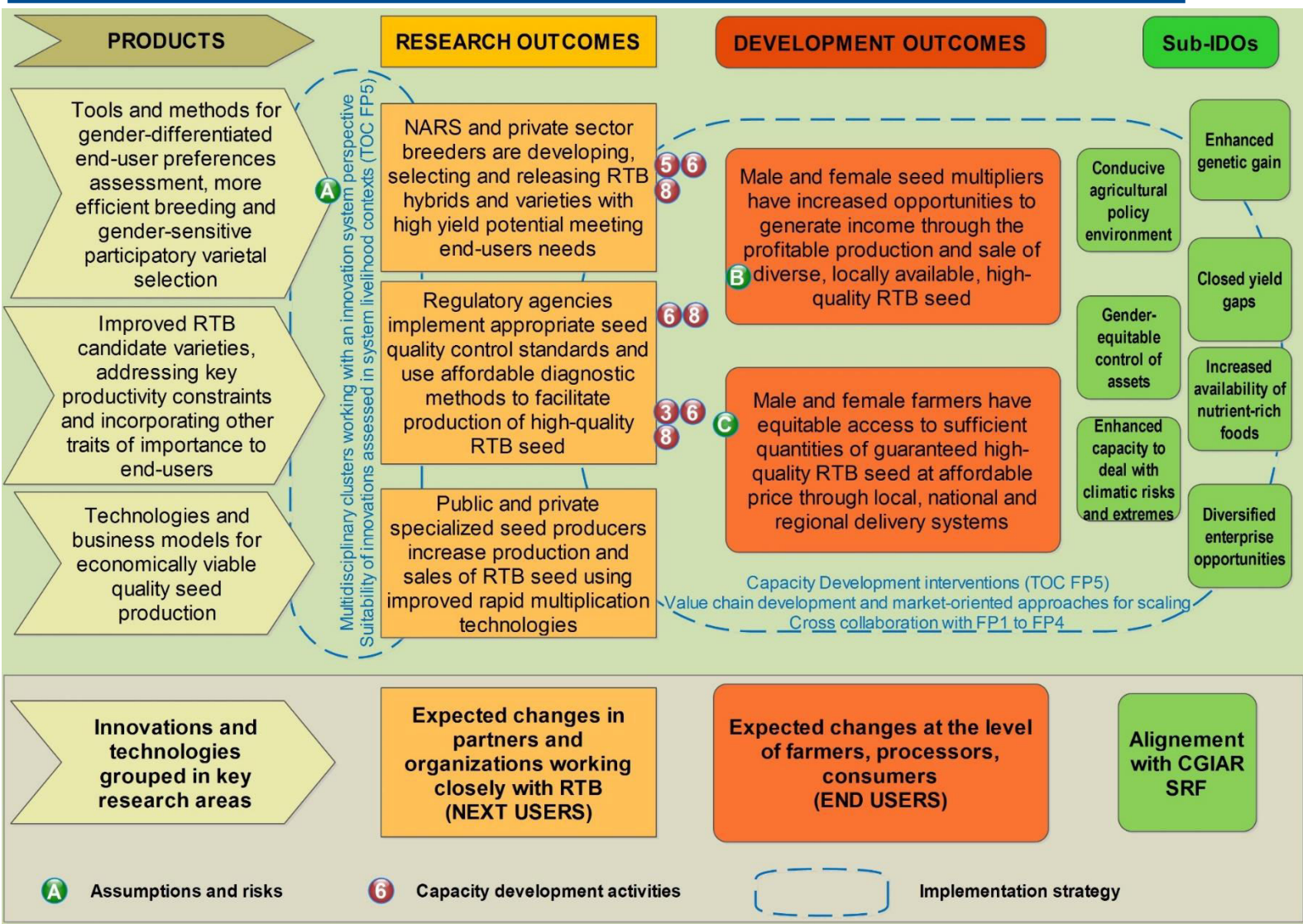
- 1) Identify ready to scale *INNOVATIONS*
- 2) Assess their *CAPACITY OF GENERATING IMPACTS*
- 3) Strengthen *SCALING PARTNERSHIPS*
- 4) Learn and adapt effective *SCALING STRATEGIES*

## Scaling readiness stages





# Theory of change: flagship varieties/seed





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# Theory of change: measurement

RTB-FP1- Enhanced genetic resources - Luis Augusto Becerra Lopez-lavalle - Budget: \$3,309,319 - [See Overview](#) - 2017-11-02

RTB-FP2- Productive varieties and quality seed - Elmar Schulte-Geldermann - Budget: \$4,110,387 - [See Overview](#) - 2017-11-02

Flagship outcomes & indicators ↓

RTB-CC2.1- Quality seeds & access to improved varieties - Jorge Andrade - Budget: \$1,649,822 - [See Overview](#) - 2017-11-02

Cluster outcomes & indicators ↓

RTB-CC2.1.1- Evidence-based systematic procedure to develop reliable, robust, profitable and sustainable seed systems - Sarah Kasyoka - Total budget: \$0 - 2017-11-02

RTB-CC2.1.2- Modelling and theoretical analyses to improve understanding, design and evaluation of RTB seed systems - Sarah Kasyoka - Total budget: \$0 - 2017-11-02

RTB-CC2.1.3- Improving seed system efficiency: on-farm and commercial seed production - Sarah Kasyoka - Total budget: \$0 - 2017-11-02

Output	Type	Output Responsible	Deliverable	Crops	Reporting Scientist	Center	Type	Delivery date	Files
Tools for testing and improving on farm seed management techniques <span style="color: red;">!</span> <span style="color: red;">!</span> 2017-11-02		L: Jorge Andrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tools for testing and improving commercial seed production techniques <span style="color: red;">!</span> <span style="color: red;">!</span> 2017-11-02		L: Jorge Andrade	7770 - SOCIO-CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS INFLUENCING THE UPTAKE OF SEED SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES: THE CASE OF TISSUE CULTURE FOR CONTROL OF BXW IN CENTRAL UGANDA <span style="color: red;">!</span> <span style="color: green;">✓</span> 2017-11-02	Multi RTB crops,	Enoch Kikulwe	Bioversity	Report/Working Paper	2017-02-15	Type:Report/Working Paper Date:2017-02-15 
			6273 - Review of existing on-farm and commercial seed multiplication techniques in RTB crops <span style="color: red;">!</span> <span style="color: orange;">!</span> 2017-11-02	Multi RTB crops, Multi RTB crops	Antoine Kalinganire	ICRAF	Report/Working Paper	2017-12-31	-





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# CRP Program Impact

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1. Single planning & reporting framework around theory of change
2. Achieved true collaboration around “glue”
3. Teamed up approach in responding to opportunities and threats
4. Critical mass for new initiatives eg scaling readiness
5. Joint research outputs (publications) and outcomes
6. **Enhanced impact in longer run**



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# RTB and China



- CIP-China Center for Asia-Pacific Research Campus Yanqing, north of Beijing
- Next step: long history collaboration CIP and CAAS
- Laboratory building capacity 150+ scientists, meeting and teaching building, and state-of-the-art greenhouses.
  - GAU: Water stress memory
  - CAU: Molecular control of root development in sweet potato
  - CAAS: Molecular markers for traits of potato tuber quality
  - Chongqing: Novel methods of Fusarium wilt control in potato





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# RTB and China

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- Anti-infection mechanism to *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race4 from wild banana Pahang (NSFC31560505).
- Elucidating mechanisms of banana-Fusarium interactions via small RNA regulation and molecular design for wilt-resistant breeding (CATAS-Bioversity Joint project; NSFC3161101316)

# Thank you



## Xiè xiè dà jiā de guān zhù