



Plantwise, a global programme: lessons learned

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Beijing, June 2018

LOSE LESS, FEED MORE



CABI

- **not-for-profit** intergovernmental organisation, established by a United Nations-level agreement
- owned by **48 member countries**, which have an equal role in the organisation's governance, policies and strategic direction
- **over 475 staff worldwide** in 12 centres
- addresses issues of global concern such as **food security** and **food safety**, through research and international development cooperation
- major publisher of scientific information – books, ebooks, full text electronic resources, compendia and online information resources



What is Plantwise?

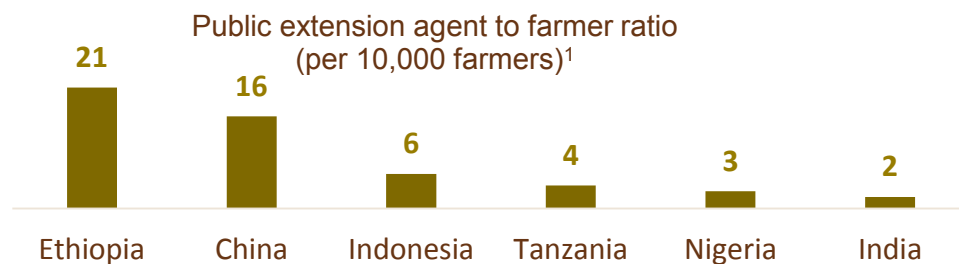
Plantwise is a global programme, led by **CABI**, to deliver practical, science-based plant health solutions to increase food security and improve rural livelihoods

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Farmer access to extension



Vast majority of smallholders have little access to public extension agents...



...or any source of information overall

Only **38%** of smallholders have access to any information²

And women have even less access...

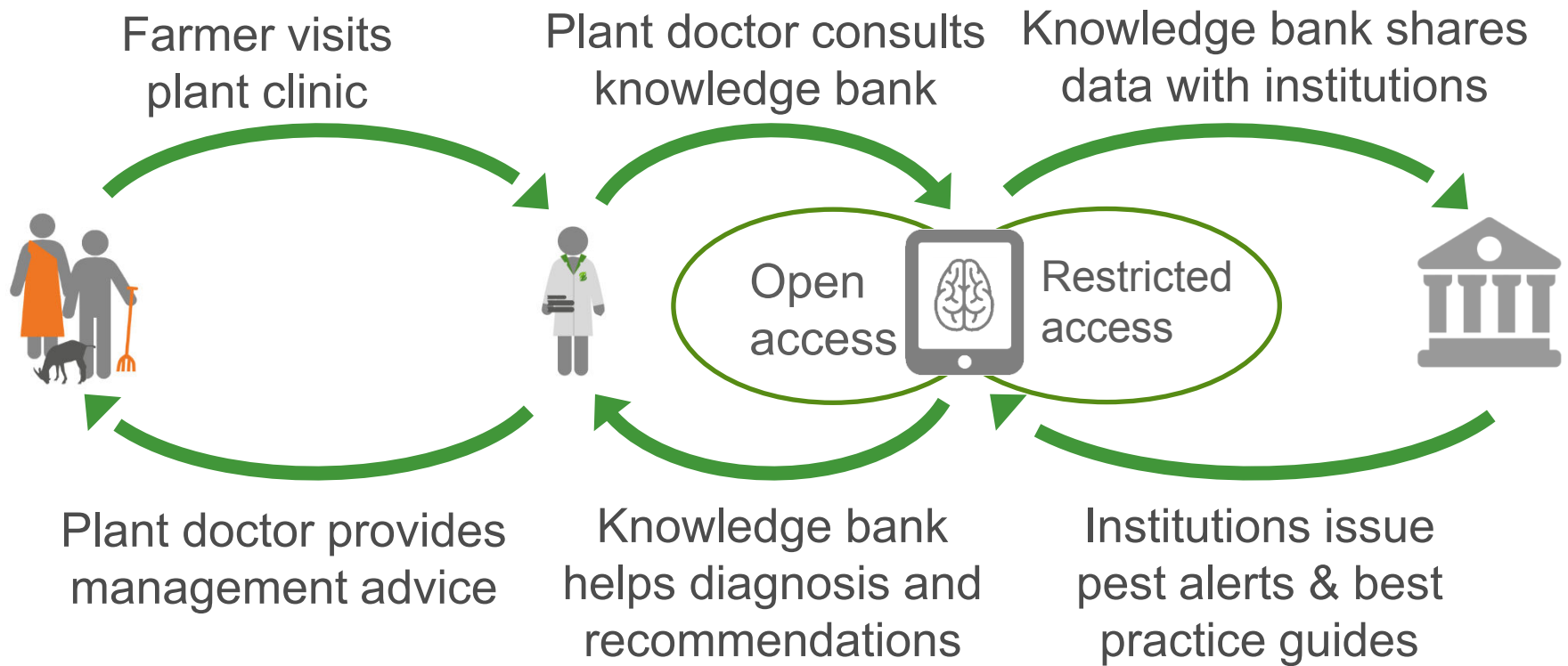
Smallholder access to extension in 1 year (Ethiopia, 2014)³



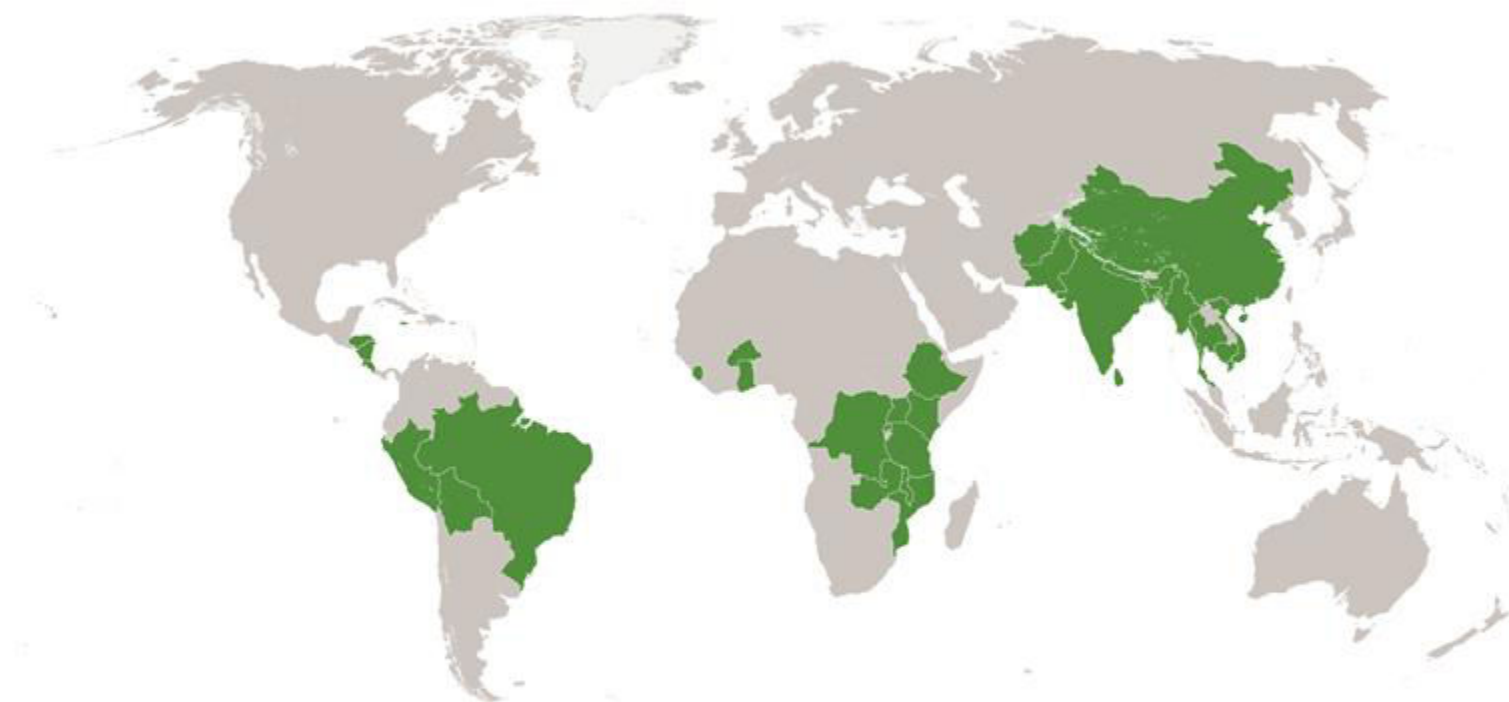
1. Bachewe, et al. "Agricultural Growth in Ethiopia (2004 – 2014): Evidence & Drivers." Ethiopian Development Research Institute & IFPRI, Working Paper 81, October 2015.
2. Adhiguru, P., BIRTHAL, P.S., Kumar, B.G. (2009). Strengthening Pluralistic Agricultural Information Delivery Systems in India. Agricultural Economics Research Review, 22, 71-79. (Not inclusive of mobile based data.)
3. Michael Mann & Janes Warner, "Ethiopian Wheat Yield and Yield Gap Estimation: A Small Area Integrated Data Approach." IFPRI, March 2015.

Source: Transforming Rural Advisory Services in a Digital World, Agriculture Development Programme, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2017

Plantwise core intervention logic



Countries Plantwise operates in



The Americas

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Barbados | Jamaica |
| Bolivia | Nicaragua |
| Brazil | Peru |
| Costa Rica | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Grenada | |
| Honduras | |

Africa

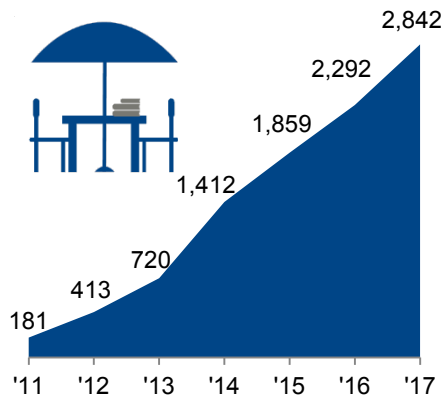
| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Burkina Faso | Mozambique |
| DR Congo | Rwanda |
| Ethiopia | Sierra Leone |
| Ghana | Tanzania |
| Kenya | Uganda |
| Malawi | Zambia |

Asia

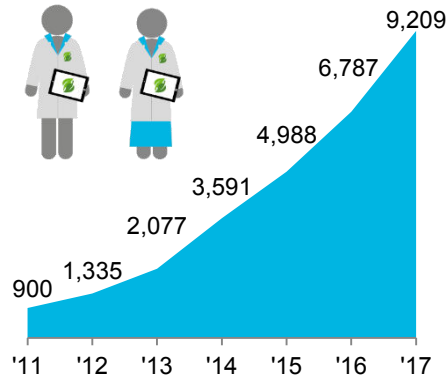
| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Afghanistan | Nepal |
| Bangladesh | Pakistan |
| Cambodia | Sri Lanka |
| China | Thailand |
| India | Vietnam |
| Myanmar | |

Scale (by end of 2017)

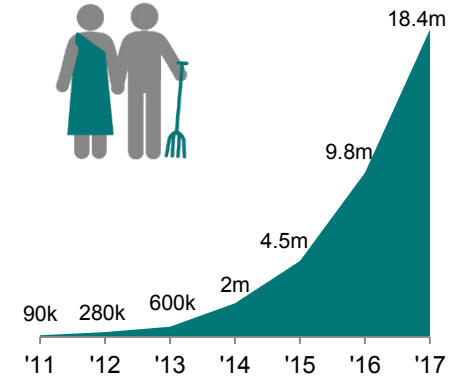
2,800 plant clinics established

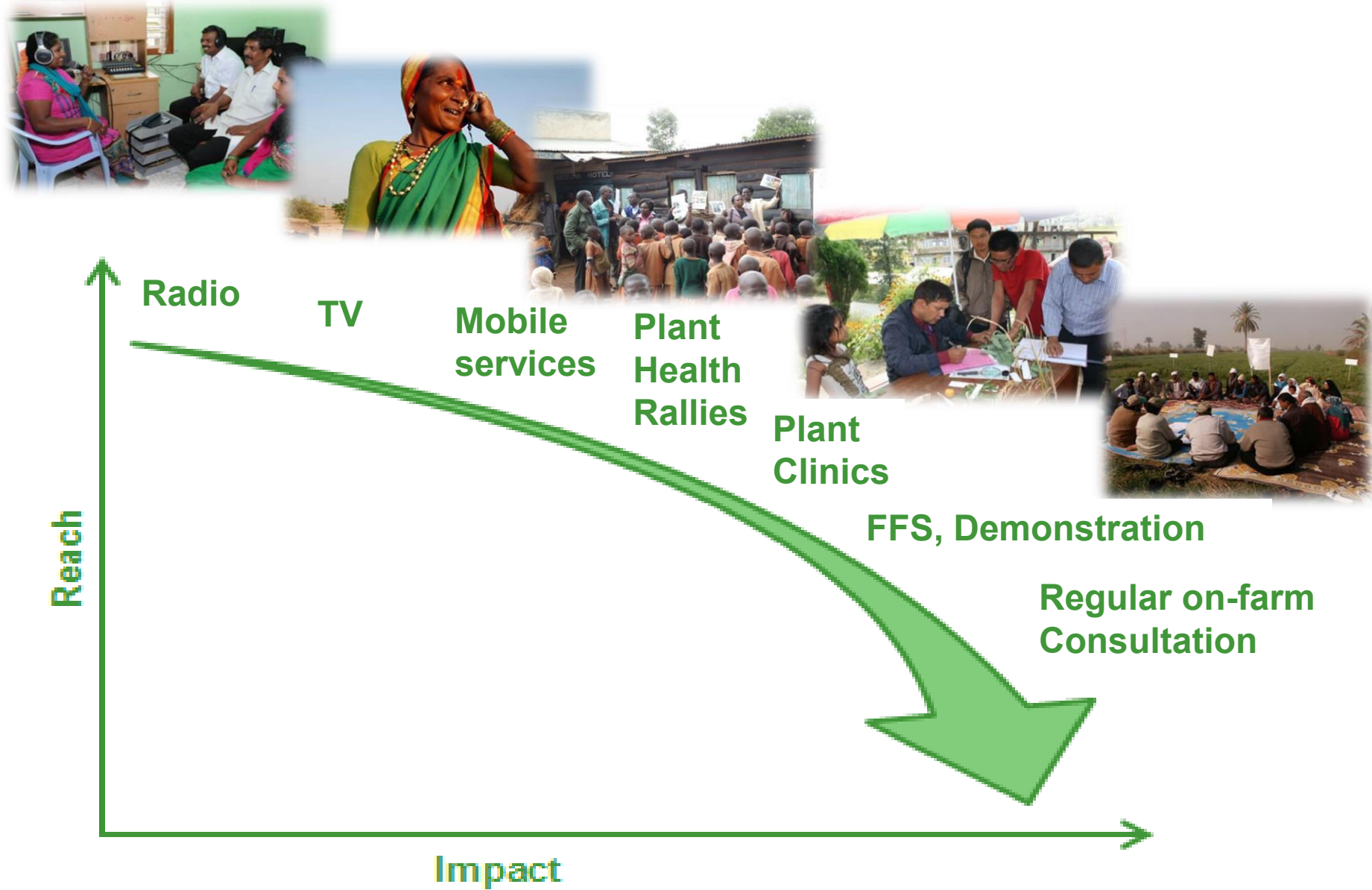


9,200 plant doctors trained



18.4 million farmers reached





Source: Heeb L, Jenner W, Romney D, (2016). Promising innovative extension approaches for climate smart agriculture. In 'Supporting agricultural extension towards Climate-Smart Agriculture, An overview of existing tools' www.fao.org/3/a-bl361e.pdf



Some lessons learned



Partnerships

- The success of Plantwise is dependent on partnerships – CABI profited from its member country organisational structure and existing in-country networks
- Plantwise strengthens plant health systems through strong in-country partnerships with national and sub-national authorities (extension, research, NPPO, etc.) and international organisations (FAO, IPPC, CGIAR, etc.)
- This is achieved through:
 - Stakeholder/context analysis of mandates, interest, influence, strengths and weaknesses
 - MoUs to formalise partnerships and participatory planning to establish common objectives, responsibilities and a framework for financial ‘due diligence’
- Increased local ownership and sustainability



Policies to harmonise operation

- Programme success requires a structured approach and expectations across regional teams
- Clear policies help to harmonise operations internally, to align with international partners/bodies and to comply with international standards/guidelines
- Plantwise policies include:
 - Pest reporting
 - Use of plant clinic and personal data
 - Use of pesticides
 - Engagement with agro-input suppliers
 - Principles and ethics of fundraising

Data

- Data collection and use at various levels requires agreements on data ownership and access (open versus restricted)
- Data sharing concerns in Plantwise relate to pest reporting, personal data and quality of pest management advice given, which in turn required development of mentioned policies
- Formalising these agreements can be time-consuming and cumbersome because some countries or institutions are not yet aware of how to deal with such things
 - Two-way flow of information, while respecting the 'FAIR principles'
 - Effort required to demonstrate value of new data sets to local partners



Digital development

- CABI believes that digital development will have a transformative power but requires infrastructure, skills and local adaptation
- Local acceptance of digital services will be greater if service providers ensure delivery of targeted and needs-based information to relevant end users
- Digital development can increase youth engagement in agriculture (production/services)
- Potential benefits:
 - Greater adoption rates
 - Increased farmer income & yields
 - Cost savings for public systems
- For Plantwise, this offers cost-effective opportunities to systematically assess quality and ensure effective services



Sustainability

- The Plantwise concept must be adopted by partners in order to sustain the approach; thus, there is no one-size-fits-all solution
- In multi-partnership programme, there is a risk that stakeholders have different definitions of sustainability
 - Plantwise developed a 'sustainability roadmap' to establish common understanding and changing roles
- Signs of sustainability in Plantwise:
 - Commitment of national/local funds
 - Responsibilities internalised in ToRs
 - National leadership and ownership
- Success may not be achievable everywhere; therefore, important to study the factors influencing success



Monitoring and evaluation

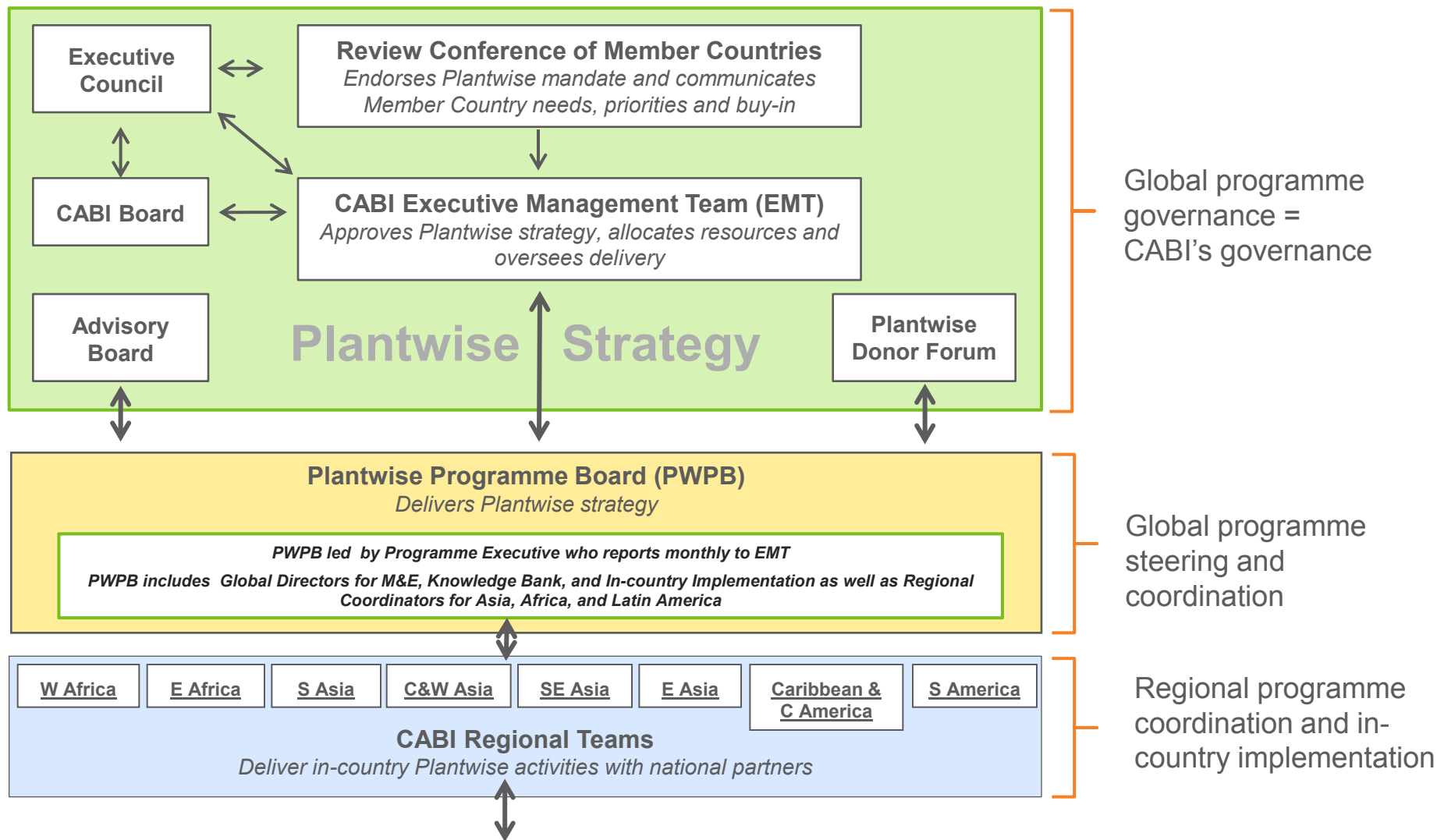
- A mega-programme requires strong and embedded M&E processes for continuous learning and adaptation
- M&E is an integral part of planning and implementation and is everyone's responsibility; however, the mentality and skills for applying this process are often lacking
 - This applies to both CABI and its partners
- CABI had to make a major investment into human resources and build capacity of existing staff
- M&E strategy developed together with M&E toolkits for in-country staff and partners
- Sound and regular bottom-up reporting processes (e.g. monthly reports) are key for day-to-day progress monitoring – very time consuming!



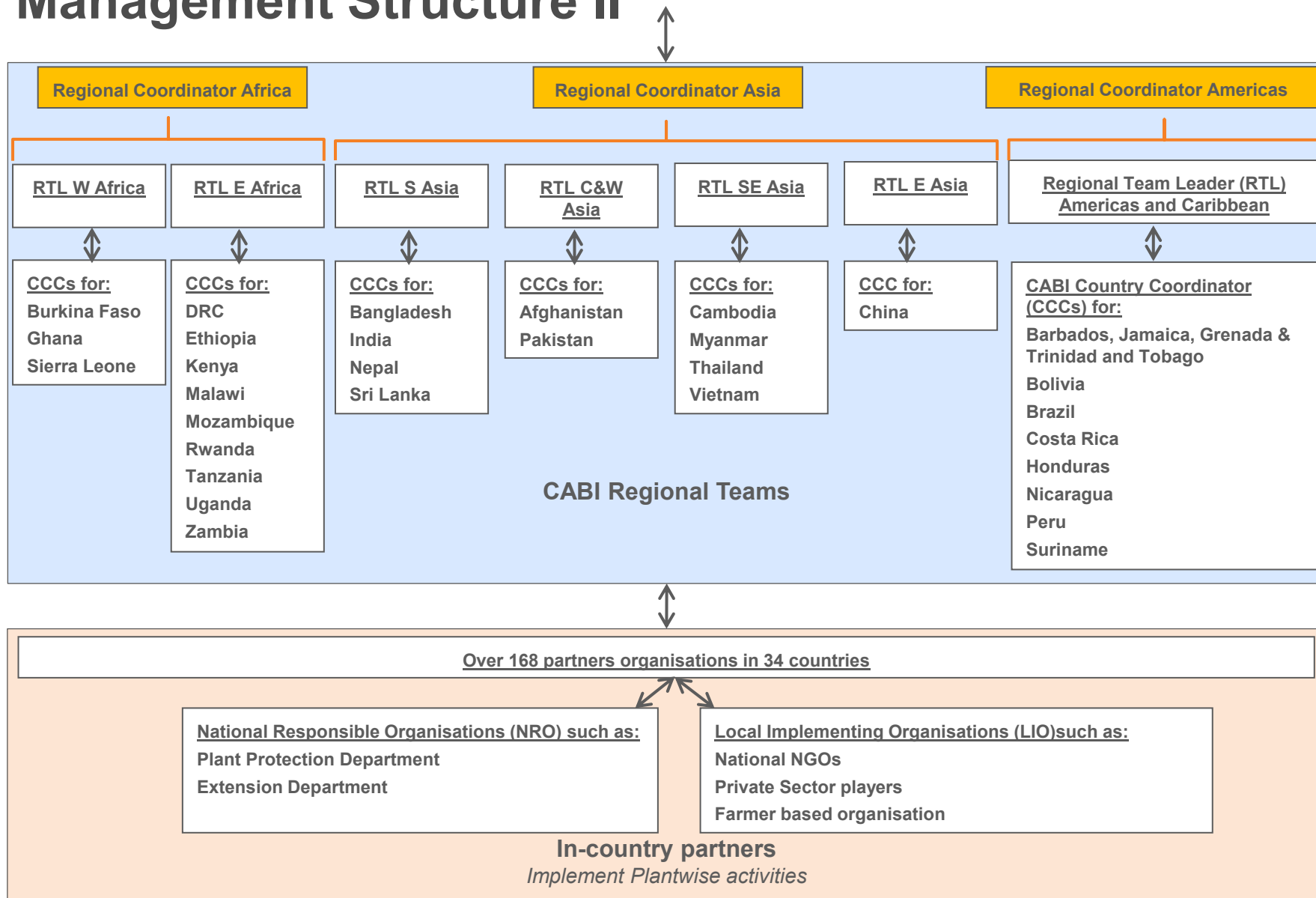
External evaluation and impact assessment

- Establishing a baseline is crucial for impact assessment and demonstrating value for money
- There is a variety of quantitative and qualitative impact assessment methods - a mixed methods approach is desirable and cost-effective
- If rigorous impact assessment is chosen to obtain a thorough dataset, financial and personal investment should not be underestimated!
- Regular donor-commissioned external evaluations require time for preparation and reporting, however expert opinions can be integrated in the learning and reflection process to further improve implementation and supports credibility

Management Structure I



Management Structure II





Engagement with donors

- Annual Donor Forum for Plantwise
 - Programme (candidate) donors are invited
 - CABI presents report in format accepted by donors; this is followed by frank discussions between CABI and donors
 - Internal donor consultations in order to provide aligned feedback and advice to CABI
 - Donors also agree on joint technical external programme evaluations, whereas financial audits remain with specific donor requirements
 - CABI incorporates donor recommendations and actions into its on-going work plan



External communication



Winner
**NEF Innovation
Award 2013**



Winner
**Open Data Award for
Social Impact 2014**



Winner
**OECD DAC
Prize 2015**



Winner
**Bond
International
Development
Award**

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017



Shortlisted
**The Queen's Award
for Enterprise 2014**



Shortlisted
**Olam Prize for Innovation
in Food Security 2015**



**THE ST ANDREWS PRIZE
FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Winner
**St. Andrews
Prize for the
Environment**

CABI Centres & OBOR- collaboration opportunities

Bringing world experts and national stakeholders together for successful transfer and exchange of technologies and skills





Thank you

*We wish to acknowledge the support of our donors,
as well as our national and international partners,
who make Plantwise possible*



Ministry of Agriculture &
Rural Affairs
People's Republic of China