

A MODEL APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING RURAL



A model approach to strengthening rural Institutions

INTRODUCTION

Developing countries all over the world continue to face major challenges in securing livelihood improvement, increasing agricultural production and ecosystem conservation. Yet this is an integral objective in ensuring sustainable development for millions living in poverty.

African rural smallholder farmers form a majority of those who face the challenges aforementioned. In addition they grapple with other challenges including inadequate access to extension services, high cost of inputs and poor rural infrastructure.

Increasing evidence continues to show that rural grassroots institutions play a major role in the implementation of the agricultural development agenda and overcoming the above challenges. Increasingly, regional and international treaties on development make key reference to grassroots institutions as implementing vehicles.

In reality however, while grassroots institutions are essential they still grapple with major challenges such as inadequate capacity, low multi-stakeholder cooperation and few viable enterprises. Consequently there is a need for a step-by-step framework through which these institutions can be strengthened to achieve the broader development objectives.



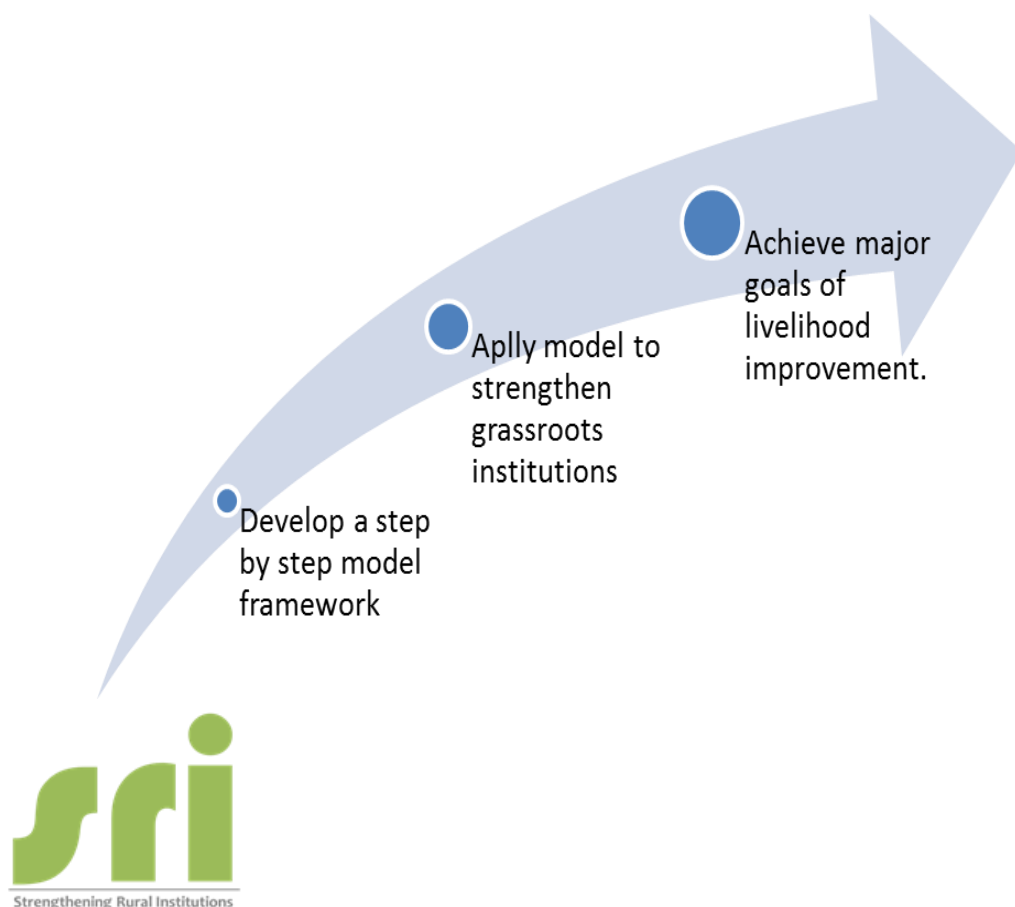
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WHY A MODEL?

The rural institutional landscape in itself is a complex environment to navigate. It is characterized by multiple institutions and organizations. There are diverse stakeholders ranging from the government, farmers to private institutions. In addition there is the complex and dynamic interaction of cultures, markets, tenure systems, governance processes that must be considered.

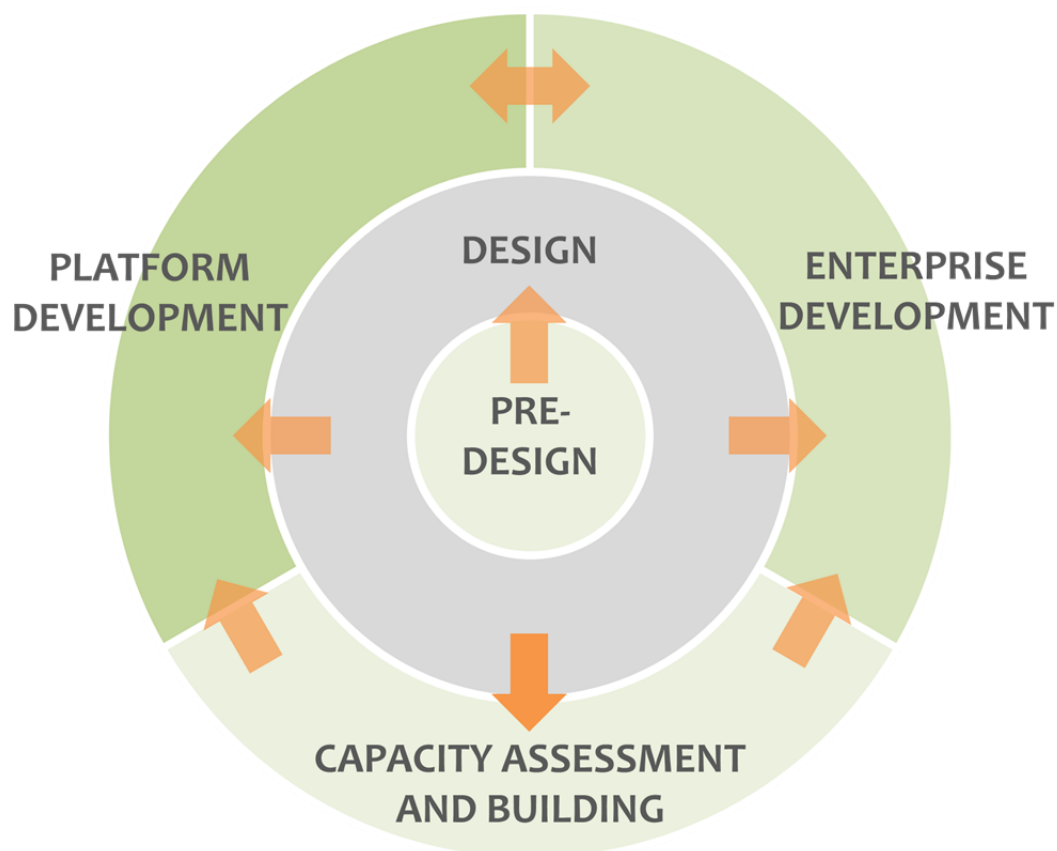
The above picture painted of the rural landscape painted demonstrates the need for a systematic approach to strengthening rural institutions capacity so as to navigate this complex landscape. There is also a need to go beyond general collective action because that alone cannot bring about livelihood improvement.

It is on this basis that the Strengthening Rural Institutions (SRI) model has been developed. It provides the systematic building blocks for the development of a social infrastructure that will strengthen grassroots institutions. Through this tool grassroots institutions are strengthened through capacity building, enterprise and platform development.



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SRI MODEL FRAMEWORK



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