

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS

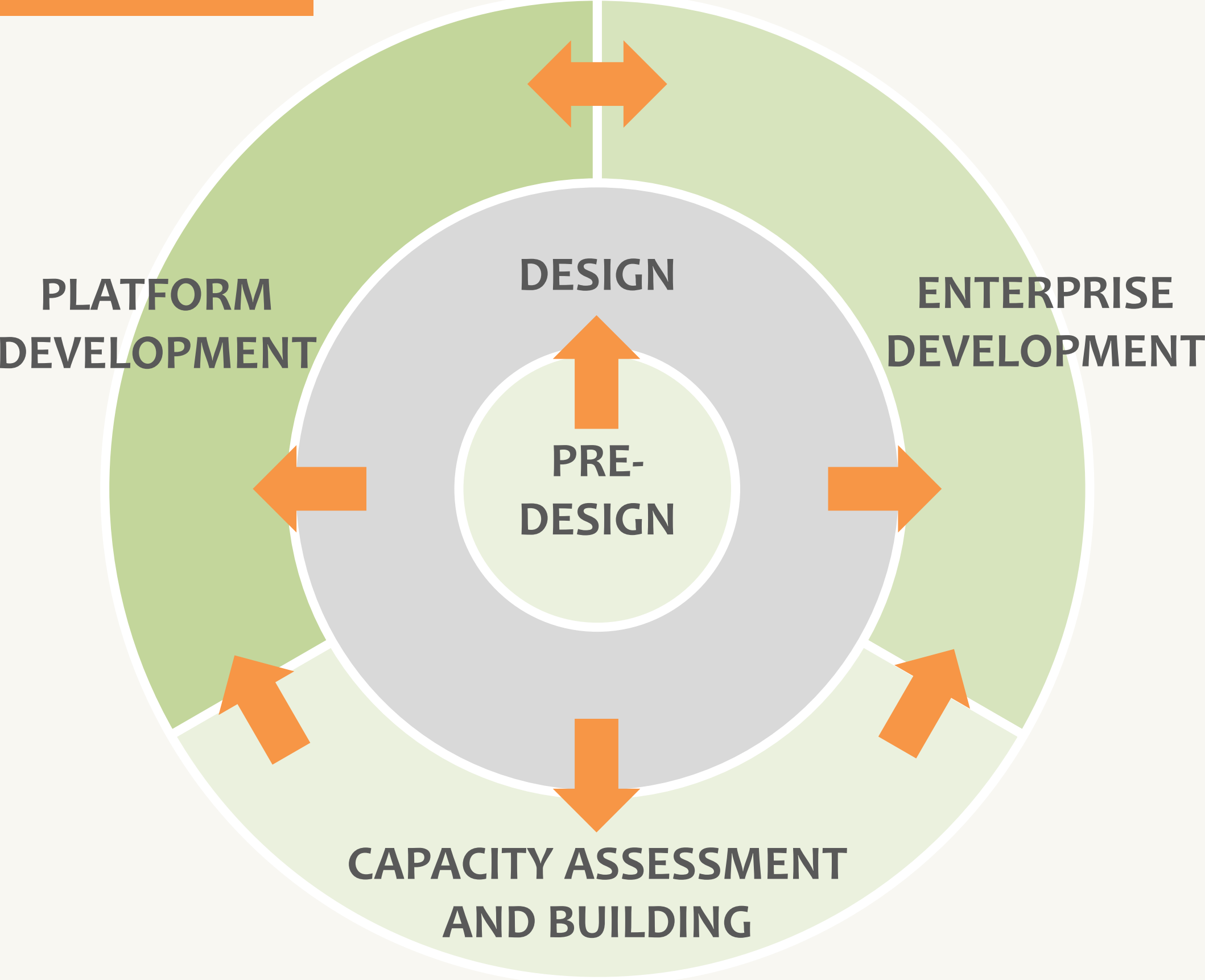
Enabling Rural Transformation and Grassroots Institutional Building for Sustainable Land Management and Increased Incomes and Food Security

BACKGROUND

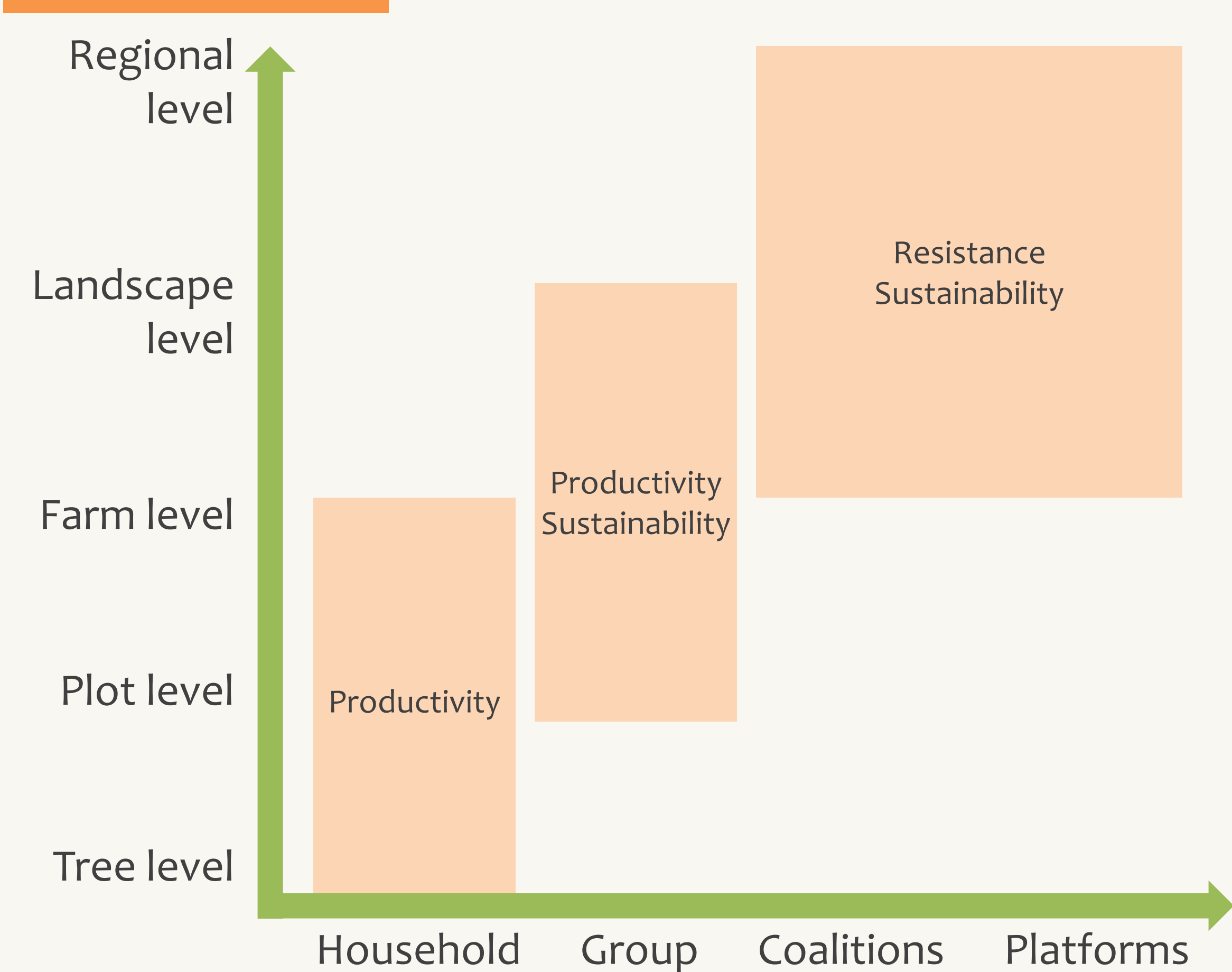
The Strengthening Rural Institutions Project (SRI) is an action research project to strengthen rural grassroots institutions in Uganda (Masindi & Kapchorwa), Kenya (Bungoma & Embu), and Tanzania (Lushoto & Pemba).

The project sample comprises of 583 rural grassroots institutions drawn from 8 different projects. Six out of the eight projects are funded mainly by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), one supported by the African Landcare Network and the other by African Highland Initiative (AHI).

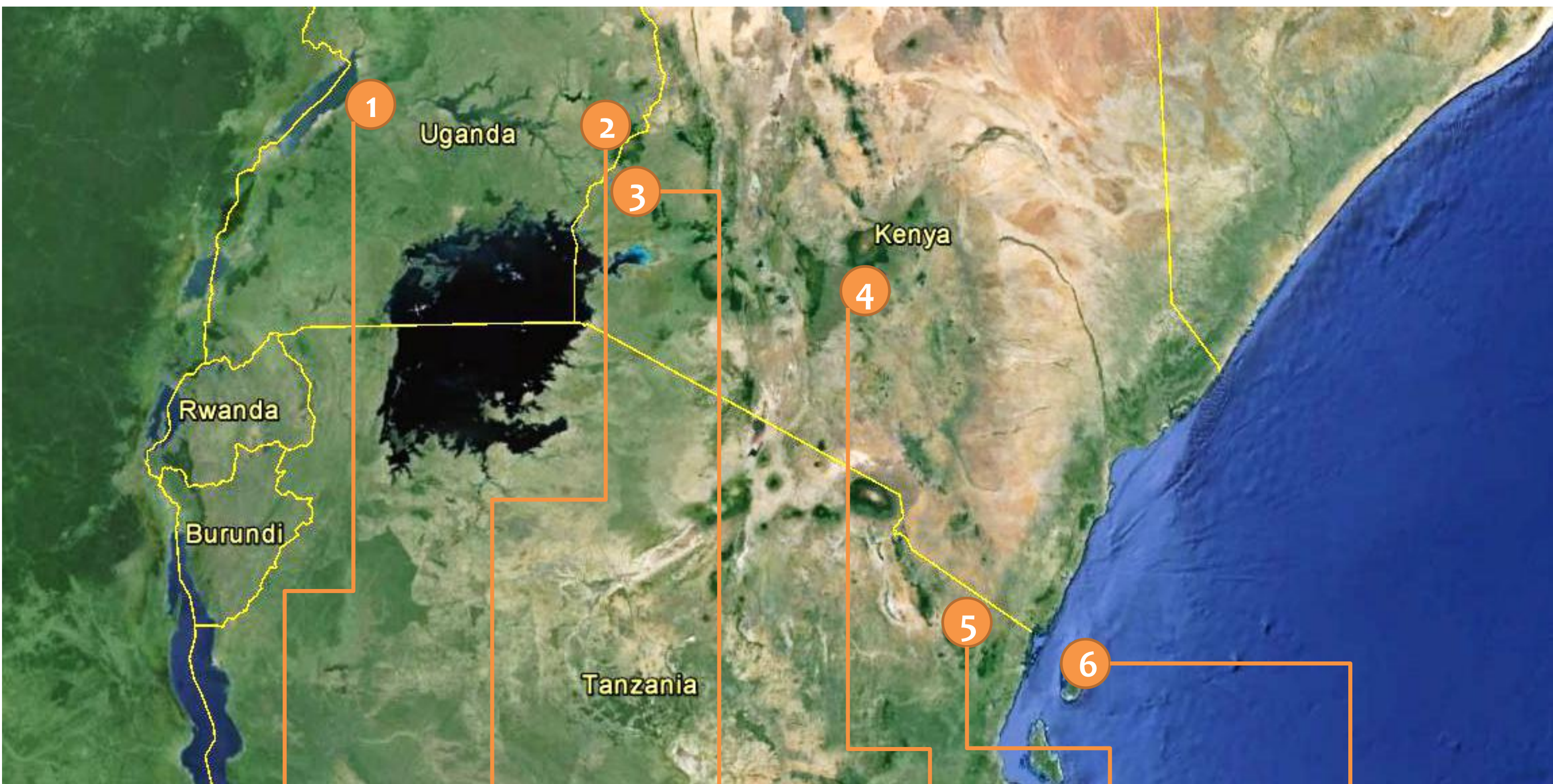
THE MODEL



APPLICATION



- **Productivity:** Improved yields and increased farmer incomes through adoption of farmer identified technologies
- **Sustainability:** Landscape level environmental services, conservation and functioning institutions
- **Resilience:** Readiness for uncertainty, and farmers open to new technologies and adapting to environmental changes, through engaging local governance



	Masindi	Kapchorwa	Bungoma	Embu	Lushoto	Pemba
Area (km ²)	9,326	1,732	3,032	2,818	3,500	1,537
Population density per km ²	136	321	453	183	180	488
Altitude (m)	1295 – 1510	1800	1385	1350	1000 – 2400	0 – 60
Annual rainfall (mm)	1304	932 – 1450	1200 – 1800	1495	800 – 2000	1900
Agroecological zone	Sub-humid	Humid highlands	Sub-humid	Humid	Humid	Coastal
Farming system	Crop-livestock	Montane	Crop-livestock	Crop-livestock	Horticulture based	Integrated farming

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SRI draws on Landcare principles to provide the basis for community empowerment and collective action, to develop and apply solutions to Natural Resource Management (NRM) challenges, networking farmers with the broader community, and to promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices

SRI develops institutional and organizational analysis and strengthening tools for:

- Mass upscale of Evergreen Agriculture technologies and practices
- Providing an analytical context for evaluation of benefits from environmental services
- Analyzing rural level mechanisms of adaptation to climate change
- Exploring avenues for private-public partnerships

WAY FORWARD

Based on emerging results, the donor (IFAD) has agreed to finance a follow up study on strengthened grassroots institutions, to provide an economic and business framework for achieving mass scale, up-scaling and impact of Evergreen Agriculture on livelihoods improvement and food security.

