

INNOVATION FOR DIVERSIFICATION: CROPS FOR THE FUTURE, CROPS FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH CENTRE AND THE CREATION OF AN UNDERUTILISED SPECIES KNOWLEDGE NETWORK



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We share:

- **Common vision & complementary mission**
 - **Joint strategy**
 - **R& D mandate**
- **Integration of project development**
 - **Some Board members**

CFF - CFFRC – Objective

**Developing the quality of the information
we produce about NUS**

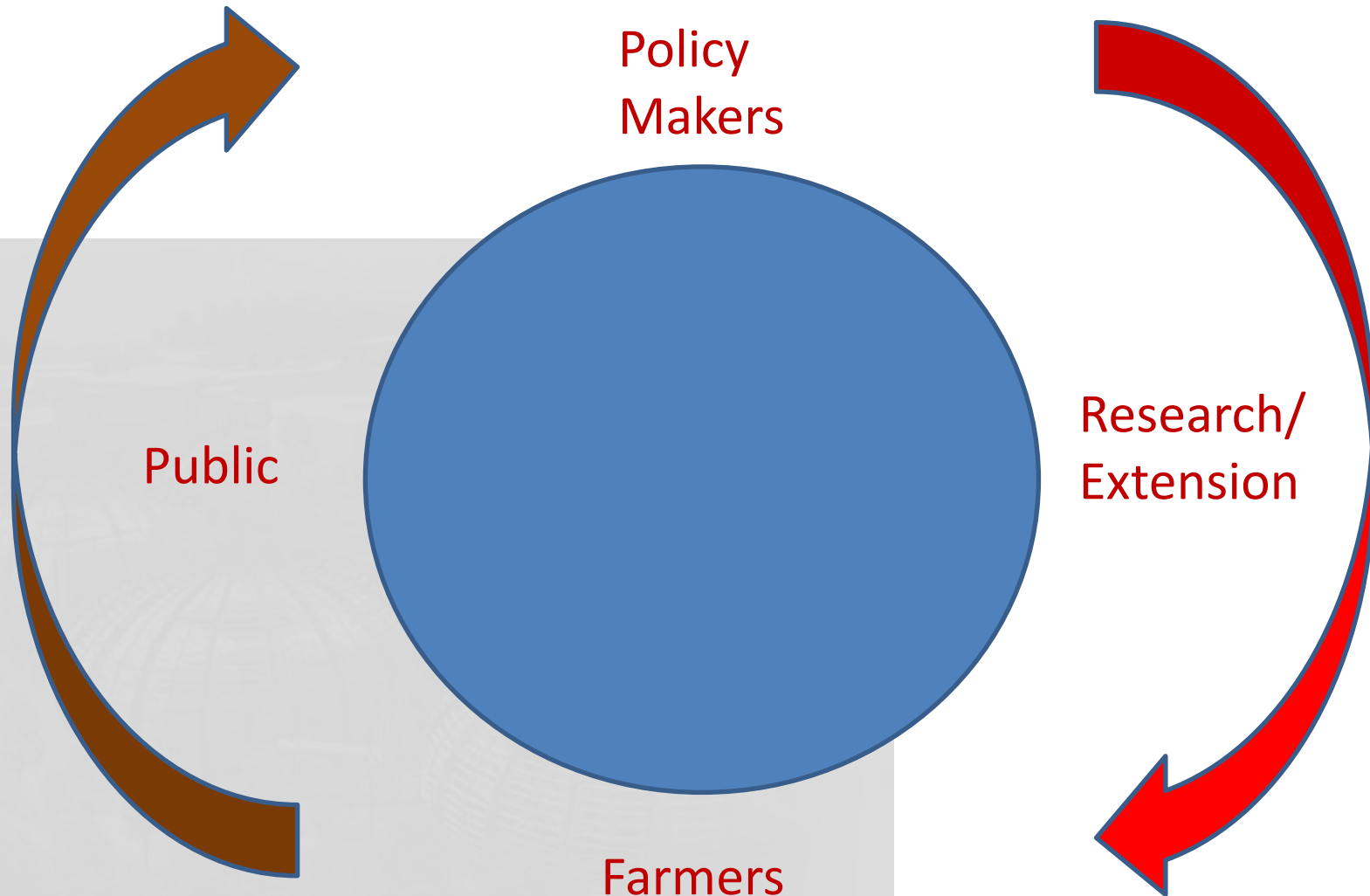
**Developing our ability to convey the
information we produce about NUS**



The dominance of major crops



Agricultural treadmill



Monoculture and Change



Need for approaches which;

- **Recognise the broader socio-economic context**
- **Involve a wide range of knowledge communities**
- **Feed directly into problem solving**

Problems With Existing Approaches to Interdisciplinary Work



Dilution: Researchers pulled out of their specialities

Distortion: Skew towards certain disciplines

Dissipation: Energies go into maintaining disciplinary boundaries

Problems With Existing Approaches to Interdisciplinary Work

One outcome is to create new forms of “expertise,” concerning the planning and organisation of projects involving interdisciplinary teams

**The Programme
Manager**



Problems With Existing Approaches to Interdisciplinary Work

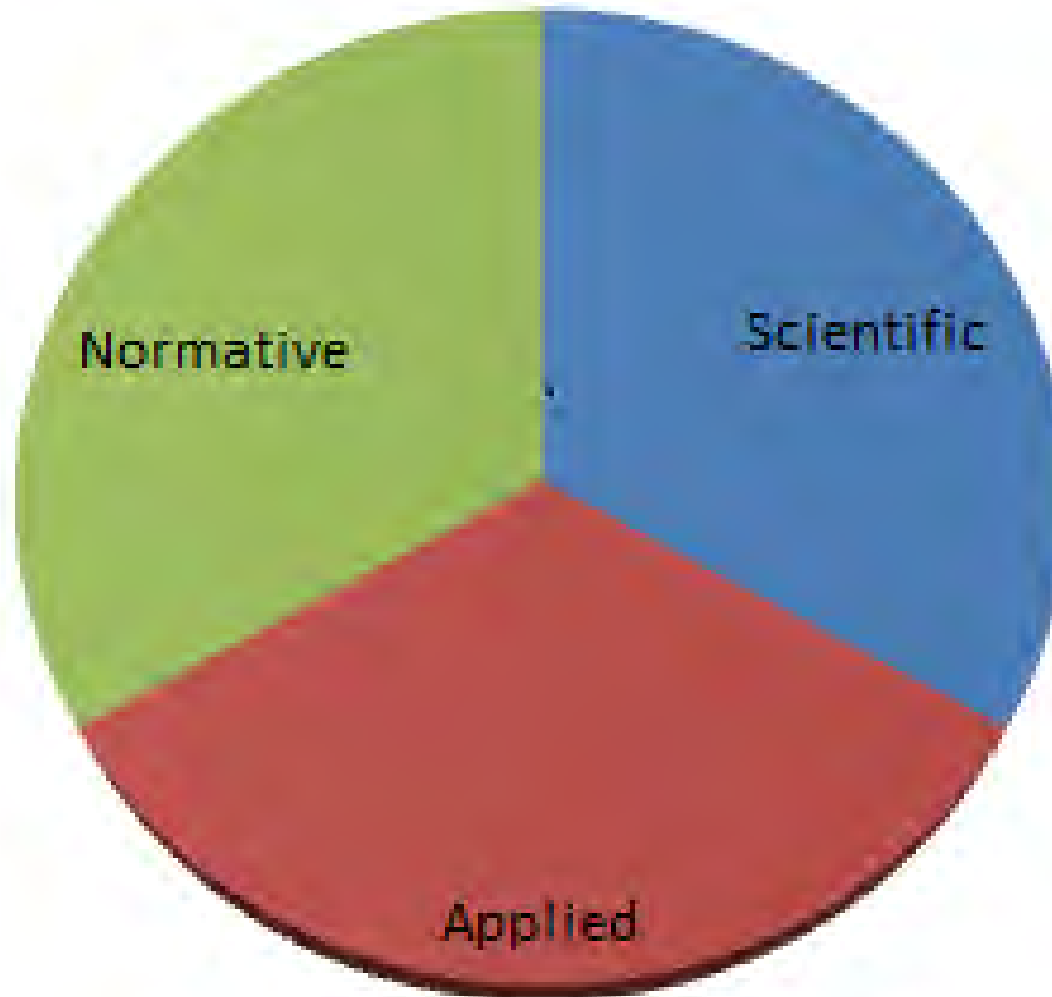
Another is that one discipline achieves a hegemonic position

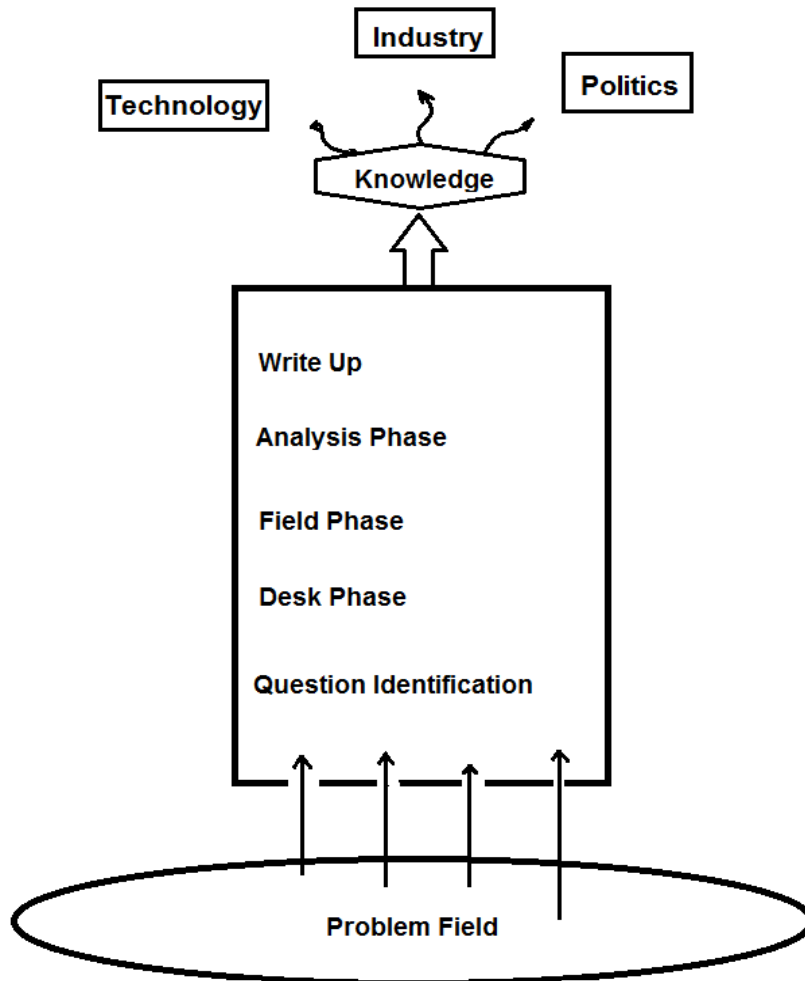
**The Financial
Controller**



- **The task of achieving effective interdisciplinary communication is non trivial**
- **The task of linking research to applied outcomes is non trivial**
- **The task of reconciling different policy goals is non trivial**

Balancing objectives for CFF + CFFRC

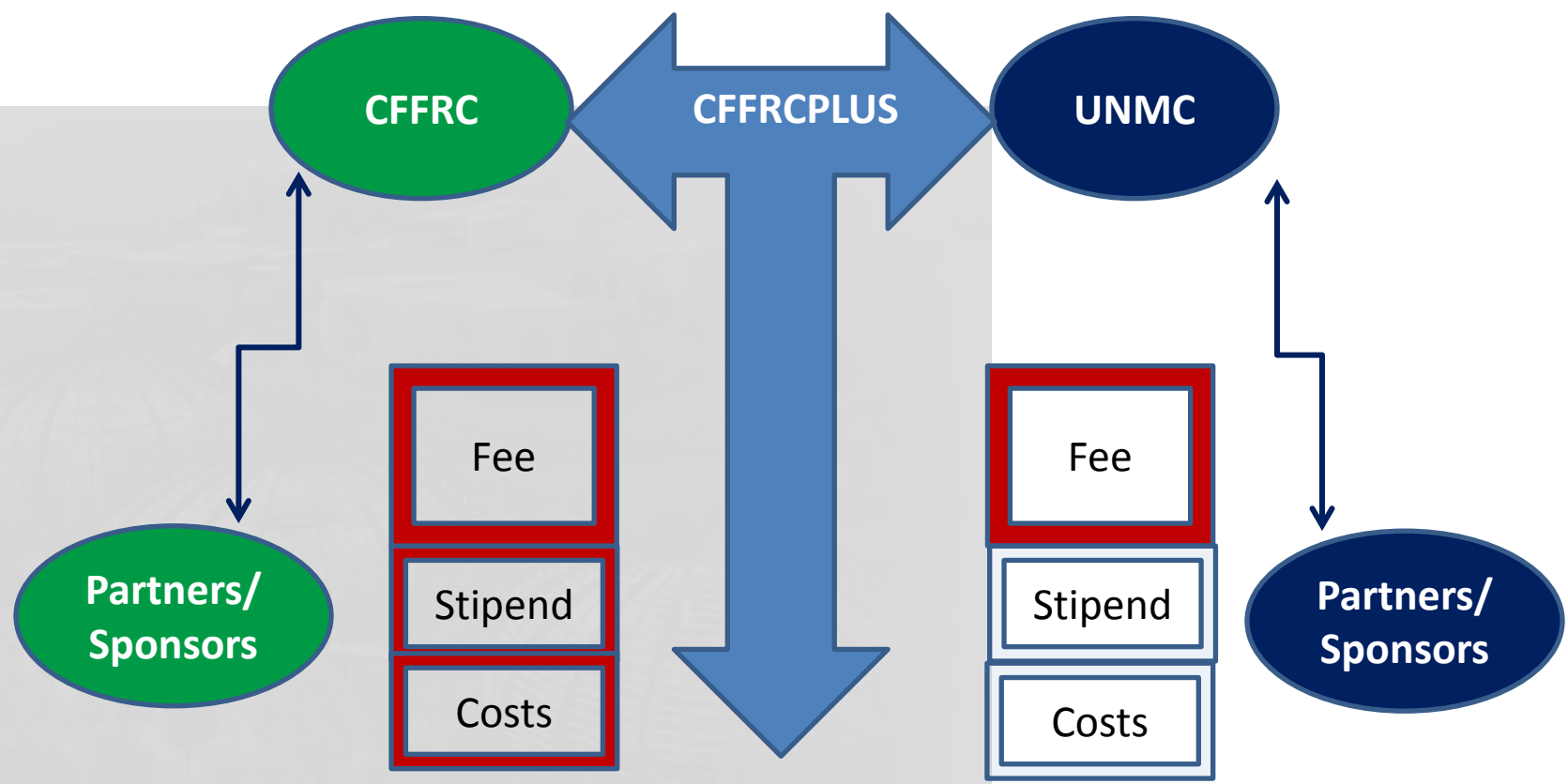




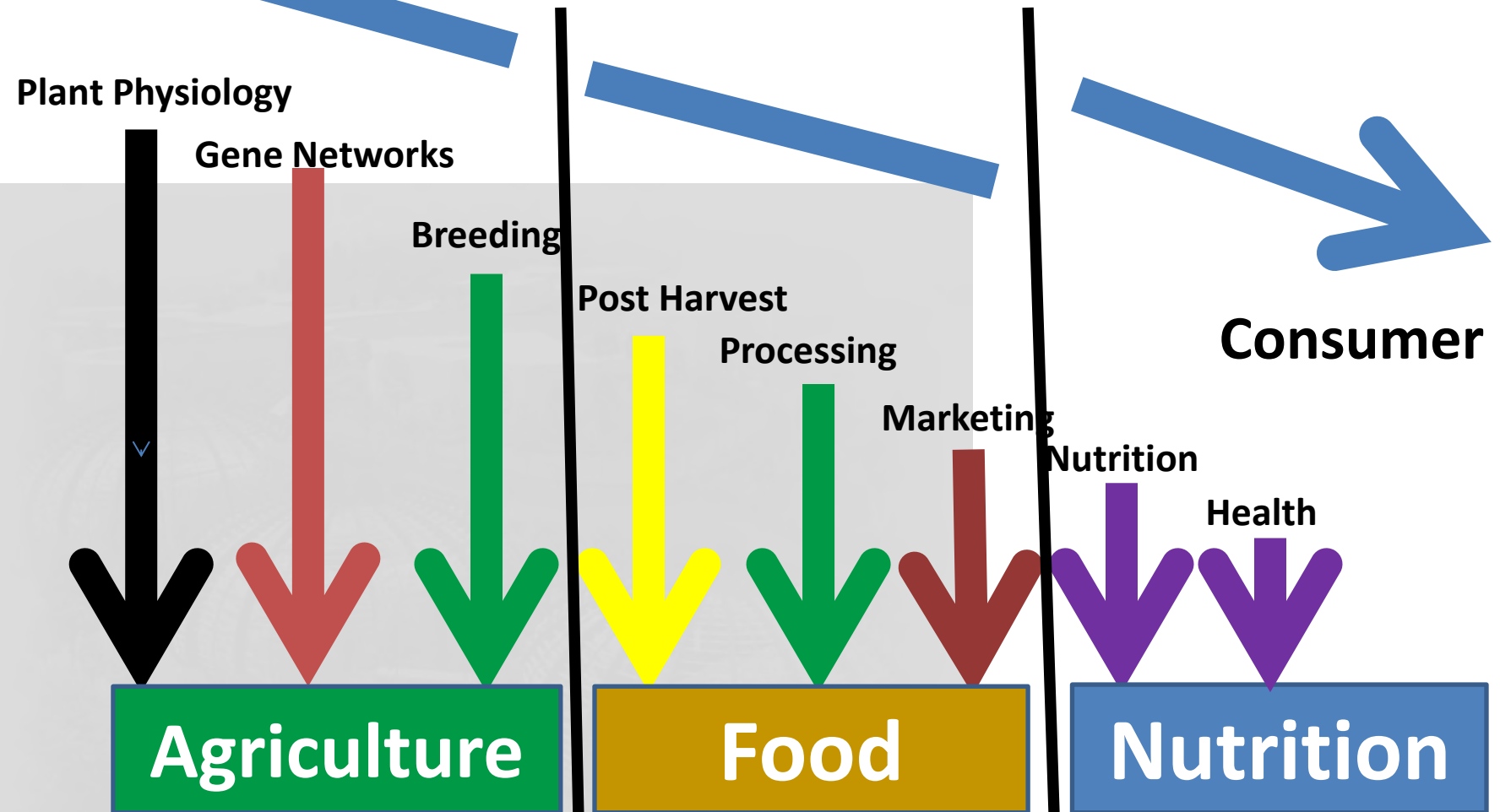
CFFRCPLUS - 300 'postgraduate years'



Custom-designed fit-for-purpose postgraduate education



Fundamental Science



Fundamental Science

Plant Physiology

Gene Networks

Breeding

Post Harvest

Processing

Marketing

Nutrition

Health

Consumer

Agriculture

Food

Nutrition

Fundamental Science

Plant Physiology

Gene Networks

Breeding

Post Harvest

Processing

Marketing

Nutrition

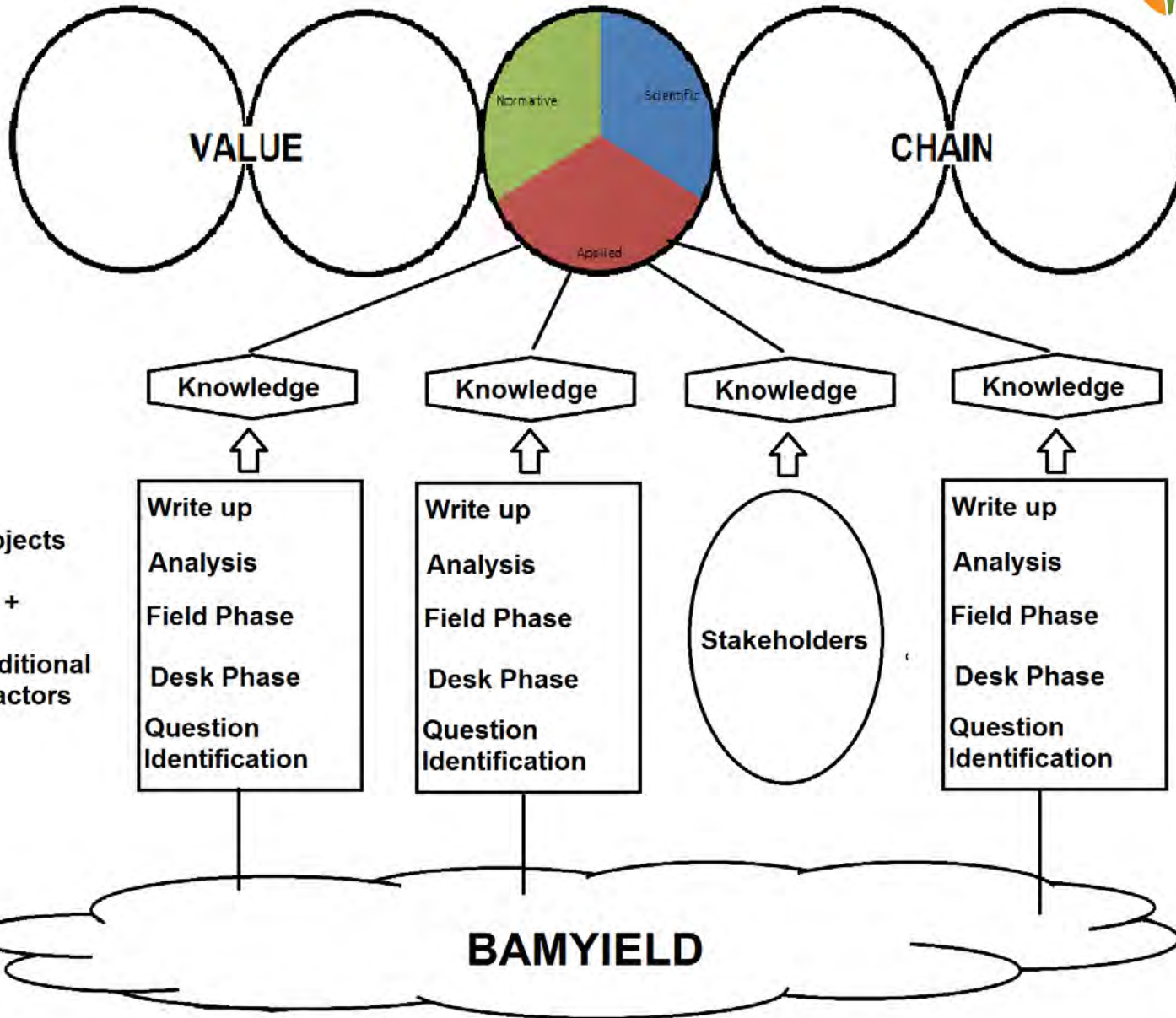
Consumer



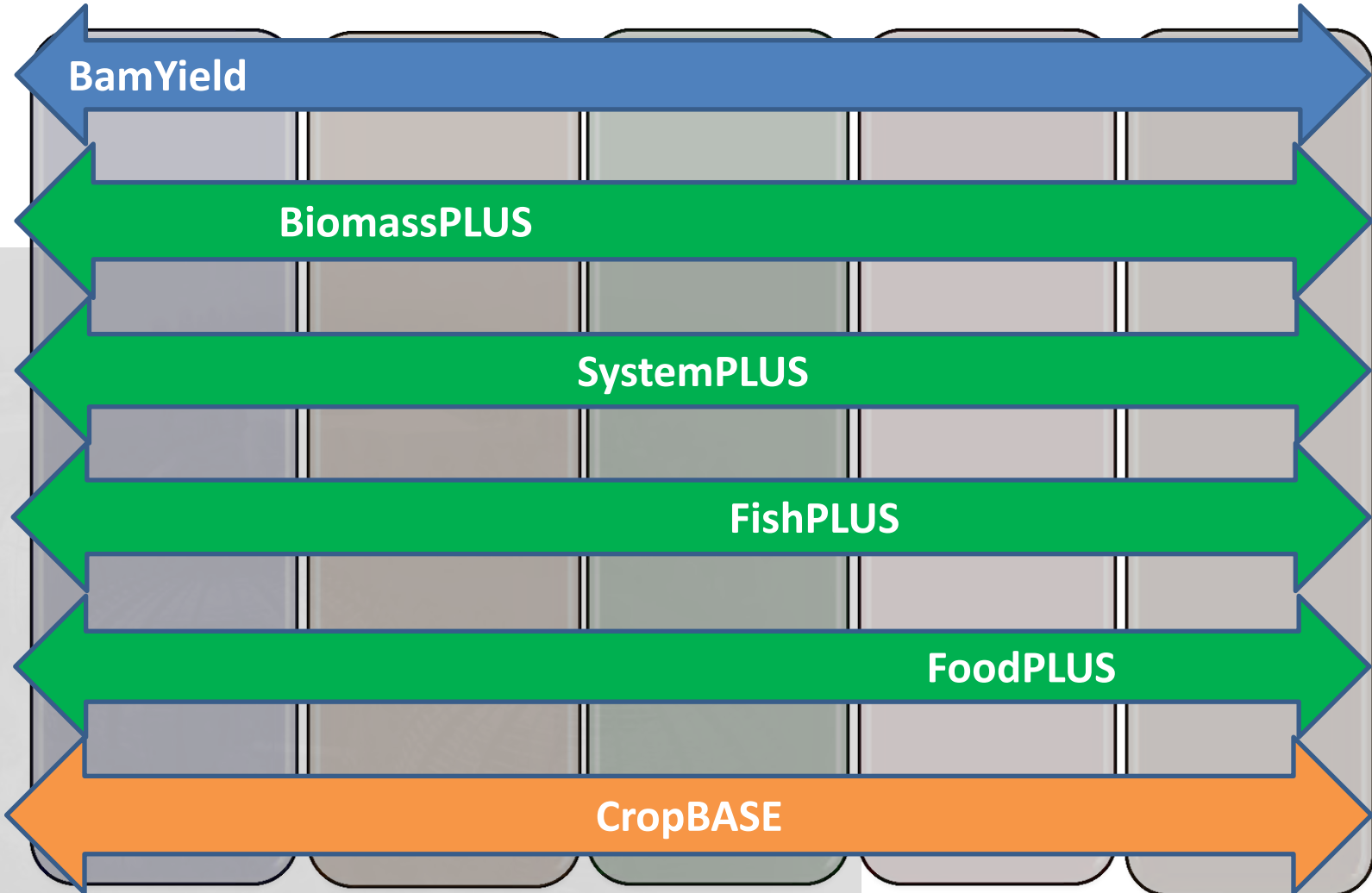
Agriculture

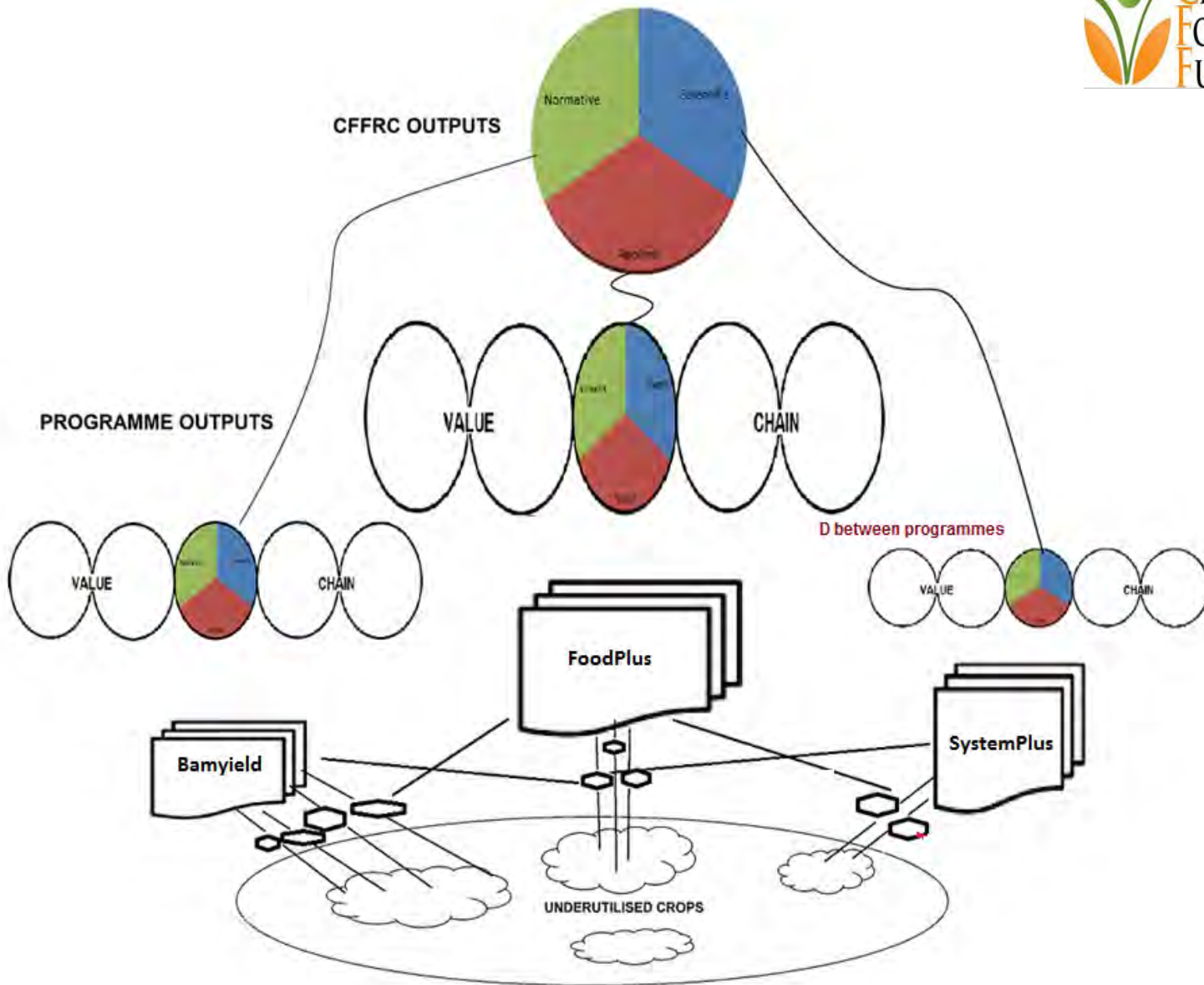
Food

Nutrition



CFFRC: Research Programmes





CFFRC Research Themes

Biotechnology
and
Breeding
Systems

Crop
Improvement
and
Agronomy

Agro-
meteorology
and
Ecophysiology

Agroprocessing
and
Bioproducts

Socio-
economics
and
Policy

Research Value Chain

Field Research Centre

Social, Economic and Policy Theme

To develop CFFRC's global expertise in conducting novel theoretical and applied research into economic and social issues related to the uptake of underutilised crops and their potential role in securing food and nutritional food security, supporting agro-biodiversity and income generation.

**Current
Role of
NUC's**

**Identify
ways to
enhance
value of
NUC's**

**Socio-
economic
dimension
of CFFRC
Research**

Policy

CFF role



- 1. Facilitate access to knowledge on NUS, through web portal, monographs, synthesis papers, and innovative uses of Internet**
- 2. Provide information services to NUS stakeholders (project grant and training opportunities, library resources, events, literature reviews)**
- 3. Engage in policy research and advocacy to promote the use of NUS (e.g. market access barriers)**
- 4. Increase awareness on the potential and contributions of NUS for livelihoods and well-being (conferences, review papers, popular press articles)**
- 5. Strengthen capacity amongst NUS researchers**

Summary - Research



- **Focus on generic methods rather than generic explanations**
- **Needs to be outcome driven – Less “should be” and more “how to”**
- **No one size fits all solution**
- **Need for close integration of all disciplines (genuine buy in)**
- **Academic rigour along the entire value chain**

Summary - Policy



- **Need to shift from a yield to a quality focus in agricultural policy**
- **Re-define the relationship between agriculture, rural and food policy**
- **Promote professional development for NUS research – Promote cross disciplinary literacy.**
- **End of one shot policies – multiple objectives and multiple pathways**

Are we making the case?

Do we have the data to back the case?

Do we have the tools to collect it?