

The webinar will begin at
9:00 AM EST/15:00 CEST.

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SWFF Performance Evaluation

Key Findings & Recommendations

Washington DC, September 8, 2020

SECURING
WATER
FOR FOOD:
A GRAND CHALLENGE
FOR DEVELOPMENT

dexis



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science
& technology
Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SWFF Program Overview

SWFF Grand Challenge: *How can we grow more food with less water while supporting small farmers?*

SWFF Approach and Values:

- Unorthodox design
- Innovative and reflexive
- Carefully curated innovations
- Innovations both from Developed countries and Developing and Emerging economies yet locally driven
- Targeted support to innovators
- Sustainability through agency and capacity building



Evaluation Approach

Mixed Methods Approach



Representative Sample

21 of 40 innovations in
7 countries



Selection Criteria

geographic region, round,
status, focus type, number of
innovations in a country

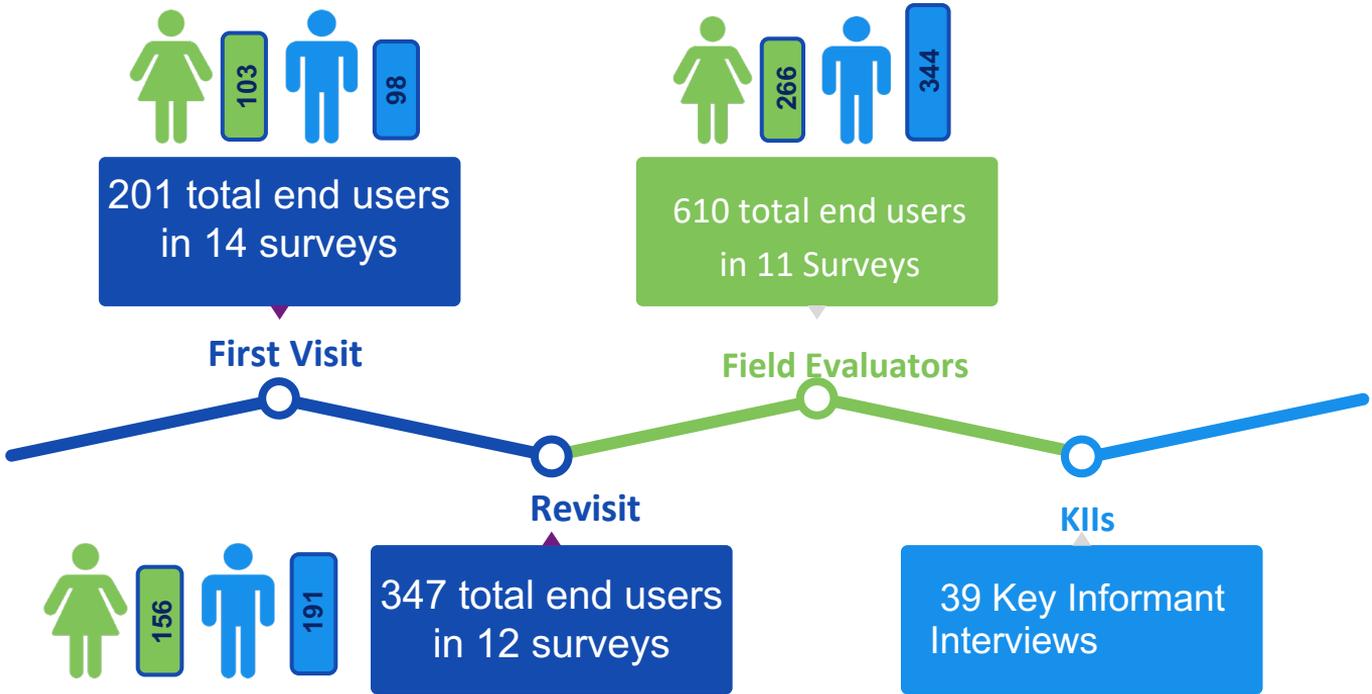


Quantitative & Qualitative Data

Surveys, FGD, and
Interviews



Evaluation Approach



Section 1: The need, relevance of SWFF

OVERVIEW

- Overarching focus on improving yields with less water in water-stressed environments is highly relevant
- Emphasis on market responses fits current paradigm
- High demand for the products and services of innovations by vulnerable populations (women, poor and very poor)
- Local innovators and subsidiaries play critical role in providing new technology – “...clear shift to companies in emerging countries.”
- Shift to support packages from sources closer to home



Section 1: The need, relevance of SWFF

CHALLENGES

- Gender imbalance shifted in recent years but still predominantly male-led innovations
- Inexpensive locally available financing options needed for poor or very poor farmers.
- Building sustainable innovations for and with BoP
- Improving range of partnerships and funding sources

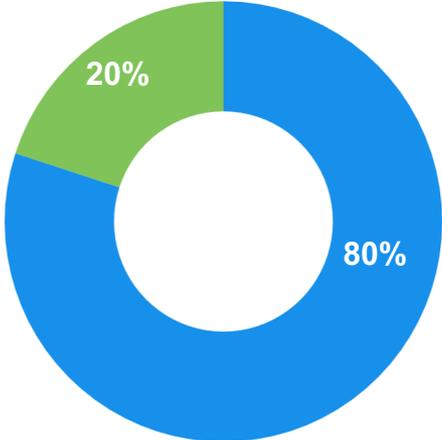


Has the SWFF strategy succeeded? Failure/Pivot Report

- Report demonstrates a highly reflexive method of management; responsive to issues in program coordination, procurement, grants and financing, and M&E.
- Failure/Pivots Report turns lessons learned into policies, approaches and contracts with many points relevant for other GCFs
- Key points:
 - Greater use of TA from regions
 - Feedback system with TAs
 - Self-analysis of challenges
 - Shift to milestone-based funding
 - Innovations establishing baselines to measure progress.

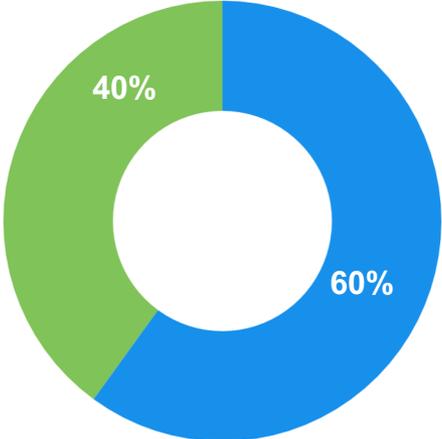


Section 2: Has SWFF produced the desired results?



SWFF Innovations Y5

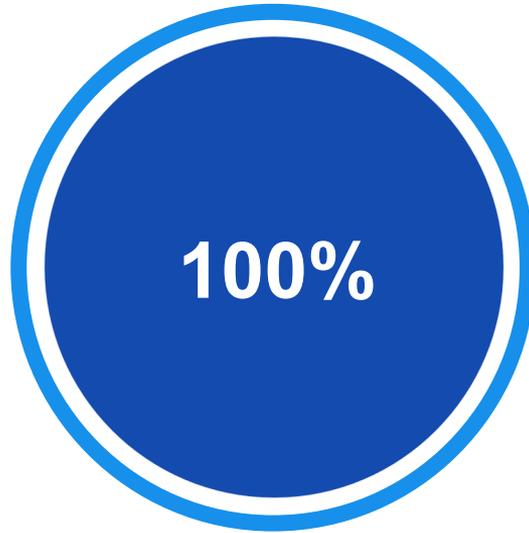
- Commercialized
- Not Commercialized



Non-SWFF Innovations Y5



Section 2: Has SWFF produced the desired results?



100% of SWFF innovators report that the added value of **SWFF's technical support** is “**Significantly Higher**” than other support

Section 2: Has SWFF produced the desired results?

- Founding Partners employ synergies to achieve effective oversight with complementary capacities, but this could be deepened.
- SWFF has wide potential range of partnerships and more could be activated through existing networks (use SNA/network mapping)
- Additional support from embassies and other agencies may be available



Section 2: Has SWFF produced the desired results?

CHALLENGES

- Innovations most vulnerable within first 12 months of operation
- Greater range and wider choice of TA support providers possible?
- More Developing and Emerging Economy Founding Partners in WE4F



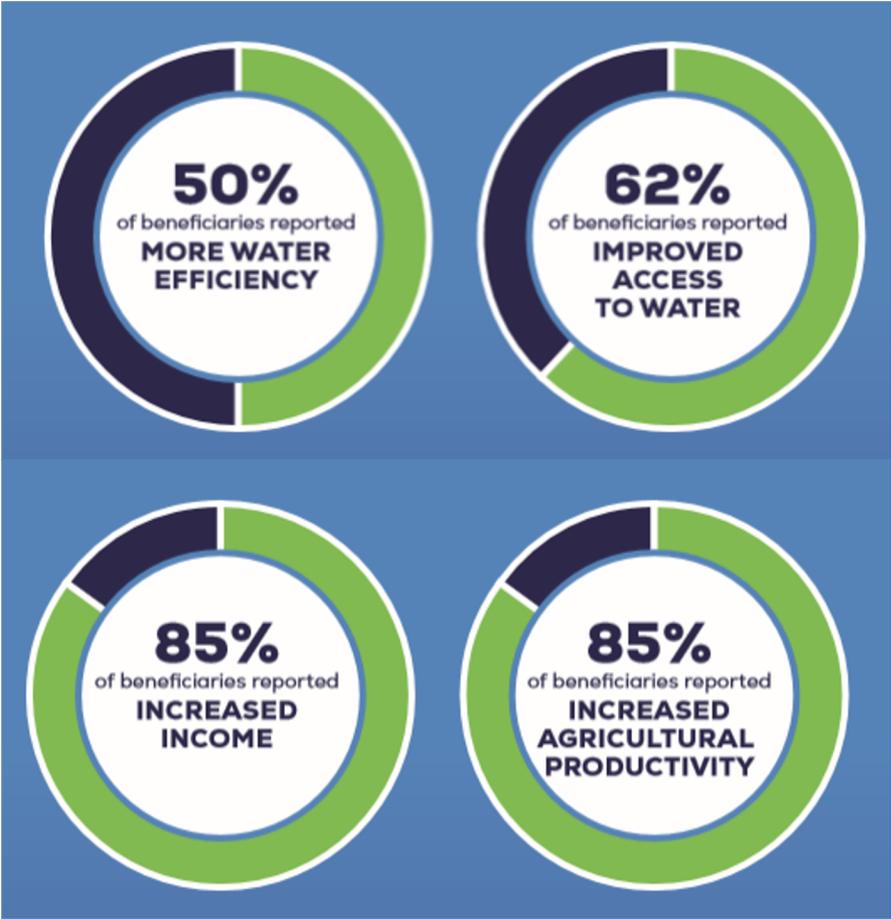
Section 3: SWFF/TAF through an Efficiency Lens

- SWFF has highly intensive mode of management. Its management costs are generally higher than most, but TAF provides greater support.
- A higher burden on awardees than most other GCFs, but detailed and tailored support and funding is appreciated and leads to impacts in line or beyond costs.
- TAF has a small, dedicated team efficiently organized and managed. Cited by 74% of innovators as being decisive in its contributions towards their success and outcomes.
- The Failures/Pivot exercise shows high level of reflexive / adaptive management.

CHALLENGES

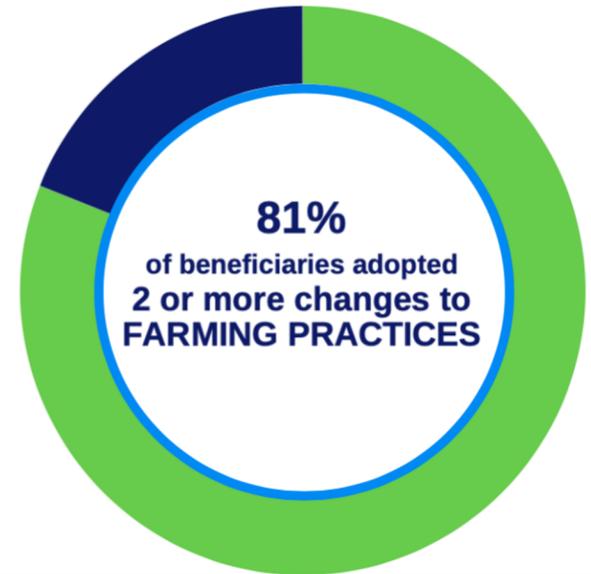
- More flexibility in range of TA support providers available to innovations: explored and taken forward in 2 Pivots

Section 4: Impact: more food using less water?



Section 4: Impact, continued

- Non-income-based impact (e.g.: time saved, empowerment, status in community)
- Value added of innovations through improved agricultural productivity and improved income:
 - increased # of growing seasons
 - input efficiency
 - diversification of crops (most innovations) or income-generating activities
 - improved irrigation systems
 - use of drought-resistant seeds
 - availability of more land or possibility of growing on saline or barren soils



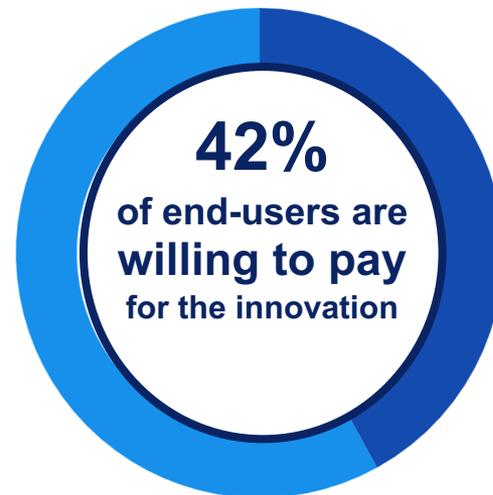
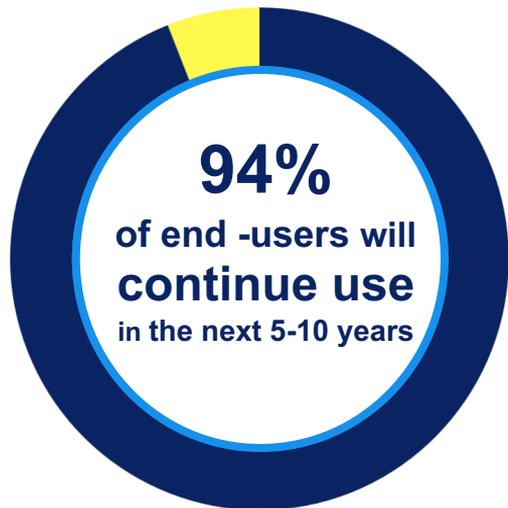
Section 4 –SWFF’s Impact (concluded)

- Targets, milestones, etc. facilitated greater reach towards expansion of market access, improved business model or redesign of the whole innovation when needed.
- Improved national and international credibility achieved through better internal practices.

CHALLENGES

- Gender Integration in management and de jure ownership.
 - Uneven impacts for women and the poor across all indicators.
 - Some negative impacts although minor: gender role conflicts in family, harder work for women, jealousy from other member of communities, etc.
 - Difficulty in securing funding, especially private funding: most still rely on public funding and their own funds.
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Section 5: How sustainable is all this? (Market and financial)



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- Round by round over 5 years, more innovations are succeeding to meet the needs of the poor or very poor and more are viable as “for profit” enterprises
- Greater diversity in sources of funding (Public, Self and Private) needed, especially from “Impact Investors” driven by profit and by a social engagement.
- 25 innovations constitute a group of succeeding or successful (current or graduate) innovations which make up 63% of the 40 innovations.



Section 5: How sustainable is all this? (Market and financial)

CHALLENGES

- Gender aspects; some innovations have high level of women customers (38%) and a high level of women as business owners (38%); this is improving.
- More innovations with “high level” of women in management and ownership are needed
- Innovations are targeting profitability as well as meeting poor farmer needs.



Section 5 - Sustainability (Environmental)

- Innovators generally committed to green technologies and have keen interest in promoting organic farming through their technologies
- Environmentally positive activities across a wide range of indicators include these examples:
 - Reduced reliance on groundwater
 - Growing crops in saline soil; reducing salinity
 - Reuse of greywater and other soil conditioners
 - Reduced desertification



Section 5 - Sustainability (Environmental)

CHALLENGES

- Prospect of reducing or eliminating fertilizers and pesticides
- Maintaining environmental resilience during climate extremes



Key Recommendations for WE4F

RELEVANCE:

- Broaden Developing and Emerging economy base of the Founding Partners to attract highly relevant innovations.
 - Regional bodies in Africa and Asia could be helpful partners; consider also agricultural agencies e.g. CGIAR, FARA, etc. and through Mission and Embassy programming.
 - Employ the synergies of the Founding Partners in drawing in their key international partners and their networks of development agencies.
 - Place a strong emphasis on innovations that foster green energy, encourage women in management as a criteria, and a gender lens on the customer base
 - Business plans should include explicit reference to reaching the vulnerable and marginalized.
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Key Recommendations for WE4F

EFFECTIVENESS:

- Founding partners from Developing and Emerging economies should help locate and support suitable innovators from their regions.
 - Focus on the removal of barriers in the critical first year.
 - Increasing partnership with private capital should be considered particularly as innovations mature, explore the question of equity ownership in innovations.
 - Systematically analyze and learn more from failure and adaptive management: Undertaken FP Report.
 - Low interest loans through partnership with finance bodies, within USAID and through embassies.
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Recommendations for WE4F (Continued)

EFFICIENCY:

- Explore partnerships between innovators themselves, with commercial banks, marketing agencies, research bodies, standards setting agencies, etc.
 - Develop a methodology for cross comparison with consistent definition of terms to lead to GCF comparisons of like-with-like;
 - This will enable a more rigorous assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of different models of Grand Challenge intervention.
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Recommendations for WE4F (Continued)

IMPACT:

- Include climate-smart and green agricultural technologies in the design of future innovations to increase impact.
 - Negative impacts are counter-balanced by positive impacts; but more research needed for reasons and counter measures, especially for women and the poor.
 - Reasons for anomalies in results should be explored with reciprocal exchanges between surveys and case studies.
 - More governments now are interested in declaring agricultural zones or entire states as organic, WE4F should consider such a target in selection criteria.
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Recommendations (Final)

SUSTAINABILITY:

- Pursue novel funding strategies adaptable to the functioning environment of emerging economies.
 - Increasing partnership with private capital should be considered particularly as innovations mature, consider equity ownership.
 - Continue to address “missing markets” by driving for further gender integration.
 - Target better access from all sources of funding, especially private funding from Impact Investors.
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KEY INFORMANTS

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DEXIS EVALUATION TEAM

David Hemson
Ken Caplan
Stephanie Monschein
Nohemi Voglozin
Adelaide Bryan

Local Consultants:

Phanipriya Nandula
Reshma Dixit
Mutsa Mambo
Robert Gensi
Lewis Arithro
Harun al Rashid
Ahmed Taha
Ussif William Ayinga



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