Upscaling socio-technical bundles of innovation based on nature positive or agro-ecological principles: theory, methods and feedback from experience

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Upscaling

Outscaling refers to the spreading of something within the same sphere (replication, multiplication, mainstreaming and expansion) while Upscaling refers to the creation of conducive conditions and policies (institutionalization) for scaling.

Socio-technical innovation bundles (STIBs) are contextualized combinations of interrelated technical advances and social, organizational and policy/institutional enablers that are packaged for impactful implementation and scaling.
What is Nature-Positive Agriculture?

UN Food Systems Summit Definition

- Agriculture system based on regenerative, non-depleting and nondestructive use of natural resources
- Stewardship of the environment and biodiversity (in the face of climate change and other global environmental challenges like deforestation)
- Protect, sustainably manage and restore the productive system
- Ensure food security and nutrition for a growing population

Agroecology

DIVERSITY

CO-CREATION AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

SYNERGIES

EFFICIENCY

RECYCLING

RESILIENCE

HUMAN AND SOCIAL VALUES

CULTURE AND FOOD TRADITIONS

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

CIRCULAR AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Describe MFS and the socio-technical innovations
(Scaling readiness – core and complementary innovations)

Design farming systems based on socio-technical innovation bundles

Understand how MFS and innovations perform

Explore bundling socio-technical innovations for improved performance and smooth trade-offs

Co-learning
Farmers and farmer representatives, extension systems and advisory services, local experts, value chain actors, scientists, policy makers, donors

Describe

Explore
Sembrando Vida in Mexico

National policy on reforestation to strengthen rural communities
Payment to farmers to establish trees
Eco-regional selection of species and (agro)forestry systems.
Production and distribution of seedlings by the state
Technical advice and on-ground implementation/monitoring by governmental state extension.
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Some criticism:
Too vertical and state dependent
Too expensive
With un-intended effects (deforestation)
Sometimes non-adapted to local reality (e.g. mixed-crop livestock systems)
CA in NW India (IGP)

Improved agronomic practices (CA) for W-R cropping system

Credit schemes and subsidies for machinery acquisition

Capacity development of farmers, services providers, extension agents and machinery manufacturers
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Important impact:
Increased overall performance of the cropping system (Higher yield and yield stability, increased RUE, lower less environmental externalities and room for diversification and intensification)

More than 1 Million Ha under improved system in a decade
Concluding remarks (interrogations)

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Upscaling implies transforming norms and institutions (e.g. markets, programs and policies)

Socio-technical innovation bundles are very context specific (Agroecology and nature+) and will take different forms (innovations and the way they are bundled)

Generic frameworks with specific (fit for purpose and context) methods and tools may help in the support of guide the development of socio-technical bundles.

BUT:

Are the different concepts (upscaling, STIBs) irreconcilable?

What is the level or scale at which these two concepts can be aligned?
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THANK YOU