

# Innovation Platforms and Partnerships

**SIMLESA**

Sustainable Intensification of  
Maize-Legume Systems for Food Security  
in Eastern and Southern Africa

Presented by:  
Angela Manjichi

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Change Nexus*  
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# Introduction

- Agriculture main livelihood
- Subsistence agriculture
  - Mixed cropping systems
  - Livestock integration
- Rain fed agriculture:
  - 1 to 2 cropping season
- Low productivity
- Declining soil fertility
- Changing environmental conditions
  - Vulnerable production systems
- Food and nutritional insecurity



# Our problem

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# SIMLESA

“aims to reach more than ten million smallholder households, **with at least 650,000** adopting different combinations of Sustainable Intensification (SI) options by 2023 to improve maize and legume productivity by 30% and to reduce the expected downside yield risk by 30% by 2023”

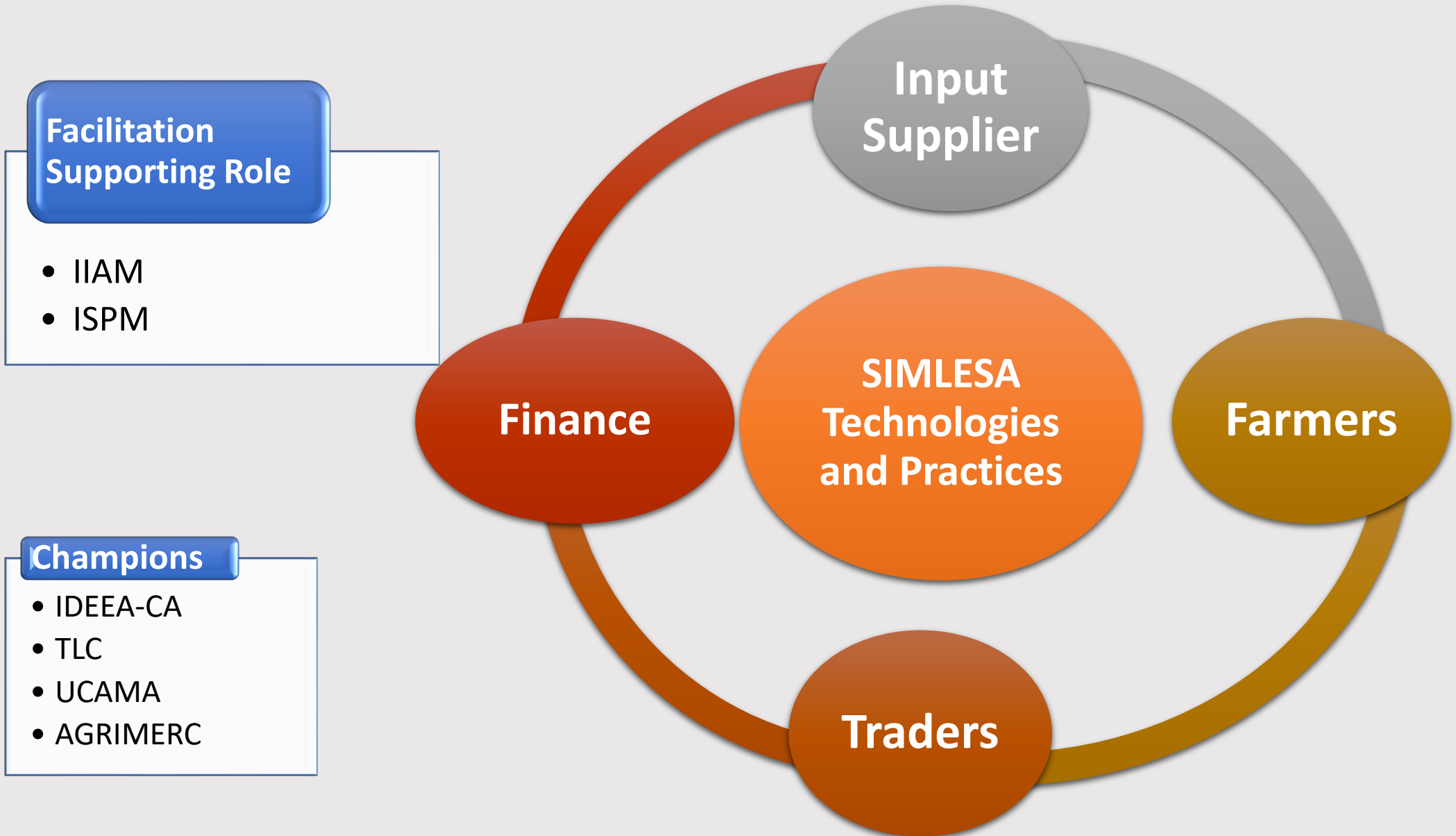


# Scaling out and Innovation Platforms

- Multi stakeholder approach
- To address a common problem
- Specific to location
  - Ownership of solution
  - Increase likelihood of uptake the solution
- Technologies
  - CA practices and technologies
  - Maize varieties (9 hybrids and 4 OPV)
  - Legume varieties (9 soybean, 8 beans, 3 cowpea, 4 pigeon pea, and 6 common bean)

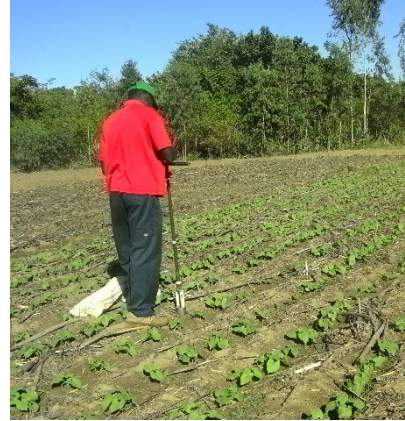


# The IP



# The Farmer at the Center

- Feed back meetings
- Farmers monitoring the demo and trials
- Participatory variety selection





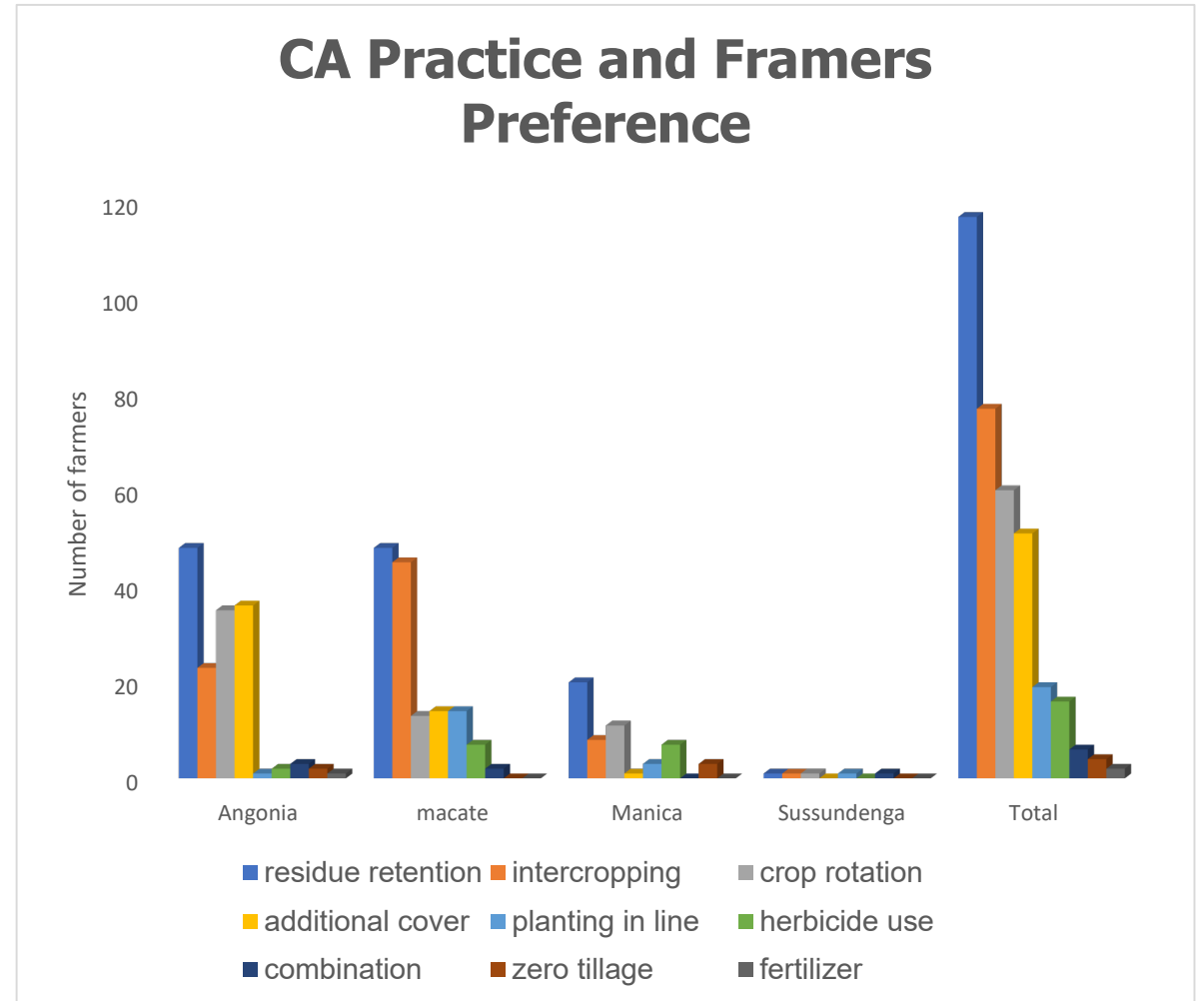
## Farmers preferences differ:

- Location
- Gender

## Adoption of parts of the technological package

- 7,436 households using maize
- 5,295 using legumes
- 38,057 using one of the components of CA practices
- about 100 000 households reached through IP

IP defined the priorities and research agenda





# What we have learned

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- IP effective in fostering upscaling and adoption of technologies
- Value chain development for scaling out the technologies: markets, markets, markets!
  - Market information still a problem
- Involve and engage the actors: in our case agro-dealers were important: price and delivery methods negotiation
- IP provides the incentives for adoption





*“To make African systems more circular, we need to intensify them first – you cannot circulate what you do not have.”*

Daniel Rodriguez

Thank You!