



CABI Quarterly Report

Member Country Briefing

October 2024



Introduction– Daniel Elger



JUNO – Global Evidence Initiative

– Andy Robinson (am) / Jaron Porciello (pm)



Regional focus – Asia-Pacific – Babar Bajwa



Member Country Engagement – Daniel Elger



Publishing Webinar – Andy Robinson



Science Communication Training – Charles Wendo



Finance update – Leo Kimutai



Closing comments – Daniel Elger



An Evidence Alliance for Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Change

**Food Shortages.
Climate Emergencies.
Gender Inequality.**

Urgent action is needed to address the most pressing global challenges and to ensure that solutions are based on sound science.



“Evidence is not being systematically used by government policymakers, organizational leaders, professionals and citizens to equitably address societal challenges.

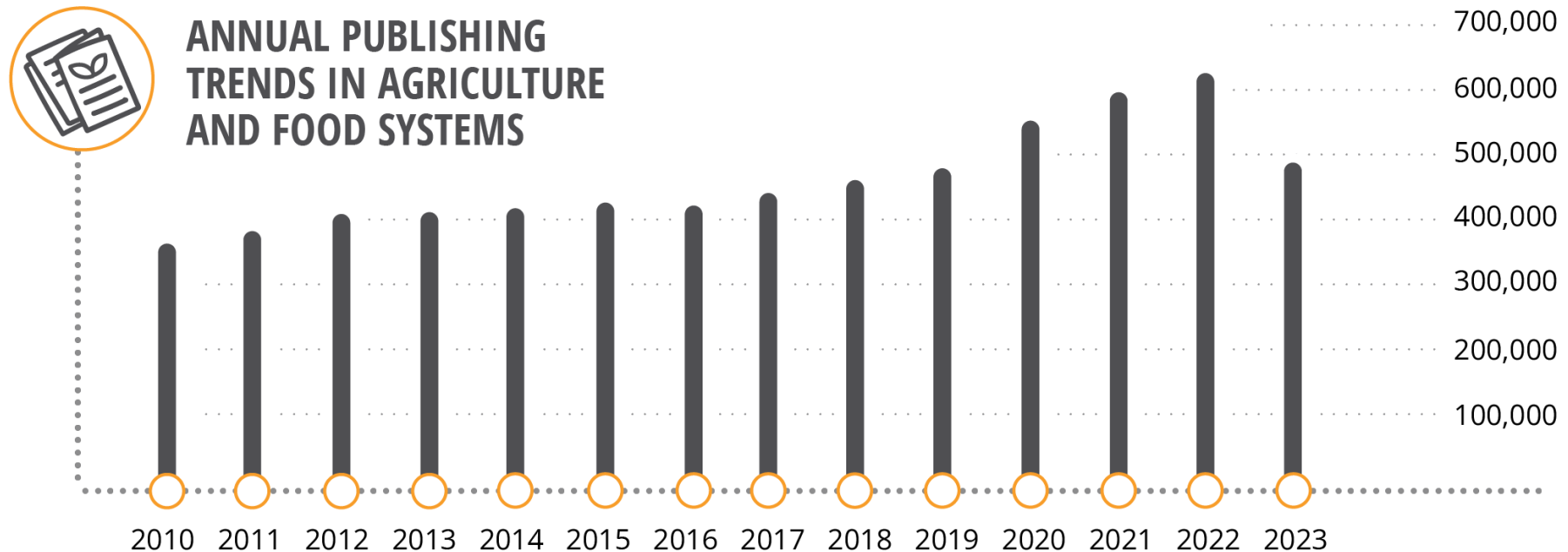
Instead, decision-makers too often rely on inefficient (and sometimes harmful) informal feedback systems.

*The result is poor decisions that lead to **failures to improve lives, avoidable harm to citizens, and wasted resources.**”*

Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges. *The Evidence Commission report: A wake-up call and path forward for decisionmakers, evidence intermediaries, and impact-oriented evidence producers.* Hamilton: McMaster Health Forum, 2022

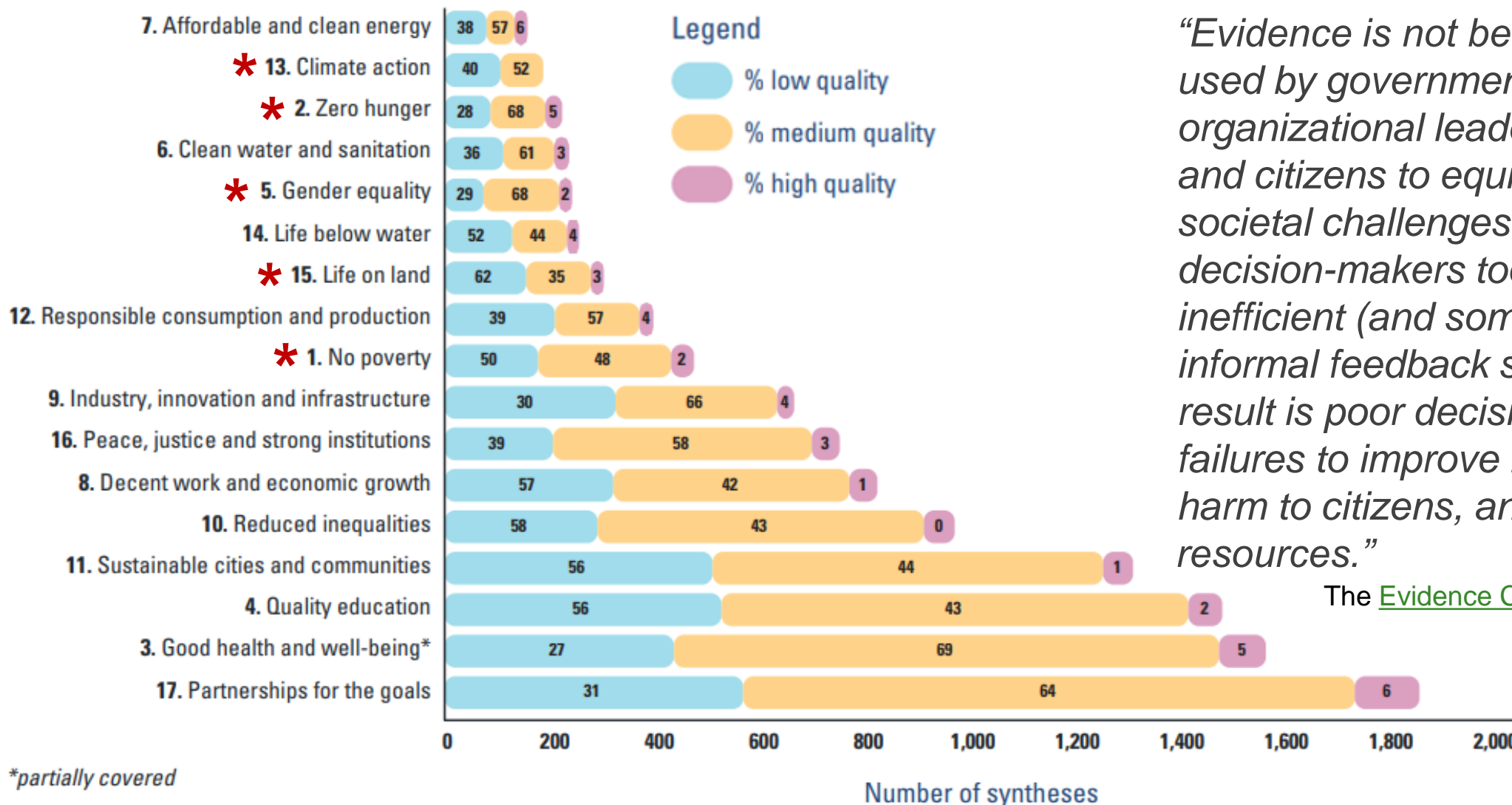


Yet research across agriculture and applied science has increased 60% in the past 13 years



Based on an analysis of all citations across CAB Abstracts

More and better evidence is needed



“Evidence is not being systematically used by government policymakers, organizational leaders, professionals and citizens to equitably address societal challenges. Instead, decision-makers too often rely on inefficient (and sometimes harmful) informal feedback systems. The result is poor decisions that lead to failures to improve lives, avoidable harm to citizens, and wasted resources.”

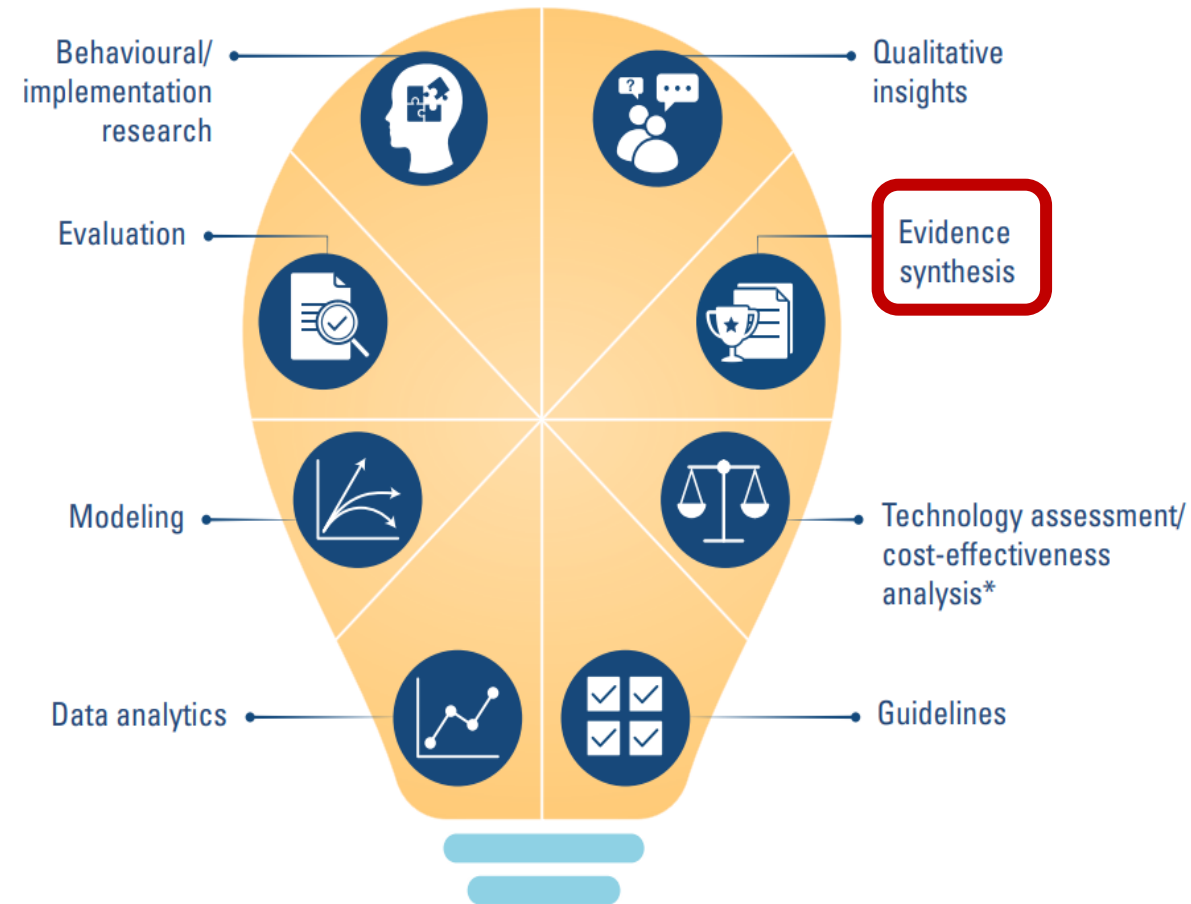
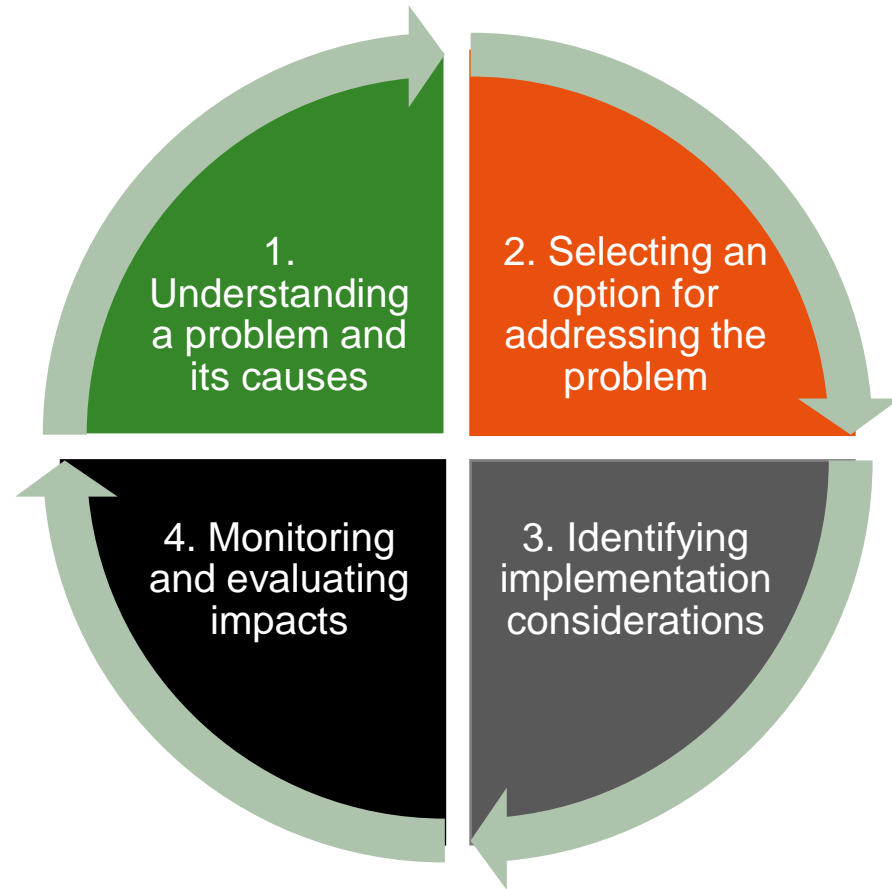
The [Evidence Commission Report](#) (2022)

A review of 4,131 SDG-related evidence syntheses included in [Social Systems Evidence](#)

Vision: a nutritious, safe and food secure world where evidence and decisions about food and agriculture continue to get better over time



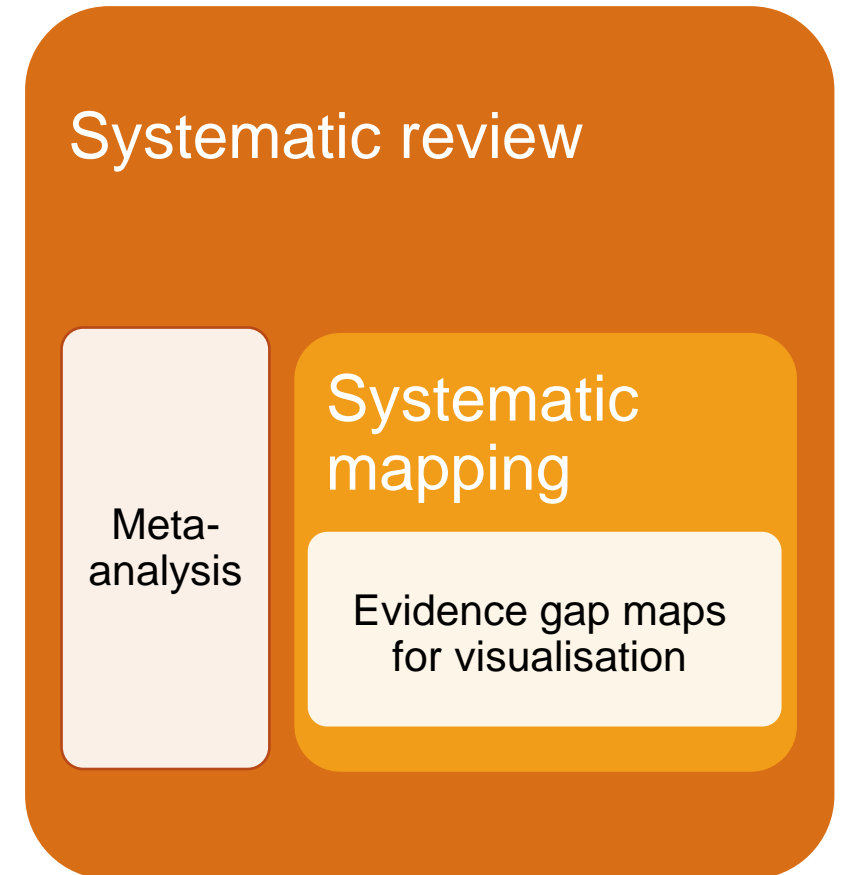
Evidence informed decision-making



Policymakers engage in a four-step decision-making process and use 8 types of evidence

What is evidence synthesis?

- A systematic and transparent process
- Identifies, selects, appraises and synthesizes findings
- Summarizes what we know and don't know based on all of the studies that have addressed a similar question
- Can help to inform almost all of the four steps in policy decision-making
- **If the evidence exists** – or identify research gaps



Championing better decisions, faster



JUNO Transforming
Evidence for Agriculture,
Food and Climate

Policy relevant

Work with donors & governments to prioritize evidence assessment needs

Accelerated solutions

Expand the data sources used in evidence synthesis and apply AI to speed up discovery and analysis

Standards-driven science

Create normative and technical standards, as well as new services, platforms and systems for end users

Global network

Deliver education & training, and champion the uptake & use of evidence in decision-making

Crop varieties in Nepal

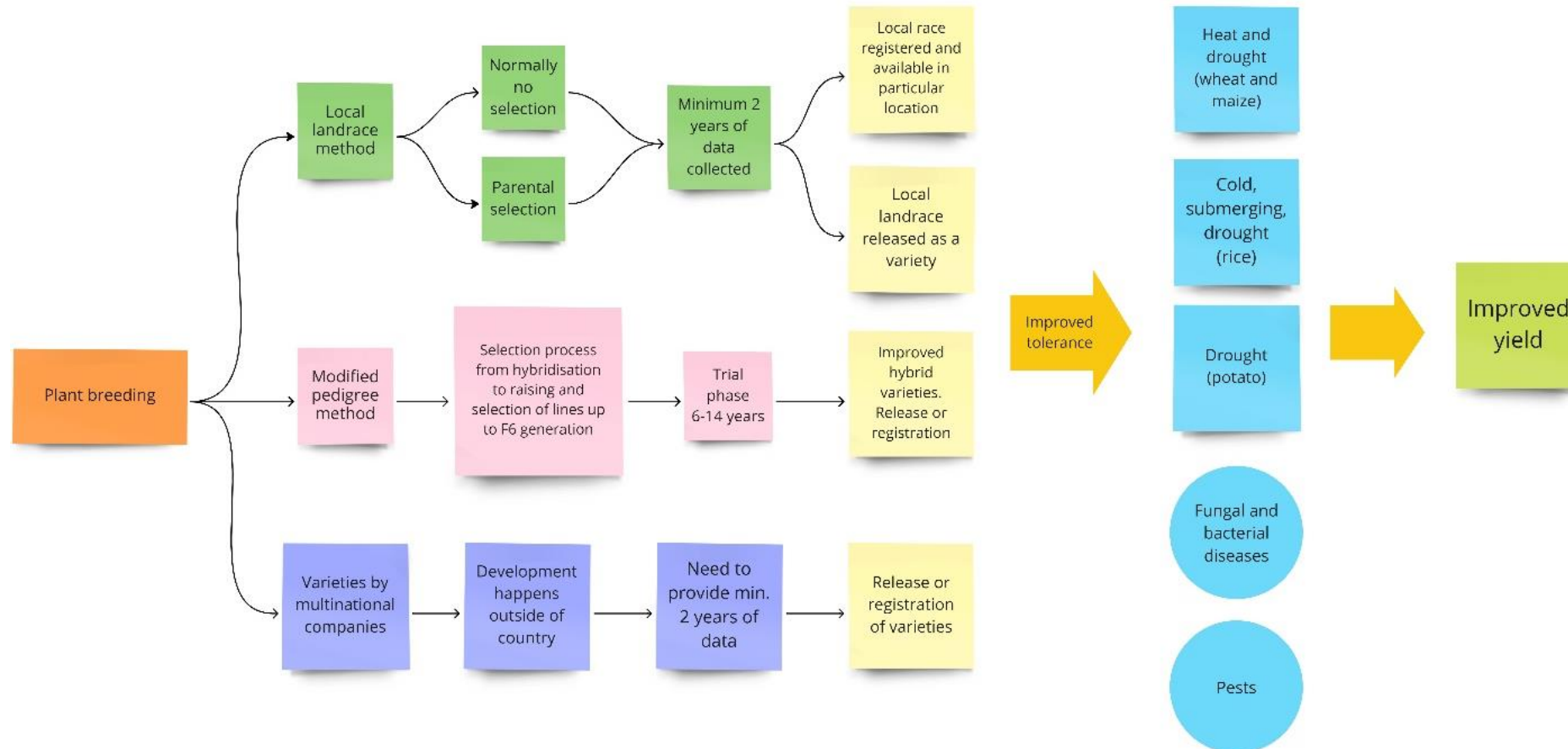
- In partnership with Nepal Agricultural Research Council and FCDO
- Key Informant Interviews in Nepal: July – September 2023
- Stakeholder workshop in October 2023
- Climate change and plant breeding were top priorities



Crop variety performance in Nepal

Research question:

How do crop varieties developed through different breeding methods perform in field in terms of yield and biotic and abiotic stress? A systematic review with meta-analysis



Workshop scheduled for November to review the outputs and consider implications

Risk of bias assessment
Meta-analysis of primary studies



FCDO in Nepal

Nepalese Agricultural Research Council

How do crop varieties developed through different breeding methods perform in field in terms of yield and biotic and abiotic stress?

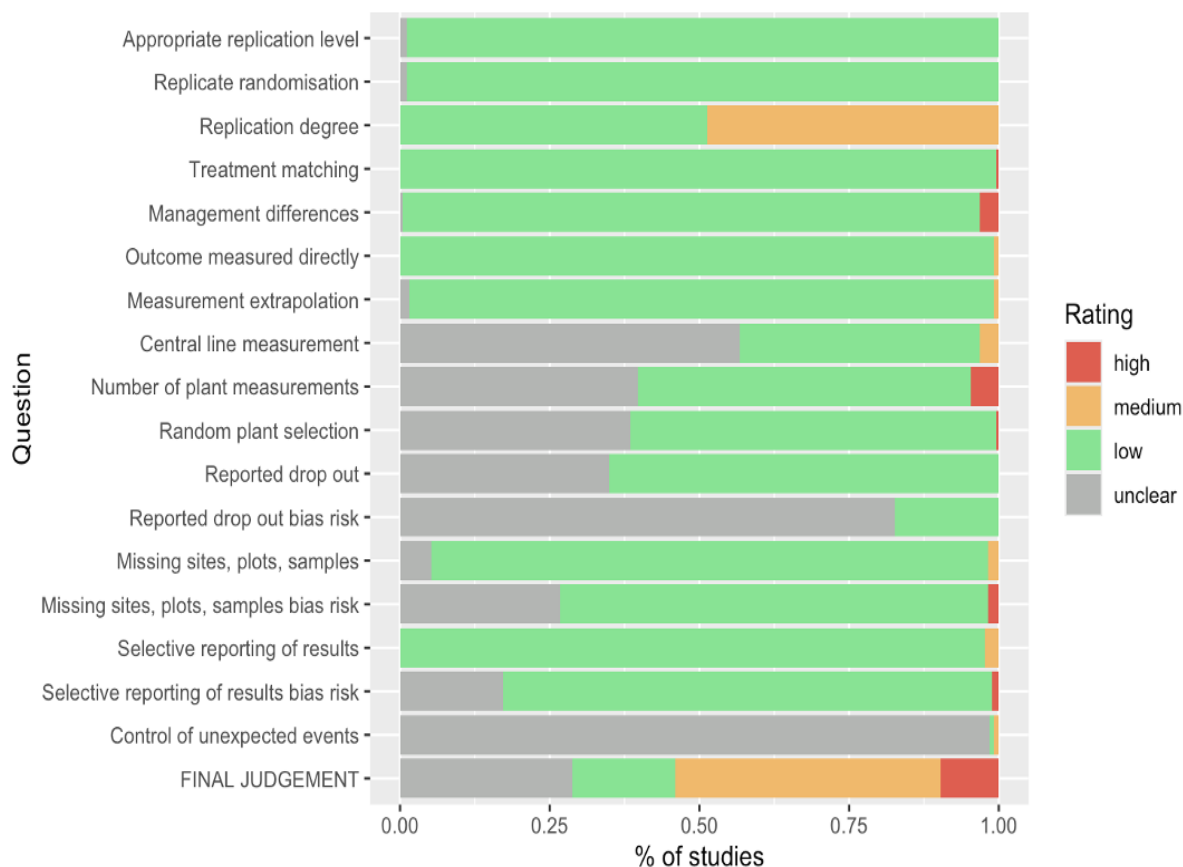
Protocol registered on agriRxiv

CAB Abstracts / Scopus / Web of Science / Dimensions

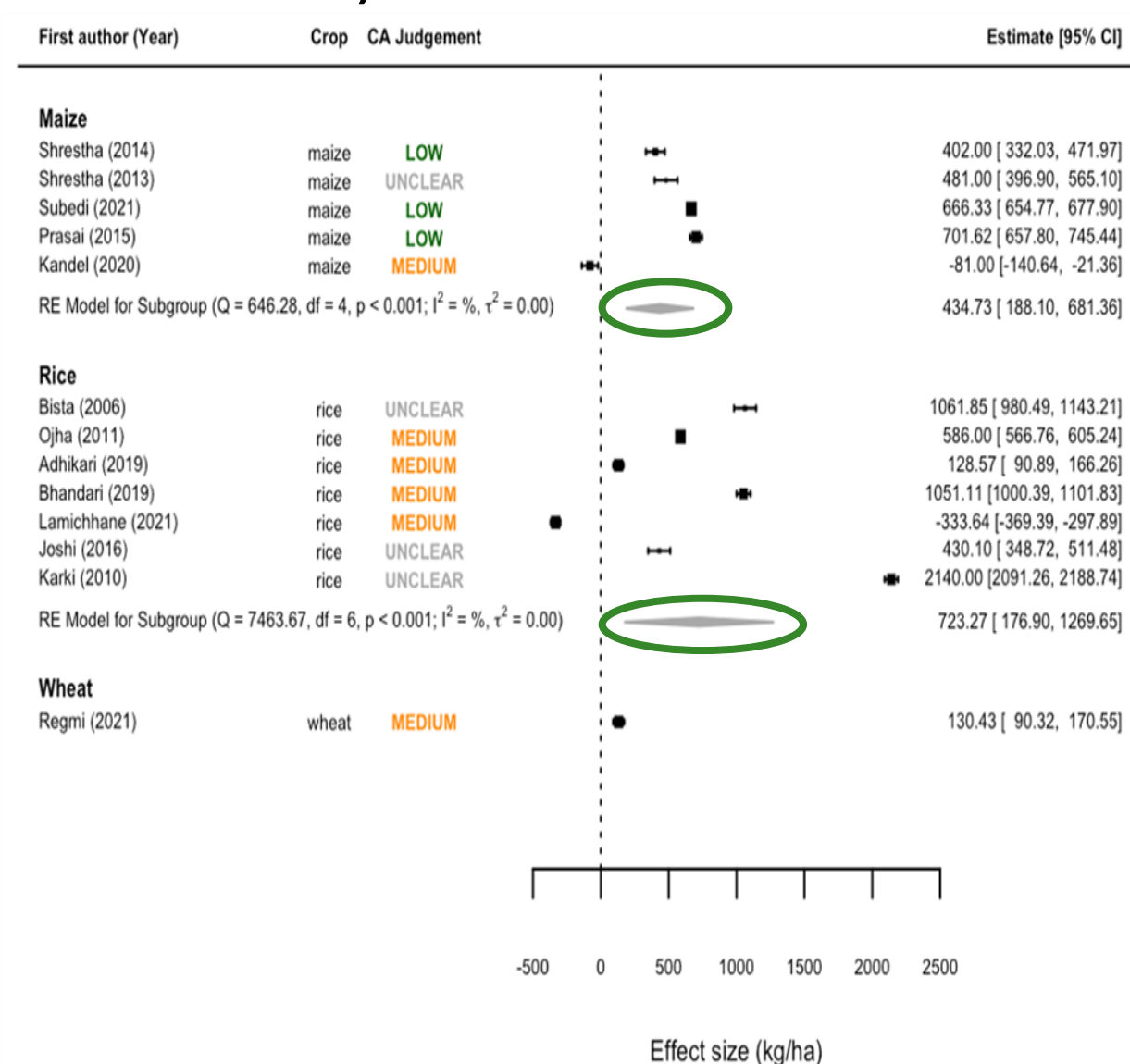
Indexed additional unpublished research from Nepal

Findings

Risk of bias assessment



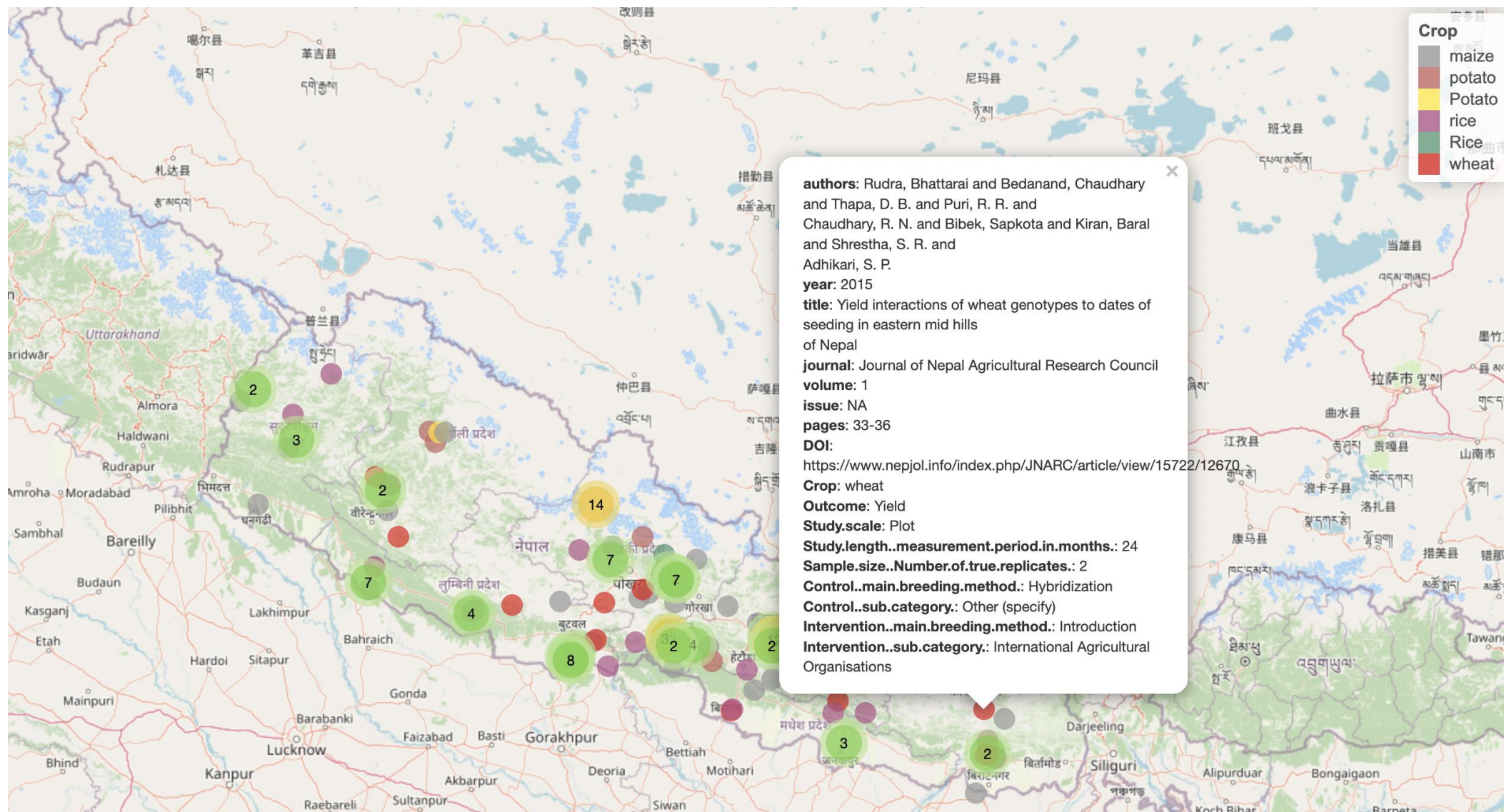
Effect on yield (Hybridization compared to Domestication)



Findings

- Focus on crossing programmes to improve crop yield, quality, and resilience to stresses like climate change.
- Prioritize the testing and use of indigenous landraces in hybridization programmes, e.g. disease-resistant traits like late blight in potatoes.
- Increase research and breeding efforts for vegetable crops to take advantage of Nepal's diverse agroclimatic regions.
- Strengthen Nepal's plant breeding capacity by improving funding, institutional support, and human resources.
- Address the gap in Nepalese plant breeding research compared to other countries for greater self-reliance in food production.

Crop variety performance in Nepal



Impact and benefits

Workshop in November to review the outputs in Nepal

4 researchers have been trained in evidence synthesis

Additional training workshop in November

Increased appetite to do additional systematic reviews

A Machine-Driven Evidence
Synthesis of Current and
Emerging **Plant Health**
Challenges

Nutrition Best Buys (32
interventions)

The **State of the Field**
of Research for Agriculture
and Food Systems



Evidence to Promote
One Health
Implementation at Scale

Sustainable Agricultural
Practices for **Gender**
Equity and Women's
Empowerment

Crop Breeding in Nepal

Investing in **Nature** Based
Solutions and Climate
Adaptation

Vision for Adapted
Crops and Soils
(VACS)

Evidence syntheses in development

- Bibliometric analysis of One Health research output
- Horizon Scanning Workshop on One Health
- Updated Zoonoses Evidence Note
- Nutrition Best Buys: umbrella reviews of diet and nutrition interventions in Low and Middle Income Countries
- Systematic Review to understand perspectives of sustainable agricultural growth and the challenge of climate change in Latin America and The Caribbean
- Management and leadership capacity development in the agrifood system in sub-Saharan Africa: A feminist decolonial evidence synthesis
- Evidence for Sustainable and Nutritious School Meals with Local Procurement



Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



Juno deliverables

1. EVIDENCE PRIORITIZATION COMMISSIONING AND PRODUCTION

- ~20 evidence synthesis products
- Horizon scanning workshops
- Evidence Advisory Group

3. ACCELERATING THE PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Enhanced AI machine-learning model
- New evidence and service products: search builder; protocol database; ChatGPT
- “What Works in Agriculture, Food and Climate”

5. COMMUNICATING AND CHAMPIONING THE ADOPTION OF EVIDENCE

- Training webinars and digital learning modules for evidence consumers
- Juno Evidence Knowledge Bank
- New interactive data visualisation tools
- Derivative evidence communications outputs: policy briefs, video, infographics, etc



2. GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS FOR EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

- Guidance & Evidence Methods Group (GEM)
- Guidance and tools on best practices for evidence synthesis

4. DEVELOPING COLLABORATIONS & STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

- Education and Training Working Group
- Training and skills framework
- Teaching, training materials and webinars

6. SCALABLE AND SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE AND OPERATING MODEL

- Sustainable governance / operating model
- Diversified portfolio of funders
- Advisory Council (incl. FAO / CGIAR)
- Monitoring and Evaluation workstream

Meeting your evidence needs

- What Works in Agrifood Systems– stakeholder needs analysis

Summarises the best available evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to deliver resilient, equitable and sustainable agrifood systems in low- and middle- income countries.

Provides trusted, accessible and practical evidence for informing policy decisions for international development.

- If you are interested in providing feedback on how you use evidence to inform decision-making please contact us:

Andy Robinson: a.robinson@cabi.org

Jaron Porciello: j.porciello@cabi.org

- Describe a comprehensive CABI offering for Evidence in Policy to discuss at the Regional Consultations in 2025



CABI in the Asia-Pacific Region

Dr. Babar E. Bajwa – Senior Regional Director, Asia
10 October 2024

CABI's Asia-Pacific Member Countries (MCs)



Afghanistan



Australia



Bangladesh



China *



DPR Korea



India *



Malaysia *



Myanmar



Philippines



Pakistan *



Papua New Guinea



Solomon Islands



Vietnam



Sri Lanka

14 Member Countries

*** Regional Centres** in 4 Asian Countries

MC Engagement Plans and Progress

Programmes like PlantwisePlus

Projects at various levels and scales

CABI News Asia

Joint Action Plans with MCs (Australia, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan)

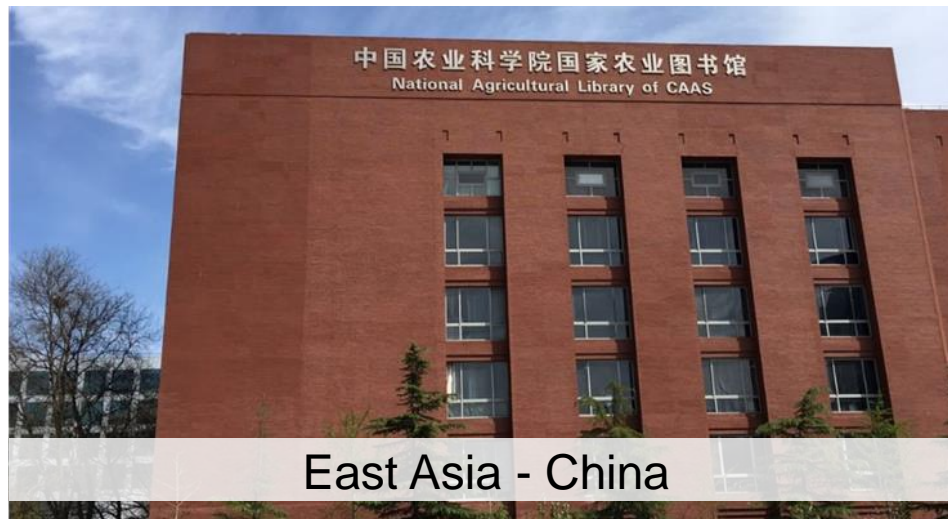
PlantwisePlus National Forums

Free access to CABI resources and tools through MC Gateway and PlantwisePlus

Partnerships as major theme for Regional Consultations

Member Country Quarterly briefings and showcasing success

CABI's Regional Centres in Asia





CABI team in Asia (210)

129 staff and 81 CABI Associates/Consultants

Centre	Total
China	6
India	23
Malaysia	15
Pakistan	156
Other Countries	
Afghanistan	1
Australia	1
ASEANET	1
Iraq (Kurdistan)	1
Bangladesh	3
Papa New Guinea	1
Philippines	1
Vietnam	1

Recent Developments to Reach CABI Goals Across the Region

CABI Goals

Improve the food security and livelihoods of smallholder communities

1



Help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change

2



Reduce inequality through better opportunities for rural women and youth

3



Safeguard biodiversity and support the sustainable use of natural resources

4



Increase the reach, application and impact of science in agriculture and the environment

5



PlantwisePlus is being implemented in 10 countries across Asia-Pacific directly addressing our Goals 1, 2, 3 & 4

2 focus countries

1. Bangladesh
2. Pakistan

8 core countries

1. Afghanistan
2. China
3. India
4. Nepal
5. Papua New Guinea
6. Sri Lanka
7. Thailand
8. Vietnam

- Improves farm advisory and supports women and youth to play pivotal roles
- Supports smallholder income generation
- Makes digital tools accessible to stakeholders
- Income and employment opportunities for smallholders, particularly women & youth
- Plant clinic approach
- Pest prevention and management plans
- Pesticide alternatives
- Agro-input dealer training/licensing schemes



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs (MARA)
People's Republic of China

CABI Regional Centre East Asia – China

- PlantwisePlus implementation
- MARA-CABI **Joint Lab**
- EU-China joint action to increase the development and adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools
- Active Research & Development on biological invasions, management and control of invasive pests and multiple biocontrol applications

KEY INTERVENTIONS (GOALS 1,4,5)

- Support Plant health system.
- **Risk-based** approaches to pest threats, pest and disease cross-border surveillance, and **IPM**.
- **Science-based** information to enhance yields.
- **Expansion of scientific expertise**, promoting technology exchange and collaboration with MCs.

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs (MARA)
People's Republic of China



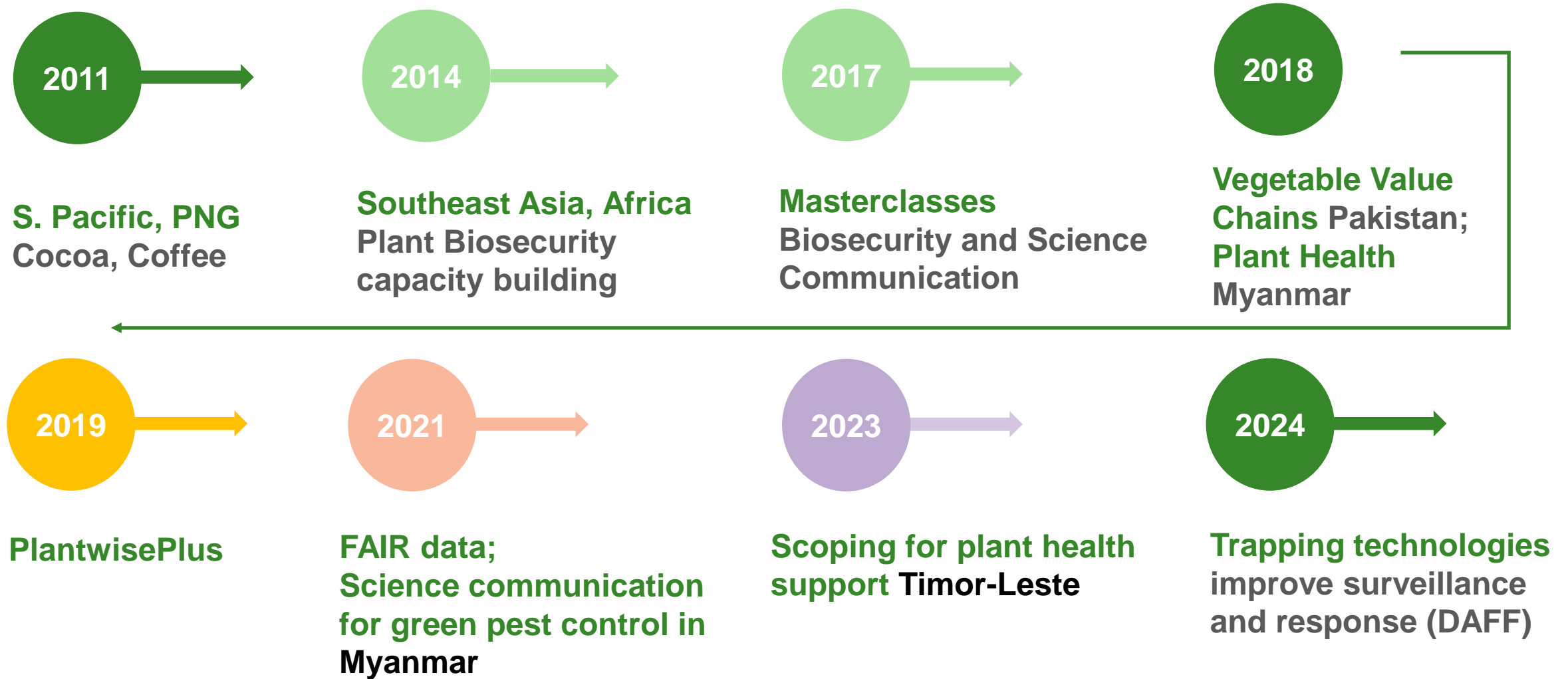
CABI Regional Centre South-East Asia and Pacific – Malaysia

KEY INTERVENTIONS (GOAL 1,2,3,4 & 5)

- Supports PlantwisePlus implementation in the region - **Vietnam, Thailand and PNG.**
 - Bilateral capacity building on import pesticide regulations - **Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Philippines and ASEAN.**
 - Capacity building with Philippines National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) on import risks analysis.
 - Promoting nature-based solutions, including engagements with **ASEAN.**
 - Safer Spices: Boosting food safety and market access for the peppercorn value chain in **Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia.**
- Integrated approaches to crop and pest management (**IPM**), biological control approaches, training of agro-dealers and extension agents, Pesticide risk reduction (**PRR**)
 - New opportunities for rural women and youth in value chains, low-risk plant protection products
 - Technology exchanges, collaboration, high quality research publications, compendia, books, articles
 - Improve value chains, **support SMEs, women and youth** engagement to improve livelihoods

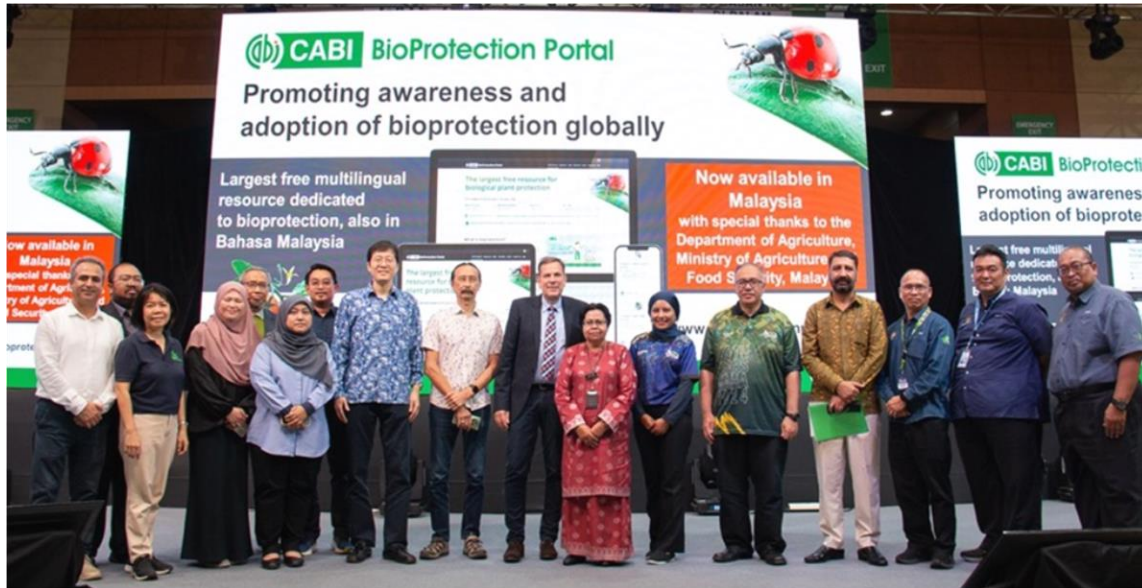


Cooperation Partnership with Australia/ACIAR



Asia-Pacific – Collaborative proposal and project development with ACIAR, Country offices and partners

Strengthening Partnership with South-East Asia to Enhance Food Security in Region



Launch of the CABI BioProtection Portal in Malaysia at the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture & Agrotourism Show (MAHA)



Dr. Daniel Elger, CEO CABI, met Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University Putra Malaysia

Engagement with ASEAN Member States on Cooperation on Global Pesticide Engagement



Four days in-person engagement on “USDA Cooperation on Global Pesticide Engagement with ASEAN Member States” held in Jakarta, Indonesia – 9-14 September 2024 attended by 59 officials

Engagement with Philippines, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the Department of Agriculture (DA-BAR)



Two days Development Workshop "Philippines Bio-efficacy & Residue Work Manuals" held in Manila, Philippines



High-level strategic briefing held with CABI's National Implementing Agency, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the Department of Agriculture (DA-BAR) in Philippines

Engagement with Vietnam, Opening of VAAS CABI Office and PlantwisePlus Programme Activities



A smallholder farmer receives advice on his crop pest and disease issues at a PlantwisePlus Plant Clinic in Dak Lak, Vietnam



Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) – CABI Project Office opening ceremony in Hanoi, Vietnam

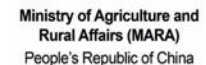
CABI Regional Centre South Asia – India

Key Interventions (Goal 1,3,4 & 5)

- PlantwisePlus implementation in **India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal**
 - Rapid Review in **Nepal** under JUNO
 - Pest Risk Analysis activities in India
 - Cocopest: Information portal for major pests and diseases of coconut in **Sri Lanka**
 - Strengthening public agricultural extension and advisory service systems in **Sri Lanka**
 - Strengthening Trade Facilitation Phytosanitary Regulatory Systems in **Bangladesh**
- Integrated approaches to crop and pest management (**IPM**), biological control approaches, training of agro-dealers and extension agents, Pesticide risk reduction (**PRR**)
 - Promote **digital approaches**, platform, tools and update knowledge skills and practices of researchers.
 - Involve MCs to support plans to characterise the nature and value of biological resources, collection of natural enemies, repositories.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands





ICAR CABI Joint Workplan 2024-28

Engagement with Sri Lanka, PlantwisePlus makes headway on Plant Clinics

Delegates at the Permanent Crop Clinic Programme stakeholder meeting held to see how the initiative can be strengthened further





Bangladesh National forum meeting, 2024

CABI Regional Centre Central and West Asia – Pakistan

- PlantwisePlus implementation in Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Improving Sanitary and Phytosanitary Trade Compliance in Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Growing Better Cotton in Pakistan
- Implementation of Climate-Technology Demonstrations to Farmers and SMEs
- Regulatory Harmonization for Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) & Biopesticide Registration in Pakistan

Key Interventions (Goal 1,2, 3 & 5)

- **Research and development** innovations; biocontrol product for aflatoxin management
- **National data for pest monitoring** and dispersal, digital information desk
- Promote pesticide risk reduction (**PRR**), nature-based solutions
- Improve value chains, **support SMEs, women and youth** engagement to improve livelihoods
- Promote digital approaches, platform, tools, science-based evidence reporting, *SciDevNet*, CABI Academy, improve FAIR data governance.



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs (MARA)
People's Republic of China



PEPSICO



PlantwisePlus National Forum to Discuss Challenges and Pathways Towards Greater Food Security in Pakistan

Strengthening partnerships for PlantwisePlus in Pakistan to empower smallholder farmers to predict, prepare for, and prevent plant health threats and reduce crop losses



Multistakeholder Workshop Paves the Way for the Registration of Biopesticides in Pakistan

Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Registration of Biopesticides in Pakistan in Karachi, Sindh Pakistan



Empowering Youth and Women in Pakistan to Enhance Agricultural Participation



Sewing centres established to empower disadvantaged farm workers and women to earn livelihoods



Intern Students working at Aflatoxin Laboratory at CABI Regional Centre, Pakistan

Global Innovators' Award at Better Cotton Conference 2024 Won by CABI



CABI's Global Director for Value Chains and Trade, Neil Willsher, collects **Global Innovators Award** on behalf of Dr Babar Bajwa from Better Cotton CEO, Alan McClay

© Better Cotton

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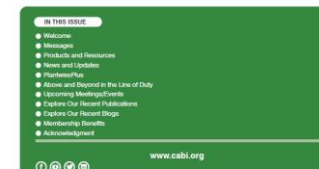
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CABI team in Asia is thankful to our Member Countries for cooperation and support and we are committed to deliver on our shared goals.





Engagement with Member Countries

Dr Daniel Elger
CEO, CABI



Collaboration on projects and programme development to deliver MTS



Agreeing and delivering joint action plans to meet Member needs



Contribution of Member fees to support CABI's mission



Hosting and working with CABI Centres and project offices



Discussions to optimise future strategy

Major support as donors

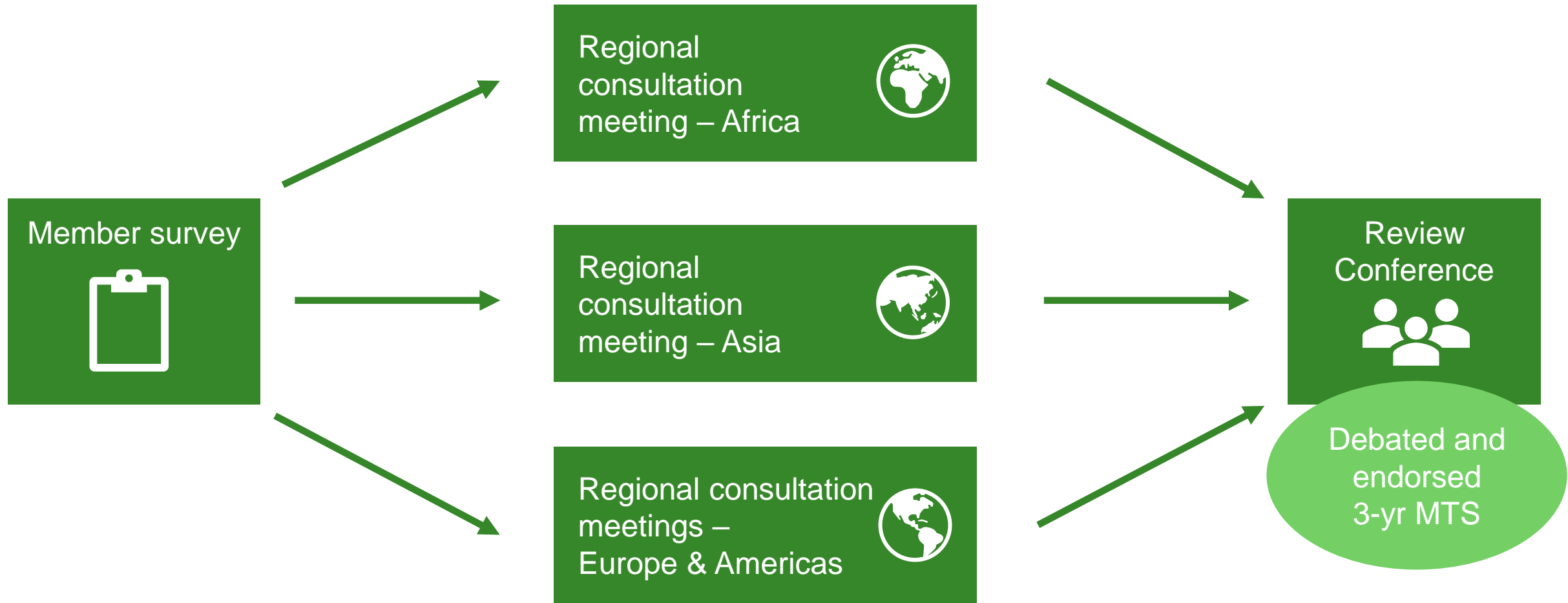
Member-member collaborations involving CABI

Participation in CABI's governance structures

Hosting delegations, visits and meetings; sharing insights and contacts

Publishing in CABI journals

Prior approach to strategy development







Improve the food security and livelihoods of smallholder communities

1



Help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change

2



Reduce inequality through better opportunities for rural women and youth

3



Safeguard biodiversity and support the sustainable use of natural resources

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Increase the reach, application and impact of science in agriculture and the environment

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Proposed approach for 2025-2028

‘Action-focused’ regional meetings
and review conference

Regional meetings in 2025

Review conference in early 2026



Each 2.5
days



Regional Meetings of CABI Member Countries in 2025

Asia-Pacific

- Tuesday-Thursday, 18-20 February 2025
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Africa

- Wednesday-Friday, 11-13 June 2025
- Nairobi, Kenya

Americas

- Tuesday-Thursday, 16-18 September 2025
- Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago



Regional Meetings 2025

- Action focus – pesticide risk reduction
 - Participation supported by expert input
 - How to advance at policy, regulatory and farm levels
 - Country priorities for action
 - Routes to mobilise resources for action
- Work before, through and after meeting

Also:

- Working together
- Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) ‘refresh’
- Regional progress on MTS ‘23-25
- Major programme initiatives
- View from host country



Collaboration on projects and programme development to deliver MTS



Agreeing and delivering joint action plans to meet Member needs



Contribution of Member fees to support CABI's mission



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Discussions to optimise future strategy

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Dates of other important Membership and Governance events in 2025 (all virtual)



23 January 2025 – CABI Quarterly Briefing to Member Countries (Two sessions 08.30-10.00 GMT & 14.30-16.00 GMT)



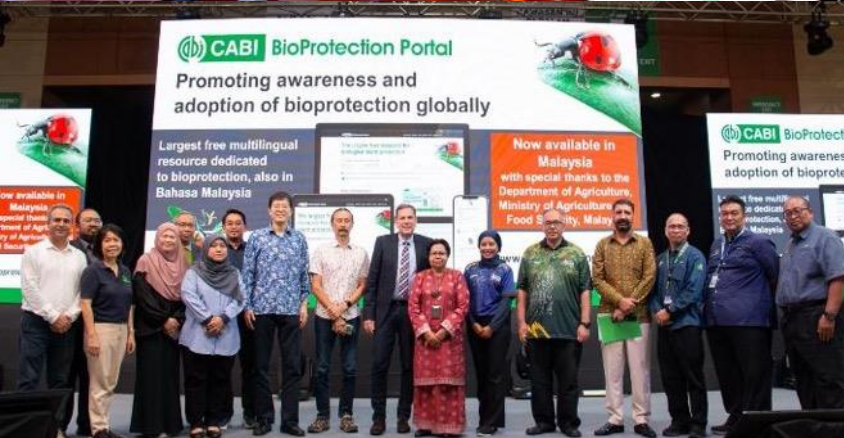
20 March 2025 – CABI Executive Council meeting (10.00-12.00 GMT)



3 July 2025 – CABI Quarterly Briefing to Member Countries (Two sessions 09.00-10.30 BST & 15.00-16.30 BST)



10 October 2025 – CABI Quarterly Briefing to Member Countries (Two sessions 09.00-10.30 BST & 15.00-16.30 BST)





Publishing Webinar for Member Countries

Dr Andy Robinson

Managing Director, Publishing, CABI

Benefiting from CABI Publishing products and knowledge tools – follow up Webinar

- 90 librarians, researchers & policy-makers attended a webinar in late 2023:
 - Overview of CABI Knowledge Business
 - CABI Publishing products and services
 - CABI platform and data/tools
 - Information on how to access these products and tools by Member Countries
- A follow-up webinar on **28 November** will cover
 - Overview of products with updates on product developments
 - Partnerships, including recent examples
 - Demo products and search, with case studies and member country examples
 - CAB Abstracts and search
 - Compendium and pest risk analysis tool (PRA)
 - Introduction to One Health Knowledge Bank

A photograph of two women with dark curly hair looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays four small images related to agriculture: a field of crops, a tractor in a field, a close-up of green plants, and a field of crops. The woman on the left is holding a white pen. The background shows a window with a view of greenery outside.

Science Communication Training

Dr Charles Wendo

Training Coordinator, SciDev.net

Science communication training for researchers of CABI Member Countries

Target group

Researchers in the natural and social sciences, working in or coming from CABI member countries, who have findings to share.

Benefits

Researchers will be better equipped to communicate their findings in order to:

- influence policy to contribute to the development of their countries
- increase their public visibility
- increase citations of their publications by other researchers
- enhance their likelihood of being found by potential research partners
- enhance research uptake



Dates and Registration: 16 and 21–25 October 2024. Click [here](#) to register.



Finances

Leo Kimutai
CFO, CABI

Aug 2024: Growing revenues reflect increasing output

£'000	YTD			RF1			
	Actual	Budget Var %	Growth vs 2023 %	Full Year	Growth vs 2023 %	Year To Go (YTG)	Year To Go (%)
Knowledge Business	7,611	(10)%	2%	13,015	7%	5,404	42%
International Development	14,925	(7)%	3%	29,267	16%	14,342	49%
Corporate/Central costs	2,979	22%	19%	4,367	3%	1,388	32%
Total	25,515	(5)%	4%	46,649	12%	21,134	45%

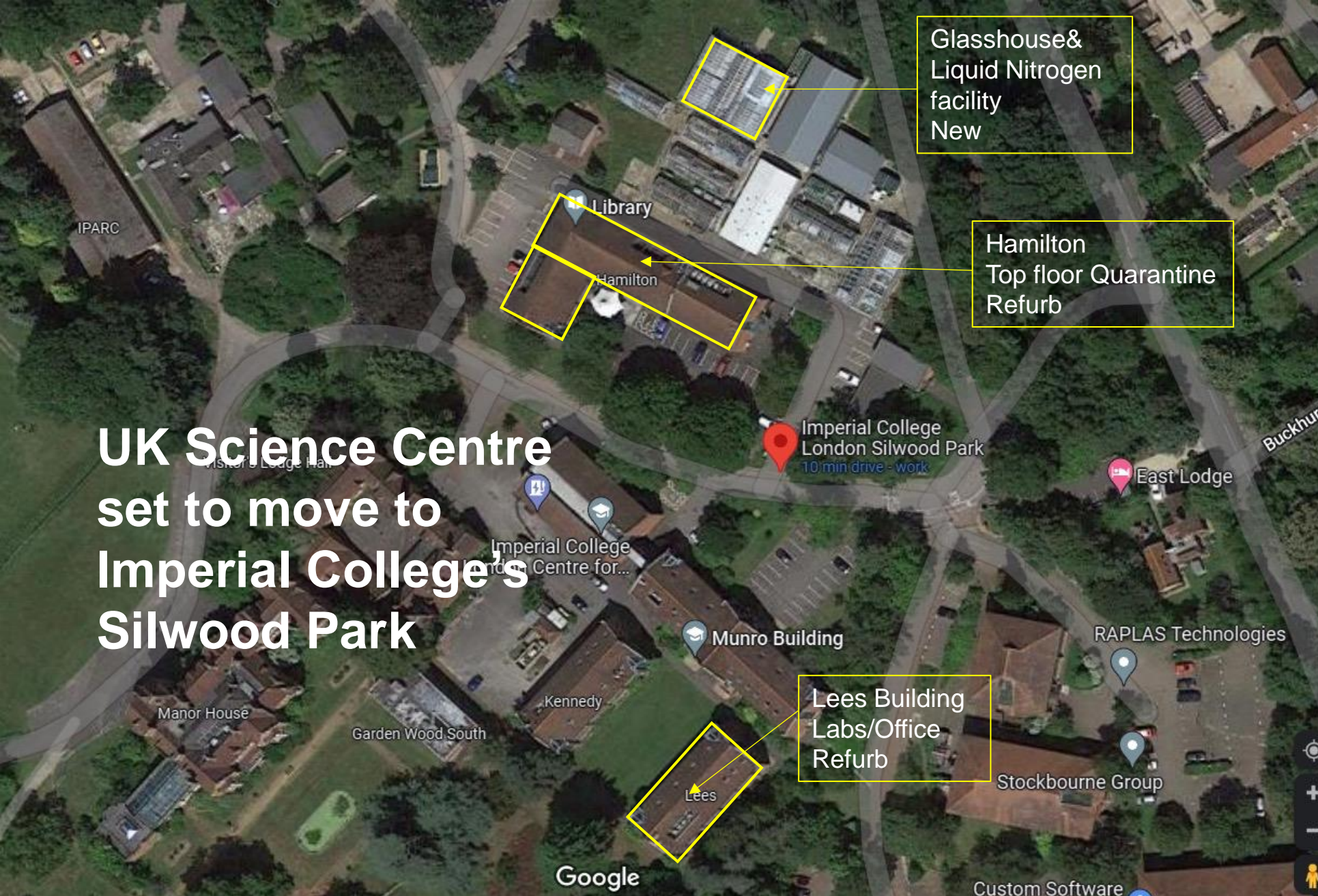
- Knowledge Business grew by 2% vs. 2023 equivalent, driven by growing project revenue
- International Development grew 3% vs. 2023, driven by project and membership income.
- Corporate showing 19% growth due to CABITAX, project income & SciDev
- **Overall, positive performance.** Seeking and expecting acceleration to close gap to our planned double-digit growth for the full year

Aug 2024: Positive outlook in Q4 as activities peak

£'000	YTD			RF1		
	Actual	Budget Var %	Growth vs 2023 %	Full Year	Growth vs 2023 %	Year To Go (YTG)
Knowledge Business	2,499	(10)%	(12)%	4,349	(8)%	1,850
International Development	(614)	(33)%	(15250)%	693	38%	1,307
Corporate	(3,472)	9%	(10)%	(4,978)	1%	(1,506)
Total	(1,587)	(7)%	(370)%	64	(79)%	1,651

Plan: Revenue acceleration and close management of one-off risks to enable delivery of budget.

UK Science Centre set to move to Imperial College's Silwood Park



- ✓ Concluded lease negotiations with Imperial College
- ✓ Concluded Sale negotiations with buyer of Egham (current site)
- ✓ Concluded covenant release negotiations with Crown Estate
- ✓ Agreements signing imminent
- ✓ All required service providers engaged
- ✓ Move Projected to happen in Q2 2025



Notable Improvements:

New Greenhouse & GRC

- ✓ New Bespoke Greenhouse allowing propagation all year round
- ✓ New storage area for the Genetic Resource Collection

Enhanced Decision Making
Ensure data is accessible, allowing for more informed and effective decision making.



Structured Compliance

Design the system to maintain strict compliance while being adaptable to various needs.



Empowerment for Growth

Provide an intuitive system that fosters and supports growth.



Flexible Response to Complex Challenges

Offer a flexible framework to overcome complex organisational challenges.



Transparent Resource Management

Help you deliver success by clearly balancing demands and available resources.



Efficiency Improvement

Streamline processes and eliminate duplication, significantly boosting efficiency.



Customizable Reporting

A simple interface to tailor reports to answer specific questions.

UK Pension Scheme Update



New Pension Recovery Plan (in Development)

Good dialogue with Pension Trustee on updated recovery plan

Starting point is actuarial review with updated assumptions:

- 2023 year-end deficit of £64.4m
- Assets of £39.4m
- Funding level of 38%

Balance of market factors (especially inflation) mean strong support of the Scheme remains essential

Main provisions discussed for updated plan:

- Carry forward key elements of previous plans
- Added CABI contributions that provide an extra £100K/yr from 2025, with inflation.
- New lump-sum payments over next two years, funded by sale of Egham property (£1m)

New Pension Recovery Plan (in Development)

- Draft updated recovery plan takes base of annual CABI contributions to c£2.6m
- Expect positive impact on Scheme position – detailed modelling ongoing
- Payments manageable within CABI's planned growth – no new call on Member Countries
- Formal approval of valuation and recovery plan by Trustee and CABI Boards by year end
- ExCo SubCtte on Finance and Risk will review plan before these approvals
- Submission to UK Pensions Regulator (tPR) required by March 2025
- tPR has asked to see draft recovery plan

→ CABI continues to meet all its obligations under the existing recovery plan and is confident about supporting the proposed updated plan

Closing Comments & Discussion

Daniel Elger





CABI as an international intergovernmental not-for-profit organization, gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from our many donors, sponsors and partners. In particular we thank our Member Countries for their vital financial and strategic contributions.