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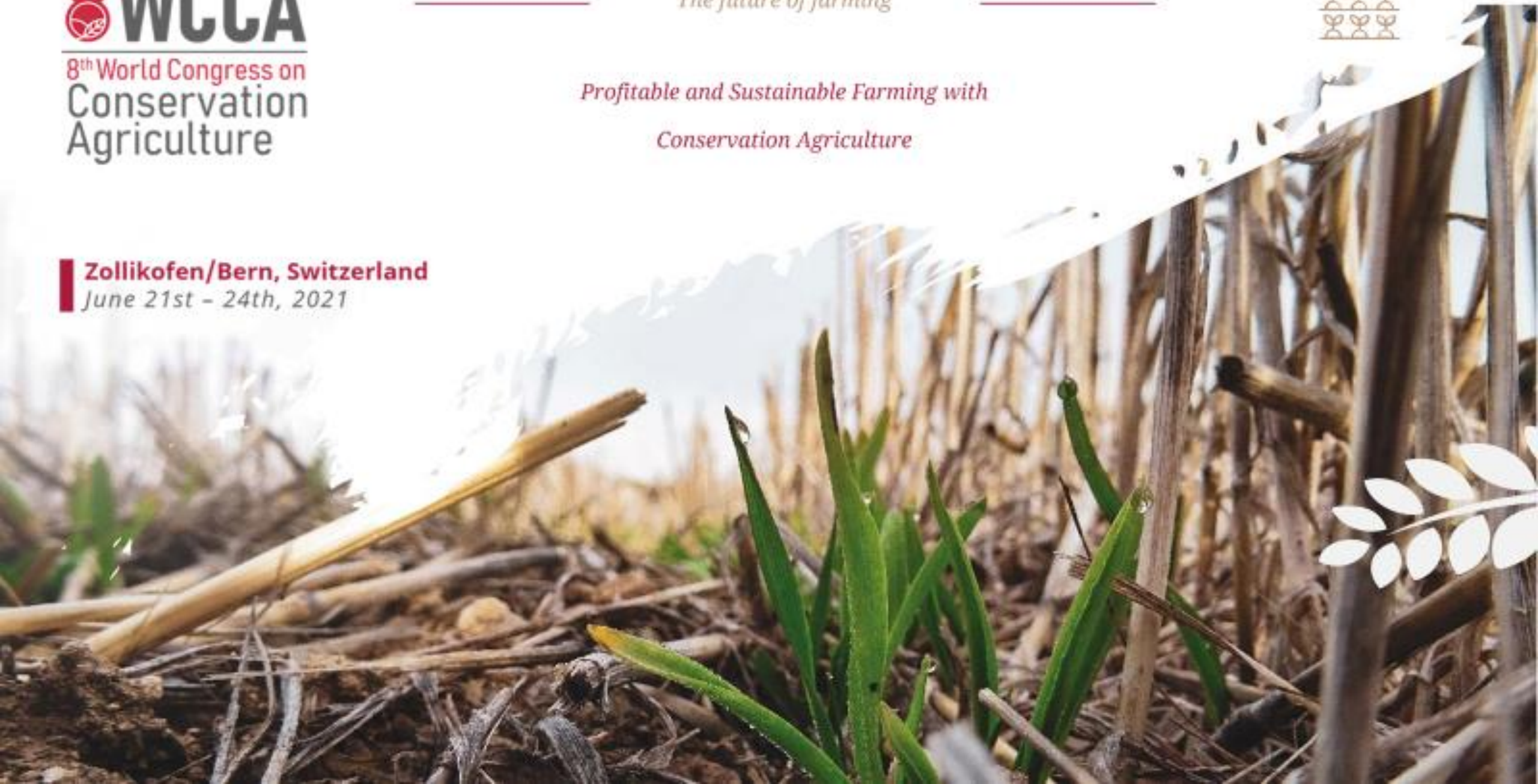
The future of farming

Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture

Zollikofen/Bern, Switzerland
June 21st – 24th, 2021



8WCCA Webinar Series #4

Mainstreaming of CA with national policy and institutional support and for global governance to support national and international needs and commitments.

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Outline

1. Review of past policies that have influenced, increased adoption of CA.
2. Private policy influence, certifications, influencers.
3. International conventions.
4. Current trends (and Covid?)
5. Summary

CA Traits

Costs	Benefits	Analysis
Less energy use	Erosion eliminated	Less yield variance
Less labour peaks	Increase OM, nutrient cycling	Less stress
Less inputs	Ecosystems, Biodiversity	Increased profits
Less capital	Pathology, pests	Markets?
More/less pesticides		Sustainability
Knowledge, support		Integrated systems

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Literature review of adoption - disadoption

1. Mindset; knowledge; understanding
2. Capacity of institutions (farmer organizations, extension agencies, research institutes)
3. Access to appropriate equipment, inputs, output markets and financing.
4. Land tenure. CA is a long-term business venture.

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Table 1. Policies used by global region as mentioned in regional reports.

Policies Used	Locations						
	LAC	CWANA	E SE Asia	SSA	Europe	N Amer	Oceania
Equipment subsidy	Argentina					Few	
Tax stimulus	Argentina						
Cooperative research	Argentina	CGIAR stns		Various	Some	Some	Yes
Workshops, think- tanks		Various					
Multinational policy					EU		
National Gov support	Brazil, Paraguay		Various	Zambia, ++	Some	Weak, some	
Local Gov support	Brazil			Zimbabwe, Tanzania		Some	
Foreign aid agencies	Paraguay			Various			
Specific CA agencies				Zimbabwe		US, Can	
Cross compliance						US	
Farmer groups	Paraguay						Yes

(FAO, 2017)

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Local successes

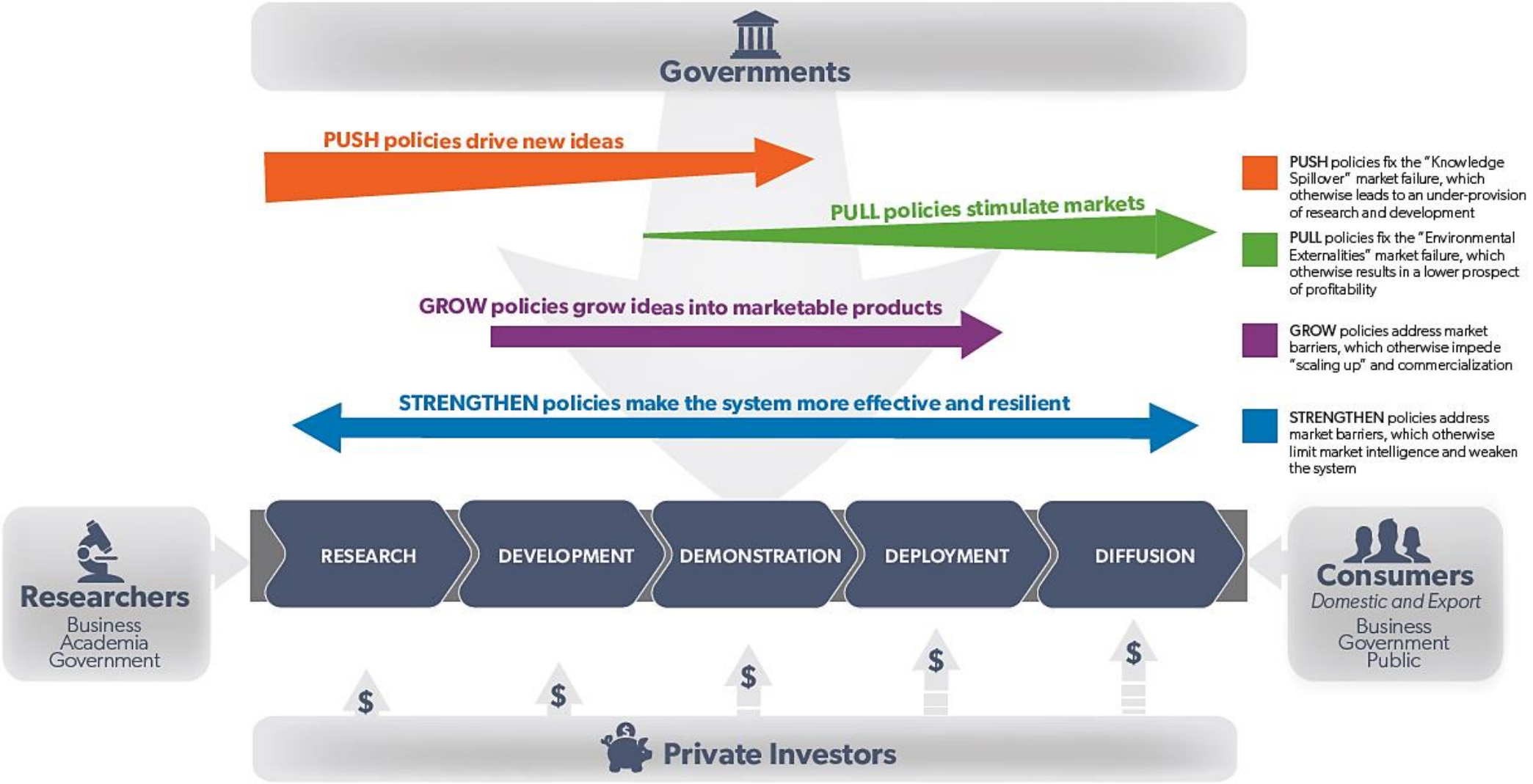
Machinery – unavailable, inappropriate, expensive.
Service providers - operator, knowledge, risk, inputs, timing

- Bangladesh, India
- Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
- Argentina, USA

CA knowledge – learning, sharing, capacity building
Farmer organizations – outreach, local, advisory

- Zimbabwe, Zambia Farmers Union, KwaZulu Natal
- S. America, N. America

The clean innovation system and how government and other actors influence it.



(Elgie & Brownlee, 2017)

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Private policy influence, certifications, influencers.

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Public Policy	Private Policy
• Long development process	• Short development process
• Structured public consultation	• Informal consultation (unseen, private) as well as public
• All interests encompassed	• Can be targeted/specific interests
• Cautious, conservative	• Radical, risky, experimental, pushing the envelope
• Forcing collaboration	• Collaborative willingness (pre-competitive)
• Public client	• Public client
• Long approval process	• Short approval process
• Large governance	• Small (CEO or group) governance
• Handles slowly	• Handles flash points quickly
• Plentiful resources	• More limited resources

(Goddard et.al., 2020)

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Round Tables

- 20
  -
- 20
  -
- 20
  -
- 20
- 20

Wildlife

Environmental

Business and Biodiversity Offset Program, BBOP

World Economic Forum (2020)

World Business Council for Sustainable Development, wbcsd

(Transparency, Laws, Labour, Environment, Practises)

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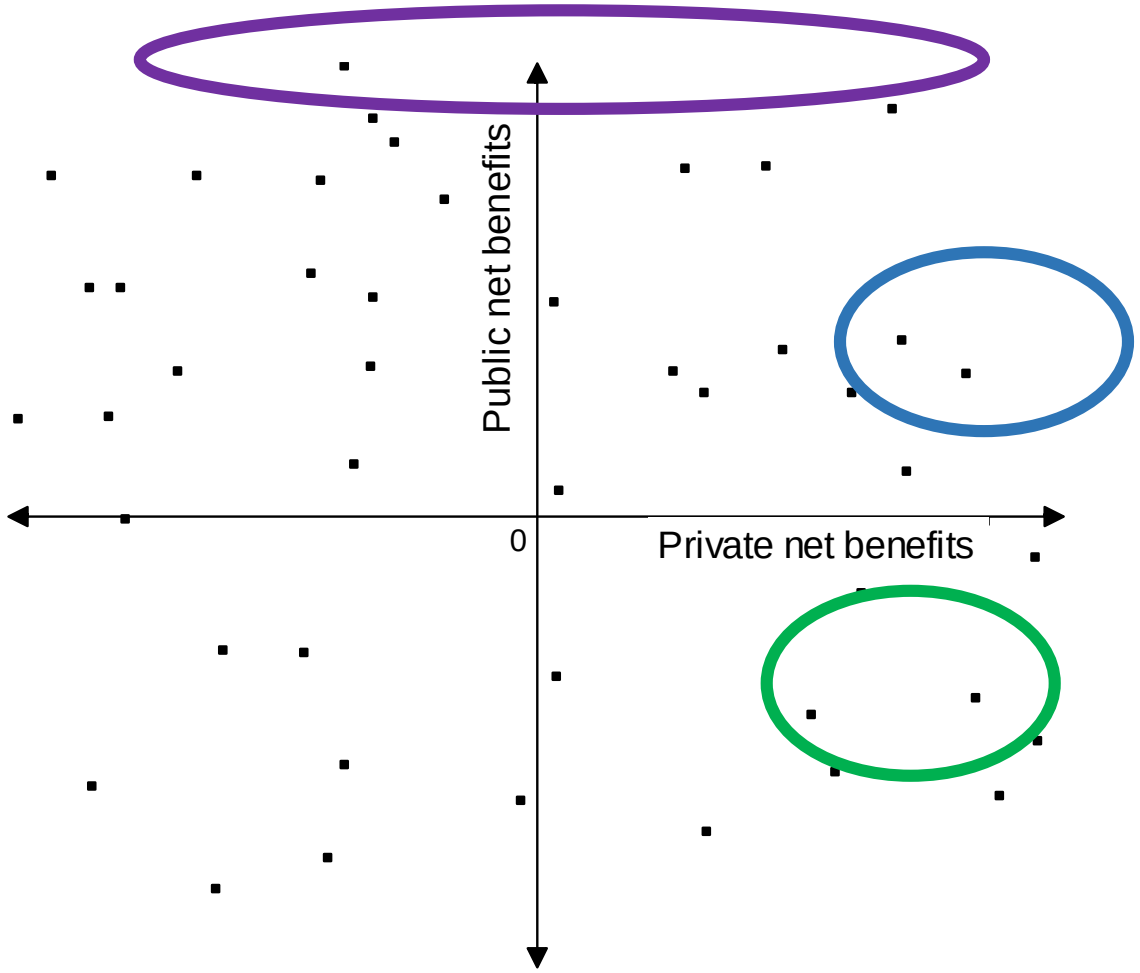
Public – Private Benefits Framework. (Pannell, 2008)



Environmentalists

CA

Green revolution

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International Conventions

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Climate Change - IPCC

- All countries engaged
- High frequency meetings
- Assessment science
- Climate Smart Agriculture = CA +/-
- Paris Accord – C - 4/1000, Rulebook, urgency
- Slow process
- Remaining multilateral forum

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International conventions and initiatives

- Convention for Biological Diversity, CBD
  - New 10 year strategy next year
  - Need to progress beyond protected areas. Need agriculture.
  - ‘Other effective area-based conservation measures’, OECMs
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD
- UNEP - influencer
- Circular Economy

‘The Biggie’ - SDGs

- 2030 target
- UN
- Business support
- CA aligned
- Complex
- 17 goals
- 169 Targets
- 230 Indicators

https://sdgs.un.org/goals

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Conventional Issues

- Issue focused – tunnel vision, biases
- Broadly focused – can't get past broad statements
- National support or compliance?
- Restrictive or enabling?
- Slow and methodical, inclusive
- Agriculture on the radar? Knowledge, understanding?

- Signals – issues, directions, need, pointing
- Public watches and learns

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Current trends (and Covid?)

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Macro Drivers

- Increasing global temperatures
- Increasing global population
- Increasingly urbanized population
- Economic growth driven by developing economies
- Increasing demand for energy
- Increasing connectivity of people (digital and physical)
- Transition from unipolar to polynodal world

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COVID-19: The Ultimate Disruptor

- COVID-19 did not stop macro drivers, but did change how we look at them
- Climate change could increase the risk of pandemics
- Increased population in close proximity to one another could facilitate disease spread
- Economic impact (negative and positive) is unevenly distributed
- Energy demand shifted, declined and is beginning to rebound
- Increased technological connectivity is a necessity, physical connectivity can be a risk
- The weakness of multilateral governance is showing, regional power is of increasing importance

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Summary

- CA policy development by accident or as needed?
  - mindset, capacity, access, tenure.
  - Systems and long term thinking and experimentation
  - Push, pull, strengthen, grow policies? Actors?
- CA has private as well as public benefits
- Private policies can be focused and drive hard
- Conventions create expectations. Opportunities?
- Trends of populations, governance, influence
- Covid-19 disruptions (forever?). Lessons.

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