Learning from and Acting on Impact Evaluation Results

November 2012

Introduction

- MCC thankfully doesn't suffer from 'learning anxiety'

- Commitment to using evidence for decision making
  - Investments in independent evaluations

- Use evaluation for accountability and learning

- Distinguish between performance and impact evaluations

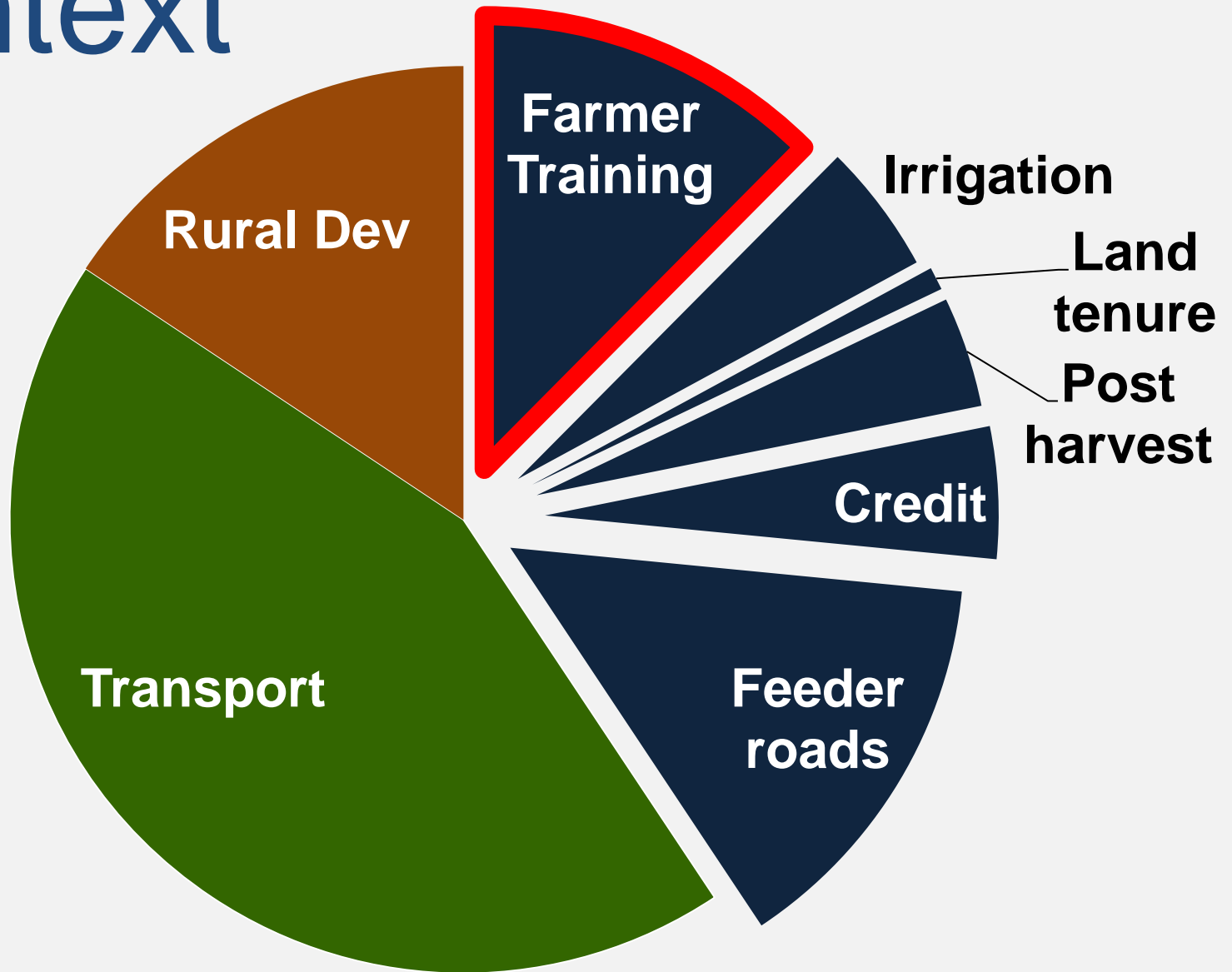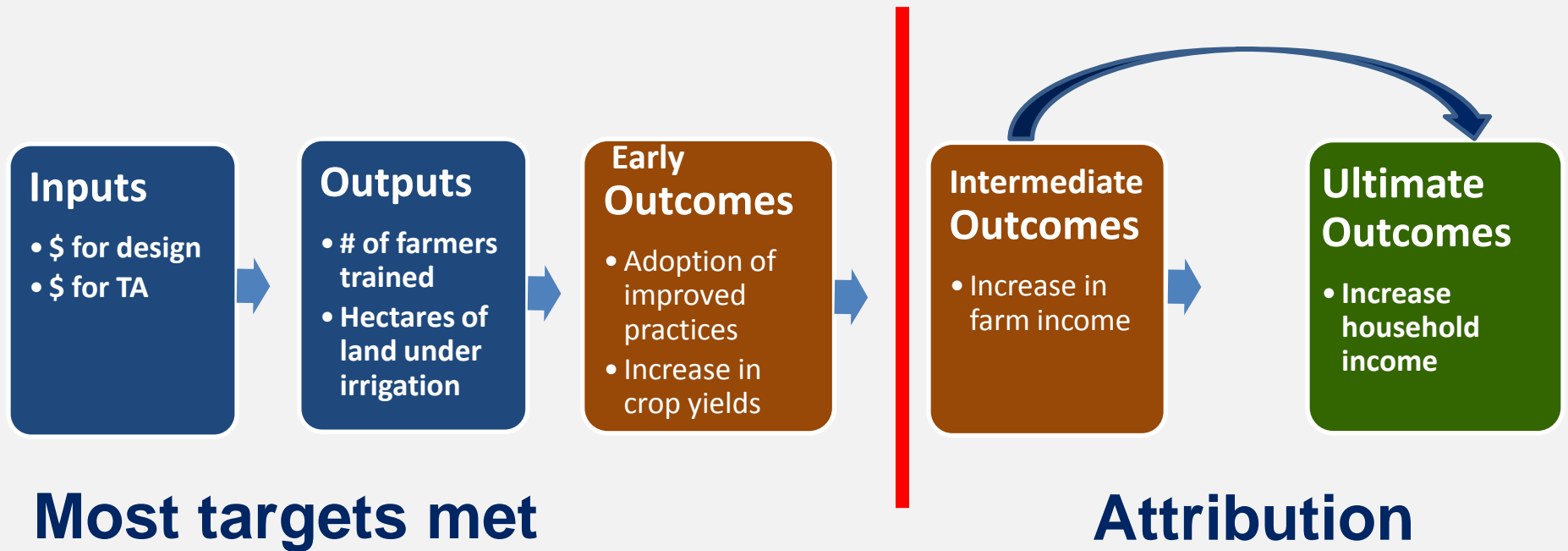| What Impact Evaluations Are:	What Impact Evaluations Do:
Independent Rigorous Rare	Test Assumptions Build Evidence Test Attribution

Today

- Summary of results from first five

- Learning from and acting on results

- Relate to three themes of note
  - Understanding users
  - Strengthening organizational structure
  - Understanding incentives

Context

Program Logic

Inputs
- **$ for design**
- **$ for TA**

→

Outputs
- **# of farmers trained**
- **Hectares of land under irrigation**

→

Early Outcomes
- Adoption of improved practices
- Increase in crop yields

Intermediate Outcomes
- Increase in farm income

→

Ultimate Outcomes
- **Increase household income**

Most targets met

Attribution

Findings– Farmer Training

Positive Impact Detected	No Impacts Detected	Cannot Measure Impacts
• **El Salvador** (dairy) –farm incomes	• **Armenia** – no farm income effects	• **El Salvador** (horticulture)
• **Ghana** (northern region) – farm incomes	• **El Salvador** (handicrafts) – no income effects but increased employment	• **Honduras**
• **Nicaragua** – farm incomes	• **Ghana** (other regions) – no farm income effects	

Cross-Cutting Lesson: Work in Lock-Step

LEARN	APPLY
Hire Evaluators Early	All Compacts
Align Incentives for Implementers and Evaluators	All Compacts
Strengthen internal process	All Compacts

Lessons Learned: Projects

LEARN	APPLY
Test Traditional Approaches	Mozambique
Understand Time Horizons	Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia
Use Program Logic	Moldova

Lessons Learned: Evaluation

LEARN	APPLY
Design Evals for Learning	All Compacts
Use appropriate methodology	All Compacts
Understand difficulties with household income	All Compacts

Three Themes

Users

- Understand who
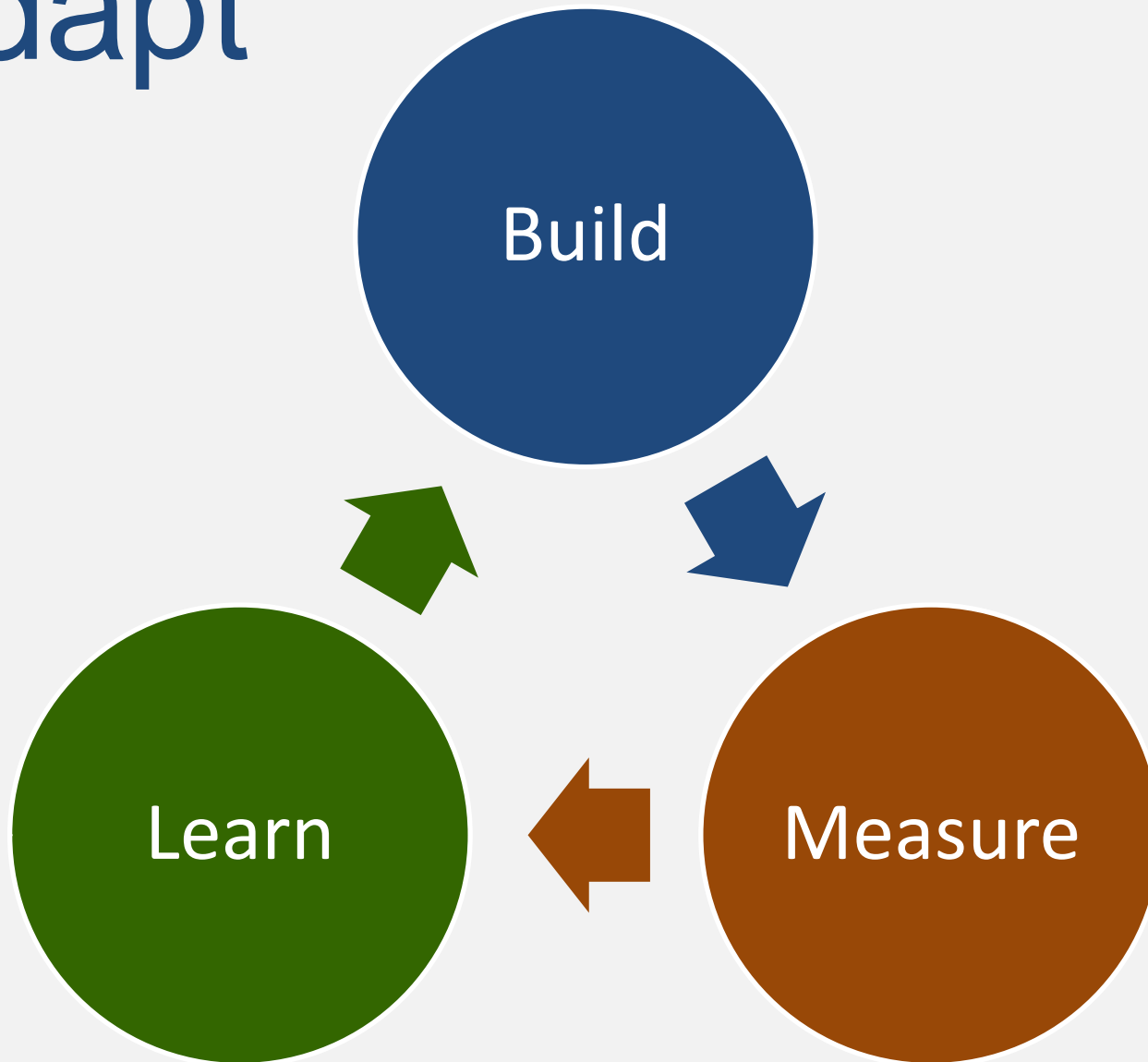- Understand priorities
- Understand roles

Organizational Structure

- Commitment by learning
- Commitment to transparency
- Strengthen internal review process
- Strengthen dissemination process

Incentives

- Incentives for external use - donors
- Align implementers and evaluators through contracts

Adapt

Build

Measure

Learn