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The National Cooperative Business Association • CLUSA International

USDA

Uganda Conservation Farming Initiative

Secure Your Future, Adopt Conservation Farming

January 2014

Program Summary

- $8.4 Million conservation farming program
- October 2011 through June 2015
- Focus crops: maize, pulses and soybeans
- Full value chain approach from producer to buyer
- Focus in 13 districts in northern Uganda

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Area of Operation

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- Agago
- Alebtong
- Amolatar
- Apac
- Dokolo
- Kaberamaido
- Kiryandongo
- Kole
- Lira
- Masindi
- Otuke
- Oyam
- Pader

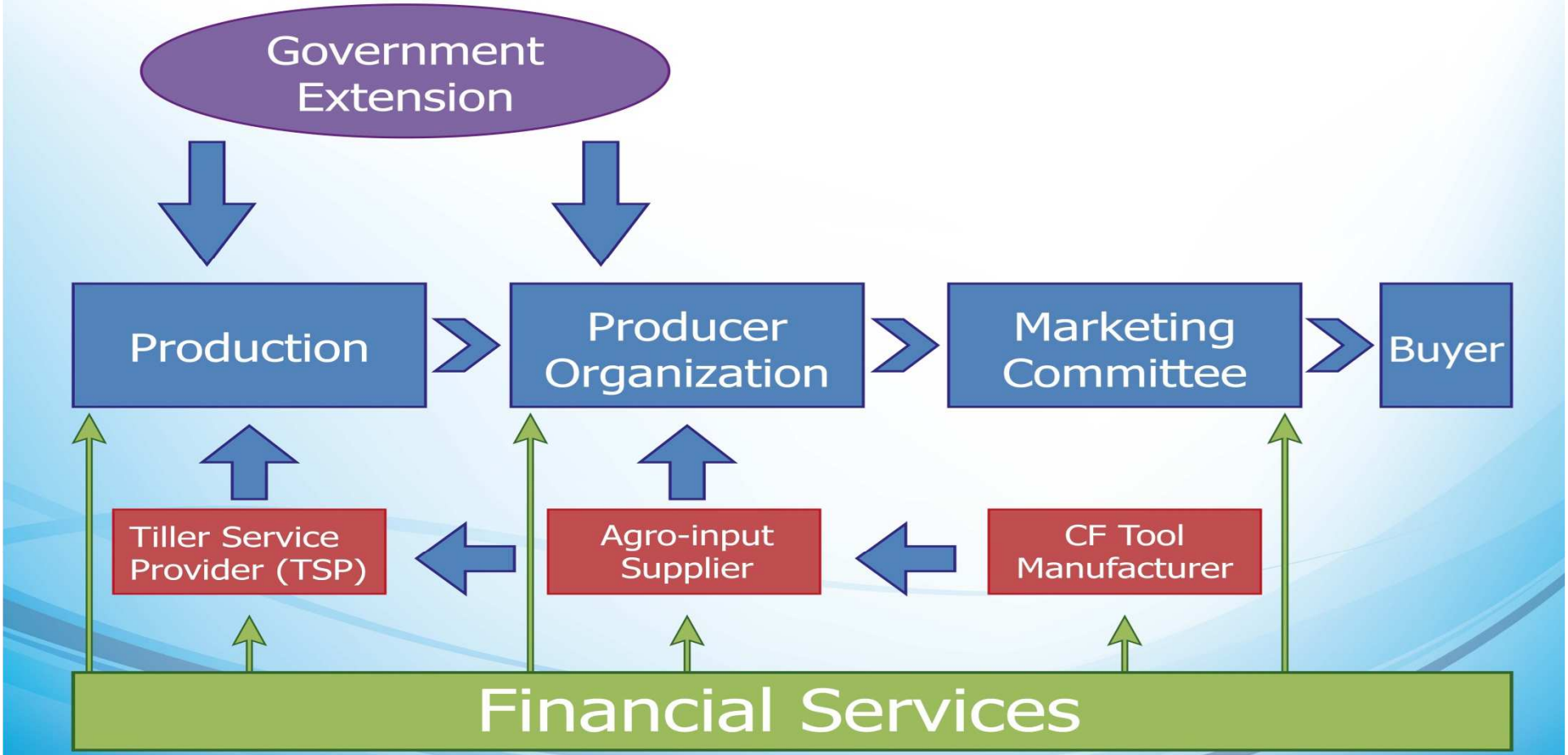
CLUSA Approach

Core Principles in program design and implementation

- Enter partnerships with Stakeholders
- Voluntary participation from all Participants
- Small Technical Team provides Support
- Training is localized
- Training of Trainers methodology is used
- Act as facilitators to empower businesses
- Partners' businesses are self-managed
- Local Expertise is left behind

Value Chain

UGANDA CONSERVATION FARMING INITIATIVE PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS



Collaborating Partners

Private Sector	Development Partners
Mukwano	Tillers International
NASECO Seeds	National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)
Balton (U) Ltd	SNV
Agro input Companies	Harvest Plus
	Government of Uganda

Conventional practices

- Shifting cultivation
- Ploughing of fields/gardens
- Slashing and burning crop residue
- Deforestation
- Low input use (fertilizers/herbicides/seed)
- Monocropping

Conventional practices

Consequences

- Depletion of soil nutrients
- Soil/wind erosion
- Destruction of soil organic matter and soil fauna/flora
- Low yields
- Food insecurity and less incomes for farmers

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Conservation Farming

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What is conservation farming?

- Minimum soil disturbance
- Crop rotation with leguminous crops
- Permanent organic soil cover

NB: Conservation Farming is a mitigation strategy to climate change – Climate smart

CF Agronomic practices

Land preparation during dry season

Correctly spaced permanent planting basins or rip lines

Spot Weeding

Use of herbicides in land preparation

Proper application of fertilizers

Rational inter-cropping systems

Rentetion of crop residue

Use of green manure cover crop

Ripper and Rip line making

The Conservation Farming ripper, along with a specially designed yoke and skye can be used by oxen to accurately mark the distance between the Conservation Farming rip lines. The ripper attachment is manufactured locally and fits on local beams.

Conservation Farming ripper

Making rip lines using an ox-drawn Conservation Farming ripper

Conservation Farming Hoe

Conservation Farming hoes are 12cm wide as compared to 15cm for conventional hoes. Using the smaller Conservation Farming hoe is essential for ensuring the precise shape and dimension of the basin. It easily penetrates and breaks the hard pan, is light and easy to work with.

A 15cm Conventional Farming Hoe

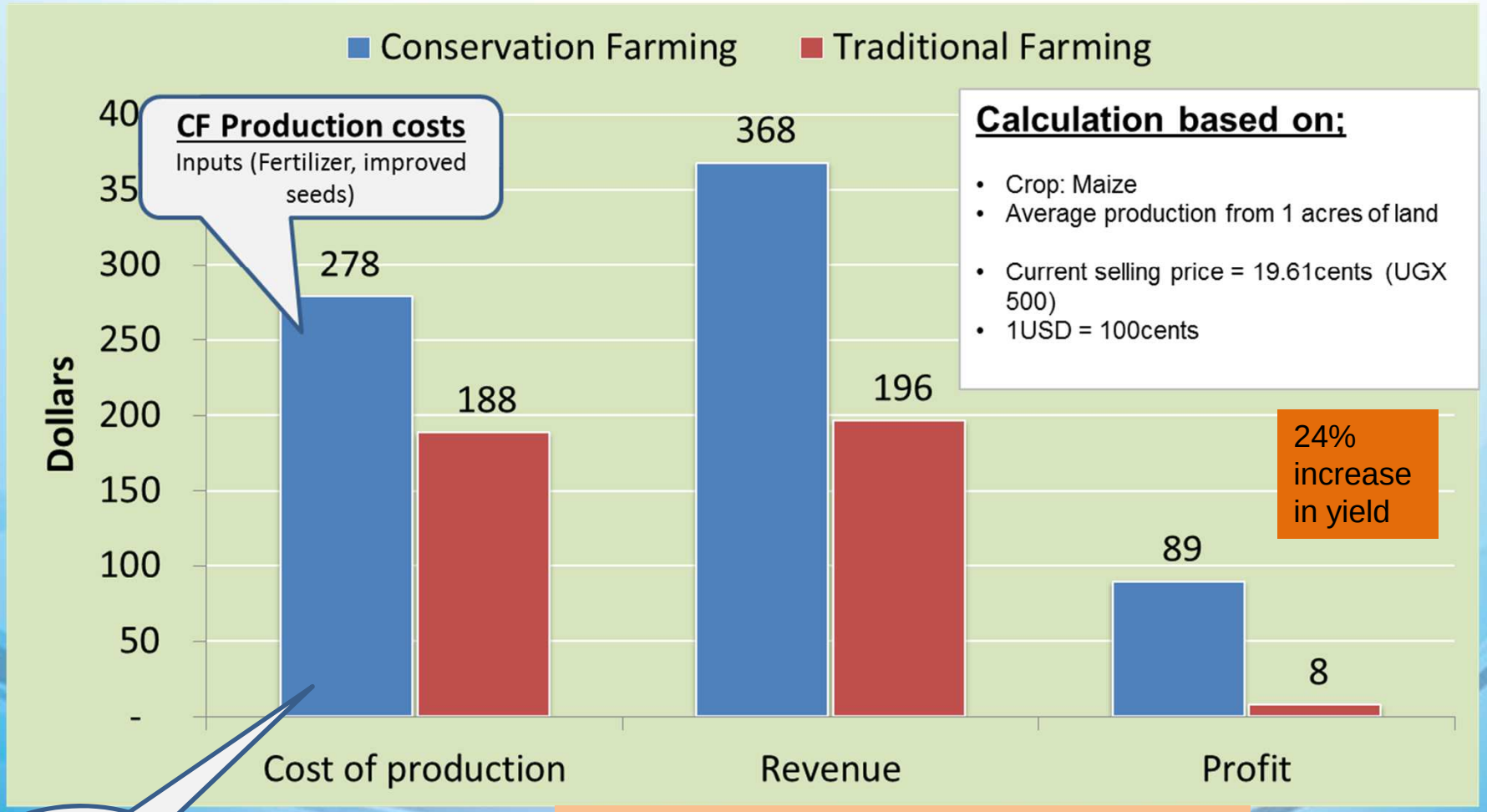
A 12cm Conservation Farming Hoe

CF benefits

- Controls soil/wind erosion
- Nitrogen fixation by legumes enriches soil
- Mulch/ soil cover conserves moisture
- Replenishment of soils through decomposition of organic residue
- Localized fertilizer application reduces production cost & contamination of water sources
- Cheaper type of farming in the long run
- CF increases yield on the same piece of land
- Ensures food security and increases farmers' incomes hence less deforestation

Direct benefit of CF

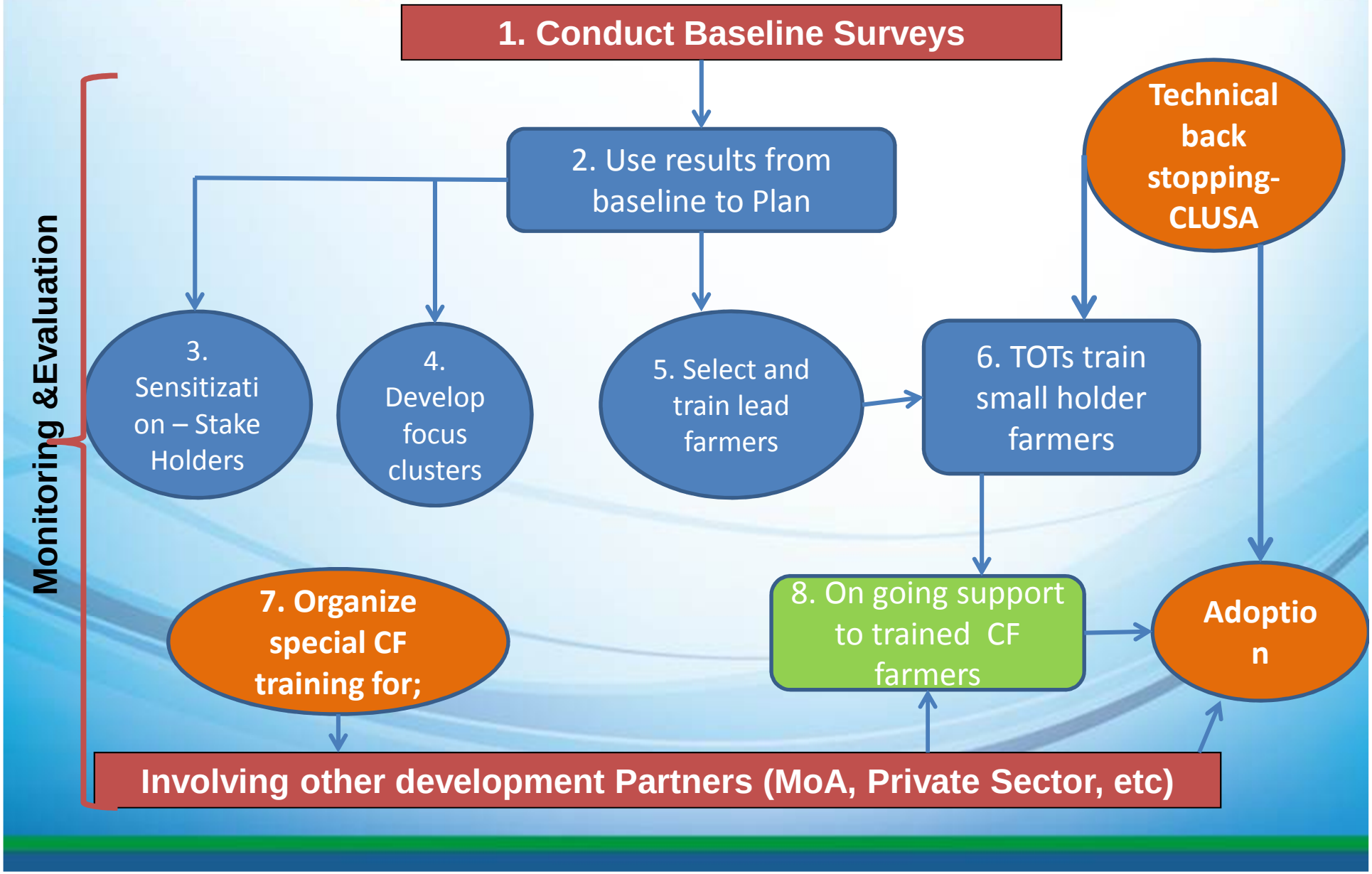
Percent increase in Yield



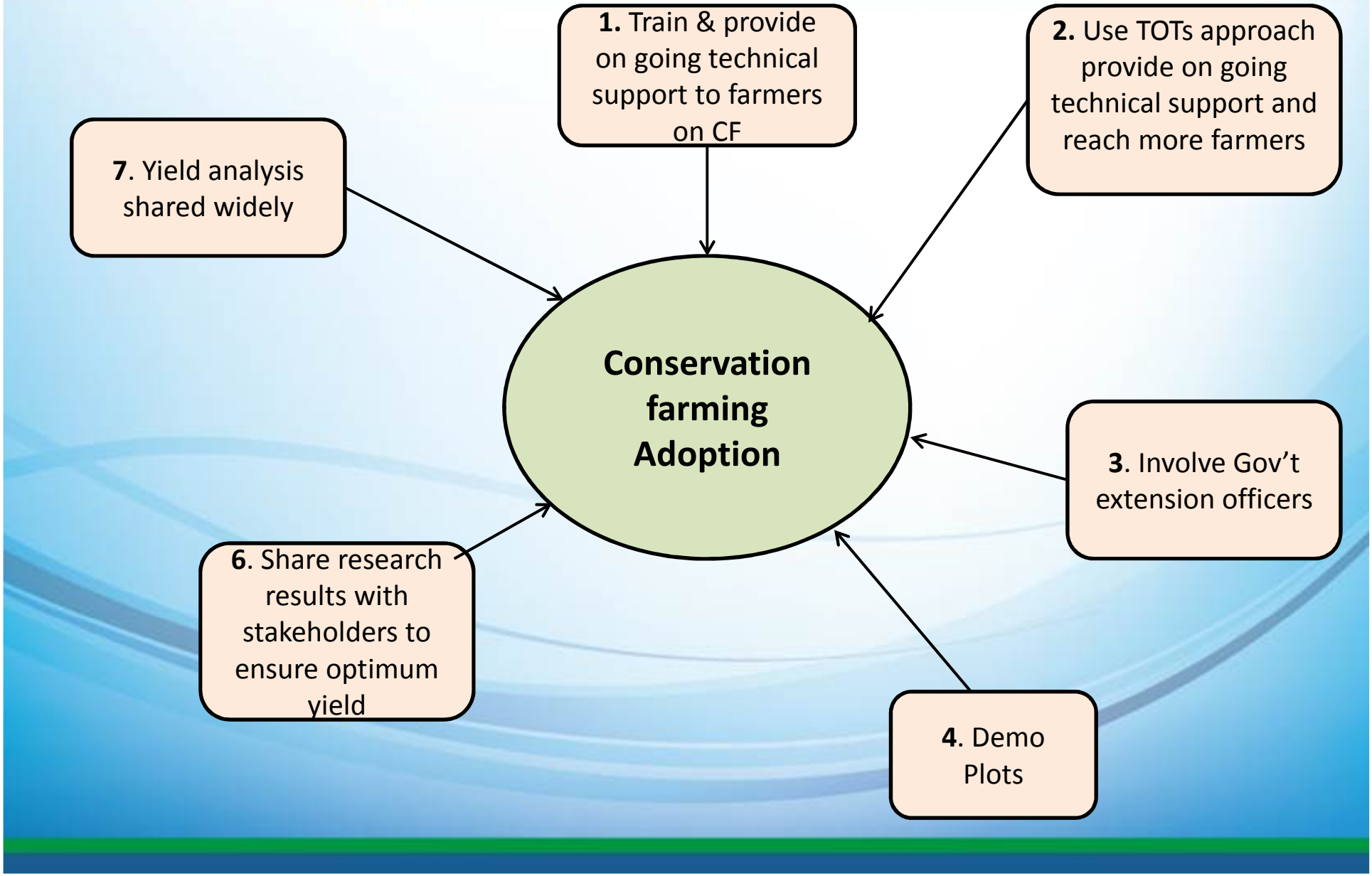
Implementation

- Train 1,500 farmers
- Farmers organized in producer organizations (appx 500)
- 5 sub counties in Hoima and 5 in Kibaale
- Train in already existing training centers
- Community mobilisation using already existing structures
- Training strategy :
  - o TOT approach
  - o Demonstrations

Implementation



Adoption Strategies to CF Practices



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Thank you !!!!

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