

SIMLESA- spearheading sustainable intensification of maize-legume cropping systems in Africa

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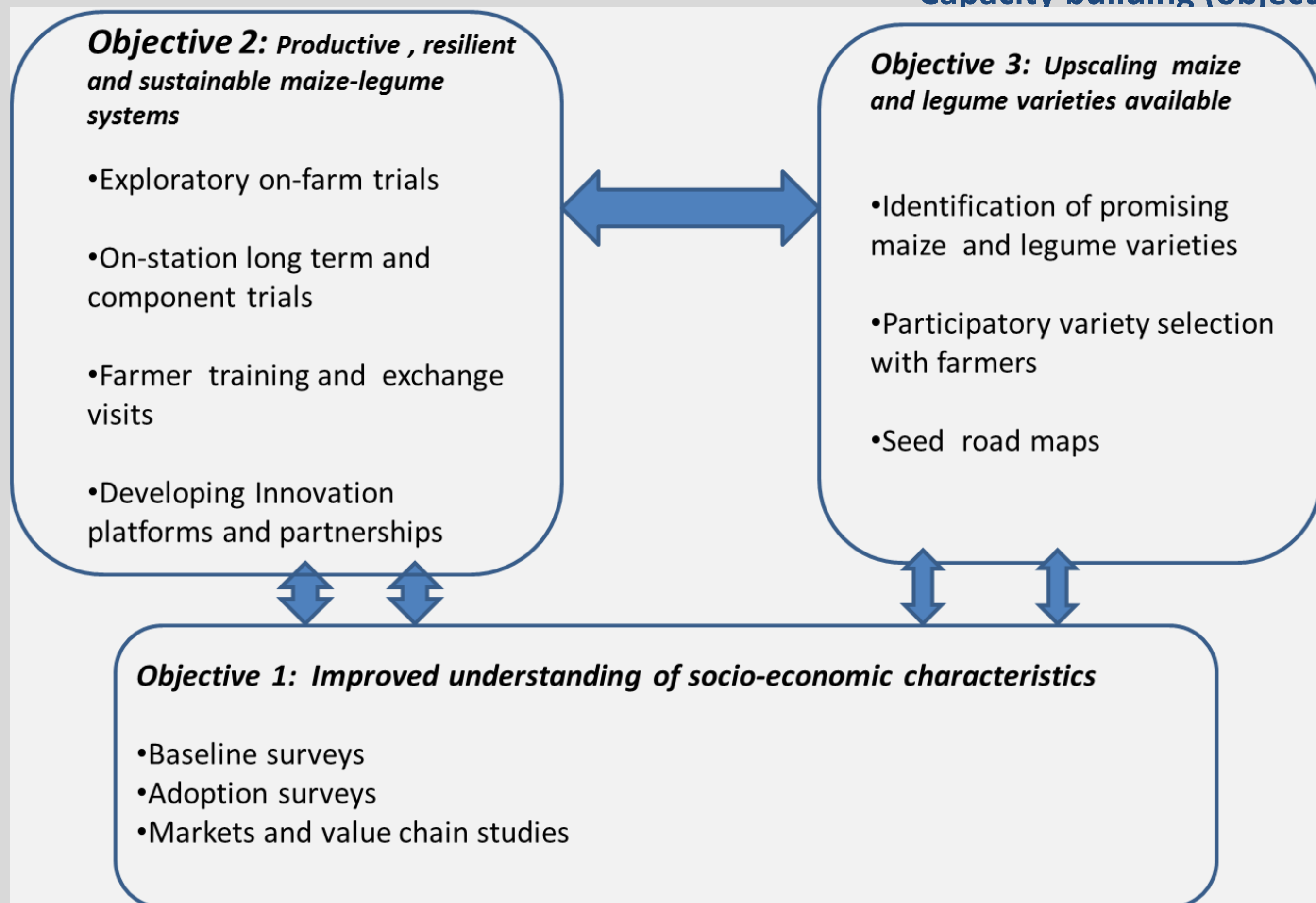
1. Introduction

- Maize and legumes are an important source of food security and livelihoods among smallholder farmers of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA).
- Between 2010 and 2014, SIMLESA-1 embarked on developing Conservation Agriculture (CA) based sustainable maize-legume cropping systems in five countries of ESA with the goal of reaching 500,000 farmers in 10 yrs-
- The successive SIMLESA-2 (2014-2018) is

2. SIMLESA-1: 2010-2014

Activities hinged on socio-economics, agronomy and seed multiplication

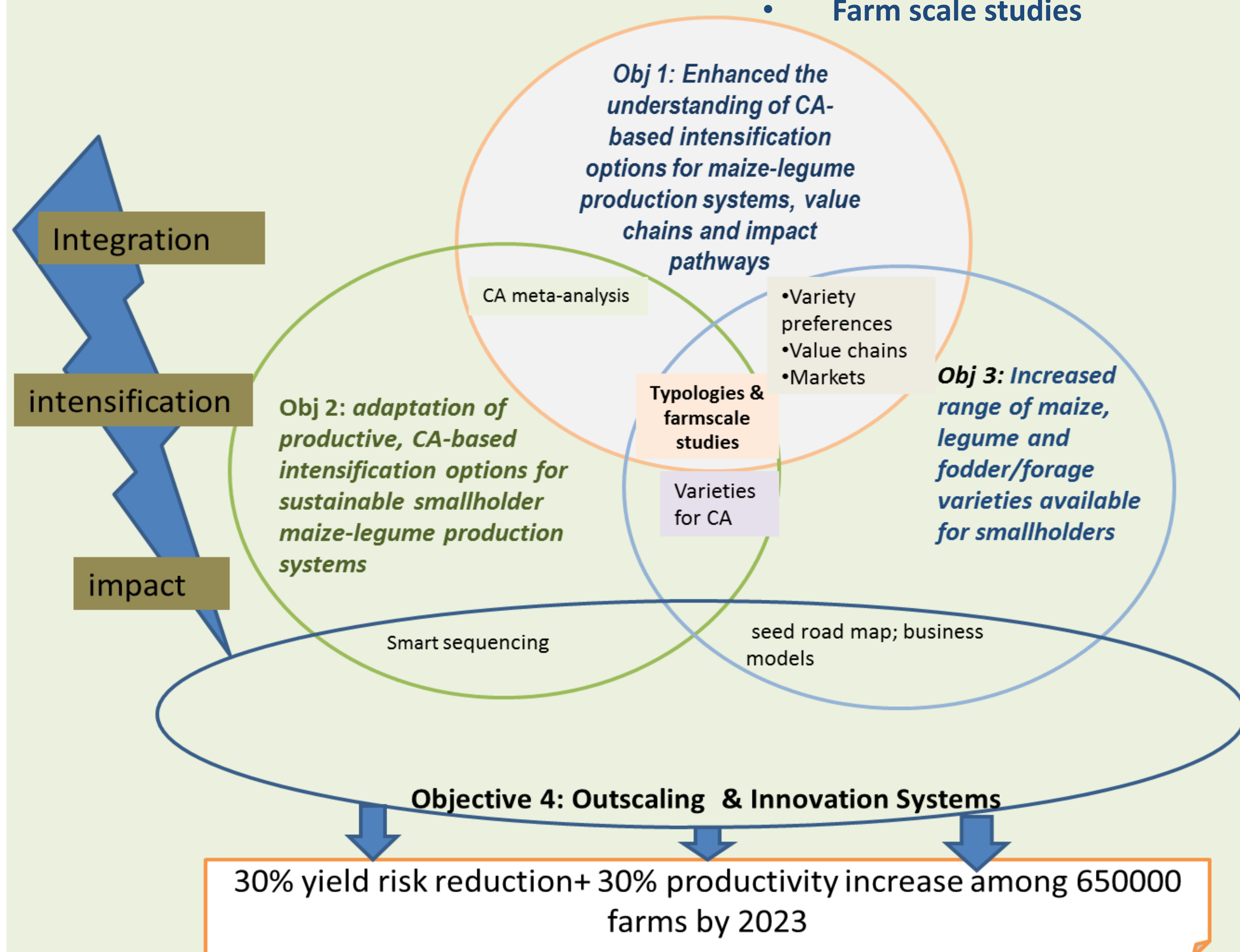
- Baseline studies
- Establishment of long term CA trials
- On-farm exploratory trials
- Seed road maps established
- Innovation platforms
- M&E and Gender (Objective 4)
- Capacity building (objective 5)



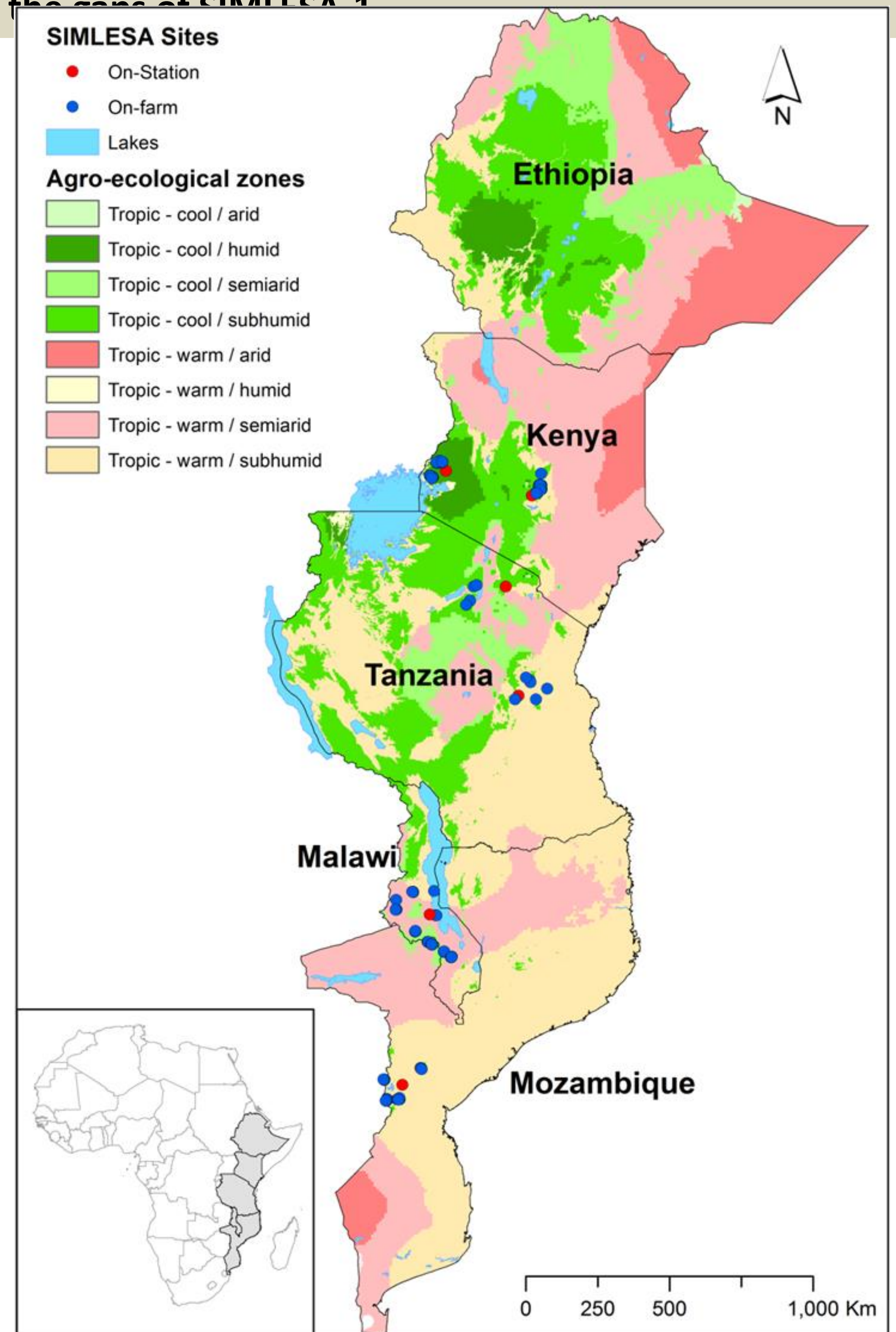
3. SIMLESA-2: 2014-2018

Increased focus on sustainable intensification, integration and impact. Scaling now a major activity component

- Integration across objectives
- Crop-livestock integration
- Greater focus on interactions among varieties and CA-based technologies: incl. intercropping, disease, drought and N-stress tolerance, Farm scale studies



Scaling the success of SIMLESA-1



4. Highlights

- Maize varieties compatible with intercropping systems identified
- Water conservation and labour savings from CA demonstrated
- Superior yields from legume rotations in CA realized across ESA
- The positive impacts of CA practices on risk, incomes and the environment analysed and disseminated
- Innovation platforms contributed to scaling out and sustainability
- Over 46000 (17,000 female, 29,000 male) farmers reached by 2014.
- 22 PhD and 42 MSc students trained.



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