

# Agriculture and Aid for Trade: Opportunities for aligning policies and programmes

A look at how to strengthen development impact through improved policy coherence and complementarity

Dr. Ir. Paul G.H. Engel - [paulengel@raaks.org](mailto:paulengel@raaks.org)



# Strengthening ARD and AfT policy coherence and complementarity

- Strengthening the means of implementation:
  - Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the UN Agenda 2030
  - Trade
  - The challenge: to break out of institutional and policy silos to realise the benefits of synergetic actions and to effectively address unavoidable trade-offs across the SDGs
- Improving coherence and complementarity for transformation:
  - UN Agenda 2030 presents a long-term transformation agenda aiming at sustainable development
  - SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12 are most likely to be impacted by greater coherence and complementarity between ARD and AfT policies and programmes
  - These provide a perspective on rural and agricultural sector transformation both ARD and AfT may relate to.

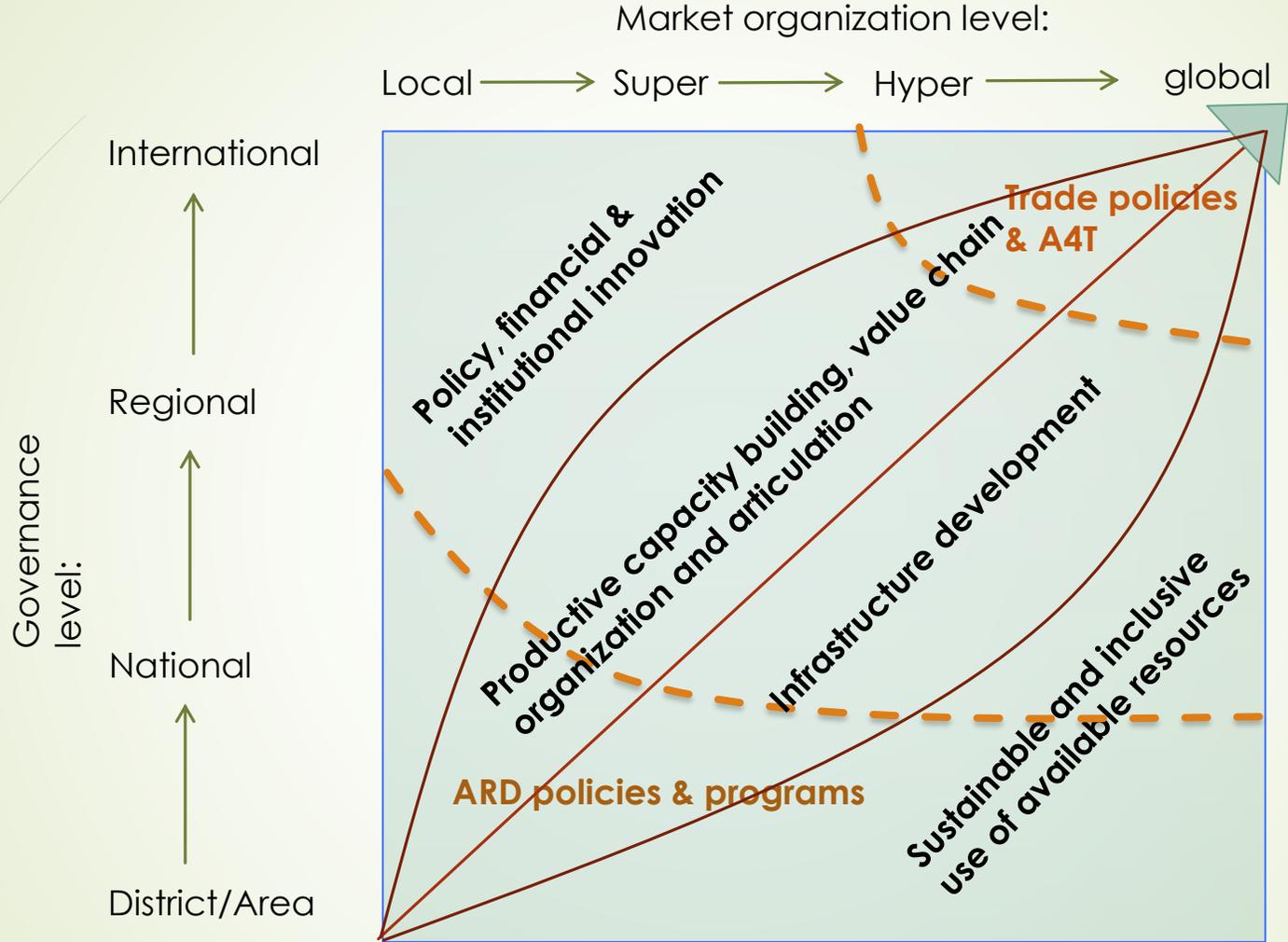


# Looking for common ground

4 areas, or 'chantiers', where both ARD and AfT seek to achieve development impact:

1. Policy, financial and institutional innovation
2. Productive capacity building, value chain organization and articulation
3. Infrastructure development
4. Sustainable and inclusive use of available (natural and human) resources

Figure 1: Identifying gaps and overlaps between ARD and A4T policies and programmes



AGENDA 2030/SDG'S

Ex. SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9 & 12

i.e. Agro-Food and Nutrition Security, Rural Development & (Agro) Industrialization

*Pushing the frontiers of ARD and A4T towards alignment & collaboration....?*



# Some examples of opportunities for strengthening ARD-AfT alignment

- ▶ Empowering the multi-stakeholder process: practical steps to improve multi-stakeholder alignment, create synergies and address trade-offs
- ▶ National level initiatives linking ARD and AfT for impact
  - ▶ Supporting inclusive market systems – Alliances for Action (ITC)
  - ▶ Landscape/territorial approaches – Rural Territorial Development (RIMISP), Landscape Programme (IDH)
- ▶ Regional level initiatives linking ARD and AfT for impact
  - ▶ FAO Aid for Trade Africa
  - ▶ Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (COMESA)
  - ▶ Multi Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FAO, EIF, ECDPM)
- ▶ Linking ARD and AfT for impact at the global level
  - ▶ Strengthening Agro-Food and Nutrition Systems' approaches
  - ▶ Missing Middle Initiative (GAFSP)



## Recommendations (1): Towards evidence-based dialogue and learning from practice

- We suggest the main aim of the Donor Platform's Inclusive Agribusiness & Trade work stream should be on learning from ongoing initiatives to improve coherence and complementarity in practice:
  - to invite members implementing these more comprehensive and/or more integrated approaches to ARD and/or AfT to share their experience;
  - to discuss the challenges they face;
  - to investigate what seems to work for development impact and what doesn't, and to ensure the lessons they learned are documented and shared widely.



## Recommendations (2): empower your programmes

- Develop a joint ARD-AfT agenda and plan of action
- Continue to develop more comprehensive, integrated approaches to ARD and AfT
- Include ARD-AfT multi-stakeholder dialogues, policy coherence and complementarity assessments and coordinated action at the center of your approaches
- Ensure active multi-stakeholder identification of possible gaps in coherence and complementarity in the implementation of ARD and AfT programmes
- Develop a checklist or score card for assessing policy coherence and complementarity of ARD and Trade contributions to rural transformation
- Establish ARD as the nursery for sustainable and inclusive rural transformation, sustainable agricultural intensification and industrialization, competitiveness and (future) international trade.



THANK YOU!

Dr. Ir. Paul Engel

Knowledge Perspectives and Innovation

[paulengel@raaks.org](mailto:paulengel@raaks.org)