

A tool for assessing and improving the scaling potential of agricultural technologies

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Abstract: MSI worked with USAID's Bureau for Food Security to develop an Agricultural Scalability Assessment Toolkit ASAT to assess the scalability of agricultural innovations. Building on recent case studies of successful scaling up of agricultural innovations through commercial pathways in developing countries, the ASAT provides a qualitative appraisal of an innovation's scalability. The ASAT examines an innovation's strengths and weaknesses relative to scaling the most promising scaling up pathways e.g., commercial/public/donor-driven and the extent to which target contexts currently facilitate scaling. The tool is intended to inform decisions about whether, and where, to invest in the scaling up of specific innovations, or for further investment in research and development. The ASAT consists of an Agriculture Scaling Decision Tree and an Agricultural Scalability Assessment Matrix, as well as a guide to using the ASAT. A dashboard also summarizes the results of the tools and provides recommendations based on that analysis. The Decision Tree is applied first, to help select the appropriate scaling up pathway. The Assessment Matrix includes 6 sections, each focusing on one essential issue for scaling, and includes 39 total criteria scored from 1 to 3.