

Developing an Outreach Framework for Strengthening University-Farming Community Engagement (SUFACE)

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1. Rationale

SUFACE is a Community Action Research Project (CARP) whose purpose is to develop an operational framework where universities can work with communities. This is meant to address the lack of a long-term, engagement framework between the University and rural communities to enhance productivity and competitiveness of small-holder farmers as well as responsiveness and impact of university in agricultural development. The project is implemented by the School of Agricultural Sciences (SAS) in the districts of Apac, Kole and Lira. It is envisaged that strengthening information sharing on priority value chains will enhance access, uptake & utilization of university-generated knowledge & technologies leading to increased smallholder farmers productivity & incomes.

2. Conceptual model

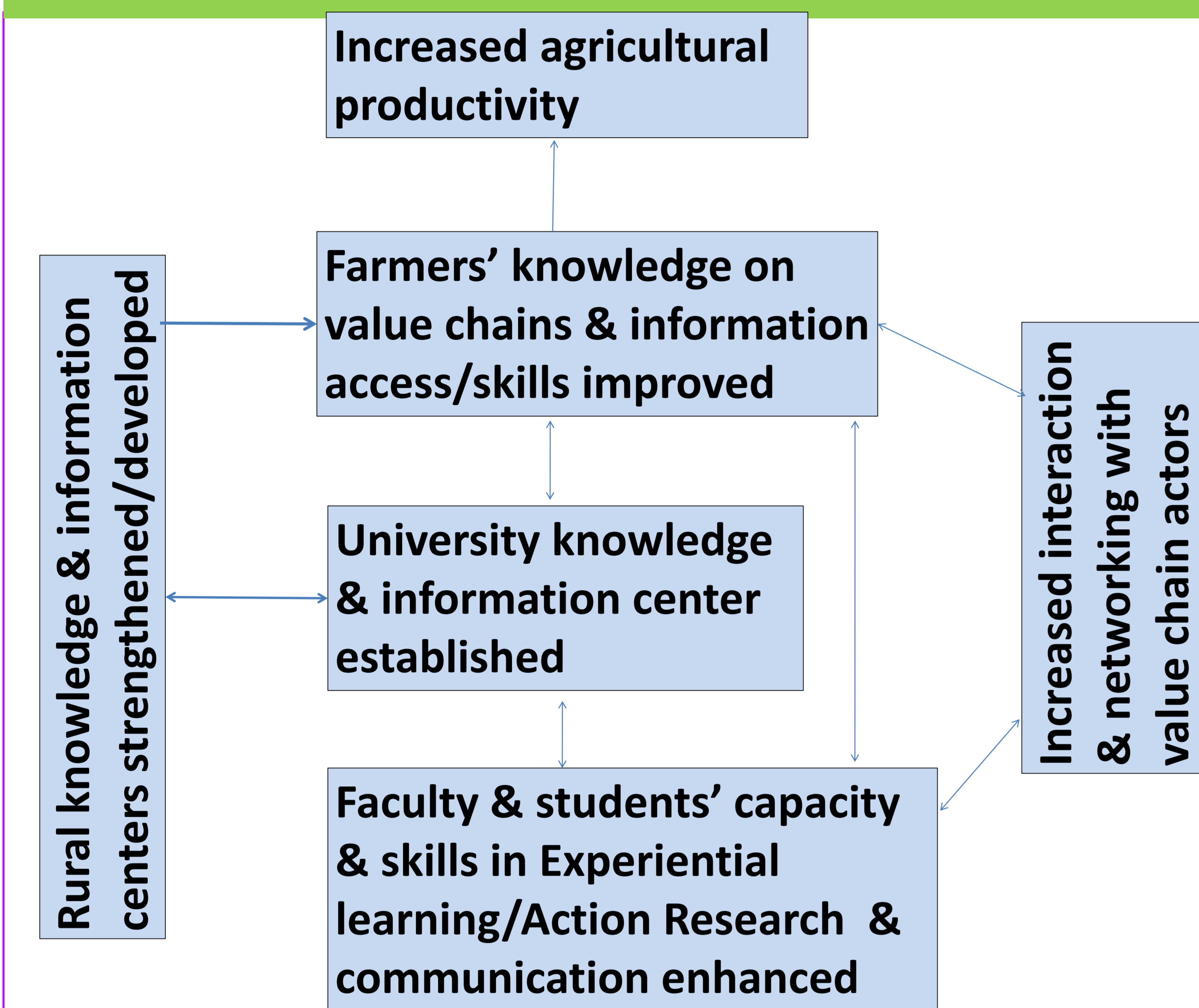


Fig. 1. Information-based conceptual model for strengthening university-farming community engagement

3. Project objectives

- i. **Pilot and action research/experiential learning model to strengthen quality & better graduate training & engagement of universities with farming communities.**
- ii. **Develop & test the effectiveness of capacity development-information-based outreach model for disseminating university generated technologies & best practices to farmers & agribusiness communities.**
- iii. **Build entrepreneurial capacity of smallholder farmers & students by strengthening legume & cereal value chains.**
- iv. **Develop an information communication technology mechanism to enable farmers access information from the university information center.**

4. Immediate project outputs: 1 PhD Agric. & Rural Innovation, 2 MSc students on agribusiness and entrepreneurship & 1 MSc. Student on ICT

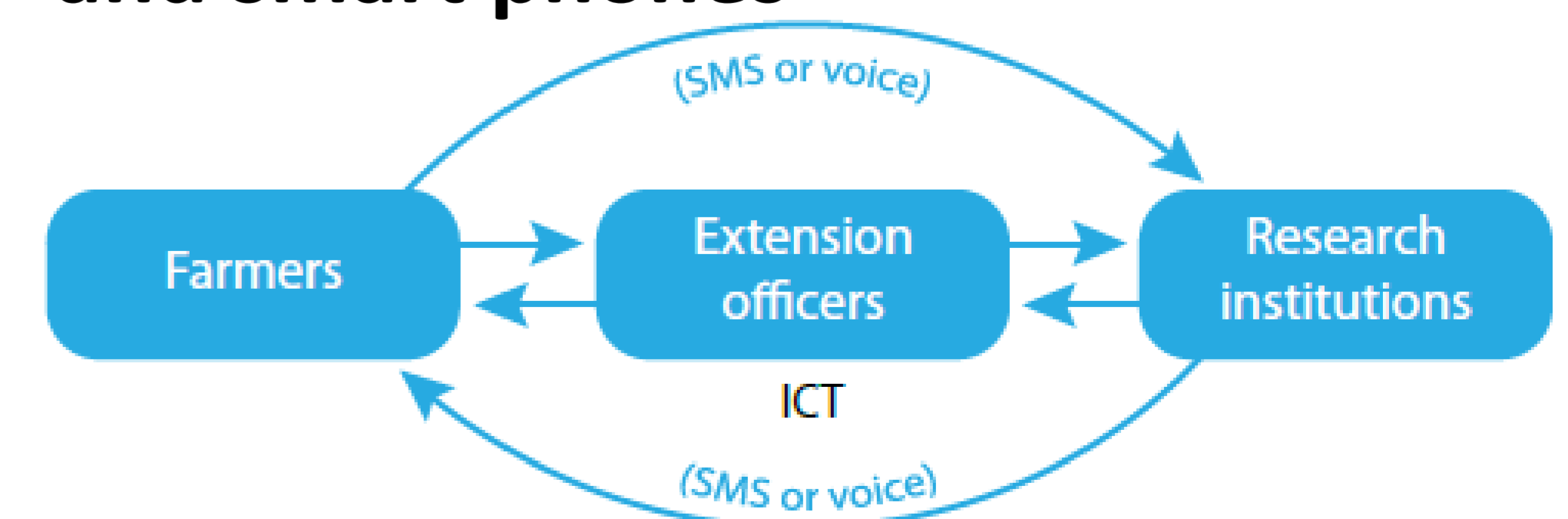
5. Progress

A. 108 farmer groups identified & engaging with the university



B. 220 farmers trained on legume & cereal value chain development now involved in value addition activities

- C. ICT model set-up**
- ✓ Interactive website operational (www.suface.org)
 - ✓ 2 information centers (Kubere Information center in Apac & P'KWI in Bukedea) equipped with computers and smart phones



D. All students have successfully defended their proposals



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