

Taking a scaling perspective

Scaling of innovations is a process of increasing the use of an innovation to a scale that matches the need over time. Despite promises of scale and scaling abound, successes from (pilot) projects are hardly ever replicated at scale, and if they do, they often fade out after the “scaling” project ends.

We learned that there are six important principles that help projects engage in sustainable and responsible scaling, and we encourage you take such scaling perspective from the beginning.

1. **Embrace the three scaling dimensions - scaling out, up and deep** need to be in balance to make sure you reach more (scaling out), and enabling other organizations to do the same (scaling up), while shifting mindsets and values (scaling deep) to anchor the changes beyond the project. *Take a fresh perspective: are you addressing the three dimensions so that you have a stable pyramid?*



2. **Attractive.** Design for scaling from the beginning by recognizing incentives and attractive value propositions to support the scaling of the innovation. *What are the (dis-) incentives for stakeholders to support scaling?*
3. **Associative.** Nurture strategic collaboration within and beyond the sector to scale the innovation. *What organizations are willing and able to scale beyond what is already being done?*
4. **Sustainable.** Be explicit about exit strategies and the gradual transition from externally run efforts and resources to locally adopted ones. *Describe what would happen if your project stopped tomorrow, what is being done to ensure that key stakeholders want and can continue scaling?*
5. **Evident.** Credible evidence and facts underpin and help gain support to reach the scaling ambition. *Is there useful and credible information on the scaling process for learning, adaptive management and buy-in?*
6. **Responsible.** Prevent or avoid (potential) negative side effects and implications of scaling your innovation. *What unintended consequences of scaling an innovation have you observed that should be monitored and / or addressed?*

These principles and fresh perspectives should help you approach scaling in a meaningful way. If you want to learn more, we invite you to use the Scaling Scan tool (English / French /Spanish) to dive deeper in the scalability of your innovation in your particular context given the resources you have.

The Scaling Scan

CIMMYT
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
in cooperation with

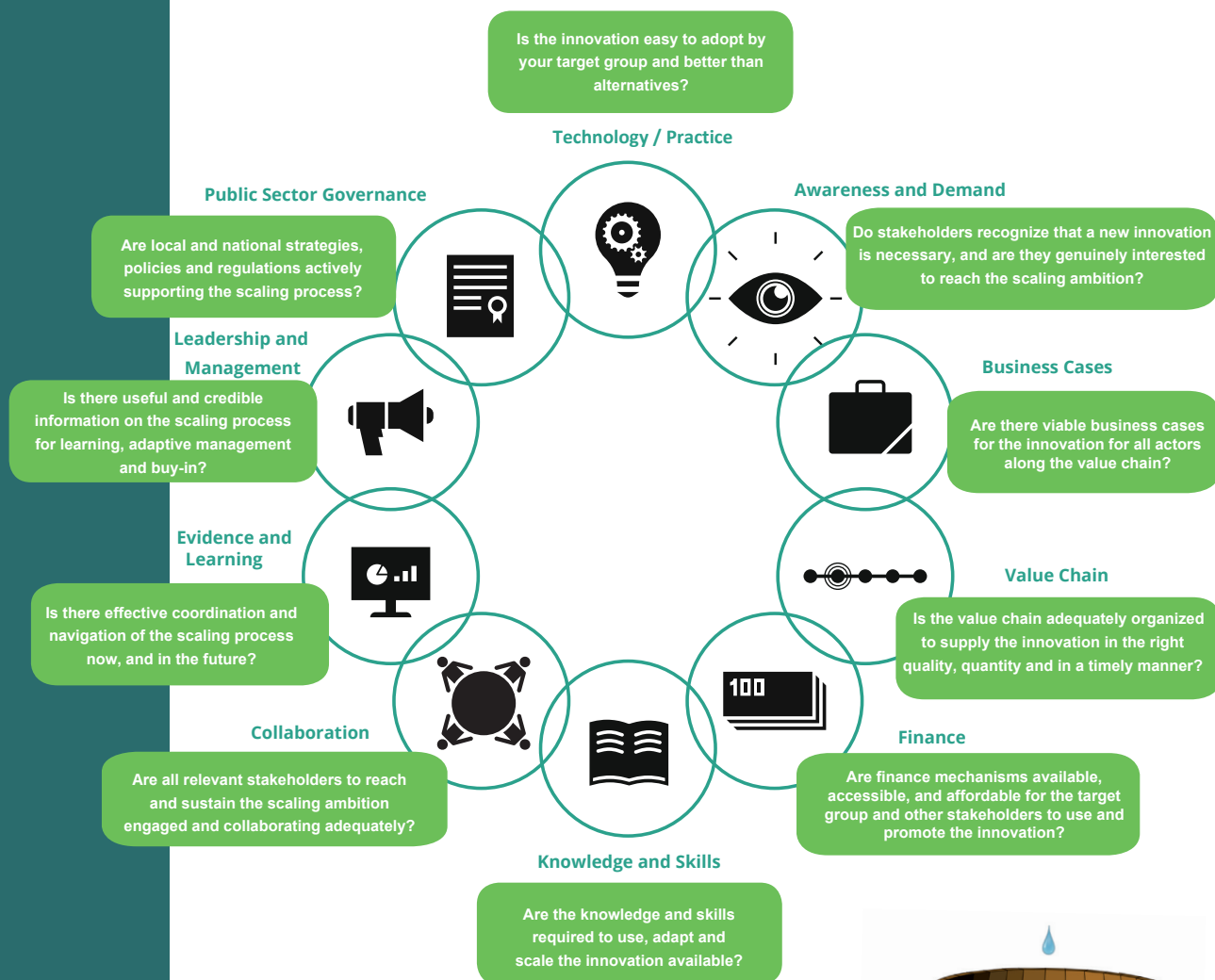


A practical tool to determine strengths and weaknesses of a scaling ambition

The **Scaling Scan** was designed to systematically deal with the complexities of scaling and tailor scaling approaches to specific contexts. Users are guided through three steps:

Step 1: Construct your **Scaling Ambition**: a clear idea of **what** impact would look like, **who** is involved and **why** it is important.

Step 2: Assess the level to which you are paying attention to ten critical **Scaling Ingredients**. Answer 4 tactical questions per ingredient using a score from 1 😊 to 5 😞 to reflect your level of confidence that you can reach the scaling ambition.



Step 3: Identify and deal with challenges and opportunities.



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More info:

- cimmyt.org/work/sustainable-intensification/scaling/
- ppplab.org/topic/scaling/