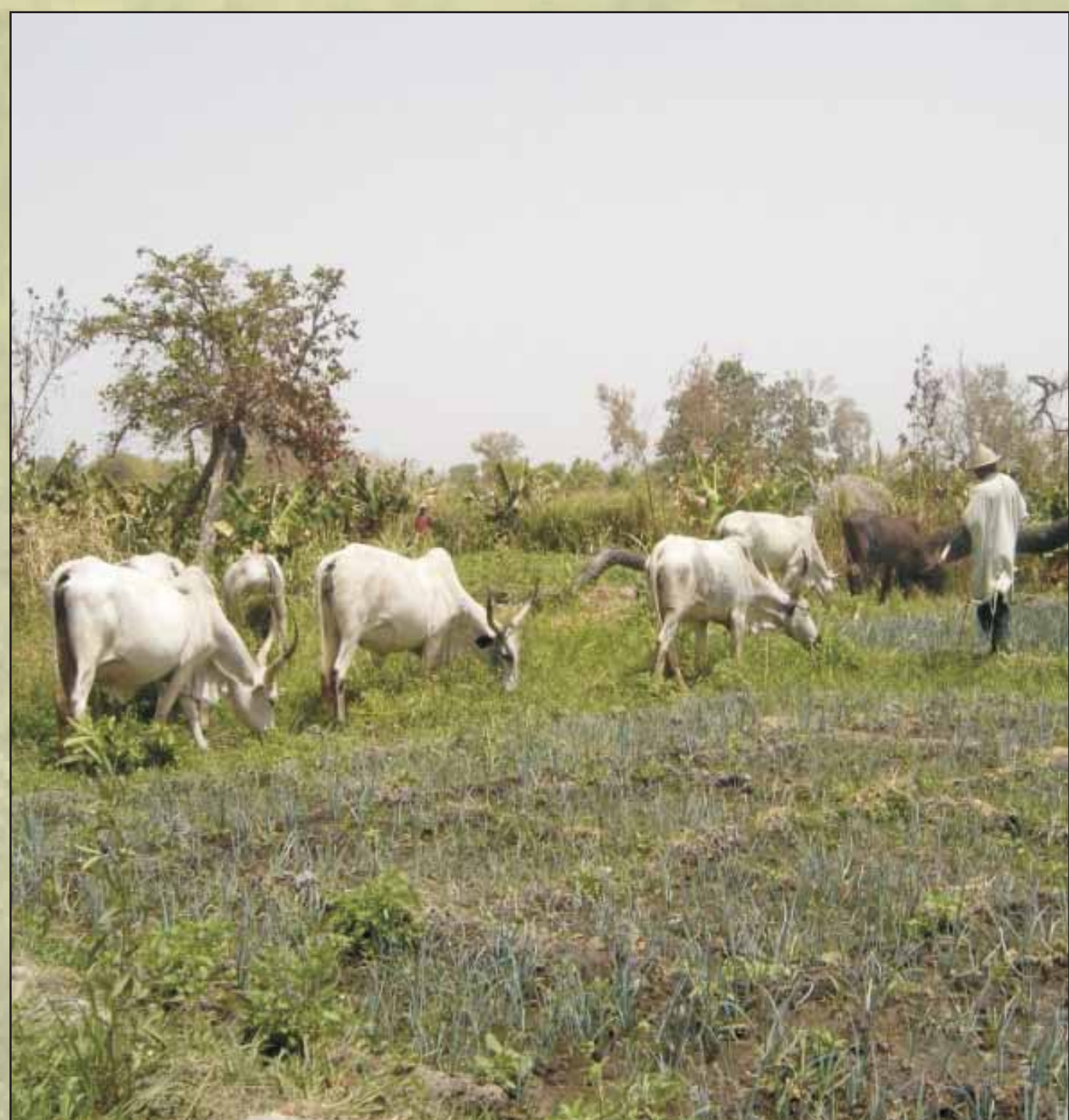
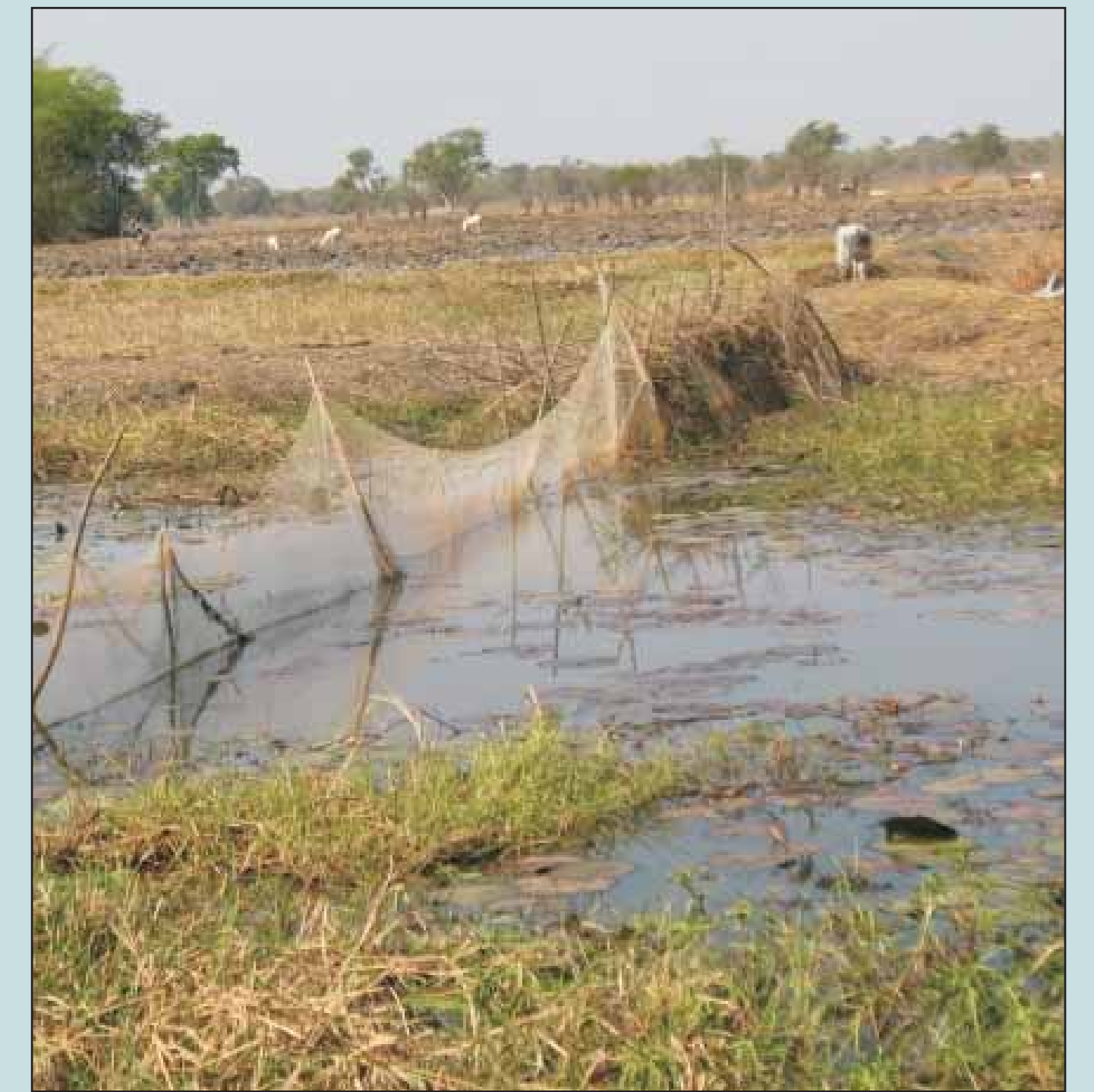
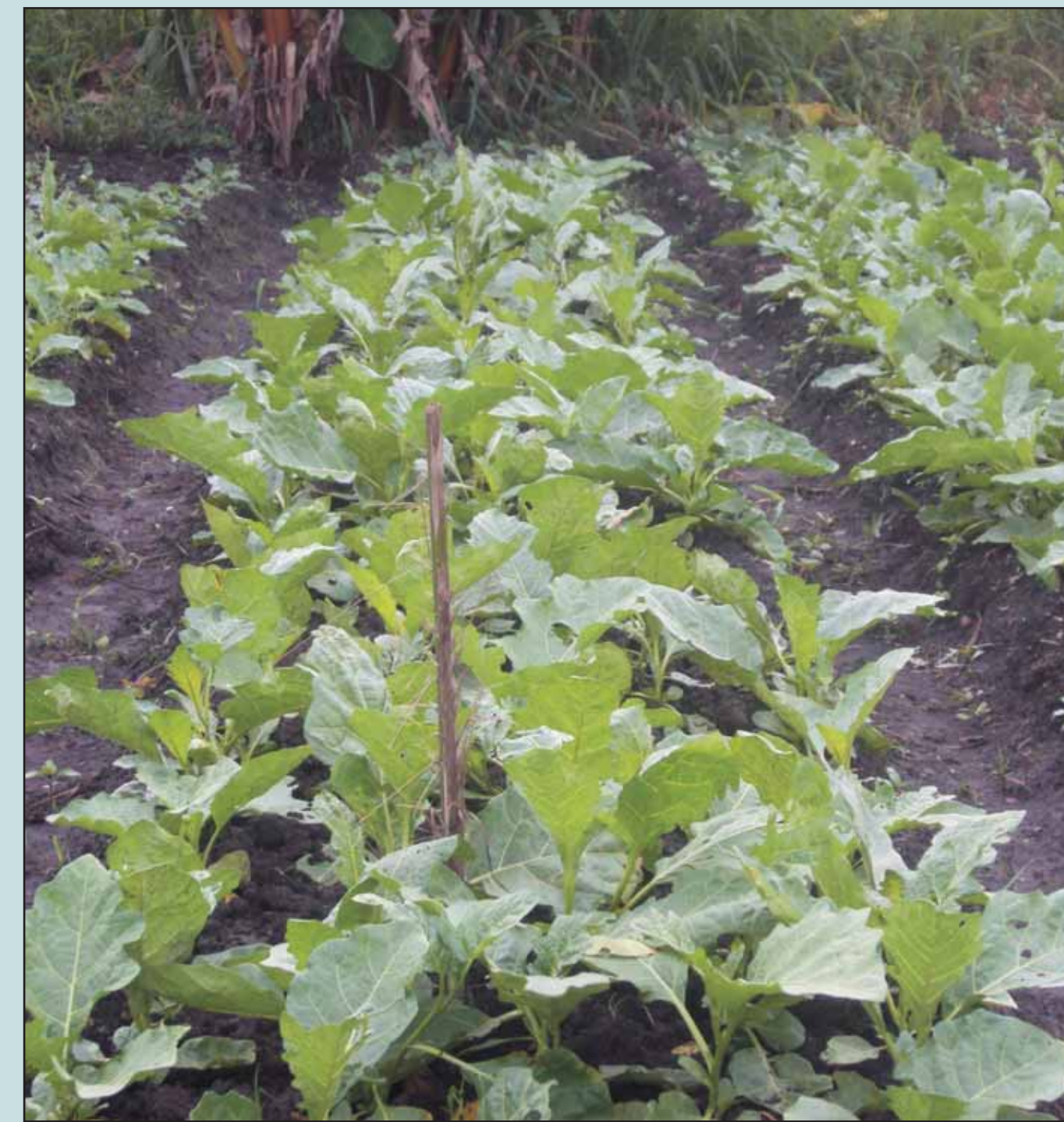


## INTRODUCTION

Inland valleys can provide valuable agricultural produce and ecological services. However, they are complex ecosystems and a concerted effort using technological, organisational and institutional innovations is required to sustainably utilize their resources.

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) were initiated in 2009 as a learning process of local agricultural innovation system. MSPs are being implemented in two inland valleys in Mali and two in Benin through a project titled Realizing agricultural potential of inland valleys in sub-Saharan Africa while maintaining their environmental services.



## OBJECTIVES

Innovation systems normally emerge spontaneously from entrepreneurial activities. They can also be facilitated and stimulated by creating a framework for innovation capacity building and development. This study describes how MSPs led to the rise of innovation systems in inland valleys.

## METHODOLOGY

MSPs are being implemented in inland valleys of Bamadougou and Doumanaba in Mali, and Houinga-Houégbé and Vovokanmey/Agbédrano in Benin.

Actors having direct or indirect interests in realizing the potential of inland valleys are being continuously identified and the dynamic interactions and partnerships among them are being facilitated

Multidisciplinary research teams have been formed and groups of local partners established to support the MSPs.

## RESULTS

- Farmers in Benin adopted two new rice varieties with new production practices and seed production.
- Farmers in Doumanaba (Mali) initiated rice production for the first time.
- MSPs in Benin used motorised ploughing for the first time.
- The MSP in Benin is successfully developing new rice market opportunities based on improved harvest and post-harvest techniques.
- The Mayor of Doumanaba has now agreed to include the inland valleys into the socioeconomic and development plan of the municipality.
- The MSP of Doumanaba linked with a network of potato cultivators and agricultural input suppliers.
- The MSP of Bamadougou negotiated the financing of a hydro-pastoral work with a project.

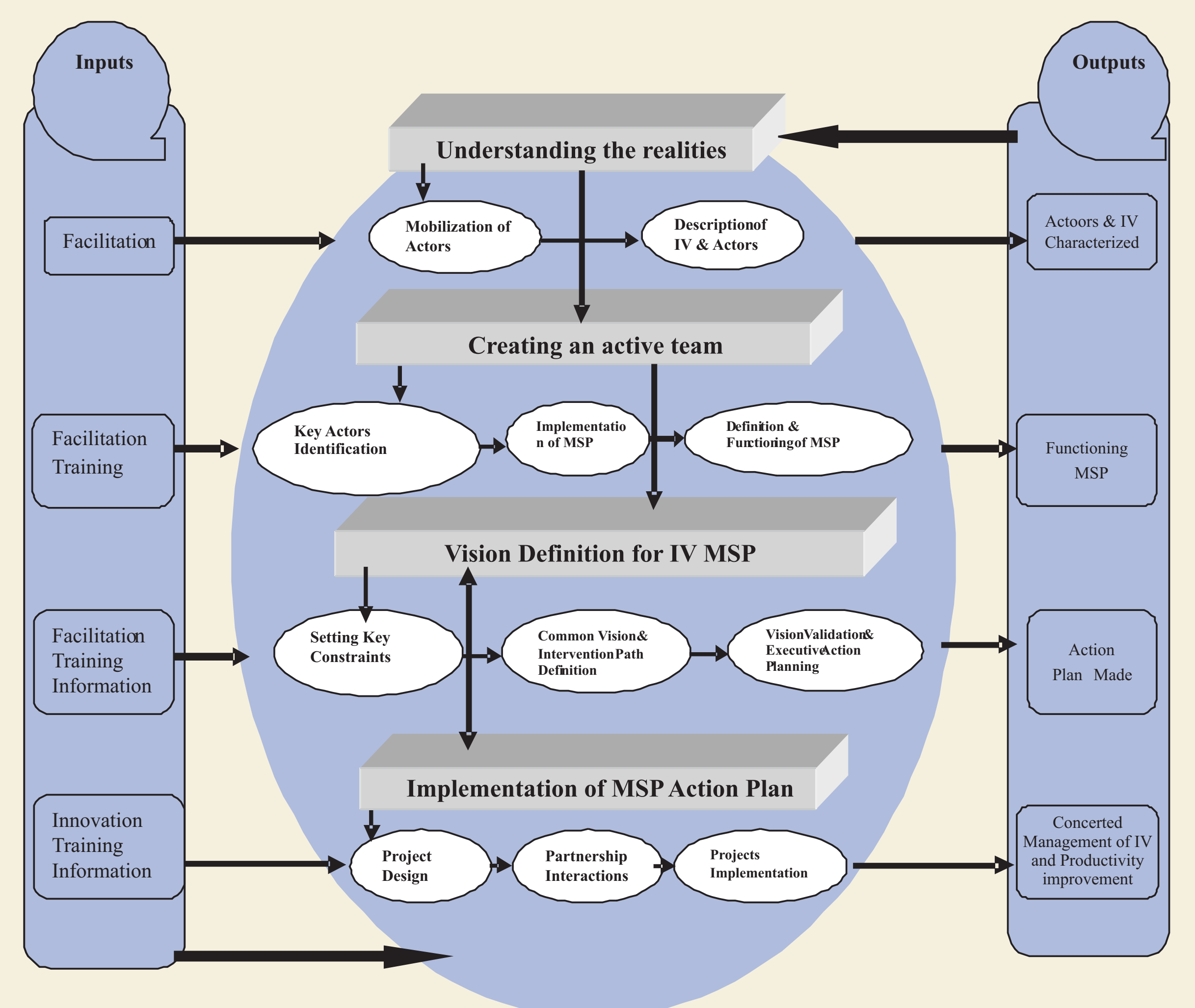


Figure 1: The Process of Multi-Stakeholder Platform Approach

## CONCLUSION

MSPs build cohesion between the actors; focus individual interests towards a common goal and facilitate innovative actions. Many organizations are excited to provide technical, financial and institutional supports. For a sustainable impact however, MSP needs to be strengthened through the participation of the local authorities.