

Innovation, mutual learning and collaboration among donor agencies: an IDRC perspective

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Globelics

Athens



Outline

- IDRC's approach to programming on research and innovation ecosystems: individual and organizational capacity-building
- Thoughts on successful donor partnerships: productive donor agency partnerships and “non-traditional” collaborations
- Ideas for capacity-building through bilateral and multilateral collaboration, of particular relevance to granting agencies

Overall context

- Science base for SDGs, research and innovation central to SDG 9 in particular
- Evidence of increased political for public research investments at national and regional scales
- International and national funding agencies under pressure to show “early wins” and value for money
- More fora and platforms for international funders to come together

IDRC Programming Focus

Agriculture and Environment

- Agriculture and food security
- Climate change
- Food, environment, and health

Inclusive Economies

- Employment and growth
- Governance and justice
- Maternal and child health
- Think Tank Initiative

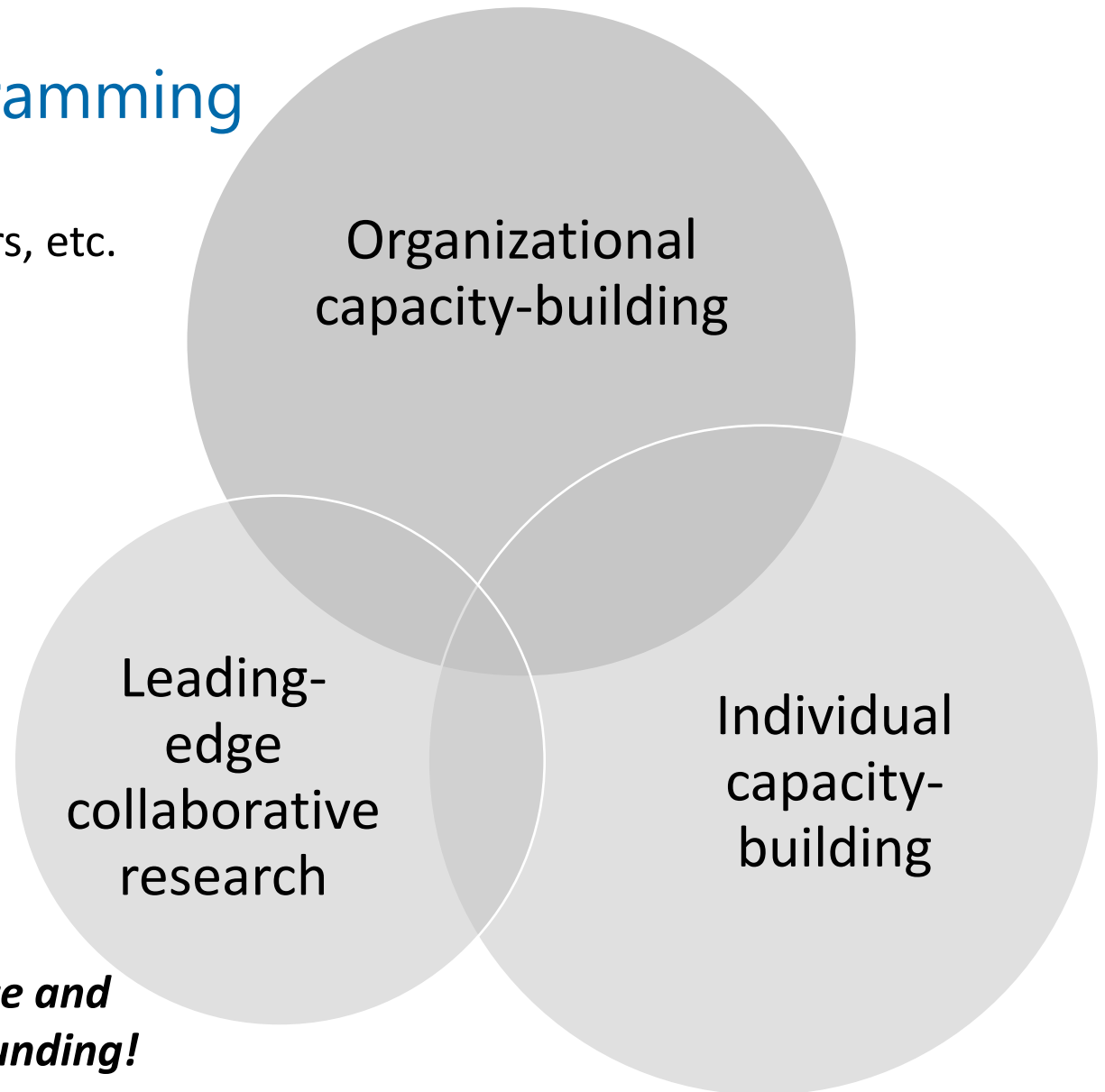
Technology and Innovation

- Foundations for innovation
- Networked economies



Foundations for Innovation programming

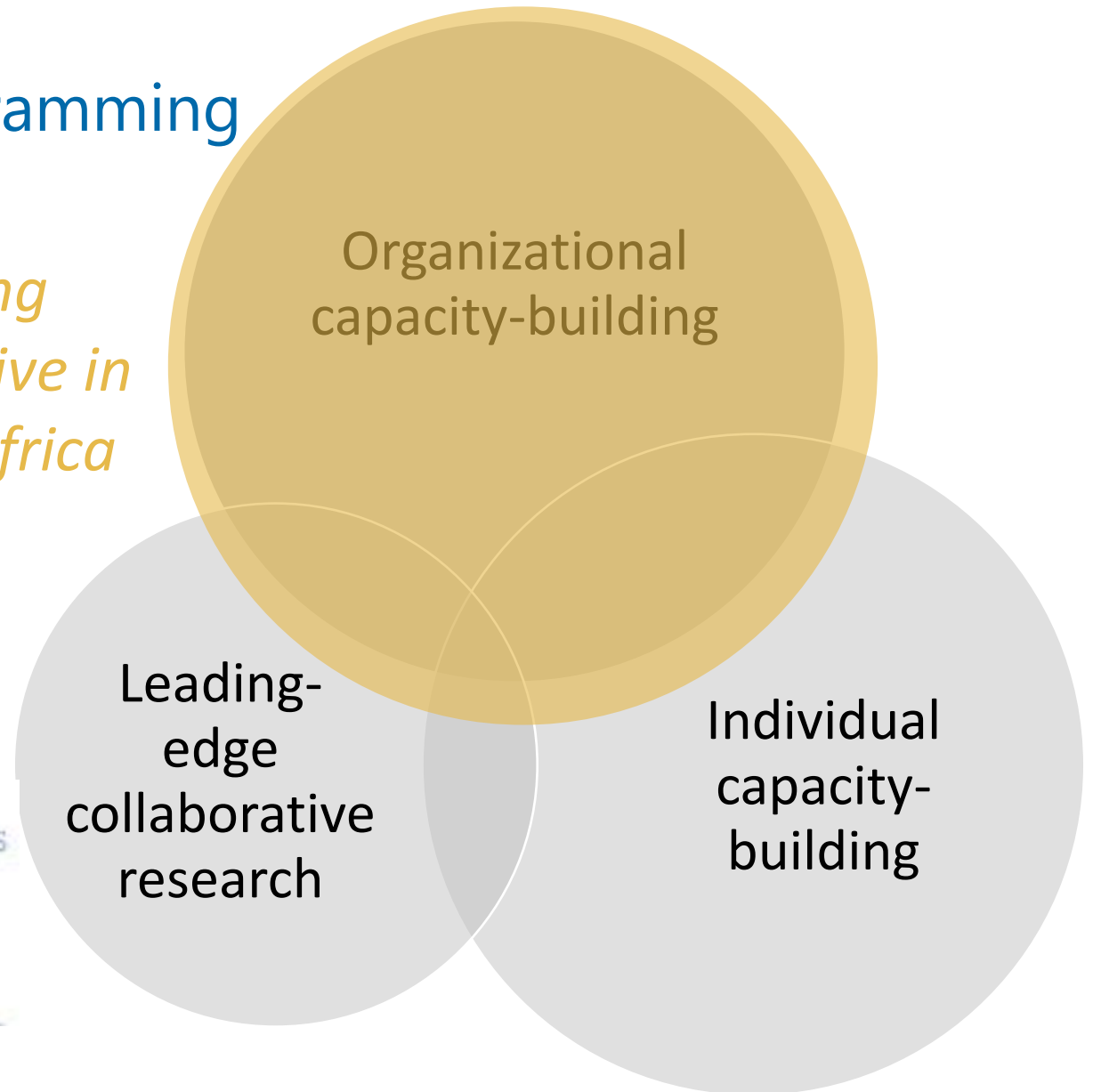
- Individual capacity-building
 - Scholarships, fellowships, research chairs, etc.
 - Targeted STEM programming
- Organizational capacity-building
 - Science granting councils
 - University faculties
 - Academies of science
- Leading-edge collaborative research
 - New North-South, South-South and regional collaboration
 - Increasing role of developing countries in key research areas



➤ ***“Research on research”: Importance of evidence and tools from science policy to inform and guide funding!***

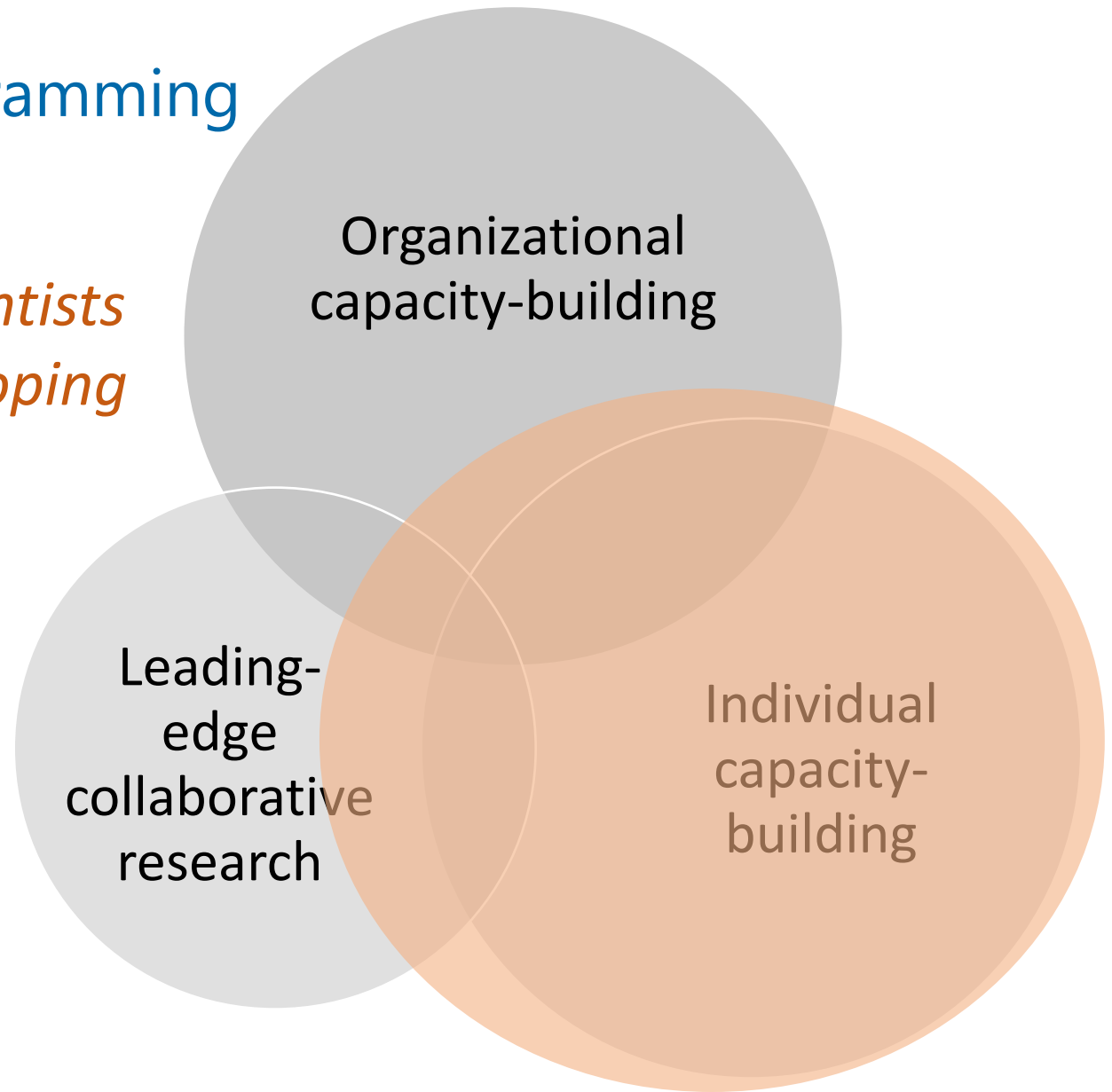
Foundations for Innovation programming

*Science granting
councils initiative in
sub-Saharan Africa
(DFID, NRF)*



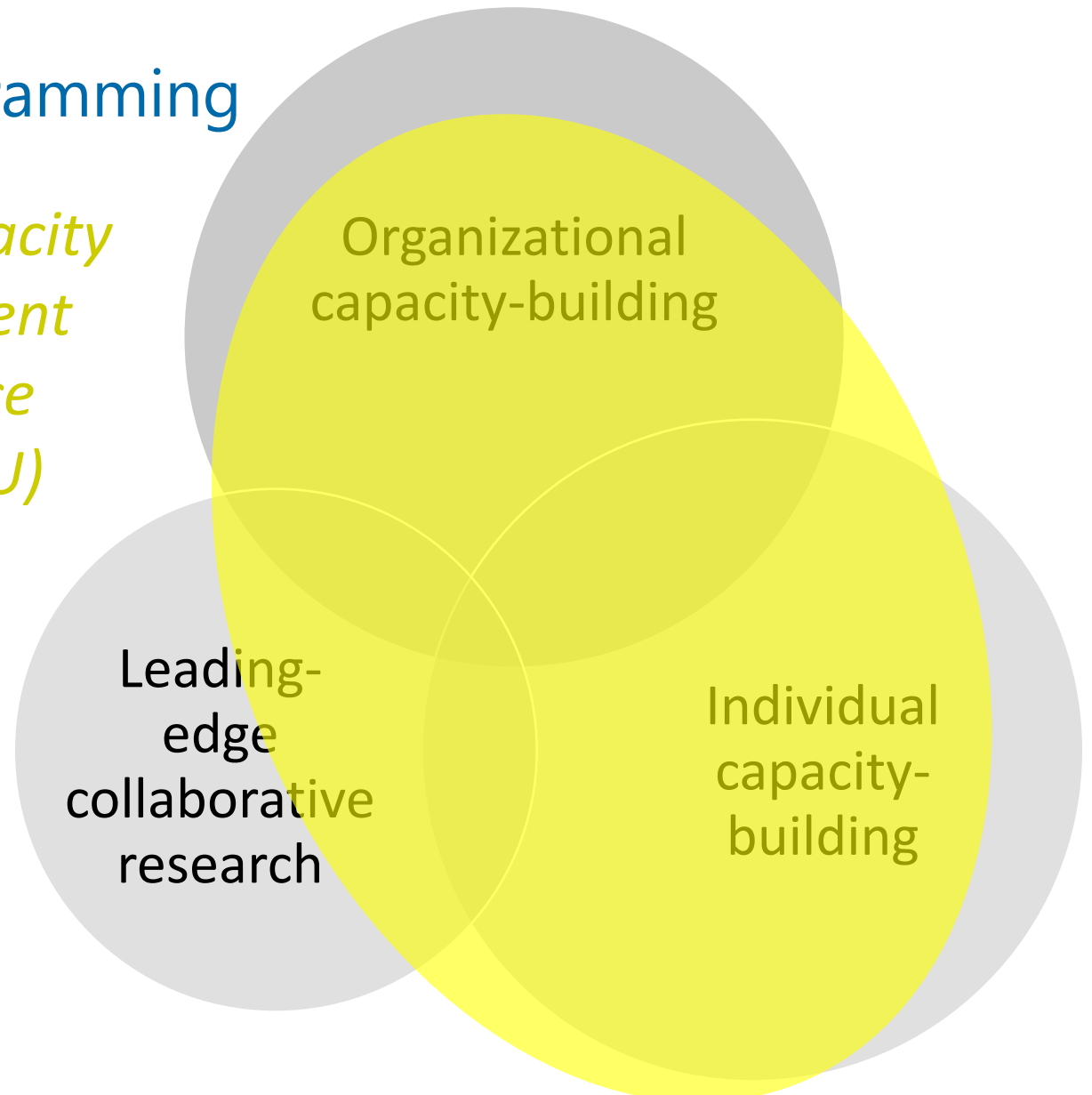
Foundations for Innovation programming

*Early-career
women scientists
in the developing
world (SIDA,
OWSD)*



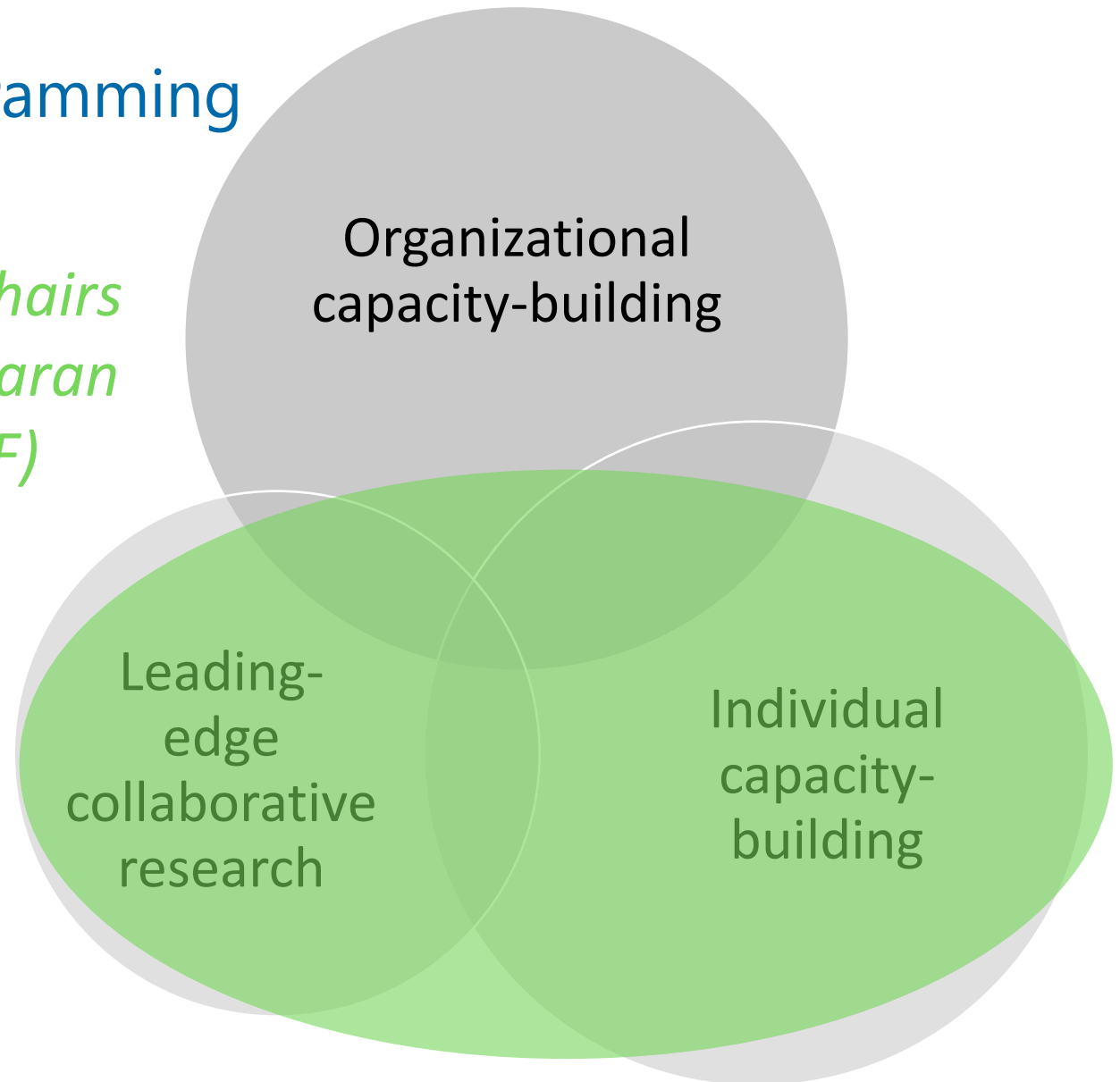
Foundations for Innovation programming

*Building capacity
for government
science advice
(INGSA / ICSU)*



Foundations for Innovation programming

*Trilateral
research chairs
in sub-Saharan
Africa (NRF)*

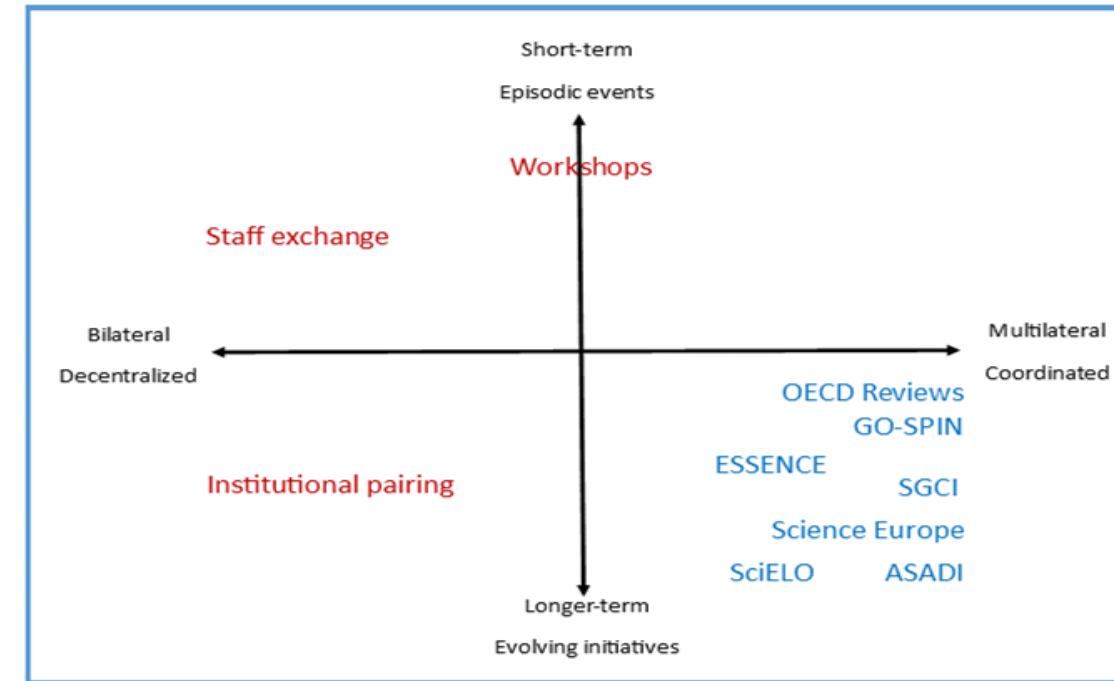


Partnerships between donor agencies and beyond

- **Shared “philosophies”**: capacity-building, agenda-setting in the Global South, allowing pluralistic views of research quality, gender sensitivity, open access to research results
- **Complementarity / synergies** (portfolio = more than the sum of its parts): reflect both researcher and stakeholder demands, broad expertise, build capacity in “supply” and “demand” sides of research, different components of the science system
- **Non-traditional partnerships**: granting councils, academies of science, private sector, foundations, university associations...

Reflections from recent Global Research Council discussions

- Driven by **international** changes in scientific enterprise and collaboration dynamics; **national policy** changes (new, reformed research councils); **trends** (SDGs, open science)
- Seeking frameworks, modalities for **collaboration and learning between agencies**, beyond bilateral and “punctual” approaches (workshops, staff exchanges, etc.)
- **Learning from existing platforms** to tackle priorities for granting agencies: designing, academic / non-academic research, managing research funds, open data, strategic planning, etc.



Source: D. O'Brien and M.L. Wallace, *Background Report for the 6th Annual Global Research Council Meeting (Ottawa)*

Concluding remarks

- Organizations have a collective role to play **beyond “donors”**
 - *Enabling learning among grantees*
 - *Sharing best practices between donors*
 - *Developing tools, evidence to inform management of R&I*
 - *Explicitly consider how to affect R&I systems*
- **Broadening** types of partnerships and the role of science granting councils in the Global South
 - *Empowering national research councils to develop and administer research agendas*
 - *Considering range of partners that can act in various parts of the R&I ecosystem*
 - *Learning from existing modalities and build on existing platforms*



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