



## Research-into-Use in CARIAA

### Why Research-into-Use in CARIAA?

The expected impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations worldwide requires us to re-think not only what kinds of knowledge we produce, but also with whom we produce such knowledge, where we produce it, and for what purpose. The Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA) funds research directly aimed at identifying, understanding and responding to the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations in Africa and Asia. The consortia model in CARIAA explicitly brings together partners from science, civil society and private sector, to promote applied research.

Ultimately, the purpose is to promote uptake of adaptation findings by stakeholders in policy and practice by ensuring access to, and facilitated opportunities to engage with, a new body of quality evidence. Our goal is that actors in planning, programme, policy and research will use a range of evidence-based, tested options to design, commission and implement adaptation initiatives to support communities' livelihoods in hot spot regions, in ways that benefit the most vulnerable.

### What is Research-into-Use?

Research-into-Use refers to a long term process of inter-related activities (*Figure 1*) aimed at ensuring that research results contribute toward policy, practice and/or attitude and behaviour change.

CARIAA experience suggests that Research-into-Use includes the following inter-related activities:

a) capacity building of both researchers and research users, b) stakeholder engagement that is long term, sustained, needs focussed and strategic, c) the generation of credible, relevant and contextualised evidence, often through knowledge co-production with potential users of the research, d) building strategic partnerships with practitioners; e) research communication that is targeted, accessible and appropriate in form, f) reflective monitoring that is intended to improve Research-into-Use practices in all of the previous related areas of work.

Evidence for the 'use' of research coming out of CARIAA can take a variety of forms:

**Awareness:** Targeted stakeholders become aware of core CARIAA concepts, findings, or messages, by accessing knowledge products or through engagement activities (presentations, trainings, seminars etc.).

**Endorsement:** Targeted stakeholders endorse and/or replicate CARIAA concepts, findings and messages, either explicitly or implicitly. This could be by referencing them, using them, or building on them.

**Demand:** Targeted stakeholders express demand for additional, expanded, or tailored CARIAA work or engagement, building on the programme's concepts, findings, and messages.

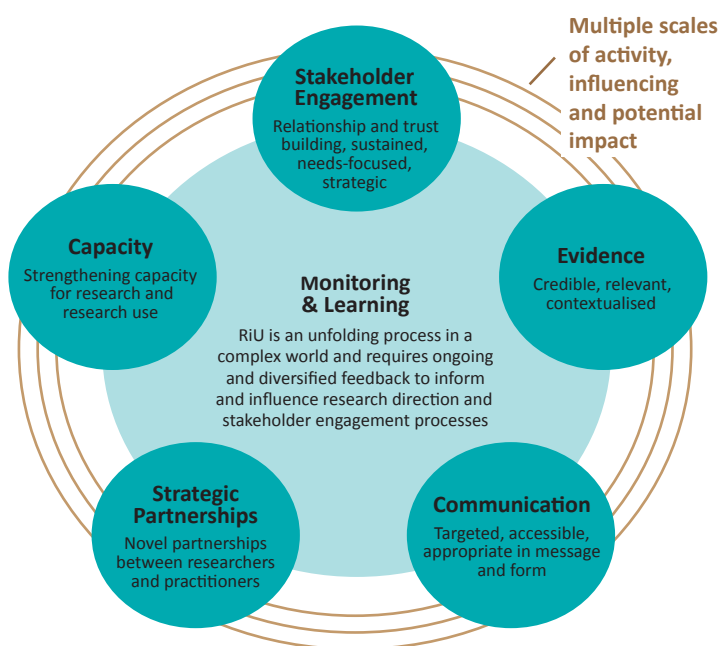


Figure 1: Key areas of activity to achieve Research into Use in CARIAA, highlighting the multiple scales of potential impact



## Keys to Effective Research-into-Use in CARIAA

**Institutional buy-in for the value of Research-into-Use matters:** Leadership from senior researchers and management in consortia is important to ensure buy-in for Research-into-Use across consortia.

**Ensuring a space for Research-into-Use:** Consortia and host institutions need to provide space to work on Research-into-Use. One important space that can be provided is at consortia and CARIAA annual meetings. These events provide opportunities for Research-into-Use to be recognised as a core activity of each consortium, *and as a core responsibility of every individual in each consortium.*

*CARIAA's hotspot design poses some unique challenges for consortia in terms of how we understand and pursue Research-into-Use.*

*The hotspot design means that consortia are pursuing multiple scales of engagement and potential impact, spanning policy, practice and behaviour change.*

*With this in mind, it is important to recognise that CARIAA consortia are in many ways experimenting and innovating quite actively in terms of approaches to, and methods for, Research-into-Use.*

**Recognise that Research and Research-into-Use are two sides of the same coin:** Research-into-use is not an additional activity that practioner partners 'do' in CARIAA. Research-into-use is about changing the way we do research, and opening up opportunities for the co-creation of knowledge beyond the confines of universities and research institutes.

**Partnerships are key:** All consortia are researcher led, making strategic and often novel partnerships with practioners vital to achieving Research-into-Use. Consiortia with strong partnerships like this find it easier to make headway in Research-into-Use.

**Contextual awareness is vital, but sometimes a challenge in CARIAA:** RiU leads may be divorced from local contexts because of the scale of activity they aim to cover (attempting to scale up to the regional level). CARIAA poses a challenge, but also offers an opportunity for researchers and for teams focussed on RiU to engage with a variety of contexts and promote learning beyond the person's usual spheres of action.

cariaa@idrc.ca  
www.cariaa.net  
@CollabAdapt

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