

How can research build capacity for
development:
From 'Research' to 'Innovation'

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Orientation

- The recent emphasis on Research “Impact”
- Hostility to “Research”?
 - the opposite of action
 - or the opposite of ignorance?
 - The issue of relevance
- Impact = use = innovation
- What capacity to create research impact?
- Research : Converts money into Knowledge
- Innovation: Converts knowledge into money

Learning lessons from the Crop Post Harvest Programme

What did they do?

- Explicitly drew on innovation literature
- Shift project management to the “south”
- “Forced” researchers to form “coalitions” with other partners
- Provided training in developing proposals and the formation of coalitions
- Required projects to report on “institutional change”

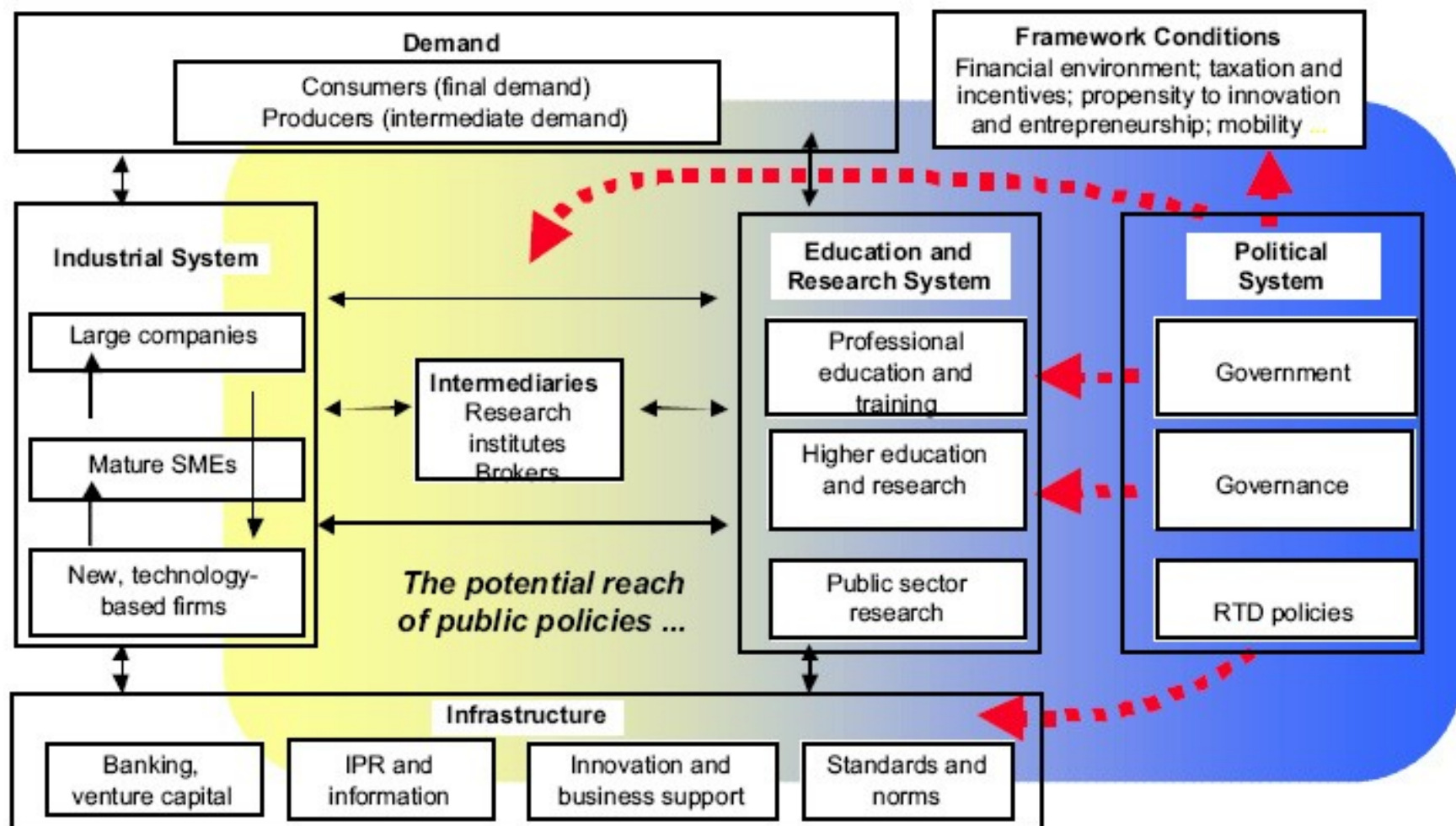
The Essence of the Innovation Systems Approach

- Switches attention from “research” to “innovation” – from knowledge to use
- Understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the system involved in effective innovation.
- Involves a wider range of key actors and institutions that are necessary for successful innovation (not just researchers and their organisations). Strengthens ‘demand side’.

The Essence of the Innovation Systems Approach II

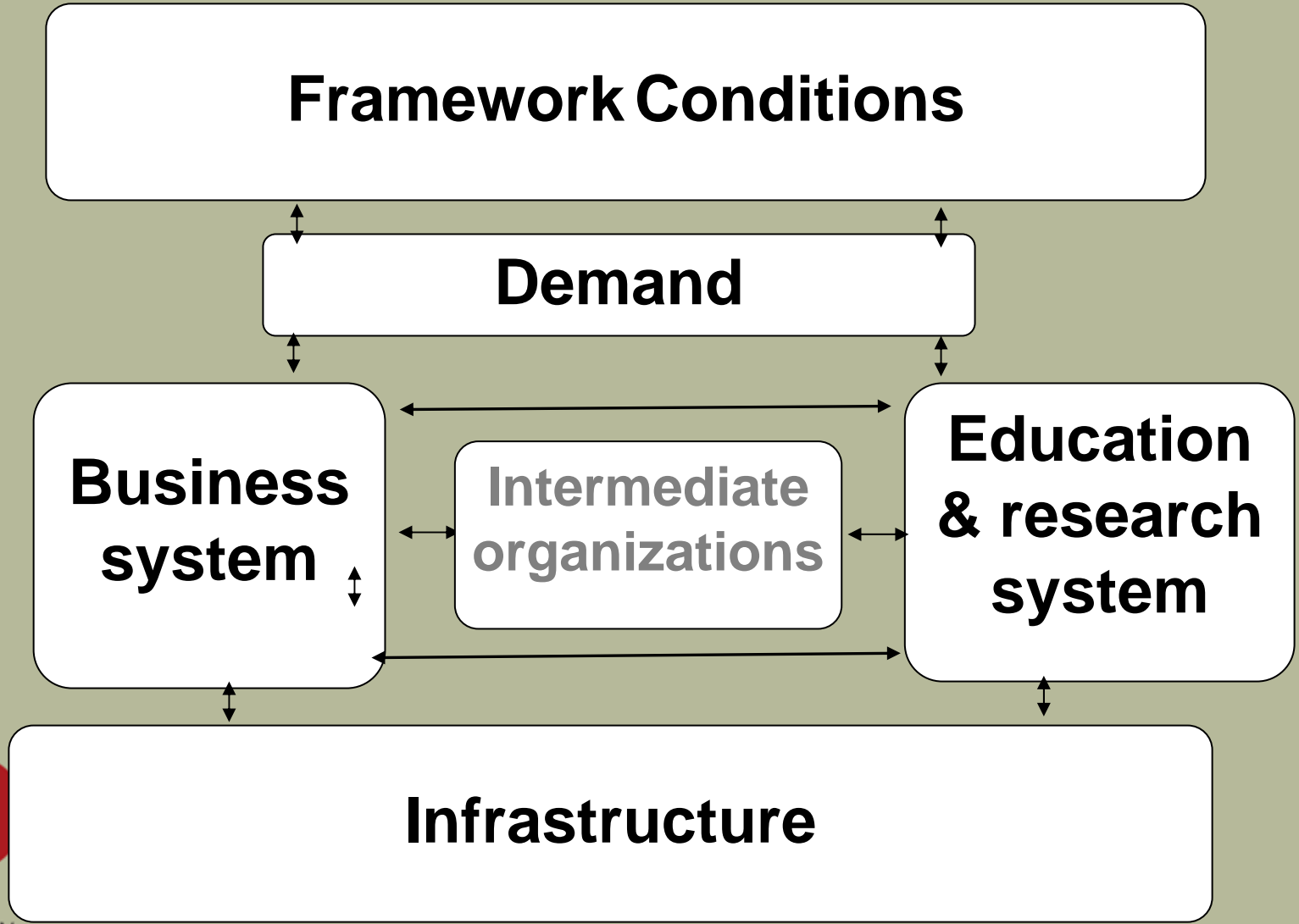
- Context of rules, institutions, and infrastructure that constrain and facilitate the innovation process.
- Continuous two way communications between these actors – evolution of ‘research’ to best meet needs

Exhibit 1 A National Innovation System Model



Source: Erik Arnold and Stefan Kuhlman, *RCN in the Norwegian Research and Innovation System*, Background Report No 12 in the Evaluation of the Research Council of Norway, Oslo: Royal Norwegian Ministry for Education, Research and Church Affairs, 2001. Also available at www.technopolis-group.com

The National System of Innovation Model



Overall Conclusions

- CPHP: exciting experiment breaks new ground
- Worked at level of projects
- Prima facie evidence impact more likely
- Well received by LDC
- Provides framework and policy direction
- Need to produce impact AND public good
- Public goods from Institutional learning needs investment and specialist analysts
- Need for cross programme Public Goods

Implications for development

- Research into Use – new approach??
- Decide what you want: impact plus Public Goods?
- Going beyond “research projects”
 - Drivers of Change approach to improve IS
 - Engage in Capacity Development
- Separate fund management from research?
- Involve wider range of actors – avoid capture
- Donor as major player in innovation systems
- How to maintain and utilise northern comparative advantage
- Implications for research into policy? – see Rapid

Thank You!
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