

ISSC - 29th General Assembly
Montreal, Canada. October 9-12, 2013



Thomas Pogge, Chair of the Scientific Committee
Alberto D. Cimadamore, Director

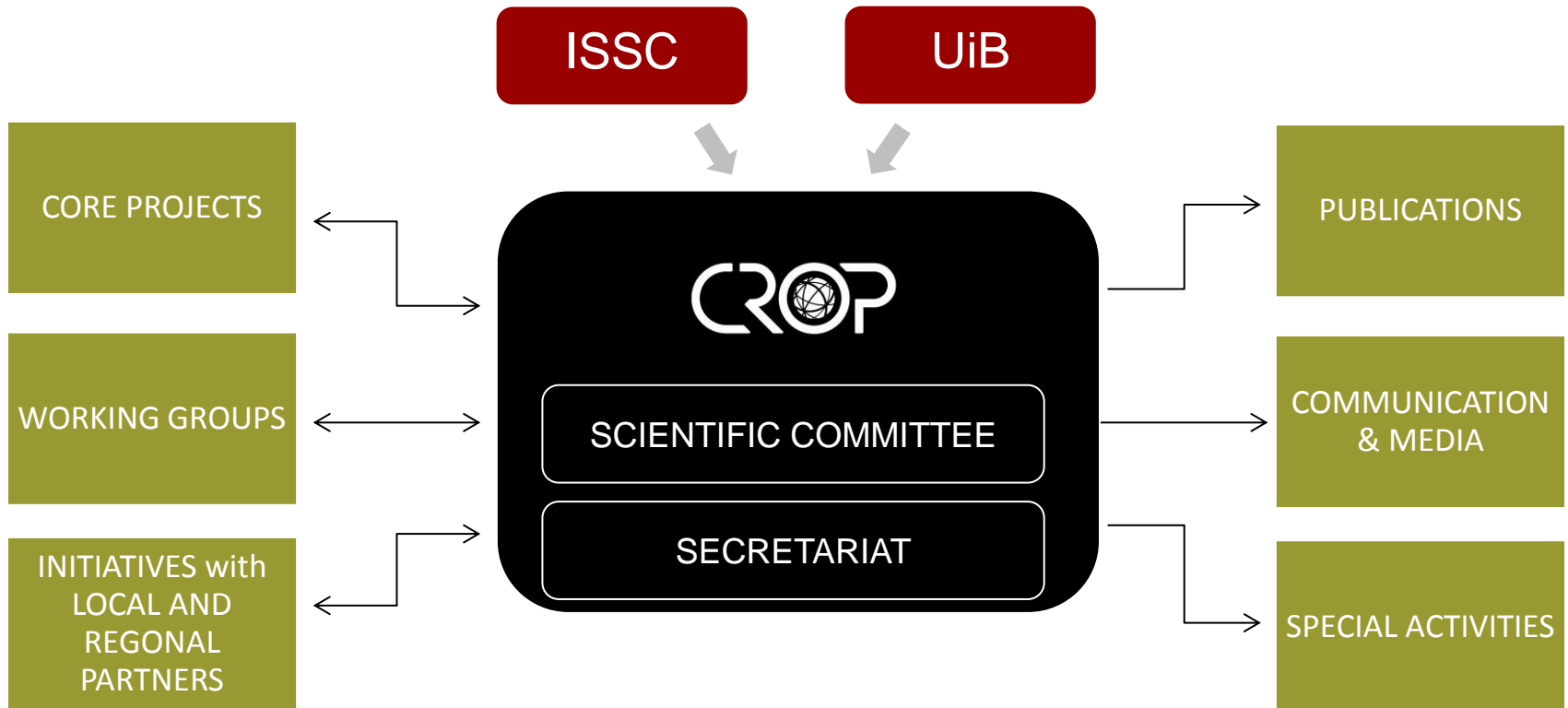
CROP Secretariat at the University of Bergen



CROP is a 20 year old **programme** of the ISSC, integrated in the academic and administrative environment of the University of Bergen (Agreement between the ISSC and UiB, 2013 - 2017).

CROP is also an international **network** of institutions and scholars who share a common interest in poverty and poverty related research, as well as in the dissemination of research results. CROP's networking uses traditional (face-to-face meetings) and electronic (online) communication means. Membership is free. Members are mainly researchers of Universities and research centers from all over the world. The focus is on young researchers working in the South.

Governance and main activities



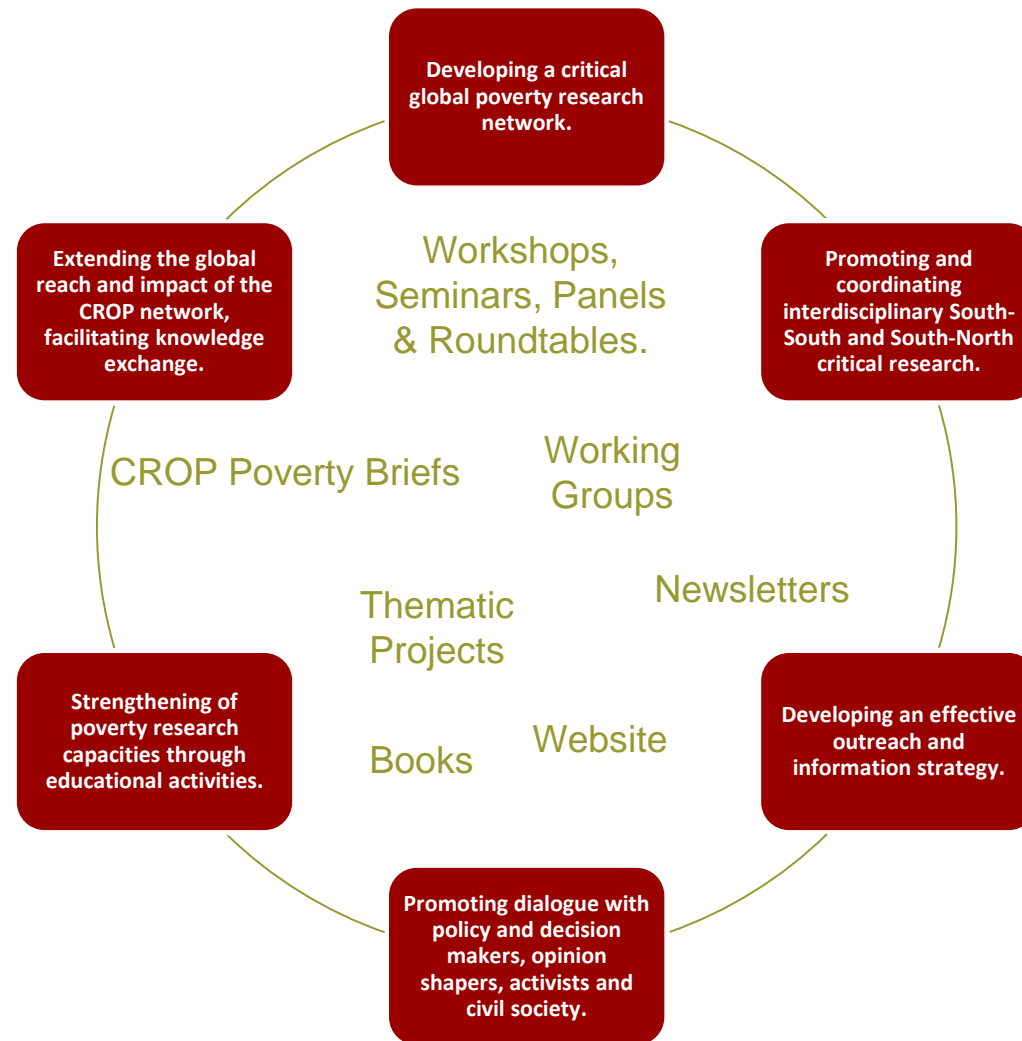
CROP's Mission

To generate and disseminate critical and rigorous knowledge useful for the prevention and eradication of poverty

Key objectives

- Promote critical inter-disciplinary and comparative research on the nature, extent, depth, distribution, trends, causes and effects of poverty,
- Produce knowledge with relevance to diverse policy communities and create spaces for dialogue with various policy actors at national, regional and global levels,
- Contribute to building and enhancing global comparative research capacities,
- Undertake critical analysis and monitoring of national and international policy responses to poverty worldwide.

Key Activity Areas & Products: where the Network meets the Programme



Summary of main activities 2011-2013

- **13 International Workshops**

(carried out in four continents: Africa, America, Asia and Europe)

- **25 Other Academic events: Seminars, Panels & Roundtables**

(NorLARNet, CODESRIA, NOLAN, LASA, 5th World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, ASAP, Yale's Global Justice Program, amongst others)

- **3 Working Groups were initiated**

(themes include: «Social Policies»; «Religion & Social Justice»; and «Child Poverty»)

- **2 New Projects were externally funded**

(PoLAME and Sustainability Science/WUN)

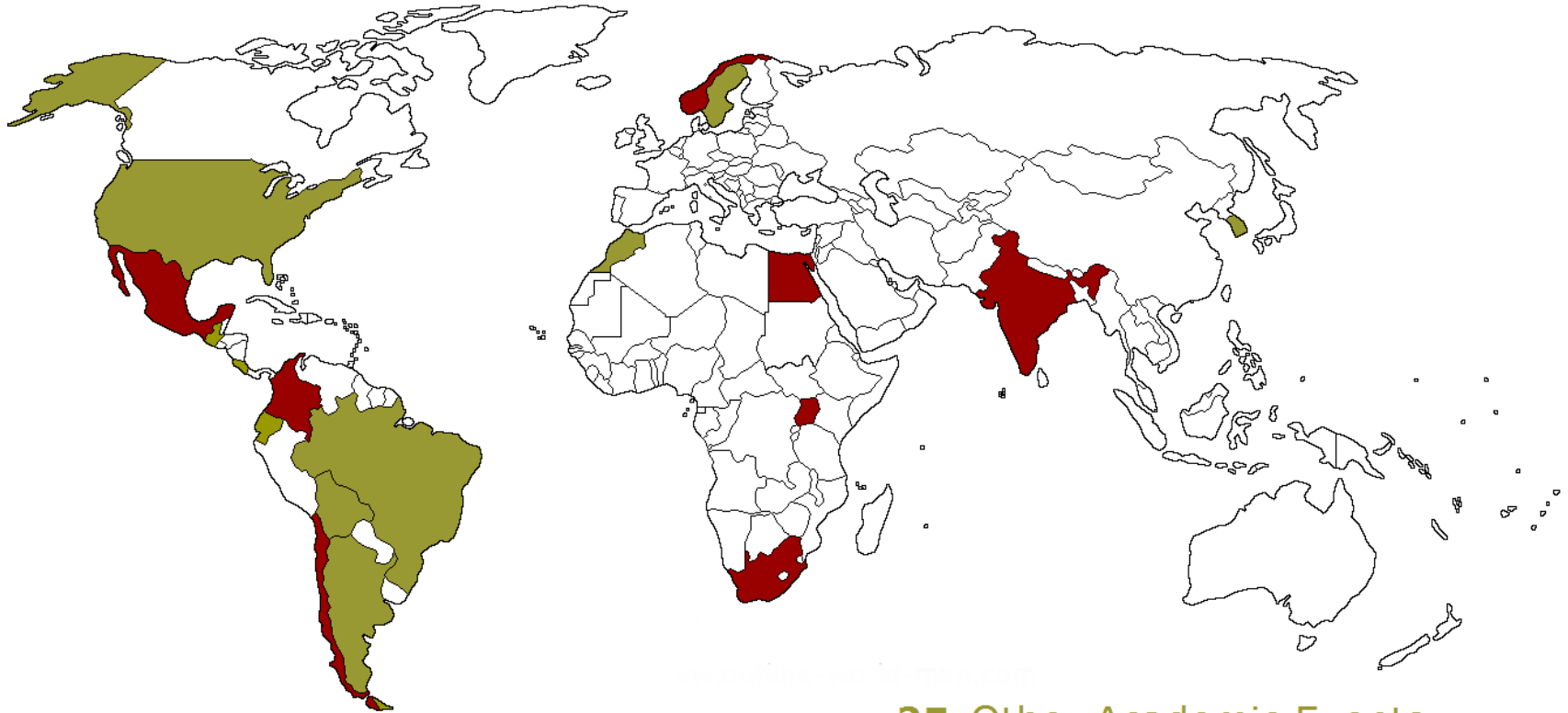
- **24 books published**

- **8 books currently in production**

- **14 Poverty Briefs published**

- **4 bi-annual Newsletters published**

Activities 2011-2013

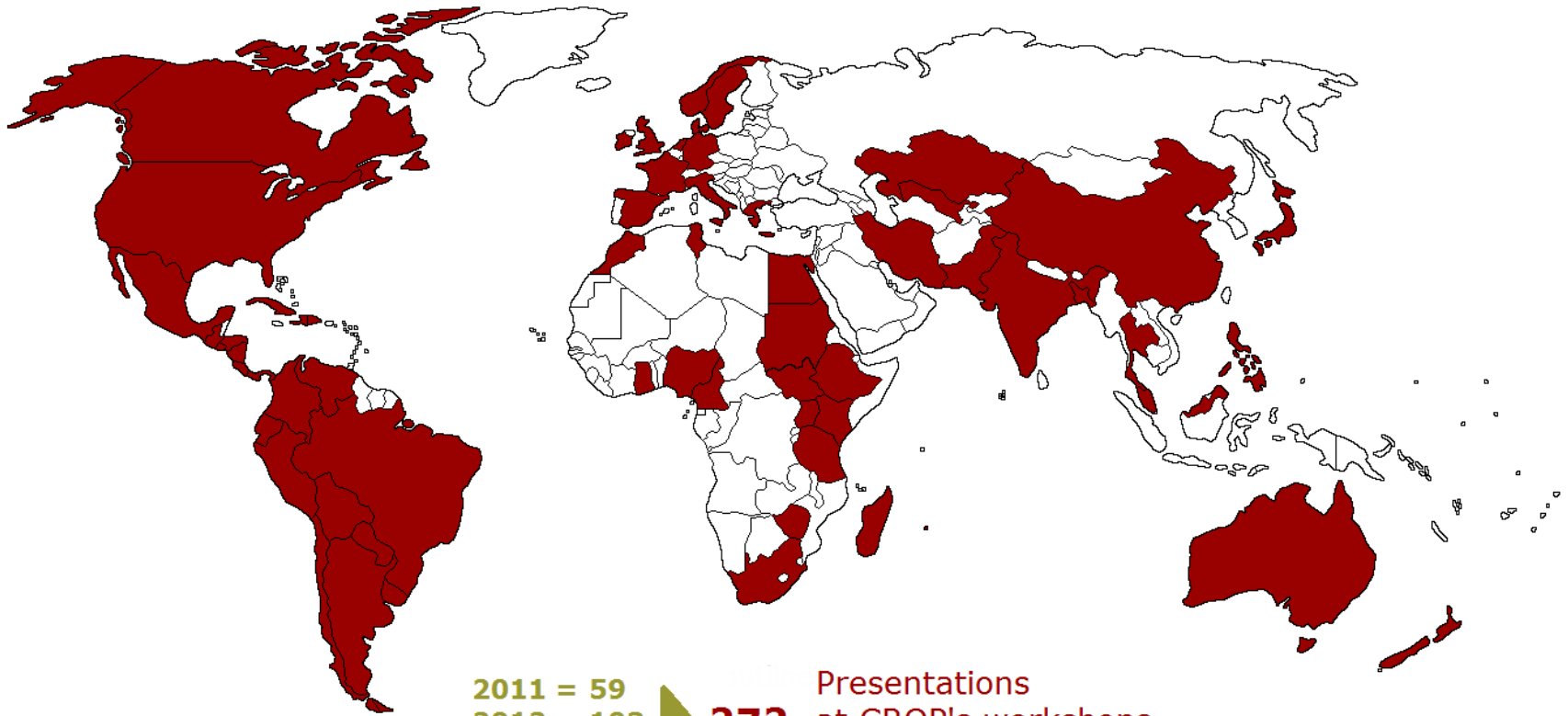


13 International Workshops

25 Other Academic Events



Where the participants came from



2011 = 59
2012 = 103
2013 = 110



272

Presentations
at CROP's workshops
and academic events



Lessons and the way forward

CROP has not been able yet to measure the changes produced, direct or indirect, as the result of its activities over the previous two decades (“**impact**”). This is one of the challenges for the future to be addressed by the next Strategy & Communication Plan (2014-2020), with the help of the ISSC Secretariat.

However, impacts can be inferred from the quantity and quality of the activities reported. See:

Full CROP Report 2011: <http://www.crop.org/viewfile.aspx?id=397>

Full CROP Report 2012: <http://www.crop.org/ViewFile.aspx?id=464>

Geographical reach & impact: relevant changes occurred during the last 2 years in the composition and level of participation of Network members. CROP Active Network Members in:

- 2011: **125**. 30% of them from the South
- 2013: **591**. 80% of them from the South

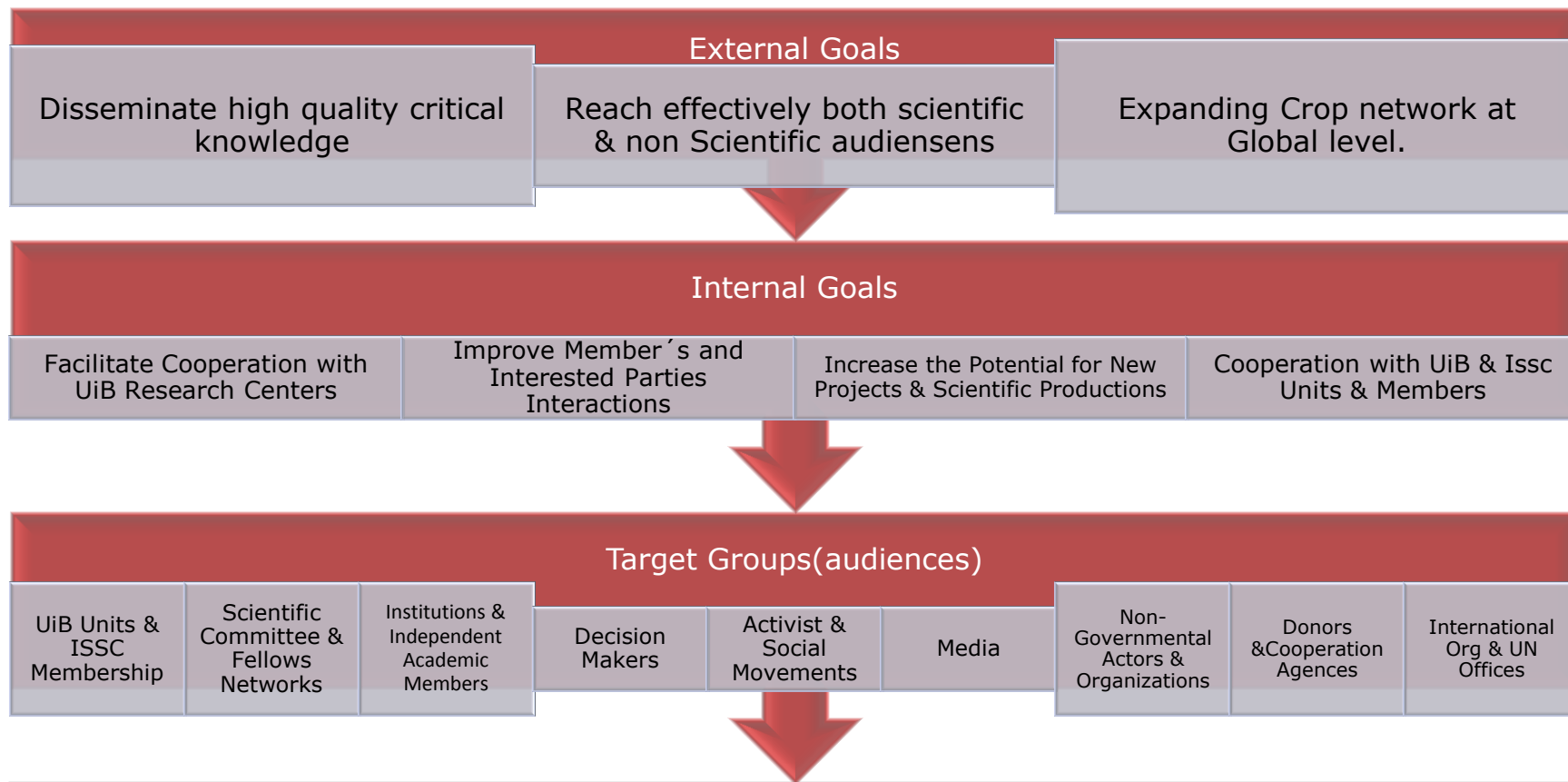
(Source: Active Member D-Base, Secretariat, 2013)

Steps taken to increase impact:

- Strengthening of key publications (Books & Briefs) as an integral part of the new communication plan
- Research presented in new formats, to reach a wider audience, etc. (See CommPlan)

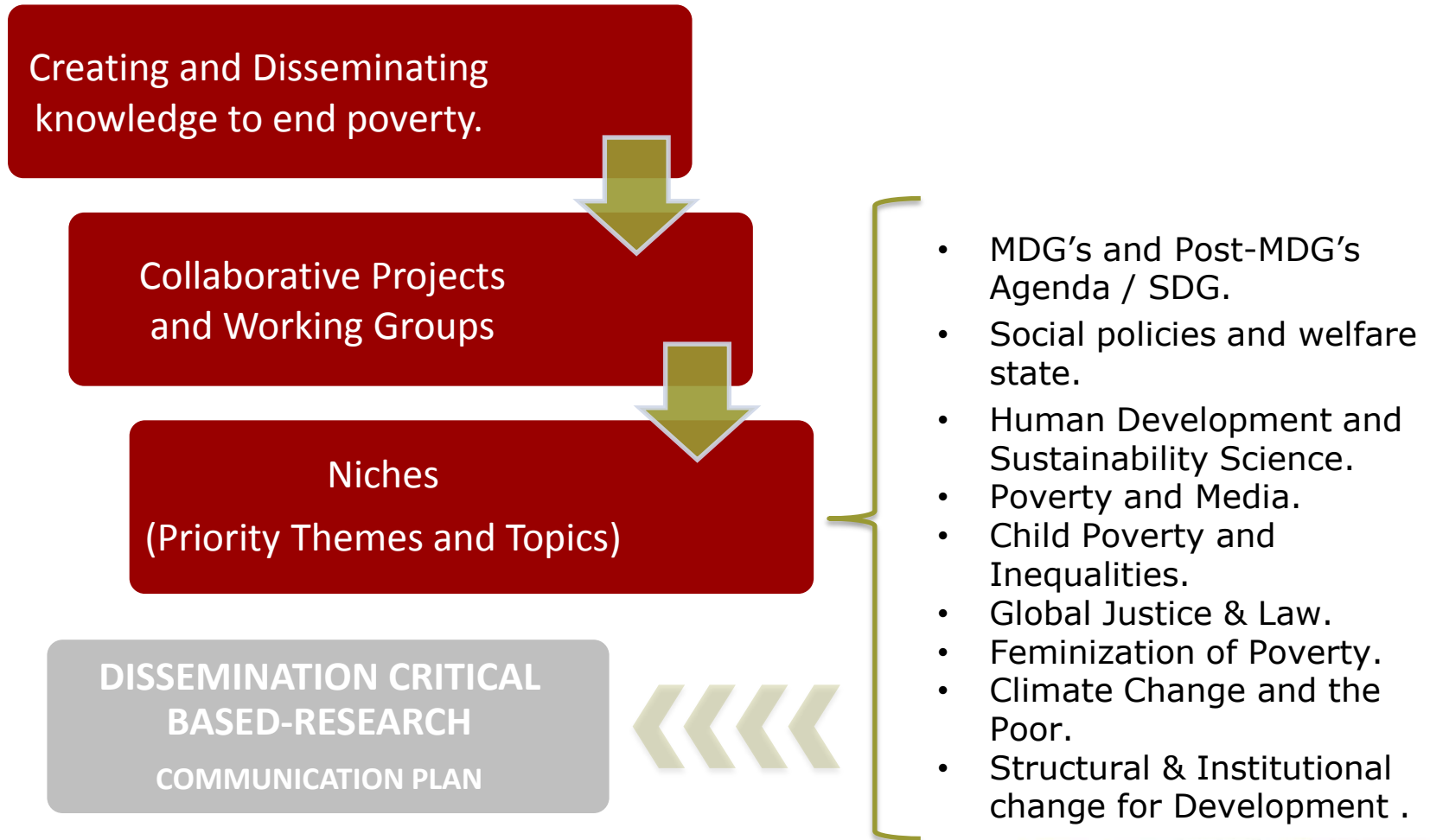
Communication Plan 2014 - 2020

To Increase Scientific and Policy Debate about Poverty Eradication



By using various dissemination tools, CROP shall convey its messages to the target groups and increase the impact of its scientific production.

Strategic Plan for 2014-2020: axis to be discussed and approved by the SC



Current Priority Projects 1: Health

- International Workshop on Health in New Delhi, Oct. 2011
- Resulting book ***Protecting the Health of the Poor***, co-edited by Geeta Sodhi and Abraar Karan for the ZED series ***CROP International Studies in Poverty***
- Health Impact Fund measurement pilot with the new TB drug Sirturo (bedaquiline) in India and (we hope) also South Africa – strong support from patent holder J&J, major funding applied for from the Australian Research Council
- Cell Tower project to improve the cold chain with pilot projects in India and Zimbabwe, additional funding applications pending.

Current Priority Projects 2: MDG Successors

- Critique of the MDG enterprise: shifting definitions and methods, politically exposed agencies (FAO, World Bank) put in charge of tracking progress, crucial to beef up the role of independent experts
- Concluded major empirical project with field work at 18 sites in 6 developing countries (Mozambique, Angola, Malawi, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines) toward developing new indices for tracking poverty and gender disparity; important potential contribution by social scientists
- Institutional reform goals to replace conventional «goals» which, leaving responsibilities open, are really wishes.
CROP brief.



Sample Institutional Reform Goals

- Tax on trade-distorting subventions for poverty eradication
- Tax on greenhouse gas emissions for poverty eradication
- Tax on arms exports to LDCs for poverty eradication
- Alternative Minimum Tax on MNC profits for poverty eradication
- End accounts with unknown owners or beneficiaries
- Only minimally representative rulers to assume nat'l debt burdens
- Tax on natural resource purchases from unrepresentative rulers
- Option to have new medicines rewarded according to health impact.

Current Priority Projects 3: Illicit Financial Flows

- IBAHRI Report by the Task Force on Illicit Financial Flows, Poverty and Human Rights; combatting tax dodging by corporations and individuals, embezzlement, int'l crime
- Book project (Oxford UP) featuring 20 reform proposals by world-leading experts.
- Norwegian Research Council grant application pending with support from Global Witness (USD 2.5m each) for follow-up project with key international partners in Nairobi, Buenos Aires and Delhi. CROP would organize 8 workshops in other key developing countries to provide a reality check: to test and refine proposals, and also to build continental networks of experts and policy makers interested in the topic.

Thank you for your attention

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