

Farmer field schools: a systematic review

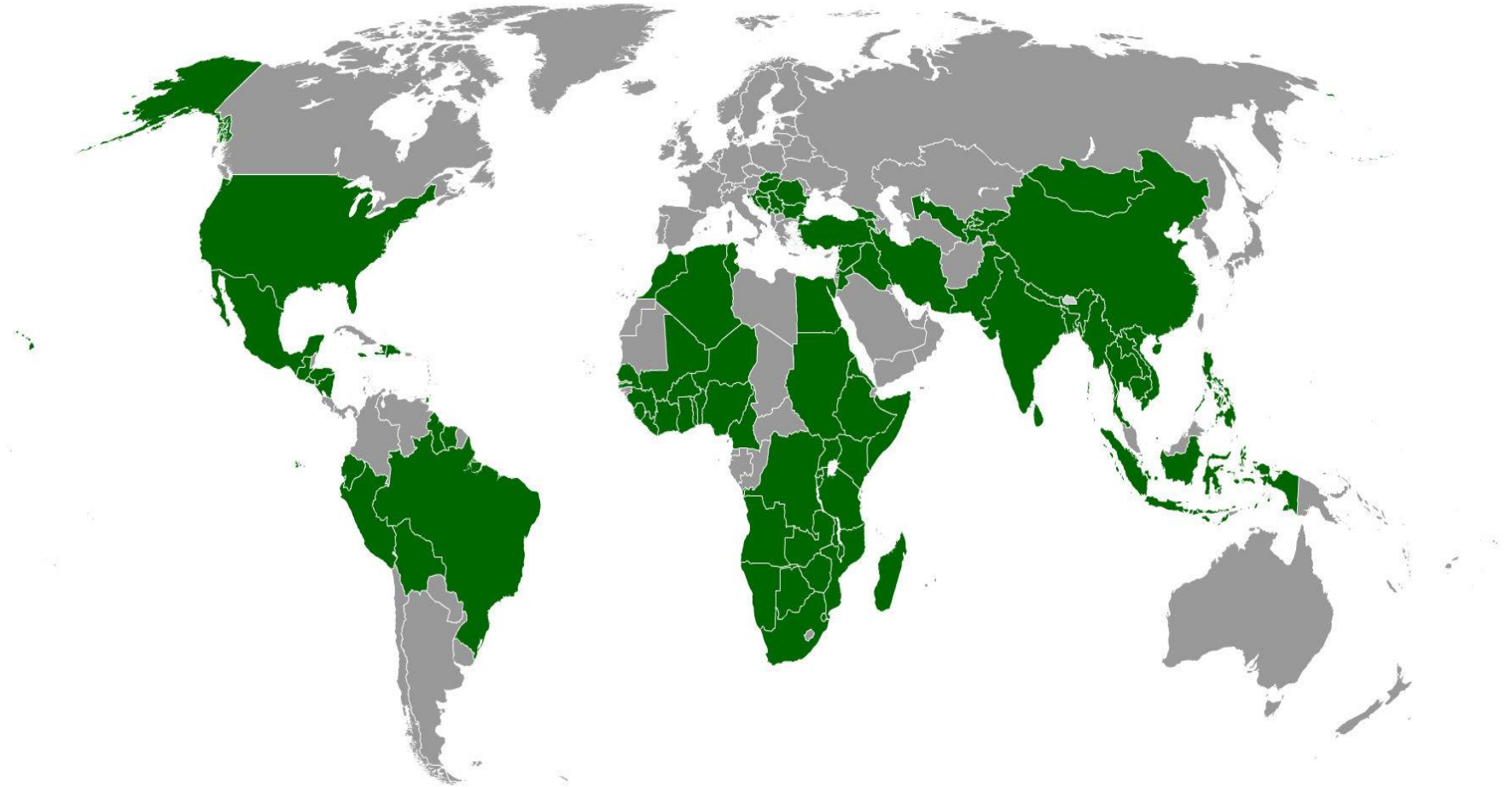
Hugh Waddington, Birte Snilstveit, Jorge Hombrados, Martina Vojtkova,
Daniel Phillips and Howard White



What are FFSs?



Global reach of FFS



Policy debate

“....remarkable, widespread and lasting developmental impacts” (Van den Berg 2004)

“....no significant impacts on the performance of graduates and their neighbours” (Feder et al. 2004)

Results

Effectiveness Synthesis

Qualitative Synthesis

Title Screening criteria:

Developing country
FFS
Primary research

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FFS
Primary research

27,866 titles screened

1453 abstracts screened

1,112 abstracts screened

958 excluded
126 no access

751 excluded
49 unavailable

Abstract screening criteria:

Developing country
FFS
Primary research
Quantitative Impact Evaluation (IE)

Abstract screening criteria:

Developing country
FFS
Primary research

369 full text screened

314 full text screened

231 excluded:
177 on relevance
58 on design

257 excluded
124 excl on methodology
128 excl on relevance
5 excl as duplicates

Fulltext inclusion criteria:

FFS
Primary research
Quantitative IE
Study design

Fulltext inclusion criteria:

FFS
Primary research
Qualitative or descriptive studies
Barriers/facilitators
Methods reporting

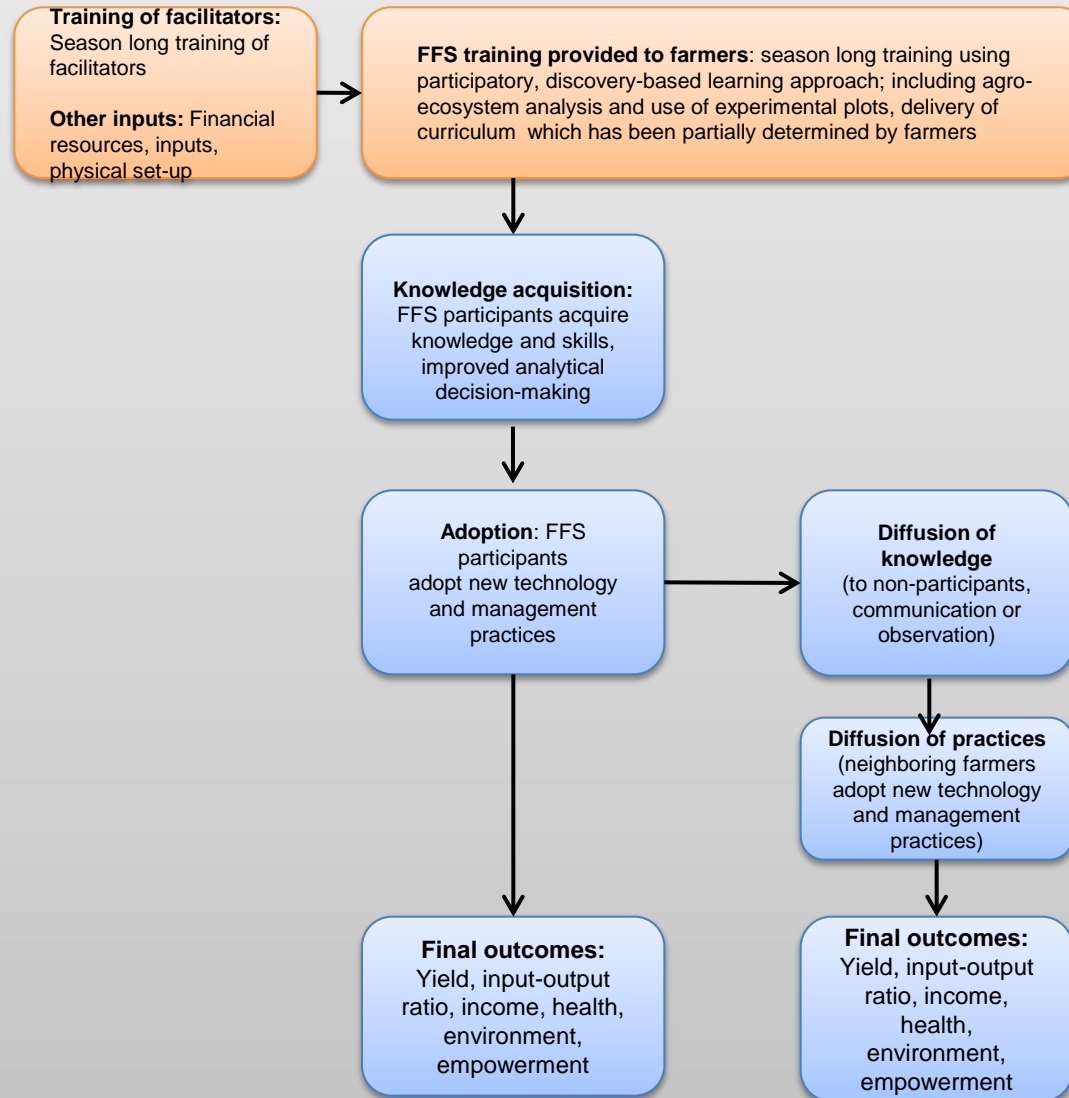
80 FFS impact evaluation studies
(134 papers)

20 qualitative studies
(27 papers)

QUANTITATIVE SYNTHESIS

QUALITATIVE SYNTHESIS

Integrated causal chain synthesis



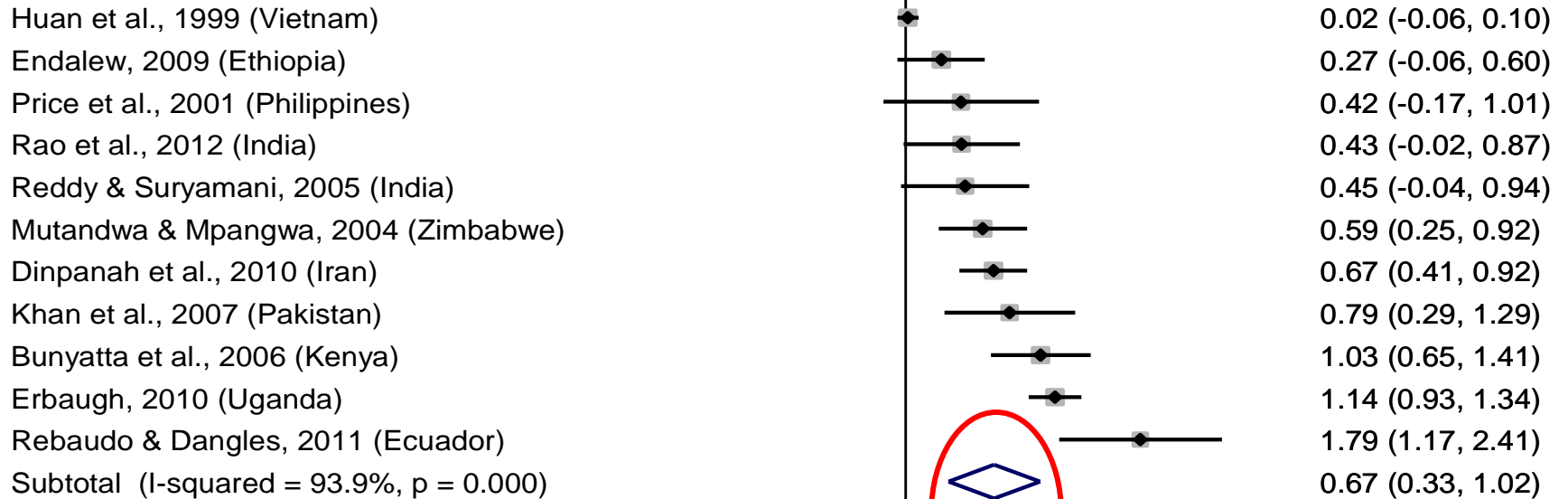
Knowledge of 'improved' farming practices

Study

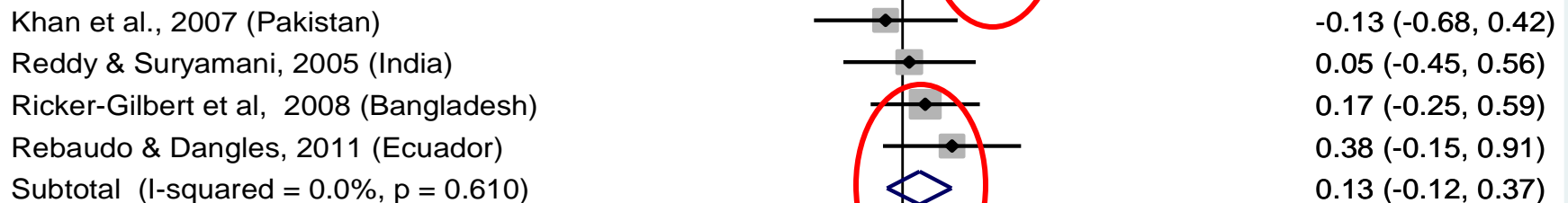
ID

ES (95% CI)

FFS participants



FFS neighbours

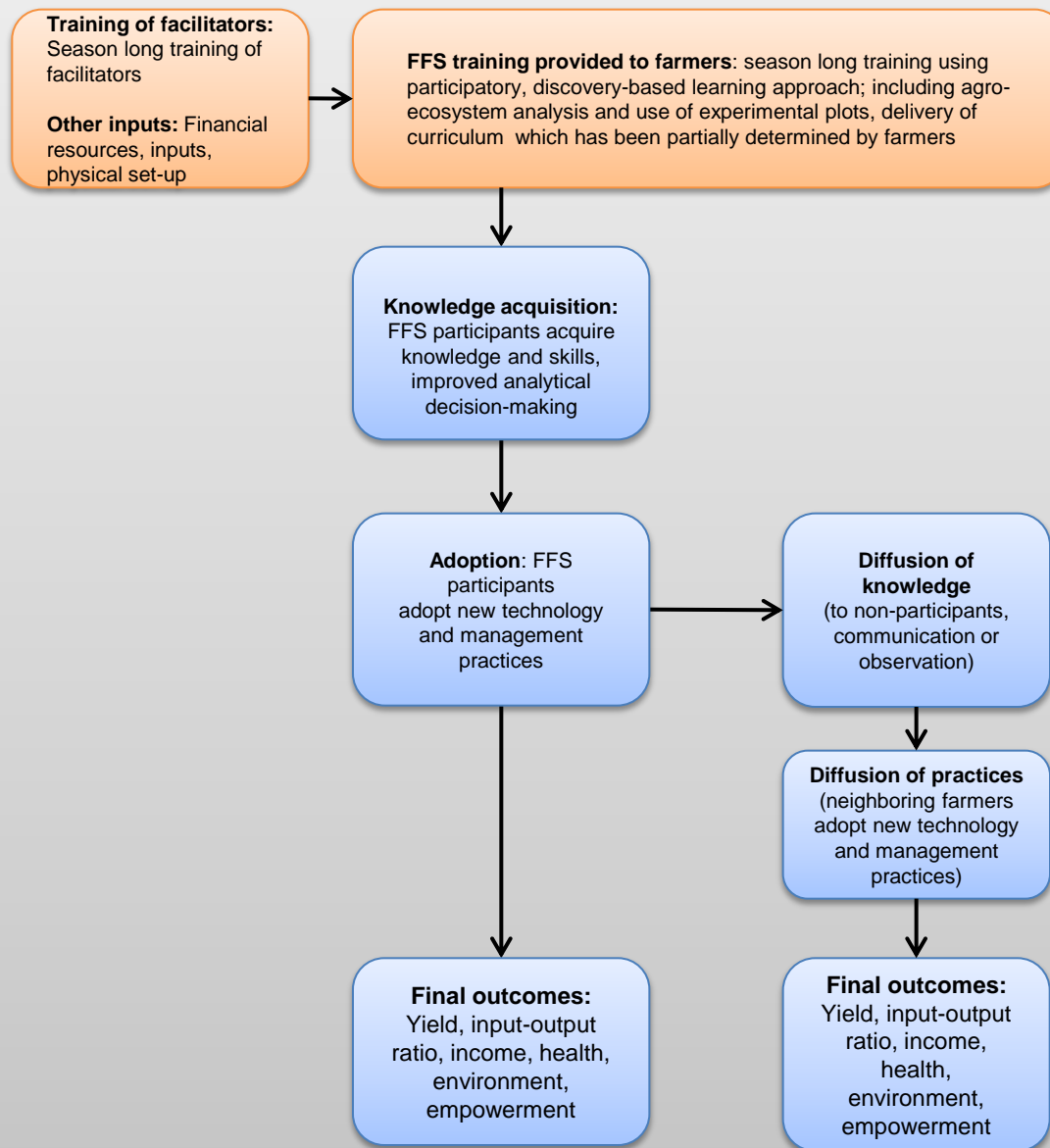


NOTE: Weights are from random effects analysis

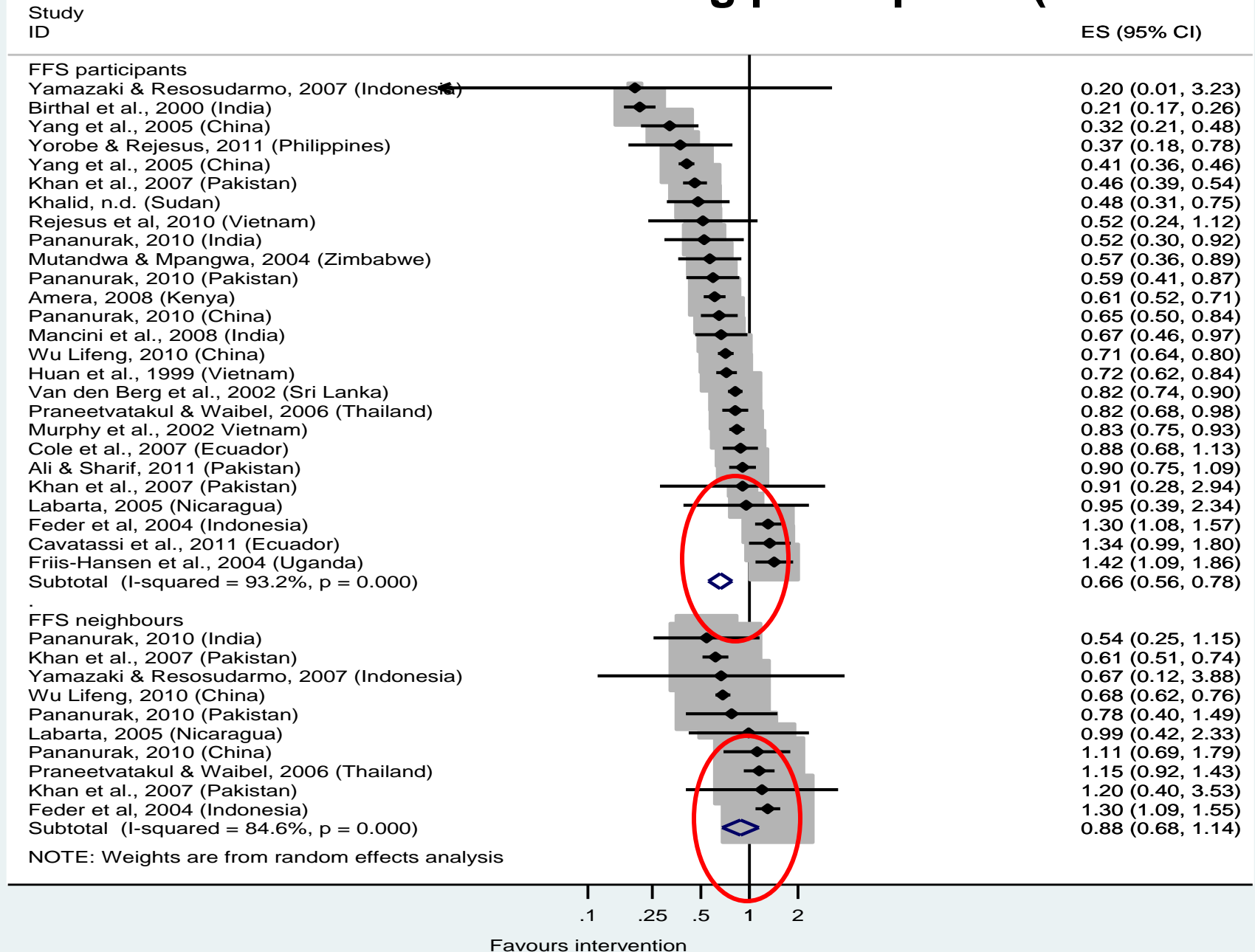
-0.5 0 .5 1 3
Favours intervention

Barriers and facilitators of knowledge





Pesticide demand reduced among participants (IPM/IPPM)

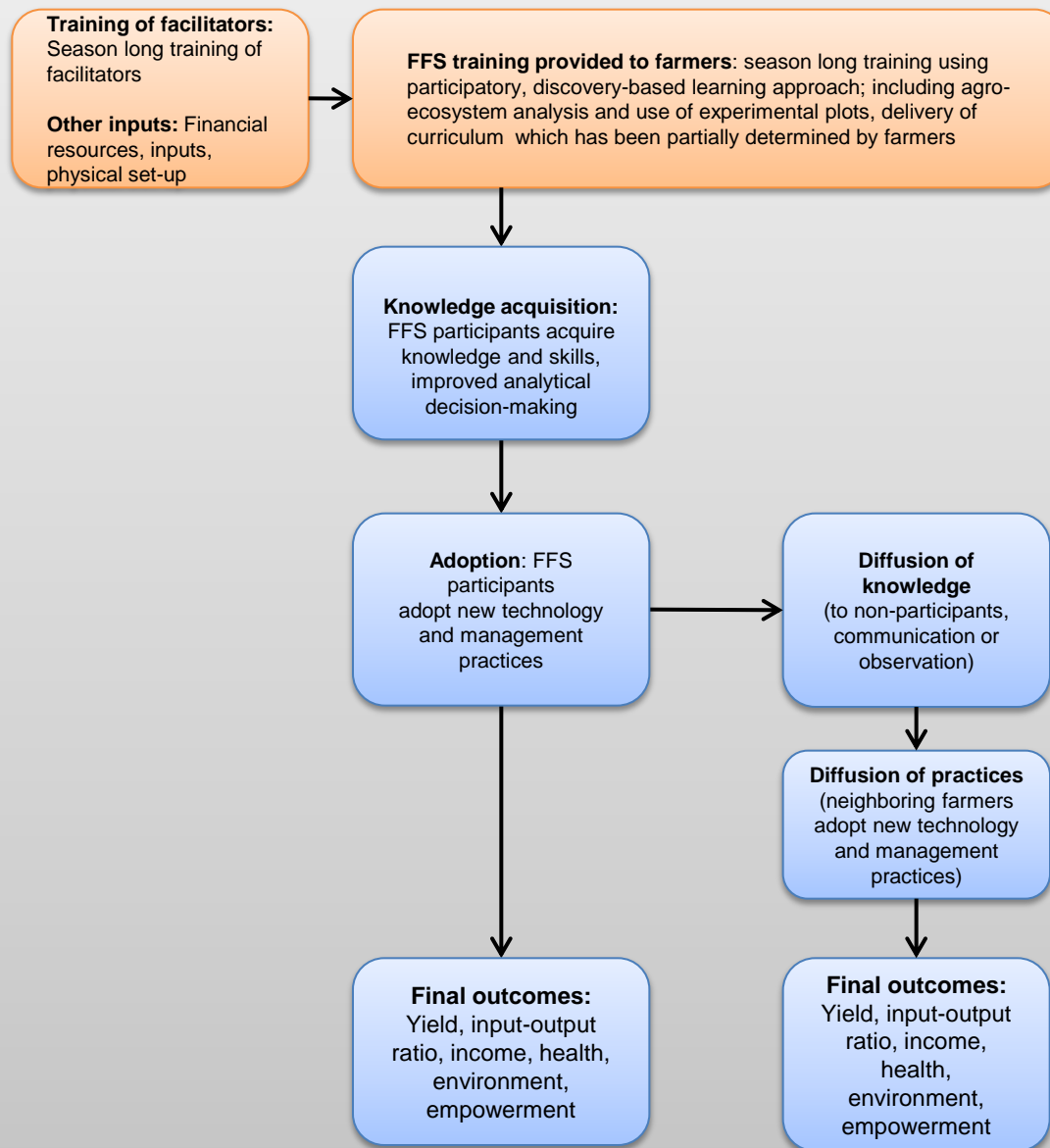


Barriers and facilitators to adoption



Relevance



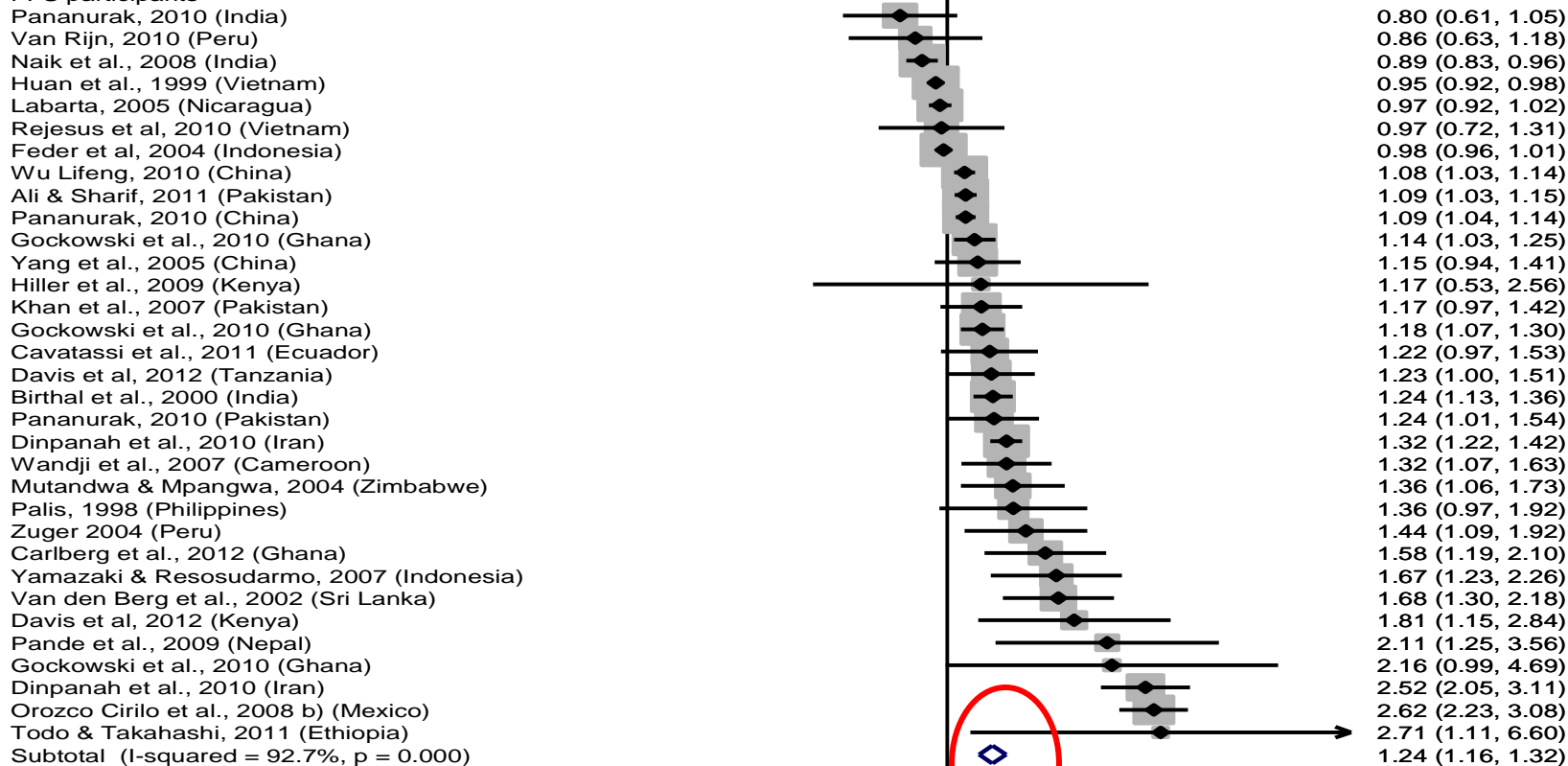


Yields improve among participants

Study ID

ES (95% CI)

FFS participants



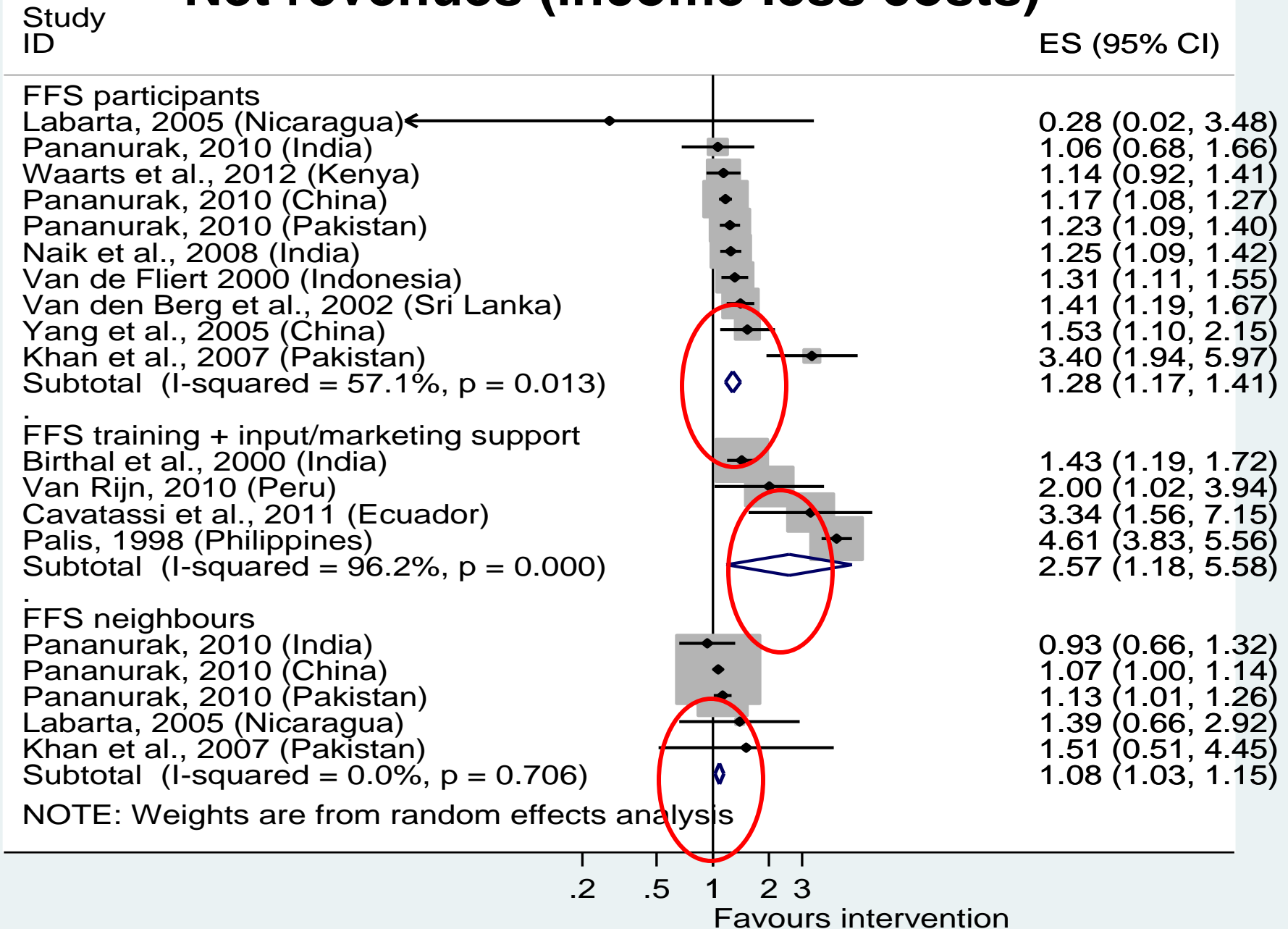
FFS neighbours

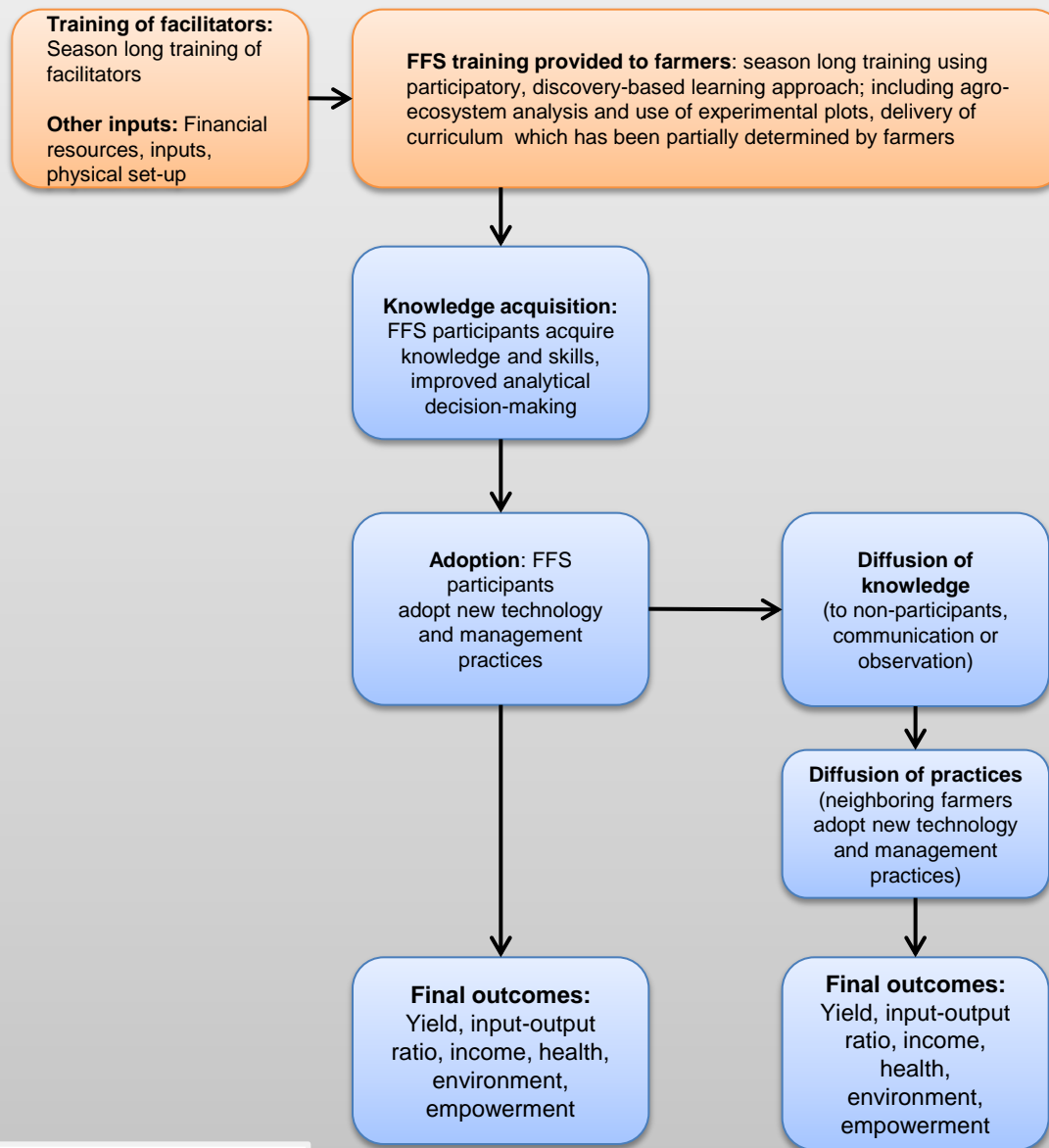


NOTE: Weights are from random effects analysis

.5 1 2 3
Favours intervention

Net revenues (income less costs)





Breakdown in causal chain

Why no diffusion?



Conclusions

- Evidence suggests FFS effective in improving farmer practices and agricultural outcomes among FFS-participants
- But practices and outcomes do not diffuse to neighbouring farmers
- Diffusion and sustainability may require regular training programmes, follow-up and backstopping
- SRs using program theory and broader range of evidence produce more useful conclusions

Thank you!

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