# Example of Guidelines on Systemic Changes
Samarth-NMDP

Samarth-NMDP works to improve the underlying performance of rural sectors - particularly agriculture - by stimulating systemic change in key market systems. Systemic change is achieved through closing constraints that are inhibiting pro-poor market growth.

To do this, a series of interventions aim to leverage momentum towards growth by facilitating market players to innovate and sustain pro-poor solutions. Since markets and the constraints in them are not fixed, facilitation is a dynamic approach that requires project teams to be aware of and respond to new conditions that emerge through implementation. Facilitators should routinely ask themselves where and how to intervene in order to strengthen any initial signs of systemic change. Samarth-NMDP identifies and classifies four key stages that can be used to benchmark progress towards change in market systems. These can be understood as *degrees* of systemic change that exhibit different levels of sustainability and scale:
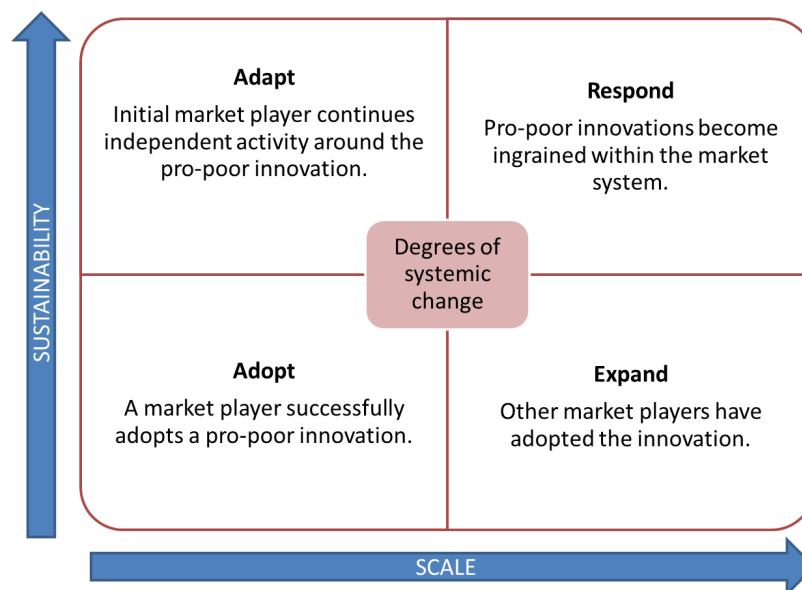
See the Samarth-NMDP Manual for more on how the program operationalizes this framework in measurement.

In addition, in case of copying and crowding in, Samarth will also assess the impacts on the indirect beneficiaries if it happens within the programme timeframe. Based on the current DCED guidance on assessing systemic changes, there are four key considerations to plausibly attribute systemic change to a program:

- The development of a clear pathway towards systemic change, e.g. a crowding in path is integrated into a particular results chain.
- Evidence that expected changes have occurred at different levels in the pathway e.g. indicators are assigned and assessed for each results chain box in the pathway.
- Evidence of causal links between the changes in the pathway e.g. checking why other service

providers crowded in.
- Look for alternative causes of the changes observed e.g. look for alternative reasons why service providers crowded in.

The following steps can be taken to estimate the beneficiary level impacts of crowding in:

- Determine the methods to identify crowded-in providers – generally observation and key informant interviews with direct partners and key market players.
- Check the reasons for crowding-in to assess attribution.
- Estimate the number of SSFs or entrepreneurs who received the relevant service from crowded-in providers and subsequently changed their behaviour.
- Later, validate behavioural and performance changes for indirect beneficiaries and check for overlapping with direct providers' beneficiaries.

The following steps can be taken to estimate the beneficiary level impacts of copying:

- Establish the copying ratio: the number of copying SSFs/entrepreneurs for each direct beneficiary SSF/entrepreneur as follows:
    - During the impact assessment for direct beneficiaries, ask respondents whether their neighbours copied their new practices.
    - Interview a sample of the neighbours named (using snowball sampling) to cross check whether they are actually copying the practices and reasons for copying.
    - Check for overlapping among the copiers (i.e. whether one copying SSF/entrepreneur is copying from 2 or more direct SSFs/entrepreneurs).
    - Use this information to calculate an estimated average copying ratio.
- At the same time, collect baseline information for copying SSFs/entrepreneurs. Later on, validate the behavioural and performance changes for copying beneficiaries. (If the copying SSFs/entrepreneurs have already copied and realised performance change, it is possible to collect baseline information through recall, and behaviour and performance changes at the same time as gathering information on the copying ratio.)

SAMARTH NMDP Results Measurement System, User Manual Ver. 2 (P. 41-42).