

The RAI Tool for Agribusiness Background and Overview

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CERISE+SPTF



IISD

International Institute for
Sustainable Development

From the Global Food Crisis to the CFS-RAI

Global food crises from the late 2000s led to...

- **A rise in investments** (financial investment, agribusiness investment) in food and agriculture in developing countries, by both domestic and foreign enterprises...
- **Concern about the impact** of these investments **on the vulnerable**: smallholders, communities, local economies...
- **We all mobilised!** Policy development, research and action – including by the private sector – to ensure that these investments/agribusiness operations met high standards of responsibility and social business conduct
- **A proliferation of principles, guidelines, frameworks, tools...**

Endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the 2014 **Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI)**

- **A landmark development**, building on previous work, with a **global and comprehensive mandate**
 - The CFS process involved consultations with governments, UN agencies, civil society and NGOs, research institutions, the private sector and regional institutions
- **Policies, guidelines, tools etc.** building on the CFS-RAI **have a common framework**.
 - Important & possible to ensure **coherence in tools** developed for different actors (e.g., **the public sector, agribusiness, financial investors, civil society, others**)

Purpose of the RAI Tool for Agribusiness

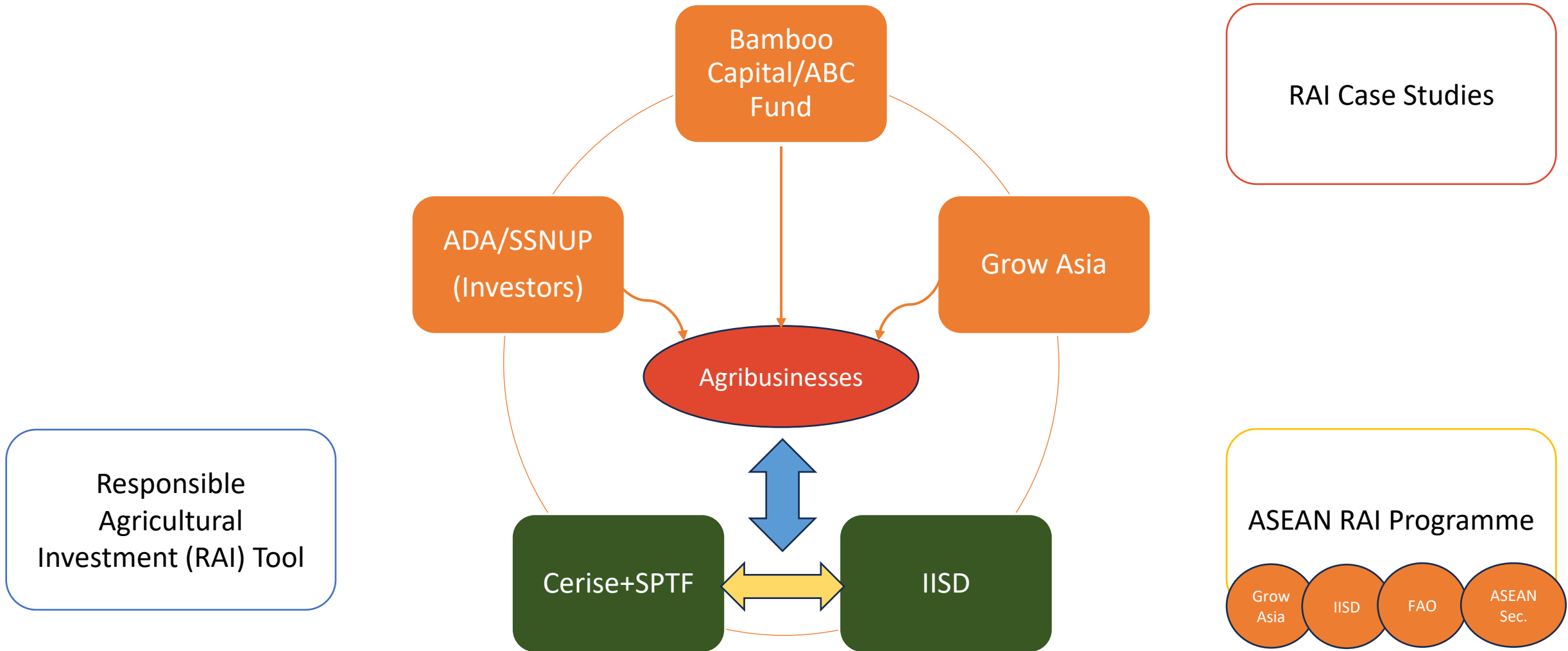
What it is intended for

- Part of a **suite of tools** to help support the private and public sectors understand and implement the CFS-RAI Principles.
- **This** tool is for the private sector (**agribusinesses**) and allows organisations to determine how closely aligned their practices are with the RAI.
 - Gaps in alignment or compliance with RAI can be acted upon
 - Alignment with RAI is assessed both in terms of
 - Agribusiness operational policies, practices and procedures; and
 - Their performance in terms of indicators (targets and metrics)
- The tool is **structured around business operations and dimensions** (strategy, HR, production, distribution...) – it fits with how organisations work.

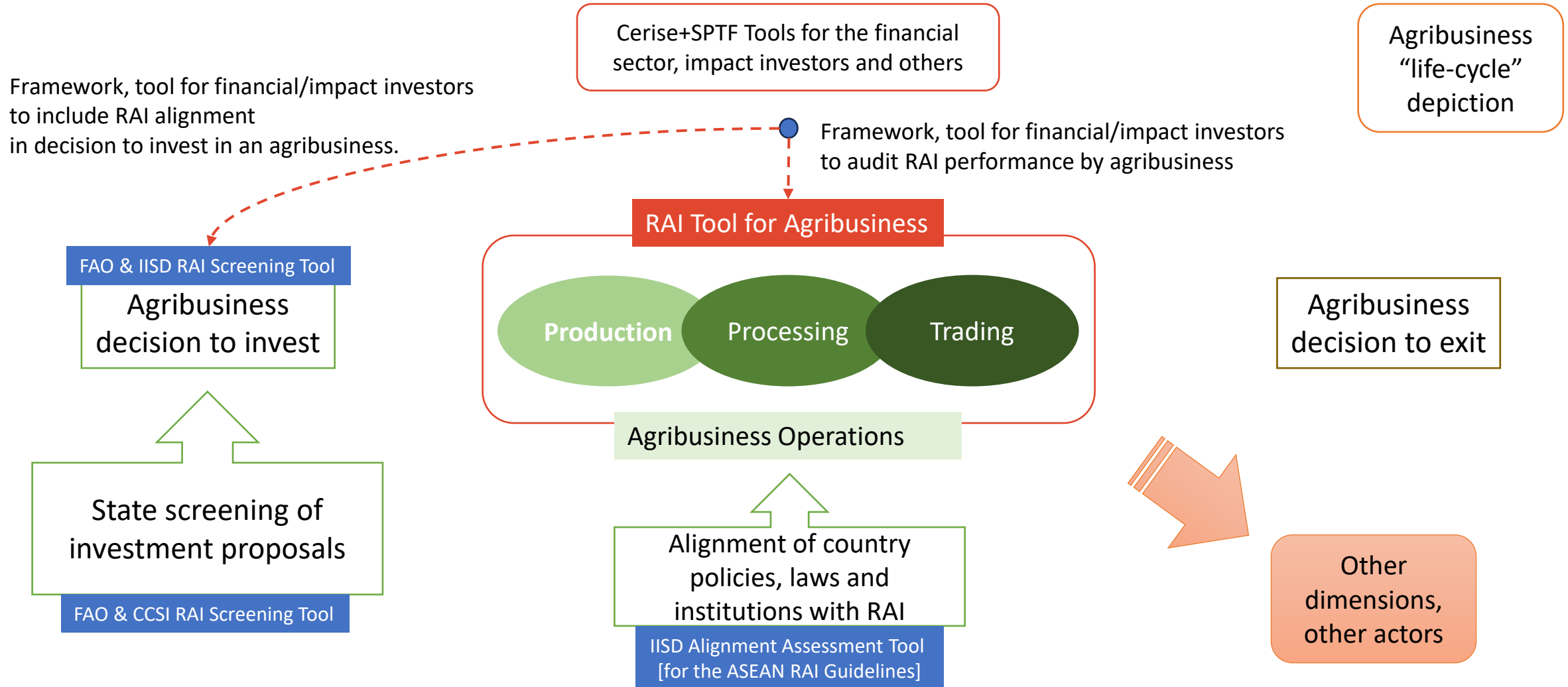
What it is not intended for

- The RAI scoring tool is **NOT intended to replace existing tools** (i.e., we are not reinventing the wheel!).
 - For example, (in using the RAI Tool) agribusinesses can demonstrate their alignment or compliance with a particular question or indicator by referring to measures undertaken in compliance with another tool they use.

Partnerships in building and pilot-testing the RAI Tool



The big picture: building a coherent suite of tools - with partners



Thank You!

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Senior Attorney and Land
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Early-Stage Screening Tool for Responsible
Agribusiness Investments

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RAI Tool for Agribusiness – Structure and content

Duncan Pringle

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Using the RAI Tool for Agribusiness in practice

