ClieNFarms Scaling Toolbox

Trajectories of Change

Ideation and Strategy

Trajectories of change looks at how a system evolves and where innovation comes from. It can help you to understand sources of resistance and resilience to changes in your system and the diversity of alternatives co-evolving at the same time in different trajectories.

This tool helps you look at how a system evolves and where innovation comes from. It helps you to see sources of resilience and those of resistance. It is a visual learning tool and should be used whenever you want to analyse the changes happening to a system and the factors that are affecting the evolution. You can use this tool at the start of a project by going back in time, equally you can use it throughout your project to see influences caused by your work, or those happening concurrently. To use this tool, you need to have a good grasp of the system you are working in.

Trajectories of Change is a tool from the from The Visual Toolbox for Systems Innovation.

Purpose

Trajectories of change is a visual tool to depict how the system, or meso-level in which your challenge is embedded in, has evolved over time. This system evolves and changes because of incremental innovations and the effects coming from the other two levels, macro, and micro. In this sense, Trajectories of change focuses on the horizontal evolution (temporal) of the system as a consequence of vertical relationships between levels and within them.

It can be useful when you need to know and analyse the evolution of the system over time, and the factors underlying such an evolution, to better understand the current dominant solutions that you want to change.

By depicting a timeline of changes happening in the three levels across time, you will gain insight into the dynamics of your system.

Expected outcomes of applying the tool

A comprehensive and visual depiction of the main systemic components of your problem.

Preparation

What needs to be in place for the tool to work properly (ingredients list)
You need a clear picture of the system in which your challenge is embedded, as well as significant sources of information to dig deeper into the past and see how and why solutions changed over time.

Step-by-step guide to using the tool (Recipe)

Please find step by step guide in The Visual Toolbox for Systems Innovation on pages 78 - 85

Suggested follow up steps

Once you get the pathway that led your system to the current status quo, you may want to break down such a status quo into its different constituents. It will give you an accurate and fixed picture of the current system. You can go for either the Context Map or the Flourishing Multi-Level Canvas.

Links and references

The Visual Toolbox for Systems Innovation on pages 78-85.