



# Setting ourselves up to realise Impact of RDI in Water and Sanitation: *Beyond Just Indicators*

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**Water Research Commission**

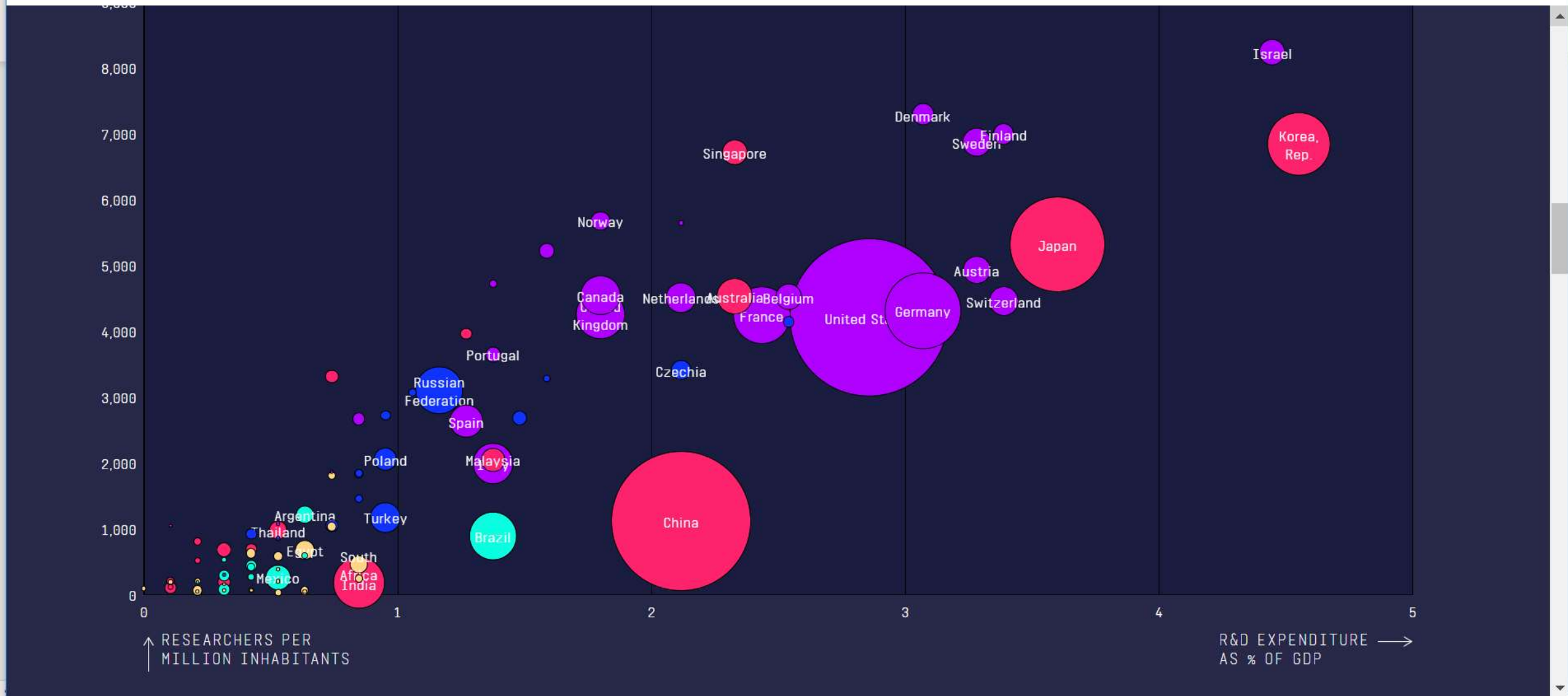
*Supporting sustainable development through research funding, knowledge creation and dissemination*



## Global Expenditure on R&D (UN)

- Global spending on R&D has reached a record high of almost US\$ 1.7 trillion.
- **About 10 countries account for 80% of spending.**
- As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries have pledged to substantially increase public and private R&D spending as well as the number of researchers by 2030.

# Expenditure on R&D



↑ RESEARCHERS PER MILLION INHABITANTS

R&D EXPENDITURE AS % OF GDP →

# Perceptions about R&D

- It is only for academic purpose, and therefore it is for those who are rich
- Its results or outputs are “pies in the sky”
- Results are not implementable, so there is no value for money
- Messages from research are not consistent.

Why does the public's perception of research matter?

## In the end there is failure

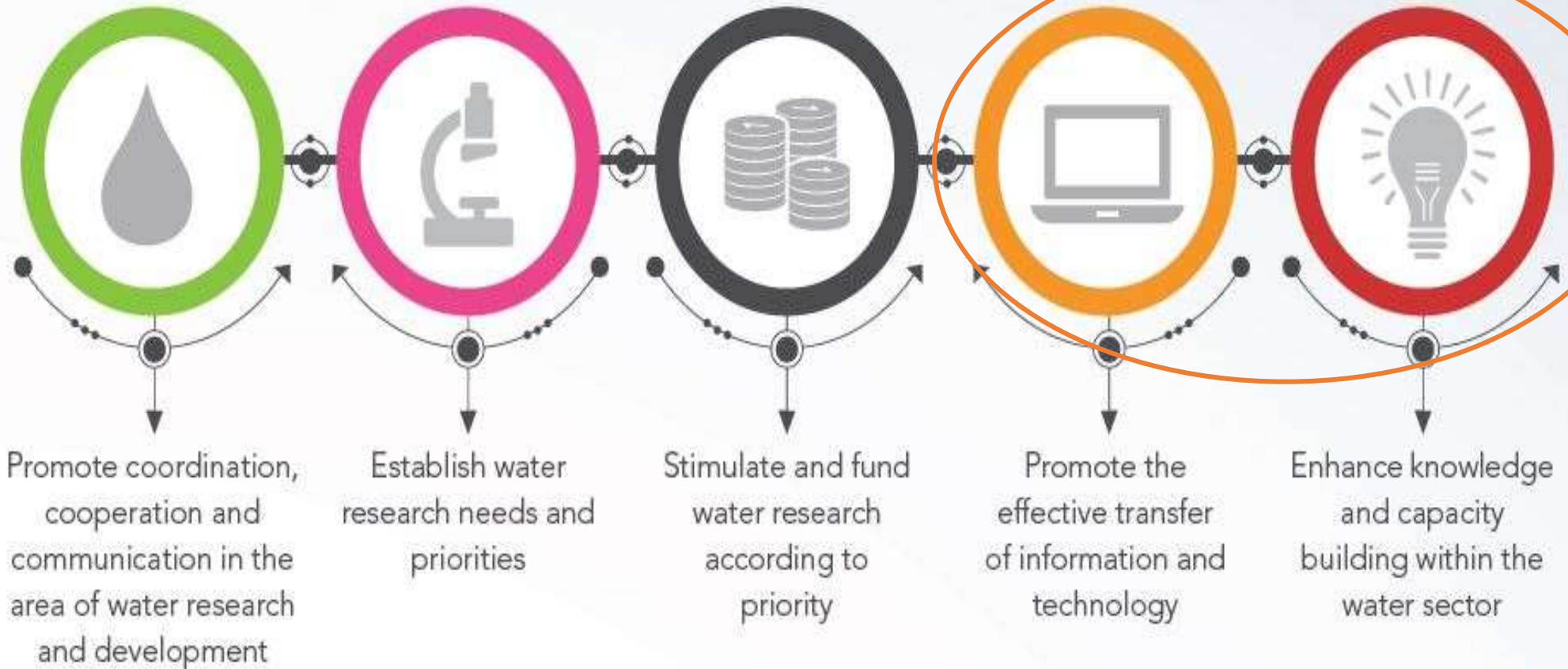
- R&D with innovative developments people are enjoying/using
- Don't see relationship between R&I and Unemployment, Poverty, and Inequality
- Failure to link Innovation with socio-economic growth.



Effort of the WRC  
to make and show  
Impact of R&I

# Actualising our mandates

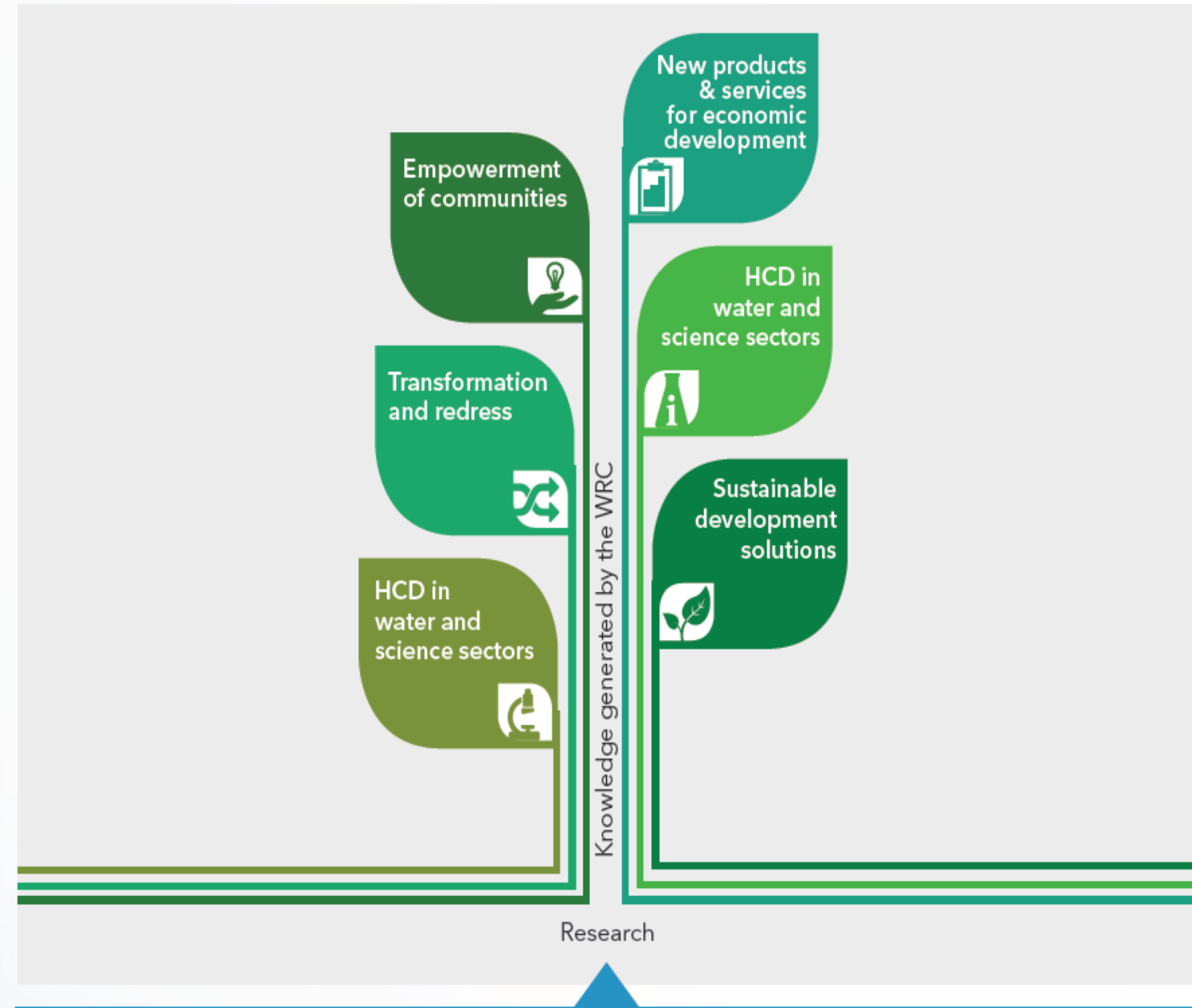
THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE WRC IS TO:



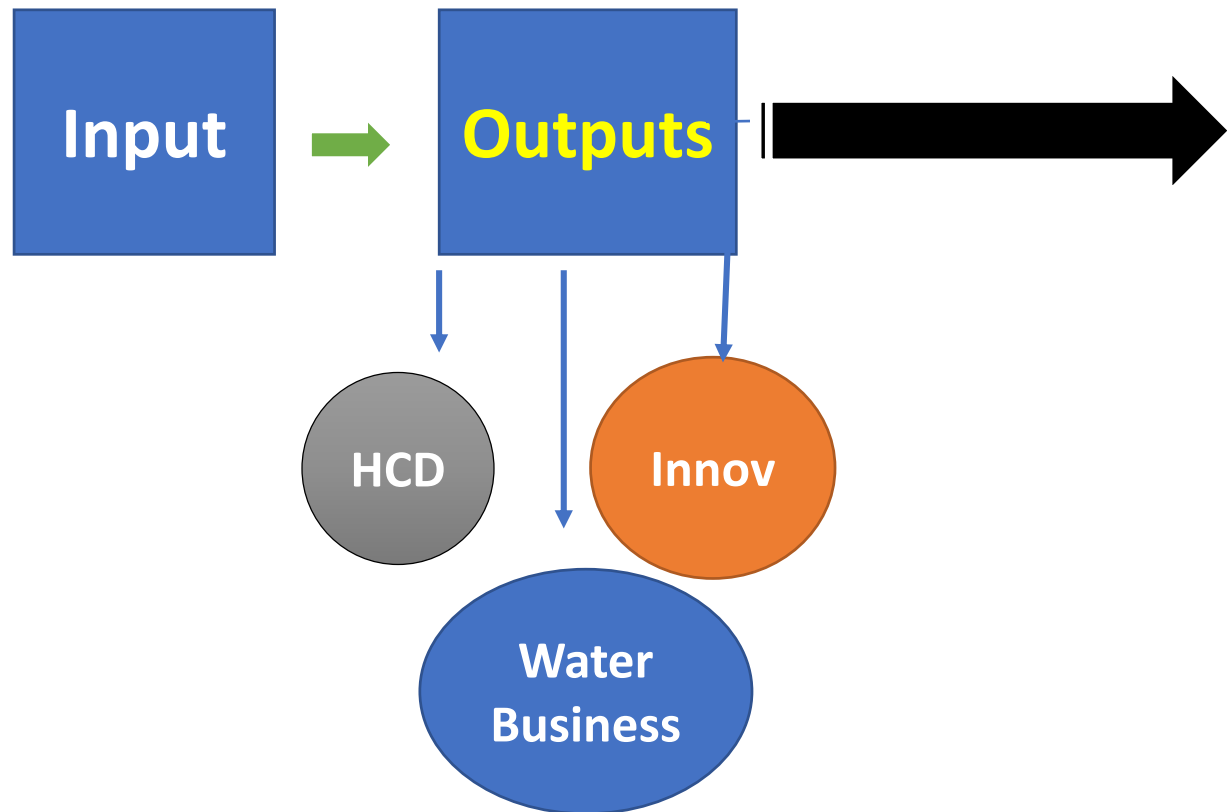


WATER  
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COMMISSION

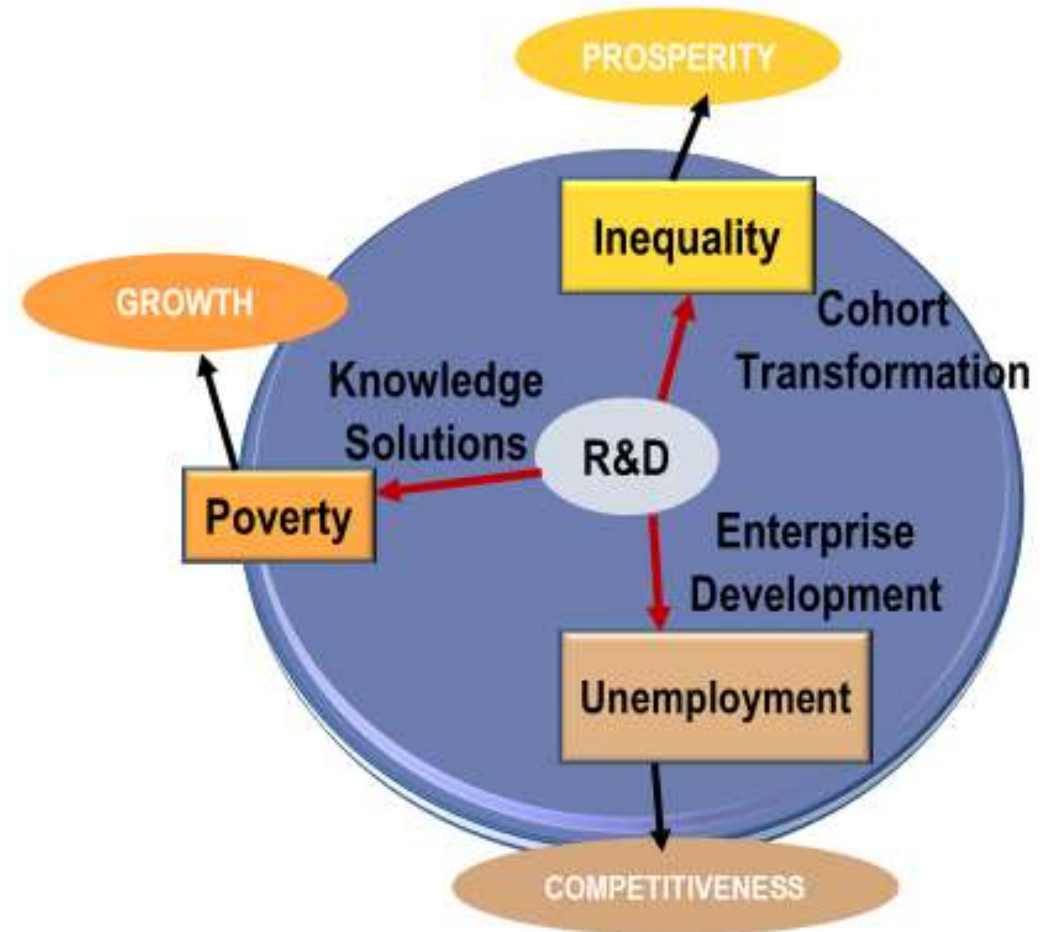
# Outcomes Orientated R&D



# The Journey towards realising Impact



## The Triple Challenge







# R&I Indicators

**Output Focused**

**Outcome Focused**

Research Projects

Research Actors

PL   **Students & postdocs**   Institutions

Transformation

Policy & decision making

Improvements

Industrialisation (commercialisation & SMEs)

# Impact must be beyond just Indicators for the investors (tax payers) to see RoI



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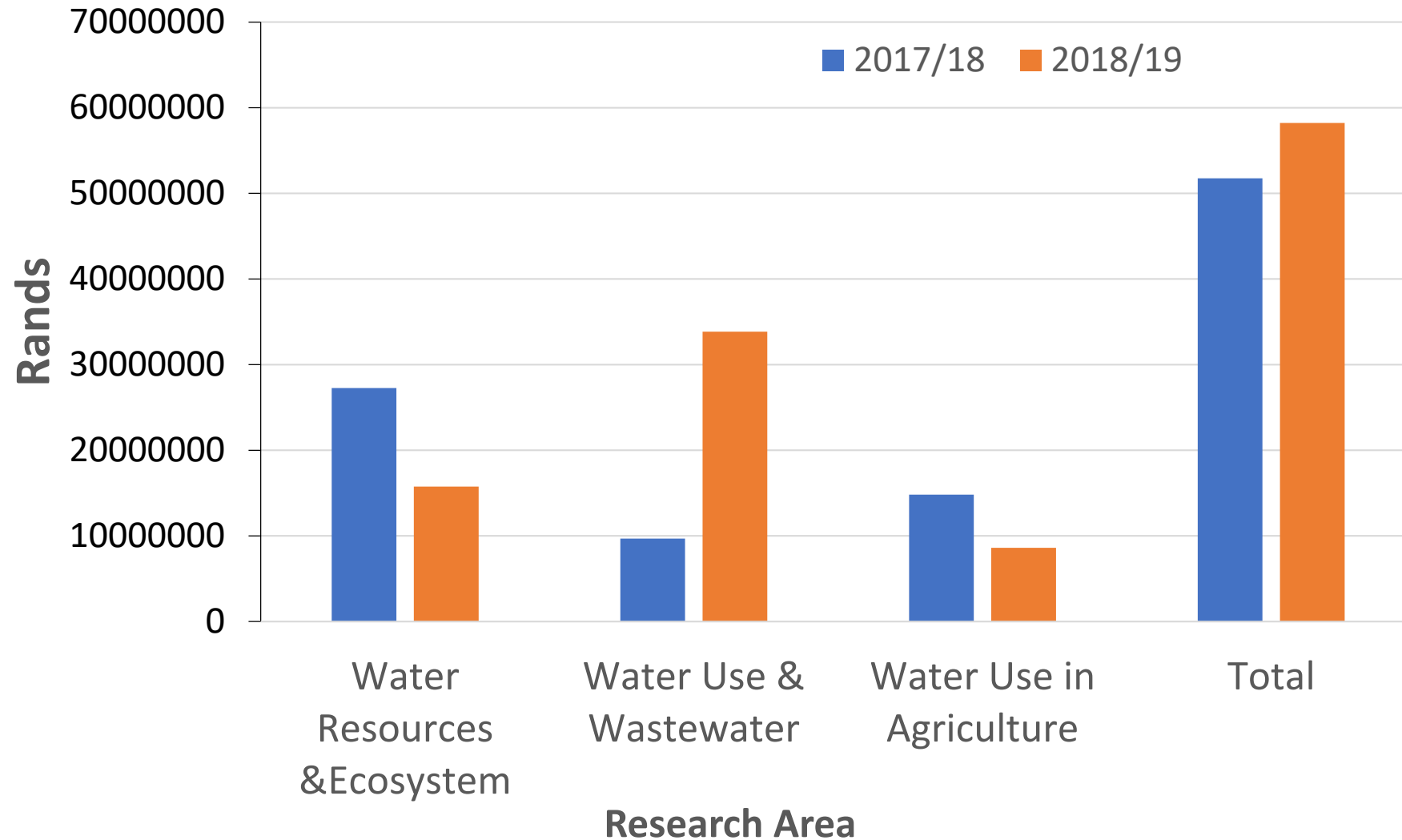
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# Innovations in Relation to R&D budgets



- Improving the *“Funding Use Efficiency”*

## The Triple (wicked) Challenges

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Inequality

**Litmus Tests for South Africa**



# Thank You

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