

33RD UN/IAF WORKSHOP • ANTALYA • OCTOBER 2026

A CASE STUDY FROM THE GAMBIA

Building Economic Resilience from Space

How satellite data and local capacity support better decisions on the ground

Fama Jallow

Co-Founder & CEO, Hisia Space



FIELD SURVEY, THE GAMBIA

Satellites see the field. Local people explain it.

FROM ORBIT

Scale

- Vegetation health
- Rainfall and water
- Land-surface change
- Whole-country coverage, every few days

+

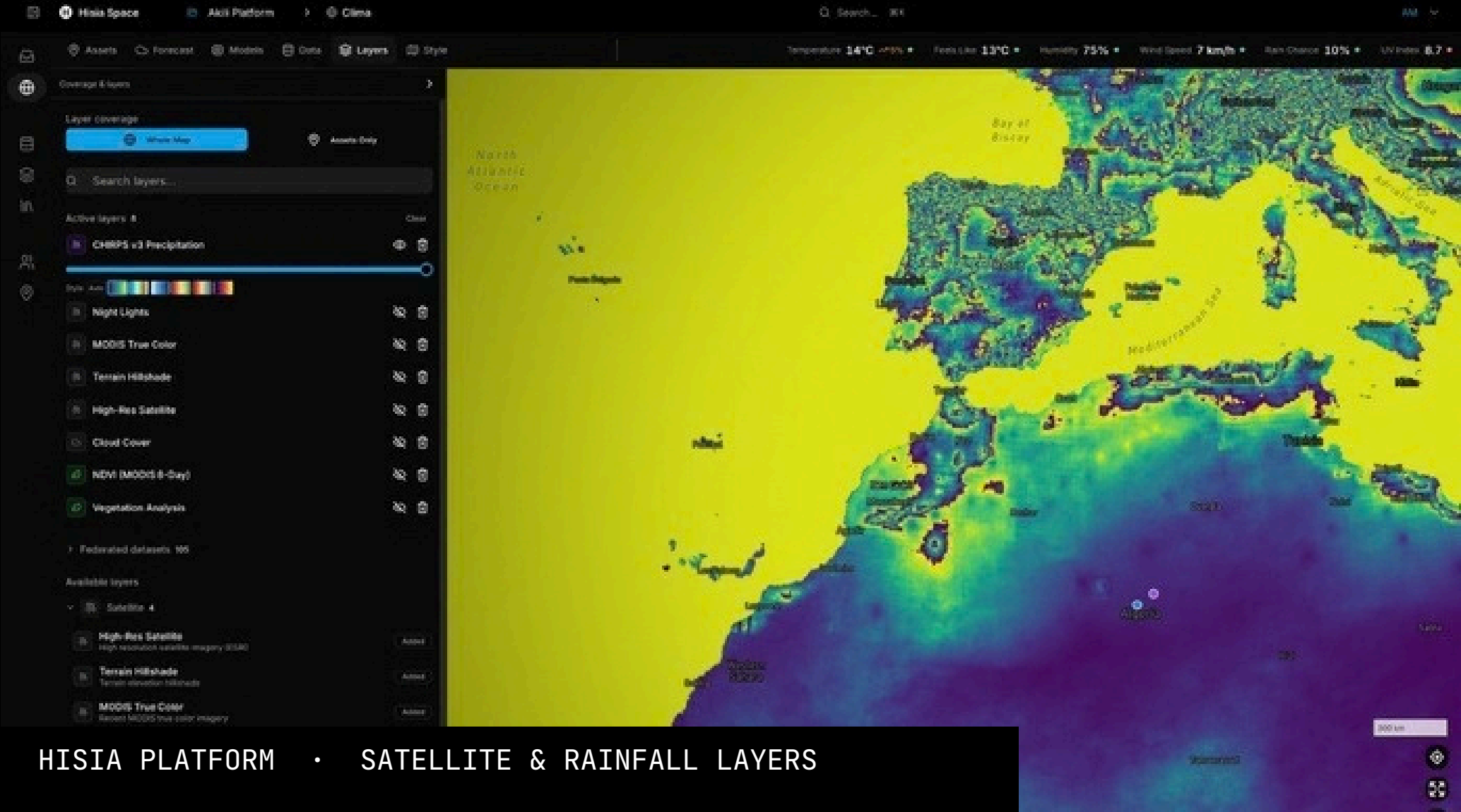
ON THE GROUND

Meaning

- Actual crop type and growth stage
- Field boundaries
- Soil and irrigation conditions
- Observed stress or damage
- Local farming practice

The value is not in the data. It is in the local capability to turn it into trusted decisions.

Ongoing pilot on Gambian farms



HISIA PLATFORM • SATELLITE & RAINFALL LAYERS



DRONE OPERATIONS



FIELD VALIDATION

Satellite and field records combined into one locally relevant data layer.

Young Gambians are the national data workforce



Aerial survey

Mapping fields and crop conditions from the air.



Ground sensing

Installing and reading soil and water sensors.



Field validation

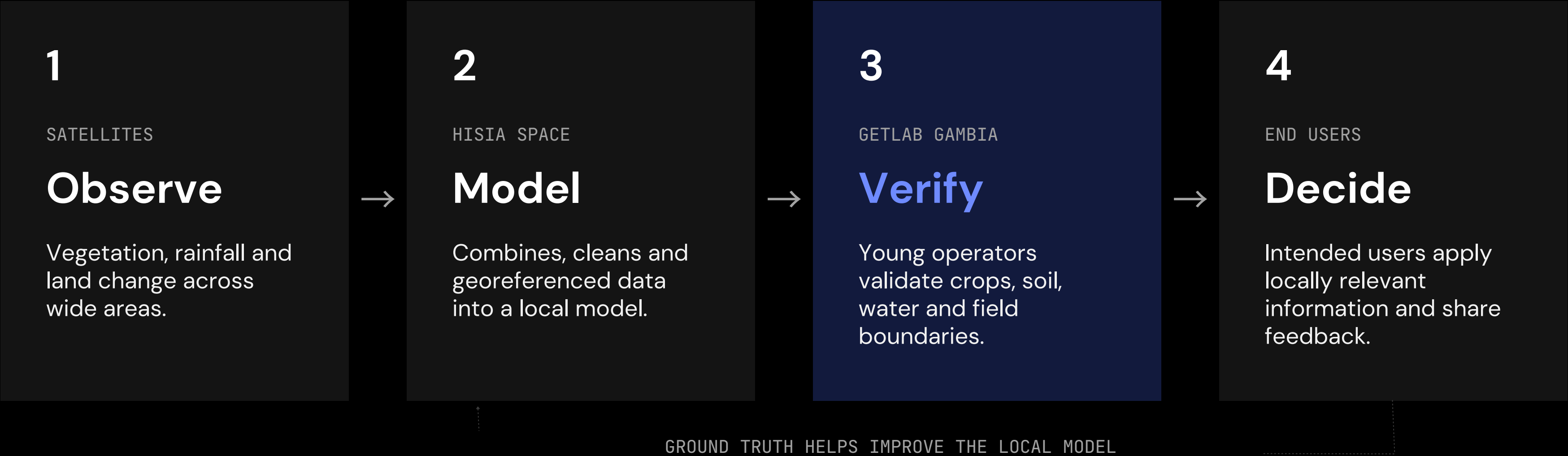
Recording crop, stage and stress to a fixed protocol.



Farmer engagement

Explaining results in the local language, on the same visit.

A local data loop designed to improve over time



The goal is trusted local services that institutions could use.

Open data is a starting point.

Local capability is the asset.

Better information

Satellite data plus verified local observations can support more relevant agricultural and environmental insight.

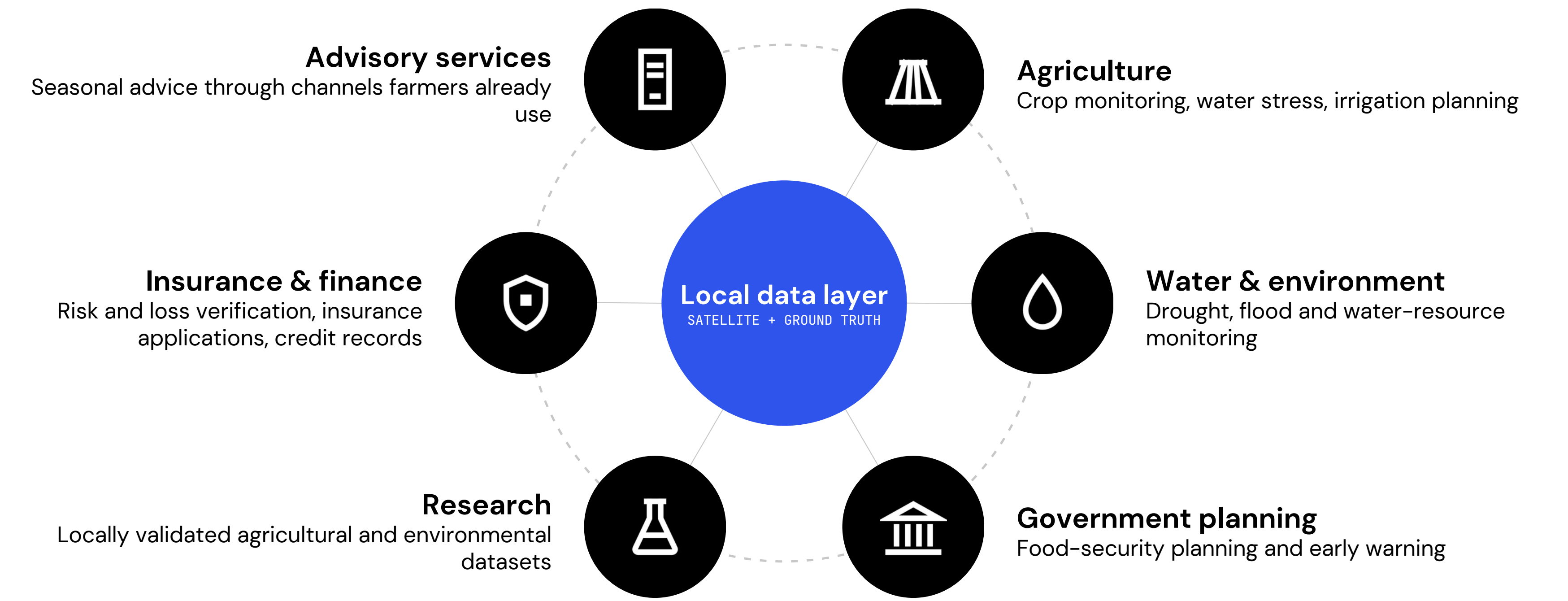
Local skills and participation

Young people help create value through drone operations, field sensing and geospatial data.

Reusable local data infrastructure

One season's data can contribute to a reusable local data layer for farmers, research, government, finance and new businesses.

One local data layer. Multiple possible uses.



Potential uses enabled by the infrastructure, not yet delivered results.

Three lessons any country can apply

01

You do not need to own a satellite to join the space economy.

Free and open satellite data can support regular monitoring.

02

Validate global models against local reality.

Accuracy and trust come from ground truth collected at home.

03

Let citizens create the value, not only consume it.

Local participation keeps skills and economic value in the country.



A BLUEPRINT FOR REPLICATION

Technology travels. Trust is built locally.

1

Start with the user

Design around the institution that will act on the data.

2

Train local people

Build skills where the data is needed.

3

Pay for field data

Treat ground data collection as skilled technical work.

4

Use familiar channels

Deliver through tools people already use.

PARTNERSHIP

Participation in the space economy can begin with one better decision on one farm.

We welcome partnerships with governments, research institutions, agricultural organisations and Earth observation providers.

SPEAKER

Fama Jallow

Co-Founder & CEO, Hisia Space

CONTACT

fama@hisia.space

hisia.space

FIELD PARTNER

GetLab Gambia

getlab.gm