



GLOBAL EVENT

JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

Research Impact evaluation through participatory methods: First lessons from Cirad experience

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Outline

1. “ImpresS”, a collaborative methodological approach of research impact assessment
 - Key concepts and principles
 - A case study approach
 - Five-step evaluation process with participatory tools

2. ImpresS first lessons
 - Understanding the construction of outcomes
 - Mapping and characterizing the “learning situations”



Two main scientific communities and approaches

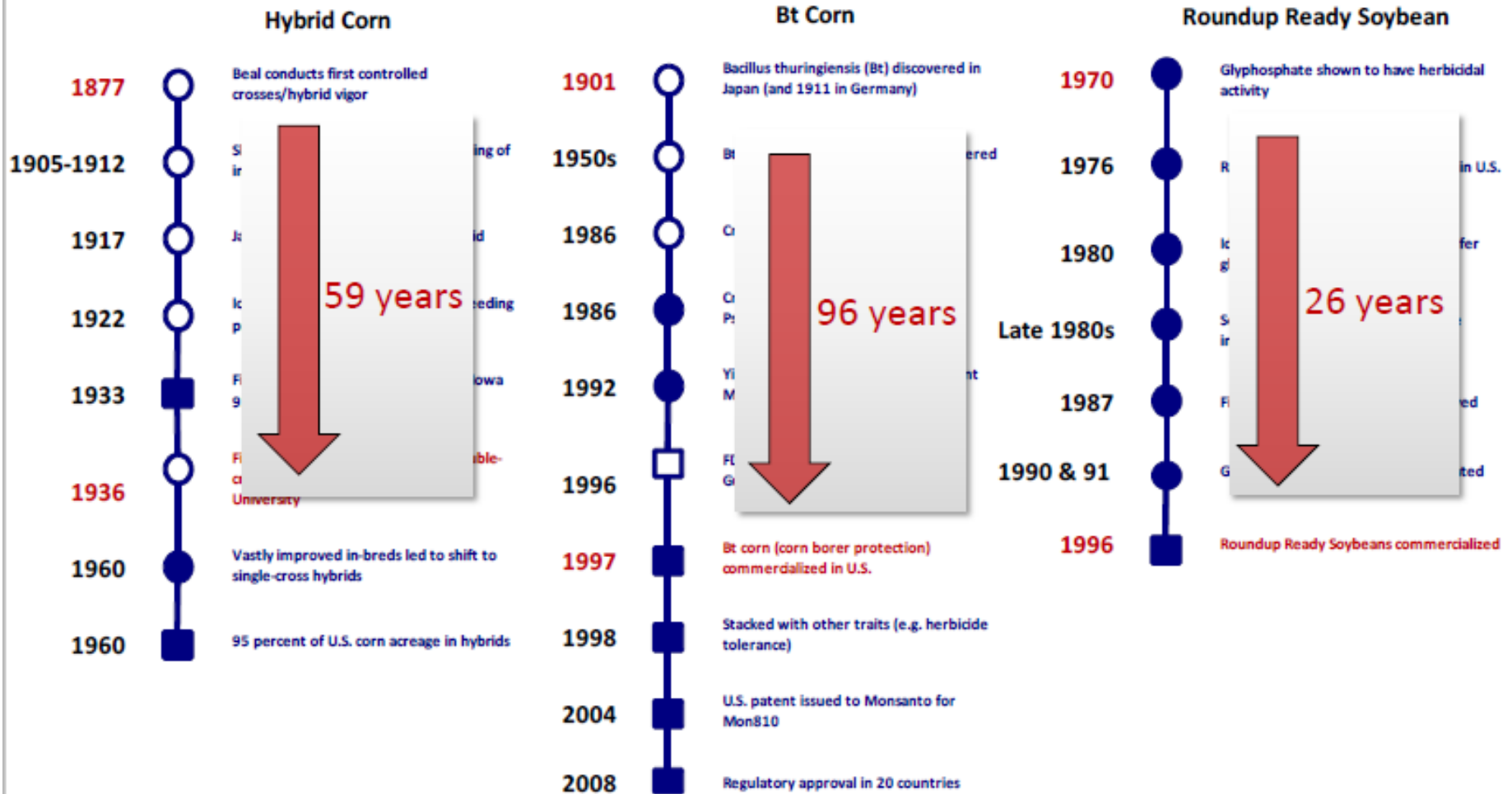
A first community uses financial evaluation of the impacts of research, based on models involving surpluses and cost-benefit assessment

- proving research effectiveness by quantitative measurements
- dominant but controverted
- not effective without very good databases (developing countries).

A second community uses systemic approaches to link research with development along the innovation process

- understanding processes and causal mechanisms leading to impact
- quantitative tools to address questions of systemic approaches
- characterizing the conditions under which agricultural research contributes to development

Illustrative Technology Development Lags (US)

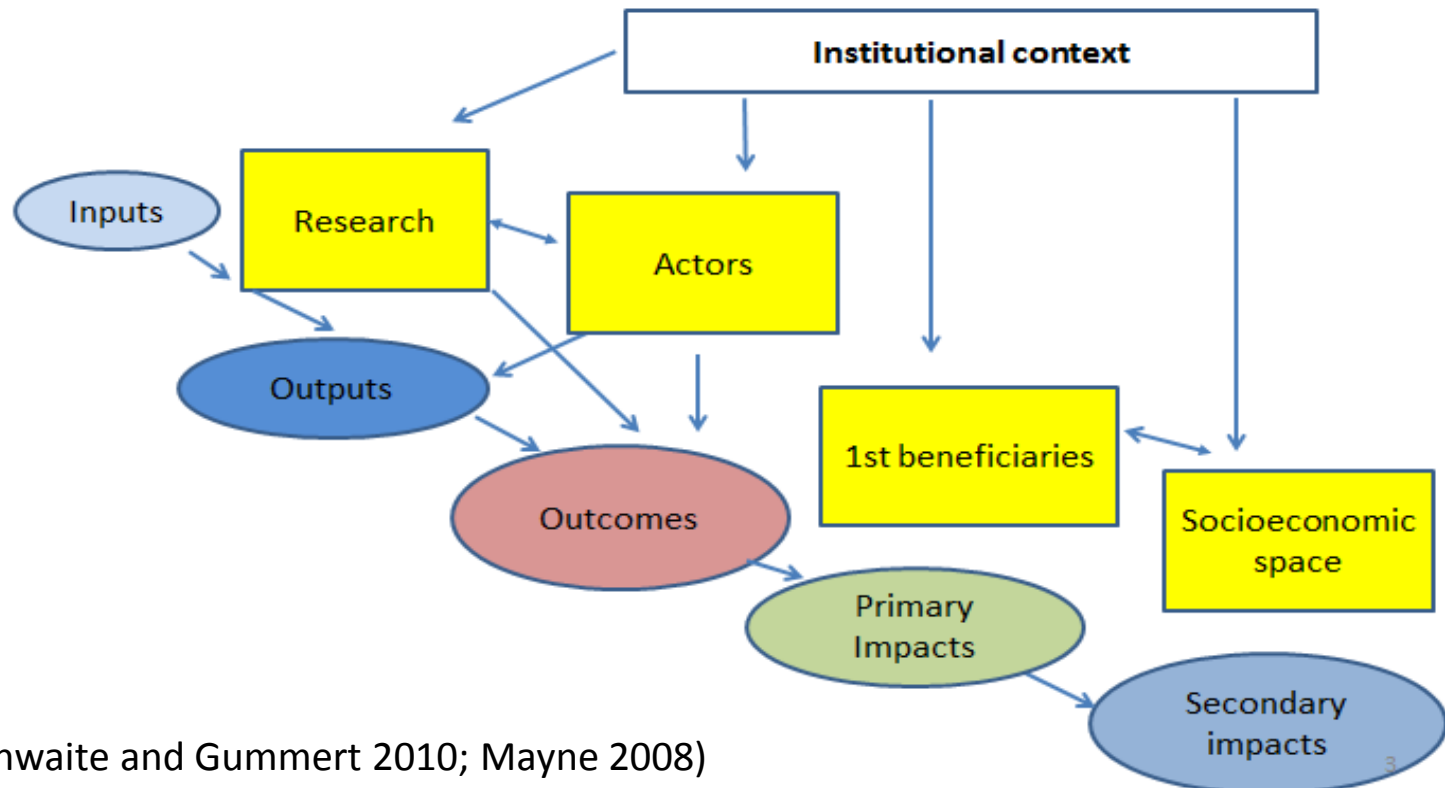


ImpresS based on a case study approach



“ImpresS” key concepts and principles



- Understanding the **impact pathway**
- A **participatory** approach to document and measure impact
- A focus on **capacity building** as a key contribution to the impact
- A focus on research impacts on **public policies**





(Douthwaite and Gummert 2010; Mayne 2008)

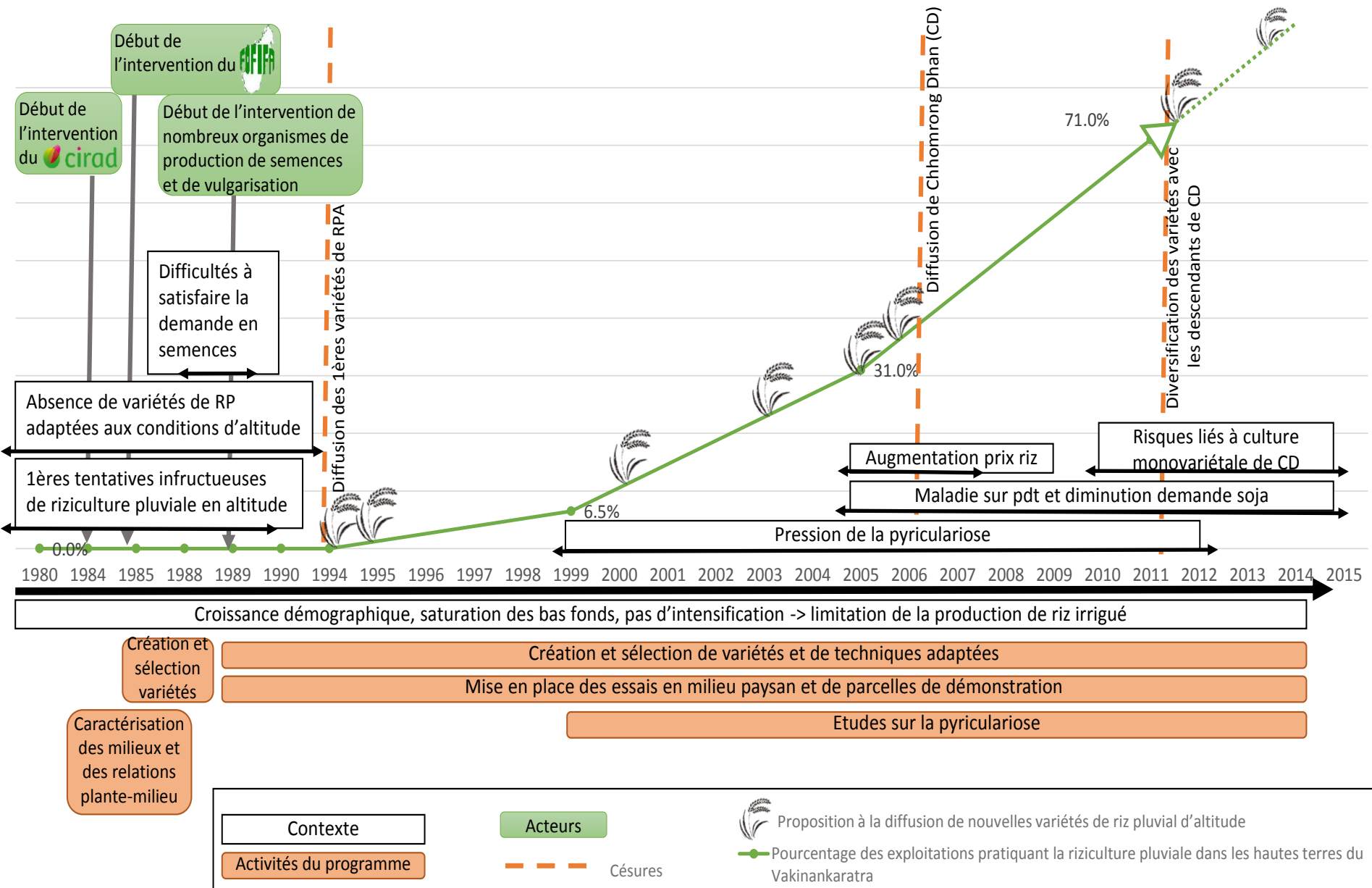
is a five-step evaluation process



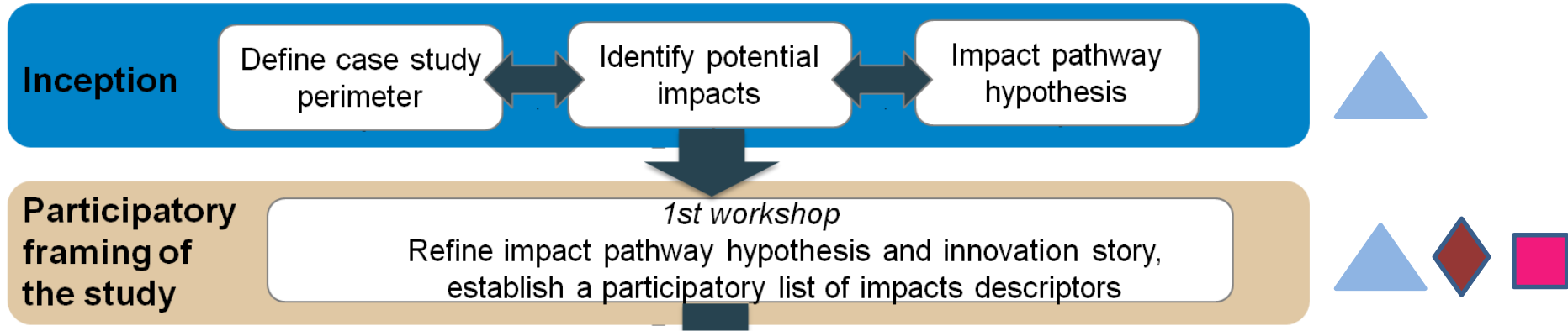
 Participatory workshop
 Semi-structured interviews



 Focus group
 Survey



Chronogram « Highlands rainfed rice Madagascar »



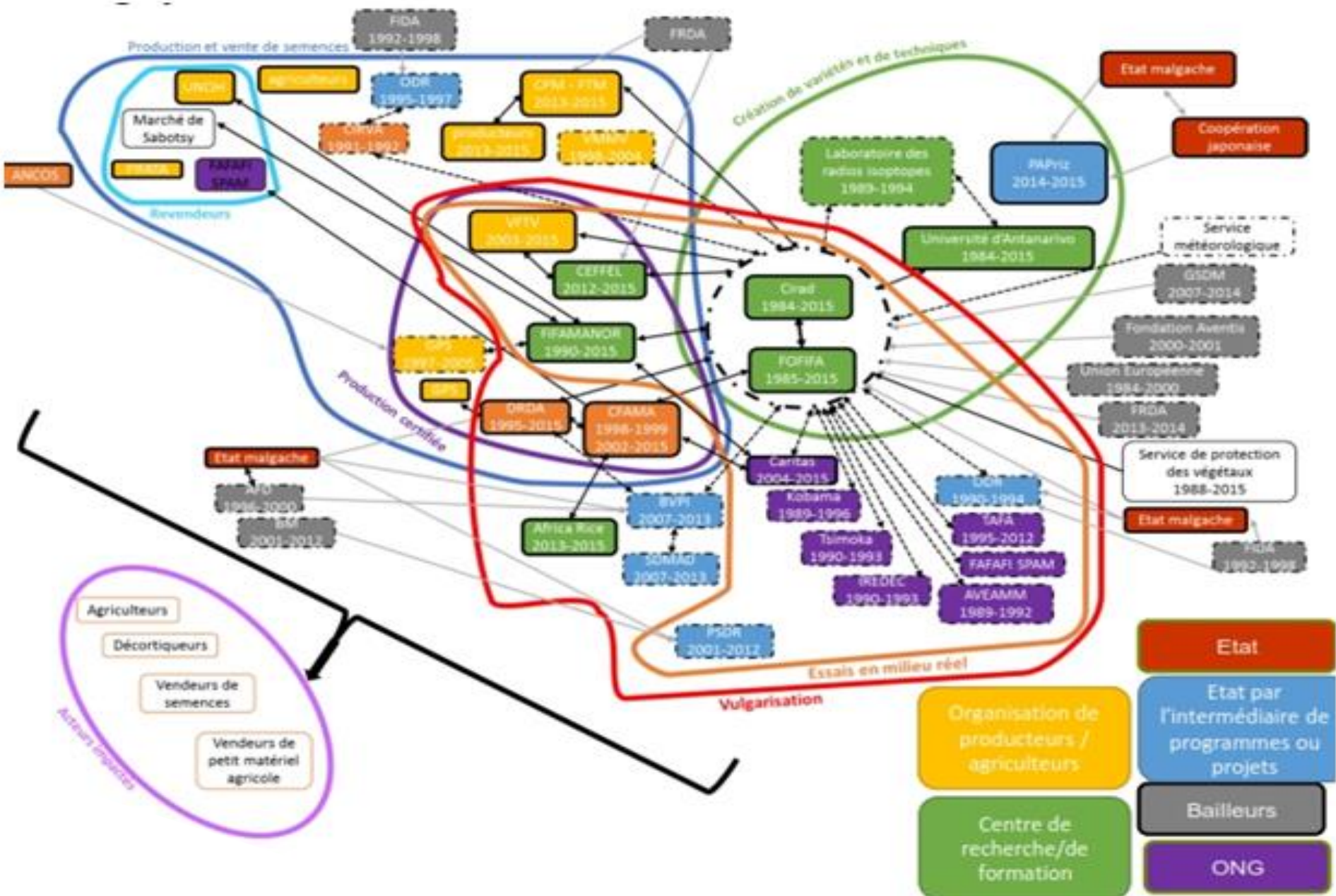
is a five-step evaluation process



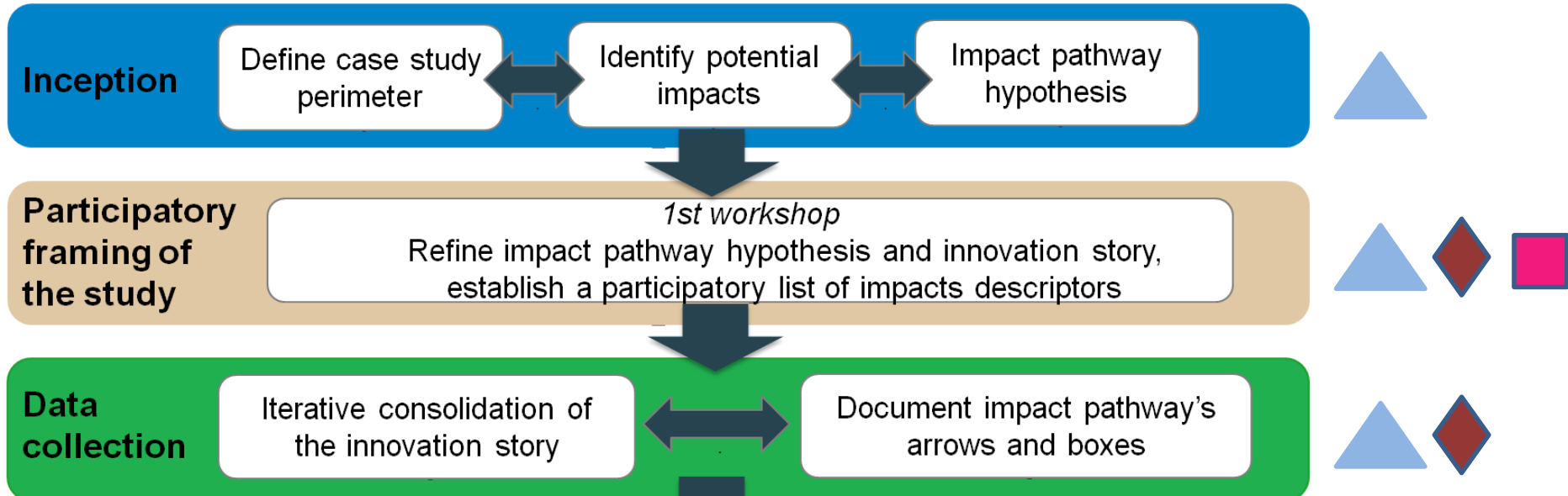
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Stakeholders mapping « Highlands rainfed rice Madagascar »



is a five-step evaluation process



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Impact pathway « Highlands rainfed rice Madagascar »

Input

Les équipes de recherche ont mobilisé ces ressources....

output

Pour produire ces résultats de recherche....

outcome

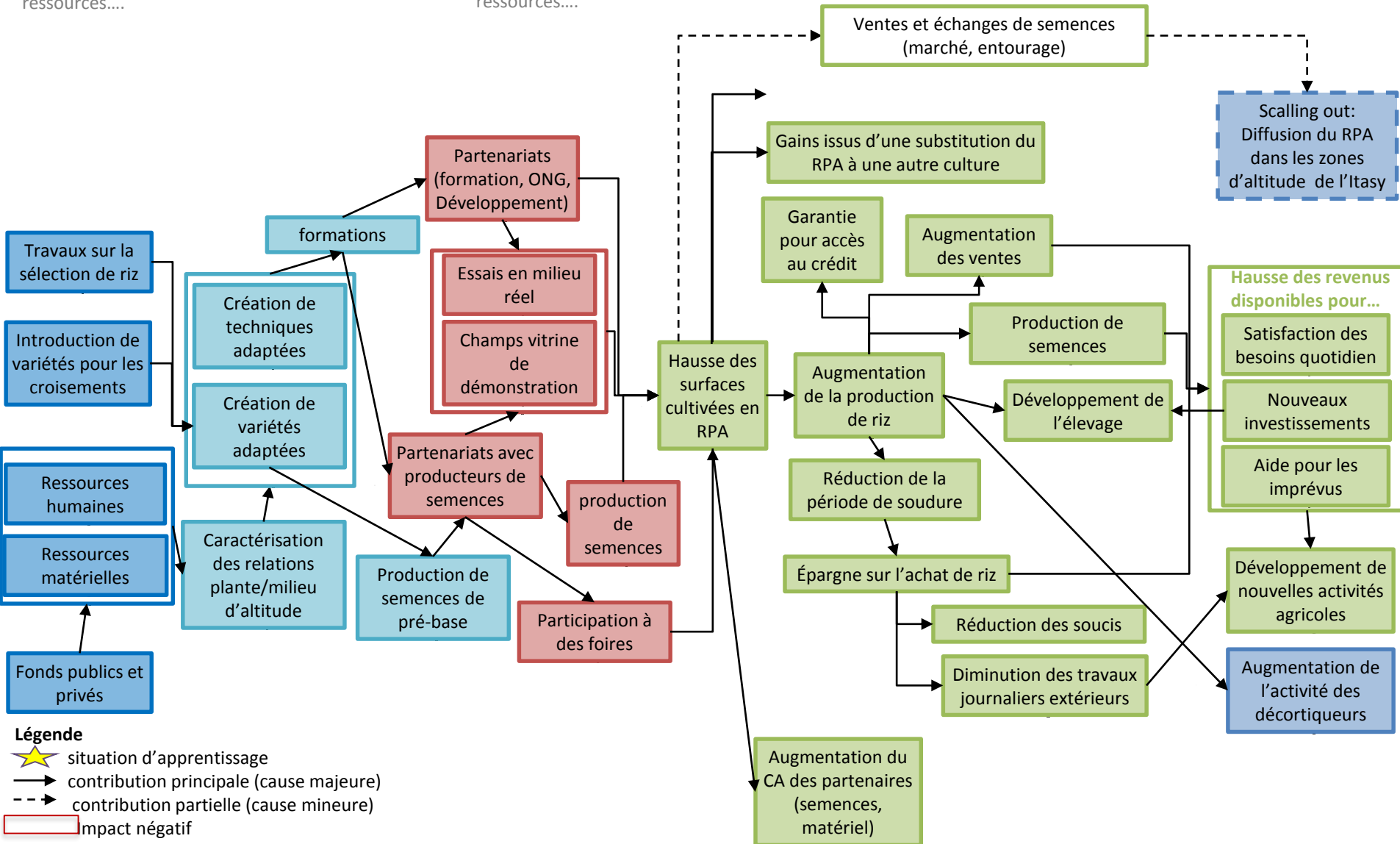
Les bénéficiaires/acteurs intermédiaires se sont saisis des ressources....

Impact 1

Ces ressources ont provoqués chez les bénéficiaires directs....

Impact 2

Ces ressources ont provoqués chez les bénéficiaires indirects....



Impact pathway « Highlands rainfed rice Madagascar »

Input

Les équipes de recherche ont mobilisé ces ressources....

output

Pour produire ces résultats de recherche....

outcome

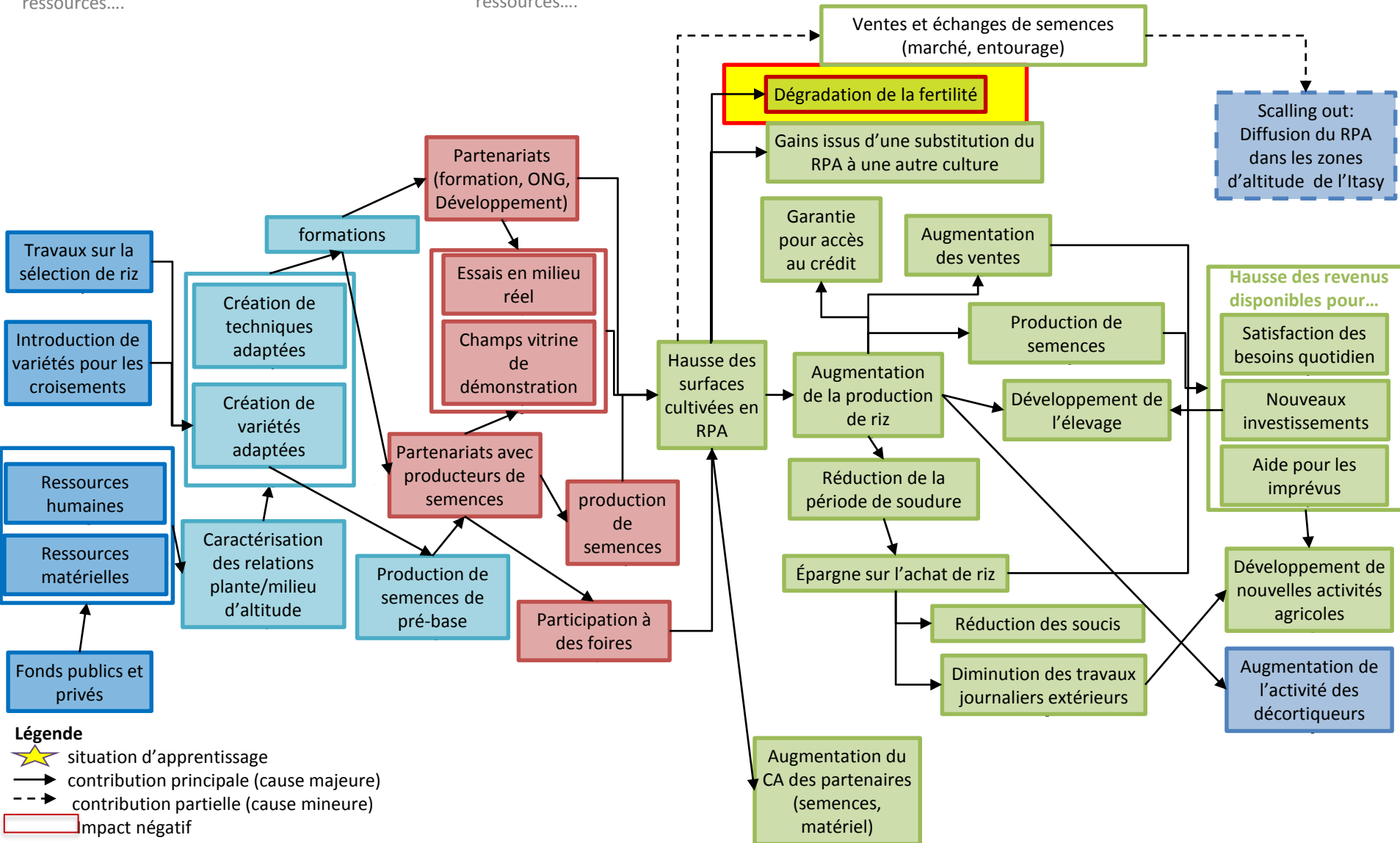
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Impact 1

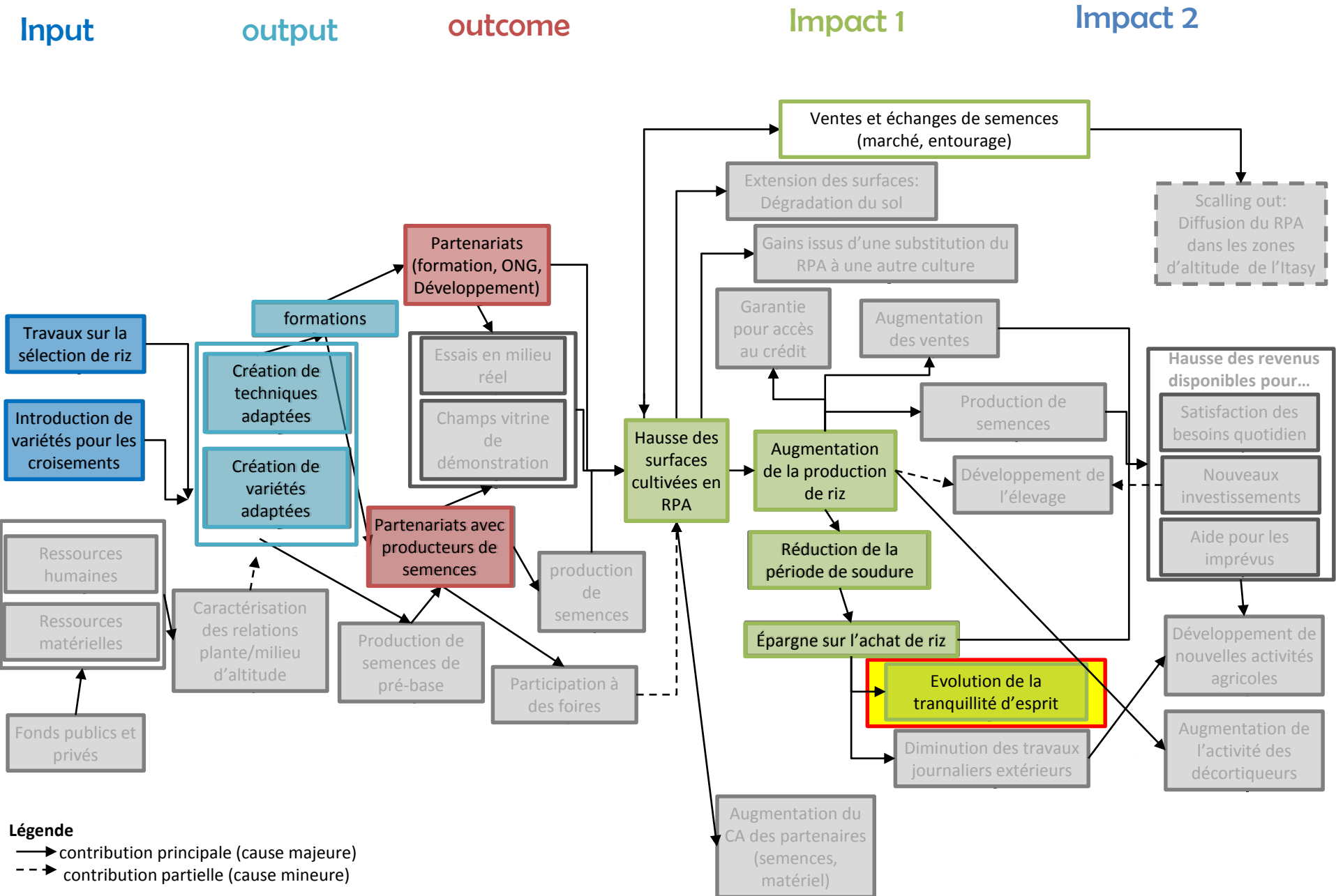
Ces ressources ont provoqués chez les bénéficiaires directs....

Impact 2

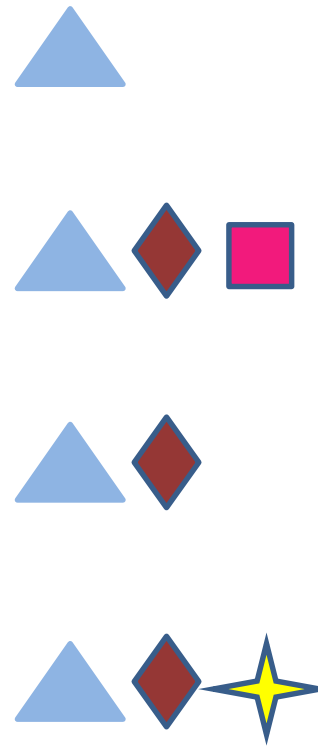
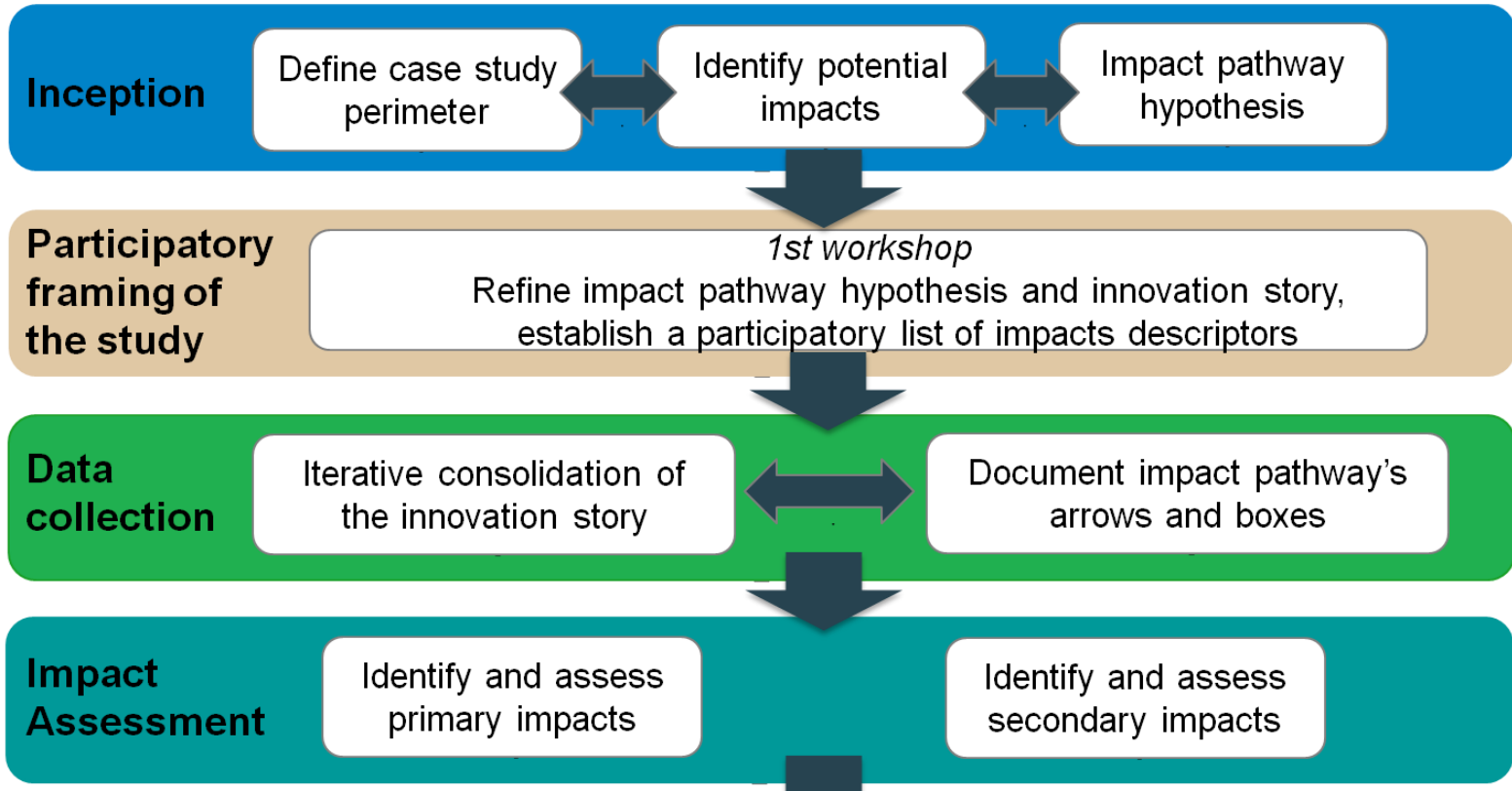
Ces ressources ont provoqués chez les bénéficiaires indirects....







Focus on an unexpected impact « peaceful mind »



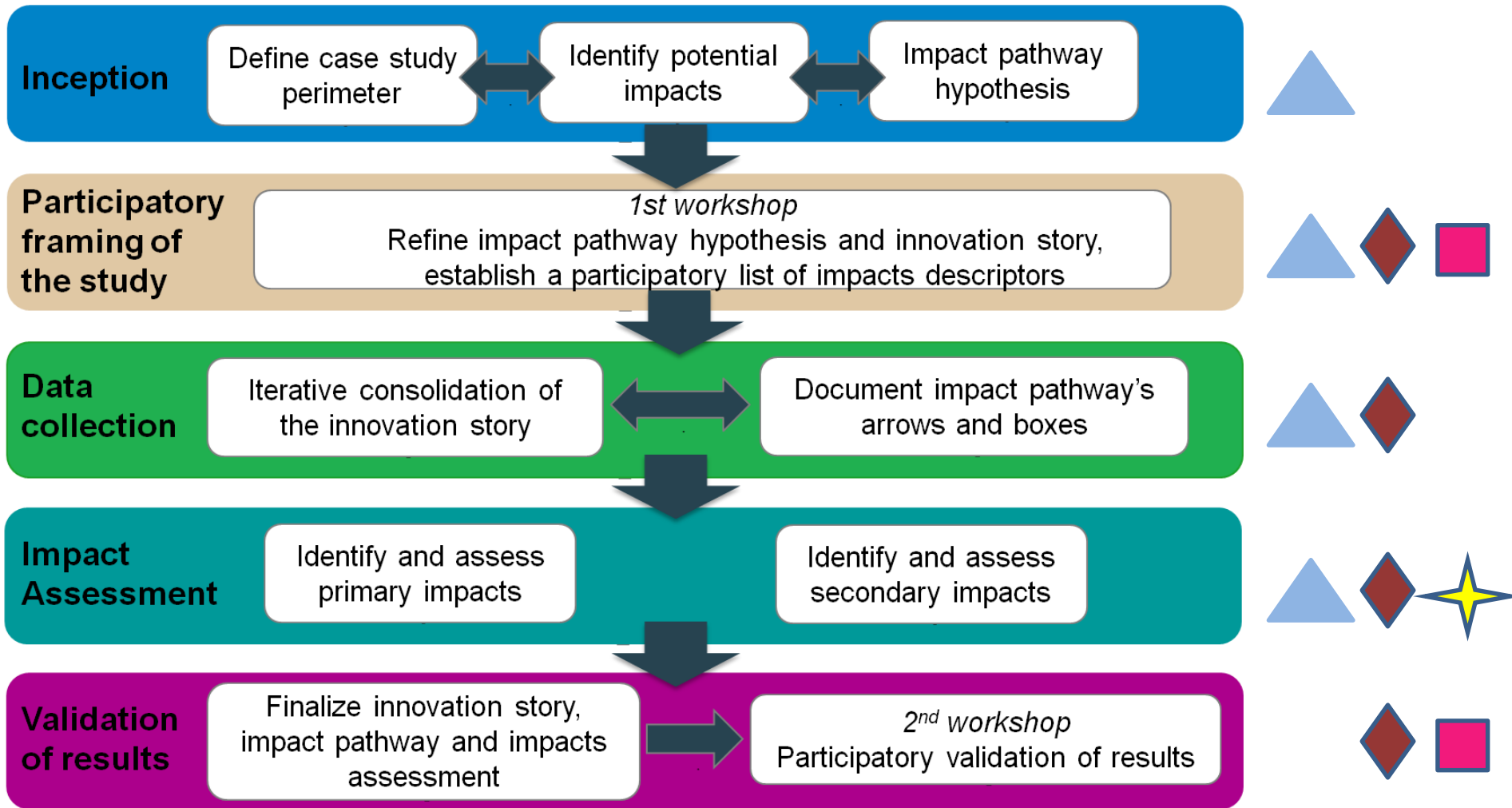
is a five-step evaluation process







 Participatory workshop
 Semi-structured interviews

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is a five-step evaluation process

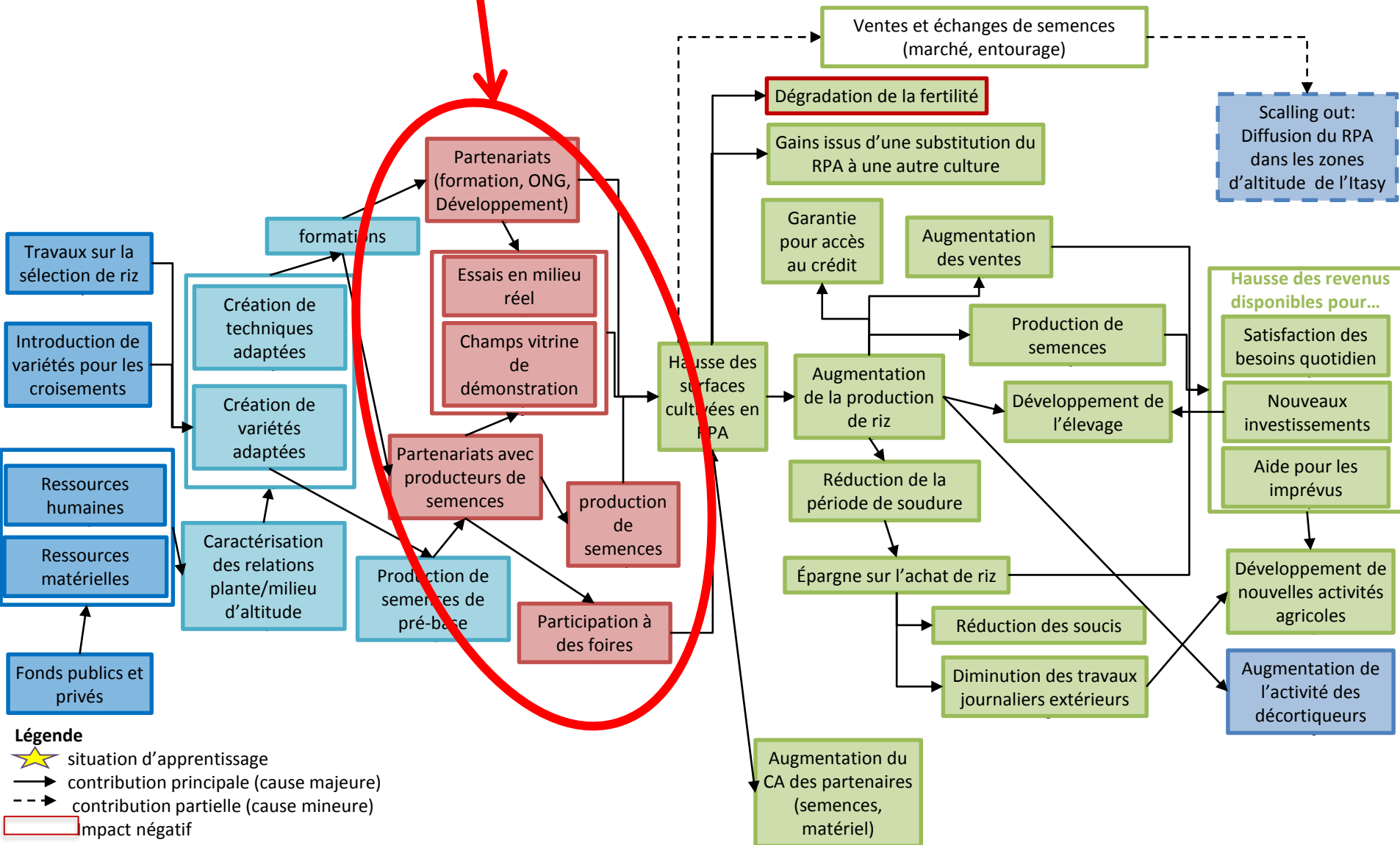


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ImpresS first lessons

1. Understanding the construction of outcomes



Understanding the construction of outcomes...

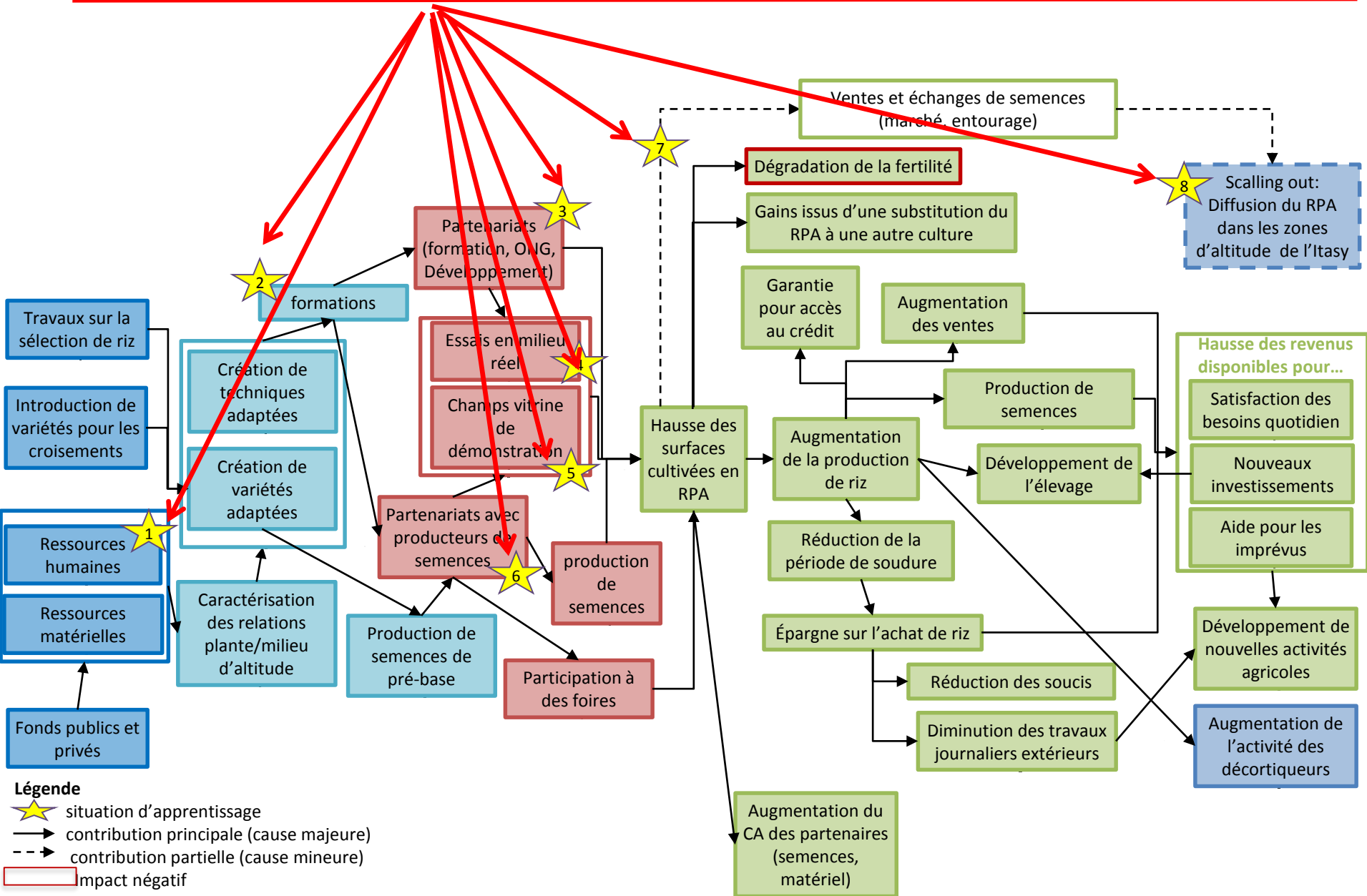
1- Outcomes are places of interactions between research and stakeholders that generate key resources to innovation process

2- Several kinds of outcomes identified:

- Use of a technology or a norm;**
- Promotion or training dispositive;**
- Creation/reinforcement of production/marketing organizations;**
- Creation/reinforcement of unformal partnerships;**
- Creation/reinforcement of coordination/evaluation organizations**

3- For each kind of outcomes, different stakeholders are implied, different actions of research are taken with specific modalities, different influences on impact, etc.

2. Mapping and characterizing the learning situations



Mapping and characterizing “learning situations”

- 1- Careful surveys of 43 learning situations (32 implying research) to understand how these learning situations contribute to impact**
- 2- diverse learning spaces along the impact pathways : planned or not ? punctual or not ? At what stage of IP ? Implying researcher or not ? Which stakeholders implied ? How many ? etc.**
- 3- Analysis of the specific role of researcher in these learning situations: expert, trainer, mediator, coordinator or ... learner !**
- 4- Trying to understand how these learning situations strengthen stakeholders’ capacities that contributes to innovation process and impact.**

Conclusion

- **Interactions between researchers and other actors throughout the innovation process are essential. They are a major incentive to use participatory methods like ImpresS to analyze and document research impacts.**
- **Our cases studies show the essential role of research to generate outcomes through different types of interactions, in particular learning situations. These outcomes become key resources to enable outputs use and generate different impact pathways.**
- **For Cirad, the ultimate objective is to reinforce the culture of impact amongst its scientists and research teams, so they can better structure their interactions with the other actors in innovation process for development.**

Thank you for your attention !

More information on the case studies:

<http://impress-impact-recherche.cirad.fr/>

Thanks to CIRAD's case owners, the co-owners in the South and the interns associated with the case teams within the **ImpresS** project, thanks to whom the impact pathway of each of the 13 cases was determined, and particularly to those among them who took part in the outcome identification



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