



Involved PhD research – a case study between agronomy and social sciences

A reflection on PhD research concerning health of
common bean in the context of artisan seed production

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Emergence of the research topic from a *hot debate* on plant health



Involved research:

Potential to involve a multitude of actors

The researcher gets fully involved with a project and accepts risks and uncertainties



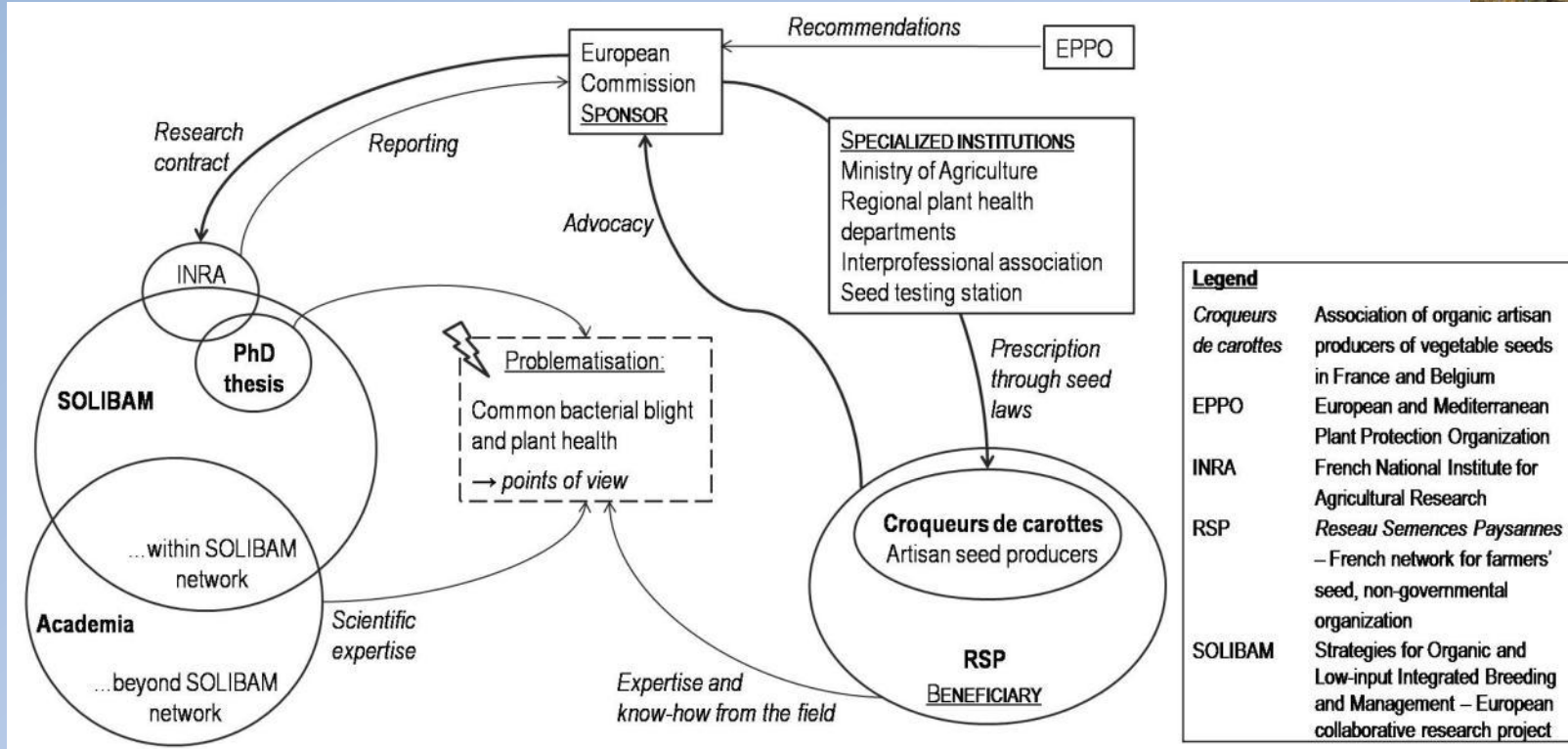
The essence of our approach

Reflection on the PhD research conducted since 2012 to better describe

- a) the roles, involvement, motivation and points of view of research partners
- b) the evolution of the research question as the project advances



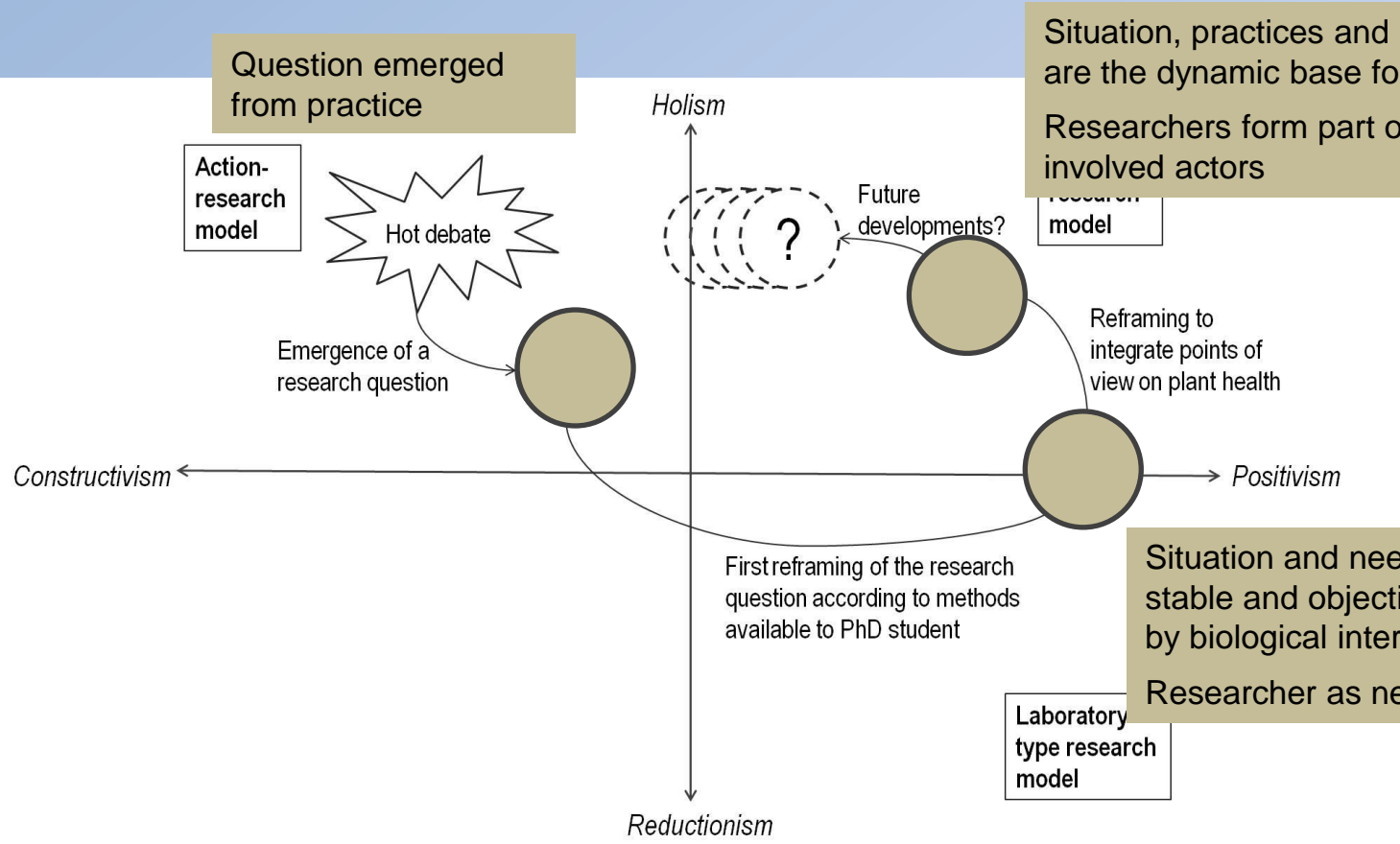
Positive outcomes so far: Roles of partners



- Awareness of one's own situation in a network of actors
- Discussing the network with partners



Positive outcomes so far: Research questions



Situation, practices and needs of actors are the dynamic base for learning

Researchers form part of a network of involved actors

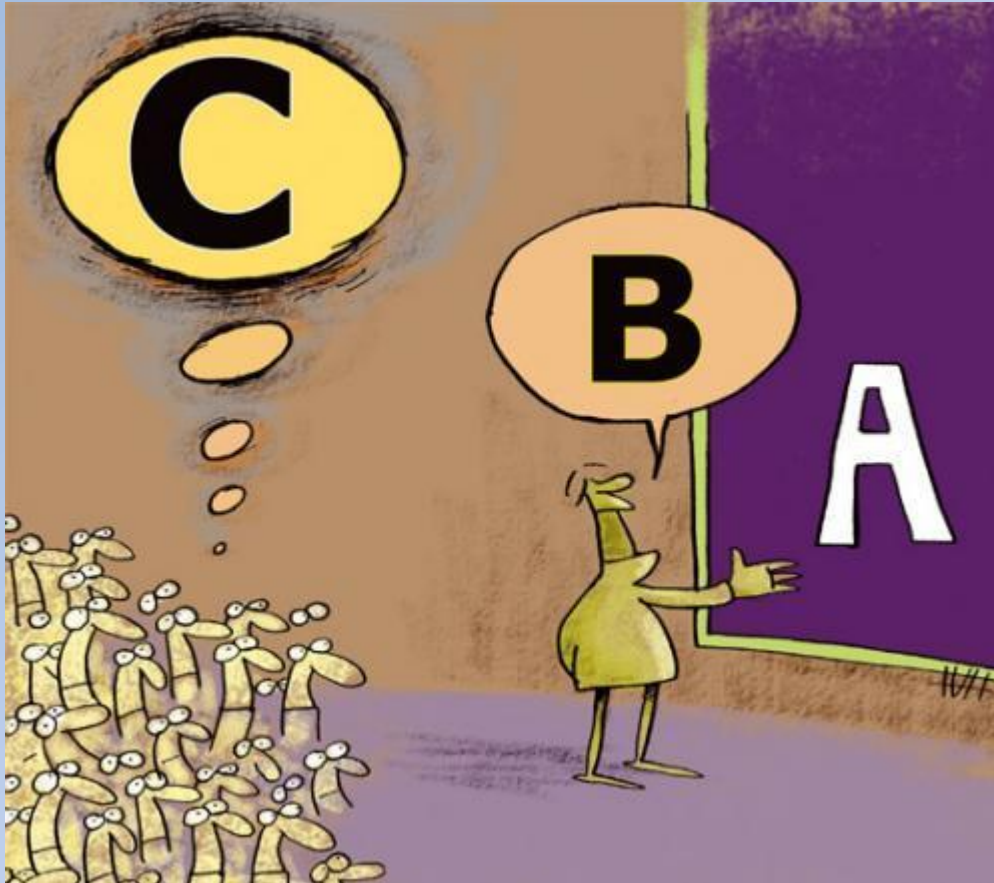
Situation and needs of practitioners as stable and objective entities affected by biological interactions

Researcher as neutral observer



In itself a finding of this research!

Main lessons I have learned (1)



Main lessons I have learned (2)



Main lessons I have learned (3)





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Challenges to interdisciplinary and action-based approaches in PhD research:



Short period of time

Social and professional competences required



Risk for PhD student: research results not planned for in advance

