

# Participatory Plant Breeding and its challenges

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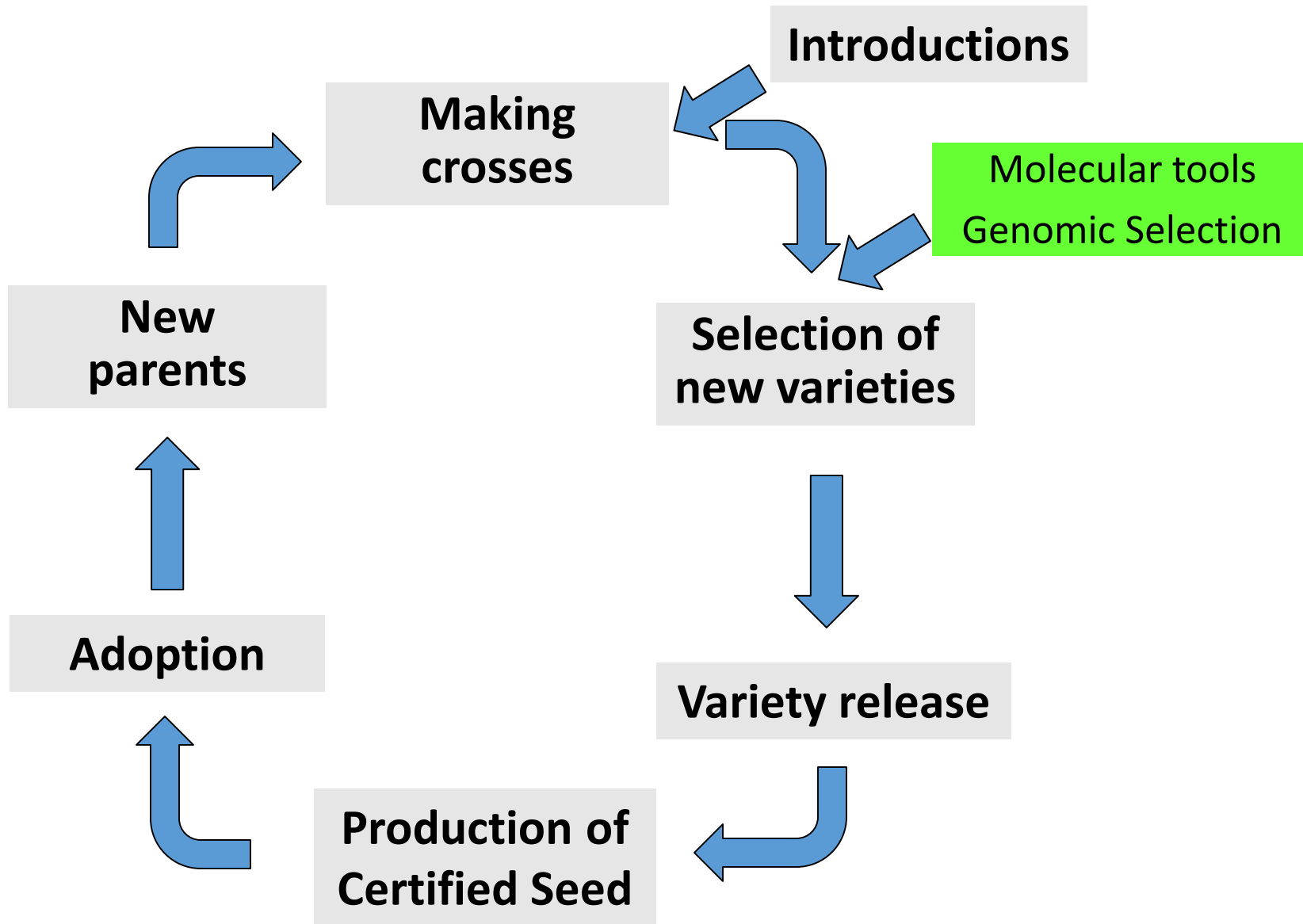


Local solutions to global problems

# What is Plant Breeding?



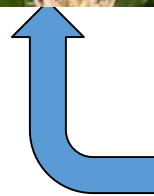
# A Plant Breeding Program



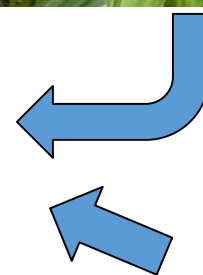
# Breeding Cycle – Main Stages

Seed  
production and  
distribution

Social targeting and



Selection in  
segregating  
populations



Molecular tools  
Genomic Selection



## Customer Profile

**Breeding for whom?**

## Product Profile:

**Breeding what type of variety?**

# Breeding Efficiency

1. Number of varieties adopted/number

1. Number of varieties released

2. Response to Selection =  $(i \sigma_p h^2)/t$

3. Benefit/Cost Ratio

Genetic Gain  
4. Increase in agro biodiversity

The breeder's equation



# Why Participatory Plant Breeding?



**Increases breeding  
efficiency**

# Plant Breeding Efficiency

```
graph BT; A[Increase heritability decentralized selection, selection for specific adaptation] --> B[Reduce cycle time SSD, off-season nurseries, DH, molecular breeding]; B --> C[Increase Response to Selection]; D[Farmers' clients' participation] --> E[Increase Adoption]; C --> F[ ]; E --> F; G[Increase Benefit/Cost Ratio] --> F; F --> H[Plant Breeding Efficiency]; C --> E;
```

**Increase Response to Selection**

**Reduce cycle time(SSD, off-season nurseries, DH, molecular breeding)**

**Increase heritability decentralized selection, selection for specific adaptation)**

**Increase Adoption**

**Farmers' (clients') participation**

**Increase Benefit/Cost Ratio**

**Ceccarelli S, 2015. Efficiency of Plant Breeding. Crop Science 55: 87-97**

# History of Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB)

**Begins in the early eighties (Rhoades and Booth, 1982)**

**Rhoades RE and Booth RH (1982) Farmer-back-to-farmer: a model for generating acceptable agricultural technology. Agricultural Administration, 11: 127-137**



ICARDA

International Center  
for Agricultural Research  
in the Dry Areas

# Plant breeding with farmers

No farmer, however, is so poor

## Riverside's Advocate



Herbert John Webber is remembered for many contributions to science, education, and agriculture, but his lasting influence on the city of Riverside and the University of California comes from his insistence that the fledgling Citrus Experiment Station remain in the city.

A professor of plant breeding from Cornell University before joining the Experiment Station as director in 1912, Webber was a "brilliant research scientist" whose research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on citrus had made him well-known to California growers, wrote Harry Lawton and Lewis G. Weathers in chapter 5 of *The Citrus Industry, Vol. 6*.

ITHACA, N. Y.  
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY.  
1911



Support for research and production of this publication



For Wallace, the only way to  
new strains v It was  
knowledgeable corn fa  
the bag on the ground

THE EARLY SPRING LITTER.

## Boys' Corner

[illegible]

### Corn Breeding Plot

[illegible]

one of the seed houses. Then go into an early-planted field of the regular variety which you are accustomed to grow at home. Stake off a space about four rows wide and fifteen feet long. Sow out your regular corn and plant fifteen rows of four hills each of each of your fifteen varieties. That is all

There is no it until those fifteen rows begin to tassle. Go thru the field every morning and pull all tassels. This makes certain that each of your fifteen imported varieties will be pollinated by your home variety. Then, in the fall, harvest your fifteen crosses separately and store them in plastic bags. You can then try out the cross-breeds in separate plots to see if any of them are better than your regular home seed.

Two years ago, at the Iowa station, at Ames, they crossed Silver King with Collins. Last year they obtained the

Chiles. Last year they paid 120

cross-bred seed, and found that it decidedly out-yielded the Silver King or Calico on the same piece of land. The Silver King and Calico cross seemed to compare quite favorably with Reid's Yellow Dent as grown at the Iowa station. Most of the crosses, however, were decidedly inferior to Reid's Yellow Dent.

Some day someone will learn how to breed corn, but at present we are very much in the dark. There are many interesting methods of breeding which can be used, but none which can be absolutely guaranteed to give results. Just the same, I would suggest that any boy who is interested in corn, wheat, alfalfa, and other breeding plants, or that he plant some other variety, in his regular corn field, and designate as he to run a cross-breeding experiment the following year. If only enough of us work on this corn breed-

\_\_\_\_\_

### The Host Contest

The hog marketing contest ended March 27th, but at the time this is written the final reports are not available.

Up to Friday, March 22, Alben Moore, of Stanhope, Iowa, was leading. His hogs were sold March 22, at an average weight of 222 pounds, at \$18.85 per cwt. The net profit was \$250.30.

K. Floyd Thorp, of Iowa Falls, Iowa, was second, his hogs being sold March 18th, at a weight of 217 pounds, at 11c per cwt., and a profit of \$121.70.

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Girls Can Do Their Share



For Wallace, the only way for breeders to discover new strains was to rely on the expertise of the knowledgeable corn farmers themselves

thinning, inevitably you will lose some rows that will yield almost twice as much as other rows. Occasionally you will find a row which will stand up stiff and straight, while the other rows will blow down. I have found rows in which a large number of the young plants were pure white. Of course these pure-white stalks did not live very long. If you watch the different rows carefully, you will be able to determine just which ones you should not rid of.

At the Ohio station, after two years' work with different breedings, they found that they had increased the average yield about seven bushels per acre. The increase is much less than one would expect. The beginner thinks that ear No. 5, for instance, which yielded, at the rate of about twenty-five bushels per acre more than the other ears, will transmit this yielding power, and that all the offspring should yield higher the year following. As a matter of fact, the offspring of a high-yielding ear is only just a little better than the offspring of an average ear, and the improvement is very slight.

Improvement in yield by the ear-to-row method has been so slow that some people have tried to hurry things up by cross breeding. Cross-bred corn will often yield more than either parent. Several corn breeders have believed that if they could only find two varieties that "licked" especially well, they could afford to make the cross fresh every year.

Anybody can cross corn. Get a pound of seed of different varieties from ten or fifteen of your neighbors, or from

Work Better, Faster, Cheaper **Mak-a-lractor** \$225 E.O.E. & D. Prod.

Here Are a Few Samples of the THOUSANDS of Answers

[illegible]

**Many More Answers to These Questions in Our Free Book**

## Four Horses Work at One Horse's Cost

“Takes the shape of a horse—sort of what you’d see in a dream,” says C. A. Vign, Jr., “Doing work of six miles—being more”

...of the ...  
...of the ...  
...of the ...

**For Belt Power** With belt power attachment, the 7000 can be used to clean, grade, and backfill.

It is the first time... (text continues)

**Get These Two Free Books**               

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THE E. C. FEATHER MFG. CO., 2011 W. University Ave., St. Paul, Minn.  
*Recorded Delivery of Machinery for 27 Years*



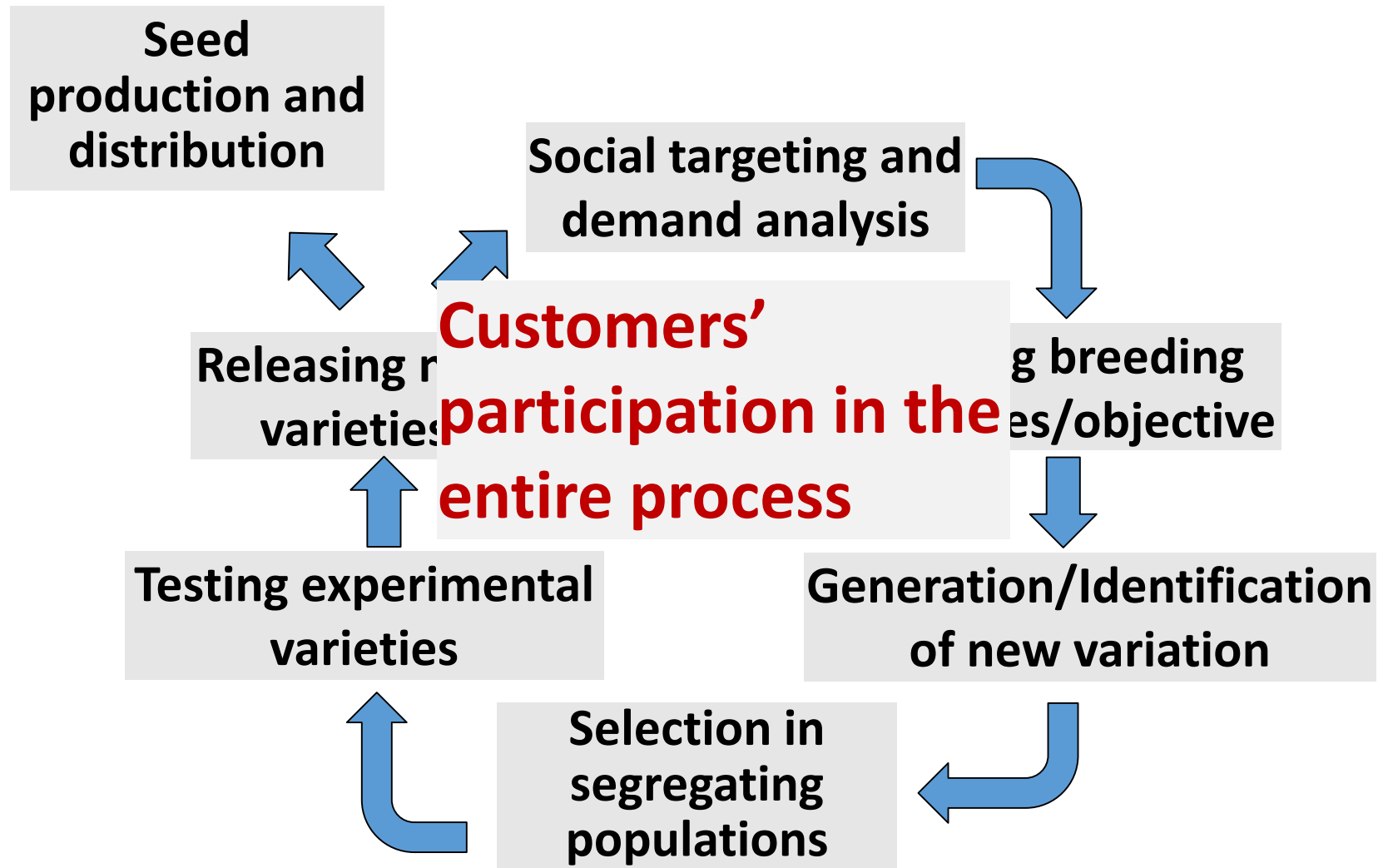
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At the University of Illinois, reliance on farmers was to some extent a necessary evil. In their own breeding work, university researchers were hampered by a lack of fields for trials and literally "farmed out" their inbreds for crossing to farmers who volunteered for the task. This did not sit well with the commercial breeders, **It was 1938** as could not be relied on to maintain accurate records or keep the lines pure. At issue was the question of whether ordinary farmers were competent to manage the crossing of corn.

Twenty years earlier this was a task that Wallace had claimed "anyone" could do

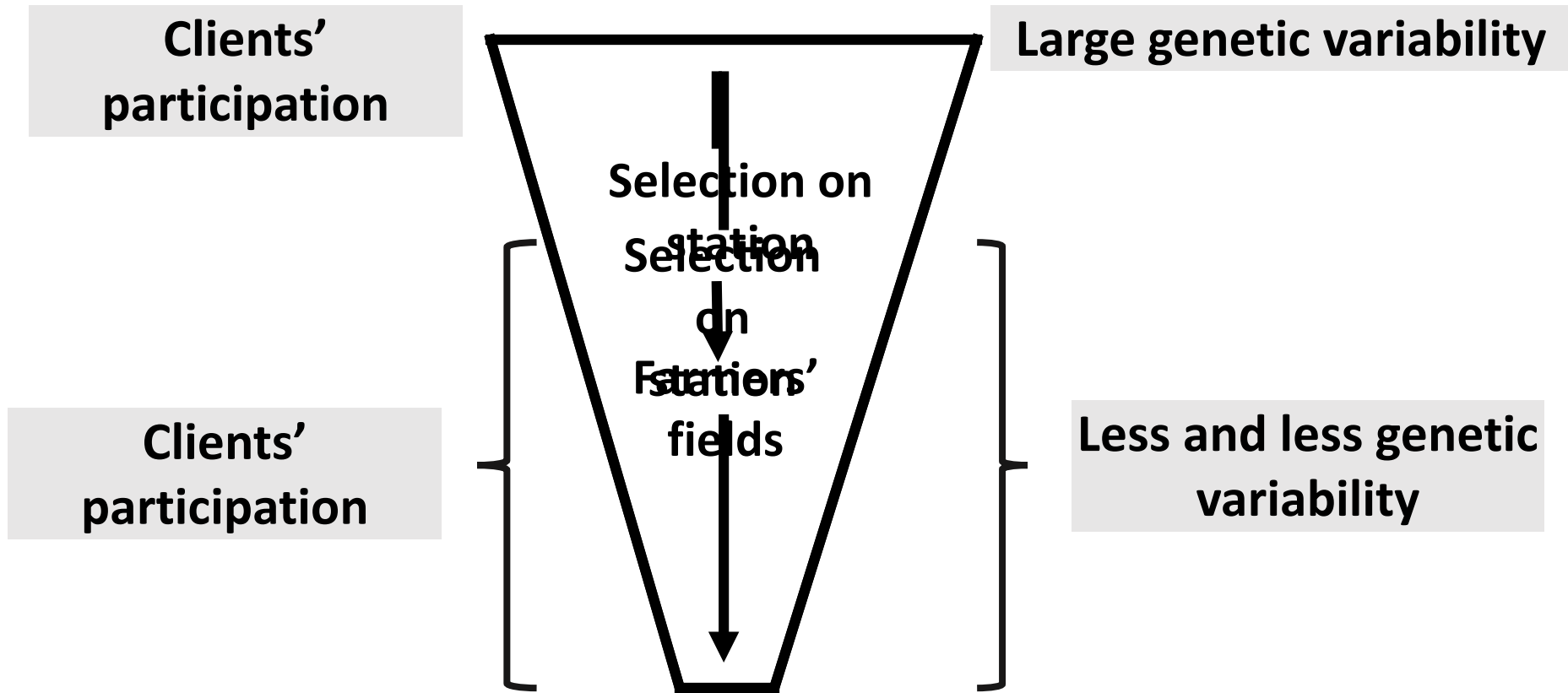
# Participatory Plant Breeding



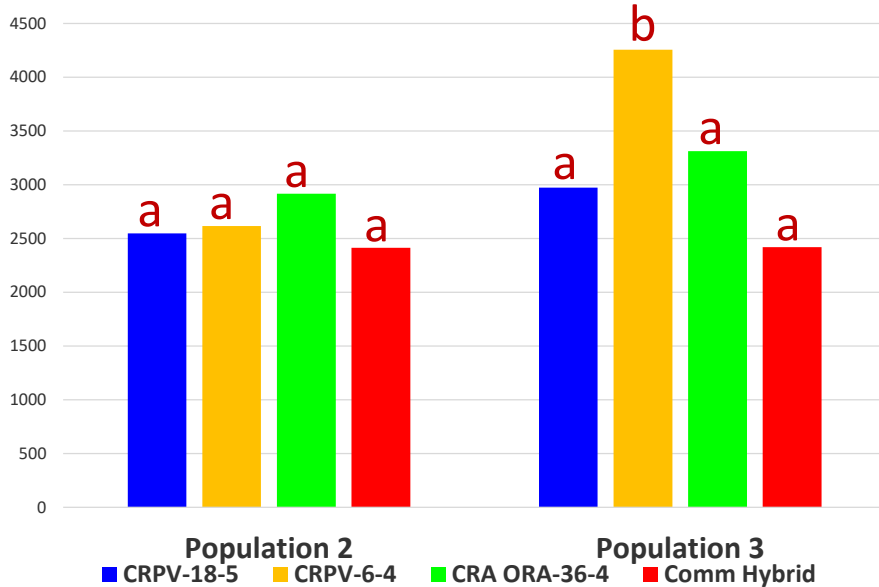




# Participatory Variety Selection (PVS)



Production of the first three clusters

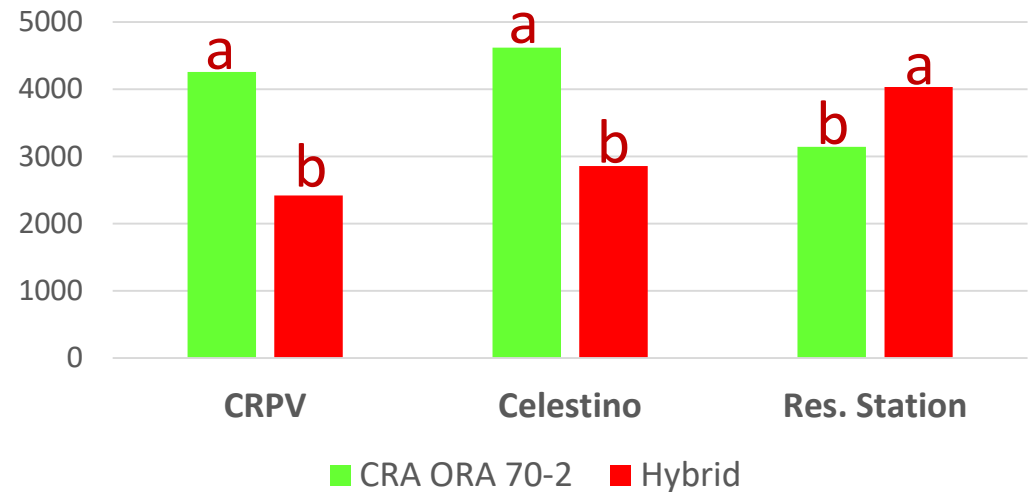


# PPB in tomato

Campanelli et al. 2015.  
Participatory Tomato Breeding for  
Organic Conditions in Italy.  
Euphytica 204 (1) 179-197



The best line



**Selection moved from  
Research Station to  
Farmers' Fields**



**Decisions shared  
between breeder  
and farmers**



**1995: our beginning**

# **Participatory plant breeding**

*Proceedings of a workshop on participatory plant breeding  
26-29 July 1995  
Wageningen, The Netherlands*

**P. Eyzaguirre and M. Iwanaga, editors**

of the main reasons for the failure of formal breeding to serve small, resource-poor farmers. Formal breeding has frequently adopted a negative interpretation of GE interaction. This has implied selection for broad adaptation, and consequently replacement of landraces with input-responsive cultivars ill-adapted to low-input and



# 1995 Jurn El-Aswad











1996









# Farmers + Public Institution



Genetic Diversity in farmers' fields



Seed production



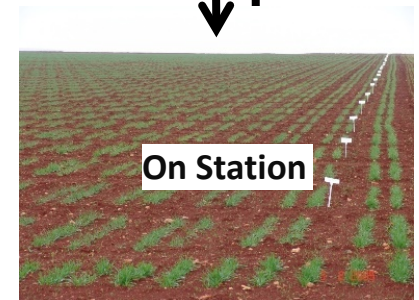
New varieties



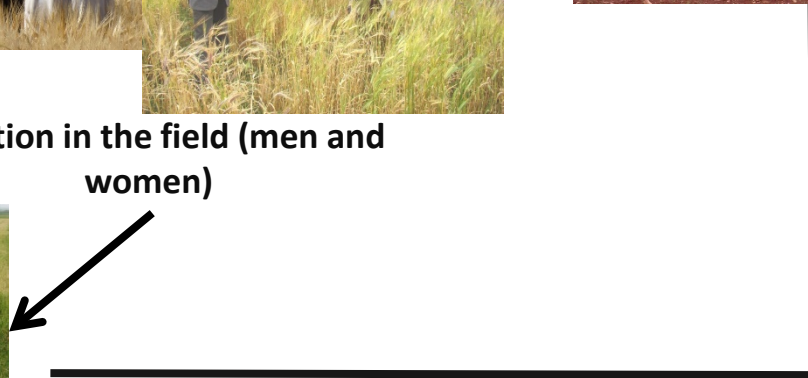
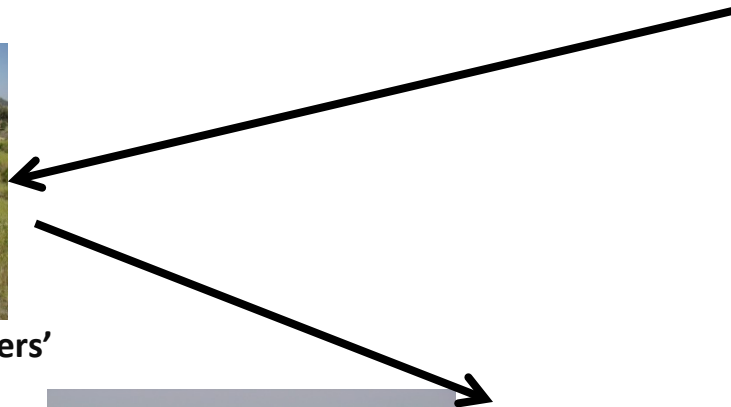
Selection in the field (men and women)



Genetic Diversity



On Station





# One Model of Participatory Plant Breeding Program (one village)

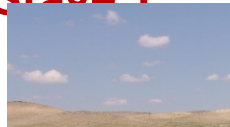
Year 1

Stage 1



Year 2

Stage 1



Year 3

S



Year 4



Stage 1



Stage 2



Stage 3



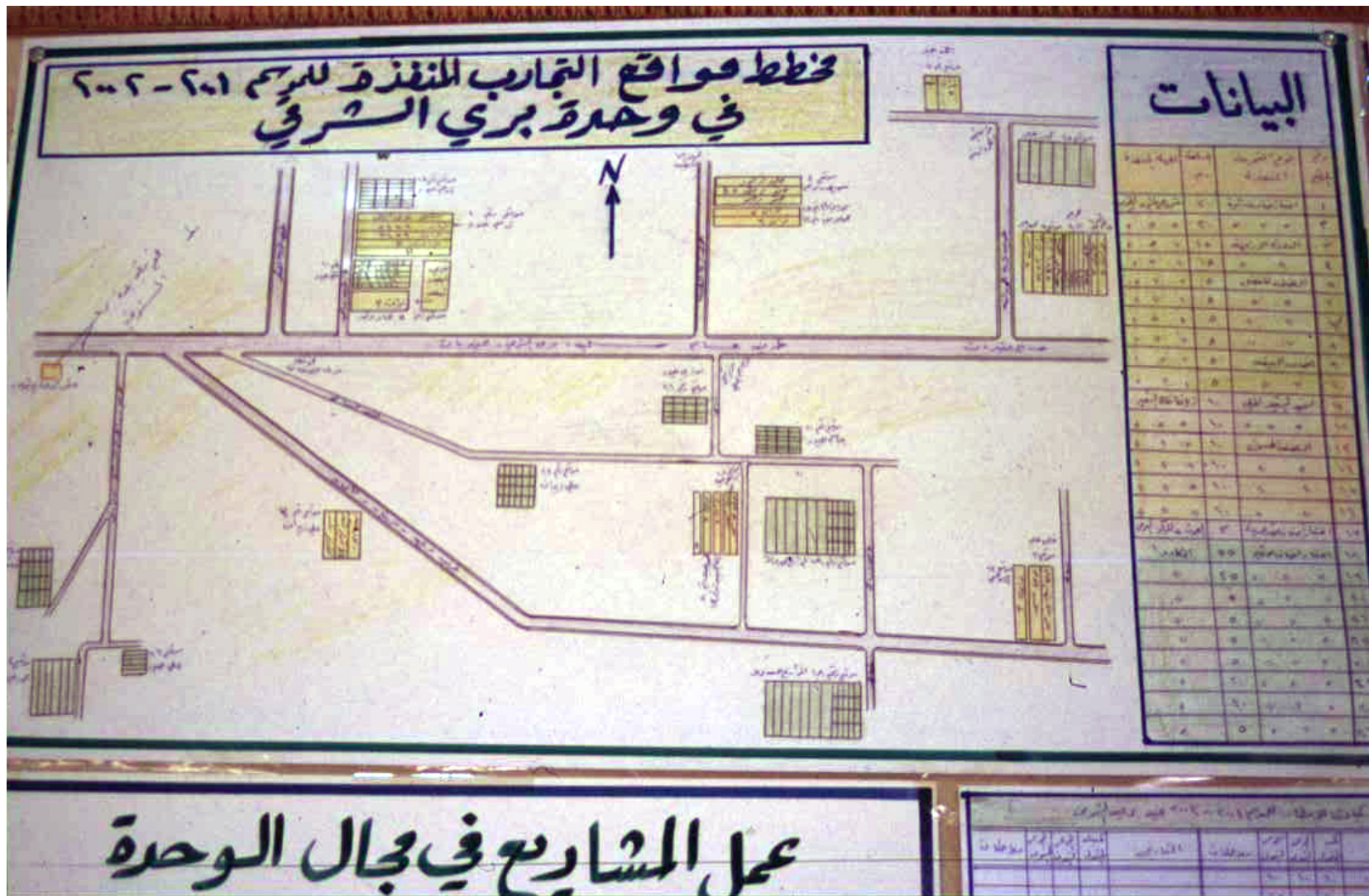
Stage 4



Variety



# The village IS the research station







**Eritrea**



**Syria**



**Jordan**

**At each stage and in addition to the usual data collected in a breeding program, a group of farmers score all the plots**



**Algeria**



**Ethiopia**



**Iran**





## Data collection











**After the statistical analysis of the trials, the final selection for the following stage is done in a joint meeting with farmers**





المخل	اسم الصنف	طول التبنات سم	ترتيب طول التبنات	طول السنبل سم	ترتيب طول السنبل	انتخاب المزارع	ترتيب الانتخاب المزارع	وزن ١٠٠ حبة	ترتيب وزن ١٠٠ حبة	انتاج الحب كغ/هكتار	ترتيب انتاج الحب
٩٧	Clipper/WI٢٢٩١٢٢/WI٢٢٩١٣/SLB	٤٩,١٦	٧٤	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٣,٨١	١٠	٢٢,٢٣	٢٤	١٧٧٠	١
١٥٩	Harmal	٤٨,٧	٩١	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٦٢	٥٩	٢٢,١٦	٢٧	١٧٢٤	٢
١٢٥	WI٢٢٩١/Furat ٢	٤٧,٧٢	١١٣	٧,٩٦	٥٣	٣,٦٢	٥٩	٢١,٨٢	٨٨	١٧٠٣	٣
١٥٠	Zanbaka/Pyo/Cam/Avt/RM١٥٠٨/٢	٥٤,٠٦	٨	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٣٥	١٠٦	٢٠,٦٩	١٣٠	١٦٩٣	٤
٣	WI٢٢٩١/١/٧٠٢٨/٢٧٥٩/٣/٦٩٨٢/DS/A	٥٢,٨٦	١٥	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٦٩	٤٥	٢٢,٧٦	٢٤	١٦٧٥	٥
١٢٧	Tadmor/ER/Apm/٢/H.spont.٤١-٣	٤٦,٣٤	١٣٦	٧,٦٩	١٠٤	٣,٧٣	٣٥	٢٢,٨٦	٤٩	١٦٥٩	٦
١٤	Clipper/Volla/٢/Arr/Esp/Alger/Ceres	٥٤,٣	٧	٨,٧٧	١	٣,٦٨	٤٧	٢٤,٤٦	١١	١٦٥٦	٧
١٠١	Clipper/WI٢٢٩١٢٢/WI٢٢٩١/٥/Soufar	٤٨,٩٨	٨٤	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٣,٦٤	٥٤	٢٤,٩٢	٩	١٦٣٣	٨
١٢٧	Hml-٠٢/٥/Cq/Cm/٢/Apm/٢/١٢٤١٠/٤/Gi	٥١,٠٩	٣٦	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٨١	١٠	٢٠,٠٧	١٤٠	١٦٢٨	٩
١١٢	ArabiAbiad/Arar/H.spont.٤١-٥/Tadr	٥٢,٤٥	١٨	٨,٦٨	٣	٣,٧١	٣٧	٢٧,٢٤	١	١٦٢٧	١٠
٤٢	Arta/٢/Legia/LaurelS/Aleli	٤٧,٣١	١٢٠	٧,٦٩	١٠٤	٢,٩٧	١٤٠	٢٢,٠٣	٤٠	١٦٢٢	١١
٦٧	WI٢٢٩١/WI٢٢٩١/WI٢٢٩٨/Lignee ١٣١	٤٨,٠٤	١٠٩	٨,٢٣	٤٧	٣,٤٣	٩٢	٢١,٨٤	٨٦	١٦١٩	١٢
٥٤	ChiCm/An٥٧/Albert/٢/Alger/Ceres	٥٠,٠٨	٥٤	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٧٤	٢٨	٢٢,٨٢	٢٢	١٦٠٩	١٣
٦١	ChiCm/An٥٧/Albert/٢/Alger/Ceres	٤٦,٠١	١٤٠	٧,٦٩	١٠٤	٣,٤٢	٩٣	٢٠,٩٥	١٢٣	١٦٠٨	١٤
١٢٢	Hml/٤/Arar/H.spont.١٩-١٥/Hml/٢/H.	٤٩,٤٨	٦٨	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٣,٥٦	٧١	٢٢,٢٣	٦٩	١٦٠٧	١٥
٢٣	Moroc٩-٧٥/WI٢٢٩١/Ci-١٢٨٧/٢/H.sp	٥١,٧	٣٢	٨,٢٣	٤٧	٣,٨٦	٤	٢١,٢٥	١١٢	١٦٠٢	١٦
٨٦	Sara/١/Moroc٩-٧٥/Hml-٠٢/٥/Clipper	٥١,٨	٣٠	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٣,٥٢	٧٨	٢١,١٩	١١٥	١٥٩٥	١٧
١٢١	Hml/٢/ArabiAbiad/Arar/H.spont.٤١-	٥٤,٥٢	٥	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٨٢	٨	٢٦,٥٣	٢	١٥٩٢	١٨
٤٣	Arta/٢/Legia/LaurelS/Aleli/٥/Rohol	٤١,٨٦	١٥٨	٧,١٥	١٥٥	٢,٨٦	١٤٧	٢٤,٣٩	١٣	١٥٩٠	١٩
٩٦	Clipper/WI٢٢٩١٢٢/WI٢٢٩١/٣/SLB	٤٨,٣٤	١٠٣	٧,٦٩	١٠٤	٣,٤٢	٩٣	٢١,٨٢	٨٨	١٥٨١	٢٠

١.٤ - ابيض  
- حمرل  
- عرطة  
- نواعير  
- ف

١٦

٥٥

١٥٢	فرات ١	٥٣,٠١	١٤	٦,٣٥	١٦٠	٢,٦٥	١٥٣	٢٩,٨٦	١٤٨	١٣٢٩	١٥٥
١٥٣	فرات ٢	٤٨,٣٤	١٠٣	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٢,٧٦	١٥٠	٢٢,٢٧	٢٣	١٥٤٠	٢٢
١٥٤	فرات ٣	٥٠,١٤	٥١	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٦٠	٦٣	٢٤,٣٧	١٤	١٤٩٧	٥٩
١٥٥	عربي أسود	٤٧,٠٨	١٢٥	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٢,٦١	١٥٤	٢١,٦٥	٩٨	١٤٩٢	٦٢
١٥٦	نواعير ١	٤٥,٦٤	١٤٥	٧,٤٢	١٤٥	٢,٧٧	١٤٩	٢١,٦١	١٠٠	١٤٦٩	٧٧
١٥٧	عرطة	٤٥,٧١	١٤٣	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٢,٤٢	٩٣	٢٠,٩٣	١٢٤	١٥٧٣	٢٢
١٥٨	عربي ابيض	٤٧,٢٥	١٢٢	٧,٢١	١٤٩	٢,٨٦	١٤٧	٢٢,٣٠	٣١	١٤٥٩	٨٥
١٥٩	حمرل	٤٨,٧	٩١	٨,٣٢	٧	٣,٦٢	٥٩	٢٢,١٦	٢٧	١٧٢٤	٢
١٦٠	واسطة ١	٤٦,٨٨	١٣٠	٧,٩٥	٥٨	٣,٠٨	١٢٢	٢١,٨٢	٨٨	١٤٨٦	٦٣



# Precision and Relevance



30 4 2005





6 5 2007

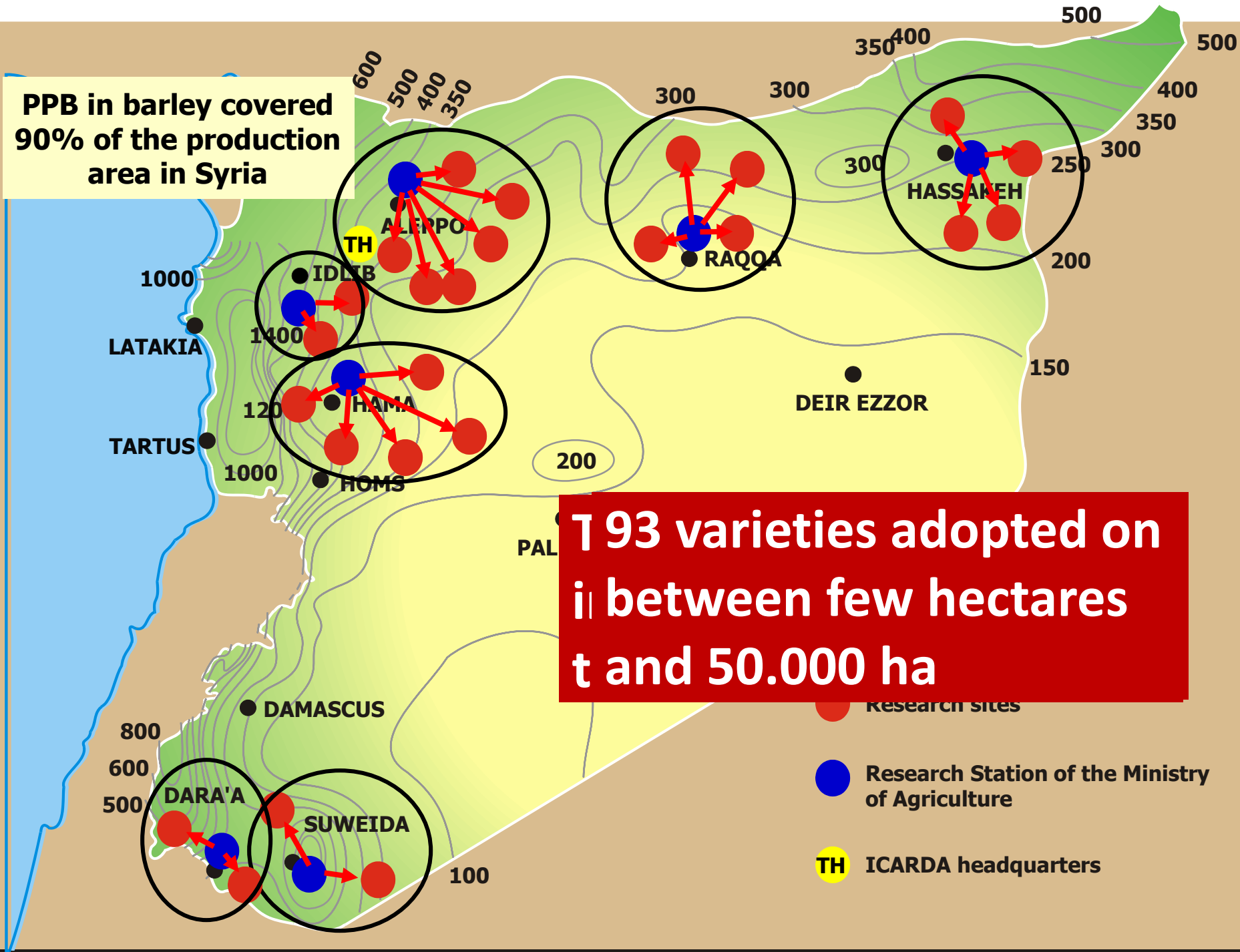




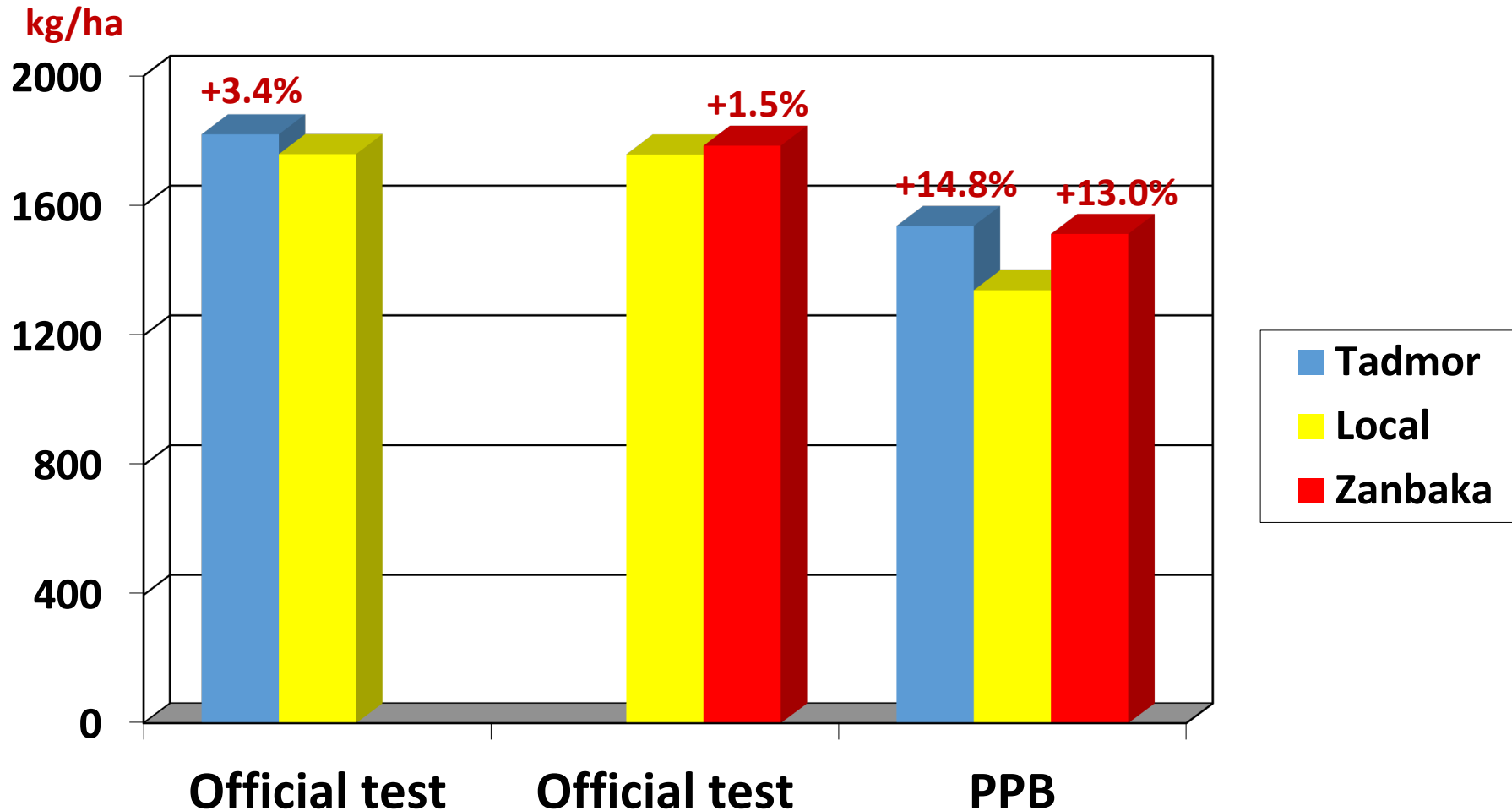
6 5 2007



**PPB in barley covered 90% of the production area in Syria**



# Difference between official variety trials and PPB trials in Syria



Official tests: average of 26 trials in 4 years

PPB trials: average of 55 trials in 3 year



**It is possible to do it here?**



**7 10 2009**







# Rice in Bhutan













**durum wheat**



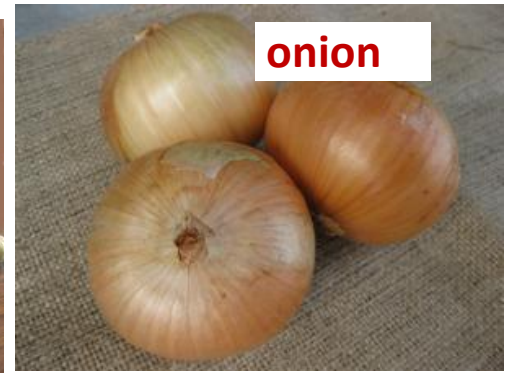
**bread wheat**



**tomato**



**onion**



**faba bean**



**chickpea**



**sorghum**



**barley**



**bean**



**cowpea**



**lentil**



# Average grain yield (t/ha) of farmers' (FS) and breeder's selections (BS) in Syria

Loc.	Mean	FS	BS	prob
Ibbin	3.2	4.6***	4.0***	n.s.
Ebla	2.9	3.5*	3.2**	n.s.
Tel Brack	3.7	4.2	4.0*	n.s.
J. Aswad	1.4	2.0*	1.7**	n.s.
Bylounan	0.3	0.5*	0.3	n.s.
Al Bab	0.4	0.7***	0.5***	***
Melabya	0.7	0.9 ***	0.9***	n.s.
Bari Sharki	1.0	1.4*	1.1	n.s.
Suran	2.5	2.6	2.6	n.s.

Ceccarelli S, Grando S, et al. 2000. A Methodological Study on Participatory Barley Breeding. I. Selection Phase. Euphytica 111: 91-104.



# On farm performance of bush bean varieties selected on station by farmers and breeders in Rwanda

% of trials where  
selections out  
yielded the local

Yield increase (%)

## Farmer Selection

1989A	73 ns	3.9 ns
1989B	89 **	33.4 **
1990A	64 ns	12.9 ns
1990B	83 **	38.0 **

## Breeder Selection

1987A	51 ns	6.7 **
1988A	50 ns	2.6 ns
1988B	50 ns	7.6 **

Sperling et al. 1993. Rethinking the farmer's role in plant breeding: local bean experts and on-station selection in Rwanda. *Experimental Agriculture* 29: 509-519

# Farmers Selection Criteria

Farmers are interested in a wider range of traits than commonly expected

Although yield is quoted as the most important criterion, they in fact select also for several other traits

Farmers' selection criteria vary with the environment



**Tall or short? Plant height of barley lines selected by a breeder and a farmer in a research station (favorable environment) and in the farmer field in a dry area**

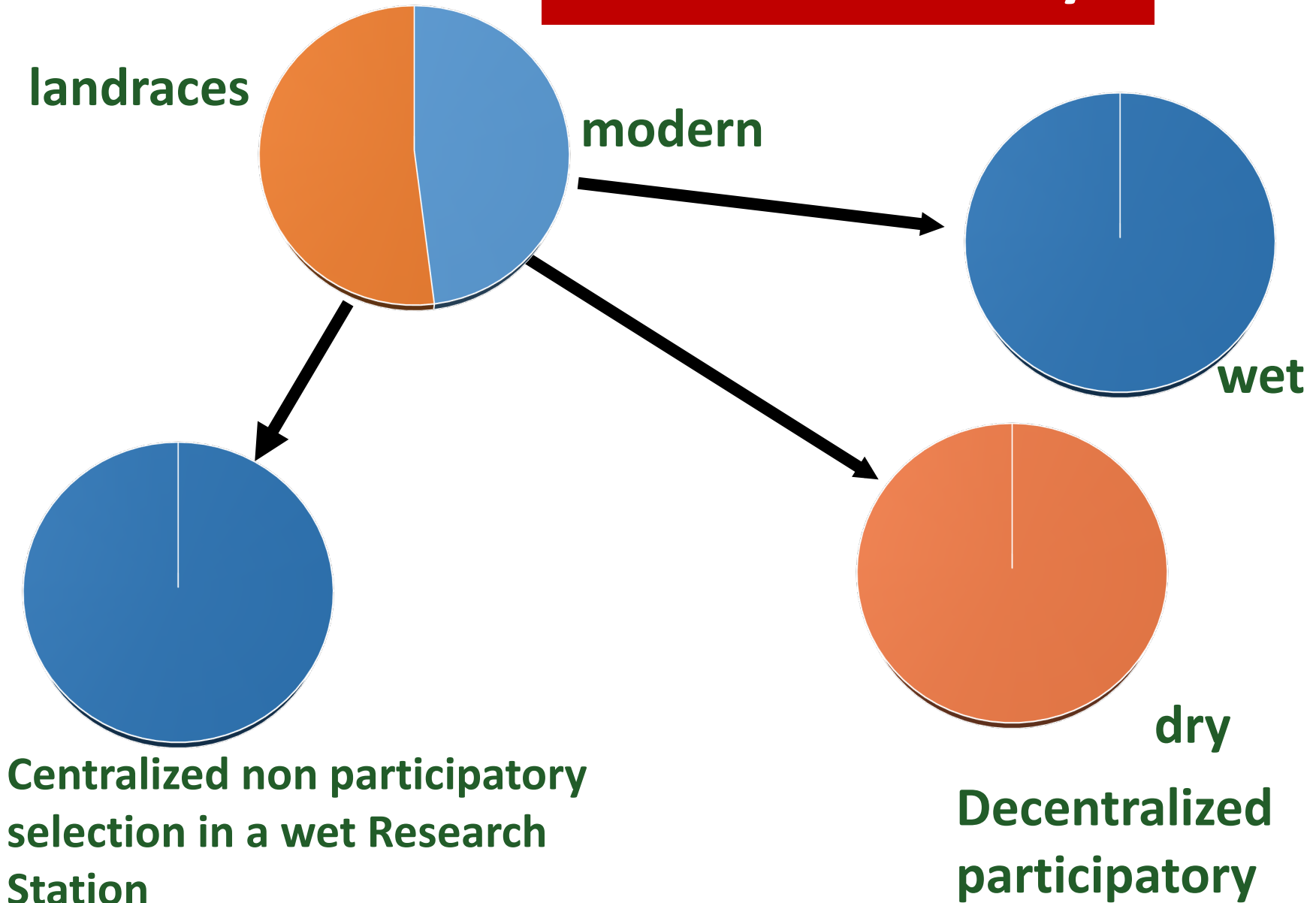
Selected by	Selected at	
	Res. Station	Farmer's field
Farmer	71.1*	45.1***
Breeder	71.8*	42.8*
Pop. mean	77.5	39.6

\*, \*\*\* Differences significant at  $P < 0.05$  and  $P < 0.001$ , respectively

# PPB and Diversity



# PPB and diversity



## PPB and *in situ* conservation

Through PPB several farmers are becoming aware of the value of landraces and more interested in their conservation



# Participatory Plant Breeding

**PPB is not a competition or a comparison of skills: it is merging two types of knowledge**

**PPB is not revolutionary. It recognizes that ultimately are the farmers who decide whether or not to grow a new variety**

# **Participatory Plant Breeding**

**Fits crops to the physical and agronomic environments and to different uses**

**Adapts crops to evolving agronomic practices**

**It may be the only possible breeding for remote areas and minor crops**



# Women Participation





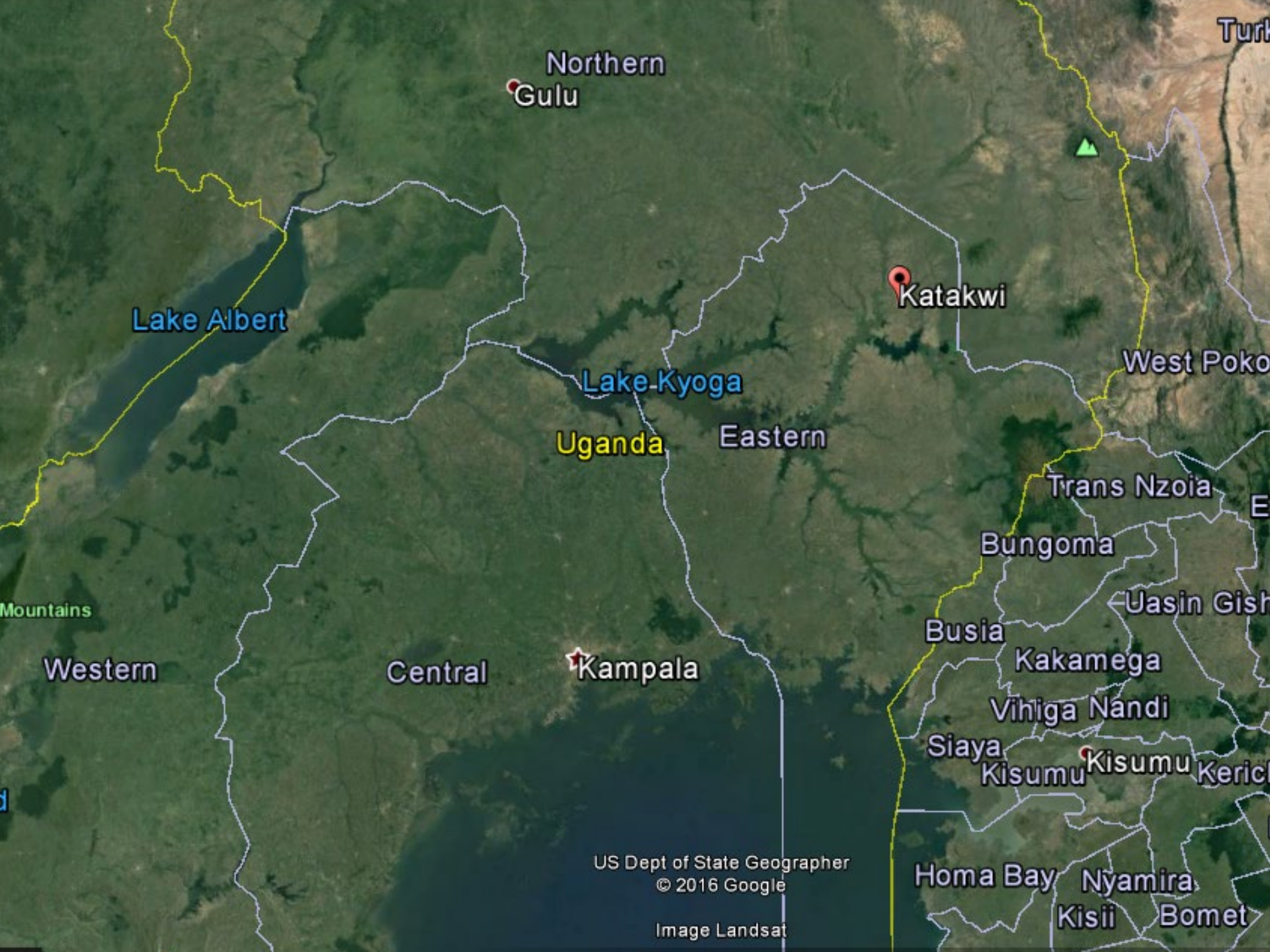




# Seeds or Leaves?

The case of Cowpea in Uganda





Northern  
Gulu

Turk

Lake Albert

Katakwi

Lake Kyoga

West Poko

Uganda

Eastern

Trans Nzoia

Bungoma

Mountains

Western

Uasin Gishu

Central

Kampala

Busia

Kakamega

Vihiga Nandi

Siaya

Kisumu

Kisumu

Kericho

Homa Bay

Nyamira

Kisii

Bomet

US Dept of State Geographer  
© 2016 Google

Image Landsat







# Design the trials together





# Listen, listen, listen



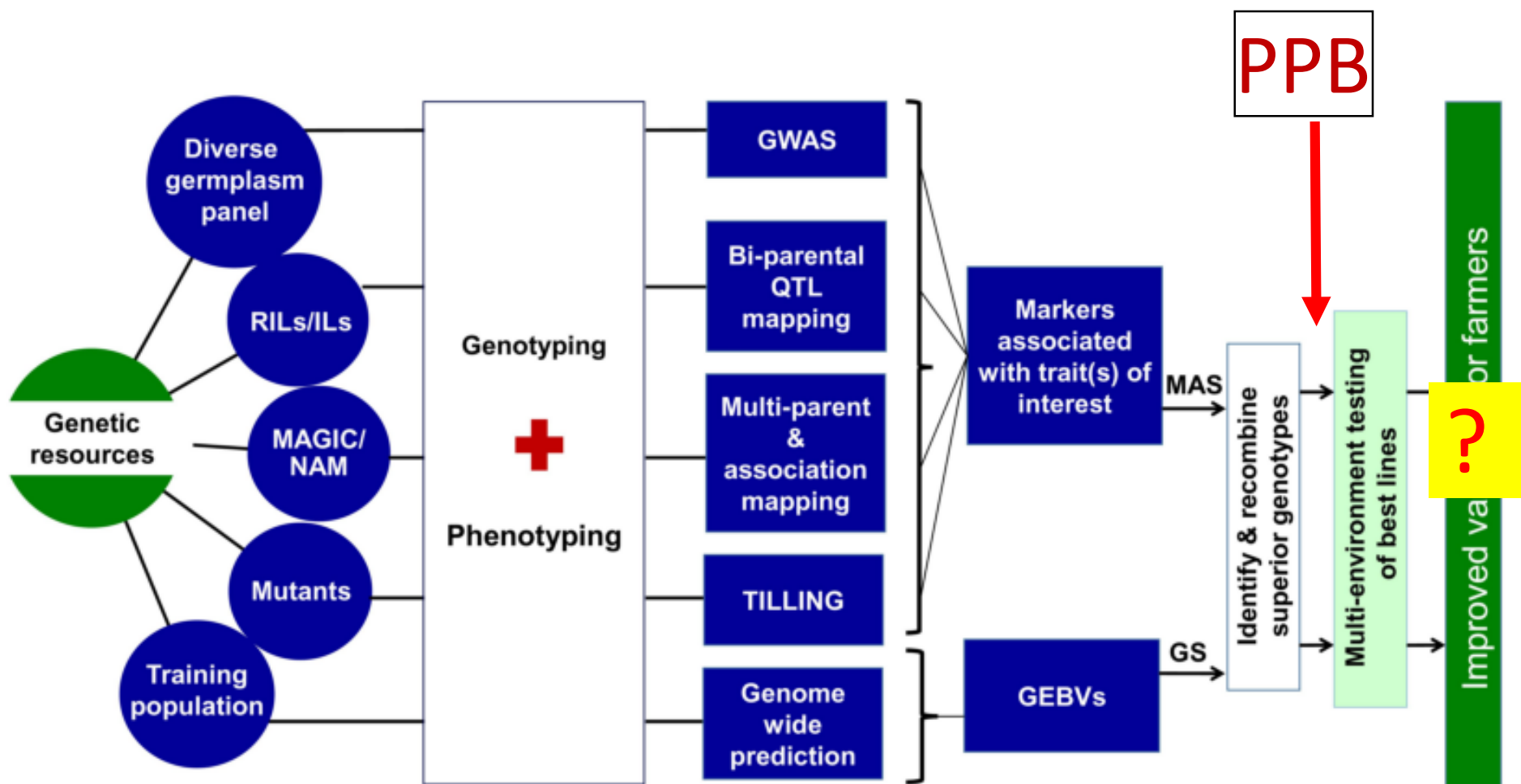


# Redesigning the trials





# Genomic Assisted Breeding



Varshney et al, 2014. Harvesting the Promising Fruits of Genomics: Applying Genome Sequencing Technologies to Crop Breeding. PLoS Biol 12(6)

# Participatory Plant Breeding: the weakness of the model

The attitude of Institutions and researchers towards PPB is generally negative (usually the have heard of it, but are not convinced that farmers can make selection). Many scientists cannot accept to even have a crop of the germplasm that is generally negative towards PPB. The flow of germplasm is unpredictable and mutable.





REVIEW

# Participatory plant breeding: Who did it, who does it and where?

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## Abstract

The paper provides an overview of institutions, scientists, and practitioners involved over the years in the various ways in which participatory plant breeding (PPB) is implemented, with indication of the crops involved and the countries in which it took place, or is still taking place. This might help creating a better awareness of the scope (both geographical and crop wise) of the different methodologies as well as of their advantages, disadvantages, applicability, and limitations. Through a literature survey, we found 254 publications showing that over a period of 36 years participatory approaches in plant breeding have been used in 69 countries (10 developed and 59 developing) with 47 crops including self-pollinated, cross-pollinated, and vegetatively propagated crops, by several Institutions including CGIAR centers, universities, and NGOs. We argue that there are no obvious scientific or technical reasons limiting the use of PPB, and

**69 countries have or have had PPB programs on 47 crops**

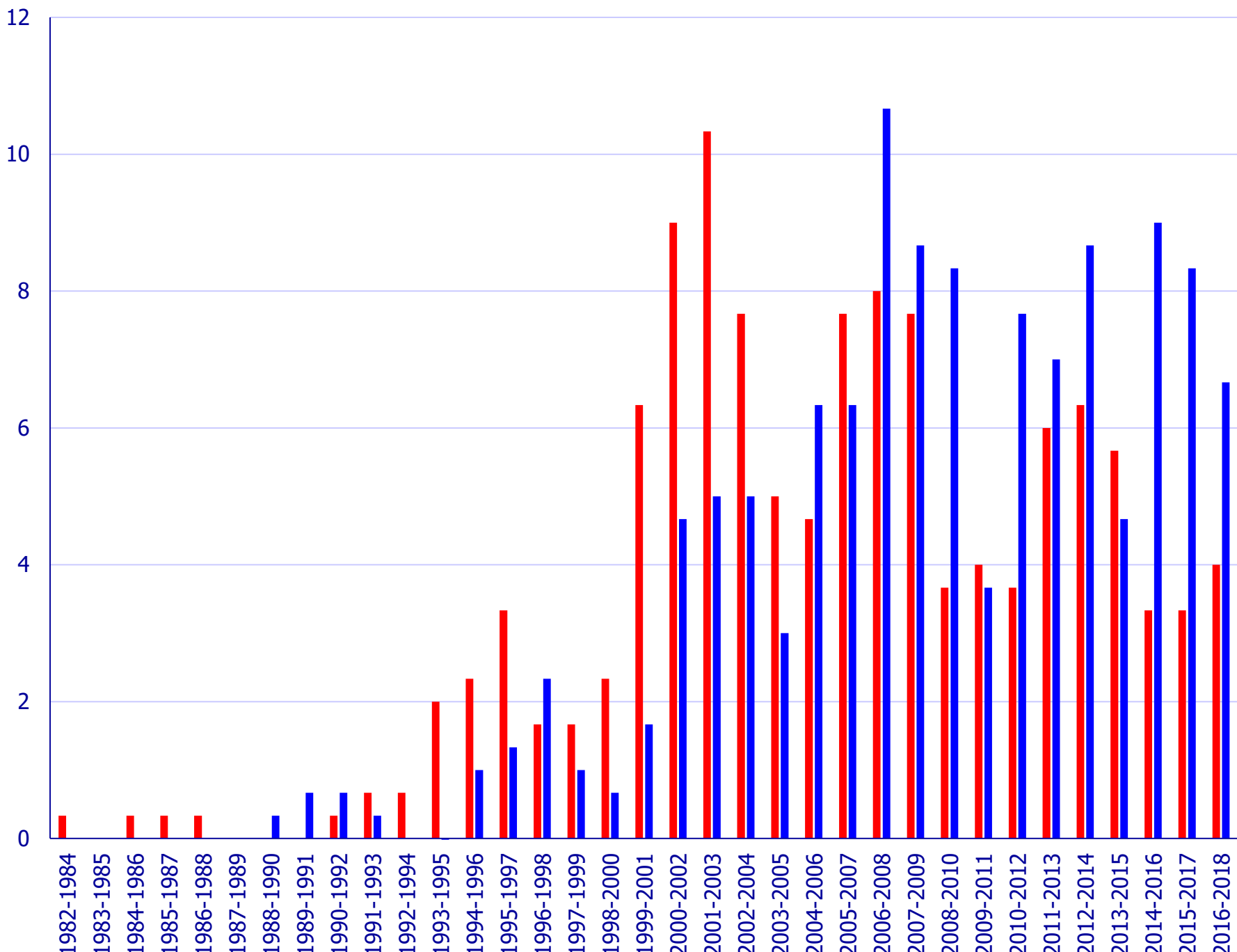




# Examples of varieties bred with participatory plant breeding and grown by farmers



■ CGIAR   ■ NON CGIAR





**254 publications**

**151 (59.4%)**

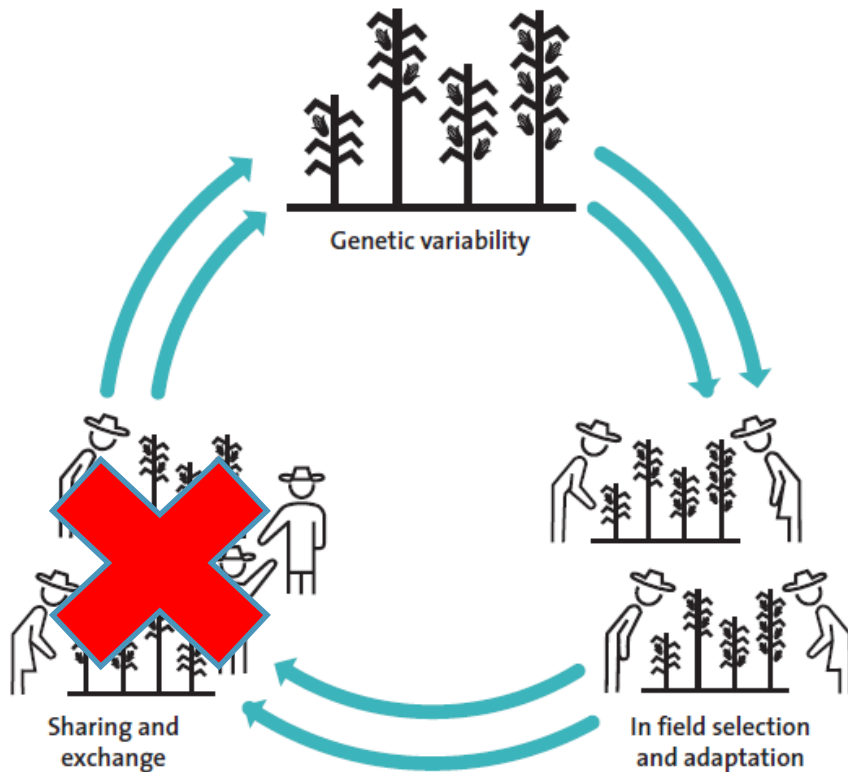
**.... BUT, THEN IT IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC  
ISSUE!**

**60 Universities**

**20 countries**

**Mostly in USA, UK  
and Italy**

# From farmers → To Institutions/Corporations



Genetic variability



On station breeding  
and selection



'Finished' variety



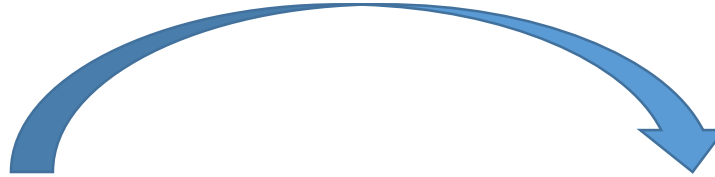
Distribution and sale



**Seed laws**



# Progressive corporate concentration of the seed market



Kloppenborg J, 2010. Impeding Dispossession, Enabling Repossession: Biological Open Source and the Recovery of Seed Sovereignty. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10: 367–388

# Participatory Plant Breeding From Dispossession

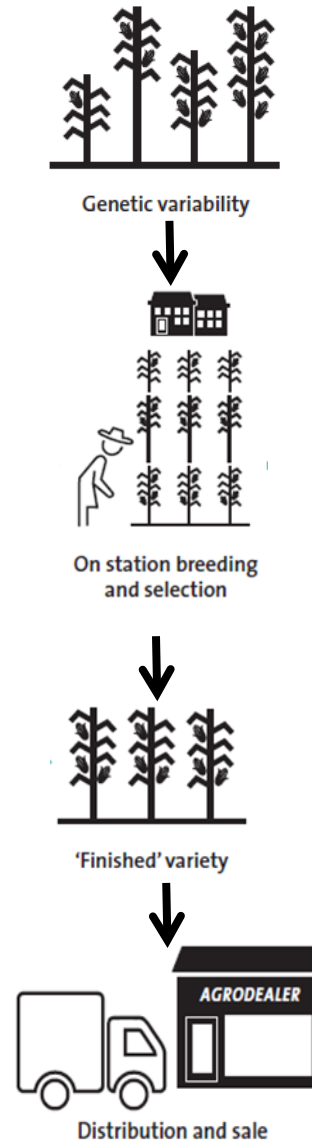
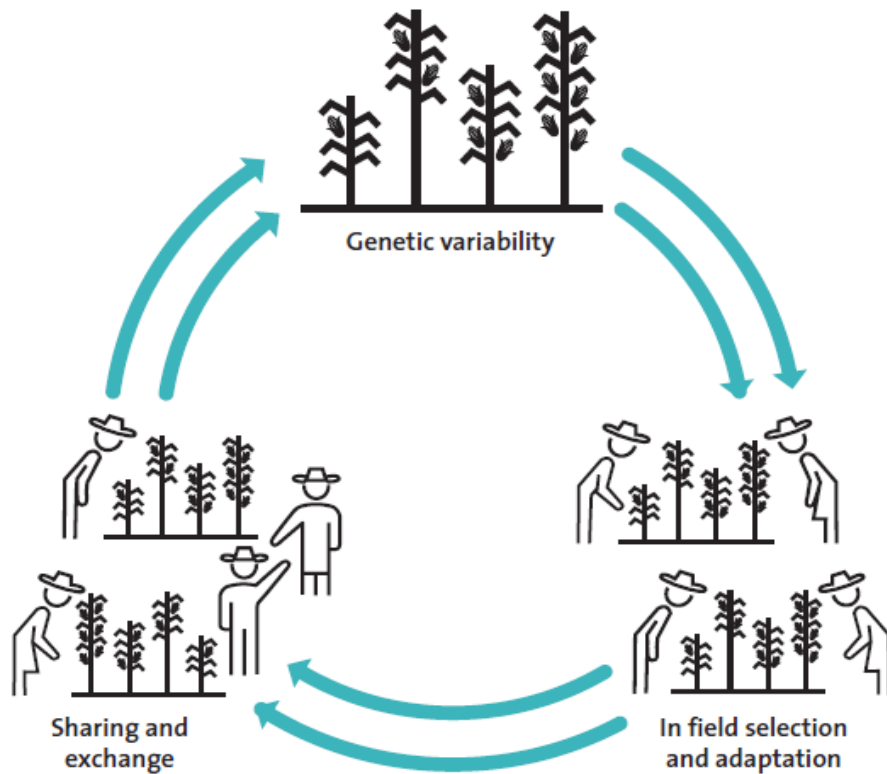


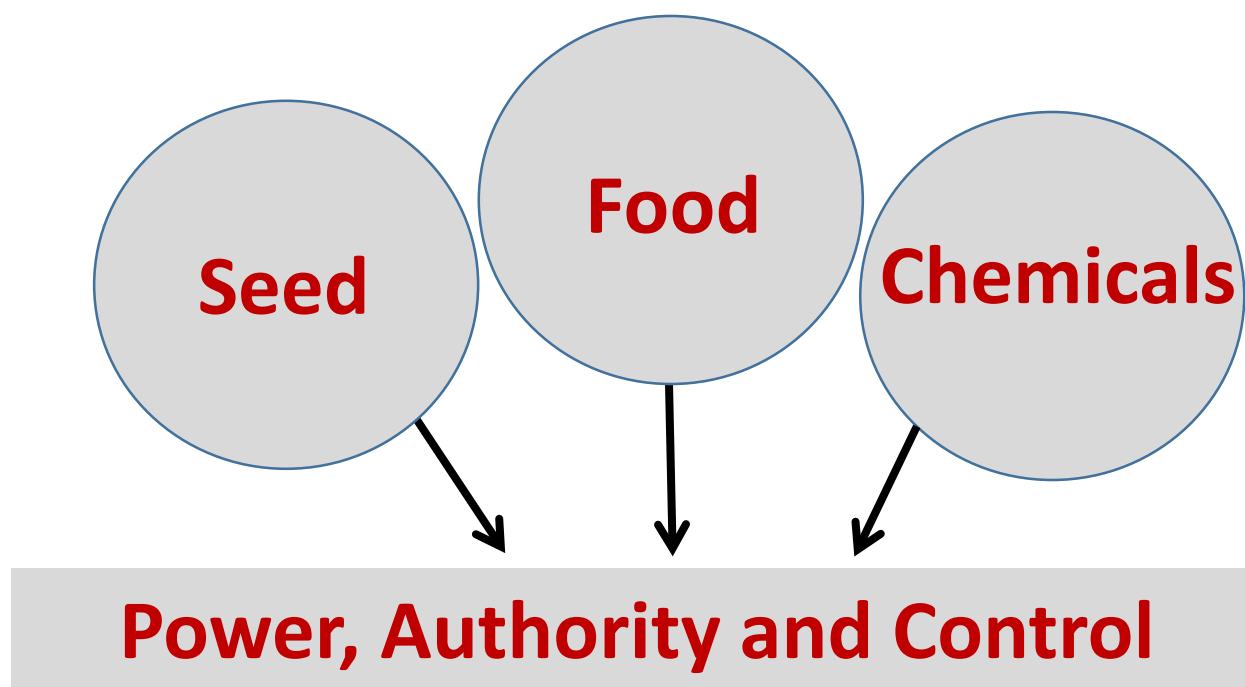
Kloppenborg J, 2010. Impeding Dispossession, Enabling Repossession: Biological Open Source and the Recovery of Seed Sovereignty. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10: 367–388



to Farmers

from  
Corporations/Institutions





**Deskilling**



**Evolutionary (participatory) plant breeding may offer a solution as in this case institutions are no longer indispensable**





**Thank you**

