



The Italian seed network



a collective action for
agrobiodiversity sustainable use in
farming systems

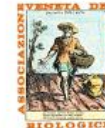
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2007



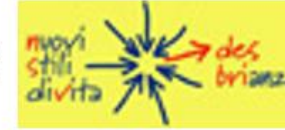
34 members

2008



rete
semi
rurali

2011



2012



2015





The collective action of RSR acts on three levels:

- Technical, designing farming systems based on diversity, with a central role for community seed banks;
 - Scientific, promoting knowledge exchange between peers and integrating science and knowledge in agricultural research;
 - Political, promoting the establishment of regulatory regimes and agricultural policies that recognise and support informal seed systems and the role of farmers in seed production and variety development..
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Information and dissemination

our activities

seed legislation

EU partners activities

technical tools

magazine, translation of docs,
books, web, newsletter

professional partners

radio, web-doc,
video, books

www.semirurali.net



Projects

MiPAAF RGV /FAO/RSR since 2007

MiPAAF Anagrafe /RGV /FAO

HORIZON2020 – DIVERSIFOOD

...



Sharing and strengthen knowledge and skills

main actions

Conservation and seed-swap, Members actions and RSR-DB

EU Networking, EC Let's Liberate Diversity! and ECO-PB

Knowledge exchange in Italy and Europe, Mobility projects

Partecipatory Plant Breeding, Research project

- FarmSeedOpportunities
- SOLIBAM
- DIVERSIFOOD starts 2015



Renabio 2008 - Bretagna

Let's Cultivate Diversity! 2013 Peccioli



European meeting on cultivation and transformation of weath

Let's Cultivate Diversity! Action

june 2013 – more than 200
landraces and population from
EU



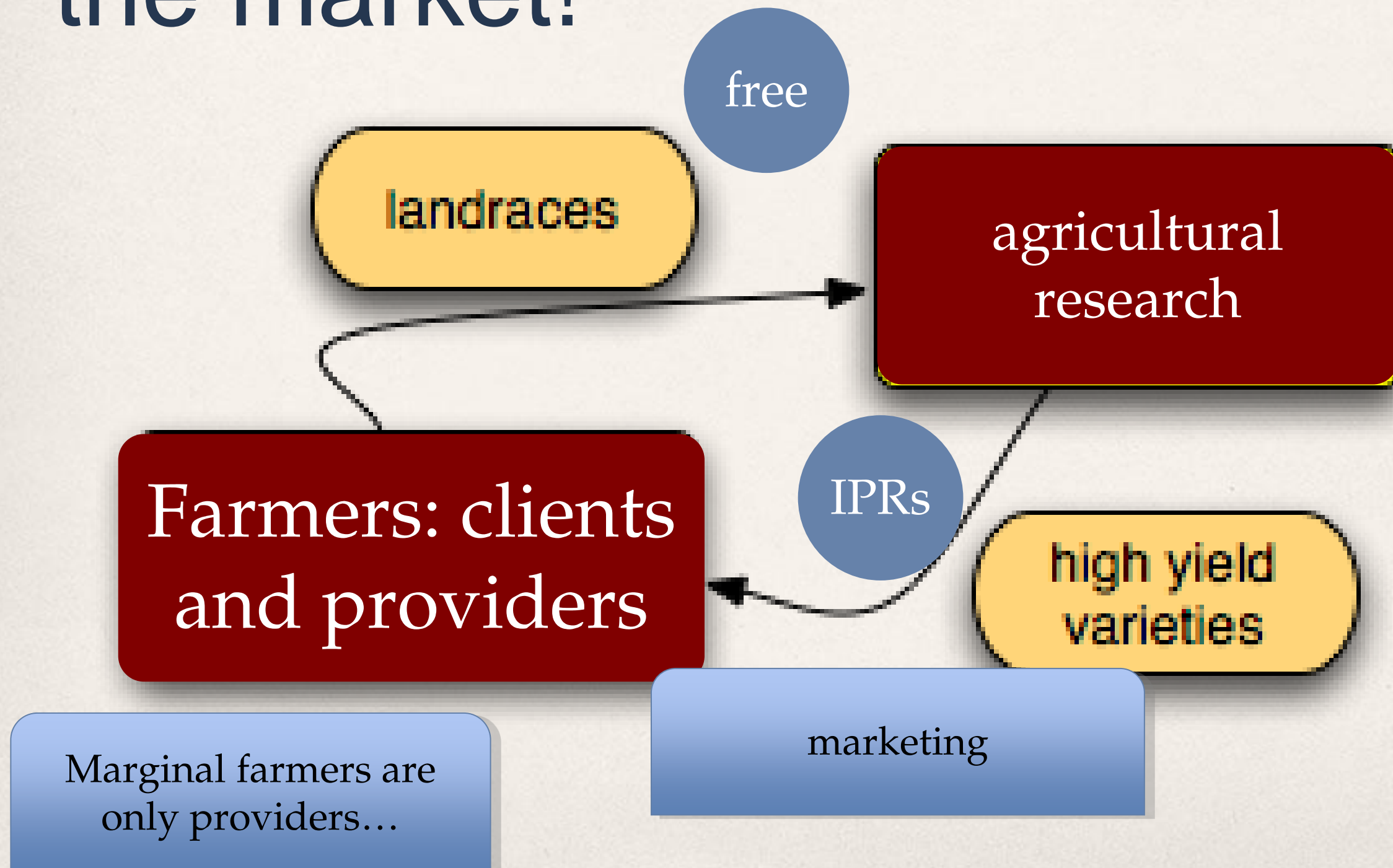
june 2014 – A mounth of
cereals, farm days all
around Italy

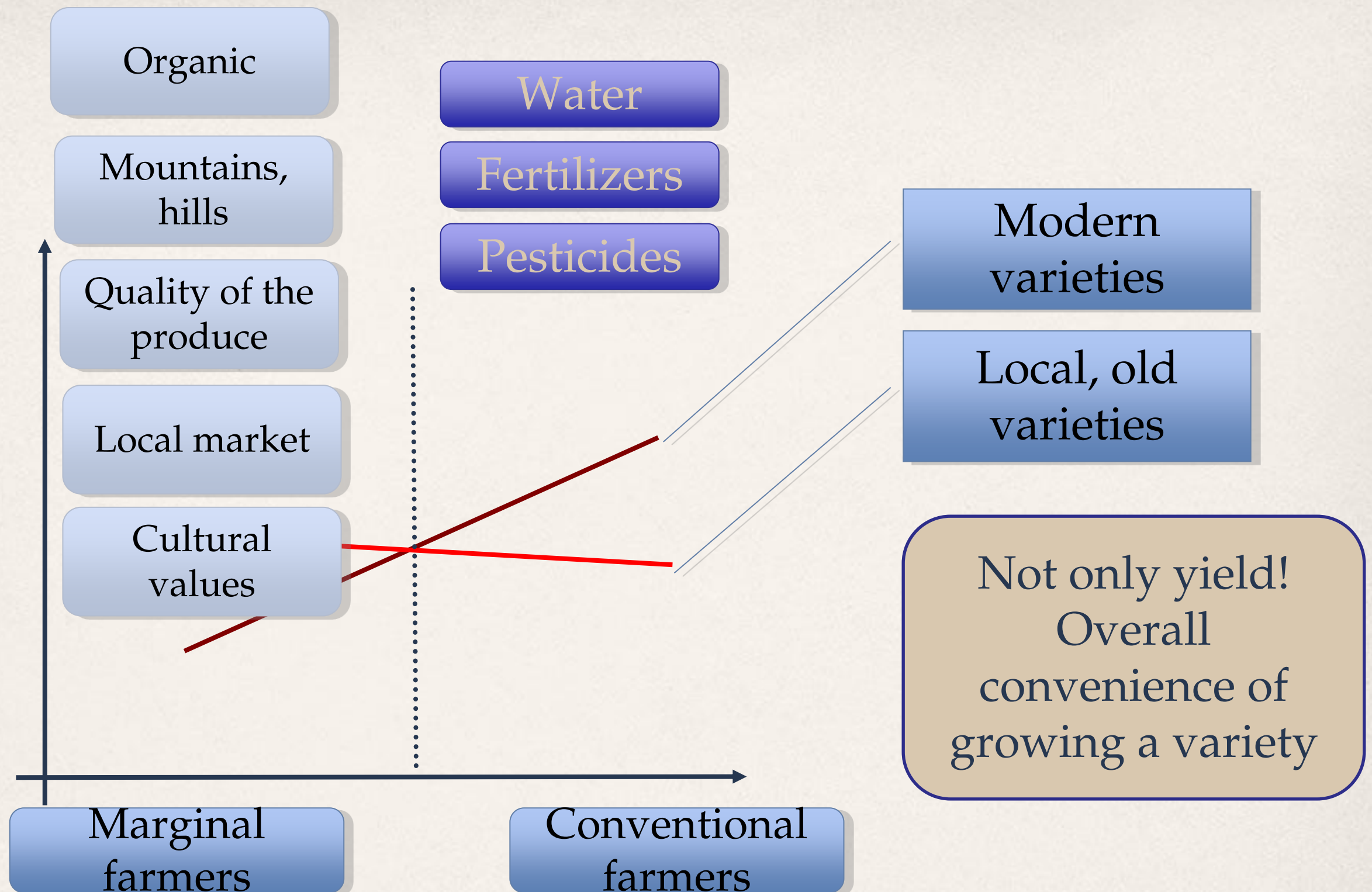
autumn 2013 – field catalog
widespread, 43 farmers, 92
landraces and CCP population



autumn 2014 – field catalog
widespread, 38 farmers, 54
landraces and more CCP
population

The problem, small farmers cannot find “their” varieties on the market!







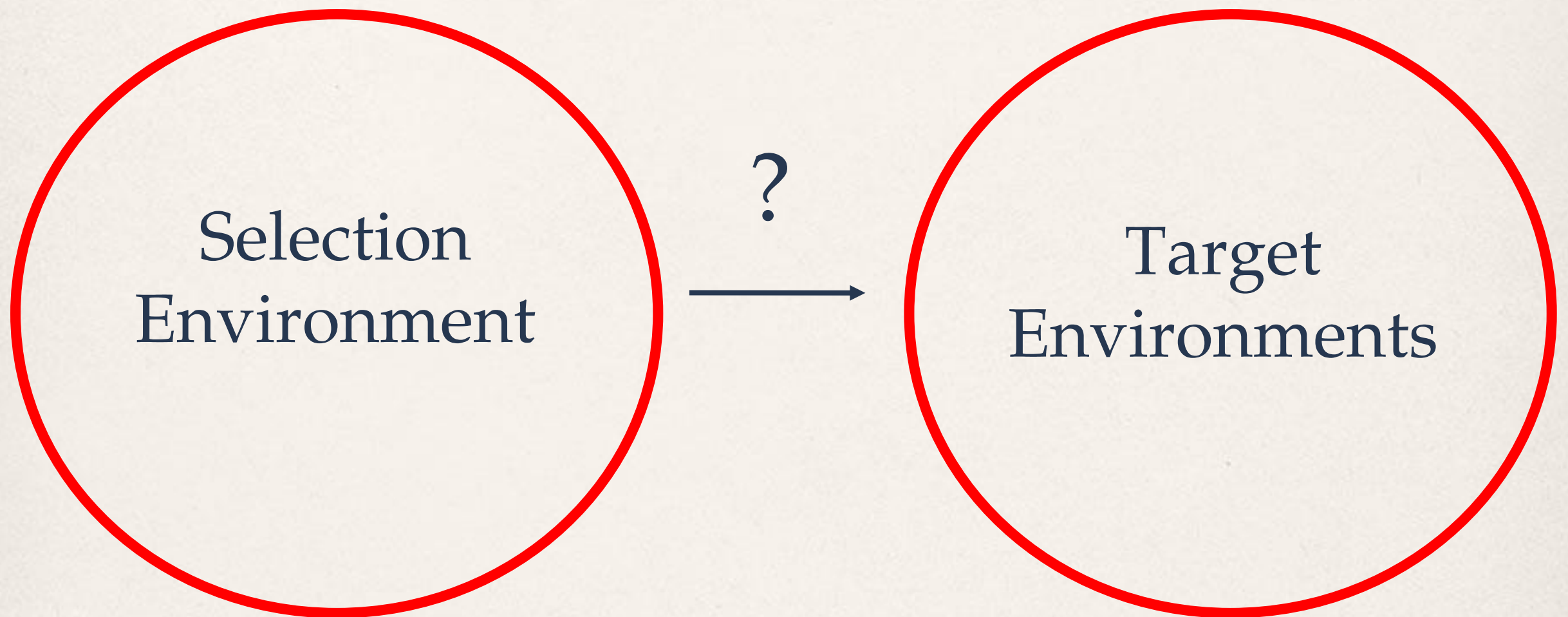
Populations

Participatory plant breeding

Diversity



Formal plant breeding



Participatory plant breeding



Why informal seed systems?

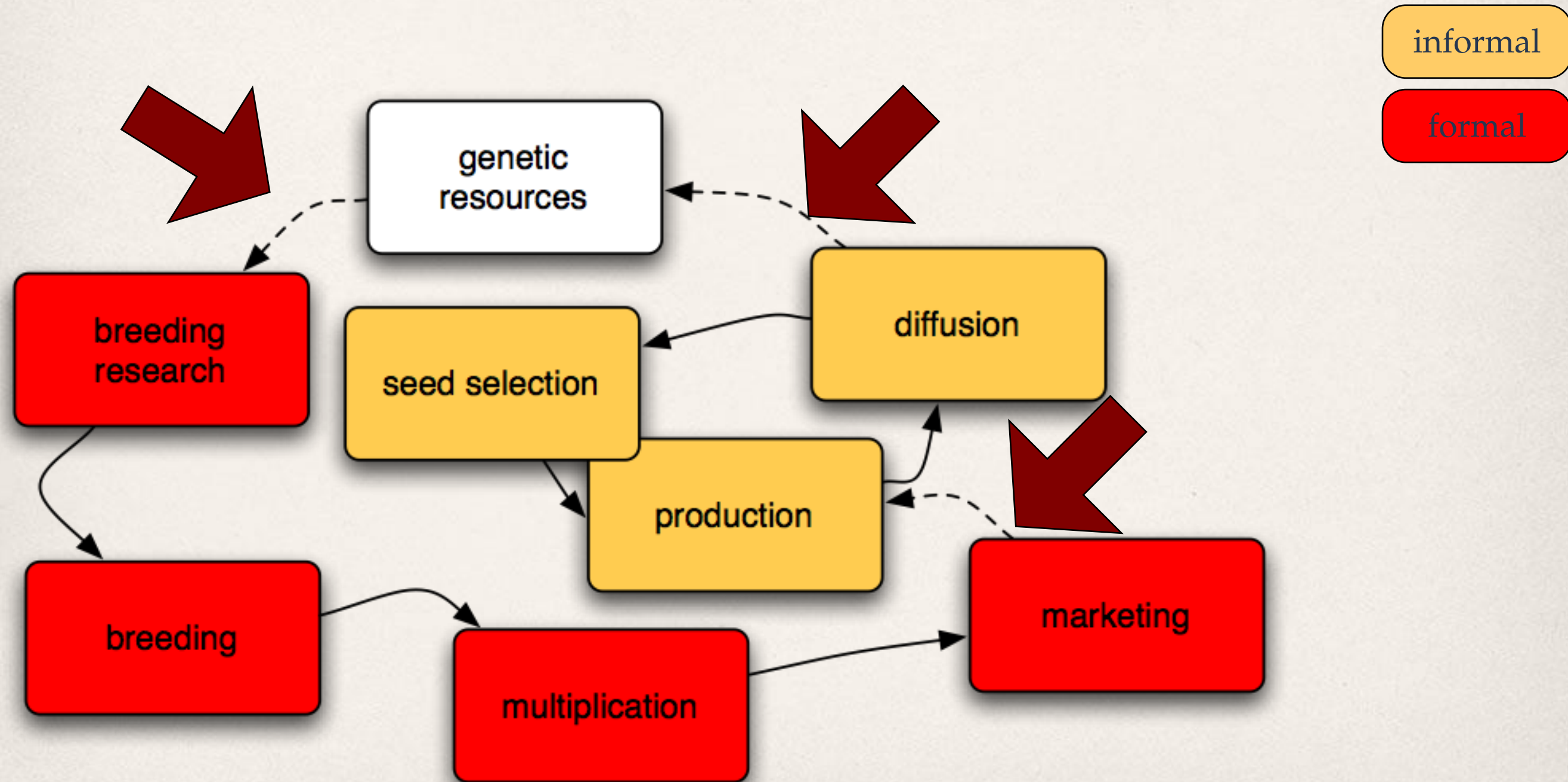
Informal seed systems are particularly important in the case (i) farmers prefer varieties with specific adaptation to local conditions or tasting/cooking quality that cannot be obtained from the formal sector; (ii) formal seed systems are inefficient or expensive; (iii) an acceptable seed quality could be easily produced (Louwaars, 2007); (iv) it is difficult to having access to improved seed (Lipper *et al.*, 2010)..

The importance of Informal seed systems

- a. guaranteeing access to propagation material in developing countries is well acknowledged by many researches and papers (see for example FAO, 2009; Bishaw and Gastel, 2010; Lipper *et al.*, 2010).
- b. “many country reports indicated that informal seed systems remain a key element in the maintenance of crop diversity on farm and can account for up to 90% of seed movement” (FAO, 2009).

It is important to note that this share varies according to the crop and the model of agriculture considered within the same country (Lipper *et al.*, 2010). The continuous presence of these seed supply systems after years of policies addressed to develop an efficient private seed sector it is the demonstration of the market failures.

A new approach to the seed issue: Seed Systems....



Some of the outcomes...



Marginal farmers are using not conventional varieties

Farmers and researchers can work together

Farmers and consumers together can change the idea of quality of the produce

A new approach is needed



market

exchange

cultivation

on-farm research

sustainable use of PGRFA

seed
systems

The keywords of the
new seed systems

decentralized

Farmer-oriented

A new role for farmer in
breeding and innovation

Participatory plant
breeding

Sustainable use of PGRFA

The State of the World of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

“it is impossible to replace farmers’ seed systems completely and it would be unwise to try. Farmers’ seed systems provide an important component of food security, a vital haven for diversity and space for further evolution of PGR” (FAO, 2009).



Thanks



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possible activities

- on farm conservation and management
- PPB
- dissemination of seed
- training for farmers' organisation and officials (in charge of the Treaty)
- dissemination on ITPGRFA
- training for gene banks

