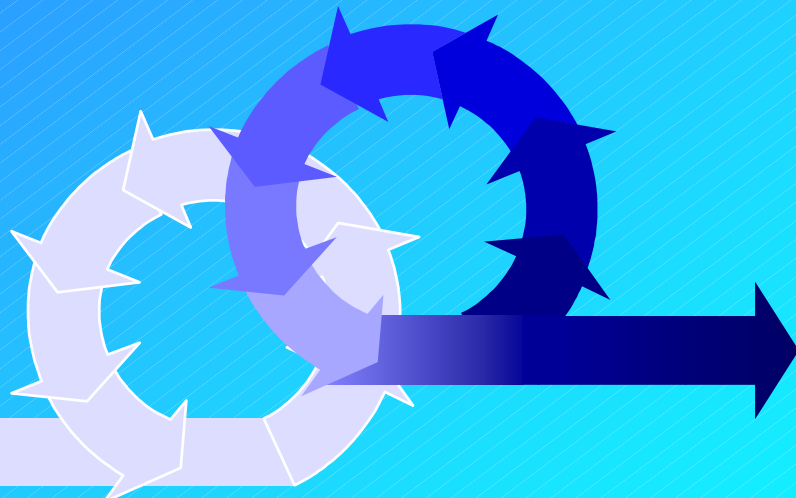


# **Institutionalising demand-driven agricultural research in Benin : experiences with the management cycle**



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# Leitmotiv

**New technologies for rural development and related information have to meet development objectives and users' needs**

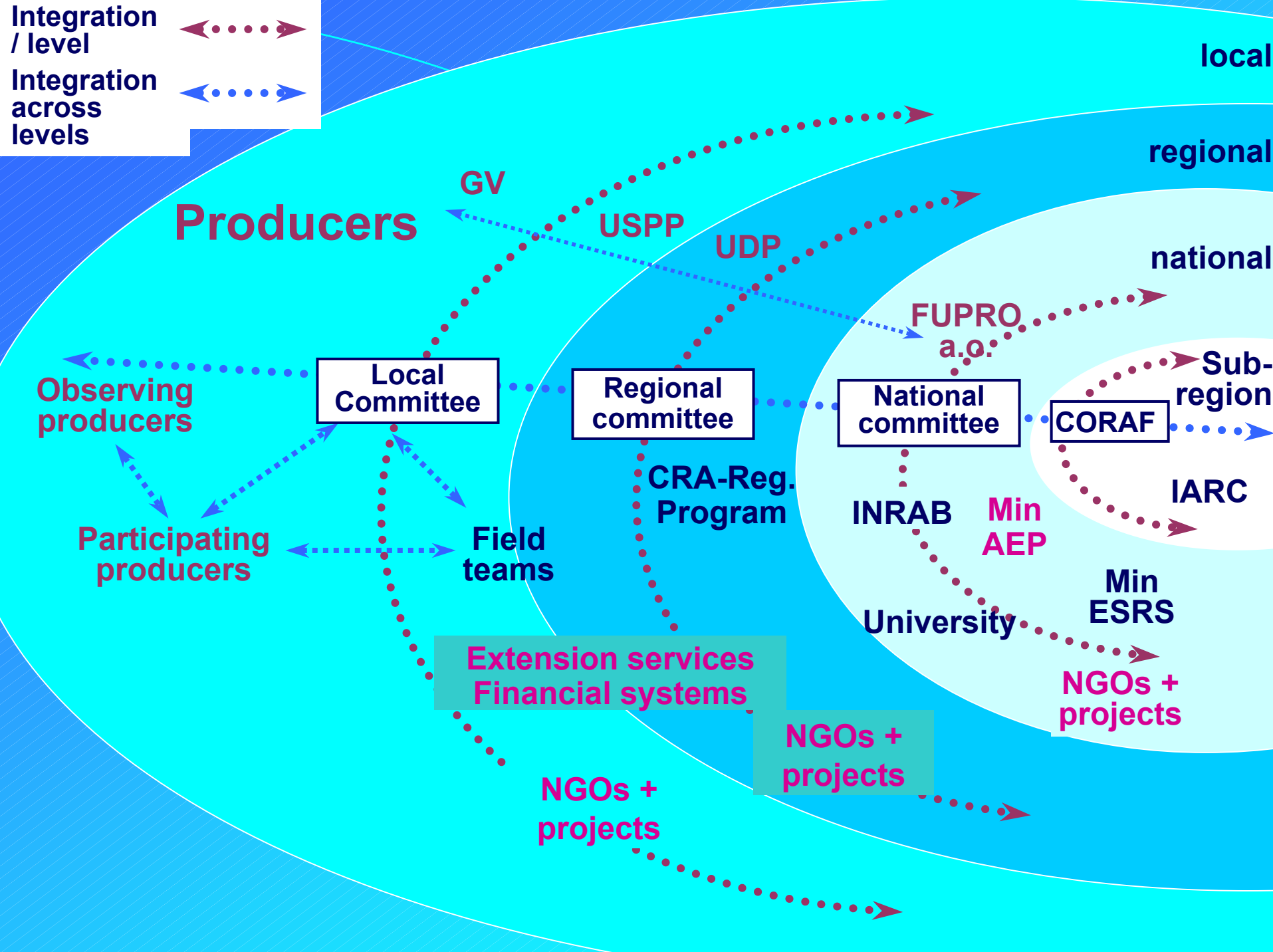
**What implications for**

- **Structure & organisation of AR**
- **Concepts & approaches**
- **Management**

# Implications

- Know the clients, their constraints, needs, demand and priorities
- Synergy between priorities of target groups & development goals
- “One” research strategy should mobilize NARS
- Decentralized research
- Operational concepts of research & funding must be focused on priorities
- Strengthen participatory methods & interdisciplinary research
- M&E of implementation & impact assessment

# **Interfaces integrating demand and offer of agricultural research in Benin**



# Bringing demand and offer together

**Participatory  
design of mid  
term programs**



The diagram features a large, thick, dark blue curved arrow that forms a loop. It starts from the bottom right, curves upwards and to the left, and then curves downwards and to the right, ending with an arrowhead pointing towards the bottom right. A light blue arrow points from the text 'Participatory design of mid term programs' to the start of the loop. Another light blue arrow points from the end of the loop to the text '& annual management cycle'. The background of the diagram is divided into three main color sections: a maroon top section, a white middle section, and a dark blue bottom section.

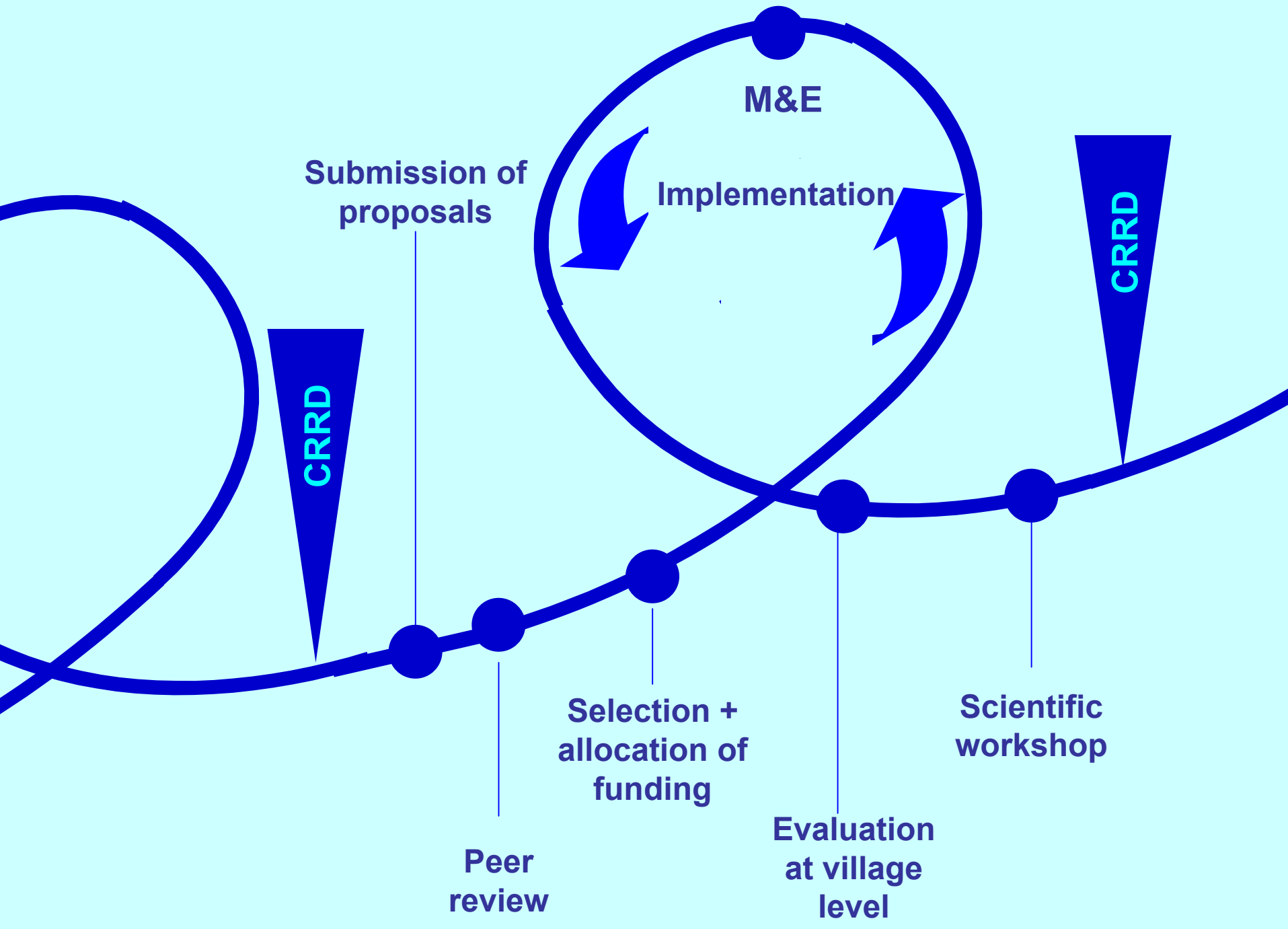
**& annual  
management  
cycle**

**Mid-term programs**

The diagram features a large, dark blue, thick-lined oval loop. Inside this loop, a list of five items is centered. A light blue arrow enters the loop from the bottom left, pointing towards the center. Another light blue arrow exits the loop from the right side, pointing towards the top right. The background is split into two curved sections: a blue section at the top and a magenta section at the bottom.

**Priorities - new constraints  
planning - quality control  
funding - implementation  
M&E – capitalization  
Gateway to extension**

**Annual management cycle**





## **(2) Regional R&D Committees**

**Plat-form for users and researchers**

**Functions: Appraisal of results**

**Decisions on**

- **Follow-up of ongoing research**
- **Transfer to extension and**
- **New constraints / priorities**

**5 years of experience (1998 – 2002)**

**Since 2001 :**

**Sector R&D Committee Food technology**

# Competitive grant cover operating cost

<b>Volume in 2002</b>	<b>Approx. 800 000 €</b>
<b>Sources</b>	
Benin	National budget
Denmark	PADSA-Danida
Netherlands	Ministry of Cooperation & CBDD
Germany	BMZ, GTZ
France	PADSE (research contract)
<Participating producers	In kind>

# Submission of proposals & peer review

Standard proposal

Peers from NARS & user organizations

Triple lecture, appraisal + ranking of proposals

## Criteria

- Respect of standard proposal & deadlines
- Proposal covered by program et decisions CRRD
- Good comprehension of the research problem
- Relevance of scientific approach
- Adequate research methods
- Realistic budget

# Pressure on quality is considerable

**Accepted proposals** - Example Southern-Central Benin

**50 % of 133 in 2001**

**68 % of 106 in 2002**

## Funded activities

Literature review  
Station research

**20%**

Diagnostic On Farm research  
Participatory On Farm trials  
Farmer-managed validation trials

**80%**

# M&E during implementation of research

**Interdisciplinary teams (NARS) visit research locations & interview researchers & involved farmers**

**Standardized approach of M&E and of reporting**

## **Criteria**

**Timely implementation**

**Adaptations of concept & causes**

**Methodological – organizational difficulties - solutions**

**Mastery of participatory methods**

**Socio-economic context** (e.g. consideration of gender aspects)

**Team management**

**Statements of involved & observing farmers**

**Administrative & financial aspects**

# Effects of cycle management

We have improved quality & governance of research  
On Farm and station research are integrated

<b>*) 94</b>	<b>% of activities are gender specific &amp; focused on priorities of the regional committee &amp; program</b>
<b>260</b>	<b>research locations</b>
<b>&gt;2100</b>	<b>farms are involved in On Farm research</b>
<b>&gt;1000</b>	<b>farmers and 750 female farmers are involved in gender sensitive On Farm research</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>% of activities implemented by inter-institutional teams approx. 70 researchers (NARS) mobilized</b>

\*) figures from Southern-Central Benin 2002



# Perspectives and challenges

- Continue to improve participation of users in negotiation and On Farm research **! women**
- Ensure training on participatory approaches & management cycle
- Strengthen local committees & national committee
- Raise funding for sustainability of the grant scheme
- Create partnerships with producer organizations & future municipalities
- Edit a handbook on cycle management of AR (forthcoming)
- Transfer the approach & tools to other programs, NARS & CORAF
- Computerize M&E and realize impact assessment



# Merci pour votre attention

# Thank you for listening



**Kit**

