



# The (in)visible components of participatory action research (PAR)

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## Introduction

Transdisciplinary collaboration as well as the incorporation of different worldviews in research are crucial to assess and design diversified agroforestry and agroecological systems. In this poster, we discuss participatory action research as an approach for engaging with local actors and to develop effective strategies for building more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems. Based on a case study in Brazil, we highlight and assess six main components that are crucial for implementing participatory action research.

## Participatory Action Research

### (i) Collective definition of research questions



**Figure 1.** Meeting with farmers to discuss the role of research to improve rural livelihoods.



**Figure 2.** Systematization of problems and ideas that research could help to address according to farmers.

To align researchers and local actors interests.

### (iv) Integration between research and education

To create synergies and strength research outcomes.



**Figure 6.** Training students to apply scientific methodologies in the field.



**Figure 7.** Interactive class with students to discuss and present research results.

### (ii) Participatory methodologies for building scientific knowledge

To discuss, explore and analyse research questions.



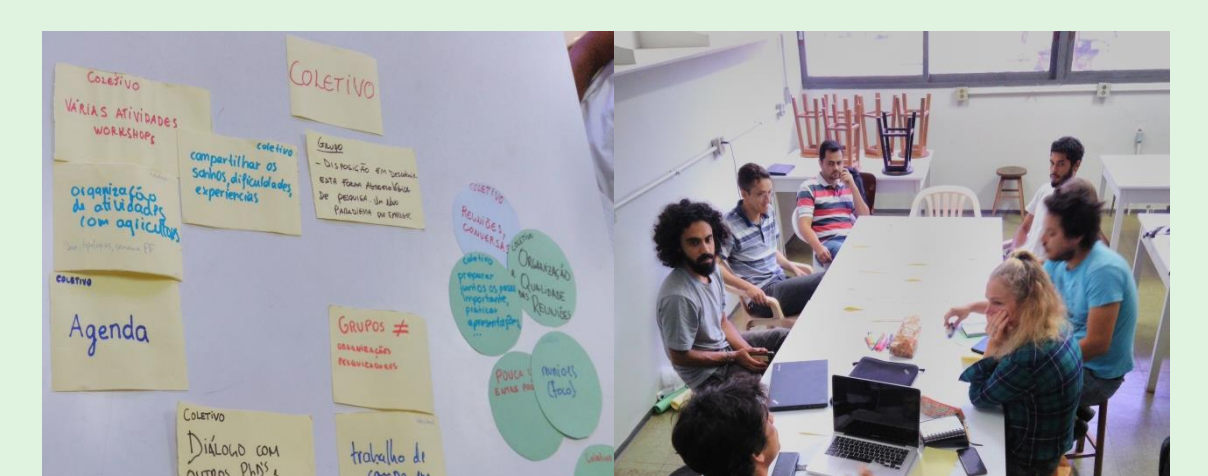
**Figure 3.** Participatory workshops to integrate local and scientific knowledge.



**Figure 4.** Example of a Fuzzy Cognitive Map based on farmers' perceptions.

### (v) Strengthening capacity building and interdisciplinary work

To create and manage an efficient and collaborative team.



**Figure 8.** Evaluation meeting with part of the interdisciplinary research team.

### (iii) Sharing and discussing research results with local actors

To make research outcomes useful and meaningful for local actors and build a relationship of mutual trust and respect.



**Figure 5.** Artistic pedagogical installation to return research results to farmers.

### (vi) Social engagement with farmers

To better understand local realities, identify research gaps, get to know the local community and to develop a relationship of mutual trust.



**Figure 9.** Peasant-to-peasant meeting in one of the research sites.

## Conclusions

- Participatory research processes can be facilitated by long-term local networks
- Participatory research is effective to bridge scientific and local knowledge, to engage with farmers organisations and to make research outcomes more relevant on the ground.
- Engaging with farmers and different knowledge disciplines require extra effort and time from individual researchers, which is not always valued or recognized by academic systems.

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