Participatory Action Research

(i) Collective definition of research questions
To align researchers and local actors’ interests.

(ii) Participatory methodologies for building scientific knowledge
To discuss, explore and analyse research questions.

(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.

(iv) Integration between research and education
To create synergies and strengths research outcomes.

(v) Strengthening capacity building and interdisciplinary work
To create and manage an efficient and collaborative team.

(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.

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.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank the entire FOREFRONT team and specially farmers who shared their knowledge and made our research possible. We also would like to thank Agrinatura Association for the travel grant to participate in this conference.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The (in)visible components of participatory action research (PAR)
Heitor Mancini Teixeira1,2,3, Margriet Goris4,5, Leonardo Van Den Berg4,5, Lucas Carvalho Gomes1,3, Felix Bianchi1, Marielos Peña-Claros2, Irene Maria Cardoso3

1 Wageningen University and Research, Farming Systems Ecology Group, The Netherlands
2 Wageningen University and Research, Forest Ecology and Management Group, The Netherlands
3 Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Departamento de Economia Rural, Brazil
4 Wageningen University and Research, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group, The Netherlands
5 Vassar College

Contact: heitor.manciniteixeira@wur.nl
www.wur.nl/Persons/Heitor-H-Heitor-Mancini-Teixeira

Figure 10. A photo of the research team.