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Minagricultura

Producer organizations key instrument for strengthening the agricultural sector in Colombia

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Introduction

Multiple technological practices are available to promote agrobiodiversity and the production of innocuous food. However, the interaction between science and farmer's organizations, who are organized to produce food, have several restrictions delaying knowledge management and technical change.

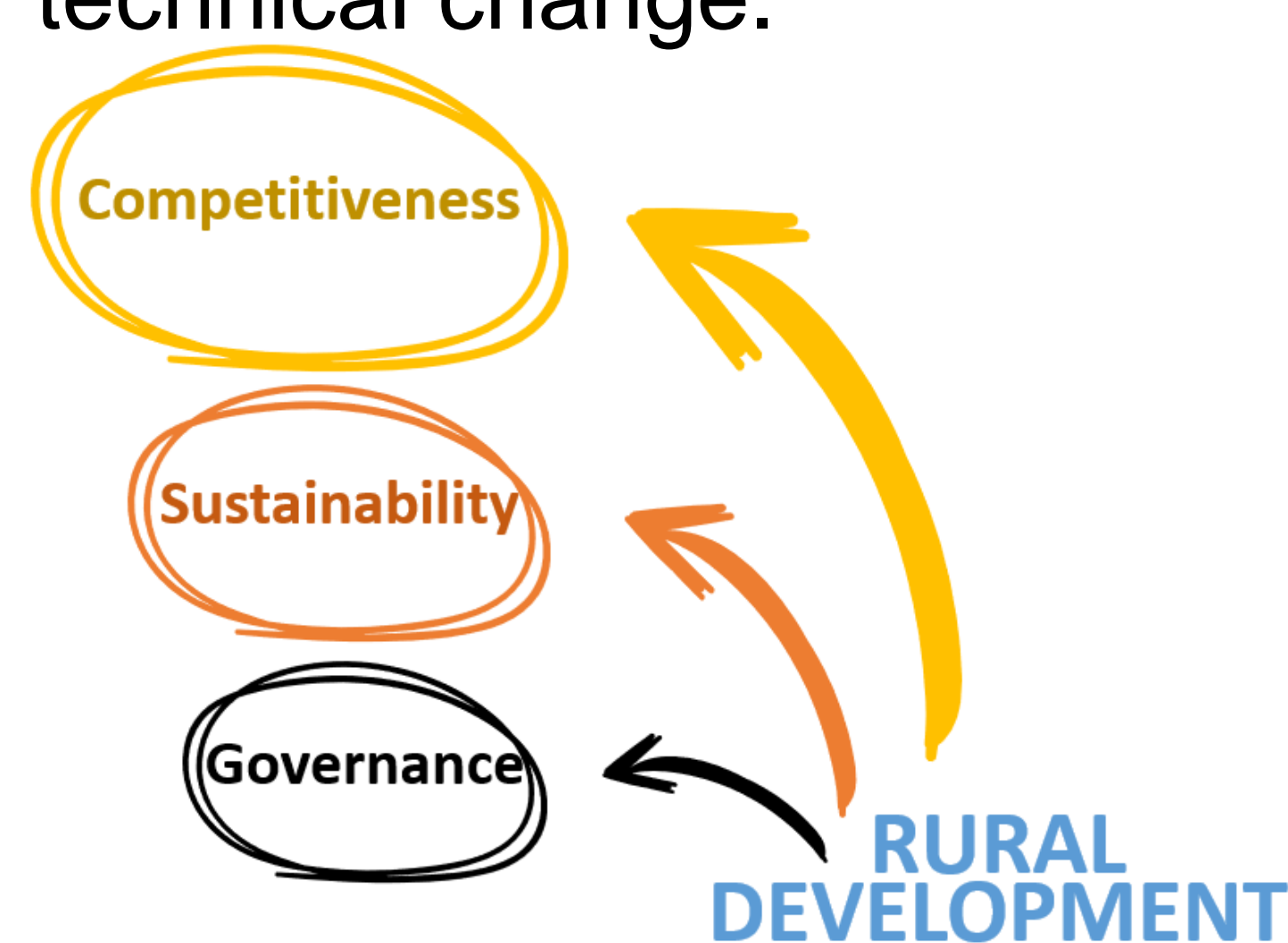


Figure 1. Strengthening factors in R+D+i processes for rural development



Methodology

Three agricultural projects that involved governance, transdisciplinary and agri-food systems in R+D+I in Colombia were analyzed, looking for coincidences in the intervention methodologies and impact routes planned in farmer's organizations. This information was the starting point to compare the level of implementation of the determining elements for technical change and rural development in the execution of R+D+i initiatives.

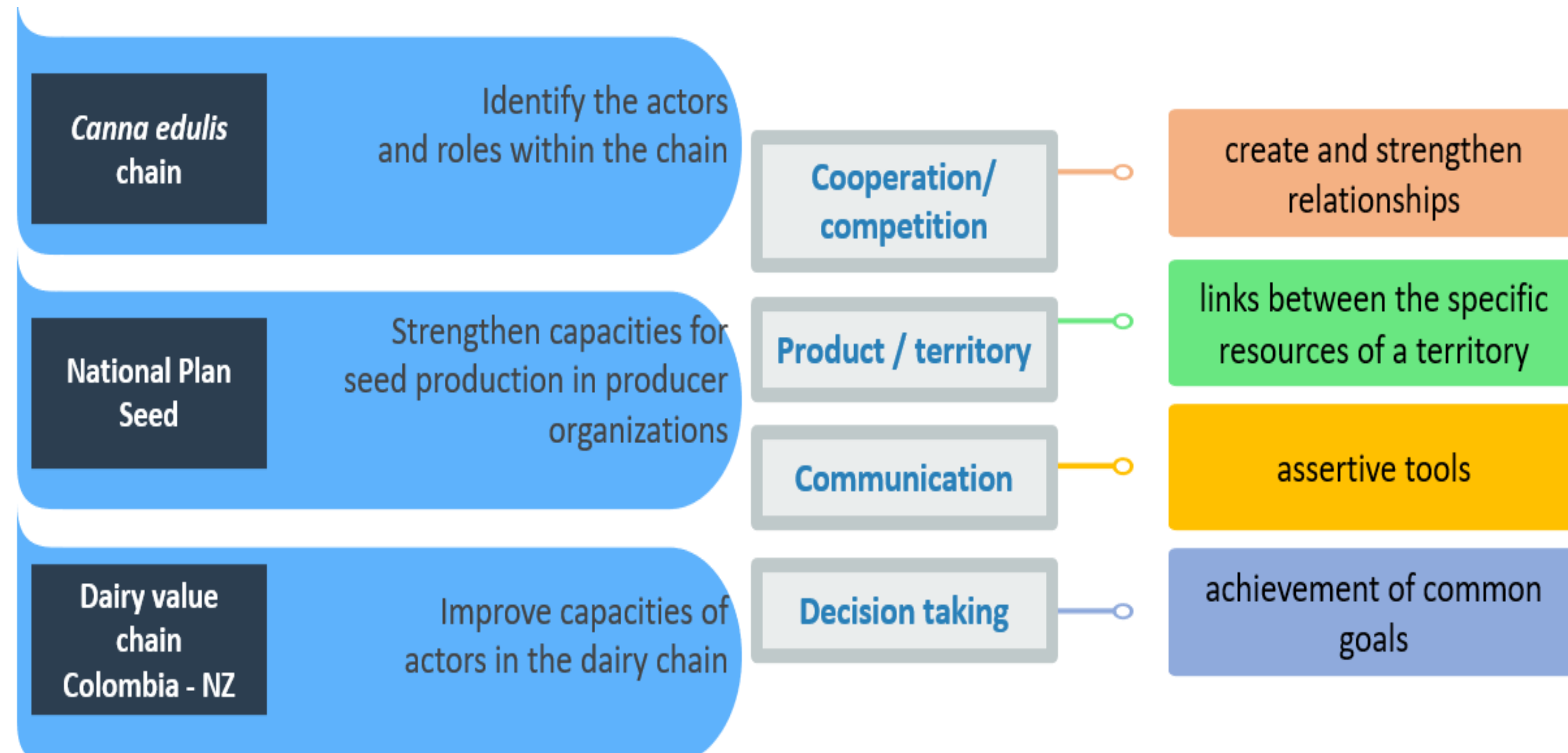


Figure 2. Common factors in governance, transdisciplinarity and agri-food systems approaches

Results

The points of agreement among governance, transdisciplinarity and agri-food systems approaches are determined mainly by the importance of considering territorial particularities, such as the type of relationships and communications existing between those involved in the production of agricultural products and services, the available tools to make decisions and in general the use of the specific resources of the territory and its governance.

The Colombia-New Zealand dairy value chain initiative integrated multiple stakeholders during formulation, execution and monitoring of the initiative's actions, strengthening capacities for decision-making that favor milk quality and price with the implementation of better practices from farms to organizations.

Table 1. Determining factors for technical change addressed in the initiatives

	Canna edulis chain	National Plan Seed	Dairy value chain Colombia - NZ
Cooperation/competition	fully implemented	fully implemented	fully implemented
Product / territory	fully implemented	fully implemented	fully implemented
Communication	not implemented	fully implemented	fully implemented
Decision taking	not implemented	fully implemented	fully implemented

■ fully implemented
■ partially implemented
■ not implemented

The achira chain project oriented its actions around agronomic activities in the cultivation and transformation of starch. Involving producer organizations and other stakeholders in the agri-food chain was left for future initiatives.

Although in the National Seed Plan the actions considered the determining elements of governance, the commitments at the national level to have quality seed for more than 21 agricultural species, forced to focus attention and efforts on technical elements but the initiative was not far on strengthening organizations capabilities.

Conclusions

The initiatives reviewed implement with difficulties actions to strengthen governance, transdisciplinarity and agri-food systems approaches in farmer's organizations, due to the relevance concentrated in solving production challenges. The skills and tools for communication, the administration of available resources, management and participation in collective processes are commonly left behind.

The circumstances of financing and the short duration of initiatives oblige us to always prioritize progress in short-term results in productive issues with producer organizations.

Acknowledgment

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References

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