

Connecting Farmers, Research and Advisory Services: A Practice-Research Network for Agroforestry in Organic Farming

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INTRODUCTION

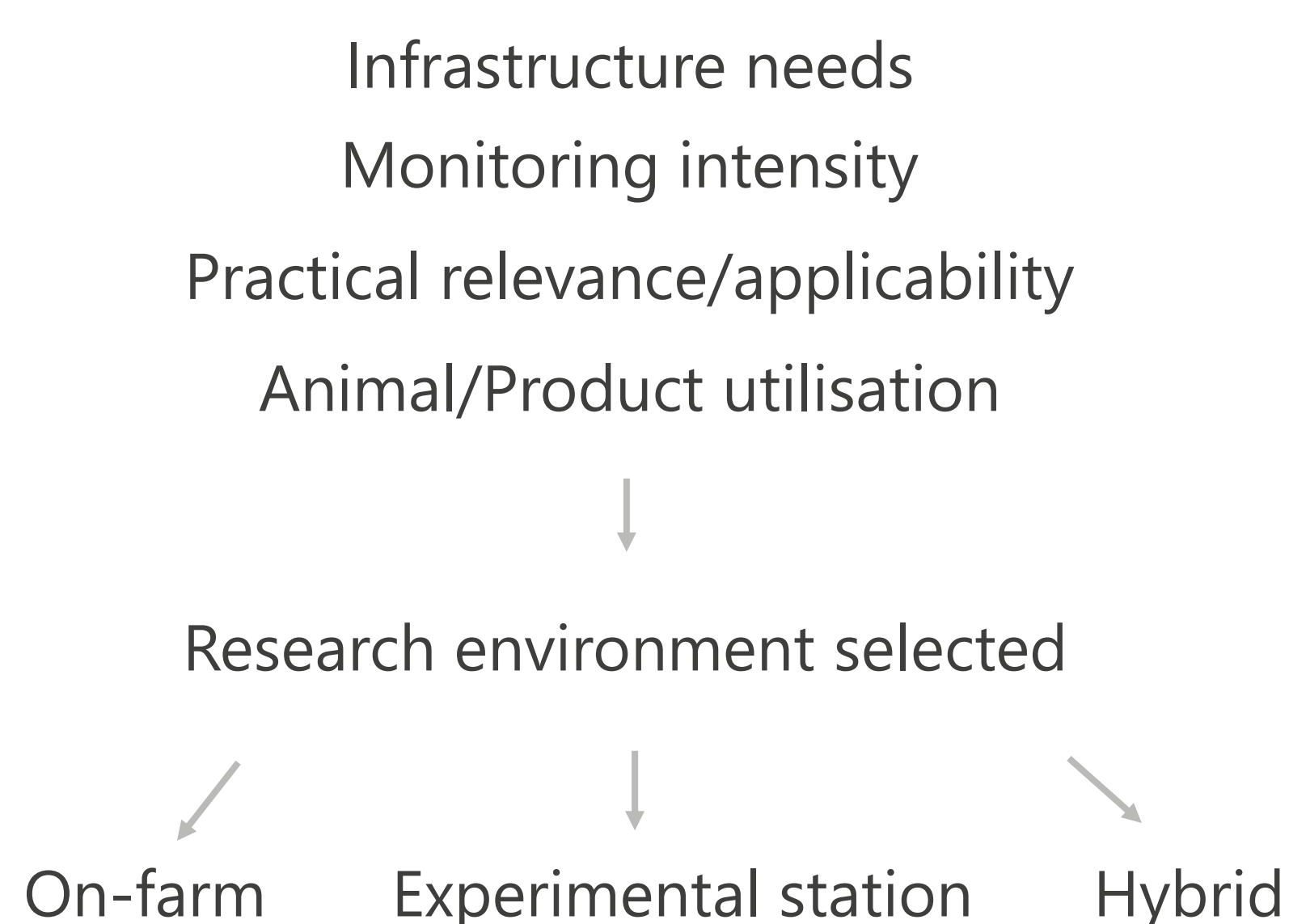
Agroforestry systems are increasingly recognized for their potential to enhance the ecological and socio-economic resilience of agricultural systems. While numerous initiatives across Europe are being developed as living labs, less attention has been given to the early-stage co-design processes that shape such networks and strongly influence their later outcomes. This contribution reflects on the initial co-design phase of a newly established practice-research network in Germany connecting approximately 20 organic farms with researchers, advisors, and knowledge-transfer partners (Project ReAgt4Oeko: Agroforestry for more resilience in organic farming – practice-research network).

METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

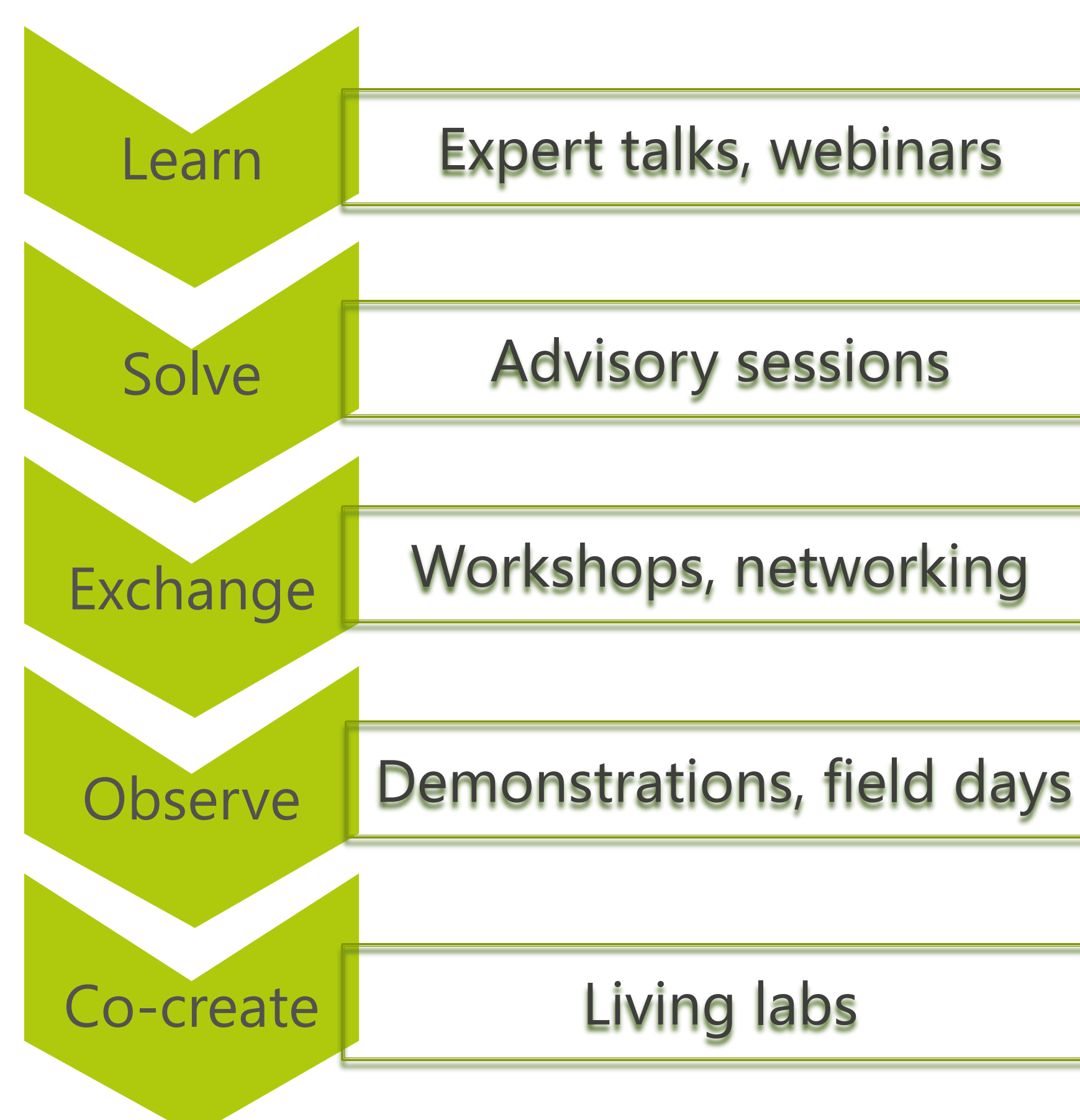


Conditions needed

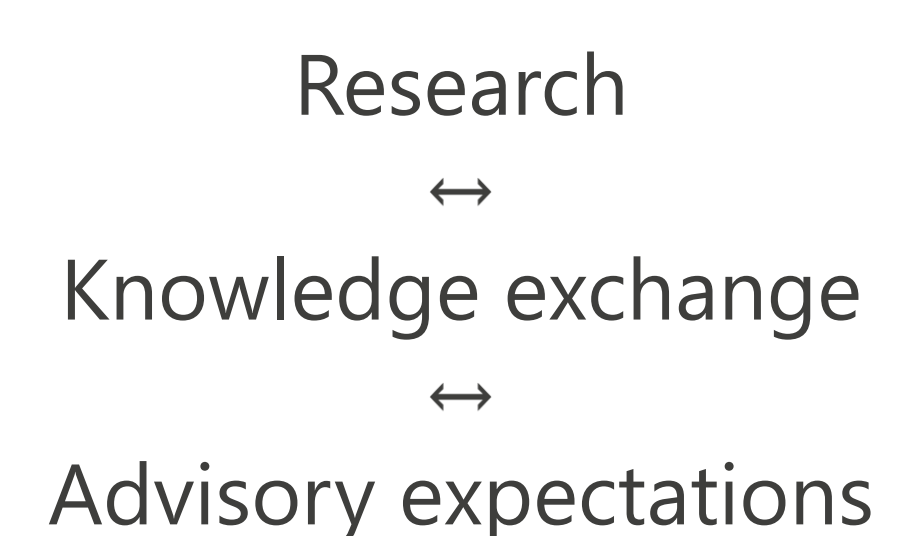


PARTICIPATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Farmer profile	Preferred format
Reflective expert	One-on-one exchange
Practice oriented innovator	On-farm discussions
Collaborative Co-Creator	Innovation labs, co-design workshops
Networker	Workshops
Peer educator	Field days



ROLES, EXPECTATIONS AND BOUNDARIES



Advisory topics

- Legal advice
- Assistance with planning permission
- Advice on funding
- Operational recommendations

Boundary work trough

- Explicit communication of the own role
- Institutional agreements
- Referral mechanisms
- Co-definition of expectations

OUTLOOK/EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

- Expanding participatory research activities across diverse agroforestry contexts –broadening engagement in specialized settings such as vitiforestry systems and nature reserves
- Testing differentiated research environments and engagement formats - identifying pathways for establishing self-sustaining networks beyond the project's duration

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