



Extension and Advisory Services in Benin

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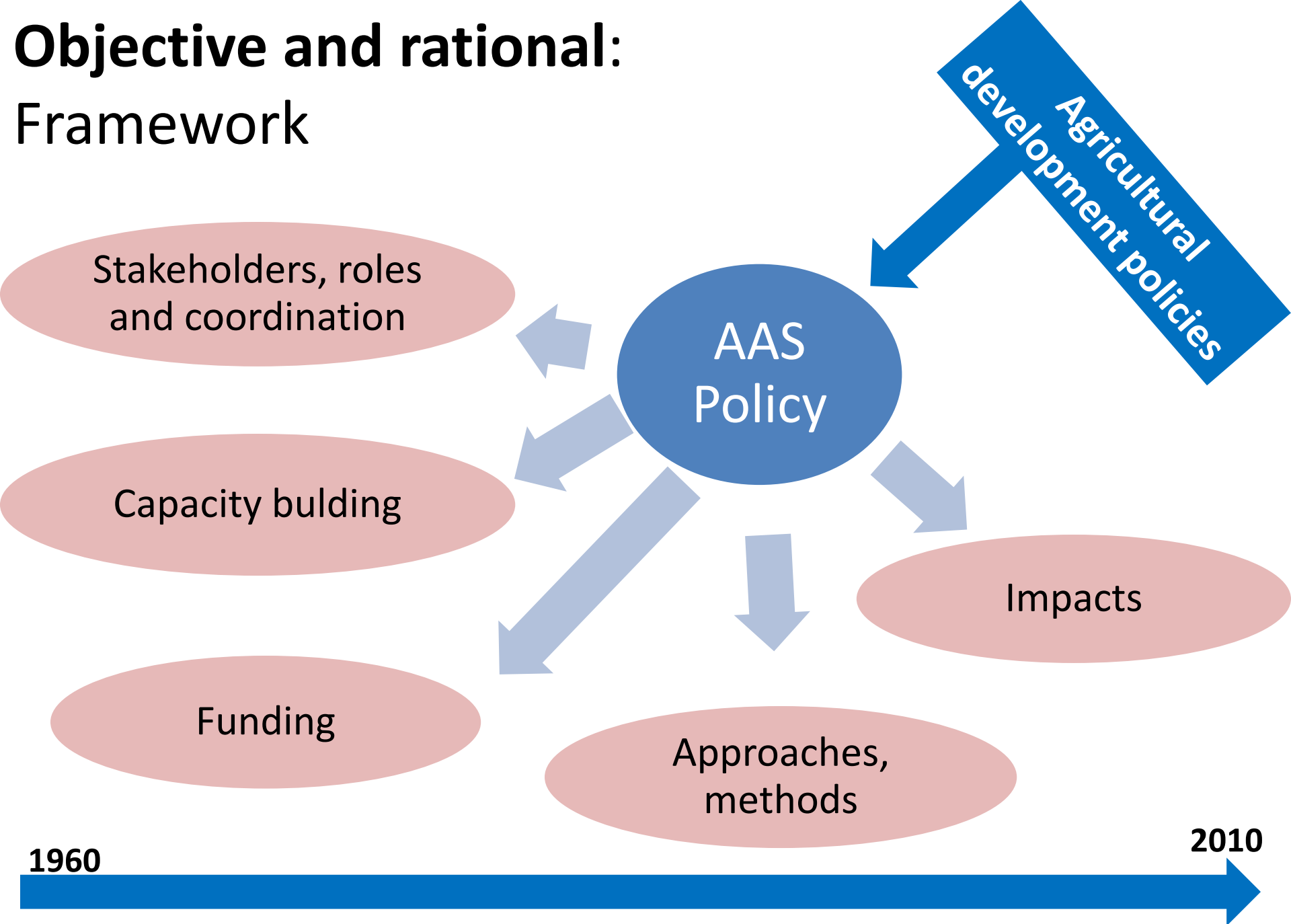
Outline

- Objective and rational
- Policies and approaches
- Key learning and perspectives

Objective and rational

- Based on case study of agricultural advisory services in Benin commissioned by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in 2011
- Aims at presenting the evolution and perspectives of the agricultural advisory services
- Feed current debate and provide evidence for policy making

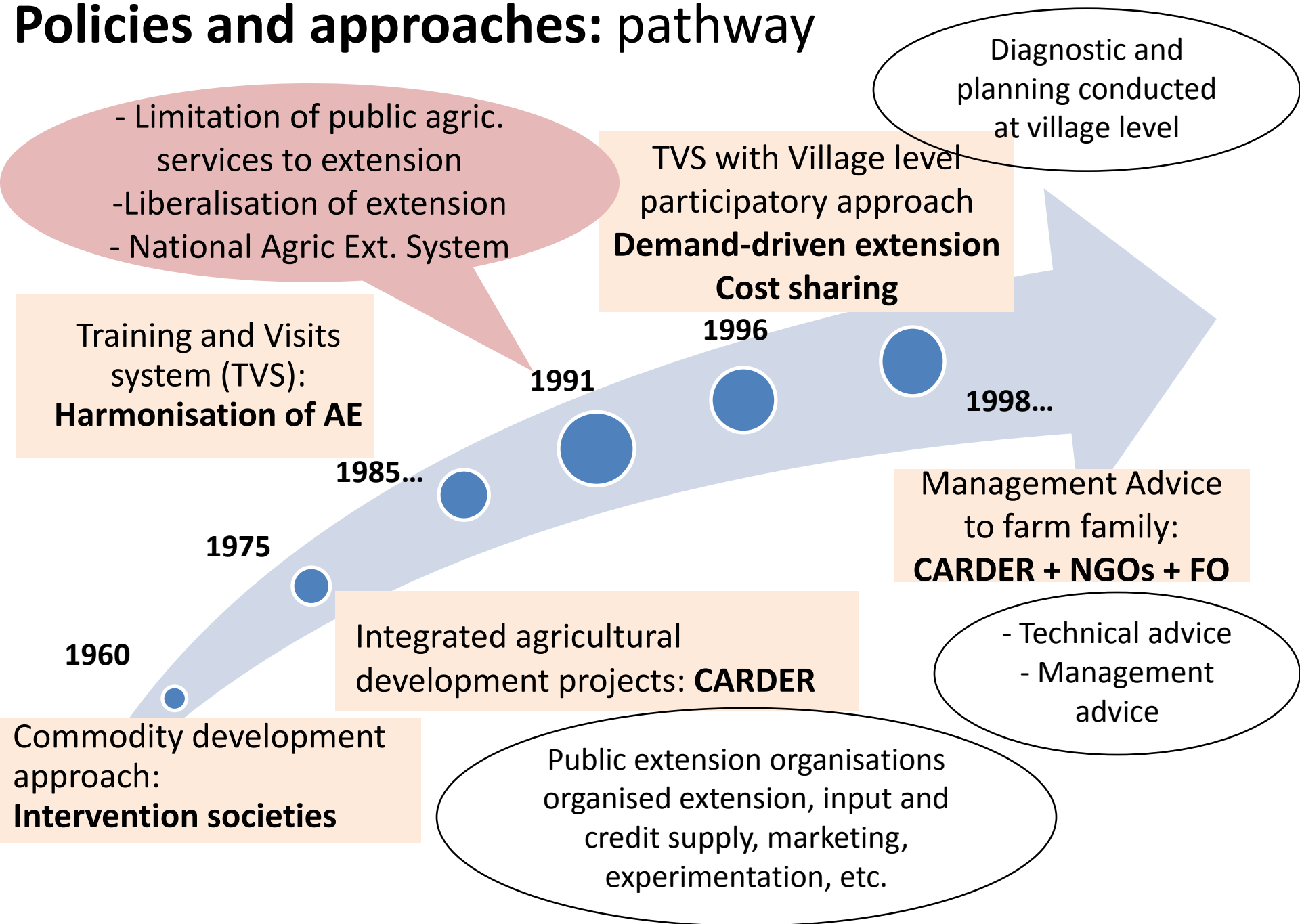
Objective and rational: Framework



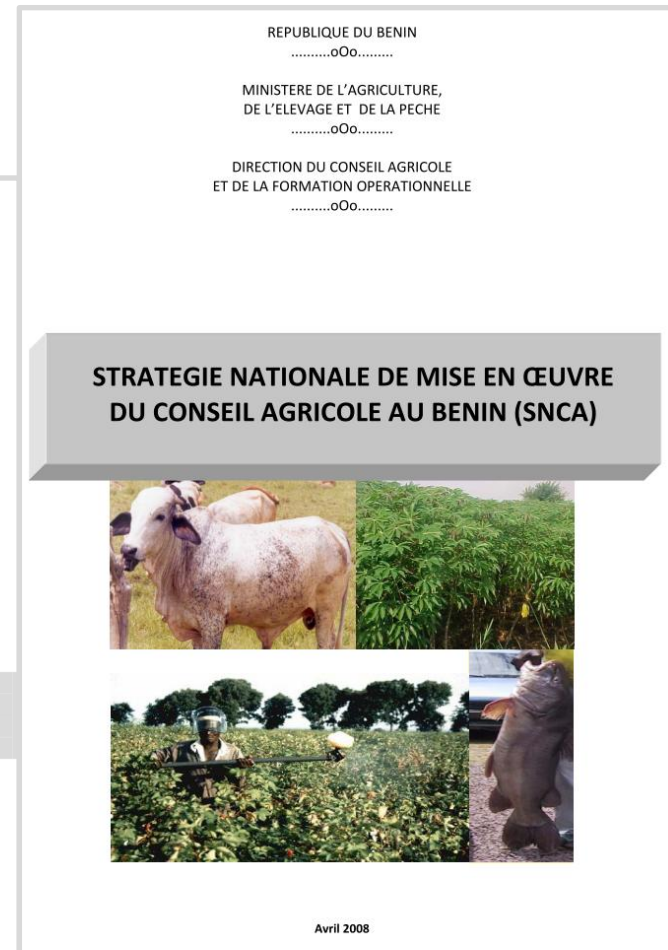
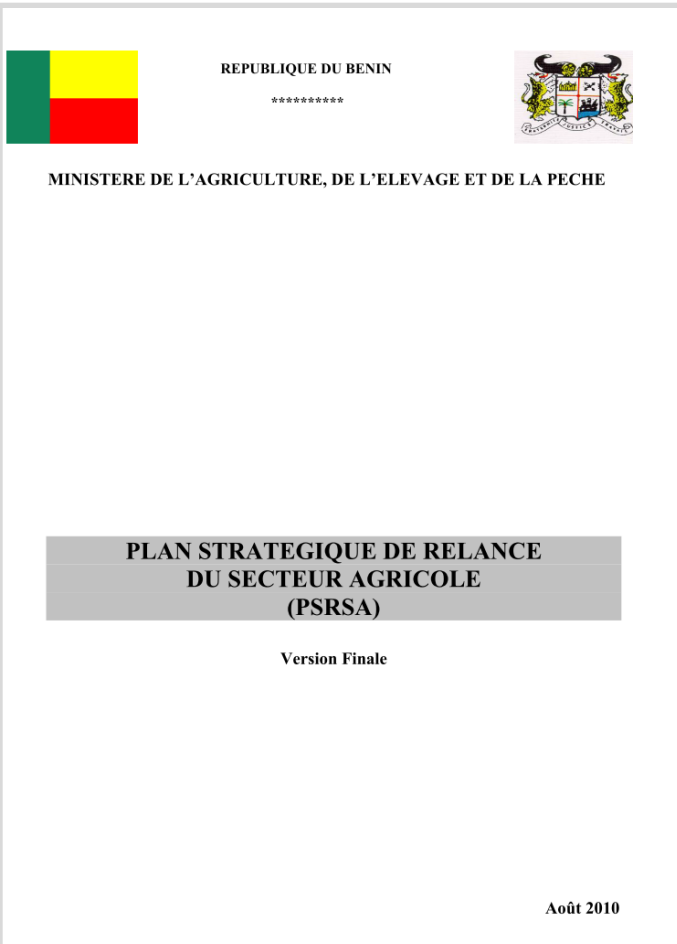
Objective and rational: Benin



Policies and approaches: pathway



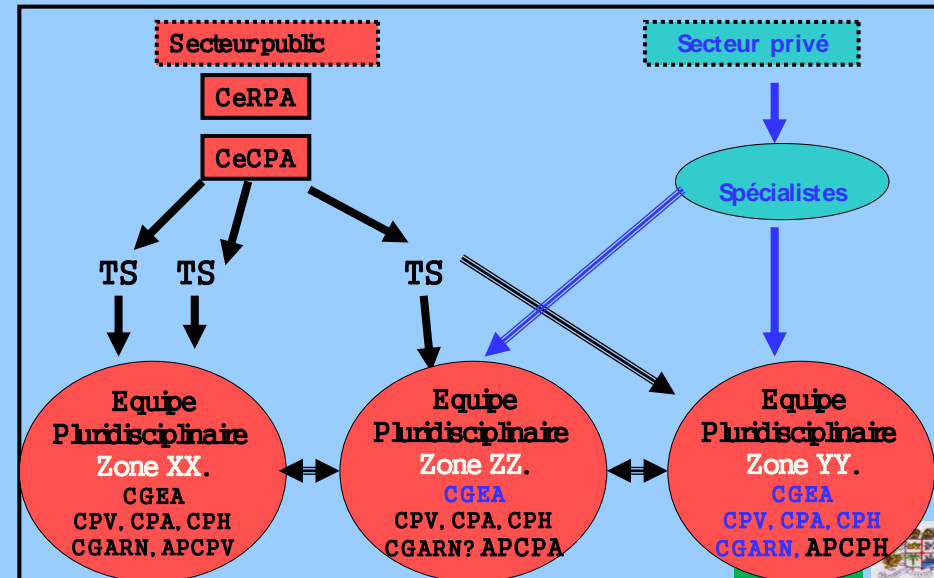
Policies and approaches: reference documents



Policies and approaches: From TV to MAFF

- Definition of AAS key principles and orientations
- Developing approaches with technical support of development agencies
- Identification of the types of AAS to provide to farmers
- Definition of the role of stakeholders

II- PLAN STRATEGIQUE DE MISE EN ŒUVRE DU CONSEIL AGRICOLE



**Strategy for National
Agricultural Advisory Services**

Policies and approaches: guiding principles

AAS principles in Benin

FAAP Principles

Subsidiarity

Cost sharing

Complementarity

Mutual trust

Free adherence

Planned subsidiarity

Cost sharing with end-users

Empowerment of end-users

Gender considerations at all levels

Evidence based approaches to AAS

Integration of AAS with research, private sector, training, capacity building & education programmes

Pluralism in the delivery of AAS

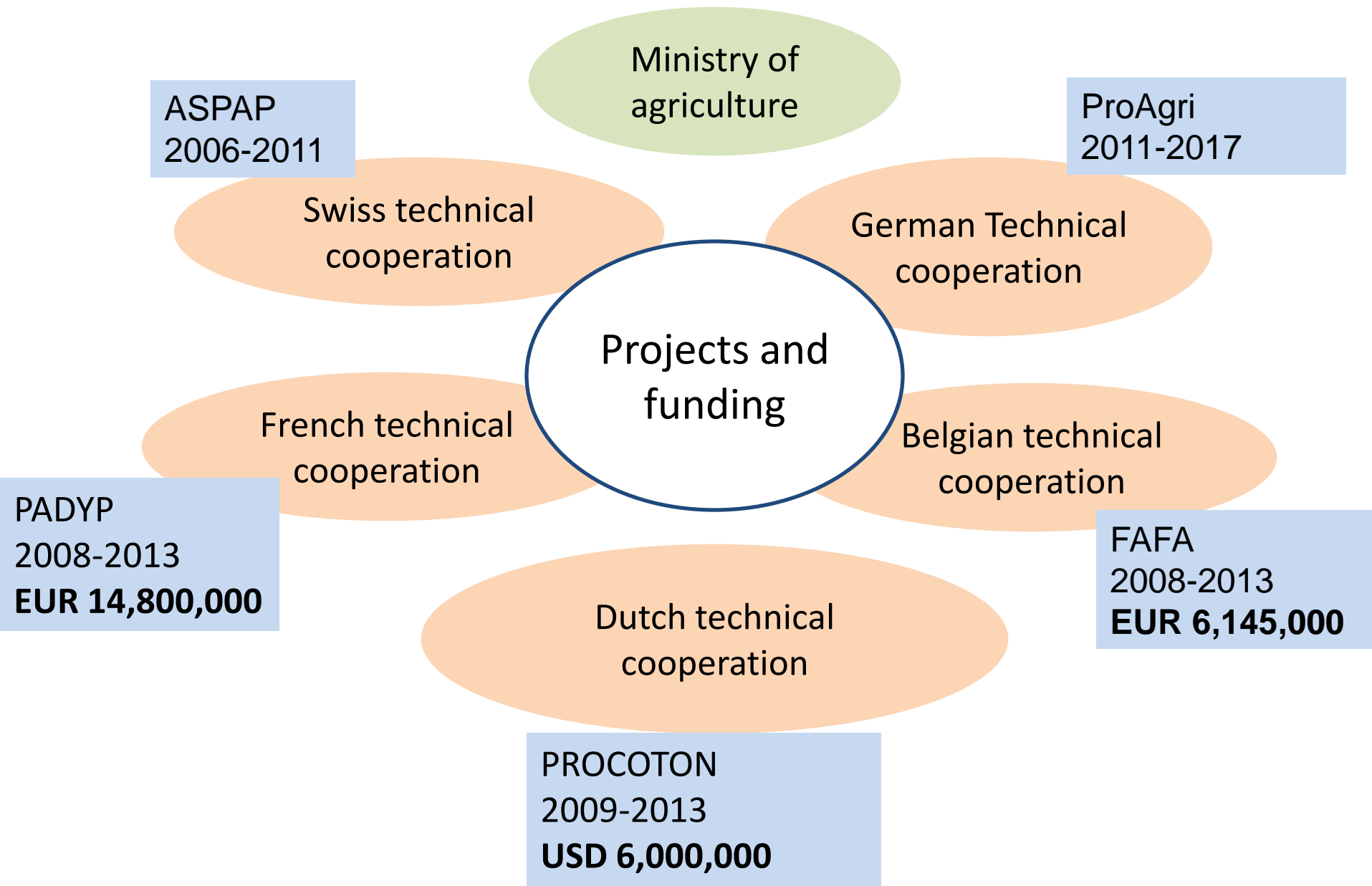
Explicit incorporation of sustainability criteria

Systematic utilisation of improved management information systems

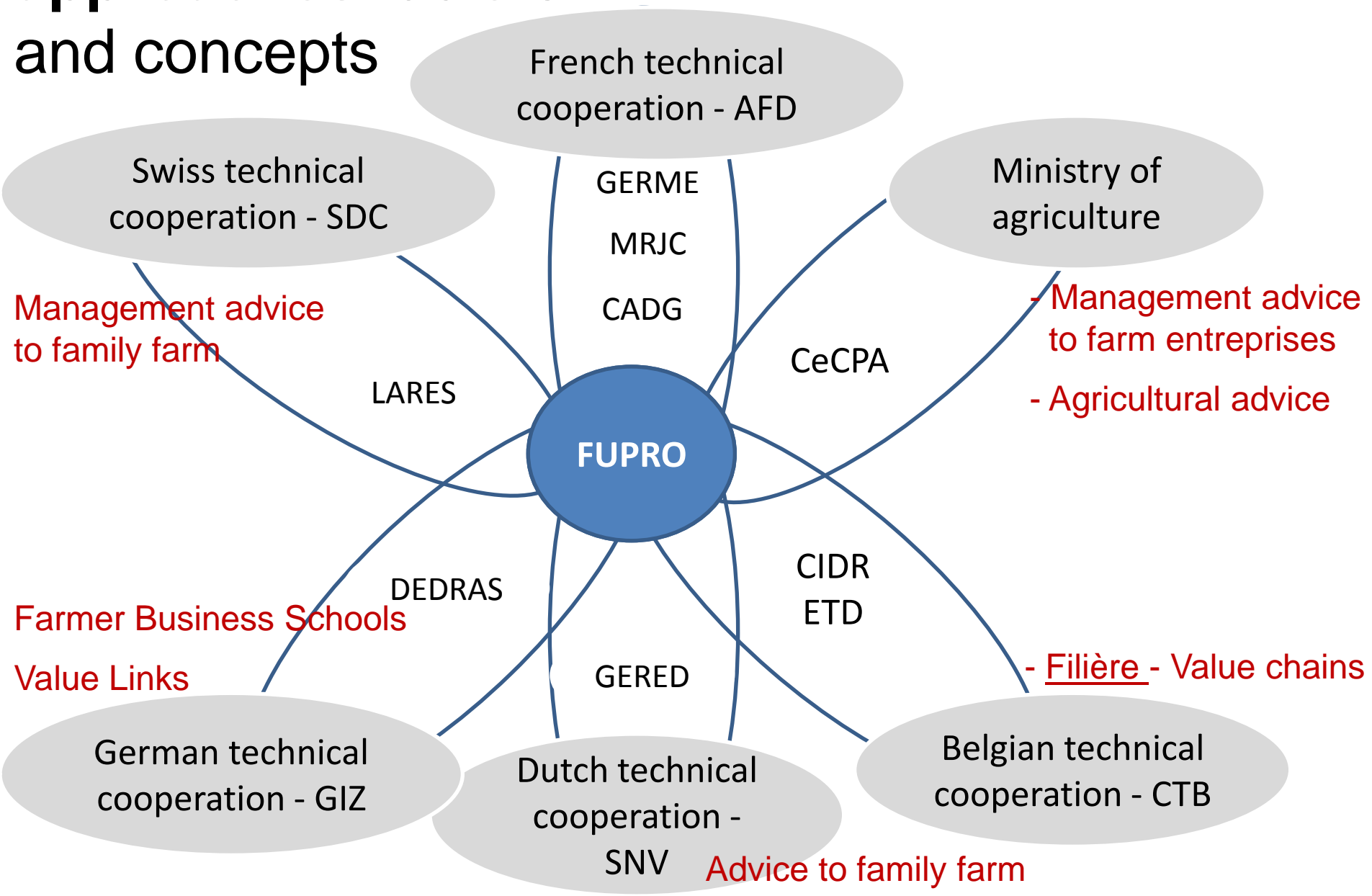
Contracting

Analysis of
AAS system

Policies and approaches: projects and funding



Policies and approaches: actors and concepts



Policies and approaches: Capacity building

From training and visits to advice for family farms in Benin: Break or continuity?

The advice to family farms is increasingly considered as a promising alternative in West Africa where the Training and Visits System has been the cornerstone of the extension systems since the 1980s. This paper presents a comparative analysis between the Training and Visits and the advice for family farms based on the Benin experience. With regard to its principles and approach, advice for family farms has many similarities with the Training and Visits which is widely accepted as a directing system. Future criticisms against the advice for family farm enterprises in developing countries may be similar to those of the Training and Visits.

Knowing agric. techniques is not enough to do extension job: Social, communication and process management skills are also required

Local stakeholders are not enough well prepared for shifting from one approach to another

Licence pro en conseil



Policies and approaches:

Capacity building

Experience of CTB :
Training public
extension staff



**Experience of
FA Parakou**

**Experience of
the UW-FSA**

CoS

Experience of AFD:
Introducing
extension modules
in school curricula

Experience of GIZ:
Training and follow-up
of independant
consultant

**Capacity
building**

Key learnings et perspectives

- Successive policy reforms reinforced the process of privatization which did not give full satisfaction
- Lack of information makes it difficult to capture the impact of advisory services
- Policy framework for agricultural advisory services exists, but
- Projects are working almost independently and implement different views of extension
- Project-driven extension poses question of governance in terms of coordination & regulation

Key learnings et perspectives

- Move from extension projects to development projects: Value chain, innovation
- Need for capacity development, especially for policy making and extension research, ICT use, networking and impact assessment
- Starting collaboration between agricultural faculties/schools and development workers
- Launching of Benin Forum for Agric Advisory Services
- Networking at different levels: in Africa through RESCAR-AOC, AFAAS and ExtensionAfrica, worldwide through GFRAS

Merci