Tracing the Generation of Value: the Case of ASIRPA

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ASIRPA
(Assessing Societal Impact of Agricultural Research)
- A methodology of ex post impact assessment
- Based on case studies
- Paying attention to the diversity of values
- With a dual objective:
  - Provide an account of the impacts of the organisation
  - Learn about impact generating mechanisms
Outline

- An approach for understanding the mechanisms of value generation

- Lessons learned:
  - The typology of impact pathways
  - Impact assessment as a tool for strategic intelligence
An approach for understanding the mechanisms of value generation

- A simple way to represent complex processes
The revised impact pathway

Figure 2. A fictive impact pathway according to ASIRPA.
A processual and contextual analysis:

- That aims at identifying actors and productive interactions
- That takes into account synergetic and systemic effects
- That allows to identify the contributions of different actors to the generation of impact
An approach for understanding the mechanisms of value generation

- A simple way to represent complex processes
- A systematic assessment of the different dimensions of impact
Figure 3. Example of impact radars from ASIRPA case studies.
A methodology designed to:

- Take into account the different values of research
- Allow intercomparability
- Produce qualitative standardised measures on the basis of local descriptors used by involved actors
I- Sélection des cas:
- Exploitation de la base zoom+ entretien avec Chef département + publications depuis moins de 15 ans + impact significatif + diversité à l'échelle de l'institut: 14 cas
- Exploitation de la base zoom+ département en vue de son évaluation + publications depuis moins de 15 ans + diversité à l'échelle du département: 16 cas

II- Rapport: Cadre d'analyse standardisé de l'étude de cas

III- Analyse à l'échelle de l’INRA
Lessons learned
Results 1 – General characteristics of Inra’s impact

- Distribution of impact is highly skewed
- Diversity of impacts related to Inra role
- Time lag 19.9 years
- Infrastructures often matter (93%)
- Interdisciplinarity often matter (95%)
- Impact based on basic knowledge and the capacity to translate it into actionable knowledge
- Inra often contributes all along the impact pathway (average TRL = 6.2)
- Conception networks differ from adoption networks
Lessons learned

- The typology of impact pathways
- From a culture of promises to the culture of impact
Results 2 – A typology of impact pathways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Index &lt;8</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type 4:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Type 1:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Transformation of users’ sphere Index</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong implication of INRA to overcome demand failure</td>
<td>Strong structuration of the research and diffusion networks</td>
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<td><strong>Diffusion:</strong> INRA is deeply and permanently involved in this phase, but diffusion hampered by demand failures. <strong>Impacts:</strong> low impacts mainly political.</td>
<td><strong>Diffusion:</strong> stable partnerships – INRA orchestrates diffusion (coordination, training, contribution to regulation) along with intermediaries. <strong>Impacts:</strong> largest variety of high impacts - highest impacts – shortest time to generate impacts</td>
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<td><strong>Type 3:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Type 2:</strong></td>
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<td>Market for technologies</td>
<td>Strong collaboration in long term research programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diffusion:</strong> exclusive licences of non-mature techno. <strong>Impacts:</strong> lowest impacts mainly economic and territorial</td>
<td><strong>Diffusion:</strong> adjusted partnerships. No major barriers. <strong>Impacts:</strong> high environmental and health impacts. Longest impact generation time with high variance</td>
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**Co-production of knowledge Index**
Lessons learned

- The typology of impact pathways
- Impact assessment as a tool for strategic intelligence
  - Appropriation of the approach by those who are evaluated (tools that are portable, training, interest of meta-analyses)
  - Multiple measures that take into account the diversity of goals and the diversity of roles
  - High trust and reinforcement of collective competencies
  - Improvement of public dialogue on the public values of science