

**IMPLEMENTING AGRO-FOOD RESEARCH  
RESULTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A CASE STUDY  
FROM BENIN**

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# Introduction

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- **The economy of Benin**, as for most West-African countries, is based on agriculture.
  
  - **Research-development** in agri-food is considered as an important strategy to ensure food security and economical growth.
    - **Rural sector employs 70% of the active population**
    - **It contributes to GDP for 39%**
    - **It supplies 90% of exportation income (MAEP, 2006)**
  
  - **Implementation of research results** : an important aspect of the process of social and economical development based on scientific knowledge
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# Introduction

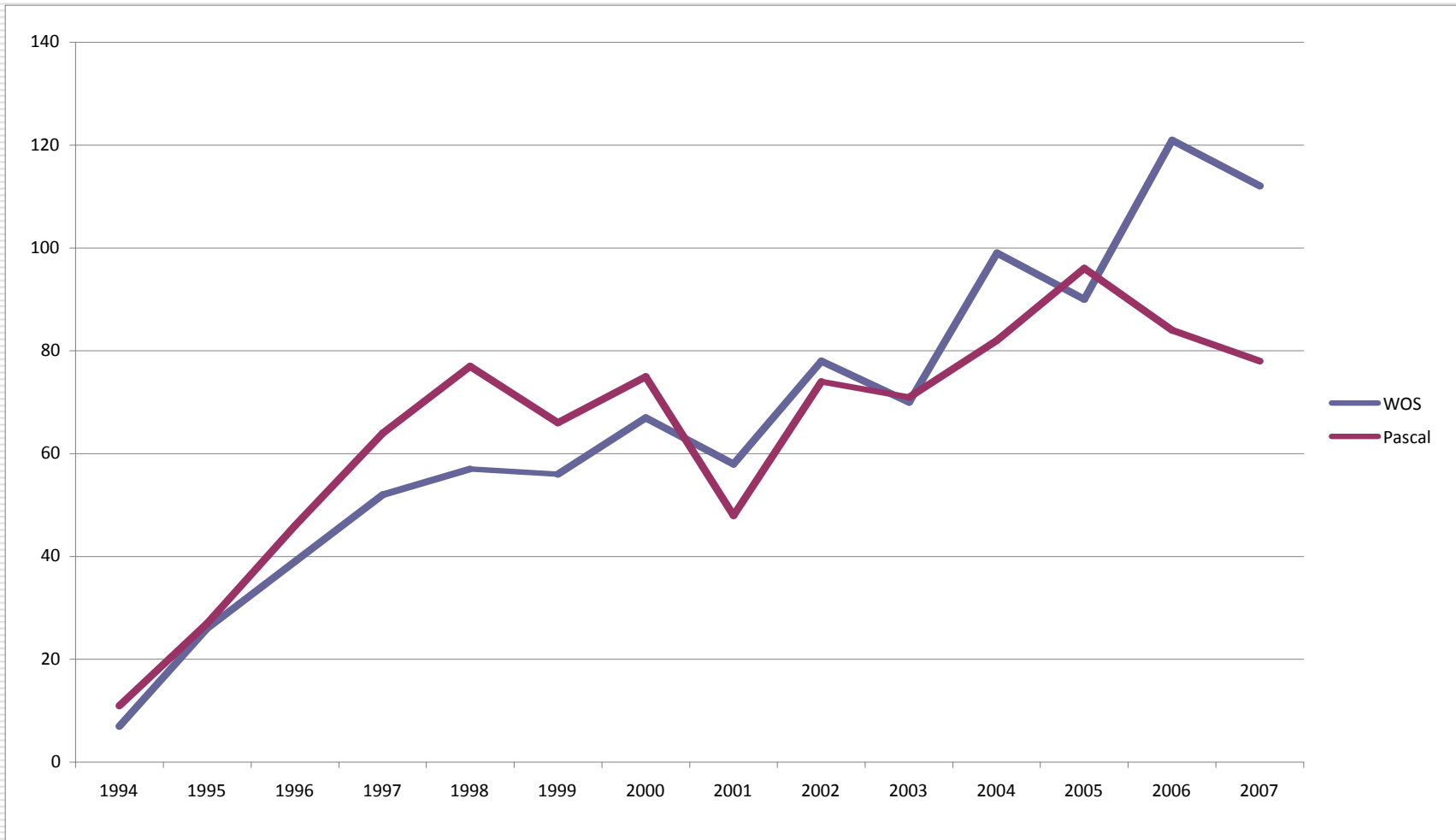
- **The responsibility of any government :** how to use the scientific resources **available** to generate the well-being of the population and promote development
- In Benin, as in most West African countries, less than 0.5% of GDP is invested in research.
- With such **limited resources**, it is important that the Gouvernement, through the research centres and universities, invests in **research that works.**

# Introduction

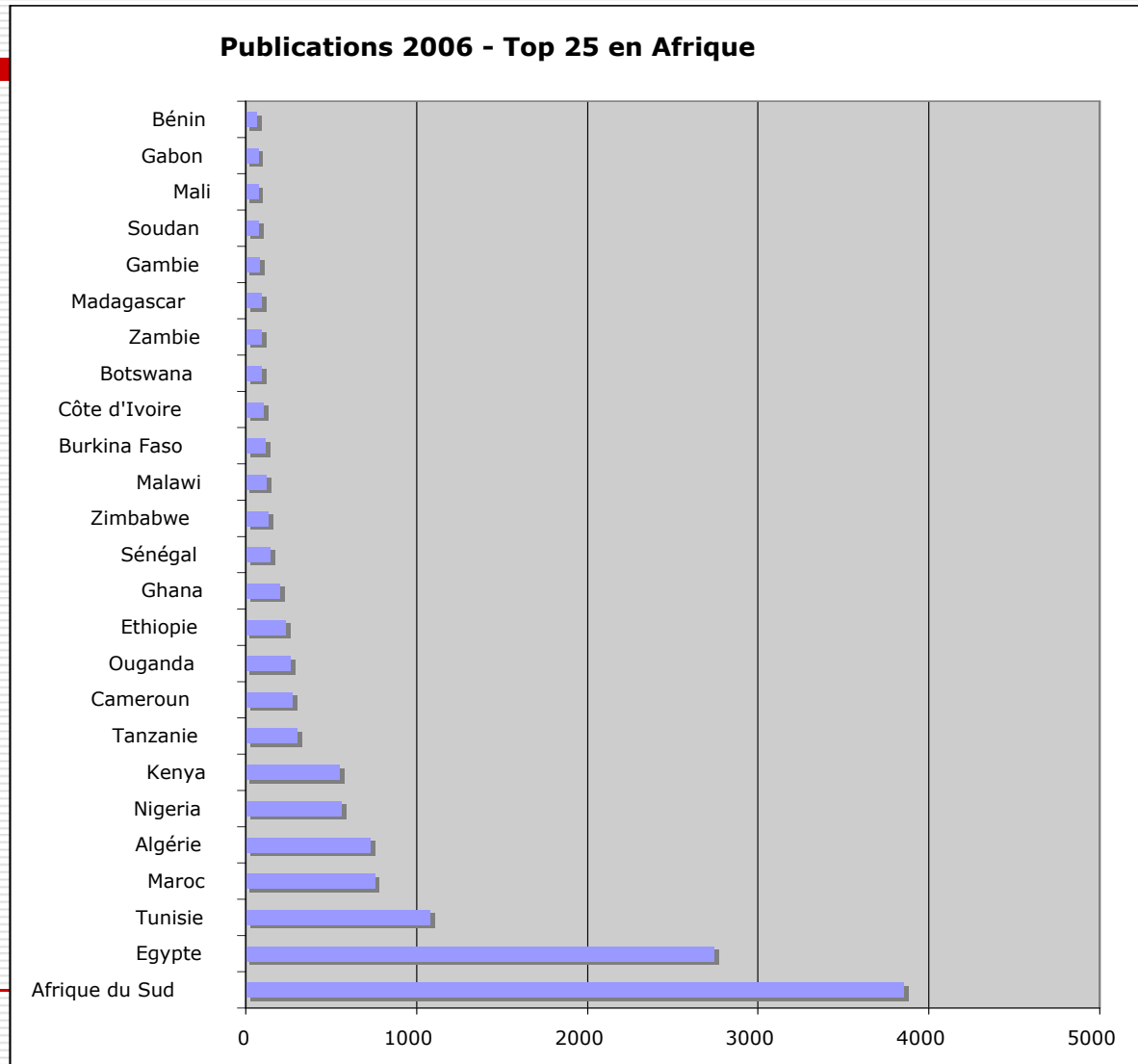
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- This supposes the setting up of procedure to make the research information available for the users and get it implemented.
  
  - **Objectives of the communication:**
    - Overview on scientific production and Agri-food research in Benin
    - What are the constraints to the implementation of research results?
    - What is the new cycle of agricultural research management in Benin?
    - What are the perspectives?
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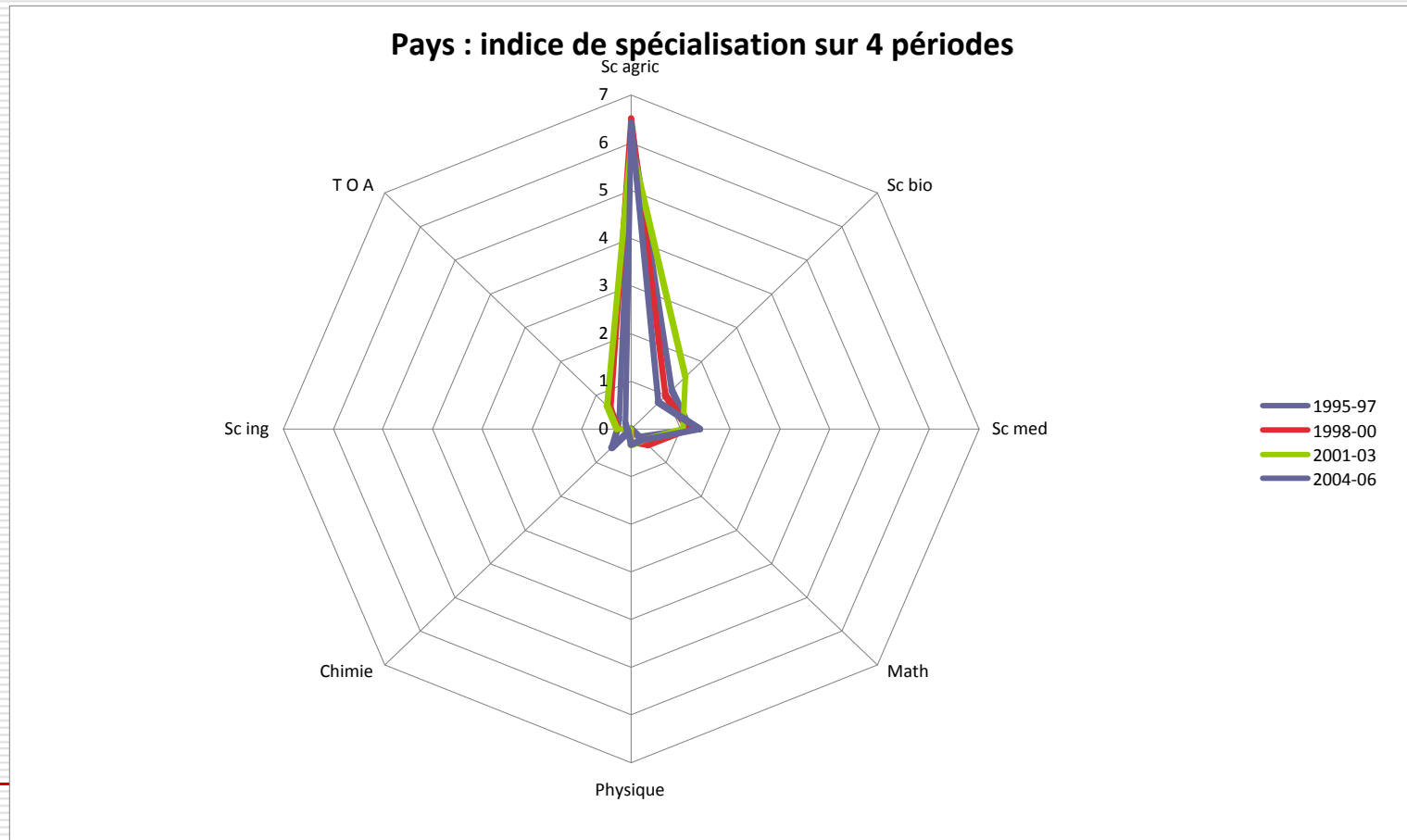
# Scientific production of Benin from 1994 to 2007 (Gaillard, 2008)



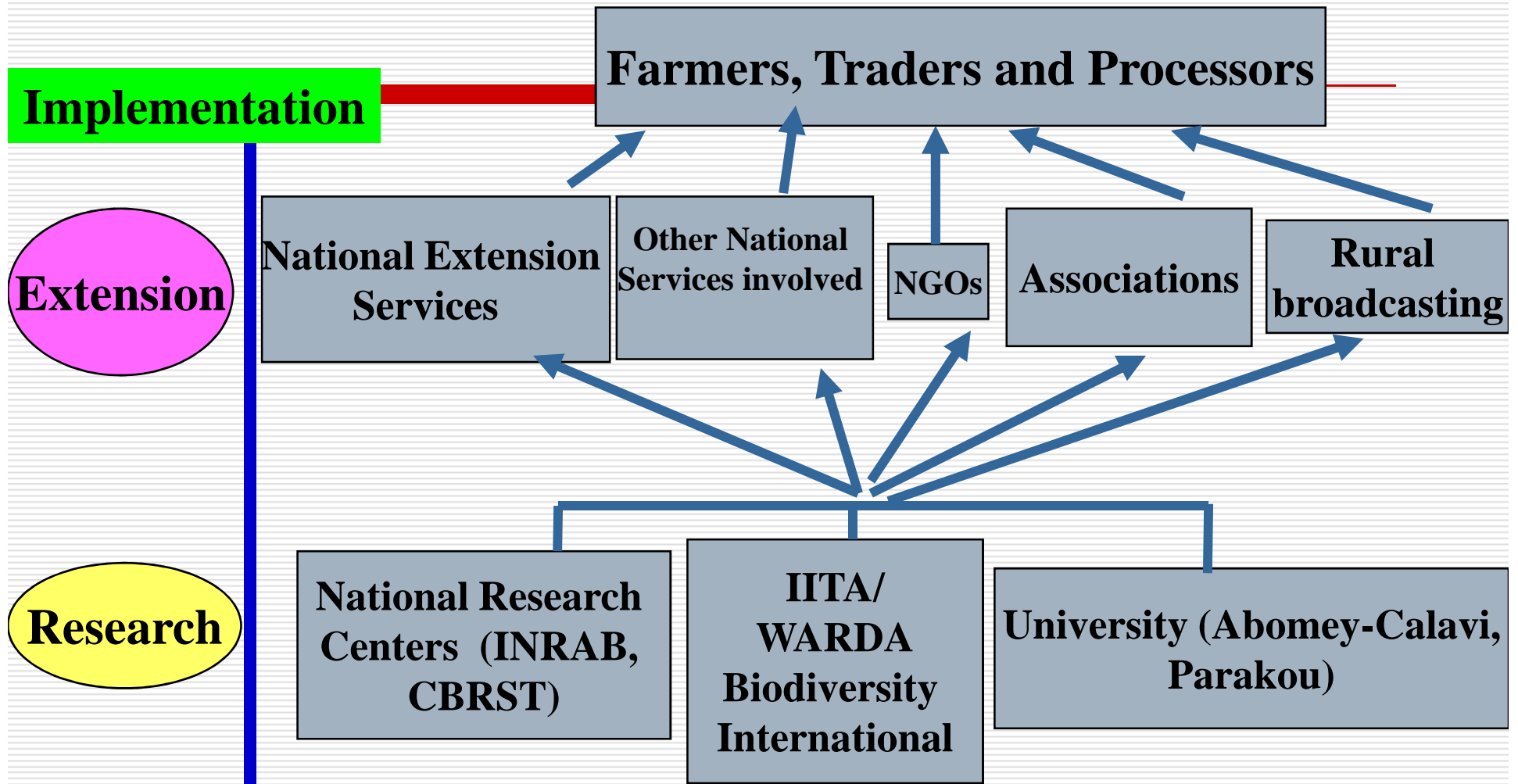
# TOP 25 of scientific production in Africa (Gaillard, 2008)



# Importance of Agro-food research in Benin (Gaillard, 2008)



# FROM WHICH SOURCES DO FARMERS, TRADERS & FOOD PROCESSORS TRADITIONALLY OBTAIN INFORMATION?



# Constraints to the implementation of research results

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## □ **Fitting to social/economical demand**

- Participatory approach is not always used for the definition of the research question or the users are not well identified
- Consequently research results do not correspond to any identified social or economical demand

## □ **Validation of the research findings**

- Many research results are not validated by the users or by publication.
  - Patenting is not of concern in most agri-food research institutions.
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# Constraints to the implementation of research results

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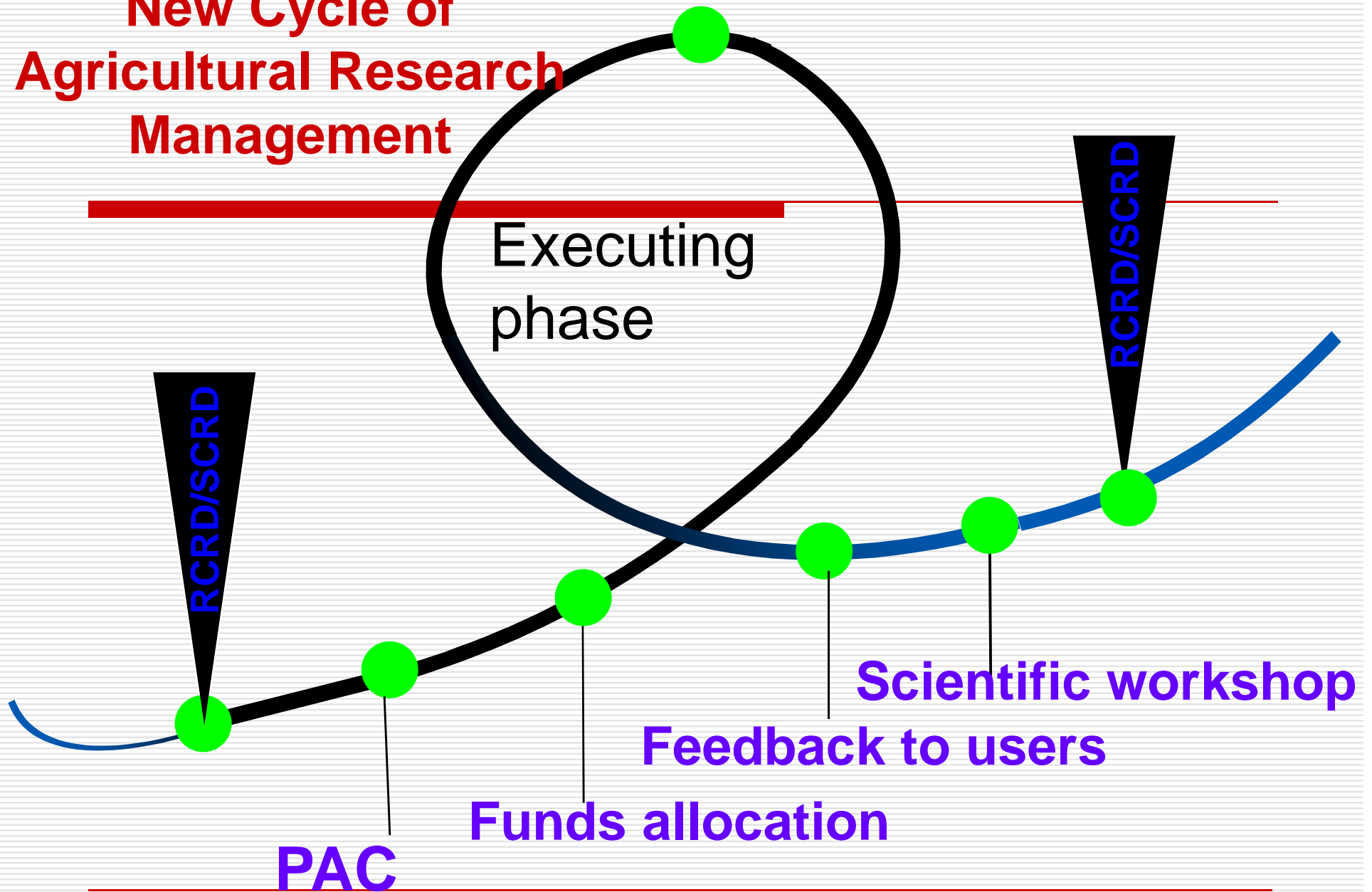
## □ **Accessibility of the results**

- **Limited number of support (journal) for publication**
- **Publication supports are not understandable for most users: too technically explained to be useful !**
- **The users of the research results are not well trained to get profit from the research results**

**Consequently, the impact of the research is not visible: the adoption rate is below 25%.**

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# New Cycle of Agricultural Research Management



## **CURRENT ROLE OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN DELIVERING INFORMATION**

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- Diagnosing problems**
  - Developing problem solving technologies to be recommended to users**
  - Disseminating the results/getting feedback and improve**
  - Elaborating didactic supports for trainings**
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## **CURRENT ROLE OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN DELIVERING INFORMATION**

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- Training the national extension services and NGOs personnel**
  - Training users through their association representatives**
  - Implementing field trials involving users where it is necessary**
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# Perspectives

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- There should be an **INTERFACE** between research institutions and users to valorise research results
  
  - This Interface is named “Agency for the Valorization of Research Results and Technological Innovation”. Its attributes are :
    - To promote endogenous knowledge and know how, technological innovation and transfert
    - To mobilize necessary funding for innovation and technological transfert from the research centers to the enterprises
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# Perspectives

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- **To train the enterprise leaders and scientists on :**
    - **the management of the implementation of research results,**
    - **technological assessment,**
    - **marketing,**
    - **protection of intellectual properties and patenting**
    - **industry and research partnership.**
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**This Agency is certainly an official way for scientists to practice in agribusiness!!!!**



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**Thanks!**

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