

**Report for the HortEco Kick-off Workshop 19-21 December 2016**  
Agronomy Faculty, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso  
Quillota, Chile

## The Project

Development of ecologically and socio-economically sustainable food systems is highly important for balanced economic growth, but has remained understudied for transitioning countries compared to developing or developed countries. Vegetable food systems in Chile and Uruguay suffer from high pressure on natural resources, and lack of safe and affordable vegetables for a highly urbanised population. The objective of the HortEco project is to enhance sustainability of vegetable food systems in Chile and Uruguay by investigating and supporting the organization of the production and marketing of low-or-no pesticide vegetables. The research will focus on:

- i. Ecologically intensive vegetable production
- ii. Socio-economically sustainable horizontal and vertical value chain collaboration models
- iii. The role of change agents in the innovation system to support the transition to sustainable vegetable production systems and value chains.

Knowledge development and innovation will be connected through a systemic learning-for-innovation approach, linked to nine ongoing innovation oriented projects of private, public and academic partners in Chile and Uruguay.

## Project kick-off workshop

The kick-off workshop of the HortEco project was hosted by the PUCV in Quillota, Chile from the 19th December – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Validation and agreement of the project proposal
2. Co-design and agreement on the main framework for analysing and innovating vegetable food systems in Chile and Uruguay

The following outputs were obtained:

- Buy in from all partners into the project and ownership of the main analytical framework
- Articulated Theory of Change (ToC) with assumptions for each of the two countries

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators that can be used to measure progress as part of annual reflection meetings
- Meeting report with outcomes

## Participants

Participants to the kick-off workshop:

- Academia: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV) - Chile, University de la República - Uruguay, Wageningen University and Research - the Netherlands



Figure 1. Participants to the kick-off workshop and activities

- Research institutes: Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA) – Chile

- Private sector: Comisión del Mercado Modelo (CMM) and Comisión de Fomento Rural (CNFR) – Uruguay
- Government: Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias (ODEPA)

### Methodology: Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis (PIPA)

For the workshop, the "Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis (PIPA) was used. PIPA enabled participants to make explicit the project's impact pathways for both Chile and Uruguay, that is, the assumptions and hypotheses about how the project will achieve a desired impact. This is also known as the Theory of Change (ToC).

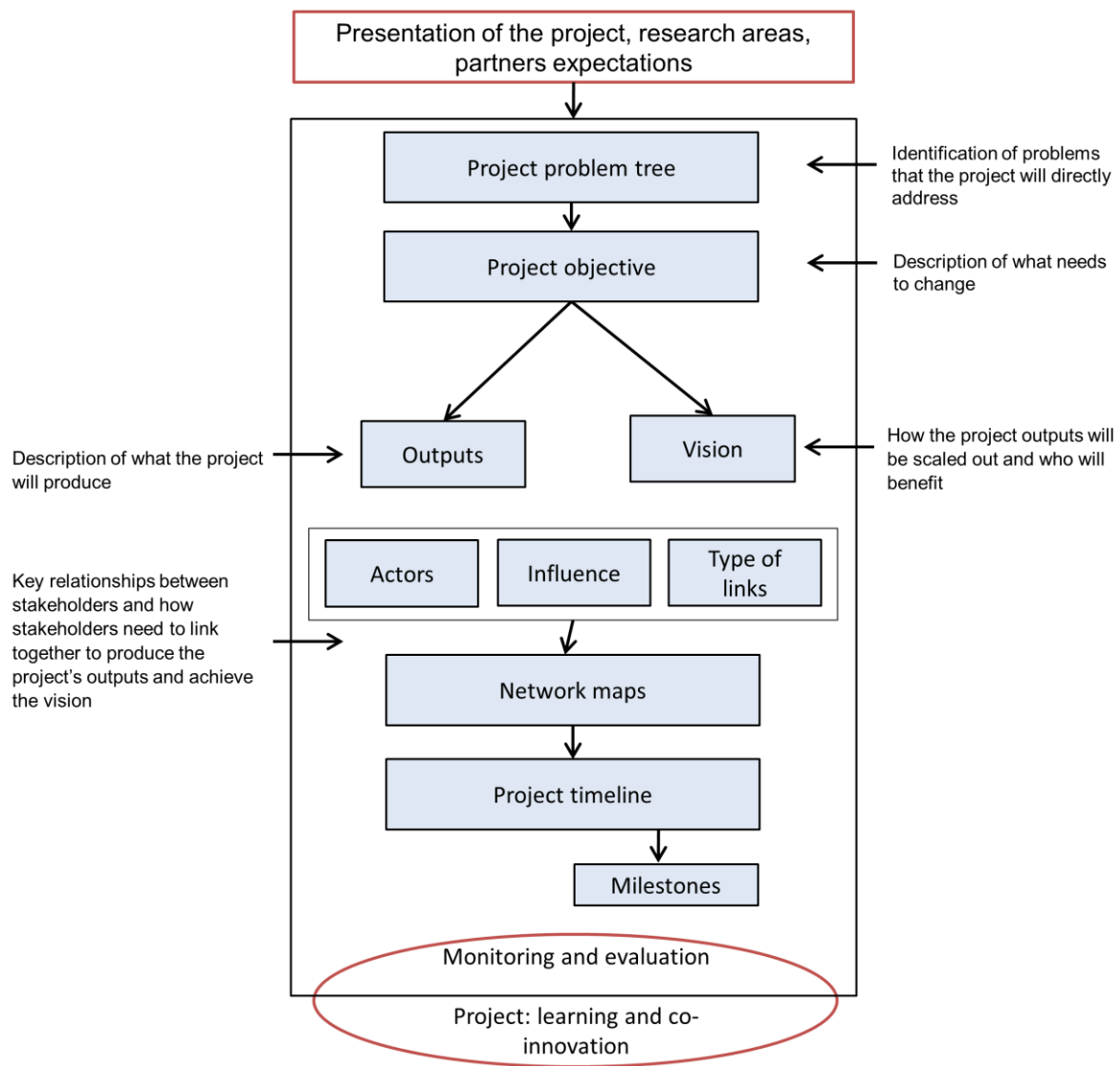


Figure 2. PIPA process implemented during the workshop

The PIPA process will help partners of the HortEco project to monitor progress while encouraging reflection, learning and adjustment of the ToC along the project horizon<sup>1</sup>. A schematic illustration of the PIPA process that was performed during the workshop is shown in Figure 2. The PIPA process consisted of the following steps: (i) Presentation of the project, research areas and partner's expectations; (ii) construction of a problem tree per country; (iii) definition of the project outputs; (iv) definition of the project's vision; (v) building network maps, that is identifying current relationships between stakeholders; (vi) development of a monitoring and evaluation plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> Douthwaite, B., Alvarez, S., Thiele, G. and Mackay, R. (2008). Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis: A practical method for project planning and evaluation.