Impact Weaving: An Approach to Strengthening the Plausibility of Anticipated AR4D Impact Pathways



Genowefa Blundo Canto

Researcher, Development Economics, Impact Evaluation

French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)

The Alliance Bioversity CIAT



EVALUATION AND TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE: DRIVING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

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Impact Weaving: designing research interventions with stakeholders

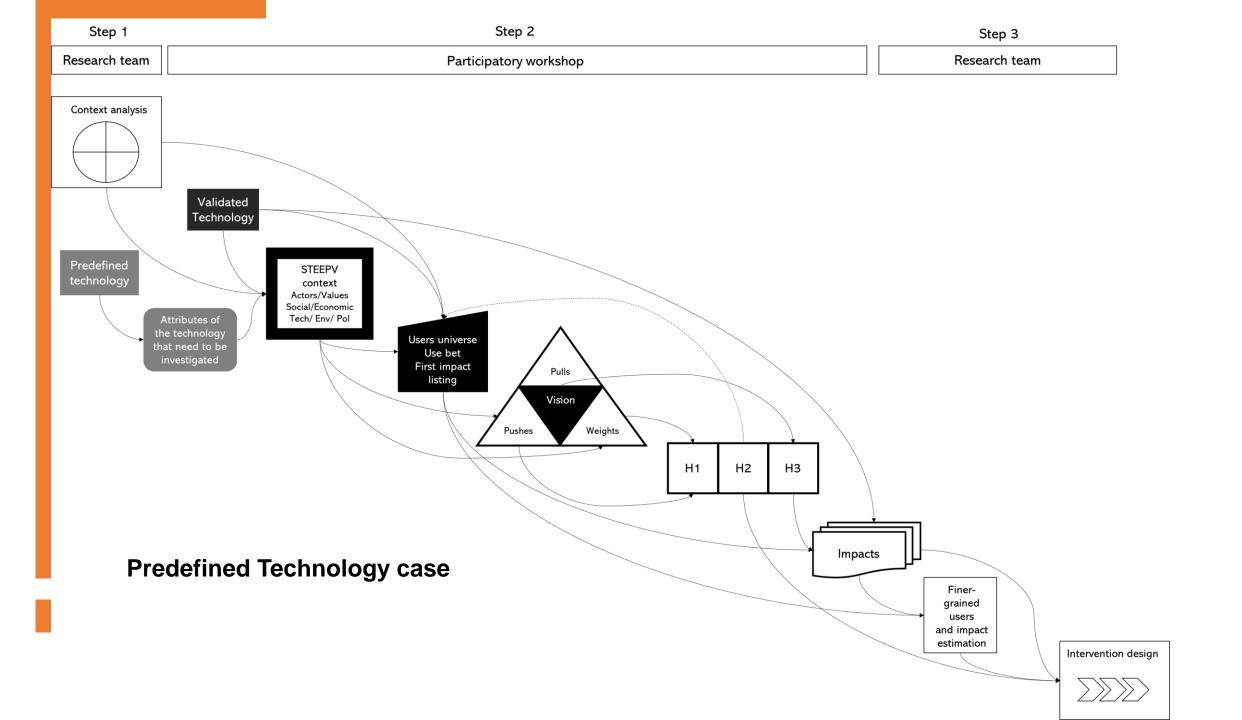
- Ex ante evaluation and intervention design
- Grounded impact pathways:
 - needs and expectations of stakeholders in their context of action and future vision
- System thinking: explicit role of diverse actors, perspectives, emergent dynamics and potential feedback loops
- Combining past, present and future knowledge



Impact Weaving: tools

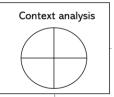
- Foresight:
 - Futures Triangle: build scenario elements
 - Three Horizons: backcasting
- Quantitative adoption modelling:
 - Stakeholder validation of adoption potential
- Impact pathway/action plan:
 - Key actions, events, actors to design the intervention in the selected scenario



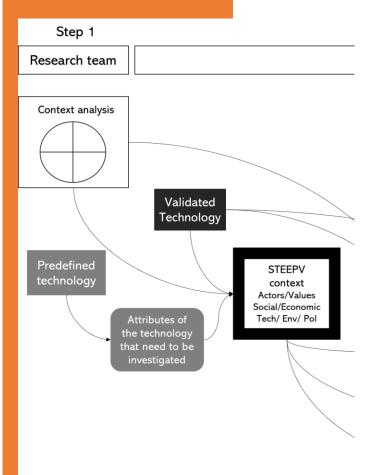


Step 1

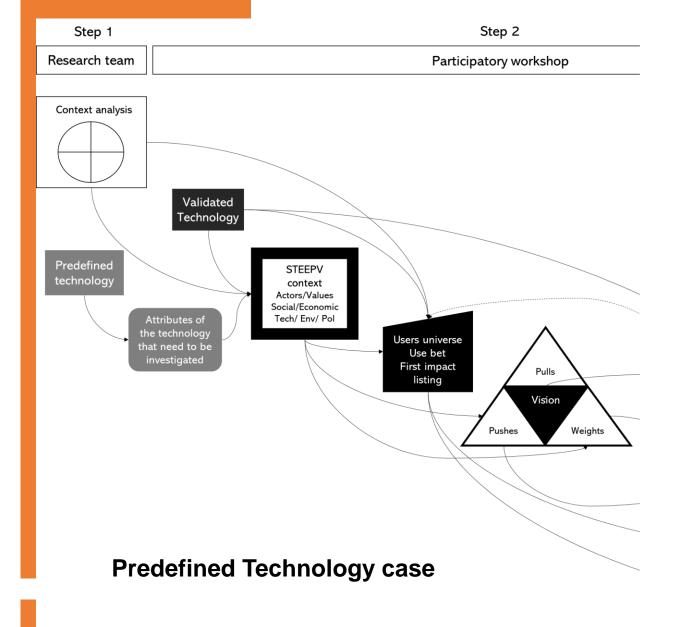
Research team

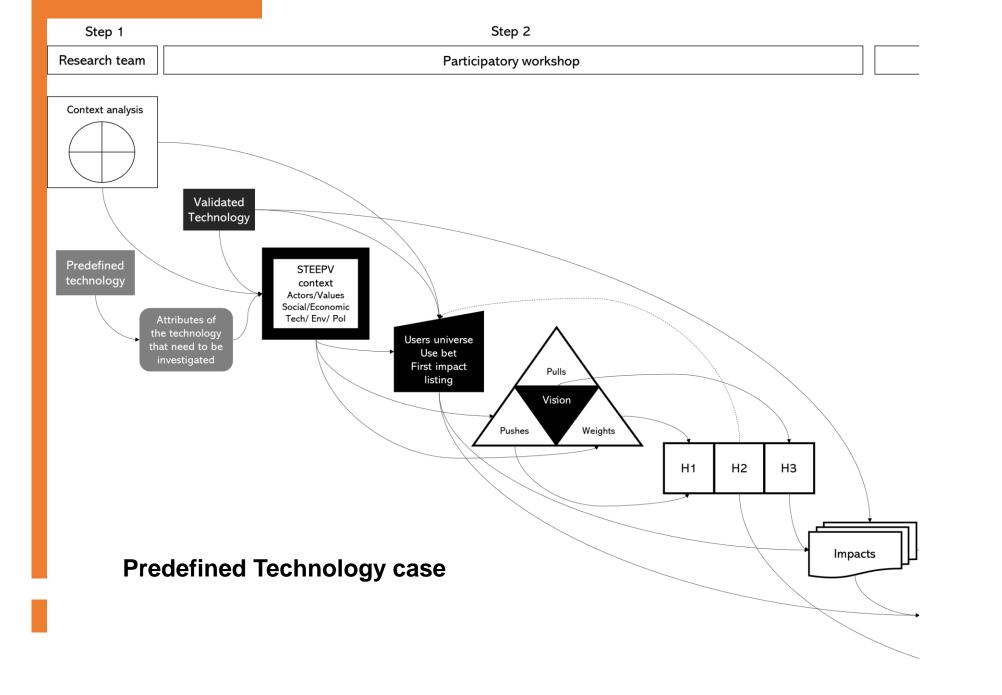


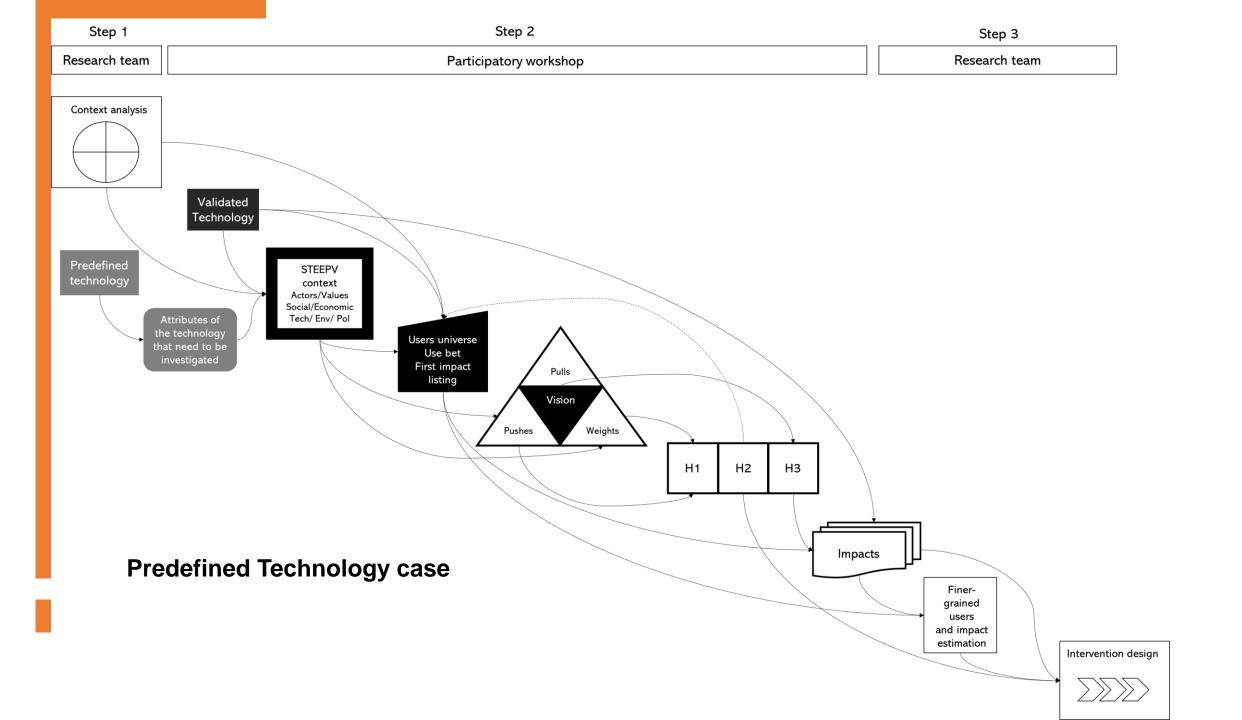
Predefined Technology case



Predefined Technology case

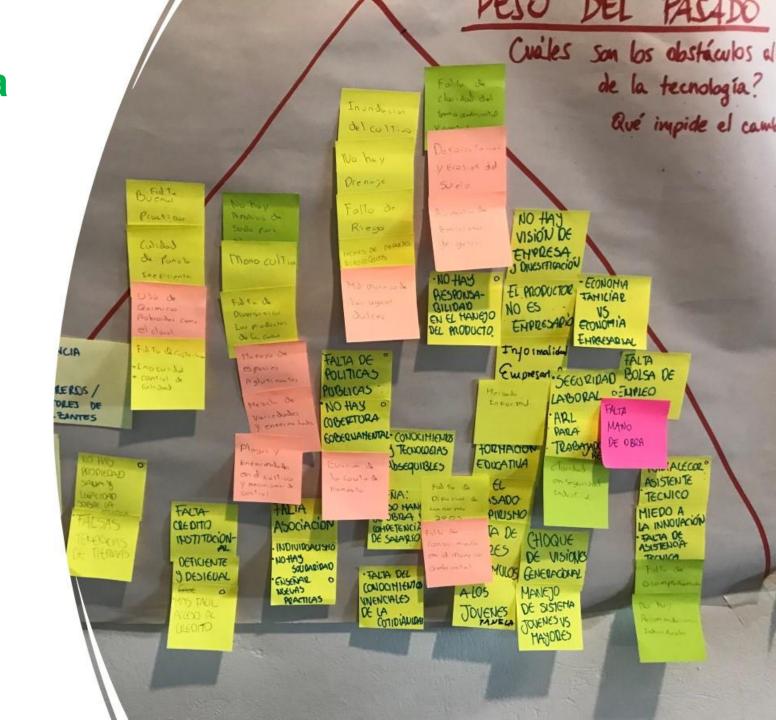






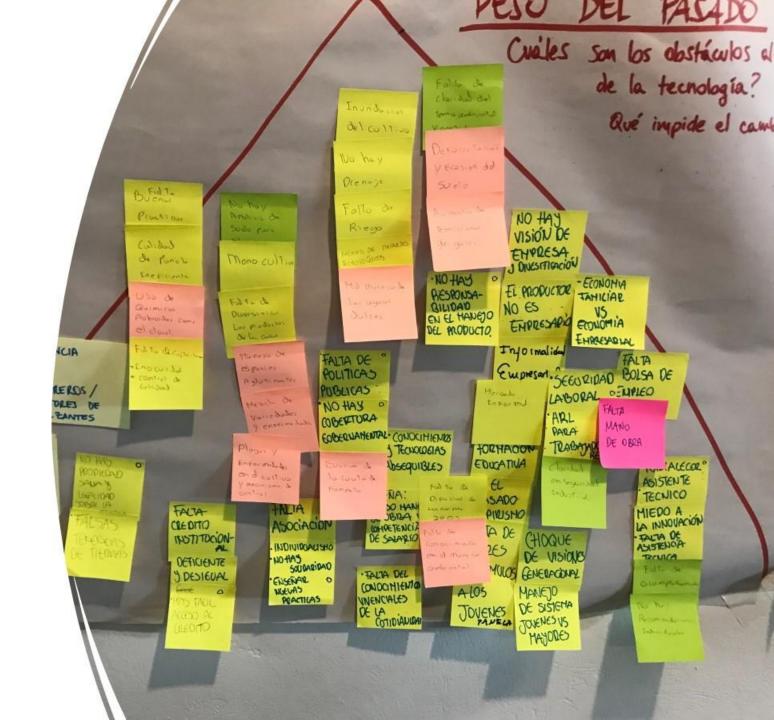
How foresight makes a difference in ex ante theory of change building

- Put the spotlight on the timeline and the necessary conditions for the emergence of outcomes and impacts
- Analyze context in terms of past, present, and foreseeable or potential future dynamics
- Highlight the systemic changes that need to happen for the intervention to foster desired changes
- Make underlying causal assumptions more explicit



Key outputs of Impact Weaving

- Rapid reality check and assessment of the transformations necessary for, and triggered by, technological change
- Baseline for monitoring and evaluation:
 - Low hanging fruits
 - Short term outcomes
 - Long term impacts
- Milestones
- Risks and assumptions



Evaluating ex ante Theories of Change While Exploring Emergent Change

- Navigating uncertain pathways
- Disentangling the pathway of research interventions within the systemic transformations needed to achieve impacts
- More plausible action plans, guiding prioritization and optimization of resources and partnerships
- Fostering collaborative research planning, evaluative capacity, institutional priority setting and learning





Thank you!

genowefa.blundo canto@cirad.fr

genowefa.blundo@cgiar.org

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https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41287-022-00566-6

Tejer Impacto. Metodología para la evaluación ex ante del impacto de proyectos de investigación y desarrollo en el sector agropecuario.

https://doi.org/10.21930/agrosavia.manual.7406511