

# Green Extension: An Introduction

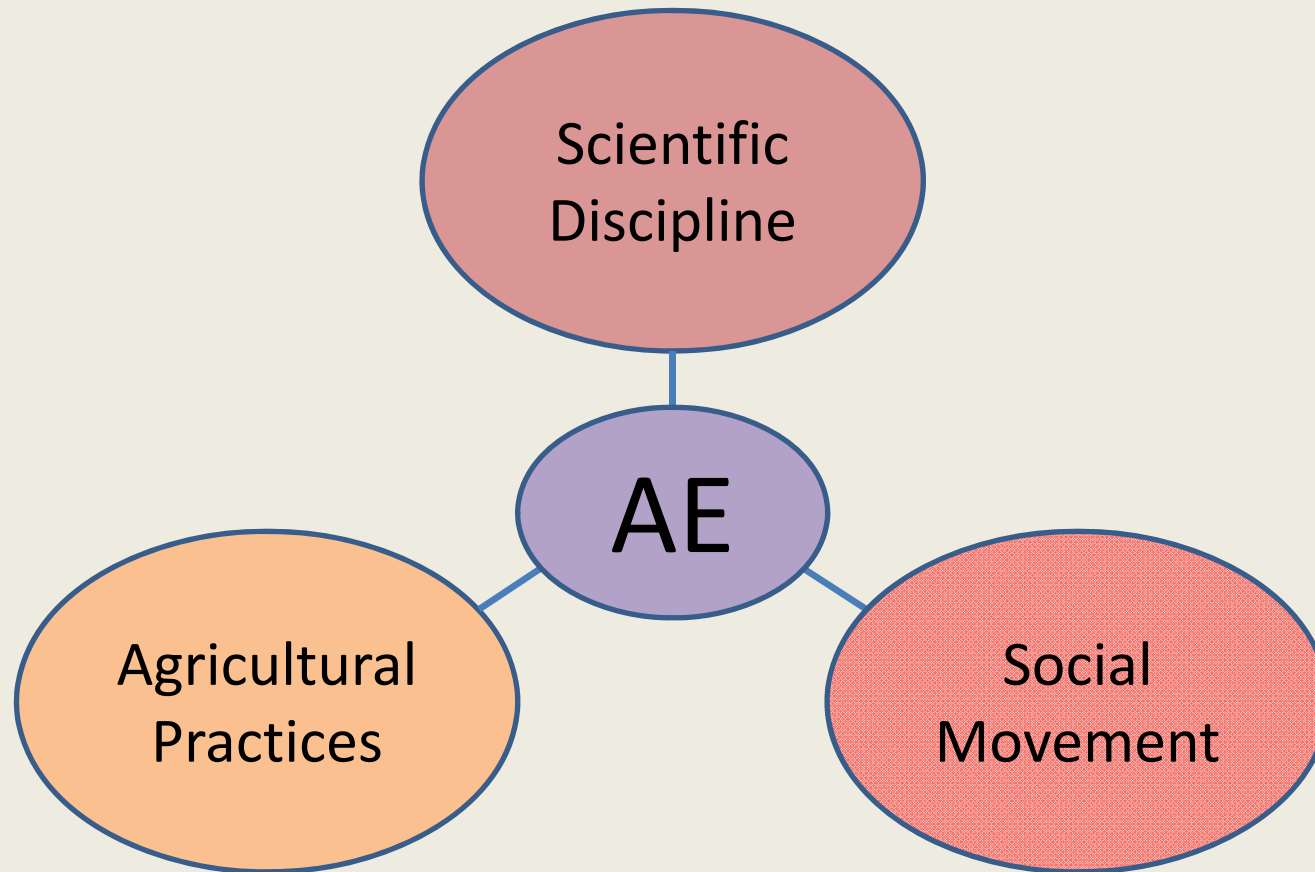


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Lao Uplands Conference  
Luang Prabang  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

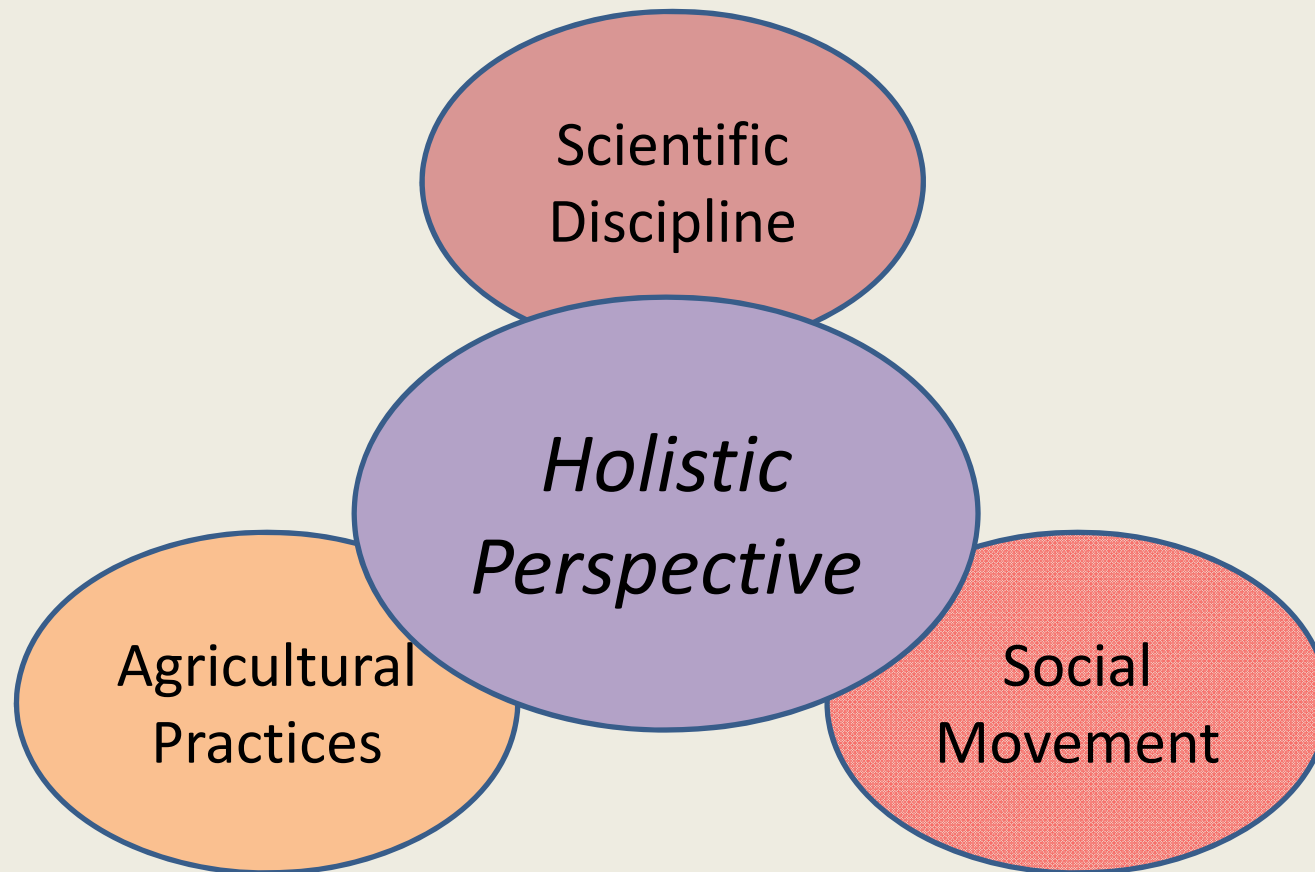


# Let's start with Agroecology



- ◉ Wezel A, Bellon S, Doré T, Francis C, Vallod D, David C (2009) *Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review*. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 29, 503-515.

# The common element



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# Holistic perspective

- ⊙ An holistic perspective of food and farming systems shifts the focus of attention away from individual parts to the *relationships* between them.
- ⊙ Especially how certain interactions contribute to the overall health of the system, which can be seen in terms of productivity, resilience, safety, justice.. and sustainability.
- ⊙ Those interactions take many different forms, including relationships between production factors, species, actors and institutions.
- ⊙ Back to Wezel's typology:
  - As a discipline AE deepens our understanding of these relationships
  - As a set of practices AE improves our management of these relationships
  - As a movement AE advocates and defends certain types of relationship

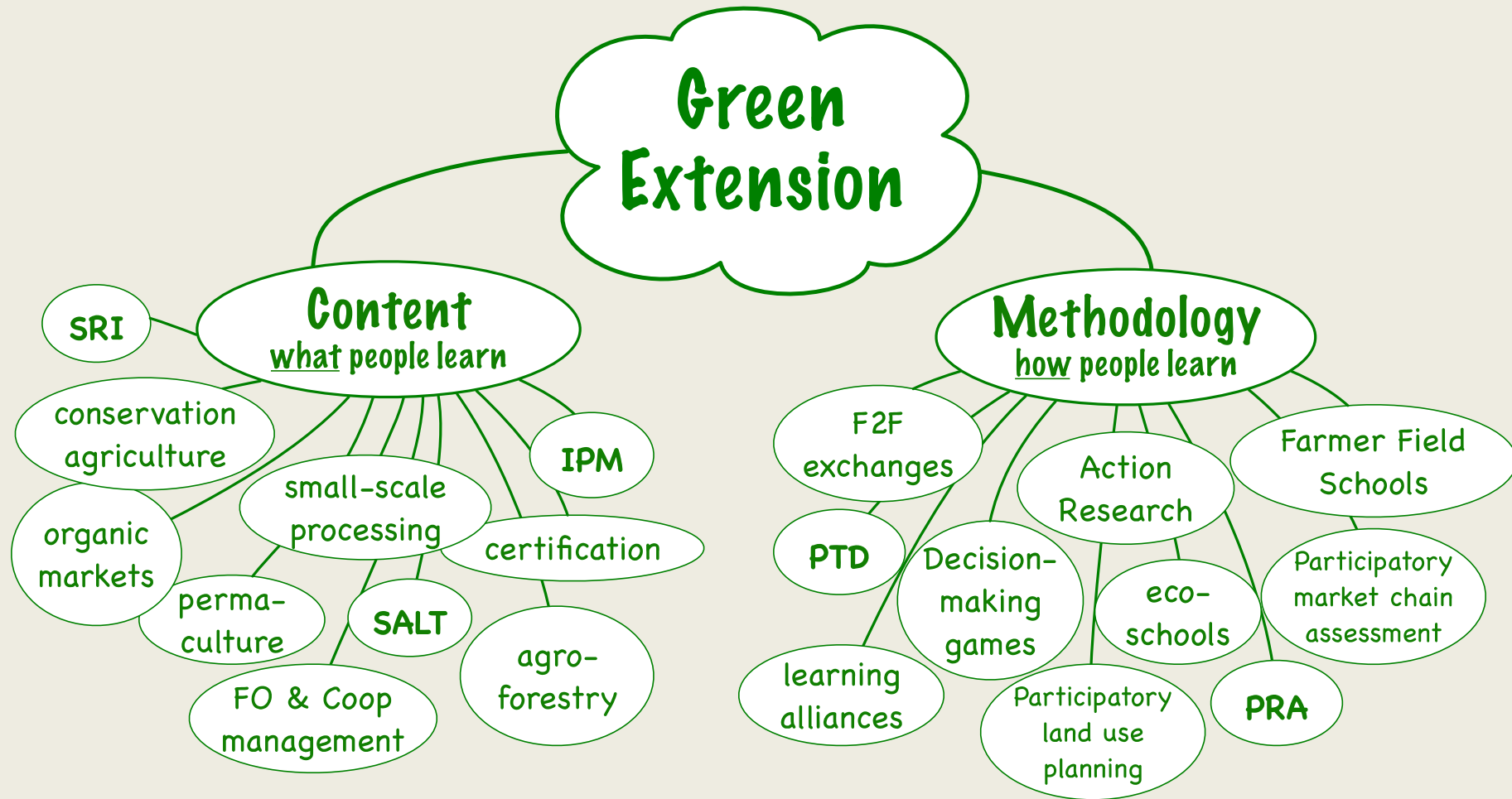
# Implications for learning processes

- ⦿ The holistic perspective of AE also requires a shift in how we generate knowledge and make decisions
- ⦿ Understanding and managing relationships within the food system cannot be done from within technical silos.
- ⦿ And must take account of the diverse and dynamic nature of those relationships
- ⦿ This can only be achieved through learning processes that are
  - location specific
  - multi-stakeholder
  - and iterative

# Green Extension

- ◎ **Green extension** is the name we are giving to learning processes that support the scaling up of sustainable agriculture.
- ◎ **Green Extension** is a rural advisory service provided by both state and non-state actors that supports the development of smallholder farming in a way that secures the future wellbeing of rural communities.
- ◎ **Green Extension** is not a single approach or blueprint for achieving sustainability. It includes many different methods that are used to promote various types of content.

# Green Extension



# Local knowledge is essential

- ⦿ What all these **Green Extension** methods have in common is *the creation, sharing and application of local knowledge.*
- ⦿ Sustainable agricultural practices must be adapted to local conditions. These conditions are both diverse and dynamic in the uplands of Laos.
- ⦿ Therefore **Green Extension** has to support farmers in analysing local problems and opportunities, and testing alternative practices under local conditions.



A sustainable response to local problems and opportunities is only possible through **participation and experimentation**



# Learning together

- ◎ **Green Extension** is not an idea that belongs to one organisation or project. Everybody can contribute!
- ◎ To share experience and identify good practice, a capitalization process is already being carried out by DTEAP and PAFO Xieng Khouang, with support of Helvetas and FAO.
- ◎ Today we have an opportunity to continue that process:
  - Presentation from PAFO on what has been happening in XK, including a workshop conducted last week attended by 50 practitioners
  - Presentation from DTEAP about the experience in implementing **Green Extension** with support of the LURAS project
  - Discussion among conference participants about how to address the issue of ownership and accountability... *and collecting your **big ideas!***