Involved PhD research – a case study between agronomy and social sciences

A reflection on PhD research concerning health of common bean in the context of artisan seed production

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Emergence of the research topic from a *hot debate* on plant health

**Involved research:**
Potential to involve a multitude of actors
The researcher gets fully involved with a project and accepts risks and uncertainties
The essence of our approach

Reflection on the PhD research conducted since 2012 to better describe

a) the roles, involvement, motivation and points of view of research partners

b) the evolution of the research question as the project advances
Positive outcomes so far: Roles of partners

→ Awareness of one's own situation in a network of actors
→ Discussing the network with partners
Positive outcomes so far: Research questions

Question emerged from practice

Situation, practices and needs of actors are the dynamic base for learning
Researchers form part of a network of involved actors

In itself a finding of this research!
Main lessons I have learned (1)
Main lessons I have learned (2)
Main lessons I have learned (3)
Thank you
Challenges to interdisciplinary and action-based approaches in PhD research:

- Short period of time
- Social and professional competences required
- Risk for PhD student: research results not planned for in advance