A Mixed-Method Review of Knowledge Translation and Transfer: Implications for the Agri-Food Public Health Sector

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BACKGROUND

➢ Knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) is a discipline that aims to bridge the gap between research and decision-making[1,2]

➢ KTT is still relatively new to the field of agri-food public health, as guidelines for systematic reviews in this sector – the key foundation for KTT – were developed only recently[3]

➢ There is a need to better understand the key principles and characteristics of successful KTT in order to address the complex nature of many agri-food public health issues
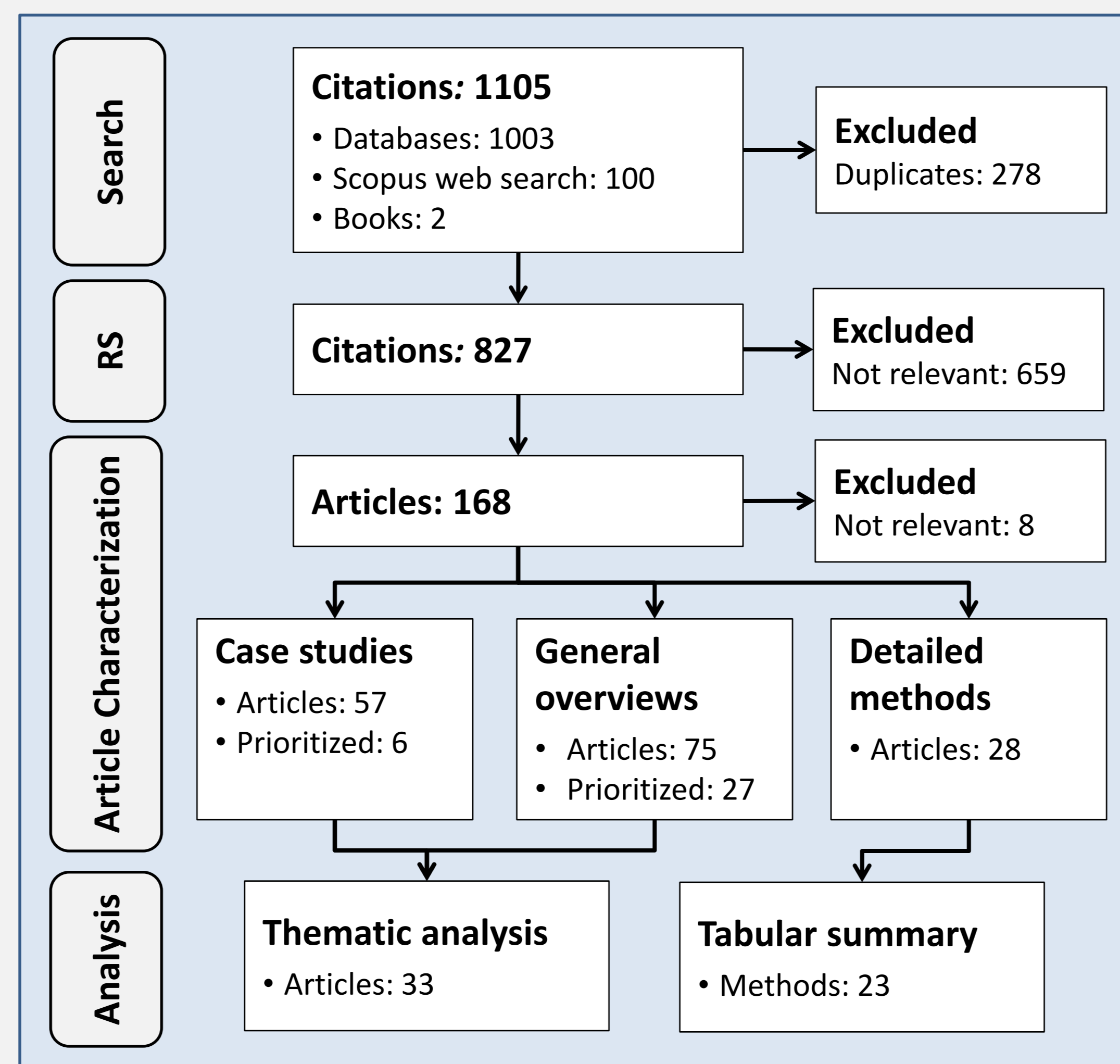
METHODS

➢ We used a mixed-method and inductive approach to review and synthesize commentaries, editorials, systematic and narrative reviews, case studies and reports about KTT

➢ A targeted search was implemented in five online databases on July 25, 2011

➢ We screened abstracts for relevance (RS) then extracted key characteristics from the relevant articles

➢ We conducted a qualitative thematic analysis on a prioritized selection of relevant general reviews and case study articles

➢ All steps were conducted by two independent reviewers using the web-based software program DistillerSR
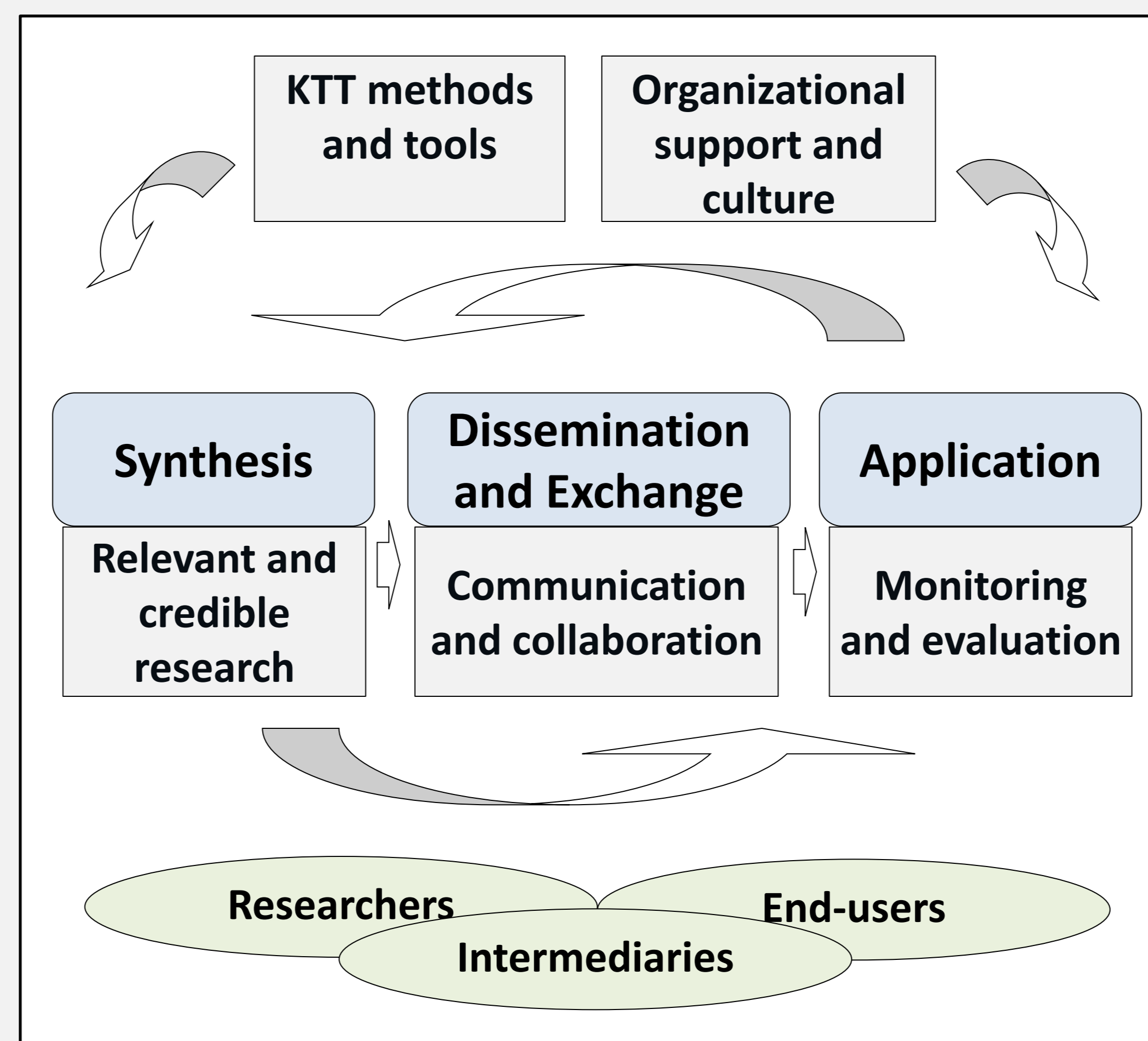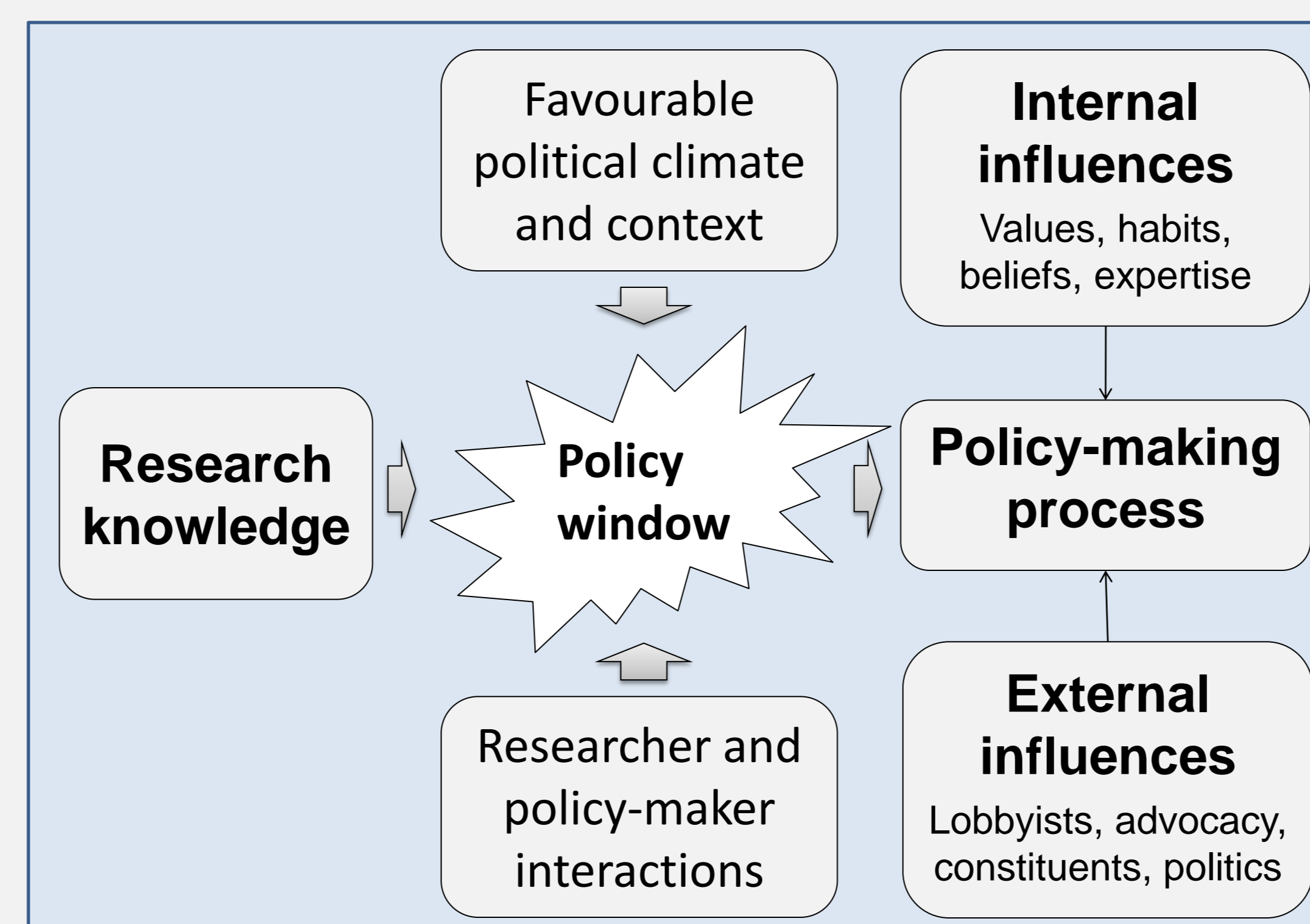
KTT in Action

RESULTS

Review Flow Chart

KTT Process and Key Principles for Success

Evidence-Informed Policy-Making

KTT Methods

Synthesis	Dissemination	Exchange
• Knowledge mapping	• Scientific journals	• Stakeholder engagement
• Knowledge synthesis for public policies	• Popular print media	• Communities of practice
• Scoping reviews	• Cartoons/images	• Knowledge brokering
• Systematic reviews-meta-analysis	• Multimedia	• Agricultural extension
• Rapid reviews	• Websites and email	• Workshops
• Mixed-method and qualitative reviews	• Social media	• Consulting
	• Conferences	• Journal clubs
	• Policy briefs	• Policy dialogues
	• Evidence summaries	

DISCUSSION

➢ We identified 23 KTT methods that can be used by agri-food researchers and end-users to support their KTT activities, and we identified five key thematic areas for successful KTT:

1. Relevant and credible research knowledge
2. Ongoing communication and collaboration between researchers and end-users
3. Organizational support and culture
4. Monitoring and evaluation
5. Understanding the policy-making process and context

➢ These principles should be adopted by researchers and end-users to improve the uptake and utilization of research knowledge

➢ Several challenges also exist that must be overcome for KTT to be successful (e.g. lack of skills, resources, and committment for KTT)

➢ More applied KTT research and evaluation needs to be conducted on agri-food public health issues

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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