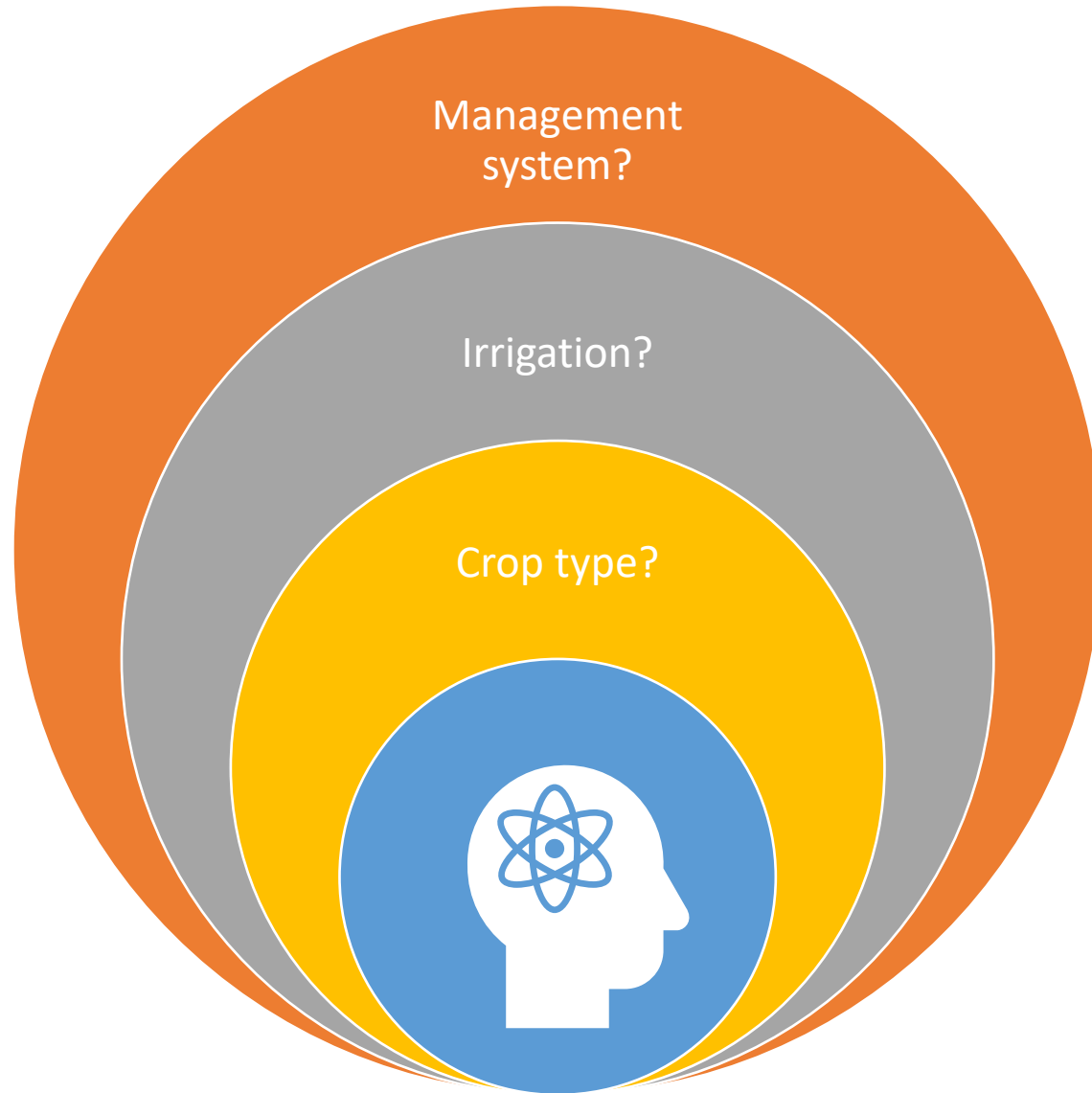


Revealing stakeholders' perceptions of N-fertilizing practices in SUDOE herbaceous agroecosystems

Ivanka Puigdueta, Hamid Yammine, Irene Blanco, Guillermo Guardia, Carmen Galea, Juliana Hurtado, Alberto Sanz-Cobeña

October 28, 2022



- Complex science
- Decision-making process
 - Yield expectations
 - Economic costs
 - Technical difficulties
 - Environmental impacts
- Subjective driving forces

Understanding the subjectivity behind preferences about farming practices

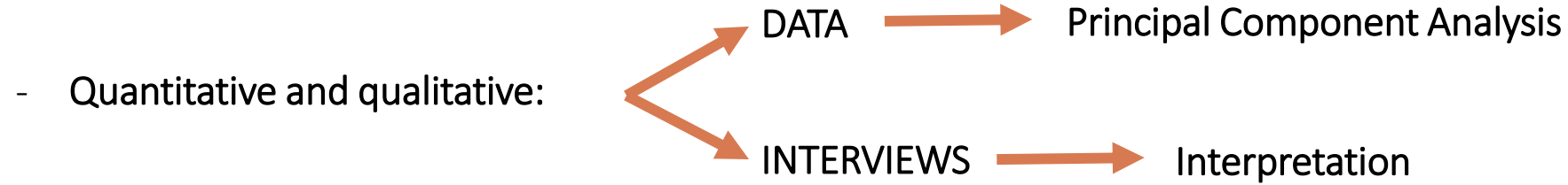
- Garona basin (France)
- Upper-middle Tagus basin (Spain)
- Lower Tagus basin (Portugal)

- Stakeholders' views
 - Farmers
 - Researchers
 - Technicians
 - NGOs

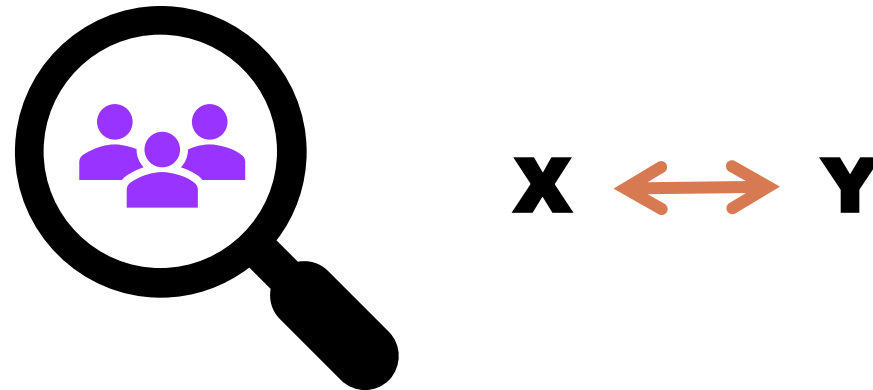


Q METHODOLOGY

- **Goal:** differentiate views (preferences, opinions, perceptions) on a complex topic.

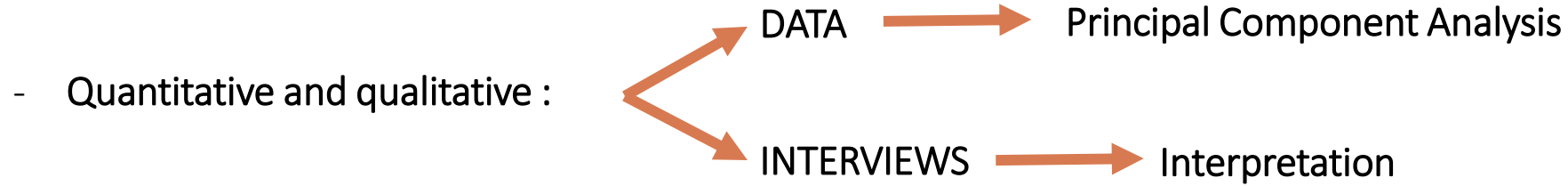


- “Regular” factorial analysis vs. Q test:

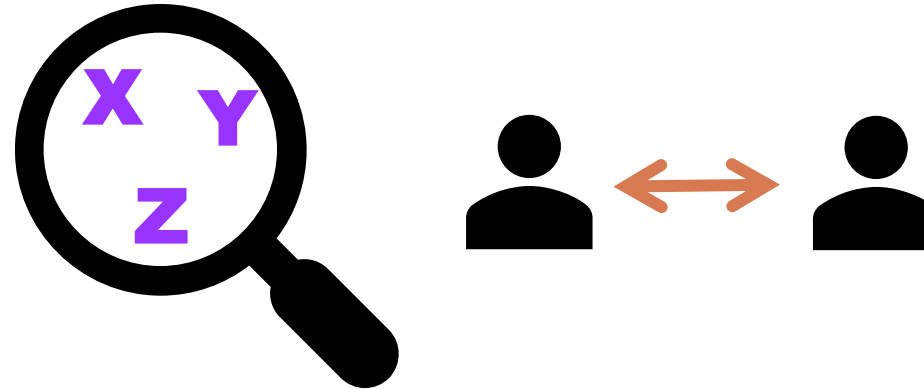


Q METHODOLOGY

- **Goal:** differentiate views (preferences, opinions, perceptions) on a complex topic.



- “Regular” factorial analysis vs. Q test:



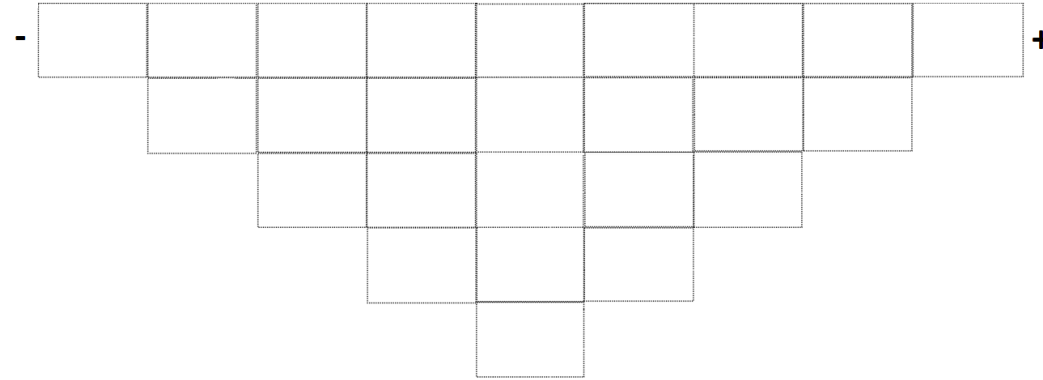
- Partial analysis
- Not useful to identify the predominant vision
- Small samples

METODOLOGÍA Q

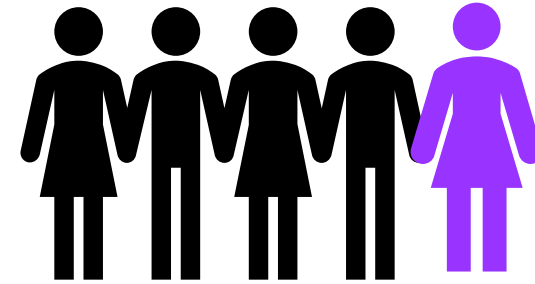


Q-set

...?



Q grid



P-sample
(intencional sampling)

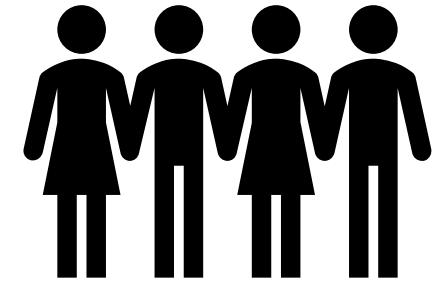
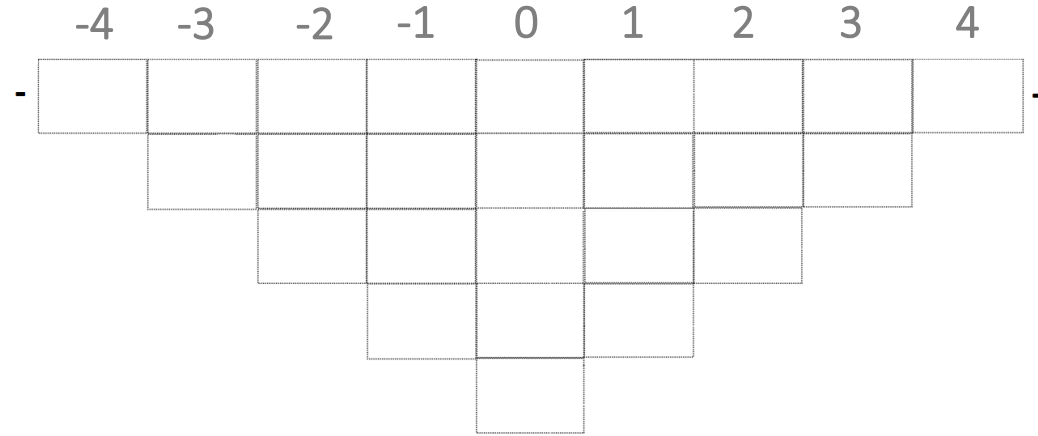
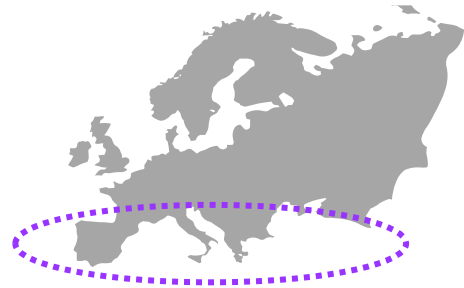
METODOLOGÍA Q

Views about farming practices among stakeholders in herbaceous farming systems?



Q-set: 34 agronomic practices

(incl. N fertilization methods)

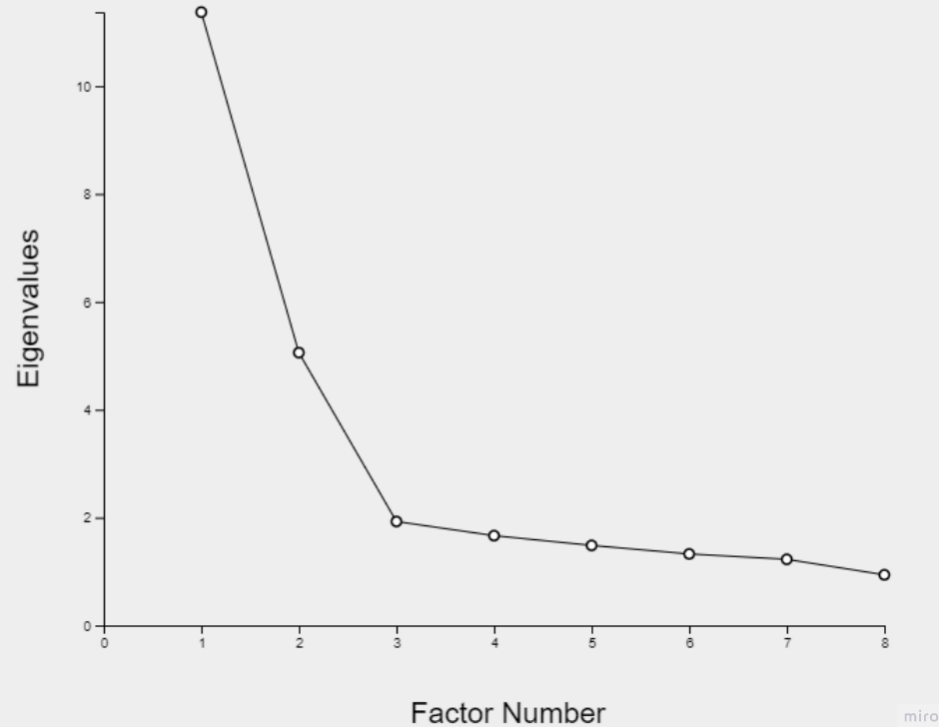


30 interviewees

- 15 Technicians
- 9 researchers
- 6 farmers

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

Scree Plot



Factor loadings:

| Part. N... | Participant | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3 | Factor 4 | Factor 5 | Factor 6 | Factor 7 | Factor 8 |
|------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | 0.7411 | -0.1547 | -0.0051 | 0.5195 | 0.0434 | 0.006 | 0.0486 | 0.0401 |
| 2 | 2 | 0.6516 | -0.3214 | -0.3349 | -0.0275 | 0.0447 | -0.0959 | -0.1677 | 0.4534 |
| 3 | 3 | 0.8469 | -0.2987 | 0.1609 | 0.0927 | 0.0024 | 0.1017 | -0.0707 | 0.0002 |
| 4 | 4 | 0.6548 | 0.3602 | -0.3343 | 0.1111 | -0.0926 | -0.1107 | 0.2525 | 0.2218 |
| 5 | 5 | 0.8772 | 0.2561 | -0.0928 | -0.0812 | -0.0054 | 0.0701 | 0.0189 | -0.0707 |
| 6 | 6 | 0.6244 | 0.4229 | -0.3282 | 0.0084 | -0.1176 | -0.271 | 0.2816 | 0.239 |
| 7 | 7 | 0.804 | 0.372 | -0.0245 | 0.0657 | 0.282 | 0.1667 | -0.0023 | -0.0681 |
| 8 | 8 | 0.2611 | 0.5484 | -0.1521 | -0.4567 | -0.046 | -0.3126 | 0.3332 | -0.0724 |
| 9 | 9 | 0.7278 | -0.422 | -0.2845 | 0.0381 | 0.0391 | 0.058 | -0.0816 | 0.1073 |
| 10 | 10 | 0.4138 | 0.317 | -0.3617 | 0.5621 | 0.3534 | -0.0058 | -0.0875 | -0.0686 |
| 11 | 11 | 0.6909 | -0.4219 | 0.073 | -0.2396 | 0.0037 | -0.0709 | -0.1219 | -0.0853 |
| 12 | 12 | 0.5626 | 0.425 | -0.3562 | -0.0086 | 0.277 | 0.0661 | 0.0595 | -0.3592 |
| 13 | 13 | 0.6913 | 0.0335 | 0.26 | -0.2231 | -0.1282 | 0.2728 | 0.172 | -0.055 |
| 14 | 14 | 0.786 | -0.3918 | 0.1564 | -0.2379 | -0.0696 | 0.0825 | -0.0729 | -0.0801 |
| 15 | 15 | 0.7424 | -0.2444 | 0.0398 | -0.0494 | -0.0391 | -0.4042 | -0.0504 | 0.0938 |
| 16 | 16 | 0.78 | -0.0877 | 0.2348 | 0.0426 | 0.1278 | 0.1182 | 0.1416 | -0.2442 |
| 17 | 17 | 0.4262 | 0.264 | 0.1756 | 0.2036 | -0.6032 | -0.022 | 0.2331 | 0.0069 |
| 18 | 18 | 0.8422 | -0.147 | 0.1562 | 0.2745 | -0.1567 | -0.0288 | 0.0225 | 0.0816 |
| 19 | 19 | 0.2919 | -0.392 | 0.0004 | 0.0975 | 0.1802 | 0.4977 | 0.5789 | -0.0363 |
| 20 | 20 | 0.5414 | 0.134 | 0.3118 | 0.2259 | -0.2711 | 0.1786 | -0.2884 | 0.138 |
| 21 | 21 | 0.3183 | 0.7635 | -0.0115 | -0.0487 | -0.281 | 0.1953 | -0.293 | -0.0747 |
| 22 | 22 | 0.8365 | -0.1708 | 0.1962 | -0.0236 | -0.0059 | -0.1385 | -0.0761 | -0.0568 |
| 23 | 23 | 0.0152 | 0.5074 | 0.5967 | -0.0444 | 0.4079 | -0.2778 | 0.0124 | 0.1578 |
| 24 | 24 | 0.0036 | 0.6799 | 0.4383 | 0.2339 | 0.3068 | 0.0555 | -0.0493 | 0.2226 |
| 25 | 25 | 0.3183 | 0.7635 | -0.0115 | -0.0487 | -0.281 | 0.1953 | -0.293 | -0.0747 |
| 26 | 26 | 0.7338 | 0.1211 | 0.1487 | -0.1402 | 0.3492 | -0.3195 | -0.191 | -0.1955 |
| 27 | 27 | 0.5512 | -0.4598 | 0.2613 | -0.3733 | 0.1602 | 0.1674 | 0.0796 | 0.2981 |
| 28 | 28 | 0.6125 | 0.5046 | 0.0211 | -0.3086 | -0.1045 | -0.0375 | 0.1156 | -0.0448 |
| 29 | 29 | 0.0964 | 0.3285 | -0.3726 | -0.4172 | 0.2326 | 0.4597 | -0.2521 | 0.2771 |
| 30 | 30 | -0.4782 | 0.6344 | 0.2742 | 0.024 | 0.0898 | 0.1374 | 0.2701 | 0.2404 |

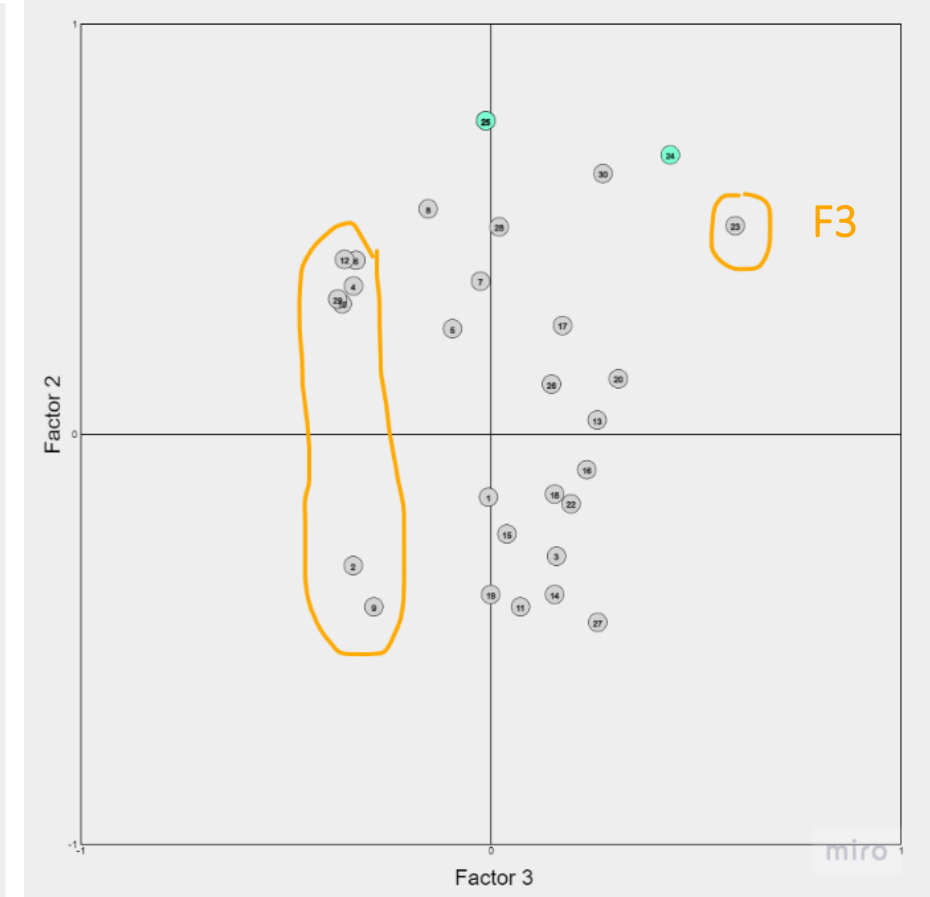
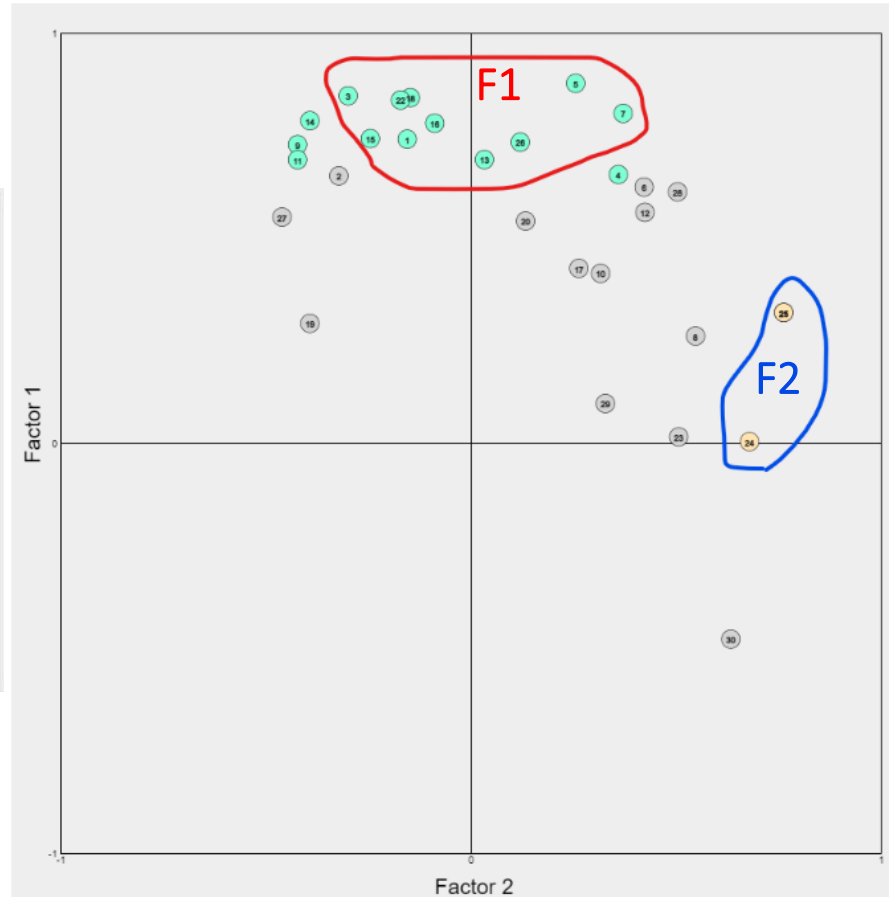
| | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3 | Factor 4 | Factor 5 | Factor 6 | Factor 7 | Factor 8 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Eigenvalues | 11.3711 | 5.0578 | 1.927 | 1.6647 | 1.4838 | 1.3254 | 1.2261 | 0.9384 |
| % Explained Variance | 38 | 17 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Cumulative % Expl Var | 38 | 55 | 61 | 67 | 72 | 76 | 80 | 83 |

Composite Q sort for Factor 1

| -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| **◀ Riego a manta | **◀ Uso de herbicidas | Uso de variedades mejoradas genéticamente | Barbecho | **▶ Fertilización orgánica con estiércol | *▶ Siembra directa | Cultivo intercalado o mezclas | **▶ Agricultura regenerativa | **▶ Rotaciones con leguminosas |
| **◀ Uso de plaguicidas / pesticidas | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante nitrógeno y sin estiércoles | Laboreo convencional | *◀ Incorporación de fertilizante mediante labor | **◀ Fertirriego | * Cultivos captura en periodo intercultivo | Mínimo laboreo | **▶ Cultivos cubierta en leñosos | Dosis de fertilización ajustada a las necesidades del cultivo |
| | Monocultivo (frente a asociaciones o rotaciones) | **◀ Fertilización sintética con fertilizante amoniacal y sin estiércoles | Inhibidores de la nitrificación | **▶ Microorganismos promotores del crecimiento / bioestimulantes | *▶ Uso de variedades locales | **▶ Uso de enemigos naturales / entomopatógenos / bioherbicidas | Fertilización balanceada (macro y micro nutrientes) | |
| | | **◀ Fertilización sintética con fertilizante ureico sin estiércoles | Inhibidores de la actividad ureasa | Uso de fertilizantes de liberación controlada / lenta | **▶ Agricultura ecológica | **▶ Riego por goteo | | |
| | | | **◀ Riego por aspersión | Manejo de las aplicaciones de fondo o pre-siembra | Fraccionamiento de la fertilización | | | |
| | | | | **▶ Aplicación de biochar | | | | |

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

| N | Participant | FG | Factor 1 | F1 | Factor 2 | F2 | Factor 3 | F3 | Factor 4 | F4 | Factor 5 | F5 | Factor 6 | F6 | Factor 7 | F7 |
|----|-------------|-------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|
| 1 | 1 | F1-9 | 0.7411 | ✓ | -0.1547 | | -0.0051 | | 0.5195 | | 0.0434 | | 0.006 | | 0.0486 | |
| 2 | 2 | F1-15 | 0.6516 | ✓ | -0.3214 | | -0.3349 | ✓ | -0.0275 | | 0.0447 | | -0.0959 | | -0.1677 | |
| 3 | 3 | F1-2 | 0.8469 | ✓ | -0.2987 | | 0.1609 | | 0.0927 | | 0.0024 | | 0.1017 | | -0.0707 | |
| 4 | 4 | F1-14 | 0.6548 | | 0.3602 | | -0.3343 | ✓ | 0.1111 | | -0.0626 | | -0.1107 | | 0.2525 | |
| 5 | 5 | F1-1 | 0.8772 | ✓ | 0.2561 | | -0.0628 | | -0.0812 | | -0.0054 | | 0.0701 | | 0.0188 | |
| 6 | 6 | F1-16 | 0.6244 | | 0.4229 | | -0.3282 | ✓ | 0.0084 | | -0.1176 | | -0.271 | | 0.2816 | |
| 7 | 7 | F1-5 | 0.804 | ✓ | 0.372 | | -0.0245 | | 0.0657 | | 0.282 | | 0.1967 | | -0.0023 | |
| 8 | 8 | F2-5 | 0.2611 | | 0.5484 | | -0.1521 | | -0.4567 | | -0.046 | | -0.3126 | | 0.3332 | |
| 9 | 9 | F1-11 | 0.7278 | | -0.422 | | -0.2845 | ✓ | 0.0381 | | 0.0391 | | 0.058 | | -0.0816 | |
| 10 | 10 | F4-1 | 0.4138 | | 0.317 | | -0.3617 | ✓ | 0.5621 | | 0.3534 | | -0.0058 | | -0.0875 | |
| 11 | 11 | F1-13 | 0.6909 | | -0.4219 | | 0.073 | | -0.2366 | | 0.0037 | | -0.0709 | | -0.1219 | |
| 12 | 12 | F1-18 | 0.5626 | | 0.425 | | -0.3562 | ✓ | -0.0086 | | 0.277 | | 0.0661 | | 0.0595 | |
| 13 | 13 | F1-12 | 0.6913 | ✓ | 0.0335 | | 0.26 | | -0.2231 | | -0.1282 | | 0.2728 | | 0.172 | |
| 14 | 14 | F1-6 | 0.786 | | -0.3915 | | 0.1564 | | -0.2379 | | -0.0696 | | 0.0825 | | -0.0729 | |
| 15 | 15 | F1-8 | 0.7424 | ✓ | -0.2444 | | 0.0398 | | -0.0494 | | -0.0391 | | -0.4042 | | -0.0504 | |
| 16 | 16 | F1-7 | 0.78 | ✓ | -0.0877 | | 0.2348 | | 0.0426 | | 0.1278 | | 0.1182 | | 0.1416 | |
| 17 | 17 | F5-1 | 0.4262 | | 0.264 | | 0.1756 | | 0.2036 | | -0.6032 | | -0.022 | | 0.2331 | |
| 18 | 18 | F1-3 | 0.8422 | ✓ | -0.147 | | 0.1562 | | 0.2745 | | -0.1567 | | -0.0288 | | 0.0225 | |
| 19 | 19 | F7-1 | 0.2919 | | -0.392 | | 0.0004 | | 0.0975 | | 0.1802 | | 0.4877 | | 0.5789 | |
| 20 | 20 | F1-20 | 0.5414 | | 0.134 | | 0.3118 | | 0.2259 | | -0.2711 | | 0.1786 | | -0.2884 | |
| 21 | 21 | F2-1 | 0.3183 | | 0.7635 | ✓ | -0.0115 | | -0.0487 | | -0.281 | | 0.1953 | | -0.293 | |
| 22 | 22 | F1-4 | 0.8365 | ✓ | -0.1708 | | 0.1962 | | -0.0236 | | -0.0059 | | -0.1385 | | -0.0761 | |
| 23 | 23 | F3-1 | 0.0152 | | 0.5074 | | 0.5967 | ✓ | -0.0444 | | 0.4079 | | -0.2778 | | 0.0124 | |
| 24 | 24 | F2-3 | 0.0036 | | 0.6796 | ✓ | 0.4383 | | 0.2339 | | 0.3068 | | 0.0555 | | -0.0493 | |
| 25 | 25 | F2-2 | 0.3183 | | 0.7635 | ✓ | -0.0115 | | -0.0487 | | -0.281 | | 0.1953 | | -0.293 | |
| 26 | 26 | F1-10 | 0.7338 | ✓ | 0.1211 | | 0.1487 | | -0.1402 | | 0.3492 | | -0.3195 | | -0.191 | |
| 27 | 27 | F1-19 | 0.5512 | | -0.4598 | | 0.2613 | | -0.3733 | | 0.1602 | | 0.1674 | | 0.0796 | |
| 28 | 28 | F1-17 | 0.6125 | | 0.5046 | | 0.0211 | | -0.3086 | | -0.1045 | | -0.0375 | | 0.1156 | |
| 29 | 29 | F6-1 | 0.0964 | | 0.3285 | | -0.3726 | ✓ | -0.4172 | | 0.2326 | | 0.4597 | | -0.2521 | |
| 30 | 30 | F2-4 | -0.4782 | | 0.6344 | ✓ | 0.2742 | | 0.024 | | 0.0898 | | 0.1374 | | 0.2701 | |



FACTOR 1

Composite Q sort for Factor 1

| -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| **◀ Riego a manta | **◀ Uso de herbicidas | Uso de variedades mejoradas genéticamente | Barbecho | **▶ Fertilización orgánica con estiércol | *▶ Siembra directa | Cultivo intercalado o mezclas | **▶ Agricultura regenerativa | **▶ Rotaciones con leguminosas |
| **◀ Uso de plaguicidas / pesticidas | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante nitrógeno y sin estiércoles | Laboreo convencional | *◀ Incorporación de fertilizante mediante labor | **◀ Fertirriego | * Cultivos captura en periodo intercultivo | Mínimo laboreo | **▶ Cultivos cubierta en leñosos | Dosis de fertilización ajustada a las necesidades del cultivo |
| | Monocultivo (frente a asociaciones o rotaciones) | **◀ Fertilización sintética con fertilizante amoniacal y sin estiércoles | Inhibidores de la nitrificación | **▶ Microorganismos promotores del crecimiento / bioestimulantes | *▶ Uso de variedades locales | **▶ Uso de enemigos naturales / entomopatógenos / bioherbicidas | Fertilización balanceada (macro y micro nutrientes) | |
| | | **◀ Fertilización sintética con fertilizante ureico sin estiércoles | Inhibidores de la actividad ureasa | Uso de fertilizantes de liberación controlada / lenta | **▶ Agricultura ecológica | **▶ Riego por goteo | | |
| | | | **◀ Riego por aspersión | Manejo de las aplicaciones de fondo o pre-siembra | Fraccionamiento de la fertilización | | | |
| | | | | **▶ Aplicación de biochar | | | | |

- NBS solutions
- Environment
- Input minimization and nutrient circularity

"Soil conservation and circular system"

Legend

- * Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.05$
- ** Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.01$
- ▶ z-Score for the statement is higher than in all the other factors
- ◀ z-Score for the statement is lower than in all the other factors

- Crop rotations with legumes
- Cover crops in permanent crops
- Natural pest control
- Drip irrigation
- *Regenerative/organic farming*
- Local varieties
- Direct seeding
- Plant growth-promoting microorganisms
- Biochar
- Organic fertilization

- Flood irrigation
- Pesticides
- Herbicides

- *Synthetic fertilization*
- *Fertilizer soil incorporation with tillage*
- *Sprinkler*
- *Fertirrigation*

FACTOR 2

Composite Q sort for Factor 2

| -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| **◀ Barbecho | Laboreo convencional | * Cultivos cubierta en leñosos | Inhibidores de la actividad ureasa | **▶ Uso de variedades mejoradas genéticamente | Mínimo laboreo | **▶ Uso de fertilizantes de liberación controlada / lenta | Fertilización balanceada (macro y micro nutrientes) | Dosis de fertilización ajustada a las necesidades del cultivo |
| *◀ Aplicación de biochar | Agricultura ecológica | Agricultura regenerativa | * Microorganismos promotores del crecimiento / bioestimulantes | *◀ Cultivos captura en período intercultivo | **▶ Uso de plaguicidas / pesticidas | **▶ Uso de herbicidas | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante ureico sin estiércoles | *▶ Fertirriego |
| | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante nitrógeno y sin estiércoles | **◀ Uso de variedades locales | Uso de enemigos naturales / entomopatógenos / bioherbicidas | * Siembra directa | ** Rotaciones con leguminosas | Cultivo intercalado o mezclas | Riego por aspersión | |
| | | Monocultivo (frente a asociaciones o rotaciones) | **◀ Riego por goteo | * Incorporación de fertilizante mediante labor | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante amoniacal y sin estiércoles | Fraccionamiento de la fertilización | | |
| | | | ** Riego a manta | Inhibidores de la nitrificación | Manejo de las aplicaciones de fondo o pre-siembra | | | |
| | | | | Fertilización orgánica con estiércol | | | | |

- Fertilirrigation
- Controlled or slow-release fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Genetically improved varieties

- Fallow
- Biochar
- Local varieties
- Drip irrigation
- Catch crops

Legend

- * Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.05$
- ** Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.01$
- ▶ z-Score for the statement is higher than in all the other factors
- ◀ z-Score for the statement is lower than in all the other factors

FACTOR 3

Composite Q sort for Factor 3

| -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| *◀ Cultivos cubierta en leñosos | * Aplicación de biochar | **◀ Dosis de fertilización ajustada a las necesidades del cultivo | **◀ Fertilización balanceada (macro y micro nutrientes) | ** Riego por goteo | **▶ Inhibidores de la actividad ureasa | * Fertiliriego | **▶ Cultivos captura en periodo intercultivo | **▶ Monocultivo (frente a asociaciones o rotaciones) |
| **◀ Rotaciones con leguminosas | *◀ Microorganismos promotores del crecimiento / bioestimulantes | **◀ Cultivo intercalado o mezclas | **◀ Mínimo laboreo | Barbecho | Uso de fertilizantes de liberación controlada / lenta | **▶ Fertilización sintética con fertilizante nítrico y sin estiércoles | Riego por aspersión | **▶ Riego a manta |
| | Agricultura ecológica | **◀ Fraccionamiento de la fertilización | ** Uso de herbicidas | Uso de enemigos naturales / entomopatógenos / bioherbicidas | * Uso de variedades locales | Fertilización sitética con fertilizante amoniacal y sin estiércoles | Fertilización sintética con fertilizante ureico sin estiércoles | |
| | | **◀ Siembra directa | Agricultura regenerativa | Fertilización orgánica con estiércol | Manejo de las aplicaciones de fondo o pre-siembra | *▶ Incorporación de fertilizante mediante labor | | |
| | | | Uso de variedades mejoradas genéticamente | **▶ Laboreo convencional | Inhibidores de la nitrificación | | | |
| | | | | ** Uso de plaguicidas / pesticidas | | | | |

Legend

- * Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.05$
- ** Distinguishing statement at $P < 0.01$
- ▶ z-Score for the statement is higher than in all the other factors
- ◀ z-Score for the statement is lower than in all the other factors

- Monoculture
- Flood irrigation
- Catch crops
- Synthetic fertilization with nitric fertilizer
- Fertilizer soil incorporation with tillage
- Urease activity inhibitors
- Conventional tillage

- Crop rotations with legumes
- Cover crops in permanent crops
- Plant growth-promoting microorganisms
- Adjusted fertilizer rate
- Intercropping or mixed cropping
- Fertilizer fractioning
- Direct seeding
- Balanced fertilization
- Low tillage

NEXT STEPS:

- Increase the number of interviews (factor 3).
- Separated analysis for stakeholders?

CONCLUSIONS (and also could-be-next-steps):

- Q methodology can be useful to better understand the subjectivity behind farming preferences
- In order to increase N circularity favouring organic or regenerative farming systems, it would be useful to better understand the drivers in Factor 1 and the barriers in F3
- Useful to perform a Q test specifically targeting a particular set of practices (N waste reduction and circularity)



Thank you!!



ipuibar@doctor.upv.es