

UNLOCKING COOPERATION TOWARDS DIVERSIFICATION

INSIGHTS FROM A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF
WALLOON DAIRY COOPERATIVES

Véronique De Herde

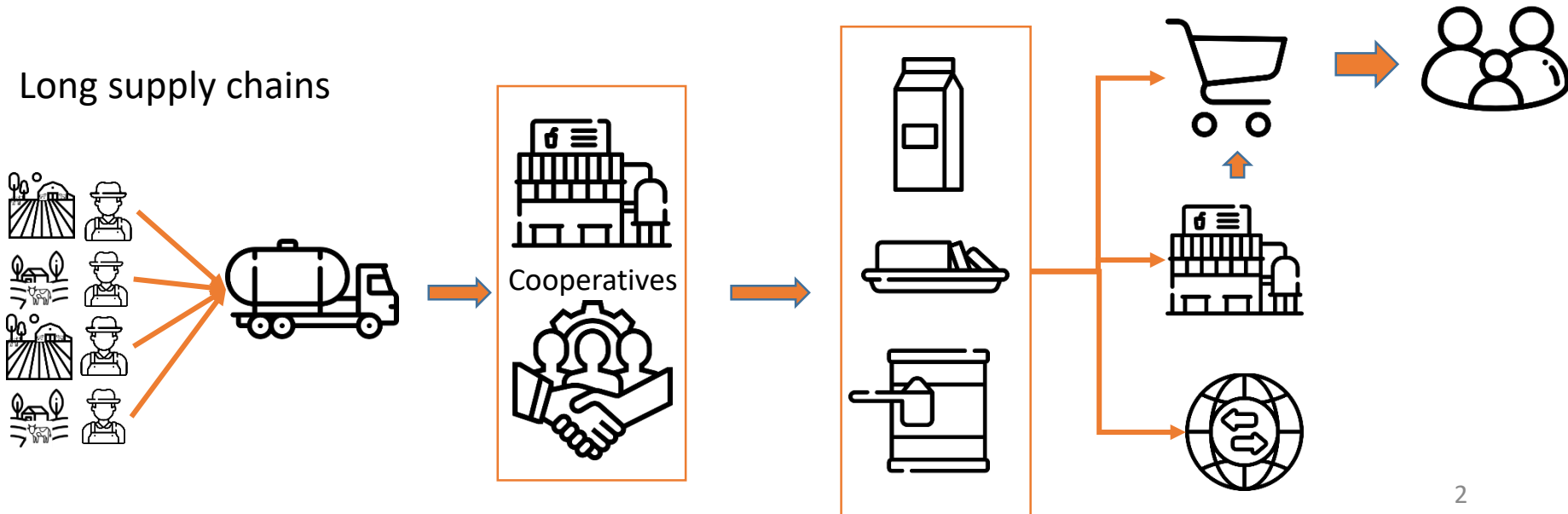


The Walloon dairy sector : two main channels of processing

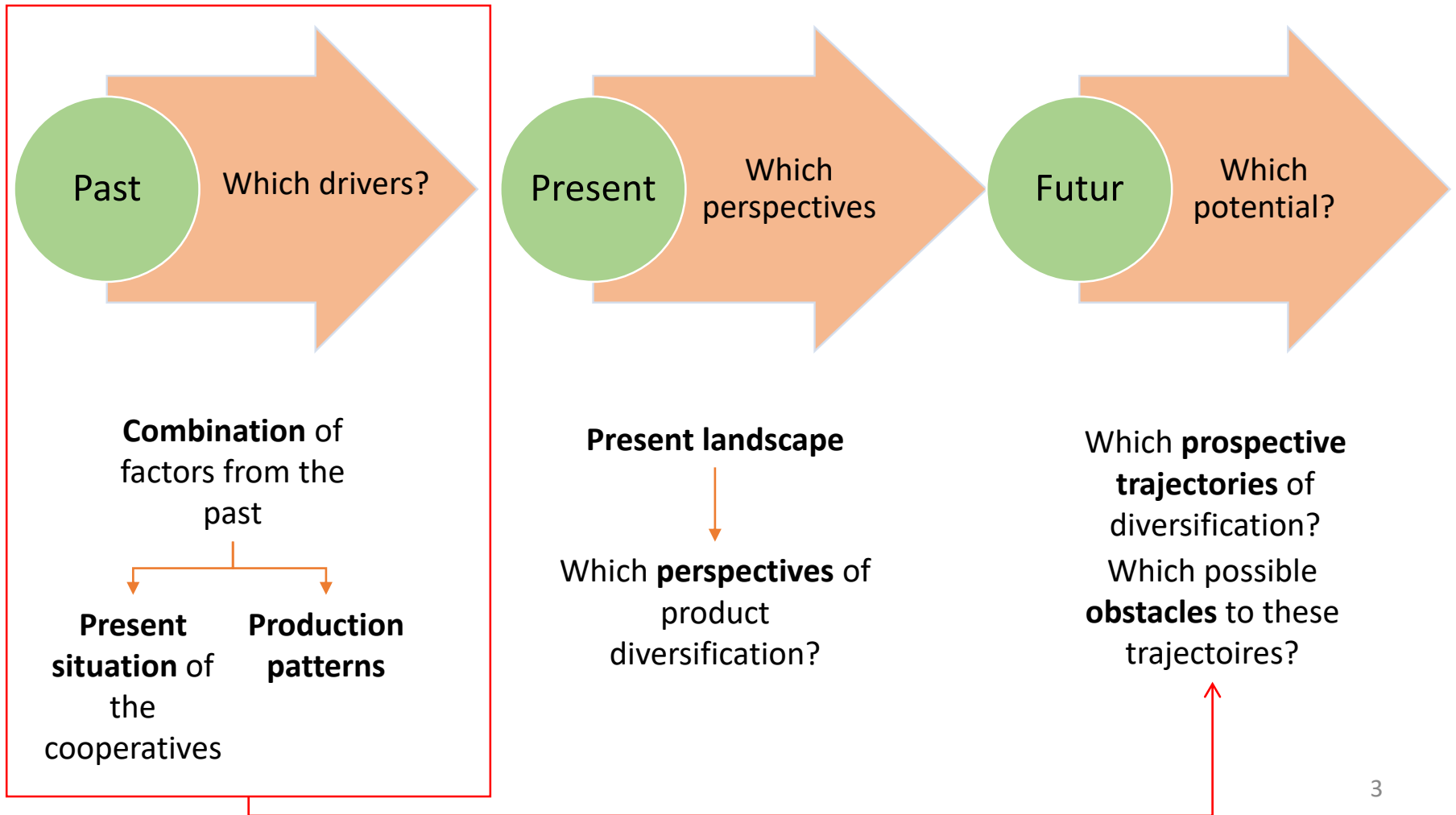
Between 3 and 7% of the milk



Long supply chains

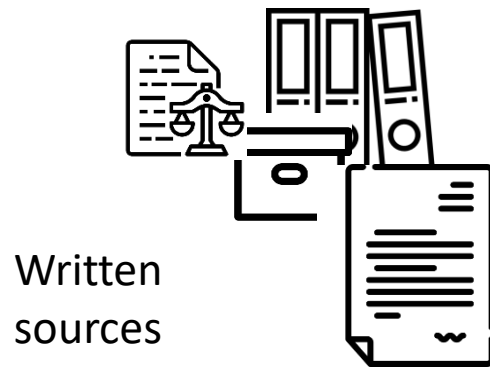


Anchor the comprehension of future trajectories in past and present

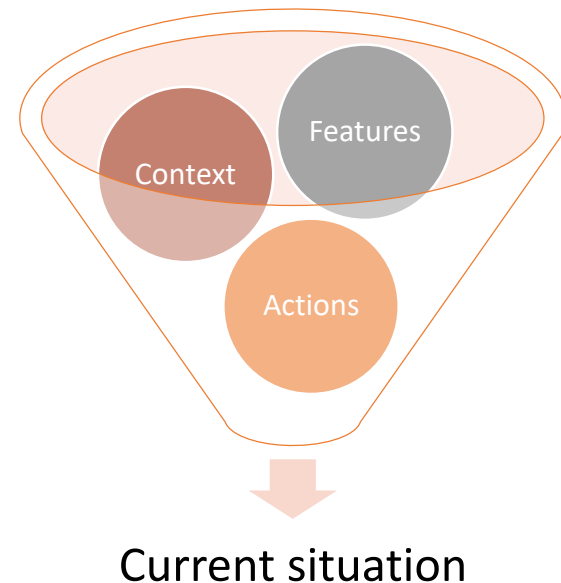


Starting hypothesis and research process

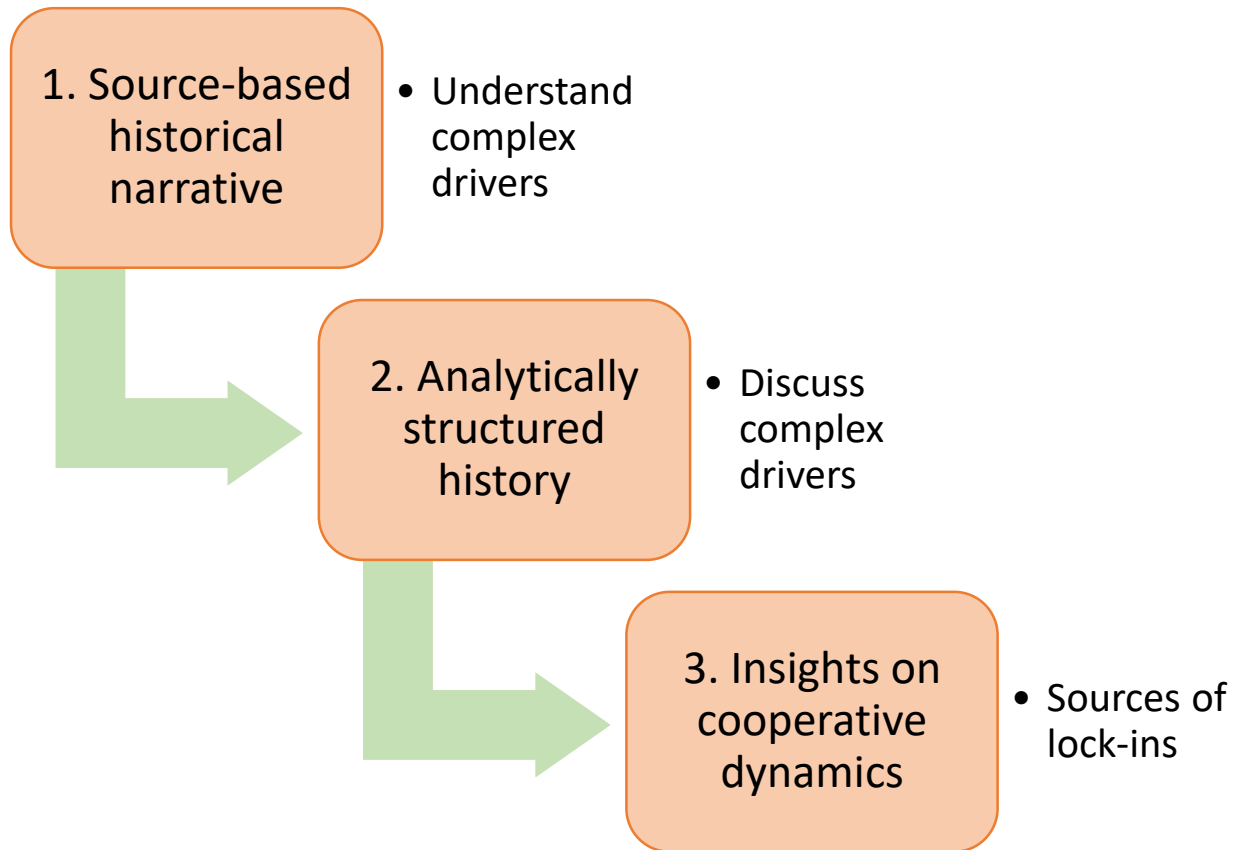
- Complex drivers: more than individual or collective economic optimization alone



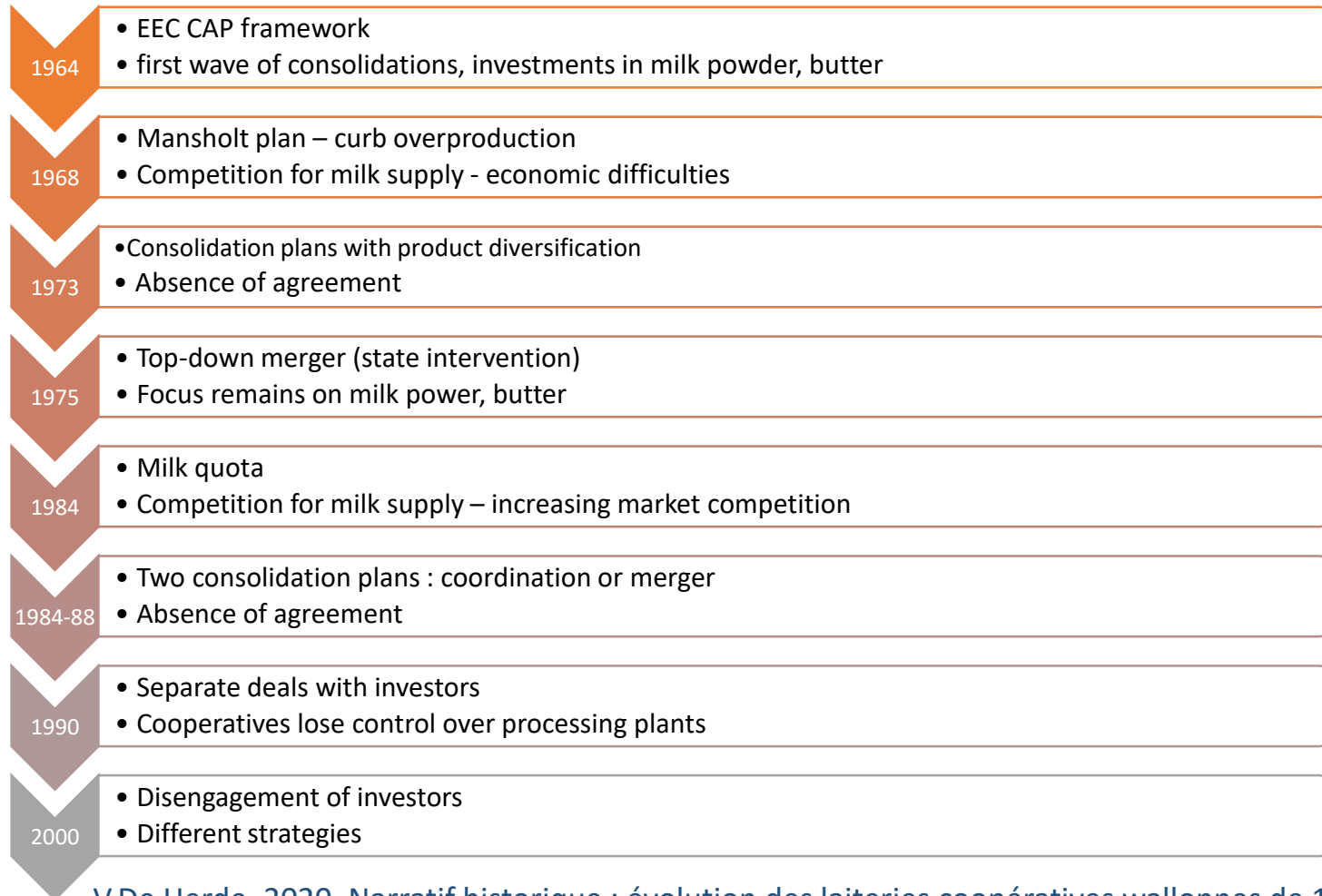
“the test of authenticity” :
what happened and why?



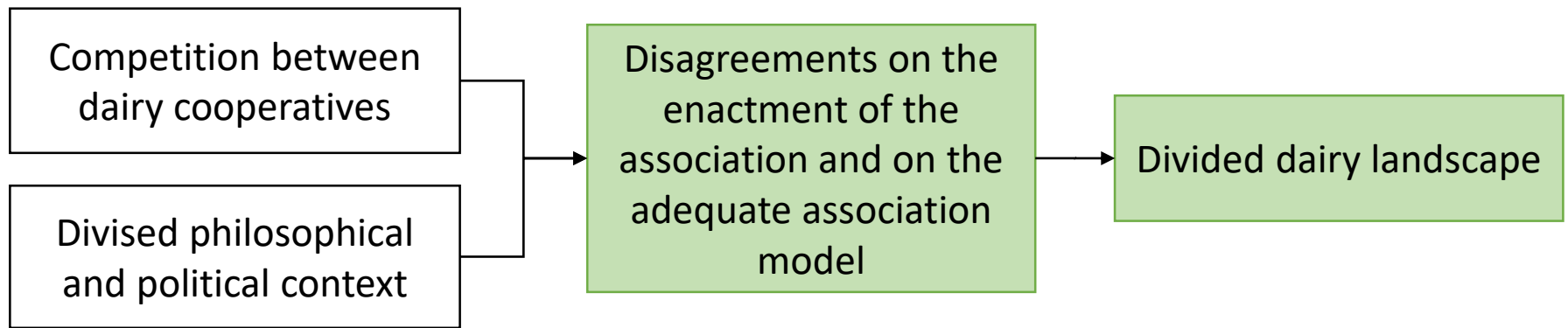
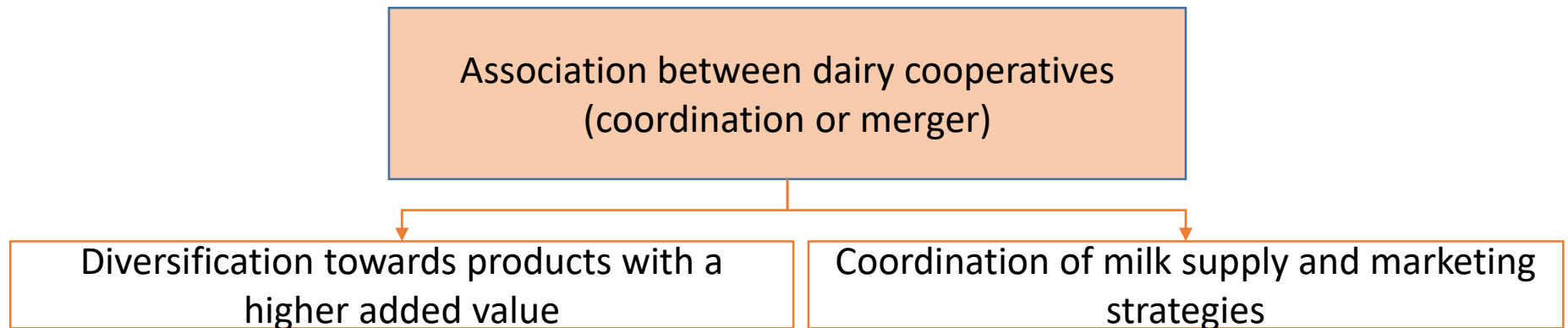
A research process in three steps



1. Milestones from the historical narrative



A regular pattern: failure to agree on consolidation strategies

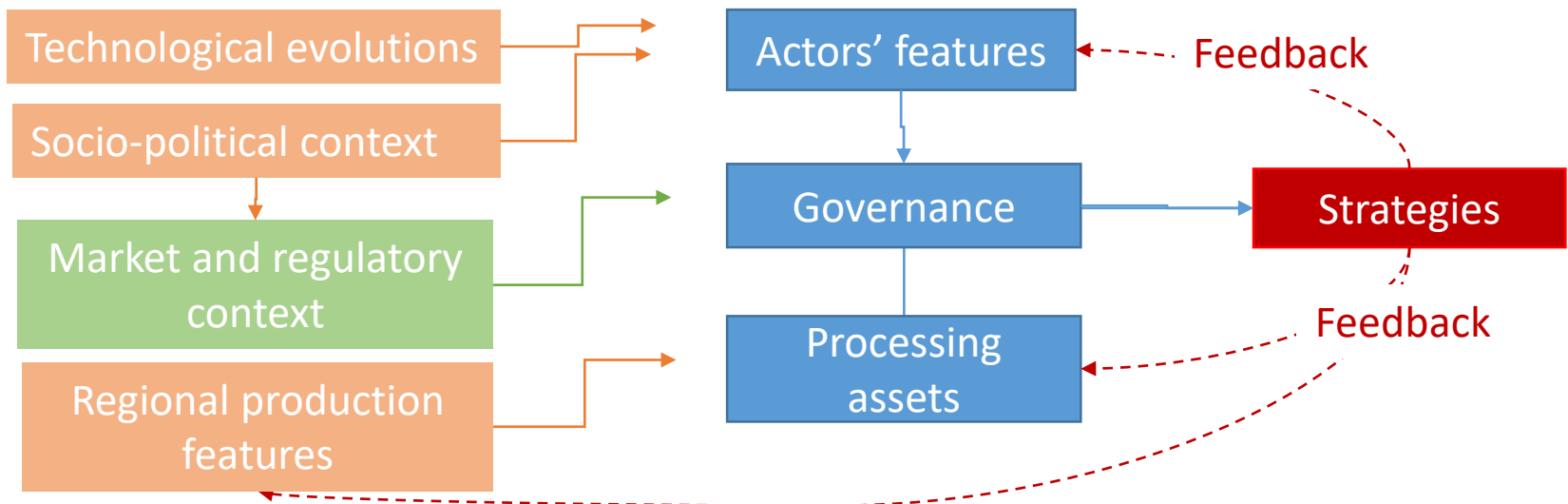


2. Interpretative frame : acknowledging dairy cooperatives as an hybrid actor

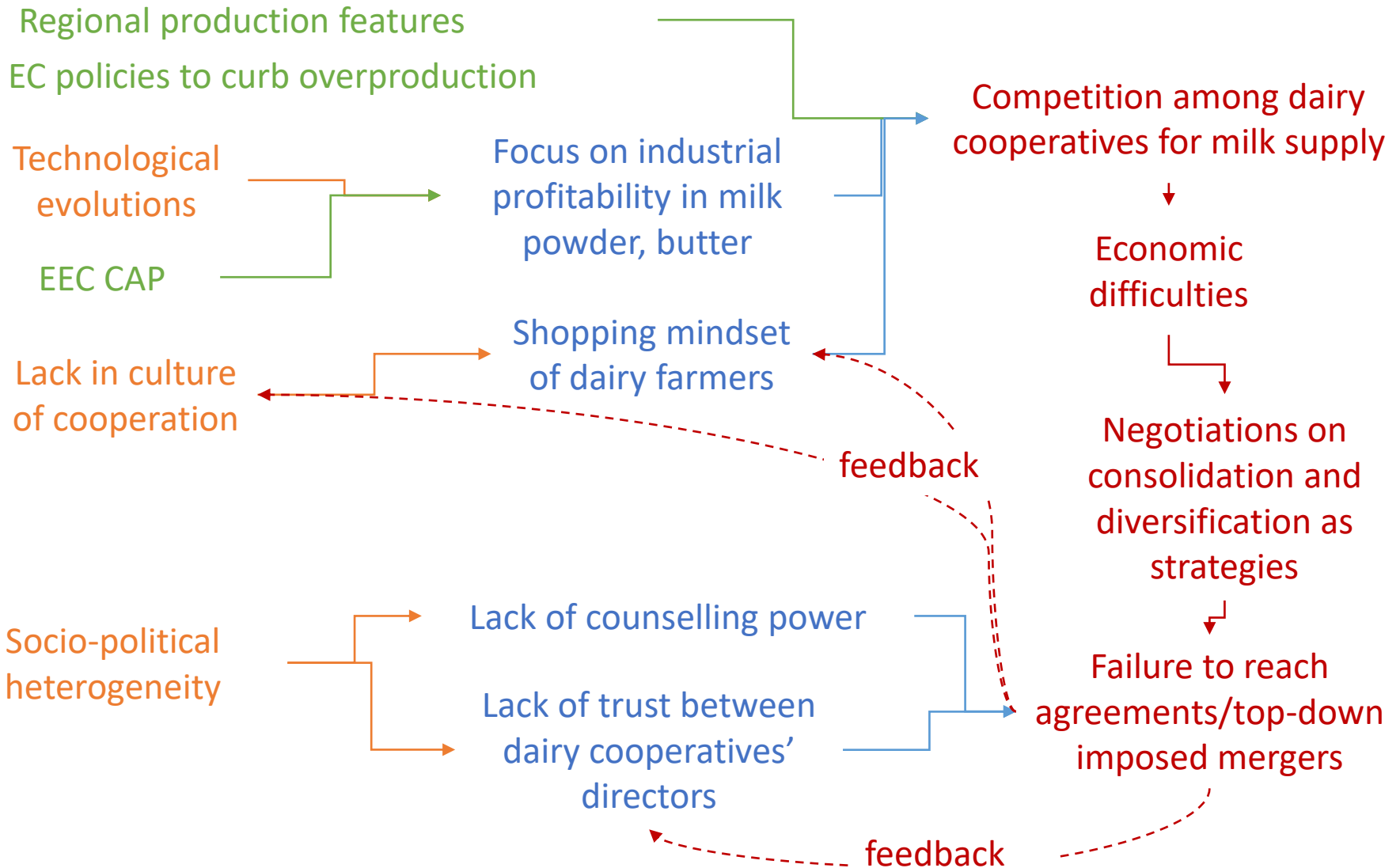
Structures of collective action



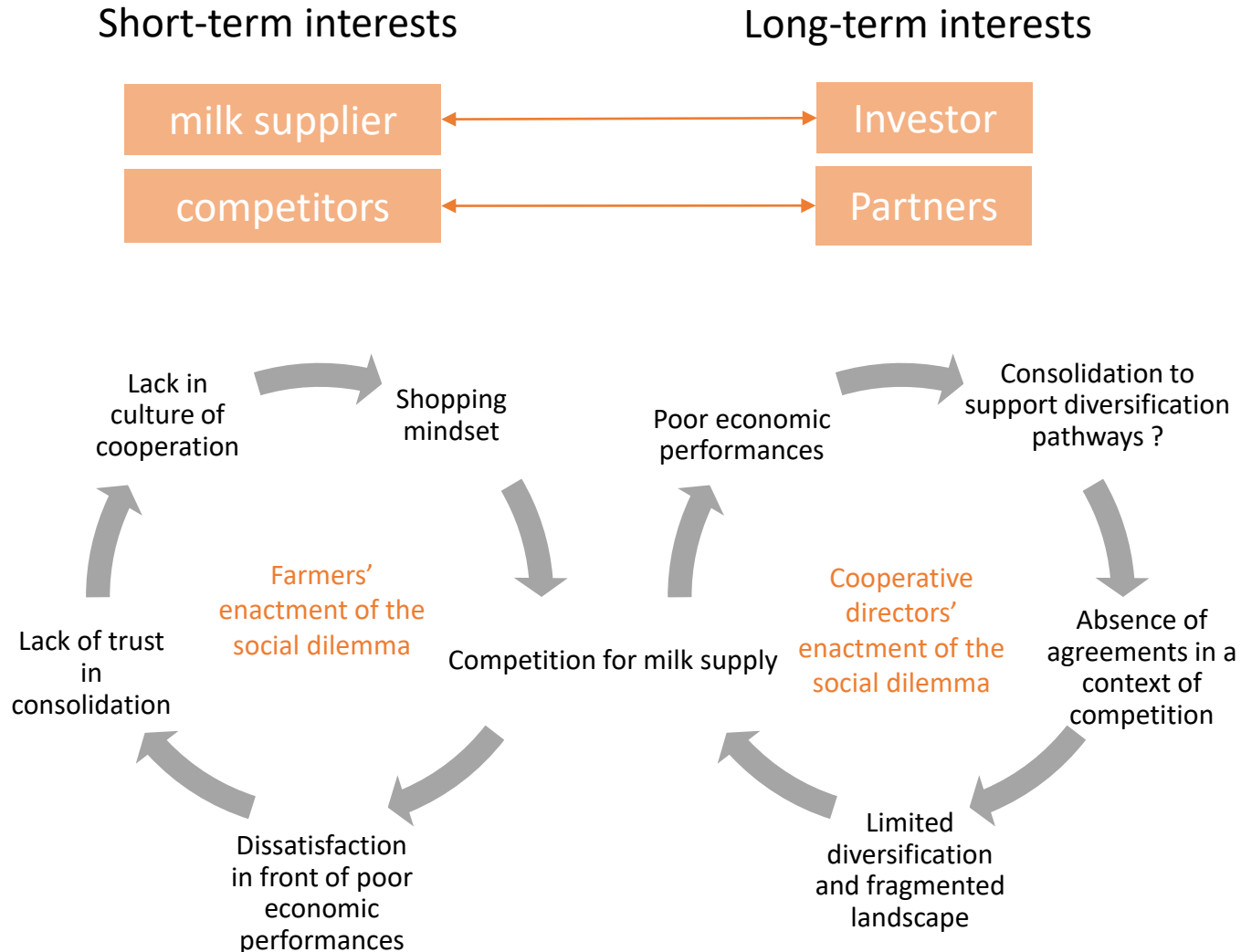
Actors on the market with requirements of economic profitability



A complex set of factors impeding agreements between dairy cooperatives

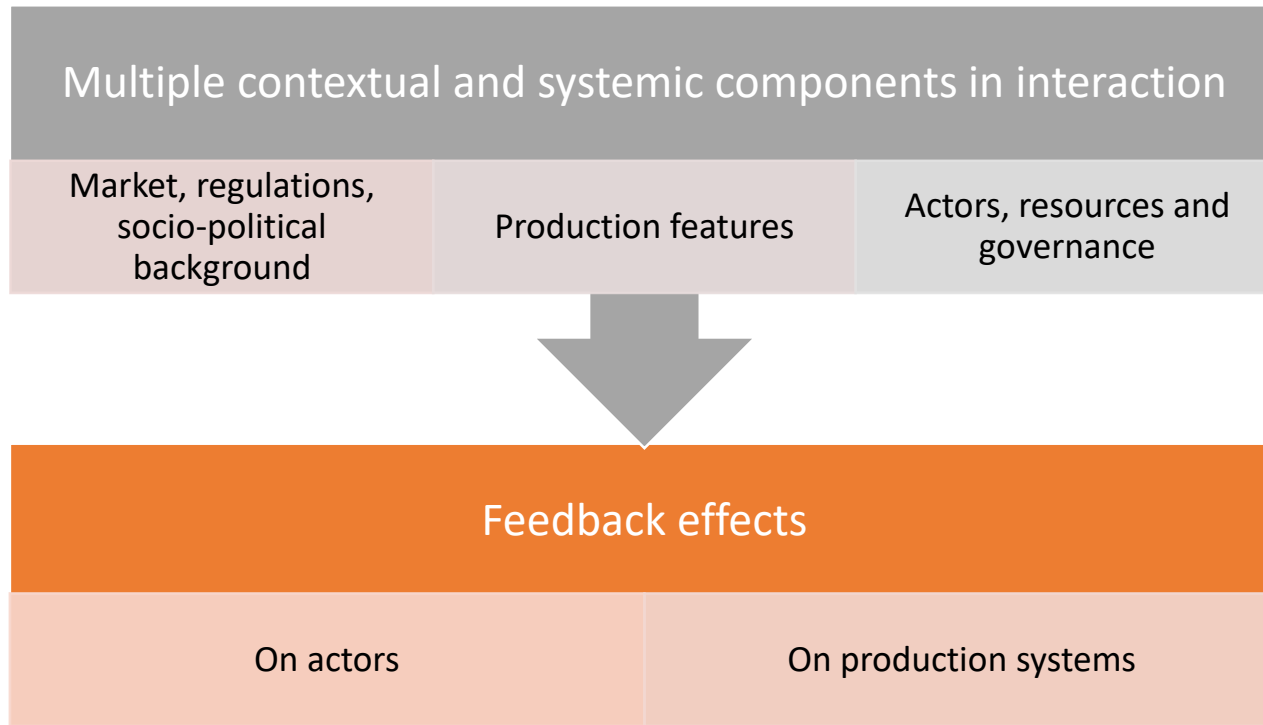


3. Lessons on cooperative dynamics: a double social dilemma at play



On the importance of context on lock-ins

Lock-ins as the outcomes of a complex process:



Leverages to lift blocking mechanisms to cooperation

Account for the effect of context on social dilemma

- Regulations
- Market situation
- Socio-political context

Manage the social dilemma

- Communication towards farmers
- Support services for dialogue and partnership

Conclusion

- Insights on complex dynamics in trajectories
- Contextualized cooperative dynamics can support or hinder change

⇒ Direct link to the paper 😊

V.De Herde, Y.Segers, K.Maréchal, P.V.Baret. 2022. Lock-ins to transition pathways anchored in contextualized cooperative dynamics: insights from the historical trajectories of the Walloon dairy cooperatives. *Journal of Rural Studies*.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016722000833>

Thank you for your attention!