



नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Policy Research Institute



Quality Evidence Generation Ecosystem for Policy: A Think Tank View

12th National Summit of Health and Population Scientists

10 April 2026

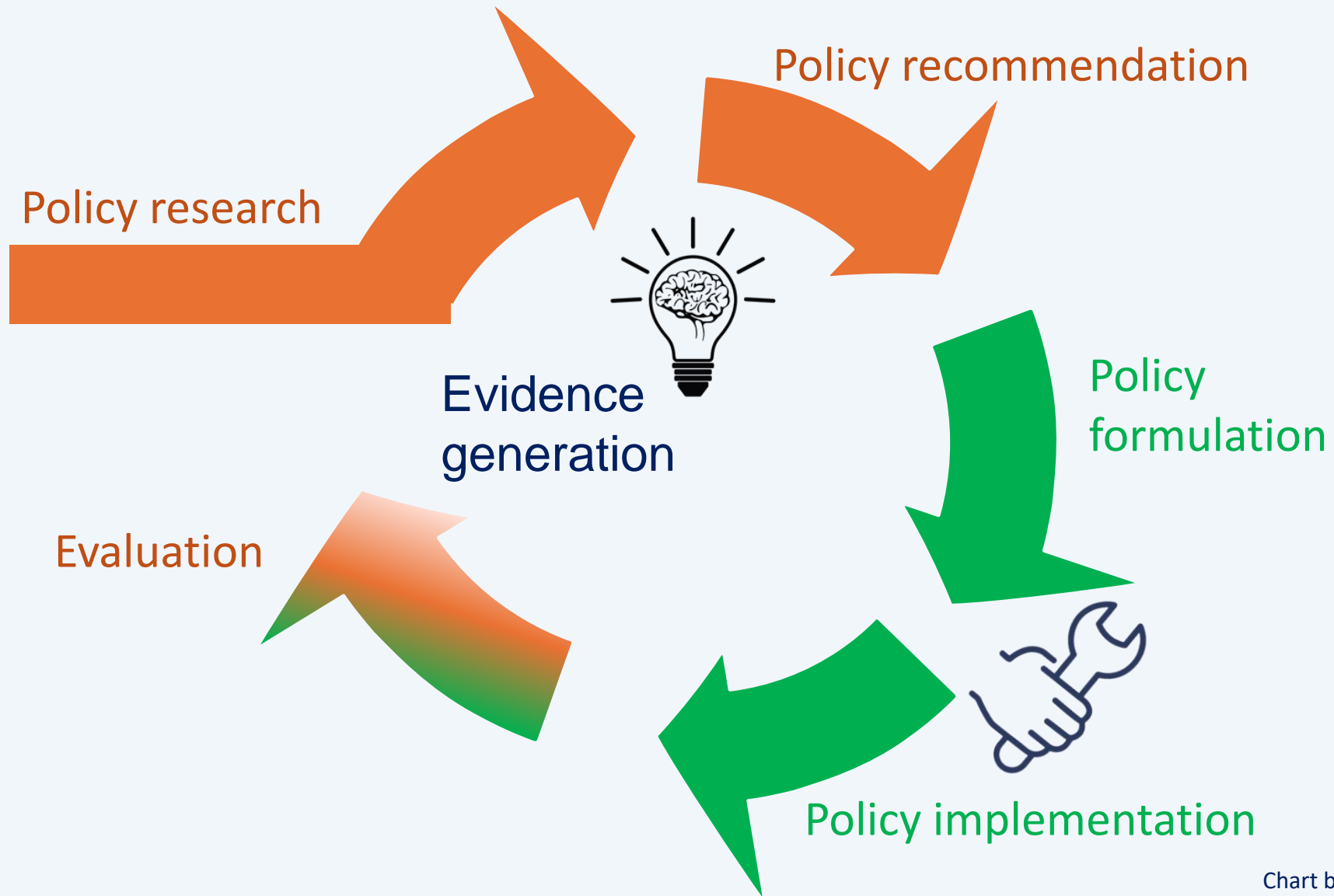
The Soaltee Kathmandu
Nepal Health Research Council



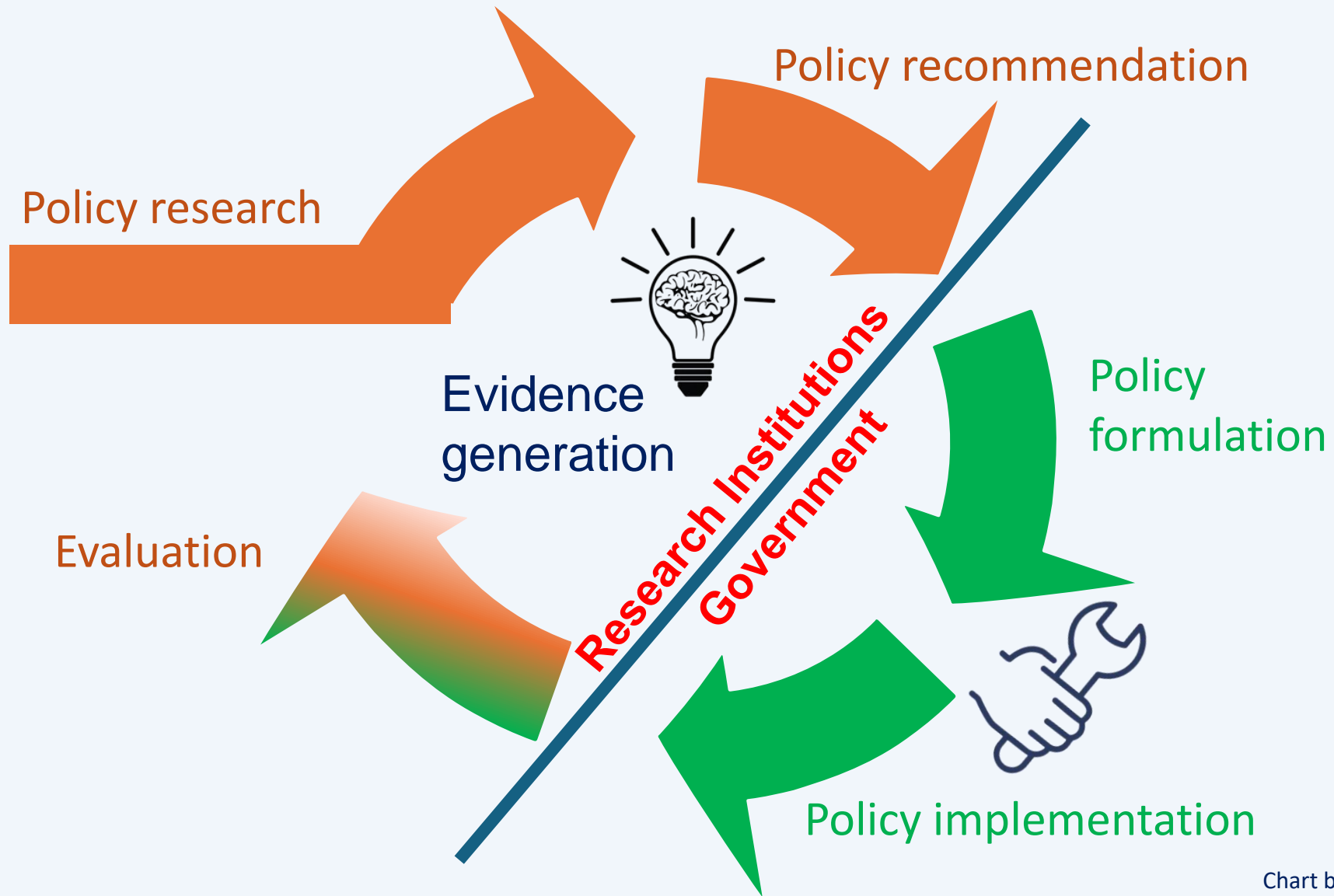
Deepak Kumar Khadka, PhD
Senior Research Fellow

Policy Research Institute, Narayanhiti, Kathmandu

Policy Cycle (in brief)



Policy Cycle (in brief)



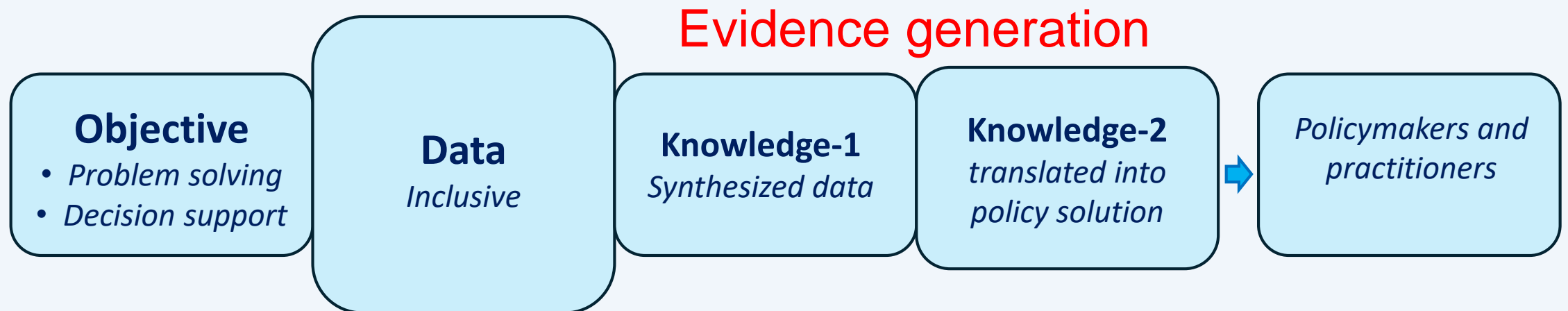
Research

Academic vs. Policy

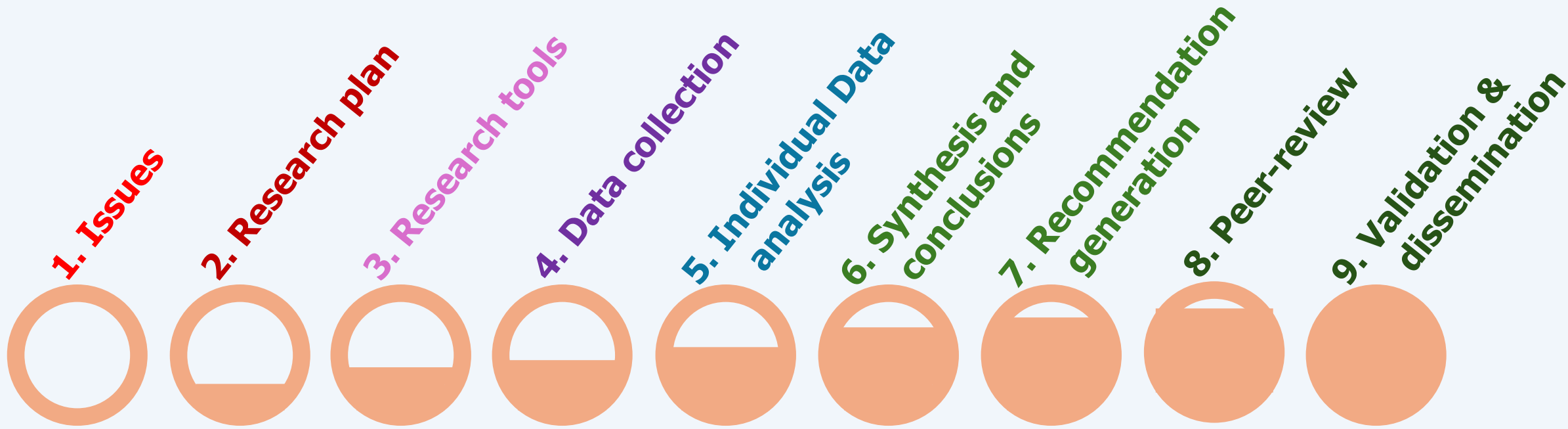


Academic Research

Policy Research



Policy research chain



- Literature review
- Qualitative survey
- Quantitative survey
- International experience
- Media analysis

- Academic source
- Grey literature
- Target population
- Experts
- Bureaucrats
- Elected representatives

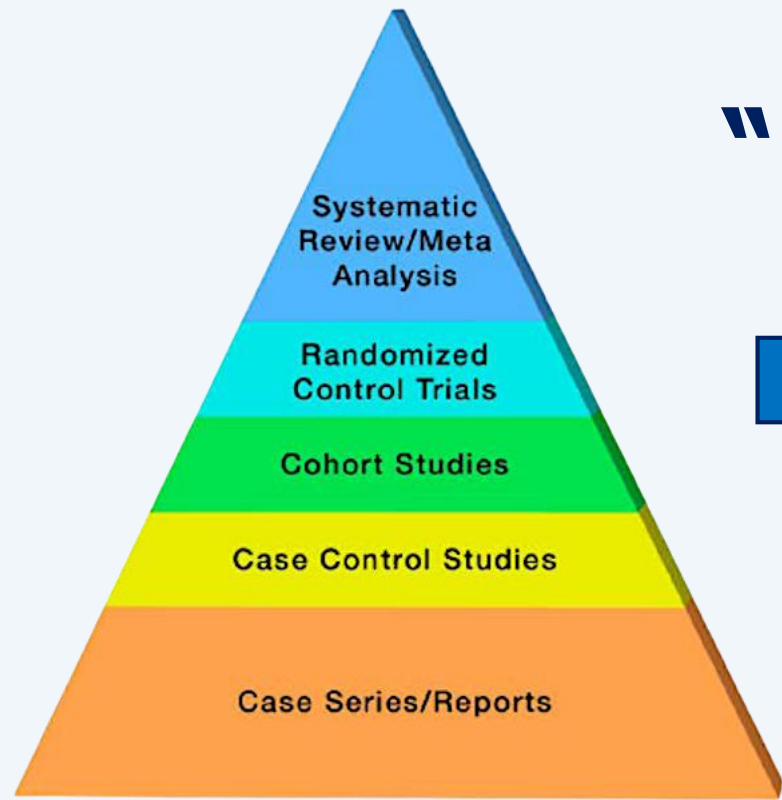
Health Policies Classified by Evidence Requirements

Best Evidence by Policy Area

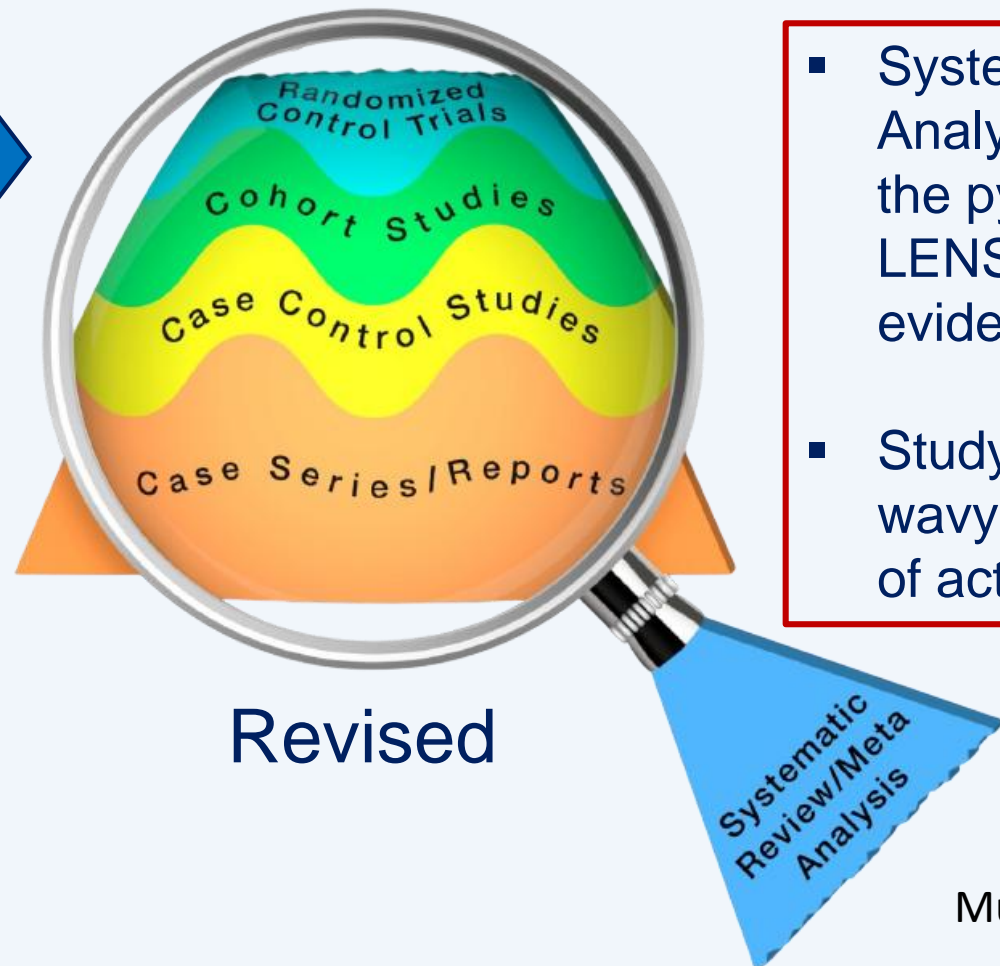
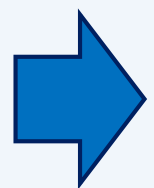
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Policy Area	Drug/ Device Approval & Clinical Protocols	Health Technology Assessment & Coverage	Vaccination & Prevention Programs	Public Health Interventions (tobacco, nutrition)	Health Equity & Social Determinants	Health System Organization & Governance	Patient Rights, Ethics & Resource Allocation
Primary Evidence Required	Highly scientific: RCTs, systematic reviews, meta-analyses	RCT data + economic evaluation	RCTs + real-world evidence + epidem. modeling	Observational studies, pragmatic trials, natural experiments	Multi-method: observational + qualitative + narrative	Administrative data, implementation research, stakeholder input	Public values, ethical frameworks, citizen deliberation
Evidence Types	Phase I–III trials, Cochrane reviews, safety/efficacy data	Clinical trials, cost-effectiveness analyses, budget impact models	Efficacy trials, effectiveness studies, health-economic data	Cohort studies, quasi-experiments, implementation data	Household narratives, natural policy experiments, historical evidence	Routine monitoring, service delivery reports, expert consultations	Preference surveys, deliberative dialogues, normative analysis
Key Reference	Williams & Evans, 2023	Battista & Lafortune, 2009	de Waure et al., 2023	Barnish & Turner, 2017	Whitehead et al., 2004	Nabyonga-Orem & Mijumbi, 2015	Schoemaker et al., 2020

“Evidence Pyramid”

“Evidence trapezoid”



Traditional pyramid



Revised

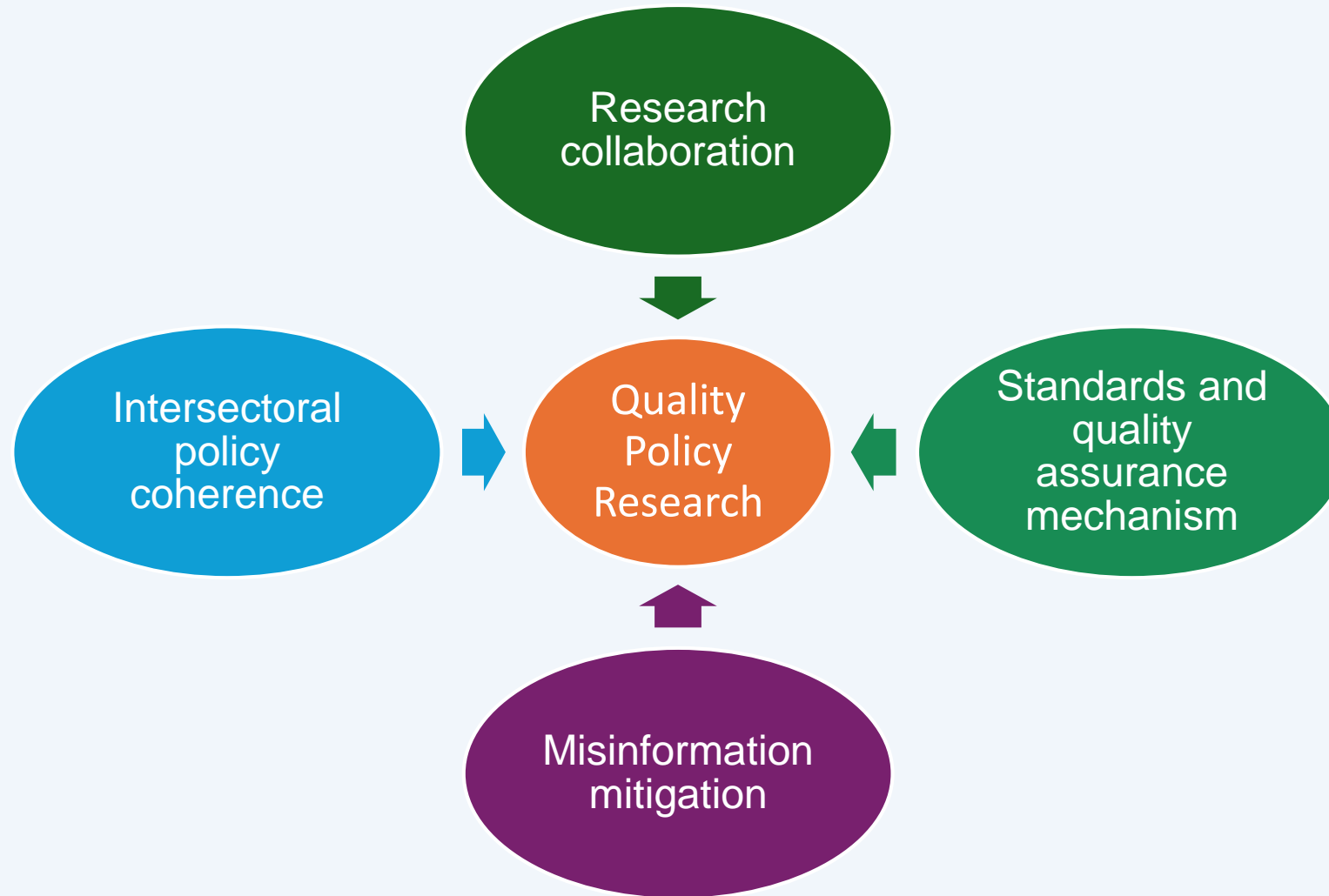
- Systematic reviews/Meta Analysis are ‘chopped off’ the pyramid and made a LENS through which evidence is viewed
- Study design layers are wavy to reflect the grading of actual evidence

Evidence-based

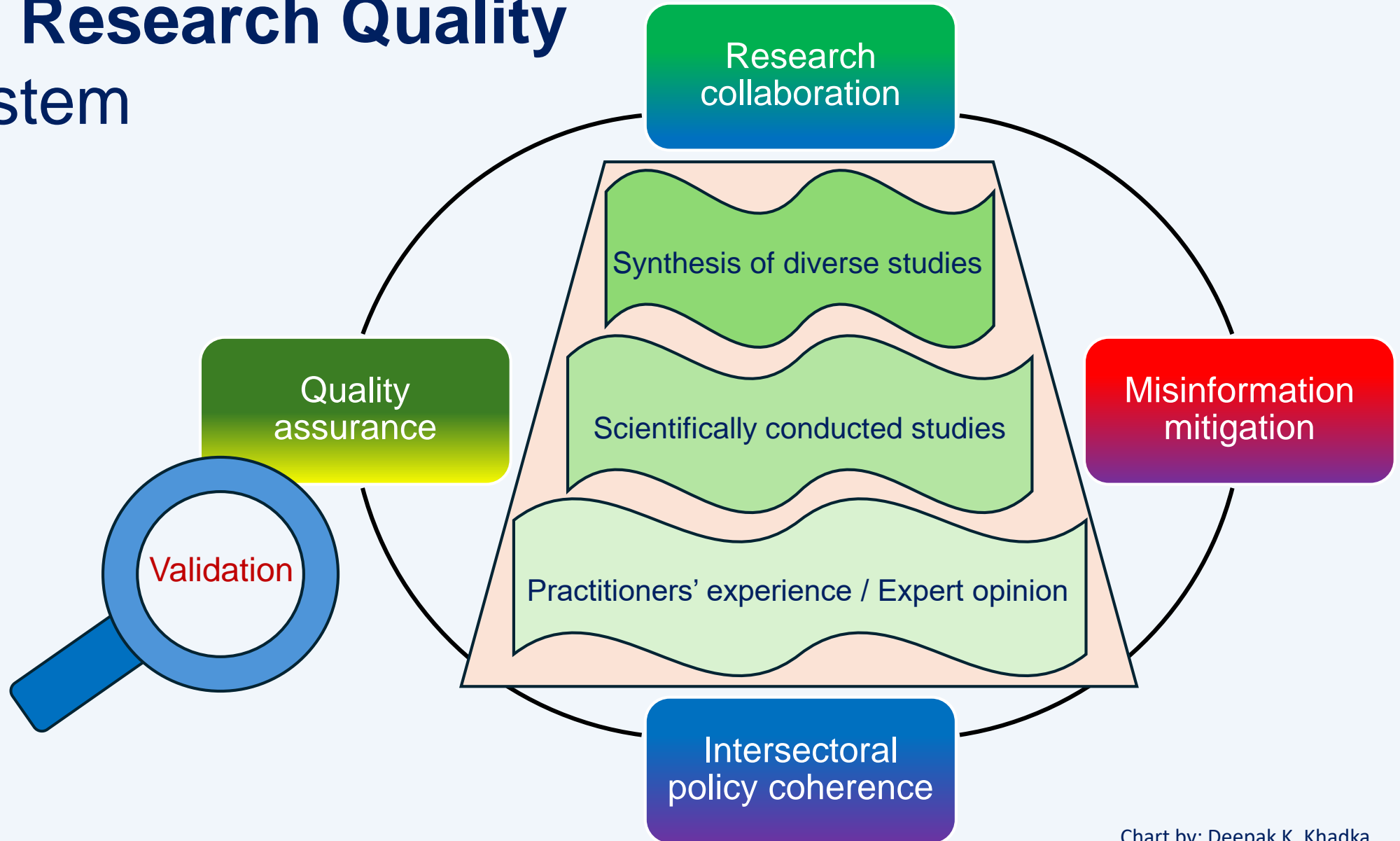
Medicine, Practice, Policy

	Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)	Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)	Evidence-Based Health Policy (EBHP)
Goal	<i>Individual cure</i>	<i>Care delivery</i>	<i>Societal health</i>
Key Question	"Which drug works best for this patient?"	"What is the best way to provide this care?"	"Where should we spend our budget for the most impact?"
Core Framework	PICO (Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome)	The 5 A's (Ask, Acquire, Appraise, Apply, Assess)	PESTEL (Political, Economic, Social, Tech, Enviro, Legal)
Key Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Research Evidence • Clinical Expertise • Patient Values/Circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Evidence (Clinical Data) • Patient Preferences • Clinical Context & Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiological Trends • Economic Feasibility • Political/Stakeholder Will
Foundational Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richardson et al. (1995) • Sackett et al. (1996) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawes et al. (2005) • Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt (2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walt & Gilson, (1994) • Brownson et al. (2009)

External Factors for Quality Policy Research



Policy Research Quality Ecosystem

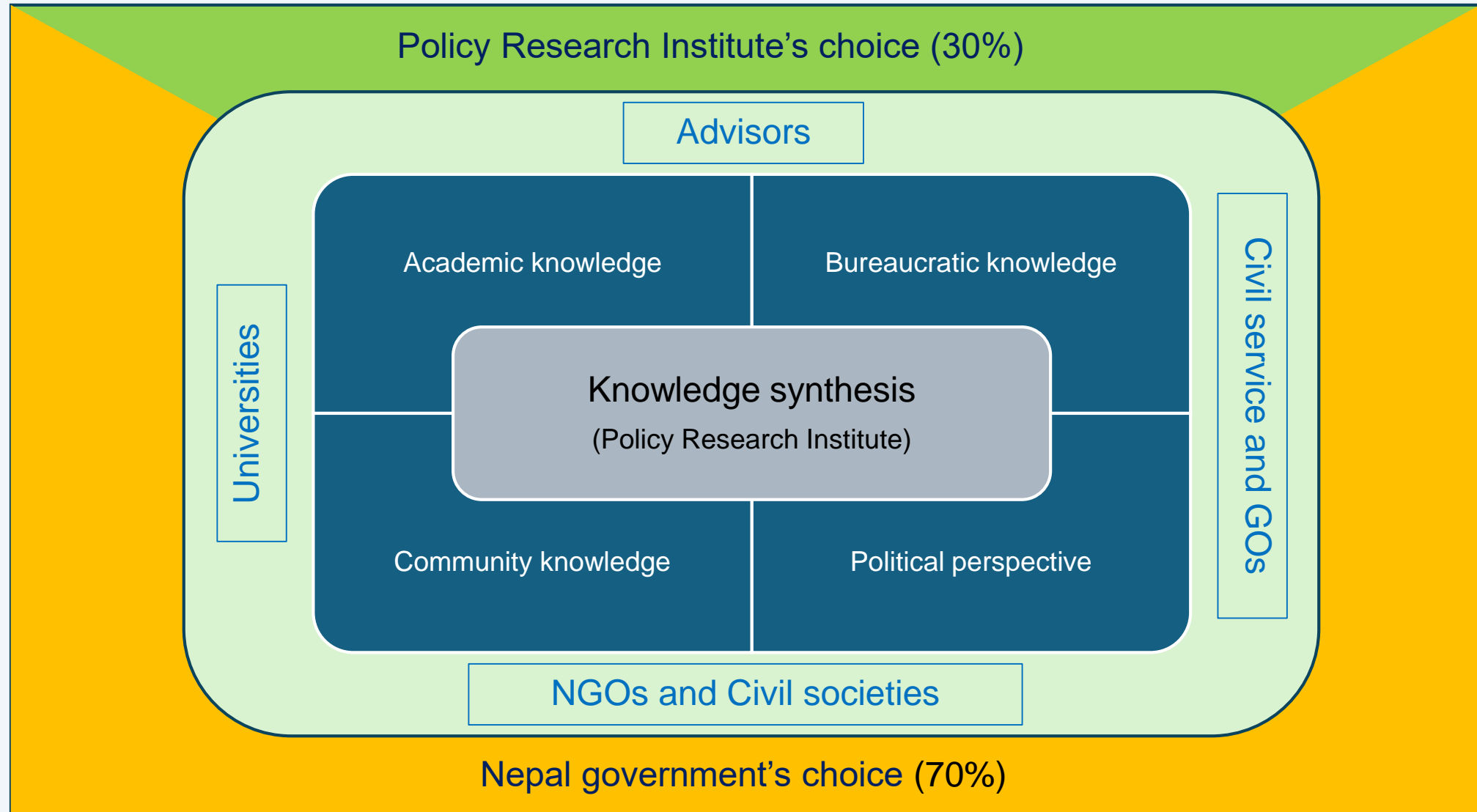


Quality of Policy Research

(Self-evaluation for illustration only)

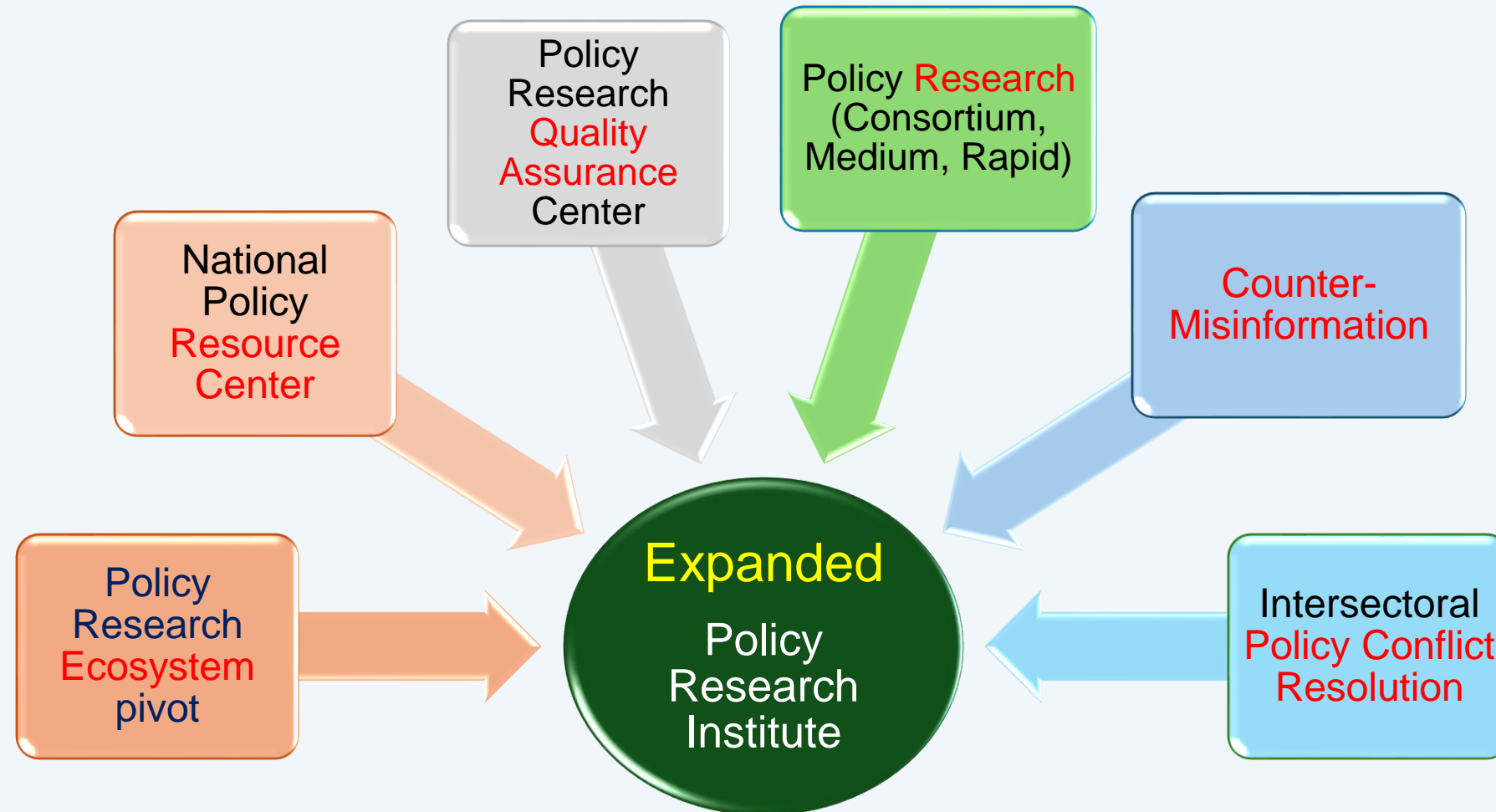
			Intrinsic factors		External factors			
	Author	Study	Research design	Outcome quality	Relevance	Collaboration	Quality assurance	Validation
1.	PRI (2022)	COVID-19 management by various countries	L-1		High	No	Moderate	No
2.	PRI/TU (2023)	Psychosocial impact of COVID-	L-3		High	Yes	High	No
3.	PRI (2024)	Legalizing cannabis farming	L-3		High	Yes	High	No
4.	PRI (2025)	Research-policy interface (health)	L-3		Moderate	No	High	No
5.	PRI (2025)	Health laboratory policy review	L-3		High	No	High	Underway

Policy Research Institute Research Ecosystem

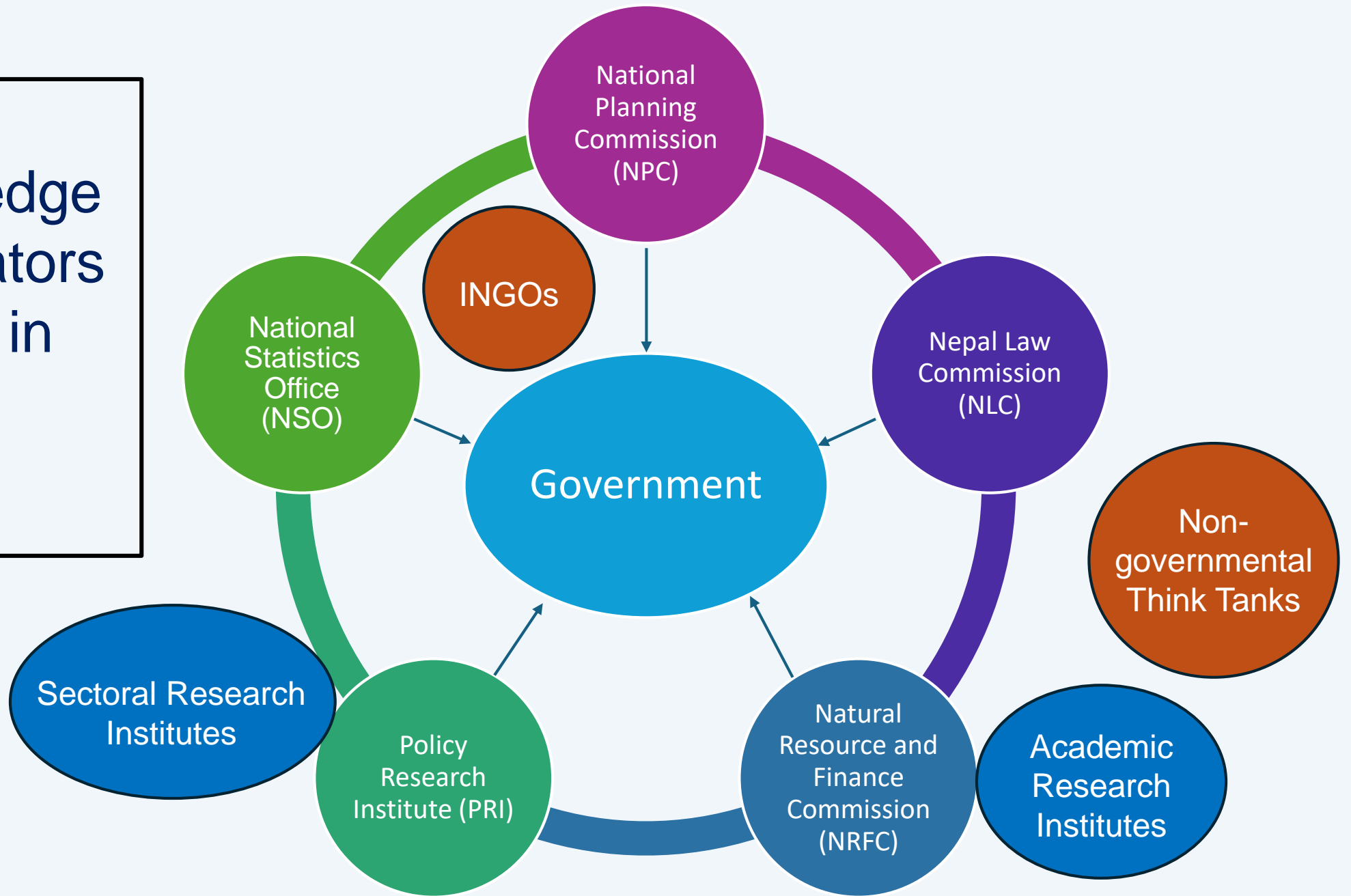


Expansion of PRI

for Quality Policy Research Ecosystem



Policy Knowledge Generators & User in Nepal





नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Policy Research Institute



Quality Evidence Generation Forum
for Policy: A Think Tank View
Thank You!

12th National Summit of Health and Population Scientists
10 April 2026

The Soaltee Kathmandu

Nepal Health Research Council

Deepak Kumar Khadka

Ashok Pandey

& Policy Research Institute family

Deepak Kumar Khadka, PhD

Senior Research Fellow

Policy Research Institute, Narayanhiti, Kathmandu