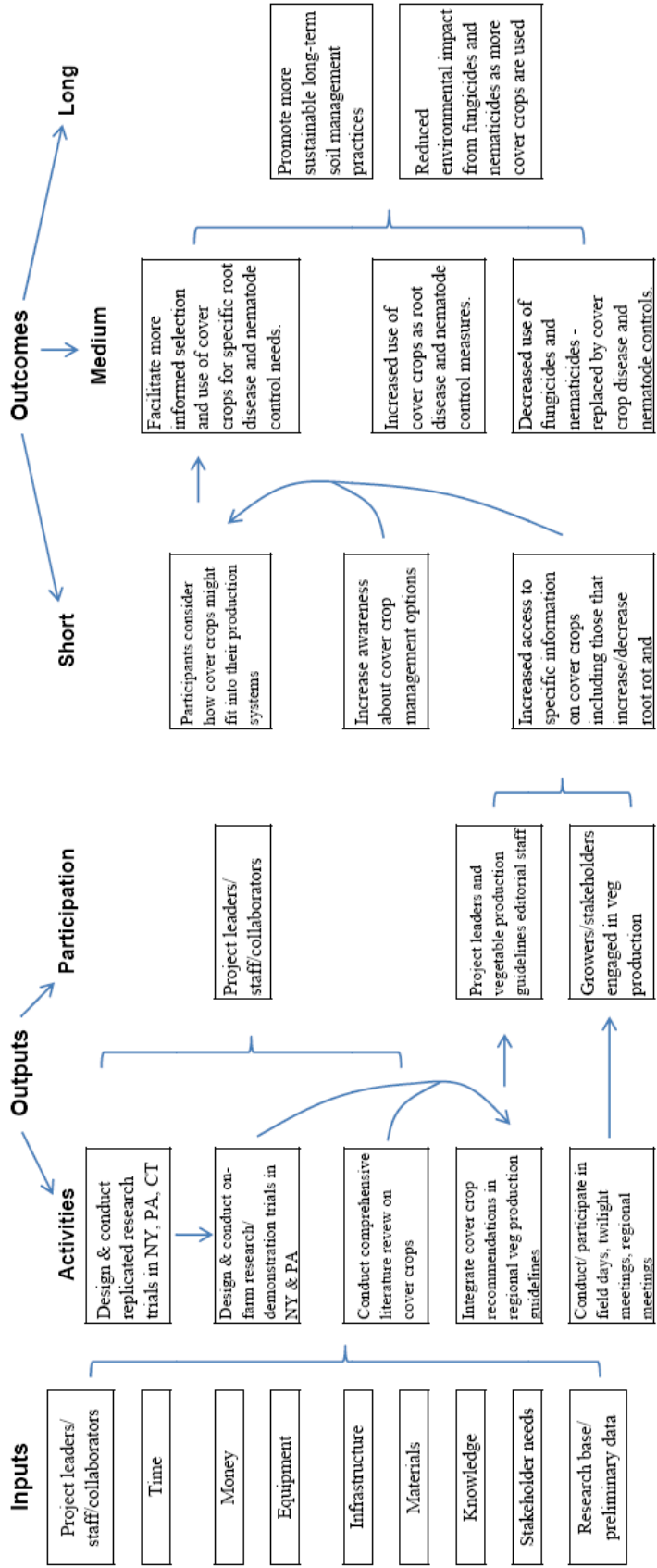


**SITUATION:** In recent years cover crops have been used increasingly by vegetable farmers in the Northeast to improve soil quality, prevent erosion, increase organic matter, and to suppress nematodes and root diseases. Many studies have been conducted to show the benefits of cover crops for preventing erosion, increasing organic matter and improving soil quality. Few studies have focused on the effect of specific cover crops on the prevalent root pathogens of vegetable crops in the Northeast.

**PRIORITIES:** Resources, expertise, experience, history, what we know about the situation, stakeholder needs

**PROGRAM ACTION- LOGIC MODEL**



**Assumptions:**

- 1 Information regarding effect on soilborne pathogens will be taken into consideration when selecting cover crops.
- 2 Growers are aware whether or not they have problems with soilborne pathogens.
- 3 Non-target effects of cover crops on other soil health parameters are known/positive.

**External Factors:**

- 1 Availability of cover crop seed - especially those varieties that suppress nematodes and diseases.
- 2 Cost of seeds and other inputs for establishing the selected cover crops.
- 3 Ease of establishing and growth vigor of the promoted cover crops are acceptable/good.