

# Understanding rural development and improving policy practice

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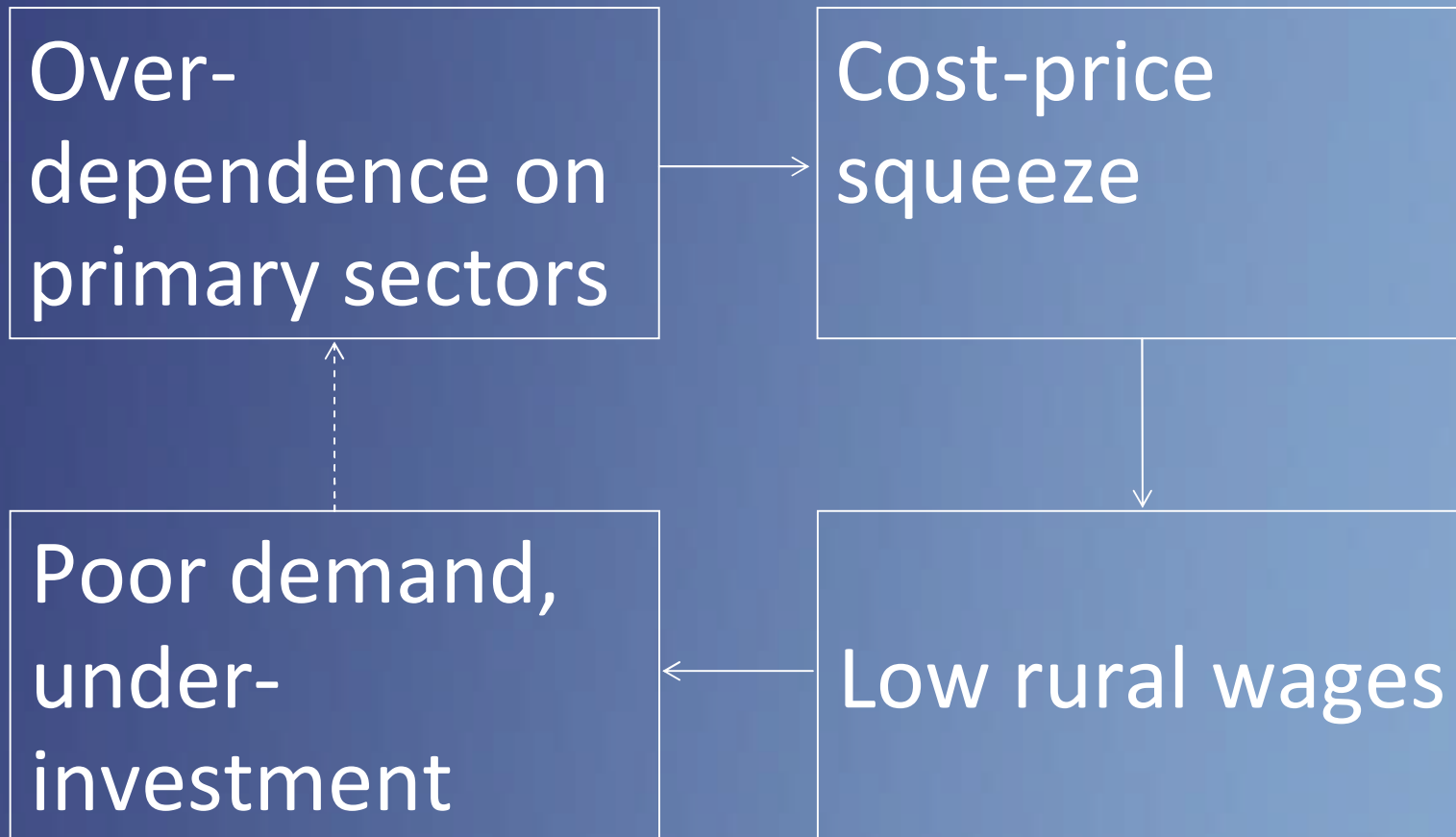
# Outline

- o The changing framework of rural policy
- o Shortcomings of: problem conception, policy imagination, evaluation practice
- o A new view of rural change
- o Extending the toolkit
- o A shame about the policy framework
- o Some conclusions

# Setting the context

- o From the sectoral to the territorial to the local
- o New objectives of rural policy and supplementary member state initiatives
- o The importance of policy evaluation: *ex ante*, mid-term and *ex post*

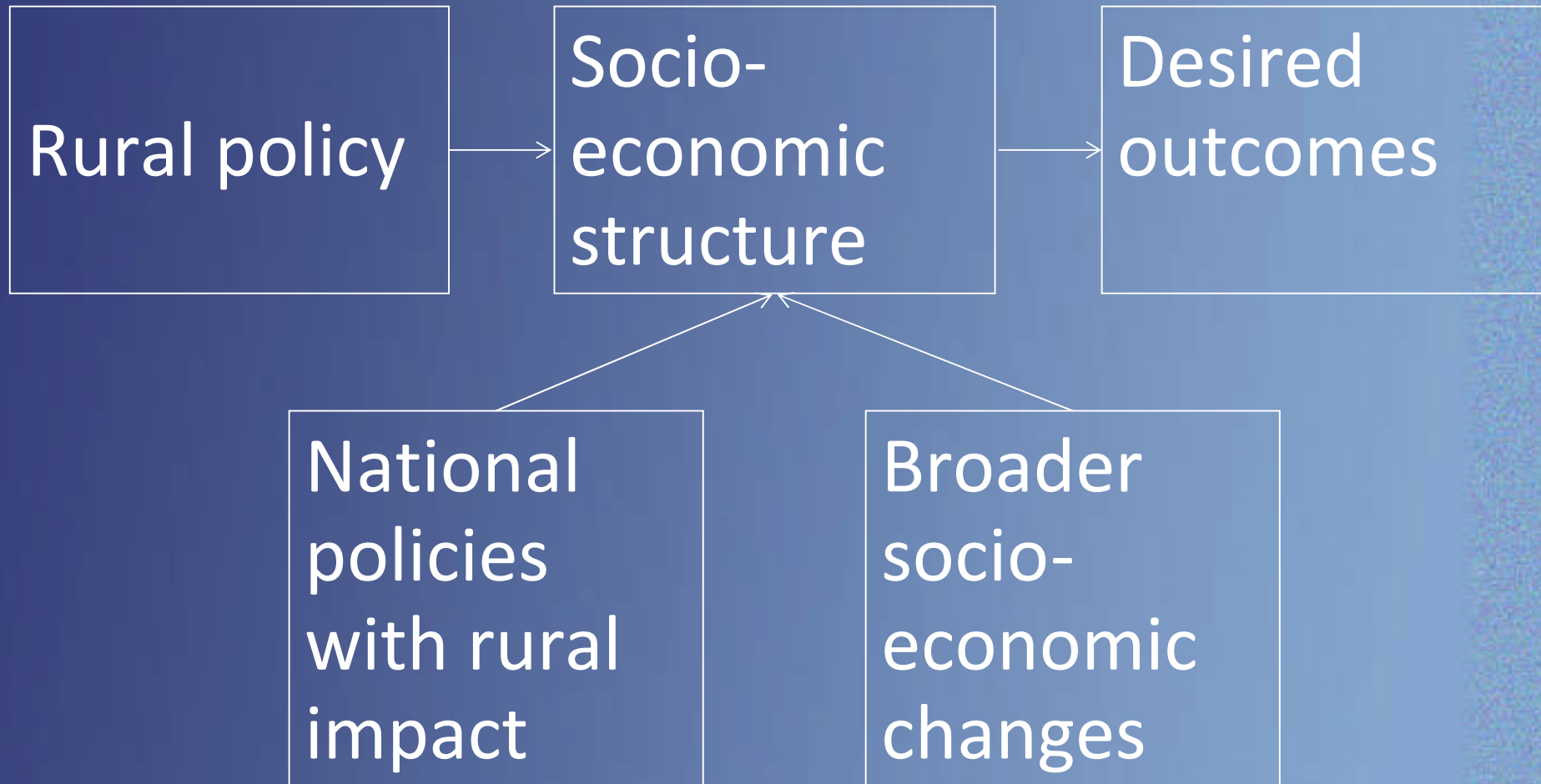
# A classical conception of rural change



# So what's new?

- o Globalisation
- o The “new” economic geography
- o The commodity spike
- o The credit crunch

# A stylised model of causation



# Rural development: a problem misconceived?

- o Curiously, the classical view of rural economic change is aspatial!
- o Spatial diversity needs to enter rural development policy evaluation
- o Consequently, pluralistic approaches become more relevant and important

# New rural development policy evaluation tools

- o Epistemological conflict: mixing quantitative and qualitative tools
- o Understanding the cause-effect logic
- o Changing the agri-centric perspective of policymakers



# Some tentative conclusions

- o The importance of:
  - o What is knowable
  - o What is not knowable
  - o What needs to be known