



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Food systems for healthy diets and the SDGs

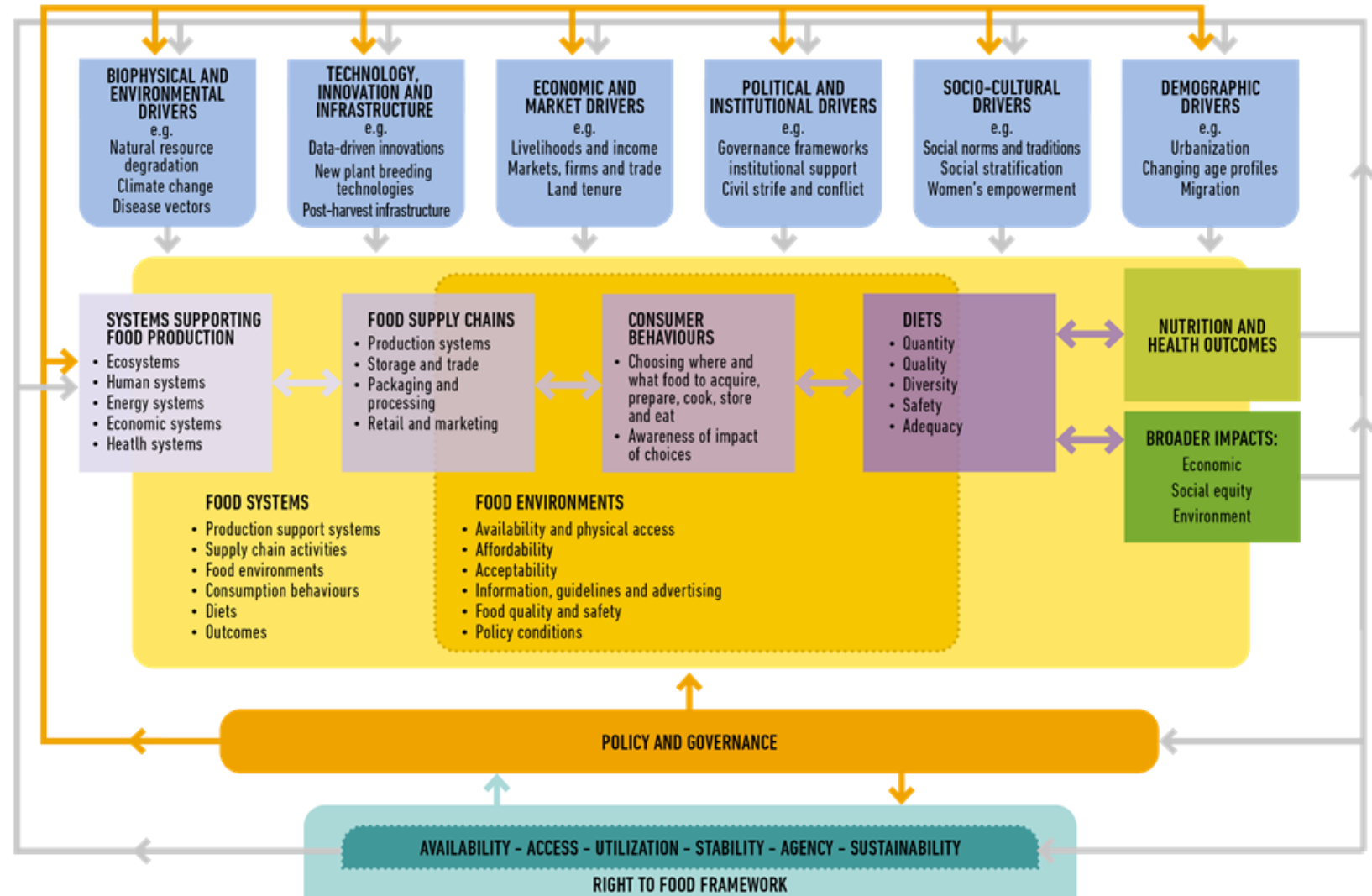


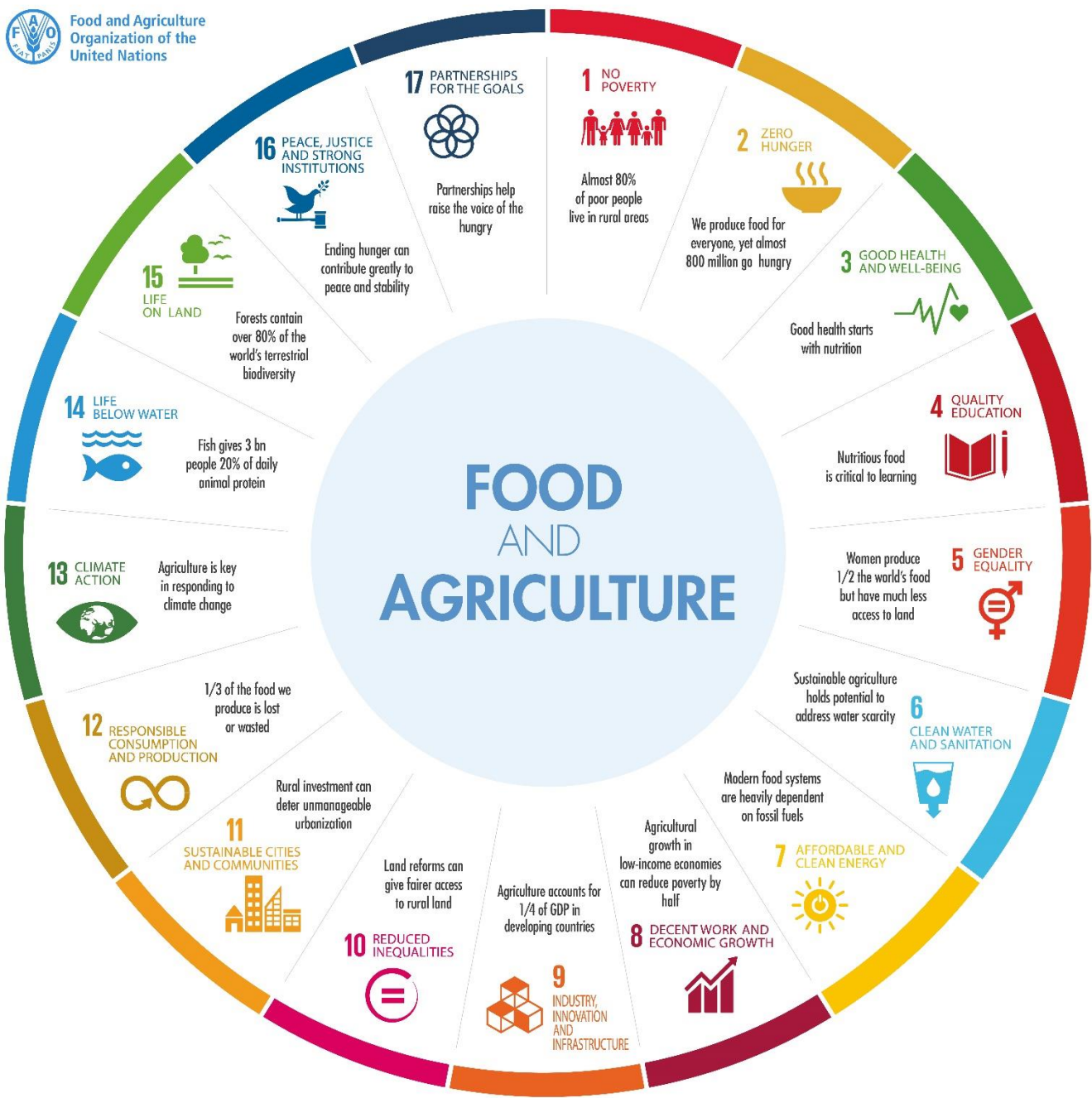
Dr Corinna Hawkes

Director, Division of Food Systems and Food Safety, FAO

What is a food system?

“A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.”
(HLPE, 2017)





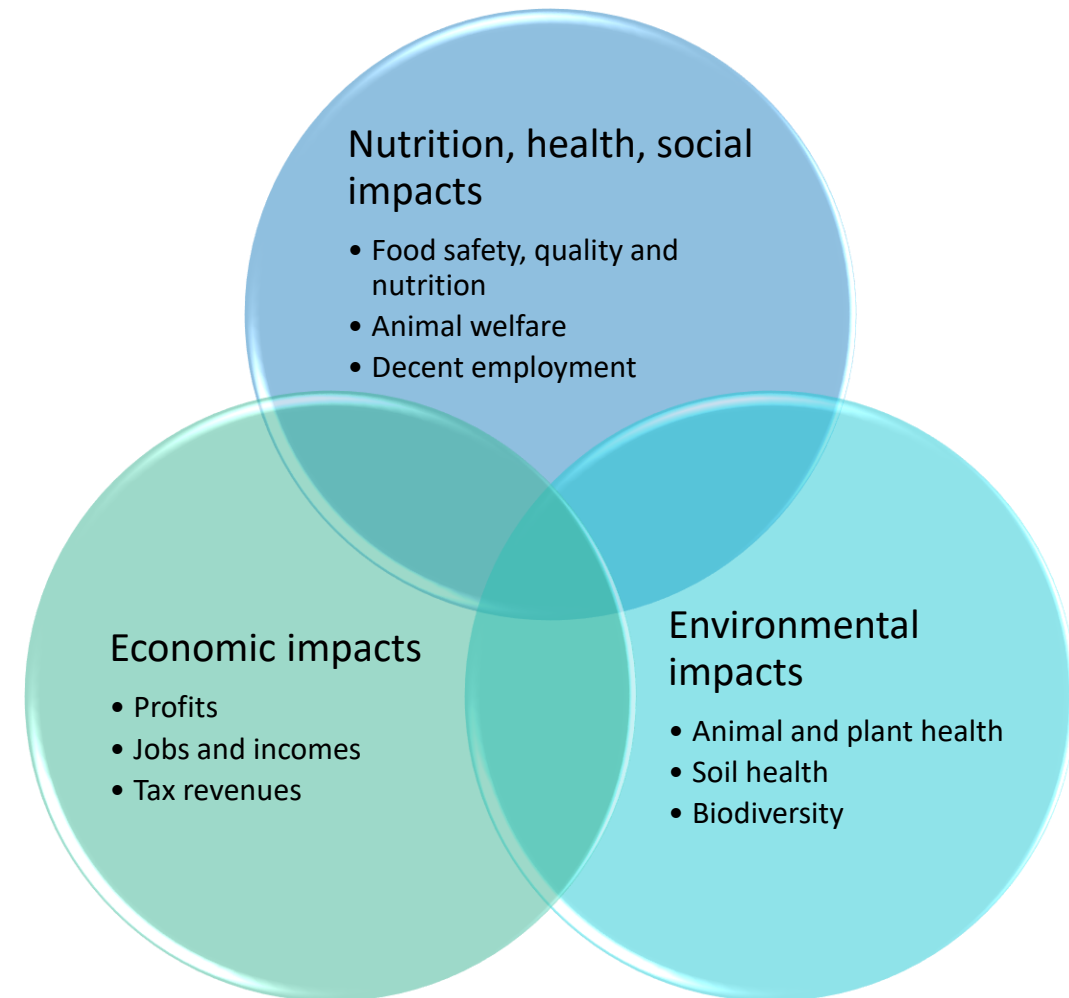
Why food systems?

❖ All of the SDGs are directly or indirectly relevant to food systems.

<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/sdgs>

A healthy, sustainable food system is a corner stone of achieving *coherent co-benefits* for the SDGs

A sustainable food system **delivers food security and nutrition** for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation *is not compromised*.





A long way to go to SDG 2

Over 800 million people chronically undernourished

2.37 billion people face moderate or severe food insecurity

3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020

1.9 billion adults experience overweight and obesity

1.5 billion people suffer from one or more forms of micronutrient deficiency

Uneven quality of food environments

Precarious food system livelihoods

Food systems have crossed several of the proposed “planetary boundaries”

Food systems are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and economic downturns

COVID-19 & war in Ukraine have exacerbated these trends

Food systems have been transforming for decades

Demographic Changes and Population Movements

2/3 will live in cities by 2050; **2** billion in slums
Africa and Asia will account for **90%** of the increase



Rising Incomes but Widening Inequality

Food sector generates value-added growth and jobs, but socioeconomic inequality persists



Global Income



Inequality

Rapid Technological Change and Innovation

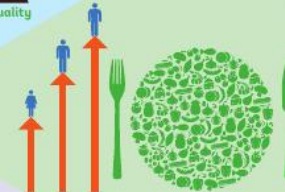
ICT, automation, biology and artificial intelligence (AI) will affect food system productivity, profits and jobs in multiple ways



Evolving Consumption Preferences, Nutrition and Health

Growing demand for convenience, animal protein and food away from home.

6 of the top **11** global disease factors are linked to diet



Localized Development and Strong Stakeholder Engagement

Cities and local actors are key to developing innovative solutions - local is the new global



Climate Change and Resource Scarcity

Post-production food system generates **6%** of global GHG emissions



The challenge and opportunity is to direct this transformation towards the SDGs, including healthier diets for all

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UN Food Systems Summit, 2021

Aimed to “set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the SDGs by 2030”

117 countries developed food systems national pathway to address food systems challenges



The Food Systems Summit identified the need for a food systems approach to address these interconnected challenges

FOOD SYSTEM OUTCOMES

DIETS AND NUTRITION

Policies most likely to be effective are identified.

WHEN IDENTIFYING POLICY OPTIONS: Look for existing and/or new policy entry points across food systems, government departments, and sectors

A FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH TO POLICYMAKING

WHEN DESIGNING POLICIES: Develop a mutually reinforcing policy portfolio designed to leverage interconnections and manage trade-offs across policy objectives

Shared agendas are formed and conflicts managed.

WHEN ESTABLISHING POLICY GOVERNANCE: Set up inclusive and participatory coordination mechanisms involving stakeholders relevant to the policy objectives

Benefits are maximized and risks minimized.

LIVELIHOODS

GENDER EQUALITY

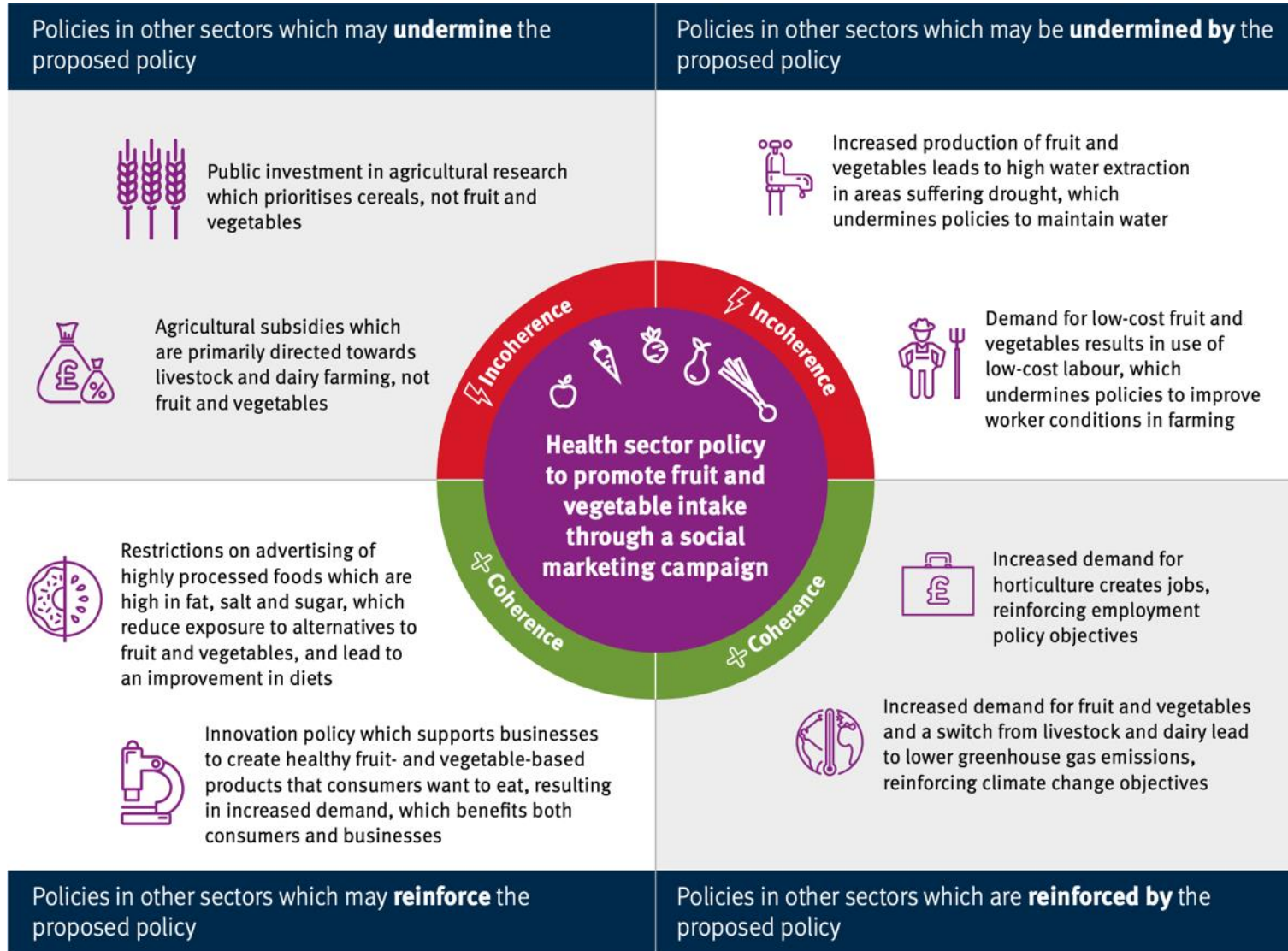
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A Mindset: Recognizing interconnections between the chain of activities; the elements, entities, institutions, & people involved; & the economic, political, environmental, health, & social impacts

A Process: A process of formulating actions to shift & align the whole food system toward desired impacts objective/s (e.g. healthier diets) while leveraging the benefits & managing the risks for other impacts (e.g. economy).

Example: considering policy coherence

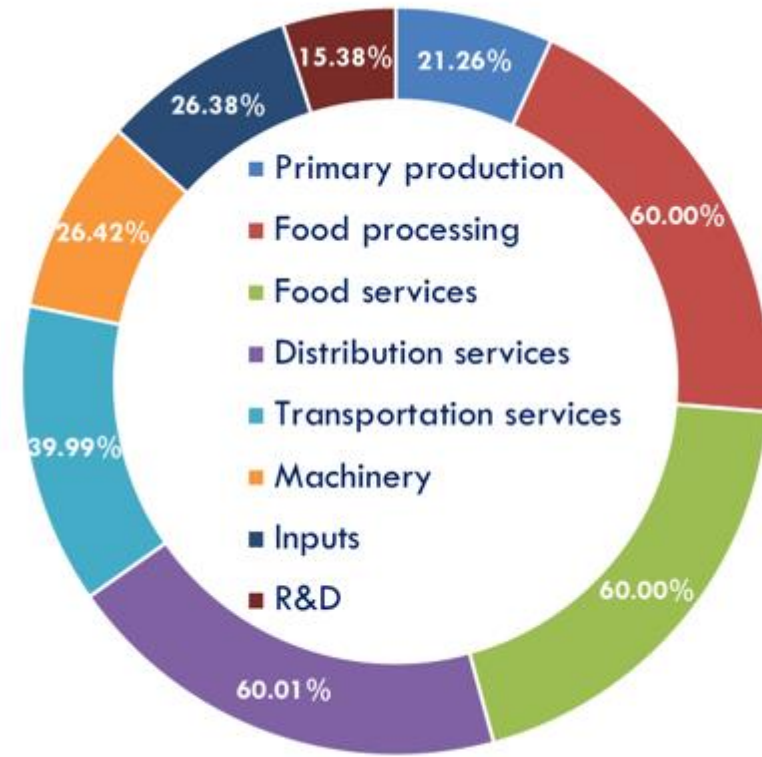


Source: Parsons & Hawkes, 2019.

Key consideration: some objectives may be viewed as more important than others

- ❖ The food system is world's largest economic system, measured in terms of employment, livelihoods, planetary impact.

Where in value chain	Jobs	Livelihoods
Primary production	716.77	2,023.80
Food processing	200.73	484.54
Food services	168.97	339.44
Distribution services	96.34	241.48
Transportation services	41.61	101.05
Machinery	6.51	13.18
Inputs	4.89	11.06
R&D	0.13	0.29
Total	1,280.93	3,214.84



(Source: FAO/IFPRI unpublished estimates, based on ILO 2020 – ILO extrapolation scenario. Not annualized. Jobs represent formal employment; livelihoods cover a broad array of self-employed, informal, migrant and seasonal labor.)

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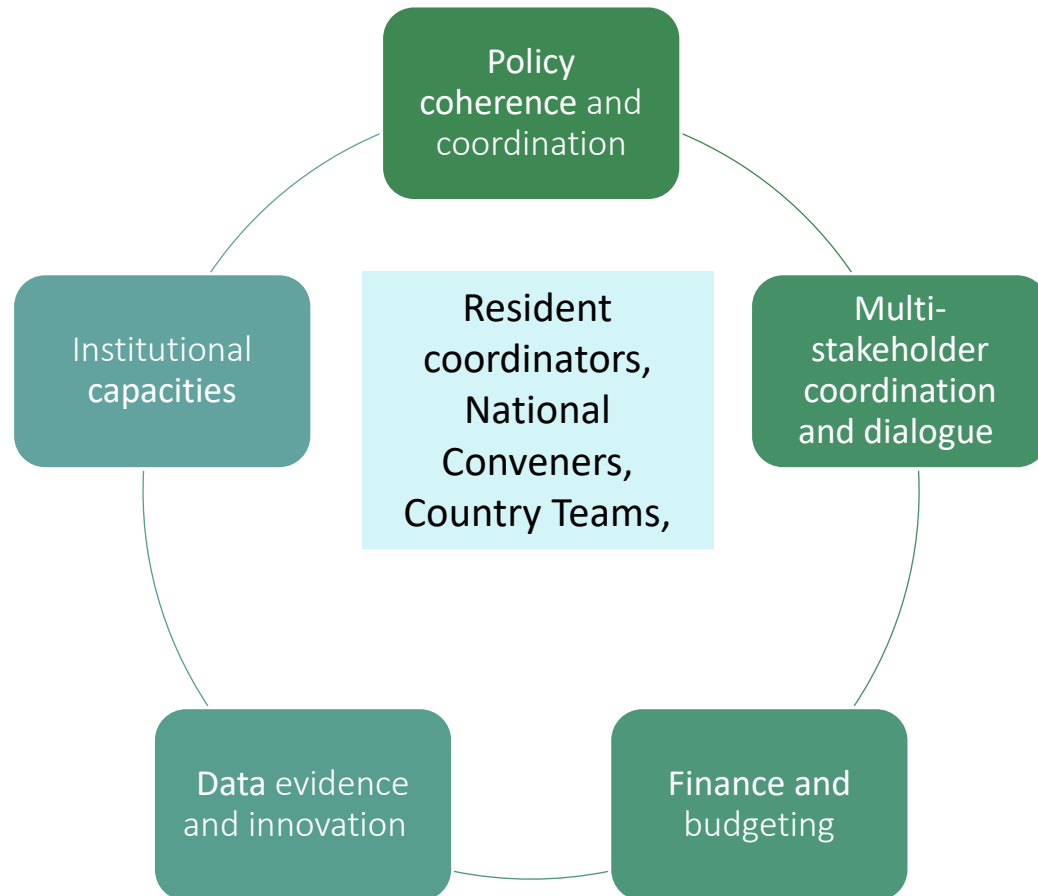
GENDER EQUALITY

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

Requires leadership, coordination of multiple interests and actors, shared responsibility for action, listening and conflict management

Source: Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London and Results for Development (R4D)

Vital to consider in supporting National Pathways



Example pilots supported by FAO Division of Food Systems and Food Safety for learning & mainstreaming

- Albania
- Morocco, Jordan
- Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Vietnam
- Costa Rica

Lessons in supporting national pathways in Mediterranean countries



Broad national policy frameworks are good entry points to navigate the rest of the policy 'system'

- In [Jordan](#): The Comprehensive Food Security Strategy is the starting point for a food systems assessment and policy coherence review to develop the action roadmap.

Government priorities that cut across a number of ministerial priorities can create systems entry-points for multiple impacts

- In [Albania](#): the prioritization of tourism provides policy opportunities for agro-tourism to converge agri-food, environment and tourism sectors towards nutrition, environmental, economic goals

Multistakeholder governance mechanisms can build from existing agendas and structures

- In [Morocco](#): The green and inclusive growth agenda is driving the multi-stakeholder governance mechanism "National Hub" under establishment to coordinate the national FST agenda.

Engagement of city-level actors in food policy processes contributes to ensure coherence between national and urban food systems agendas

- In Mediterranean cities, in collaboration with Urban Food Agenda, a mapping of food initiatives with city-level actors has seen the development of systemic urban food actions



Protecting people, animals, and the environment every day