



# **Conference Objectives**

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**International Conference on “Agrobiodiversity to manage risks and empower the poor”**

H10 Roma Città Hotel, Rome, Italy, 27-29 April 2015

# The Context

Conference organized by the IFAD-EU-CCAFS Project:  
*‘Linking agrobiodiversity value chains, climate adaptation and nutrition: empowering the poor to manage risk’.*

**Focus:** Guatemala, Mali and India

**Implementation:** 3 years (2015-2017)

**Budget:** 1 Mil USD (IFAD), 1.5 Mil EUR (EU), staff costs (CCAFS)

# Main Goals

- 1) **Share lessons** on communities empowerment through building of resilient livelihoods through agrobiodiversity-based solutions
- 2) **Guide the implementation** of the IFAD-EU-CCAFS Project based on robust methodological framework

# Specific Objectives (1/2)

- 1) Enhance the **scientific understanding** of the role played by agricultural biodiversity in resilient and nutrition sensitive production and food systems;
- 2) Share experiences in applying **approaches, methods and tools** to assess, document, monitor, conserve and manage stress-tolerant varieties of traditional crops for more effective deployment in value chains and resilient livelihood strategies;

# Specific Objectives (2/2)

- 4) **Explore mechanisms and processes** managed by local communities (including indigenous people) for the sustainable conservation and use of agrobiodiversity and how these can be further strengthened through the project;
- 5) Understand how these are managed according to **gender and other social factors** and how these can be further strengthened and promoted through the project;
- 6) Identify actions for **strengthening the capacity** of poor and vulnerable groups to deal with climate risks within a holistic value-chain approach and other efforts meant to build capacity of NARS in dealing with these themes;
- 7) Design a process by which the project will engage with **policy makers** to achieve policy change for long lasting impact.

# Project key actions and expected benefits

- **Build capacities** of women and men farmers, CBO and Self Help Groups (SHG) to collect information, share experiences and make self-directed decisions to foster knowledge building and local innovation regarding weather, cultivation & performance of varieties of crops, nutritional benefits and market information.
- Enhance the **preparedness** of farmers and other value-chain actors for climate variability and associated risks.
- Strengthen **networks** to help local communities to better document, monitor, exchange and manage their traditional crops.
- Mobilize national and international **platforms** and fora to voice the concerns and aspirations of local communities for more sustainable, inclusive and nutrition-sensitive food and agricultural systems to benefit the poor and the marginalized.

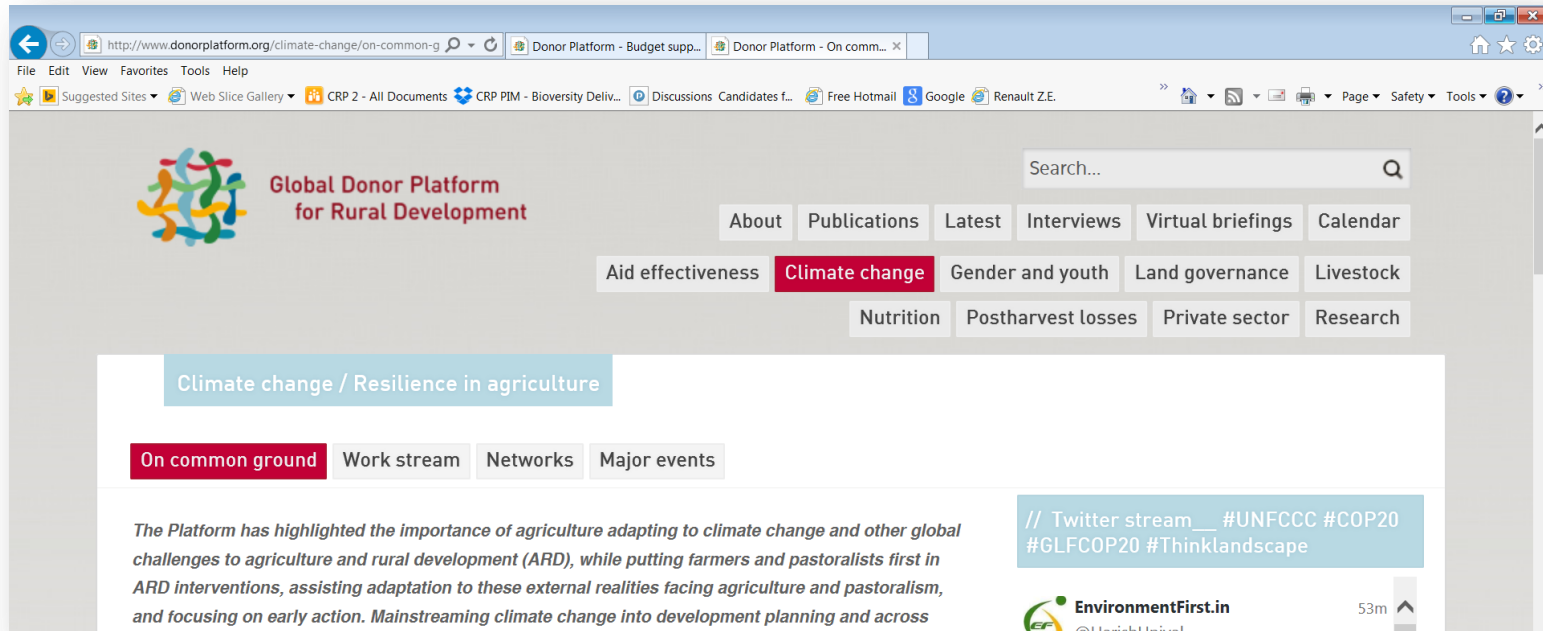
# Project novelty

Bring together different disciplines, stakeholders, sectors of society under the shared objective of strengthening peoples' **resilience** to climate change through ABD in relation to:

- Production system (incl. adaptation, seed availability..)
- Food system (incl. quantity & quality, sustainability, shocks buffering)
- Market system (incl. diversity, technology, shocks buffering..)
- Others (incl. culture, empowerment)



# Approach increasingly appreciated



Climate change adaptation activities at the rural household level may not be sufficient to achieve adequate resilience. They need to be complemented by activities that promote risk preparedness and prevention and social security systems in case of extreme events. Donors support the increased resilience of rural production and livelihood systems in the face of shocks and stresses induced by climate change. **Livelihoods-oriented, community-based, gender sensitive and multisectoral approaches are needed to address the dual challenge of climate change mitigation and adaptation with regard to ARD** (accessed 15 April 2015).



# Why neglected & underutilized species?

- **Adaptation:** NUS resistance to abiotic stresses yet to be duly exploited; economic competitiveness, marginalization from mainstream agriculture is depriving communities of strategic assets for their future;
- **Conservation:** NUS largest portfolio of crops conserved NOT in *ex situ* gene banks but *in situ*/on farm – hence the focus of the project; importance of approach in support of “Evolutionary Agriculture’ favoring continuous adaptation;
- **Nutrition:** grains, pulses, vegetables, fruits- a diverse set of nutritious-dense species whose role is increasingly appreciated also by science;
- **Market:** emerging opportunities leveraging nutrition/ health conscious consumers at all latitudes;
- **Culture:** reservoir of immense gastronomic diversity, identity of people, territory;
- **Empowerment:** vehicle for emp. for women /vulnerable groups incl. IP.

# Empowerment of the vulnerable groups





# Women

- They play a vital role in supporting global food security
- They constitute 40% of the labor force of the agricultural sector in developing countries.
- Women account for 2/3 of the poorest small holder farmers. They actively participate in the conservation and use of food. Understanding levels of participation is essential to ensure effectiveness to any policies directed to supporting them.
- Although women reach an average production levels 20-30 % lower than those of men, it is estimated that if they had equal access to resources, agricultural production in the world would grow by 2.5-4 %. This would help saving from starvation an estimated 100 to 150 million people.
- Project to help leveraging and enhancing women skills esp. those related to agrobiodiversity conservation and use.

# Indigenous People

- Local communities and IP hold knowledge important for sustainably managing resources and responding to ever-evolving opportunities and threats that may affect their nutritious crops.
- To be fully beneficial, this knowledge needs to be supported by innovative methods and approaches developed by other communities and by researchers.
- Project to work on these linkages, filling the knowledge gaps and finding affordable solutions for and with resource-poor indigenous communities.

# Climate smart crops: the case of cañihua



- Around lake Titicaca severe genetic erosion: surveys recorded only 20 landraces remaining of 200 once used in the past;
- 85 % farmers growing only 1 variety;
- Restitutions of lost varieties to local Communities instrumental to strengthen resilience of production systems in the face of climate changes (see photo).

# A word about in situ/on farm conservation & management



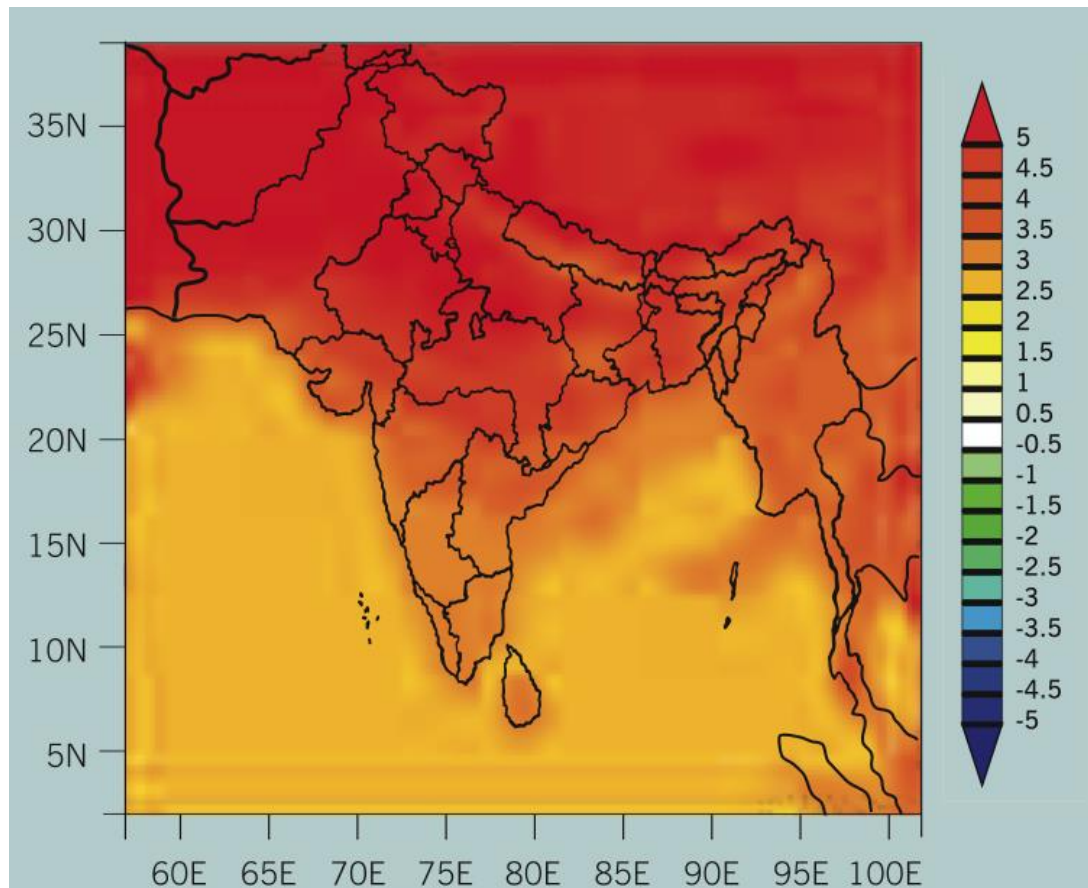
Seed conservation, custodians and CGB, networking, documentation, monitoring, exchange, fairs, incentives, linkages with ex situ and with markets, weather stations, crowdsourcing, IK..:



**essential in building resilience  
through continuous adaptation  
(‘evolutionary agriculture’)**



# Mainstreaming: the case of India



DEFRA (India) 2005 study: by end of the Century “overall, temperature increases are predicted to reduce rice yields in India” and that adaptive measures are urgently needed “to cope with changing agricultural patterns.”

2013 major breakthrough with inclusion of minor millets in Indian Food Security Bill –PDS

**Bioversity-led Project provided support to policy maker (Prof. MS Swaminathan from MP chairmen of MSSRF) to advocate change in the PDS..**

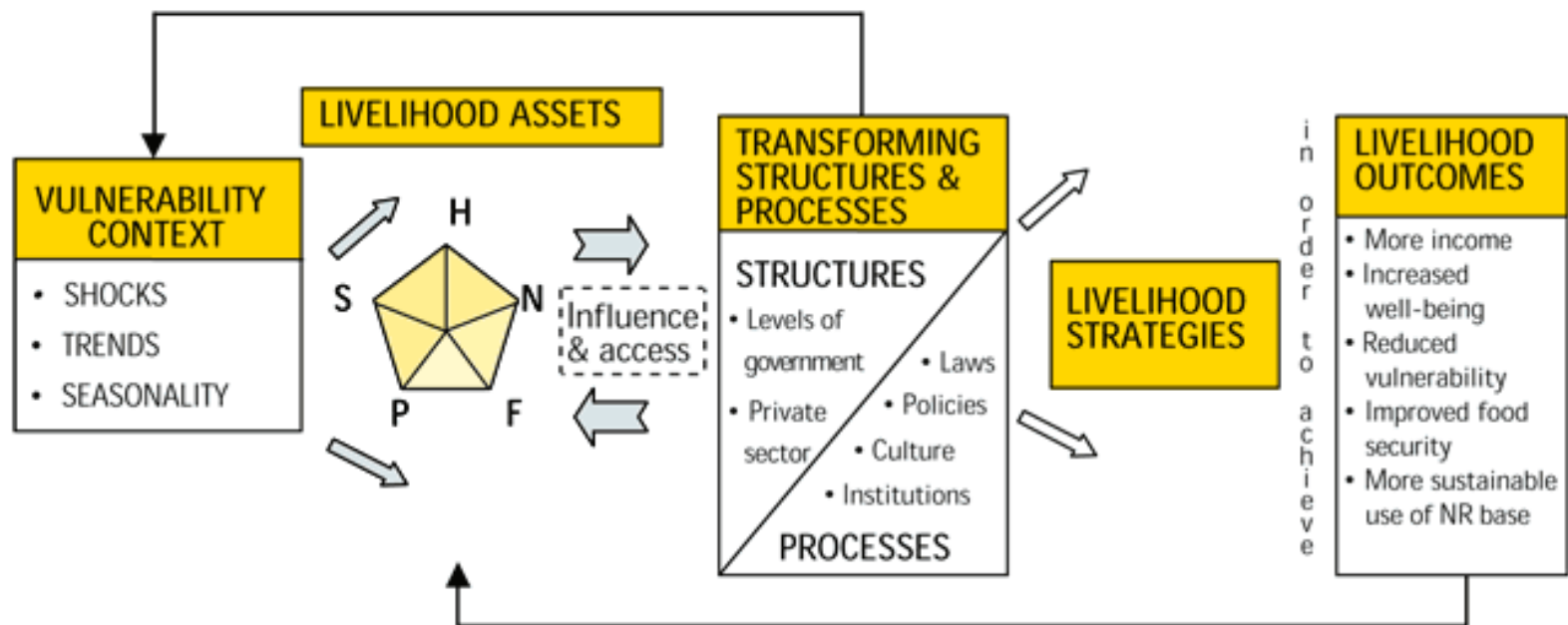


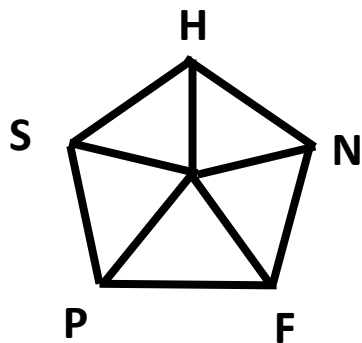
# ..understanding and strengthening livelihood assets at household and community level for enhancing resilience

## Sustainable livelihoods framework

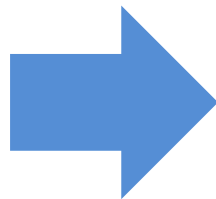
### Key

H = Human Capital      S = Social Capital  
N = Natural Capital    P = Physical Capital  
F = Financial Capital



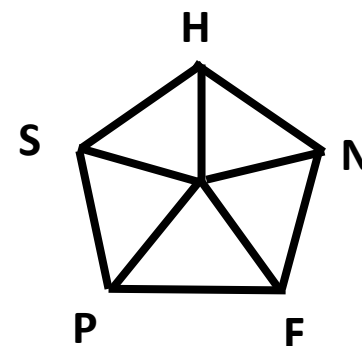


**ASSESS LIVELIHOOD  
ASSETS FOR RESILIENCE**  
gender sensitive  
focus on household and  
community levels

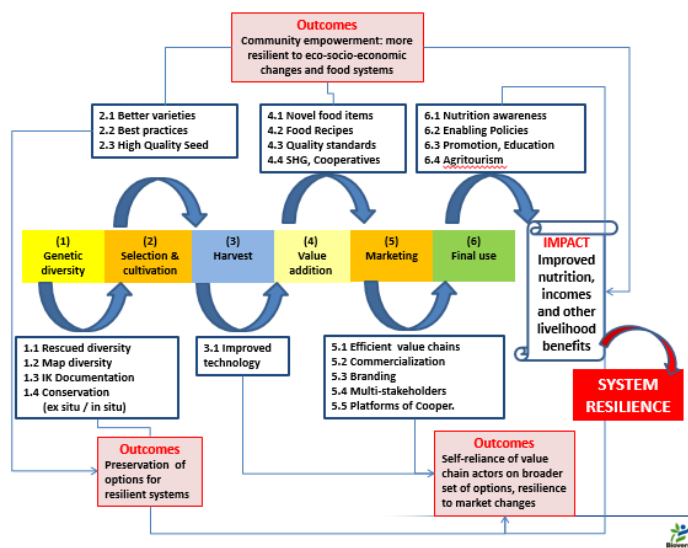


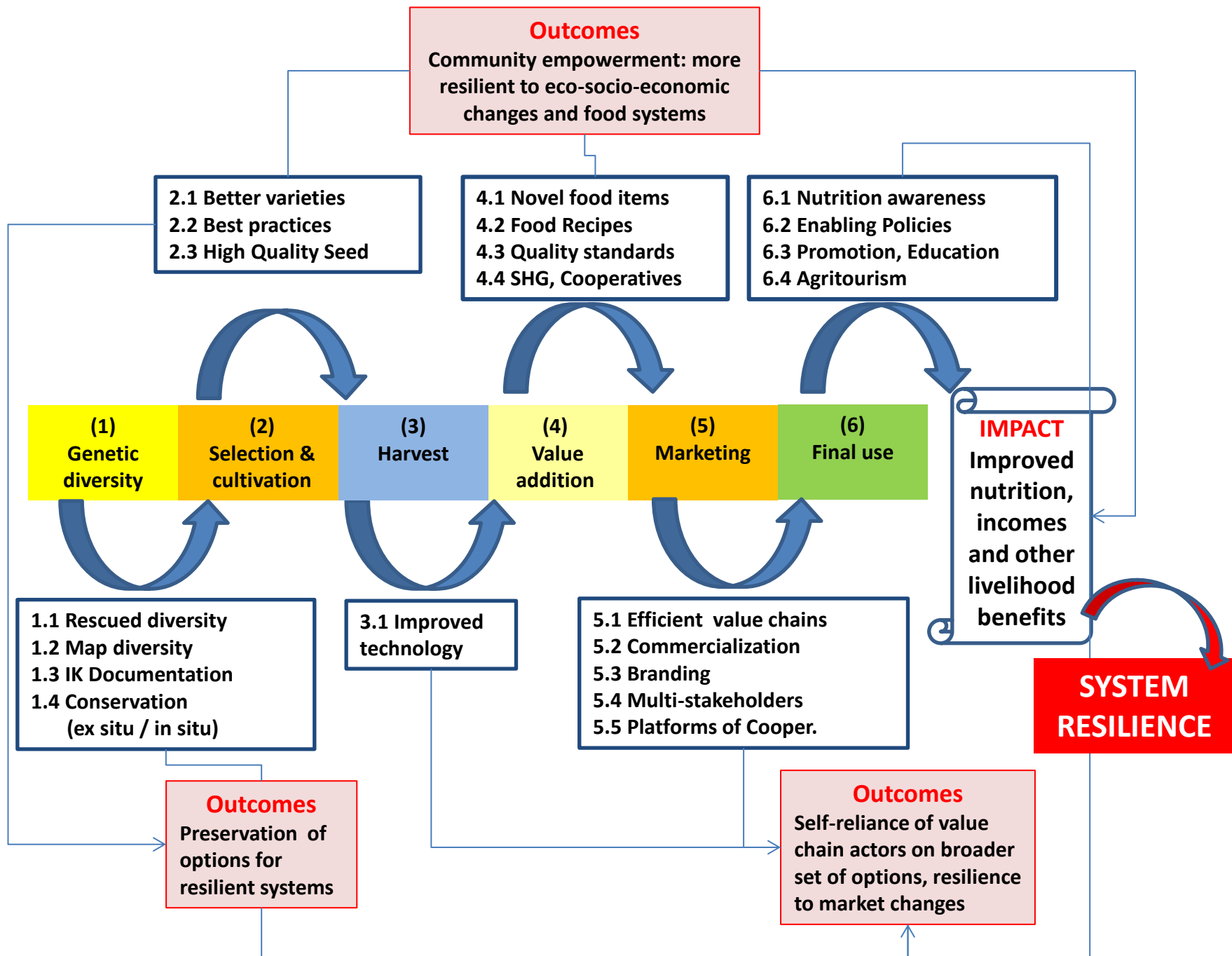
## TESTING METHODS & INTERVENTIONS

Holistic value chain  
Participatory  
Inter-disciplinary  
Inter-sector  
Gender-sensitive  
Multi-stakeholder



**ASSESS VALIDITY OF METHODS  
& OUTCOME OF PROJECT  
RE RESILIENCE  
OF LIVELIHOOD SYSTEM**







**Thank you**