

Sustainable Food Systems Development

Setting the Stage

An FAO framework

David Neven

Senior Economist FAO

Inclusive and Sustainable Agribusiness and Trade

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Overview

1. The starting point:
 1. What is a food system?
 2. What is a sustainable food system?
 3. What is a food systems approach?
 4. Why take a food systems approach?
2. The evolution of food systems
3. Some key concepts
 1. Value-added
 2. Sustainability
4. Analytical framework – the Food System Wheel
5. Theory of change
6. Development paradigm
7. Practical implications
8. Open discussion

Food systems definition

Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of agri-food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded.

Sustainable food system definition

A sustainable food system is a food system that:

- Delivers food security and nutrition for all
- In such a way that the economic, societal and natural environment bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised; meaning that:
 - *It is profitable throughout (**economic sustainability**);*
 - *It has broad-based benefits for society (**social sustainability**); and*
 - *It has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (**environmental sustainability**).*

What is a food systems approach?

- *Adopting integrated solutions to food system challenges based on a holistic framing and deeper analysis of problems by a multi-disciplinary team.*

Why take a food systems approach?

- Food systems are rapidly changing, getting more global, complex and interconnected – we need to change along with this
- It allows for better framing, analysing and solving of problems to tackle challenges or take advantage of new opportunities
- Only way to realize the SDGs as a whole.

Evolution of Food Systems

Population growth, urbanization, globalization,
technological innovations, lifestyle changes, sustainability concerns

Traditional (pre-industrial)



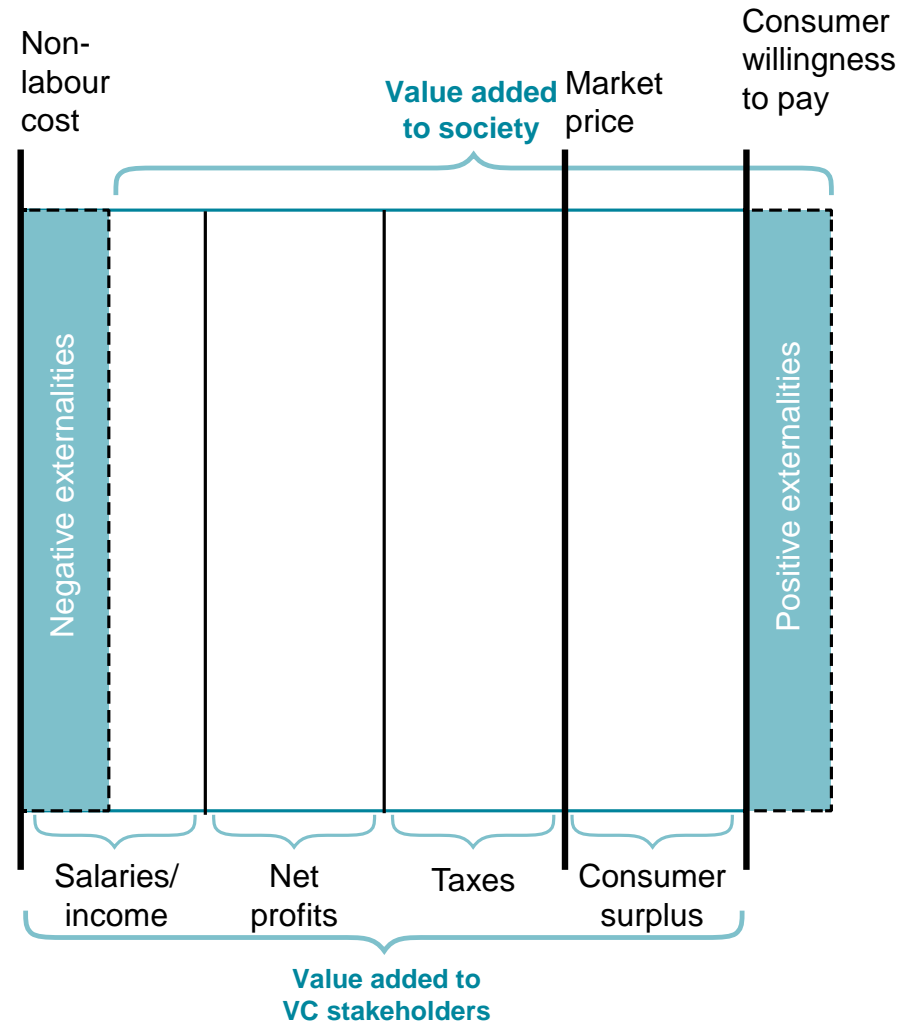
Modern (industrial)



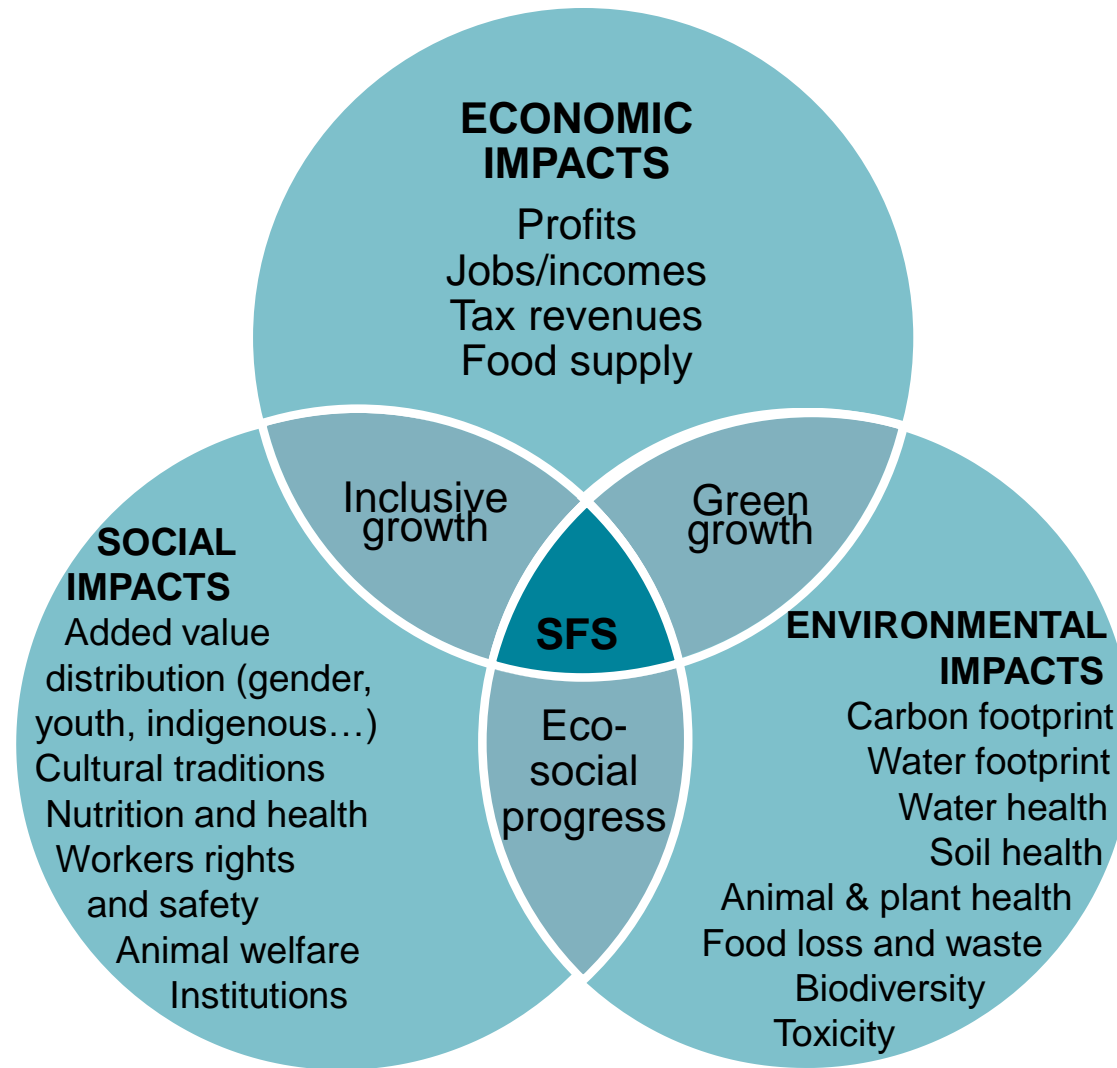
Alternative (post-industrial)



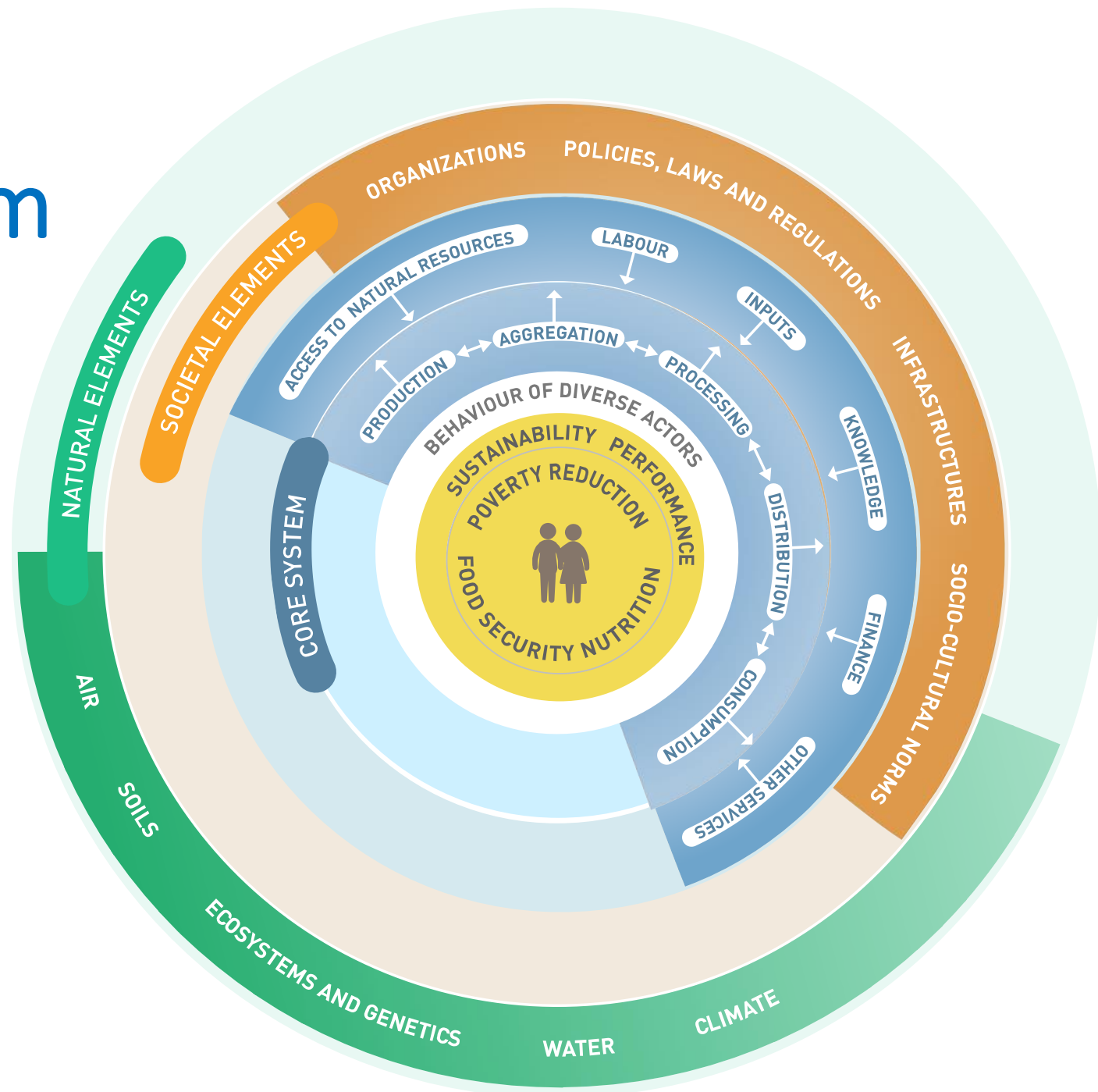
The concept of value-added...



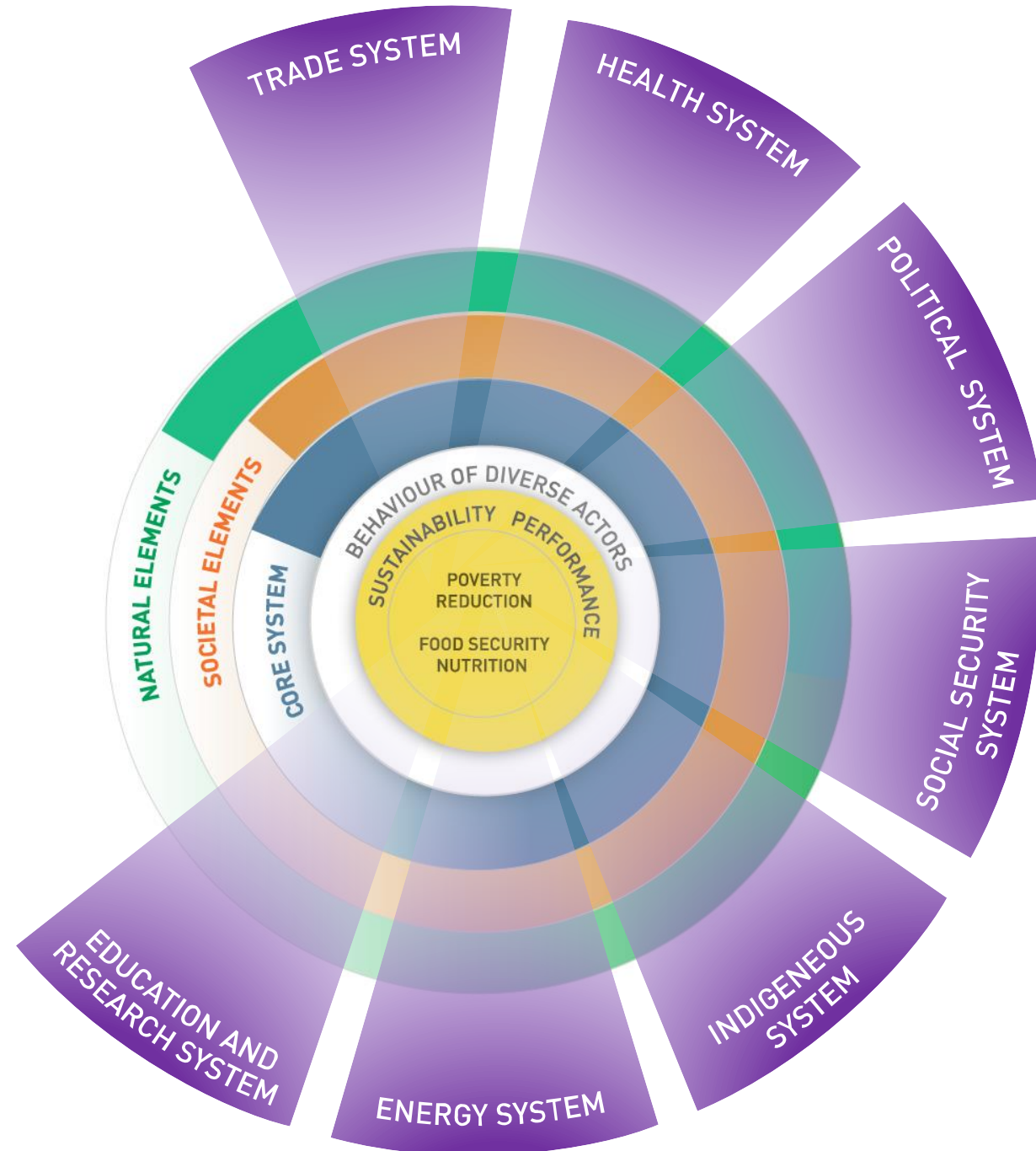
The concept of sustainability



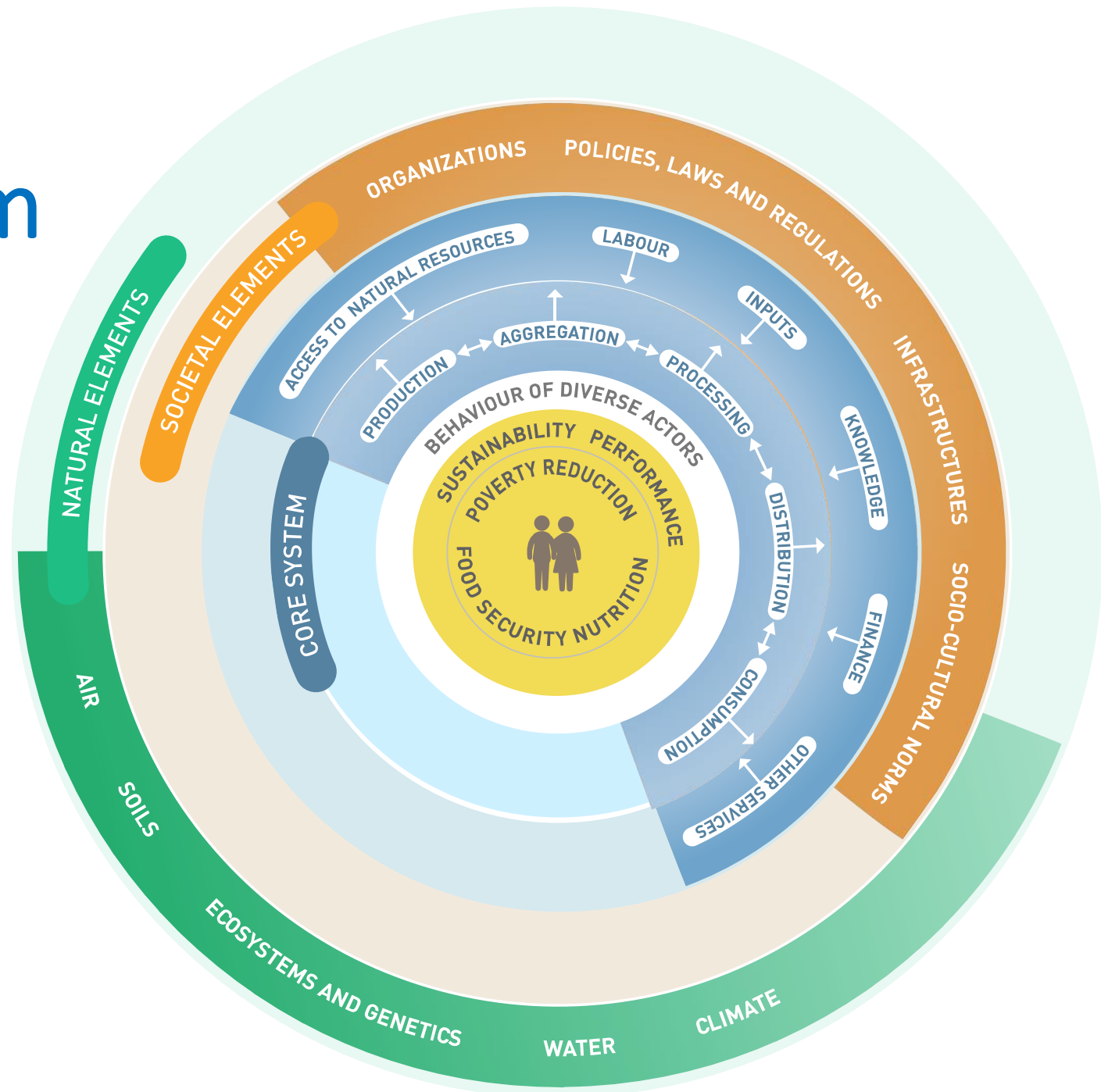
The Food System Wheel



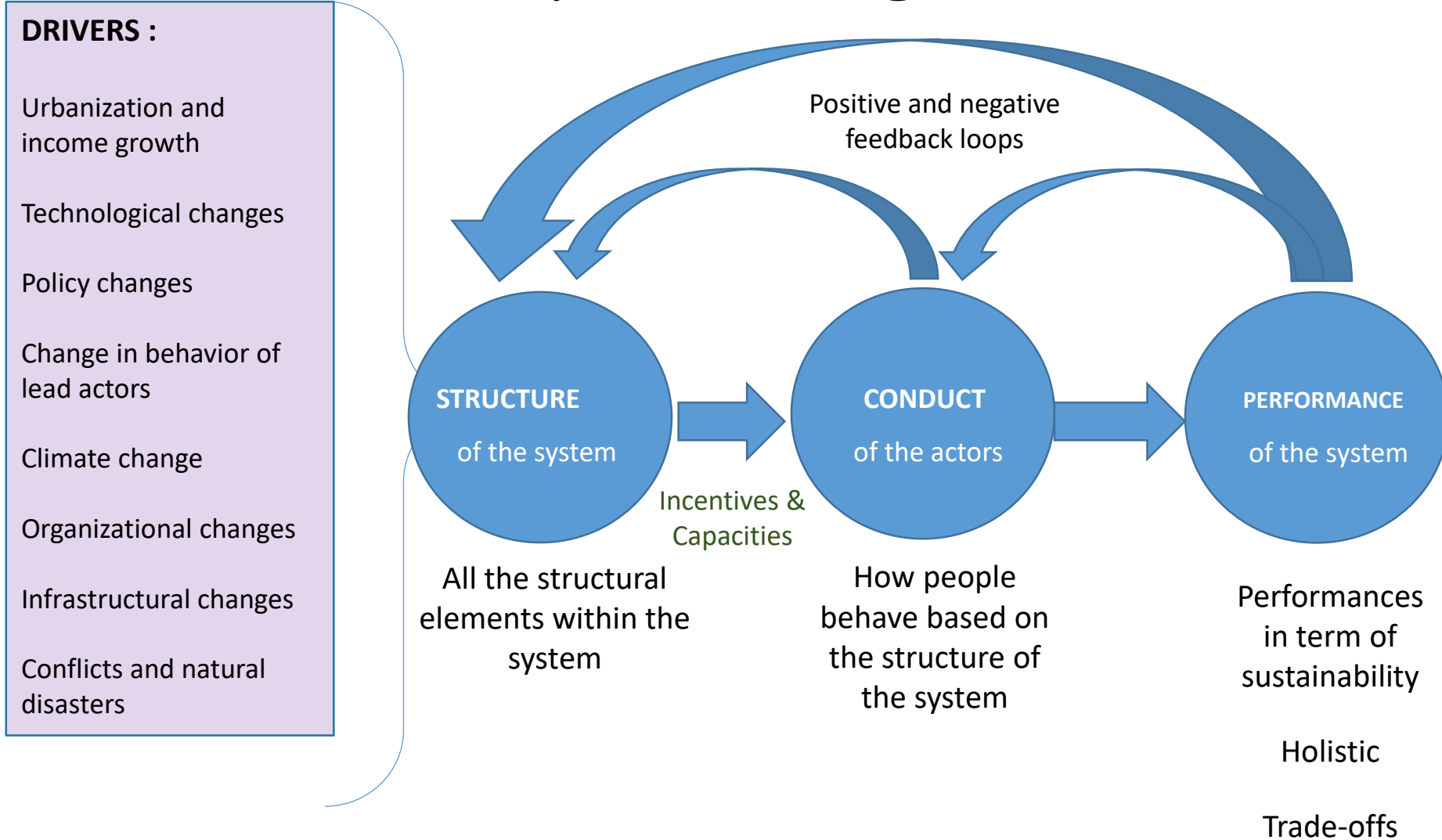
The Food System Wheel



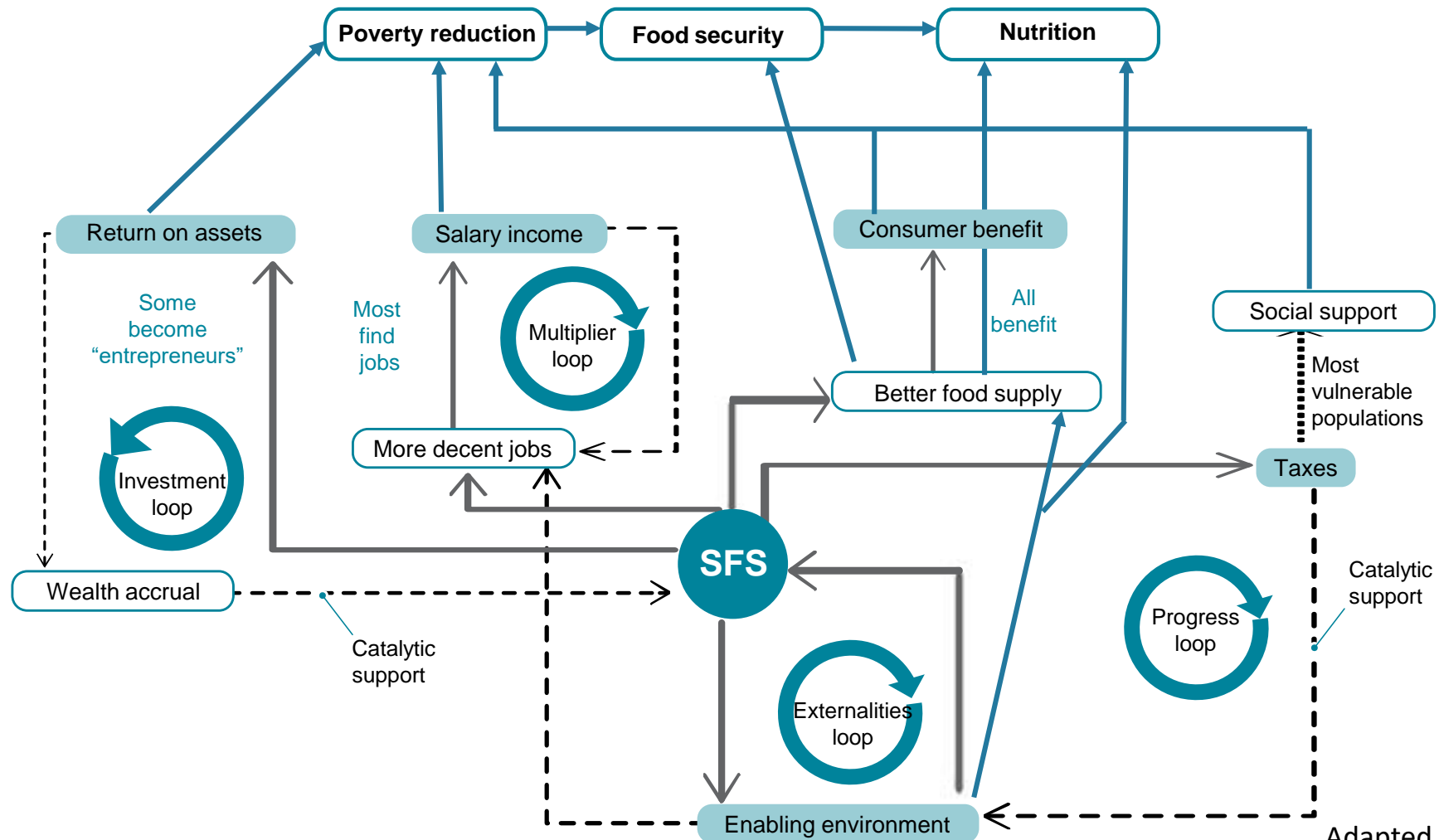
The Food System Wheel



SFS Theory of change



SFS development paradigm



Adapted from
FAO(2014)

Practical Implications of taking a systems approach

1. Problem Framing

- Look at the “big picture” beyond the direct causes and consequences of a particular issue
- Look at the links, not just the elements
- Take the dynamics (feedback loops) of systems into account
- Consider the environmental, social and economic dimensions of system performance

Practical Implications of taking a systems approach

2. Problem Analysis

- Analyse the root causes, binding constraints, leverage points, key dynamics and underlying structures of the system
- Problems and solutions can exist in any part of the complex, adaptive system

Practical Implications of taking a systems approach

3. Problem Solving

- The food systems approach allows us to develop *integrated interventions* and *better-aligned programmes* through collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and within and between countries. It also facilitates:
 - A shift from short-term to long-term vision
 - A shift from re-active to pro-active policies
 - A shift from mechanical log-frame implementation to quick learning & adaptation
 - A shift from paying SPs to implement isolated activities (we do it) to tweaking existing elements and links to achieve systemic change (we facilitate the system to do it)
 - A shift from working with the MoA to facilitating inter-ministerial collaboration, alignment
- At FAO, food systems thinking helps us to work jointly with colleagues in other areas to *identify synergies and trade-offs*, therefore increasing effectiveness in each of the areas

Open floor for discussion



Exercise



**What is
wrong with
the
mangoes?**



Exercise

Fill in the blank with the appropriate causes

