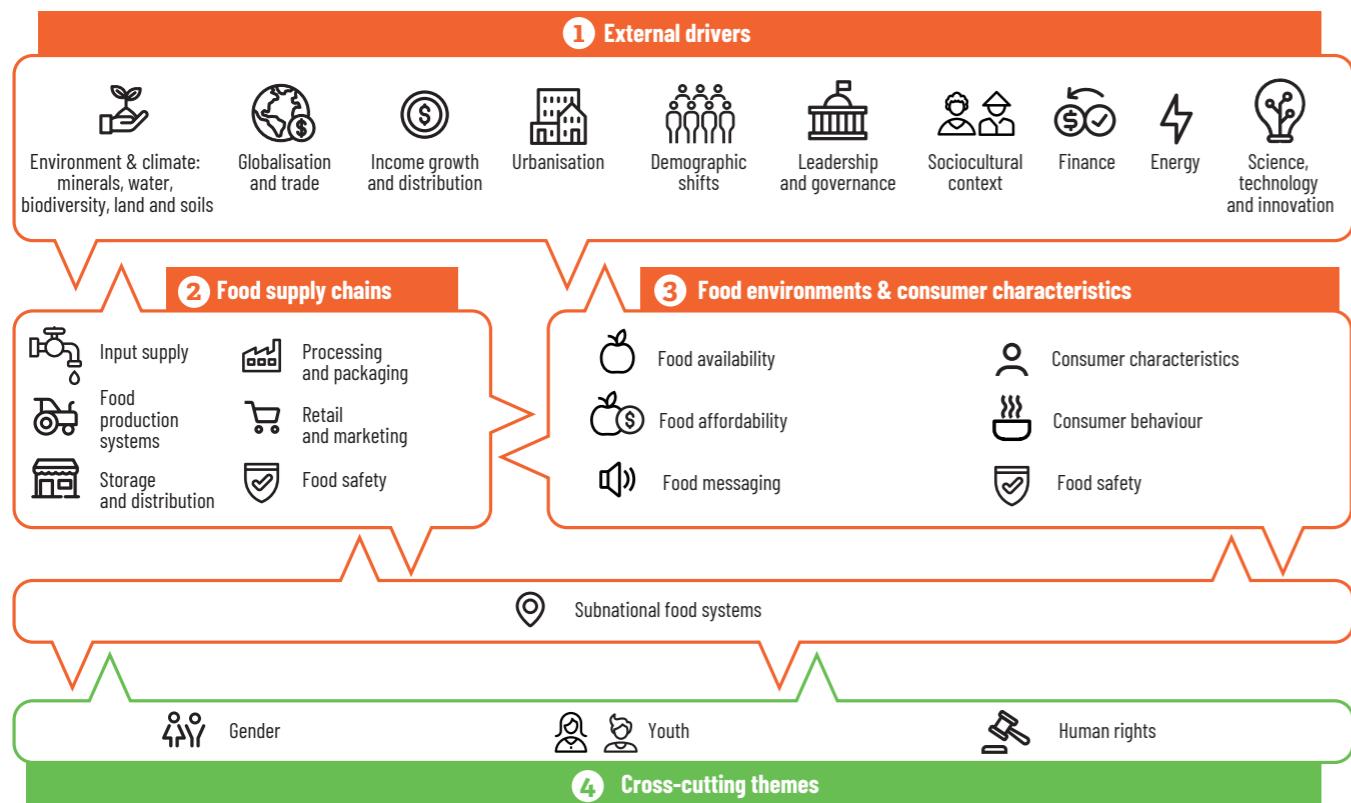


LEAD-IN

What impact do partnerships between farmers and businesses have on the sustainability of food systems?

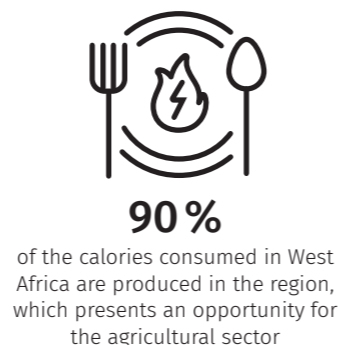
Food systems: many interdependent components



According to the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, a food system embraces 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. This holistic approach makes it possible to examine each of the elements from production to consumption, as well as the causes of its dynamic and the strategies of the different actors. (p. 6-7-8)

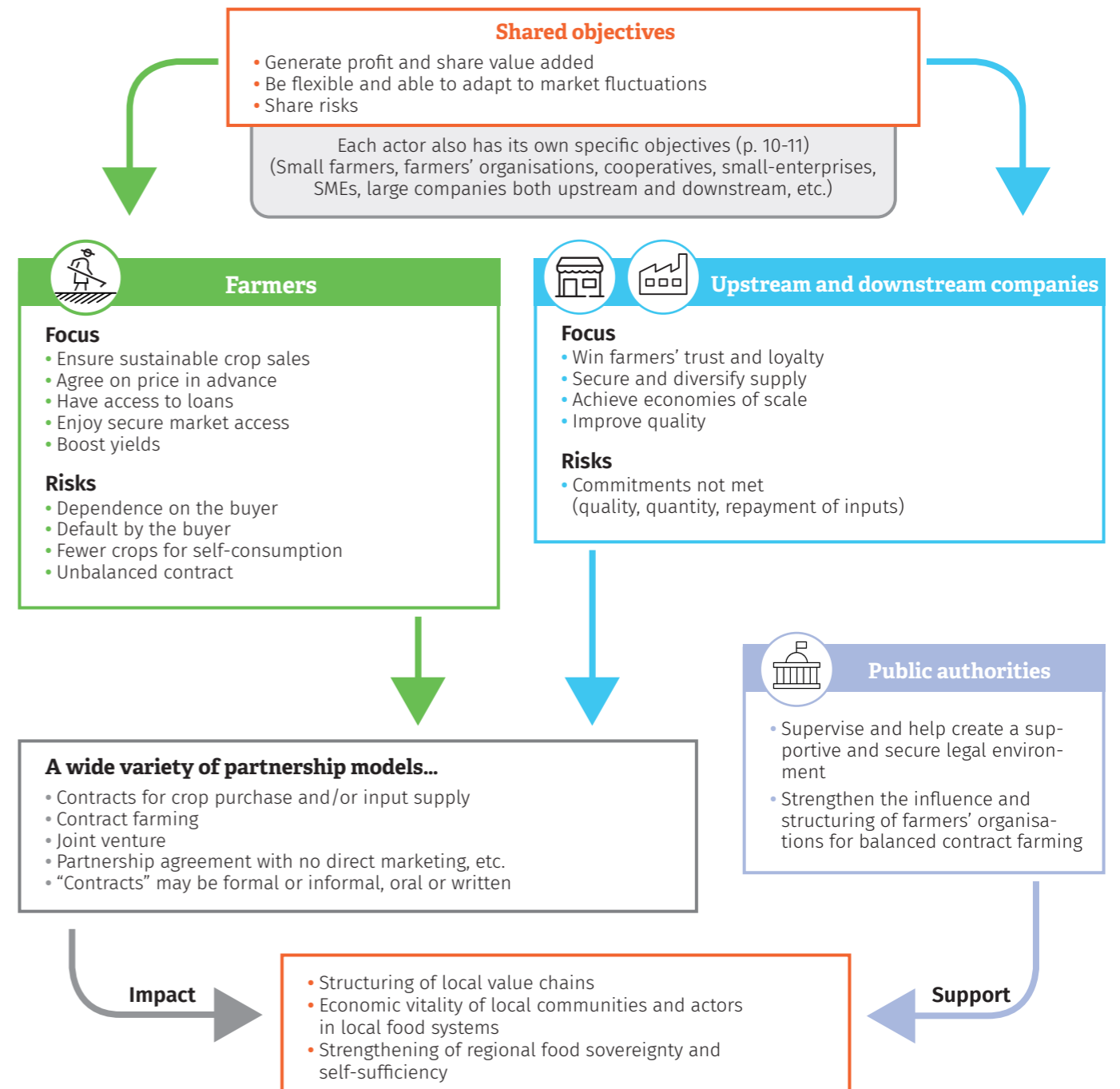
The food economy from production to processing

KEY FIGURES



(sources: Maps & Facts, no. 4, April 2021, SWAC/OECD; Bricas N., Tchamda C. and Mouton F. (Eds), 2016, L'Afrique à la conquête de son marché alimentaire intérieur. Enseignements de dix ans d'enquêtes auprès des ménages en Afrique de l'Ouest, au Cameroun et au Tchad. Paris, AFD, Coll. "Études de l'AFD" n°12)

What do sustainable partnerships between farmers and agrifood companies seek to achieve?



In the early stages of the effort to establish partnerships between farmers and agrifood businesses, it was necessary to structure the different value chains in West Africa, the fast-growing regional private sector, farmers struggling to connect with the market, etc. The widely used traditional forms of oral partnership are not suitable for all value chains, nor are they secure. A number of difficulties are encountered when it comes to formalising those partnerships: mutual trust, balance of power in negotiations, etc. Public authorities have an important role to play, given their impact on the development of the agricultural sector and food system (p. 26-27; 36-38).