

# Informal socio-economic relations in food systems

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation

Alumni Cases

## RESOURCEFUL RESOURCE-POOR

Engaging with informal actors for  
more resilient food systems and  
livelihoods



# Towards a practical tool

Framework

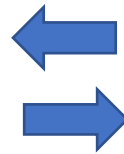
Actor mapping

Visualizing food system outcomes

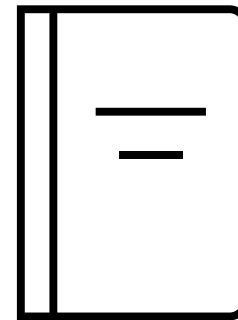
# Guide and DIY worksheet and tools



Companion  
guide

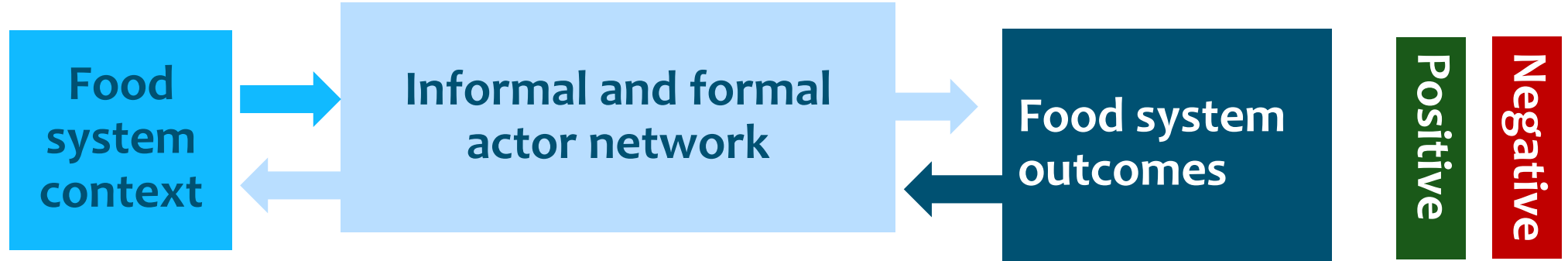


DIY  
worksheet  
and tools

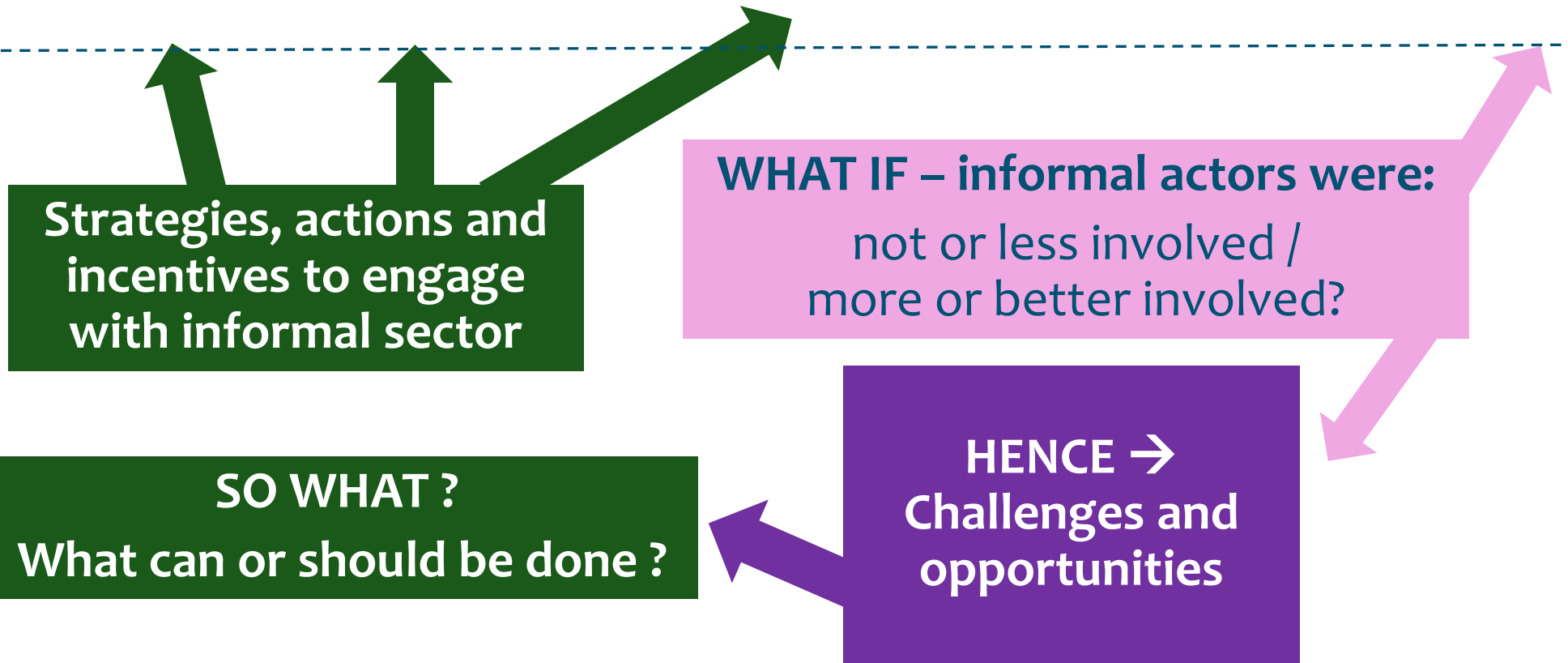


# Case framework – basis for companion guide

Part A :  
Case  
presentation  
(current  
situation)



Part B :  
Action  
oriented  
analysis



# Case study structure

## Part A : Presenting the case with three main elements:

- The food system context
- The informal and formal actor network
- The food system outcomes

## Part B : Action oriented analysis

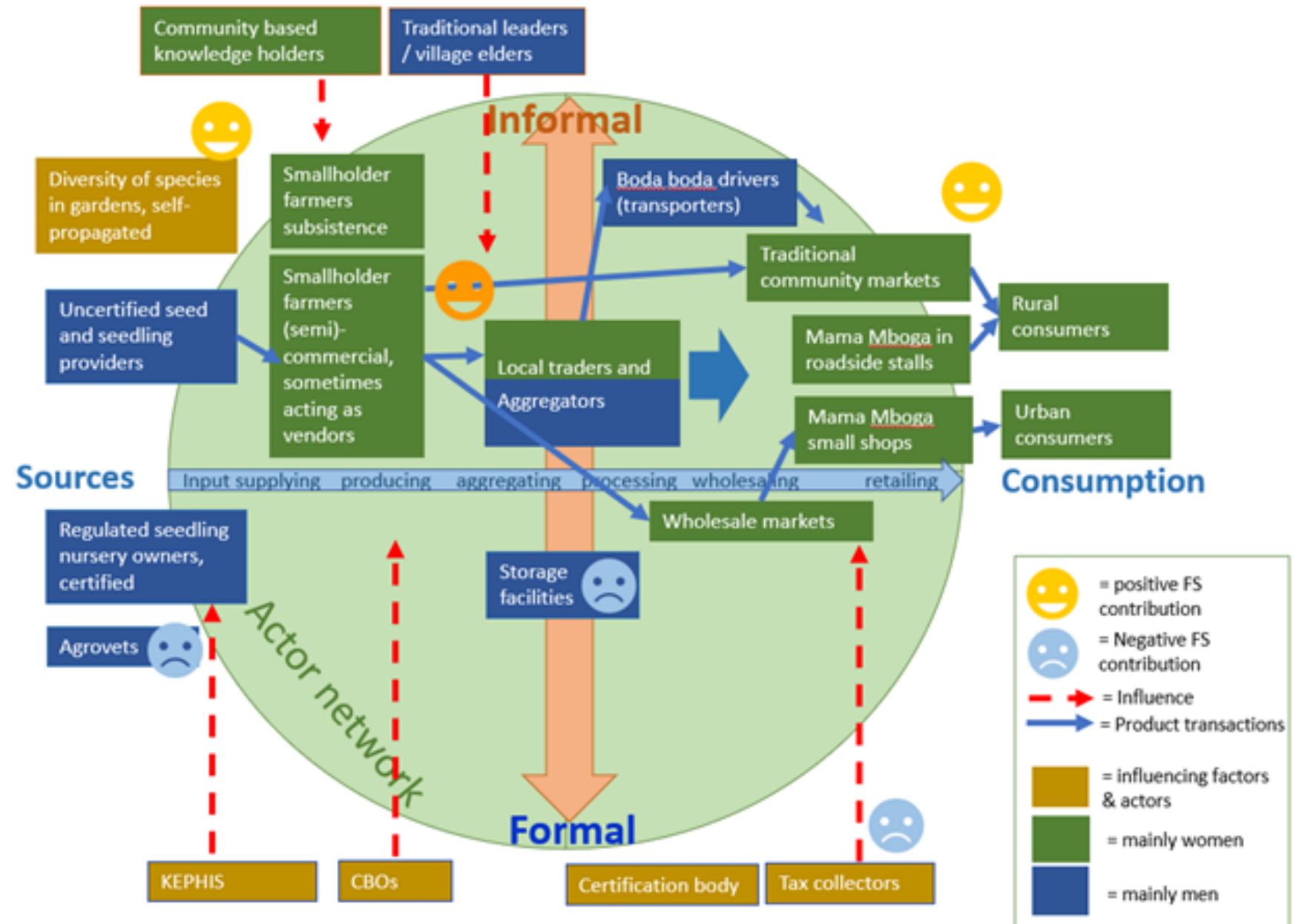
- What if ... ?
- Hence: what are important challenges and opportunities ?
- So what ... ? : What can or should be done ? *Practical options*
- Which strategy and process for engaging better with informal sector? *Recommendations for decision-makers*



# Actor mapping

Many options for sharing information and visualization

Challenge to facilitate mapping



Informal-Formal Actor Mapping for Indigenous Vegetables Value Chain based on Tana River County

# Facilitating actor mapping

## Actor categories

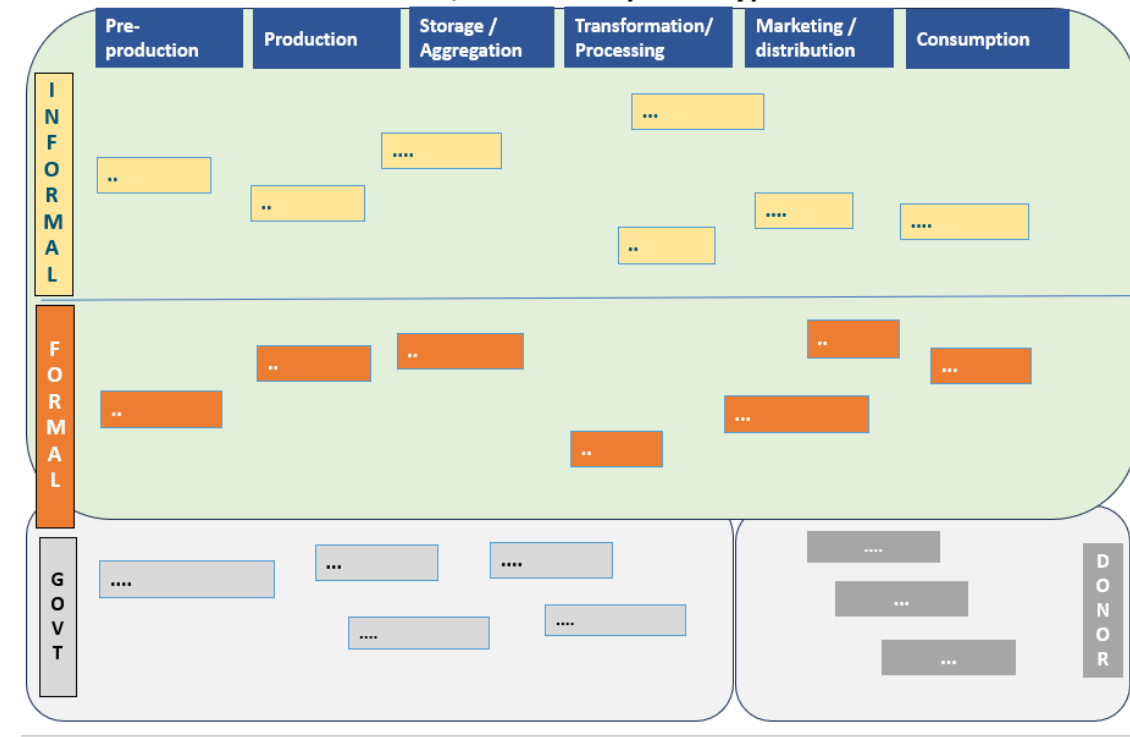
- Informal actors: private sector
- Formal actors: private sector **and** public sector and external actors (donors, projects, NGO's)

## Two axes

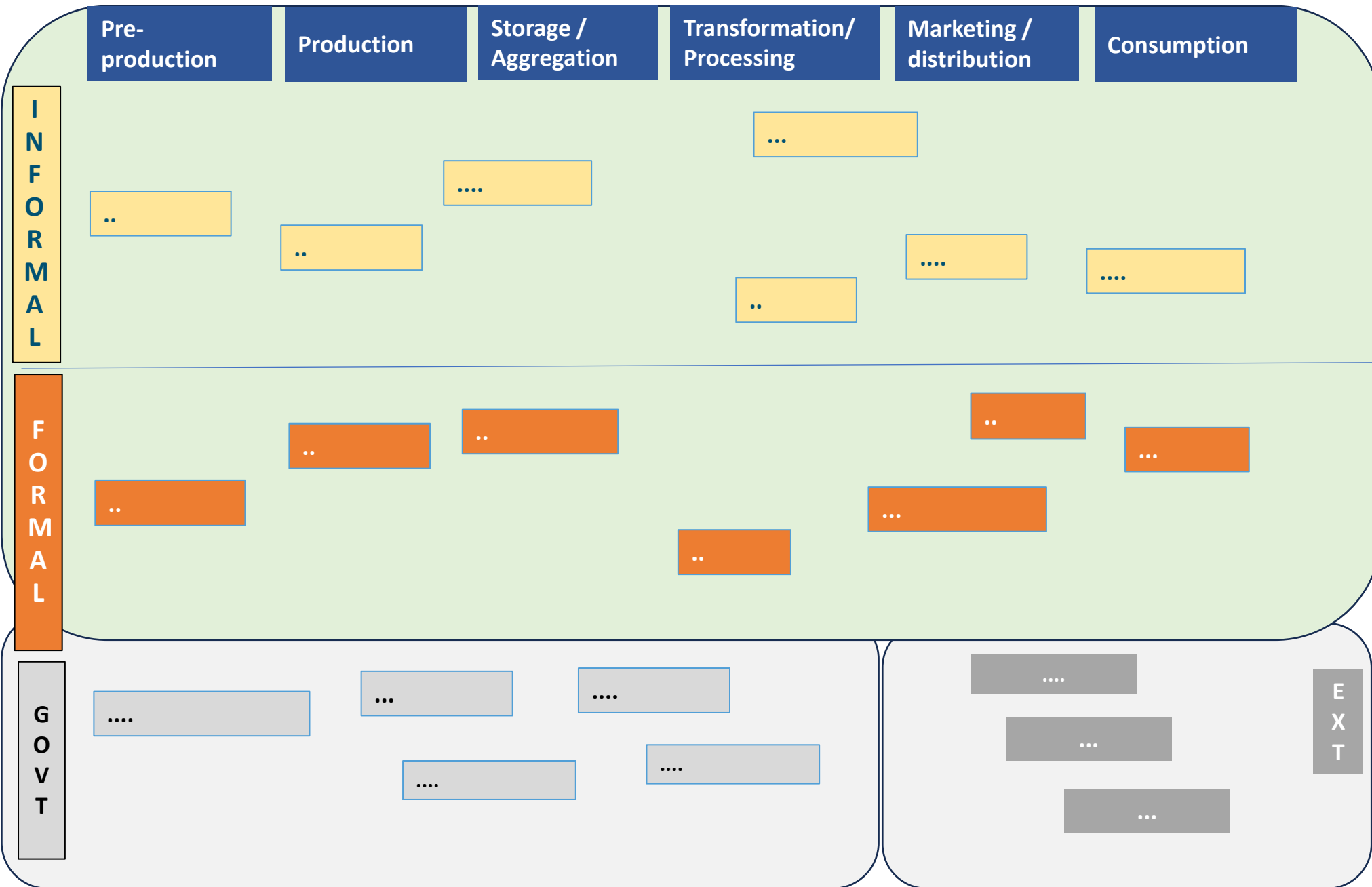
- Vertical axis : informal and formal actors
- Horizontal axis: from pre-production to consumption

## Points of attention:

- What are connections between informal and formal (private sector) actors?
- With whom do public sector and external actors connect and collaborate?
- What are external factors, informal and formal ?



# Actor mapping tool – Actors only





# Suggested symbols and observations

■ Product flow 

■ Support 

■ Importance for women



■ Importance for youth



■ Importance for remote areas



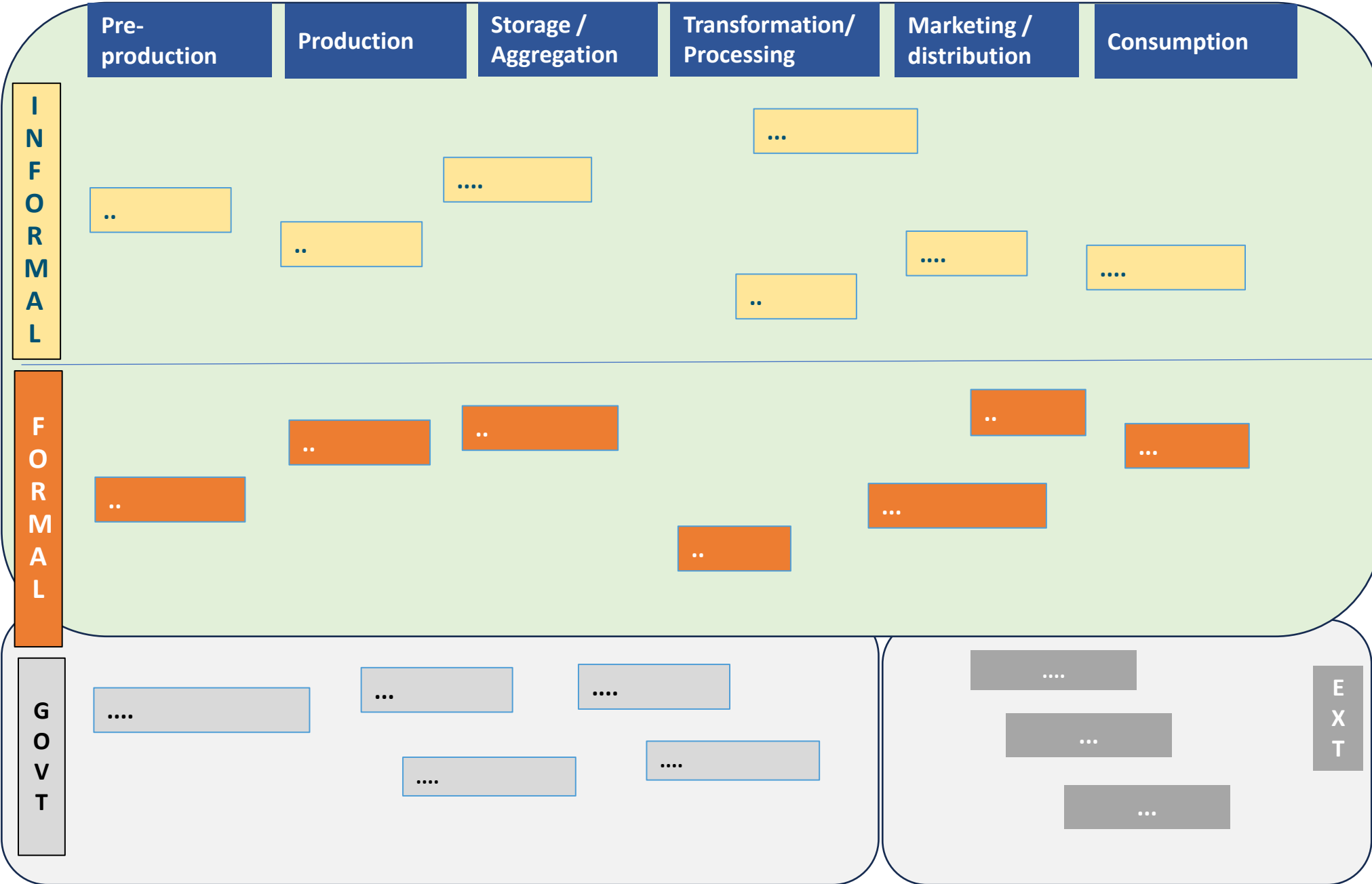
■ Negative contributions / challenges



■ Positive contributions / opportunities




# Actor mapping tool – actors with legend



 Product flow

 Support

 Negative contribution or challenge

 Positive contribution or opportunity

Important for:

 Women

 Youth

 Remote areas

# Additional information on informal and formal factors and other comments

## Informal factors

- ...
- ...

- Additional information for informal factors (culture, religion, traditional leaders, land rights, gender relations)

- Additional information for formal factors (power relations, policies, taxes, ...)

## Formal factors

- ...
- ...

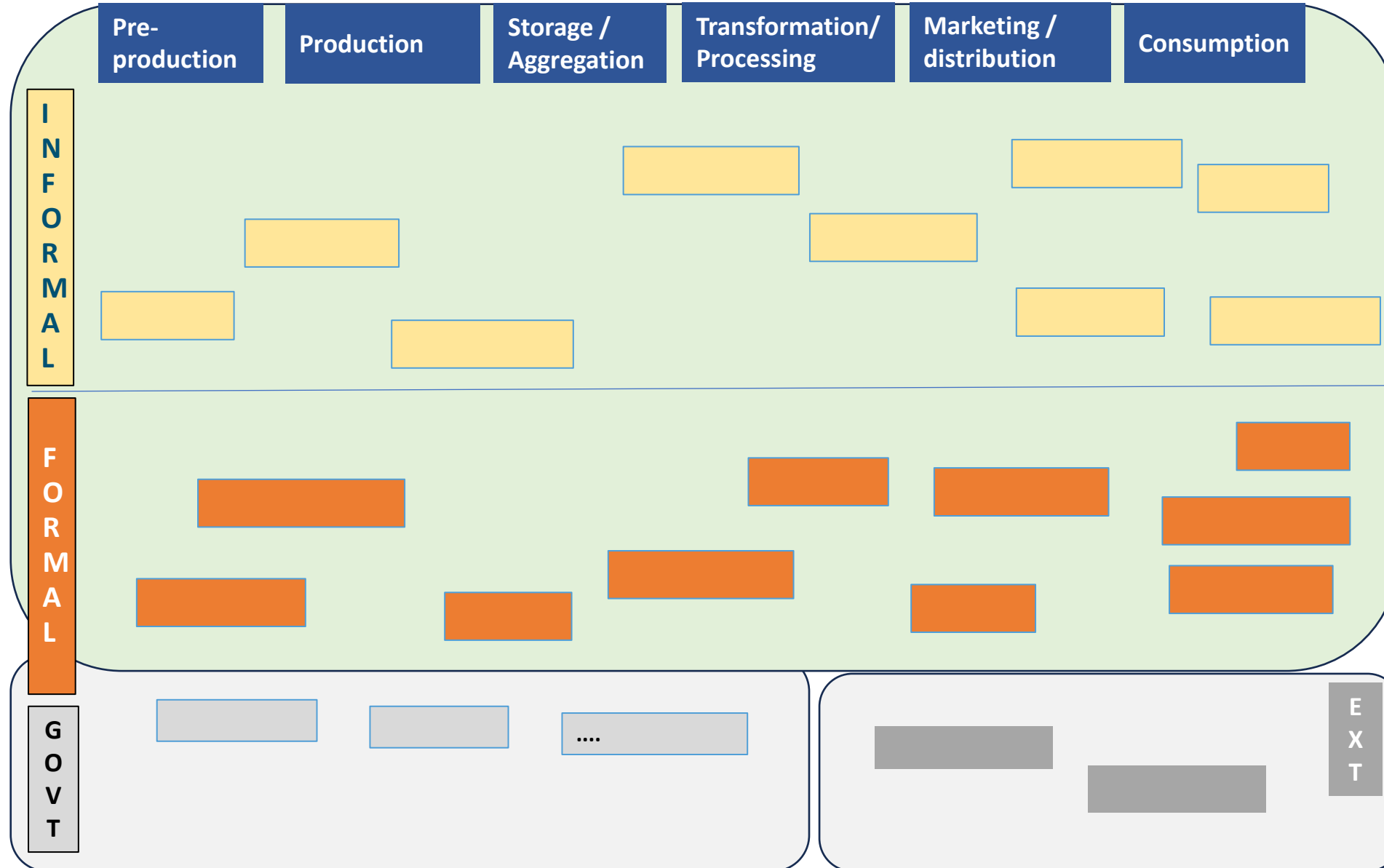
Or:

Text box to the right for (any) additional observations

## Observations

- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

# Actor mapping – actors, legend and two boxes for factors



- Informal factors**
- ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...

- Formal factors**
- ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...

→ Product flow    - - - - -> Support



Positive contribution or opportunity



Negative contribution or challenge

Important for:



Women

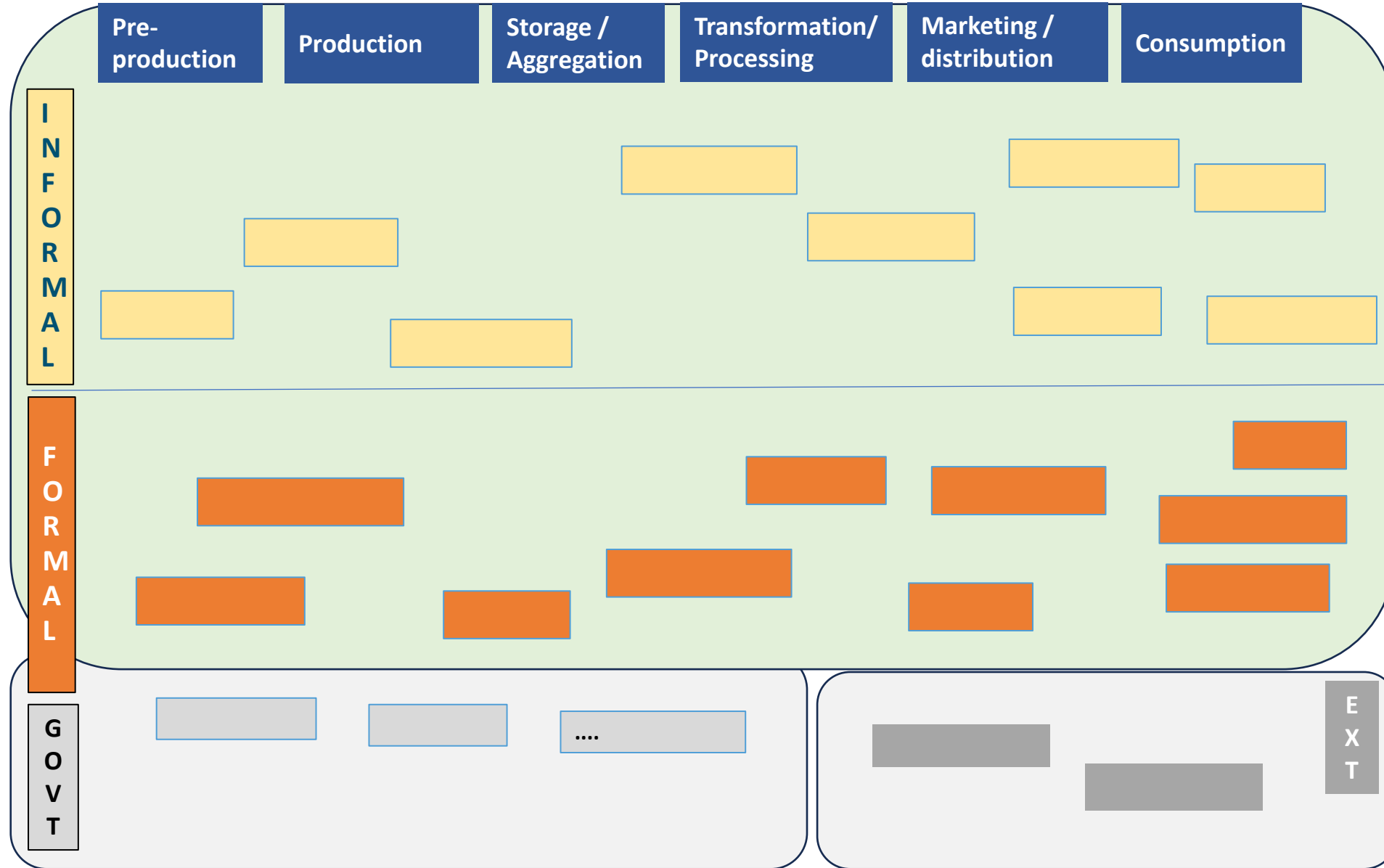


Youth



Remote areas

# Actor mapping – actors, legend and one text box



**Observations**

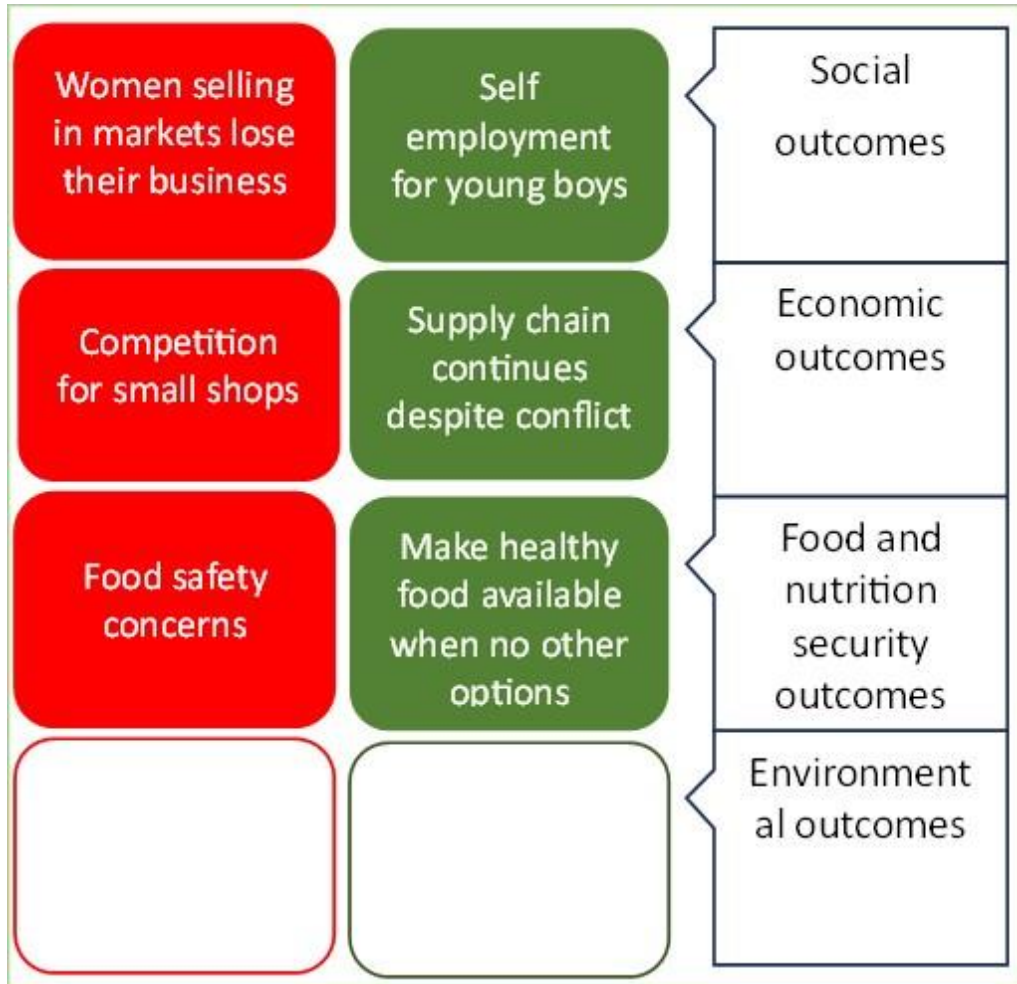
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Product flow    
 Support

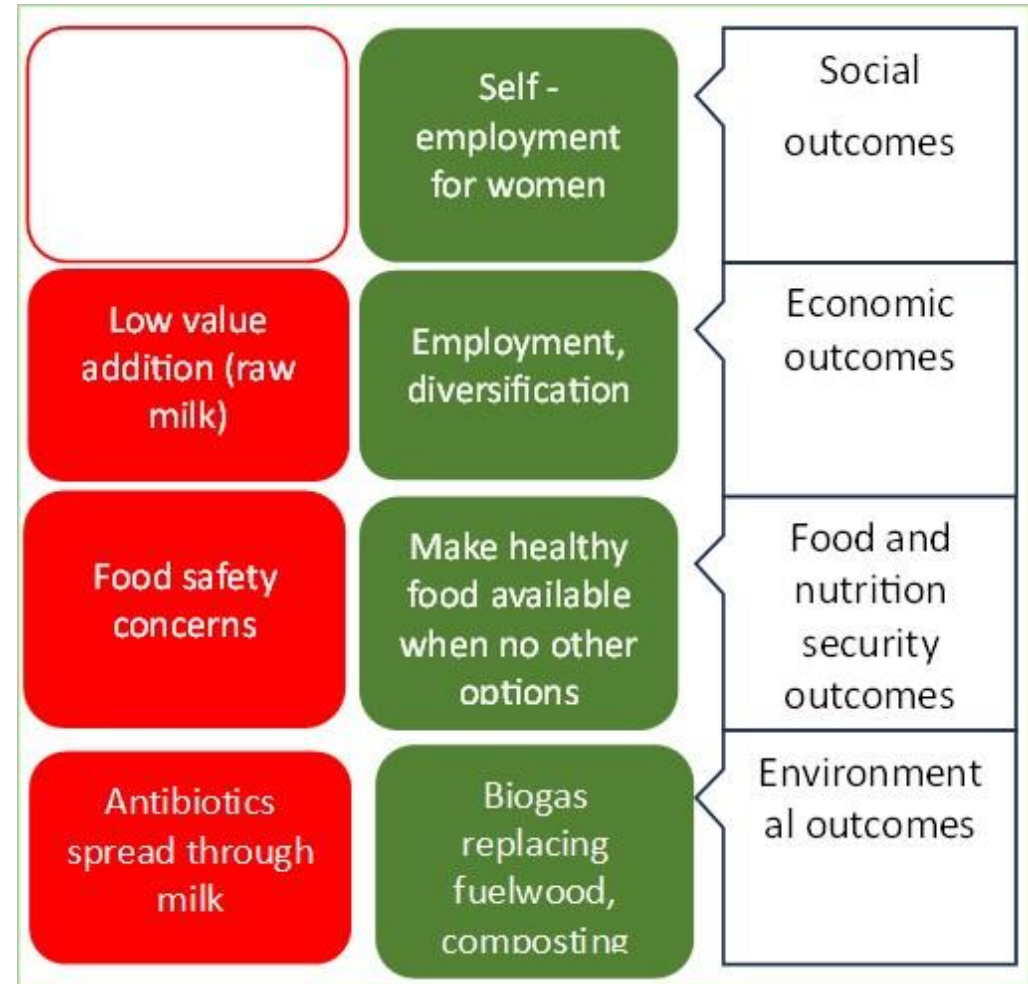
Positive contribution or opportunity    
 Negative contribution or challenge

Important for:    
 Women    
 Youth    
 Remote areas

# Presenting food system outcomes (example)



Conflict areas (Ethiopia)



Dairy (Kenya)

# Food system outcomes

