

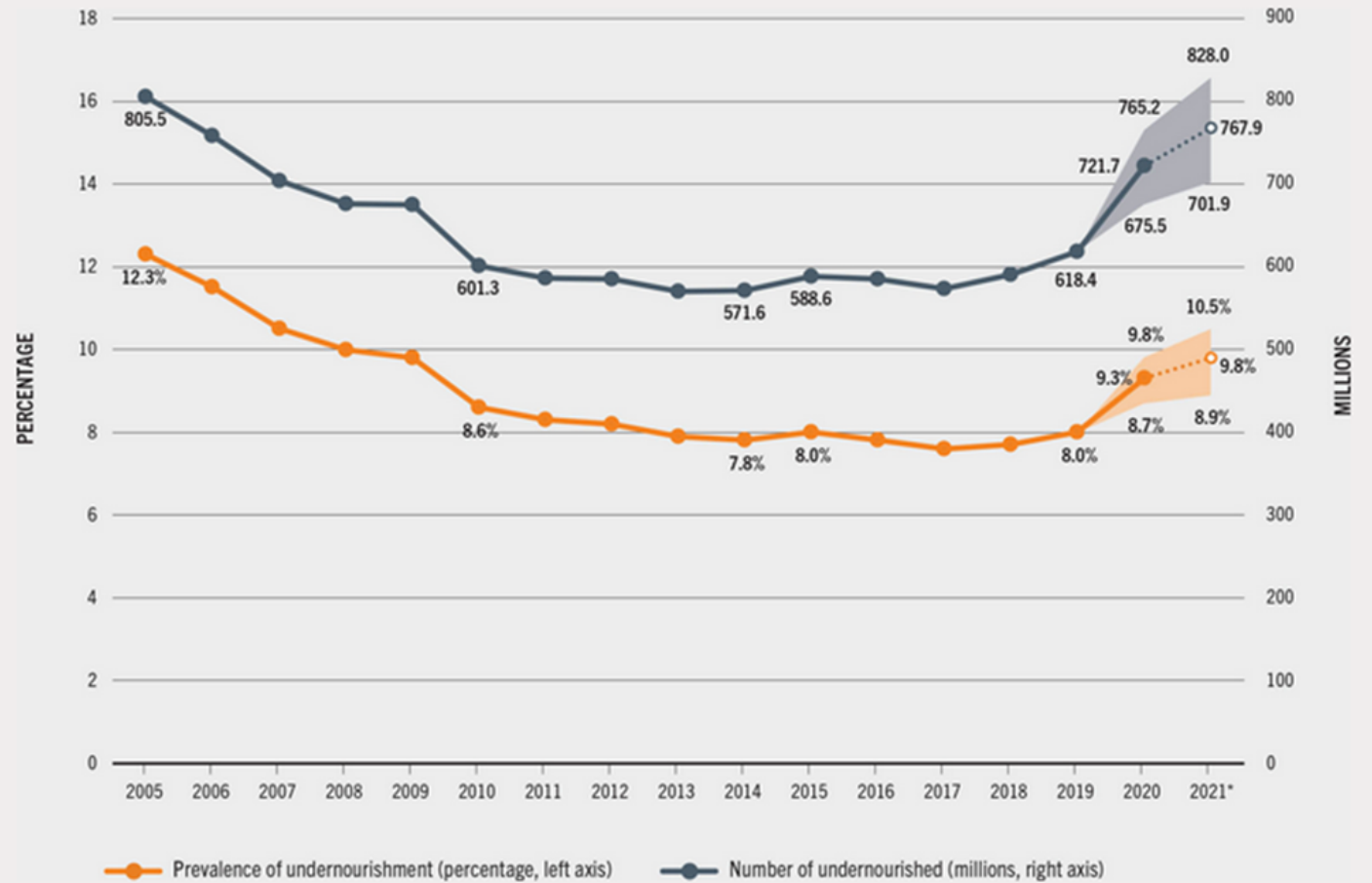


Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition

Jennifer Clapp
Vice Chair, High Level Panel of Experts on Food
Security and Nutrition
University of Waterloo, Canada

Global hunger
is on the rise...

FIGURE 2 BETWEEN 702 AND 828 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FACED HUNGER IN 2021. CONSIDERING THE MIDDLE OF THE PROJECTED RANGE (768 MILLION), HUNGER AFFECTED 46 MILLION MORE PEOPLE IN 2021 COMPARED TO 2020, AND A TOTAL OF 150 MILLION MORE PEOPLE SINCE 2019, BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



NOTES: * Projected values for 2021 are illustrated by dotted lines. Shaded areas show lower and upper bounds of the estimated range.

SOURCE: FAO.

The global community is falling short with respect to SDG 2 on many fronts

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 are over-nourished

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

Uneven quality of food environments

Precarious food system livelihoods

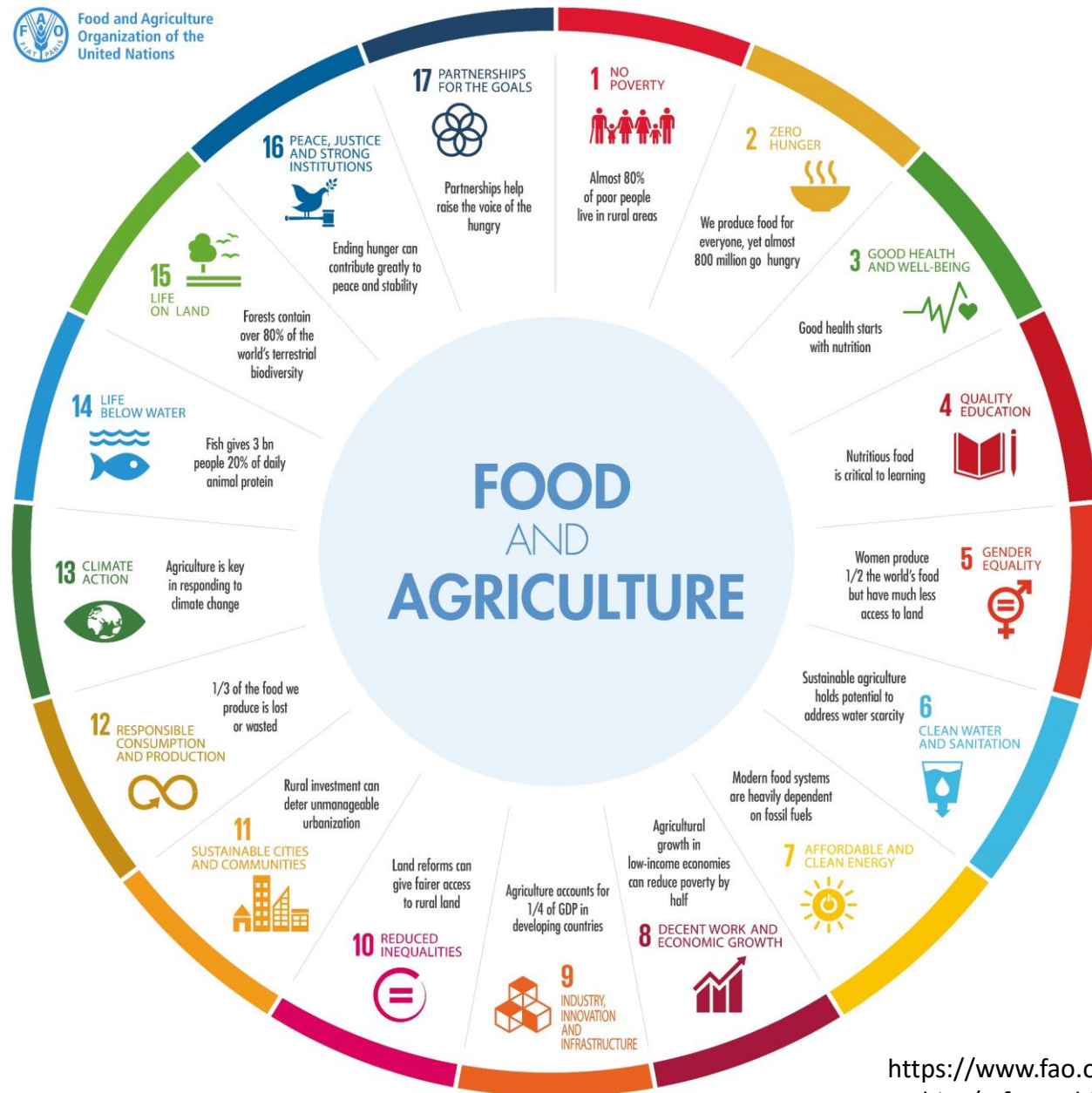
Food systems have crossed several of the proposed “planetary boundaries”

Food systems are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and economic downturns

COVID-19 & war in Ukraine have exacerbated these trends



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



Why focus on food *systems*?

Each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) intersects with food and agriculture in various ways

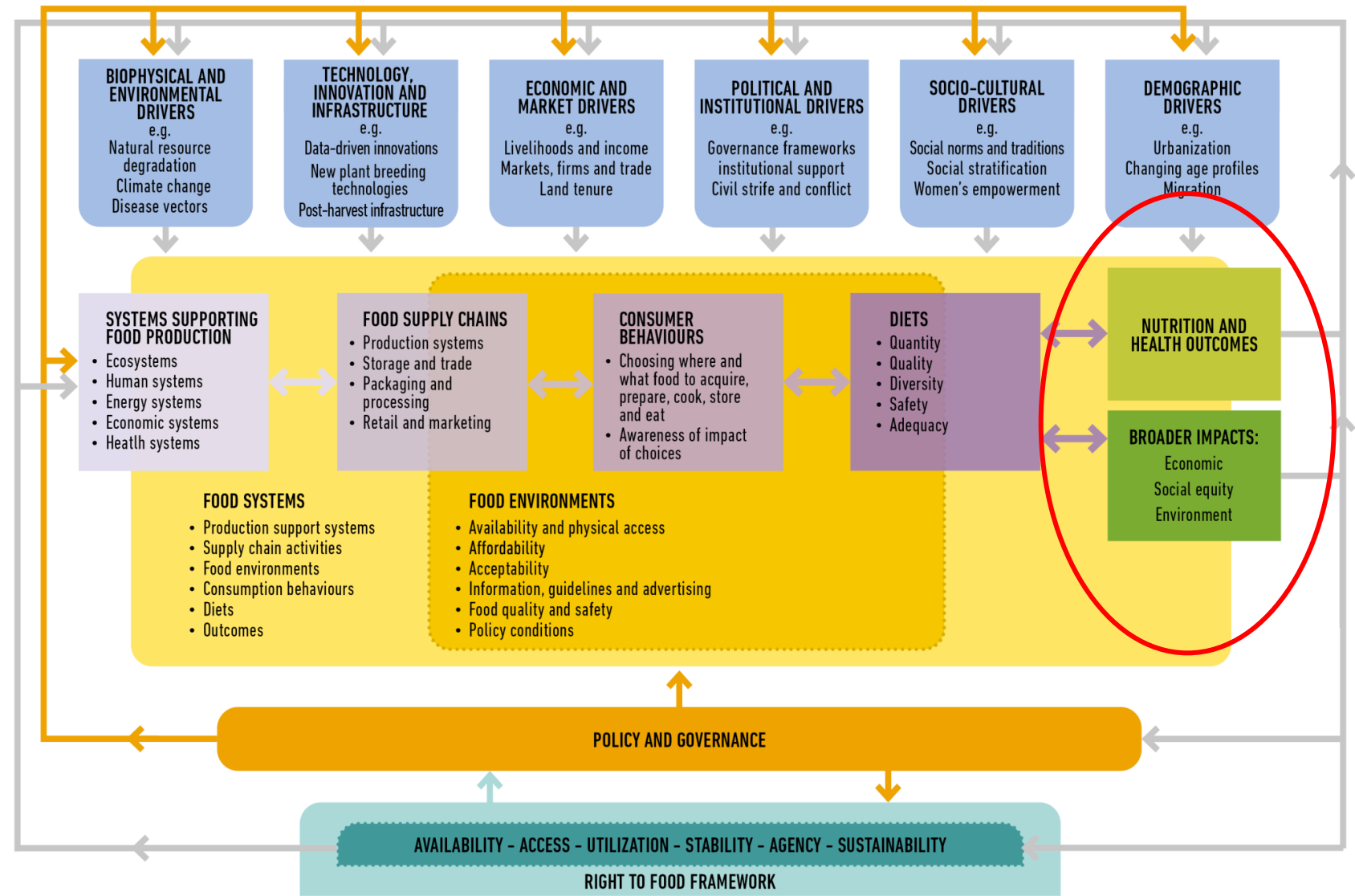


Food systems have multiple, overlapping functions in society

- Food is a basic human need
- Access to adequate food is a human right
- Food systems provide diverse types of livelihoods for nearly 1/3 of humanity
- Deeply entrenched in ecosystems
- Cornerstone of cultural norms and practices
- Food is a market commodity

A food systems framework

“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)



Source: HLPE-FSN 2020

Food security as the goal

“Food security (is) a situation that exists when
ALL PEOPLE,
AT ALL TIMES, *have*
PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS *to*
SUFFICIENT,
SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS *food that meets their*
DIETARY NEEDS *and*
FOOD PREFERENCES
for an active and healthy life.”

**NUTRITION AND
HEALTH OUTCOMES**

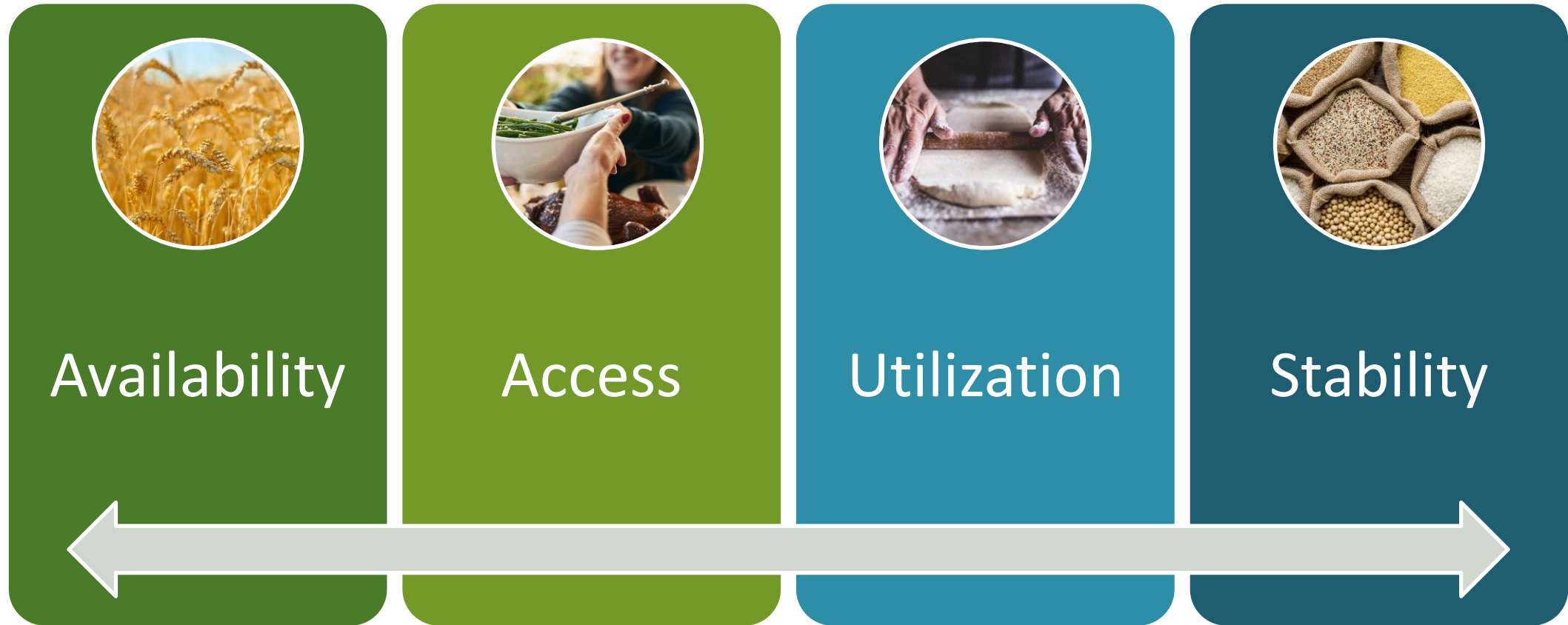
BROADER IMPACTS:

Economic

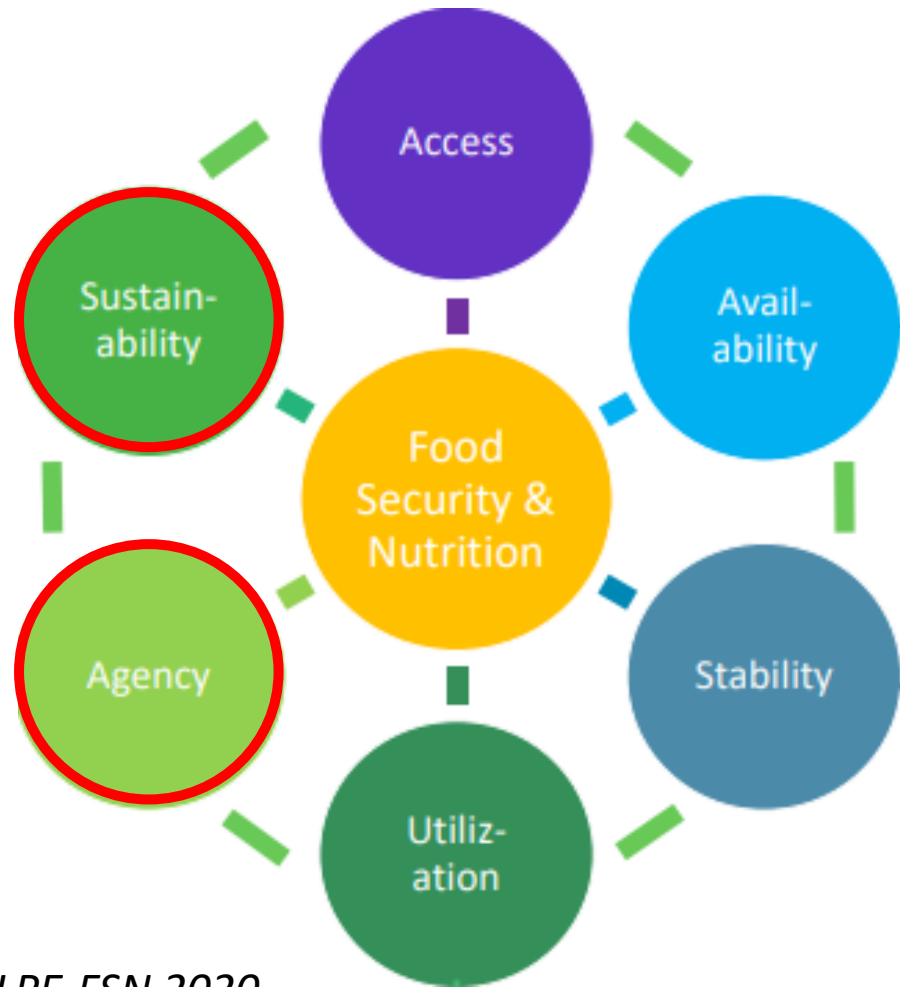
Social equity

Environment

Traditional 'four pillars' view of food security



A food systems perspective encourages us to widen our understanding of food security to six dimensions



Agency – improving **rights and capabilities** of people to feed themselves with dignity and to relate to and shape their food systems on their own terms.

Sustainability – strengthening the **economic, social, and ecological** bases that generate food security and nutrition for future generations.

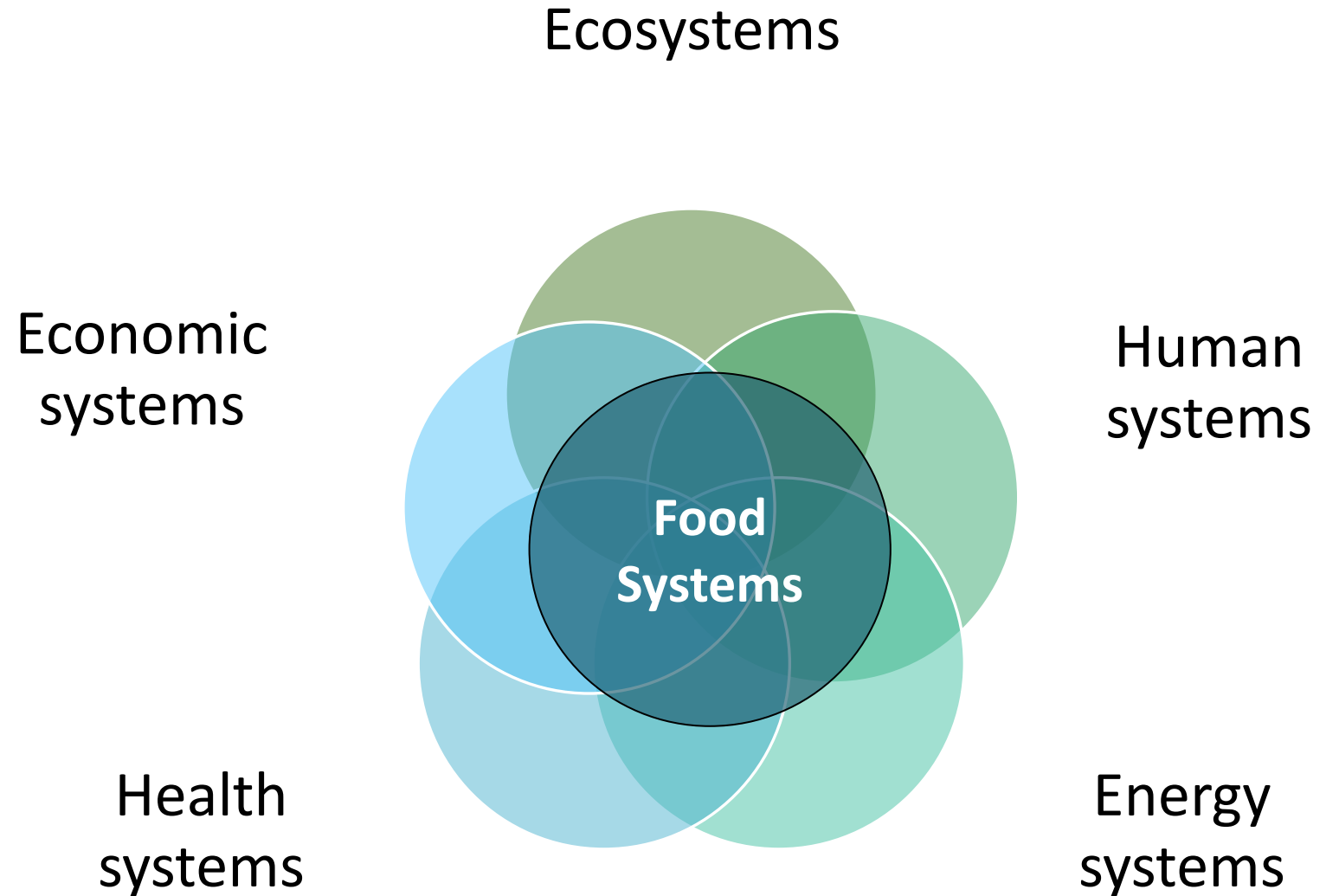
All six dimensions are implicit in the definition of food security – we need to explicitly recognize all dimensions

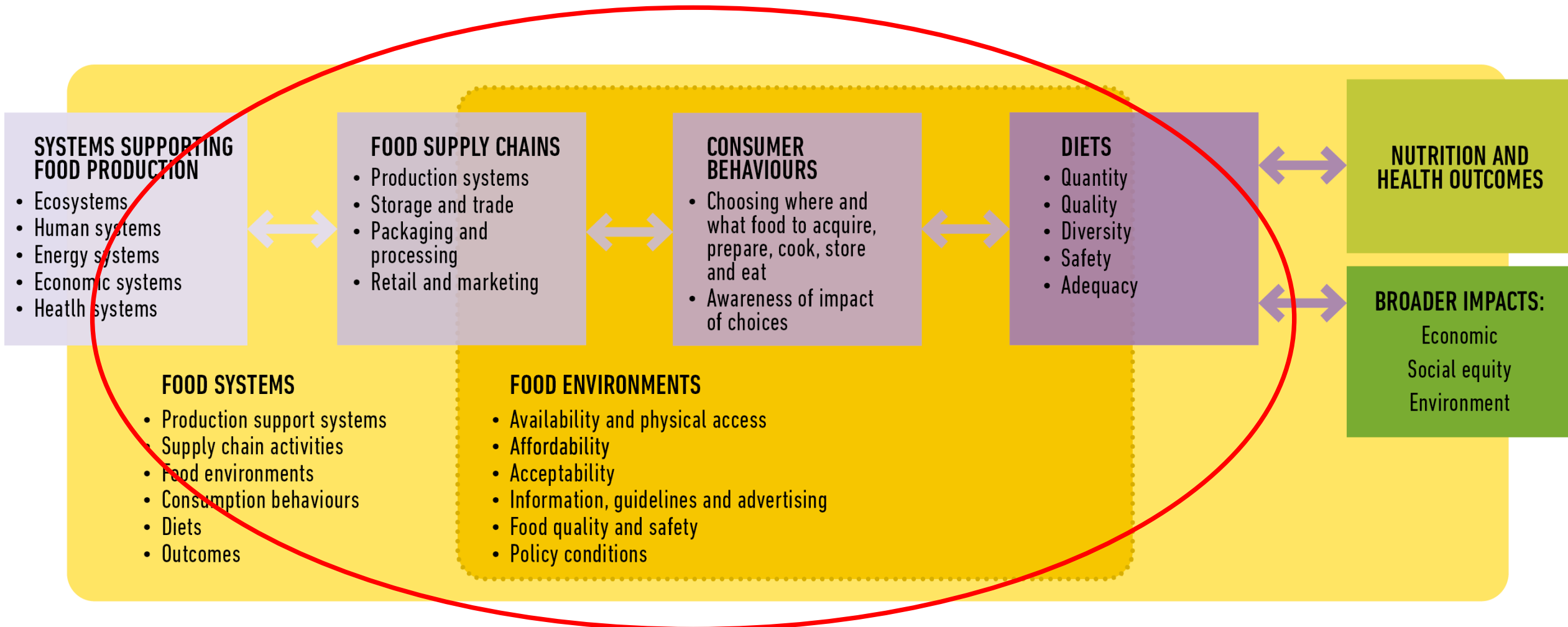


The main activities within food systems from production to consumption to outcomes....



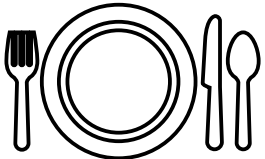
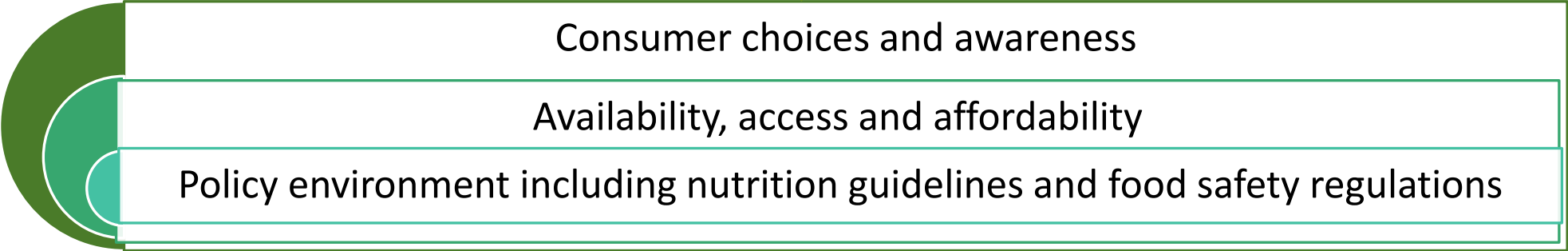
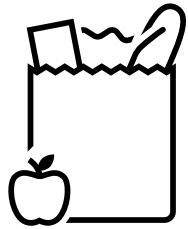
Food systems approach encourages us to recognize the interconnectedness of food systems with other systems





Food environments are a key aspect of how people interface with food systems

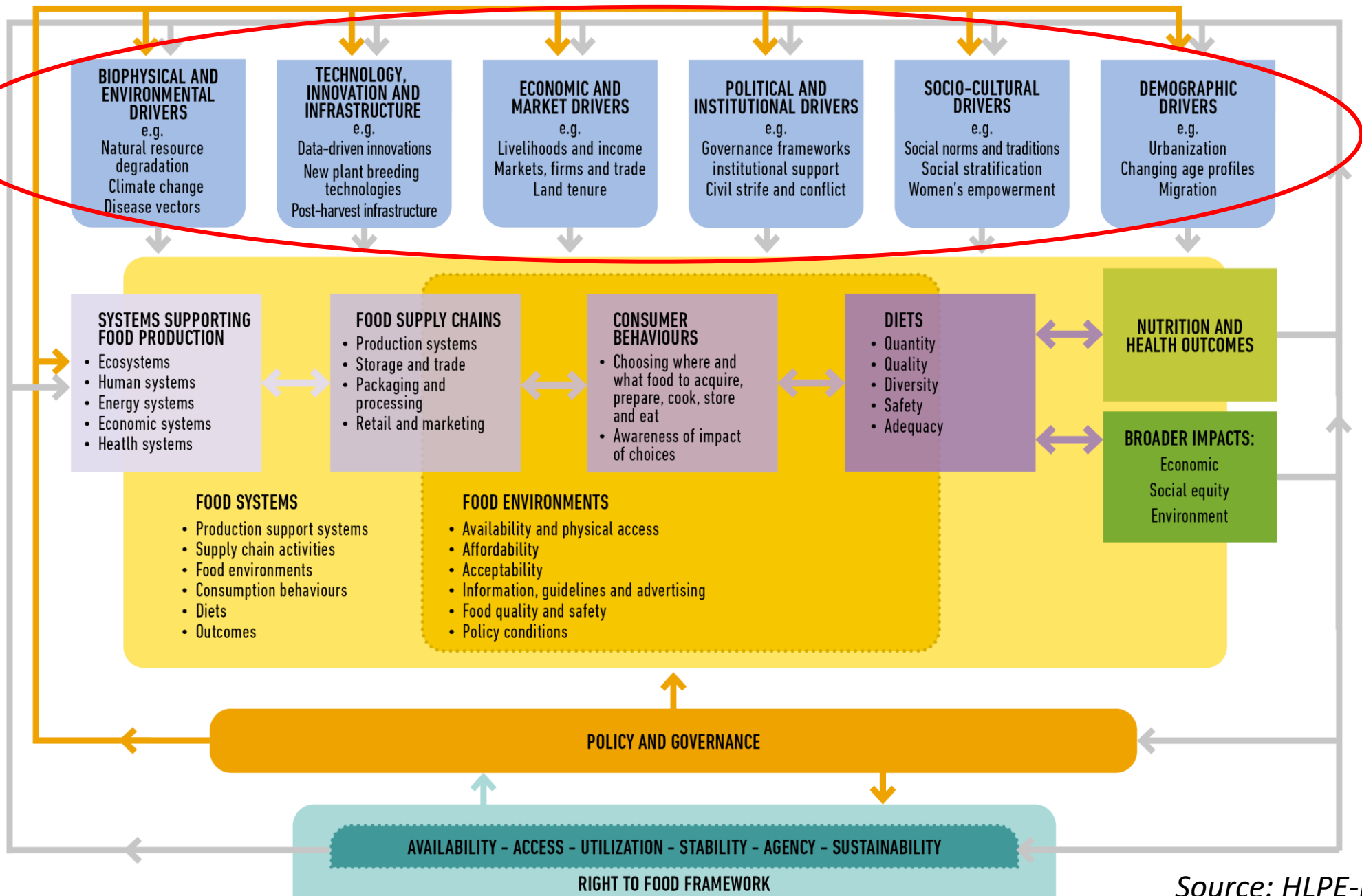
Interrelated Nature of Food Supply Chains, Food Environments, & Diet Quality



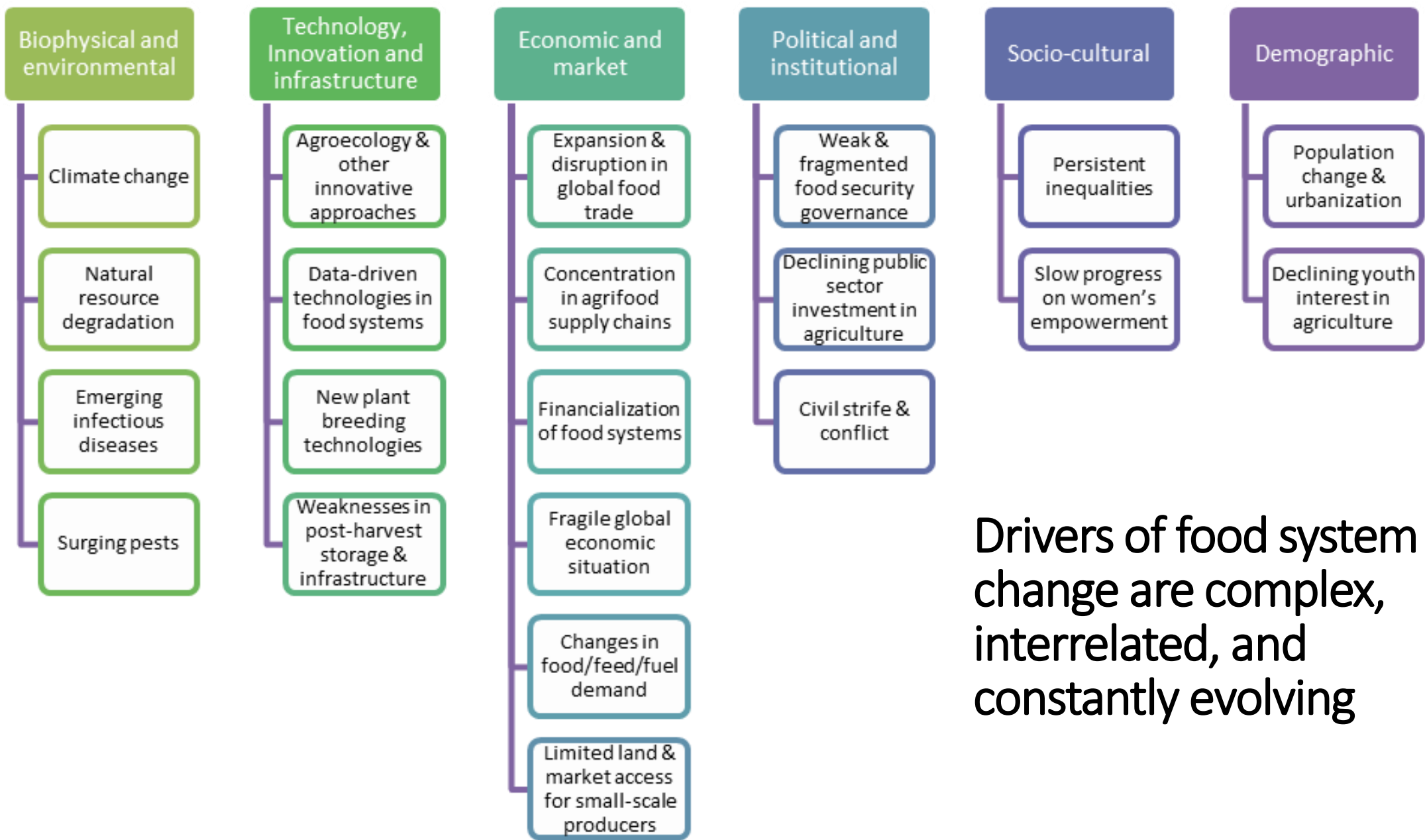
Diet Quality, Diversity, Quantity, Safety and Adequacy



Diverse drivers outside of food systems affect their functioning

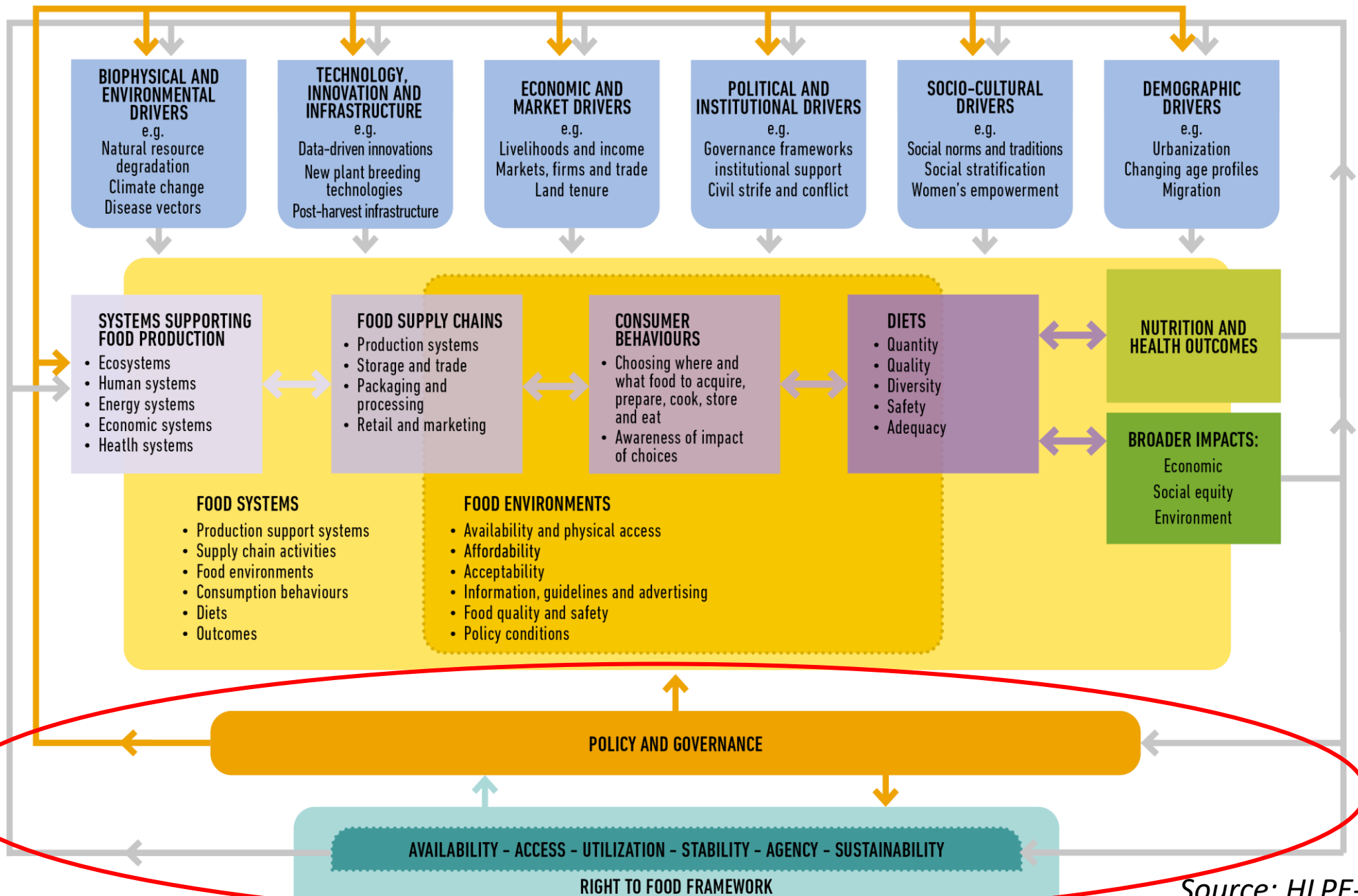


Source: HLPE-FSN 2020



Drivers of food system change are complex, interrelated, and constantly evolving

Policy and governance shape the rules and norms by which food systems function



Source: HLPE-FSN 2020

Achieving Sustainable food systems and food security requires **critical policy shifts** as informed by the **scientific literature**

EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY IN A CONTEXT OF POPULATION GROWTH



WORKING TOWARD A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS AS A WHOLE TO IMPROVE FSN AND ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030

VIEWING FSN AS A SECTORAL ISSUE



VIEWING FSN AS A SYSTEM INTERCONNECTED WITH OTHER SYSTEMS AND SECTORS

EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON REDUCING HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION



FOCUS ON HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN ALL ITS FORMS, IN THEIR COMPLEX RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER

FOCUS ON FINDING GLOBALLY APPLICABLE FSN SOLUTIONS



UNDERSTANDING THAT FSN IS CONTEXT-SPECIFIC, REQUIRING DIVERSE SOLUTIONS

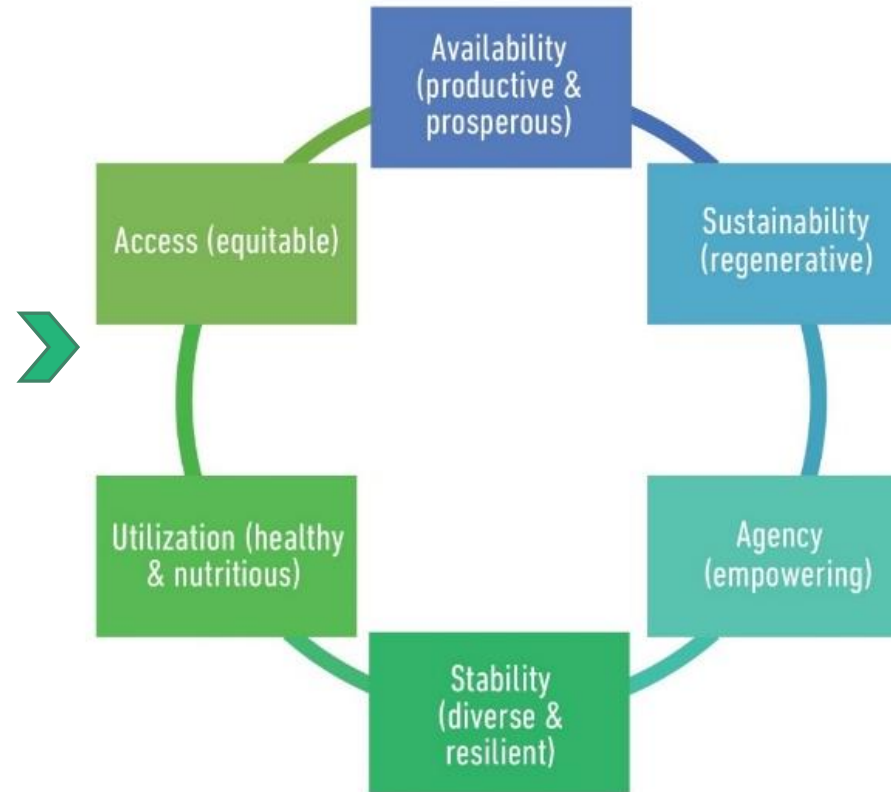
Old approach

New approach

How policy shifts support food security via a sustainable food systems approach



CRITICAL POLICY ELEMENTS



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT THE SIX INTERCONNECTED DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, ESPECIALLY SDG2 - ZERO HUNGER



Source: HLPE-FSN 2020

Key criteria to ensure a food systems approach is part of food policies

- **Food policies extend beyond food production – to also include:**
 - All dimensions of malnutrition (hunger, overweight, micronutrient deficiencies, etc)
 - Affordability of healthy diets
 - Planning for resilience of food supply in the face of potential shocks
 - Consideration of sustainability dimensions of food production, processing and diets
 - Rights and power dynamics considered from production to consumption, with emphasis on empowering the most marginalized populations to exercise their right to food
- **Food policies are situated at the intersection of policies governing other systems – Economic, health, ecosystems, sociopolitical systems and explicitly link food systems and the SDGs**
- **Food policies that take the quality of food supply chains and food environments into account**
- **Food policies recognize multiple and diverse drivers that affect outcomes**
- **Food policies are context specific – avoiding one size fits all approaches**

Thank you!

Key references:

- 1) HLPE-FSN. 2020. *Food Security & Nutrition: Building A Global Narrative Towards 2030*. Report #15. High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security & Nutrition, Rome.
- 2) Clapp, J., W.G. Moseley, B. Burlingame and P. Termine. 2021. “The case for a six-dimensional food security framework.” *Food Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2021.102164>