



# Agriculture to Nutrition: Improving Nutrition Outcomes Through Optimized Agriculture Investments (ATONU)

AgriDiet Conference on Improving Nutrition through Agriculture

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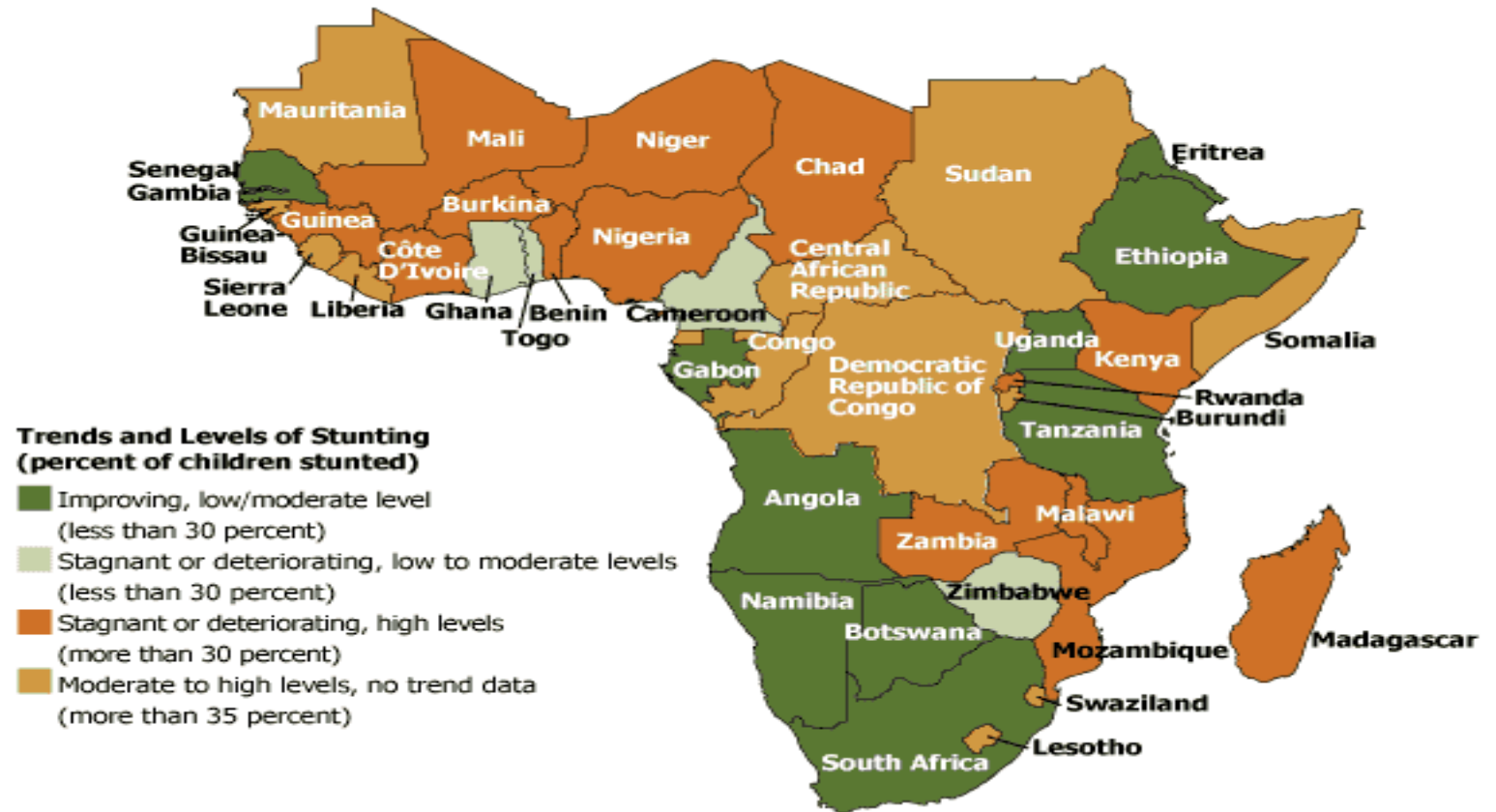
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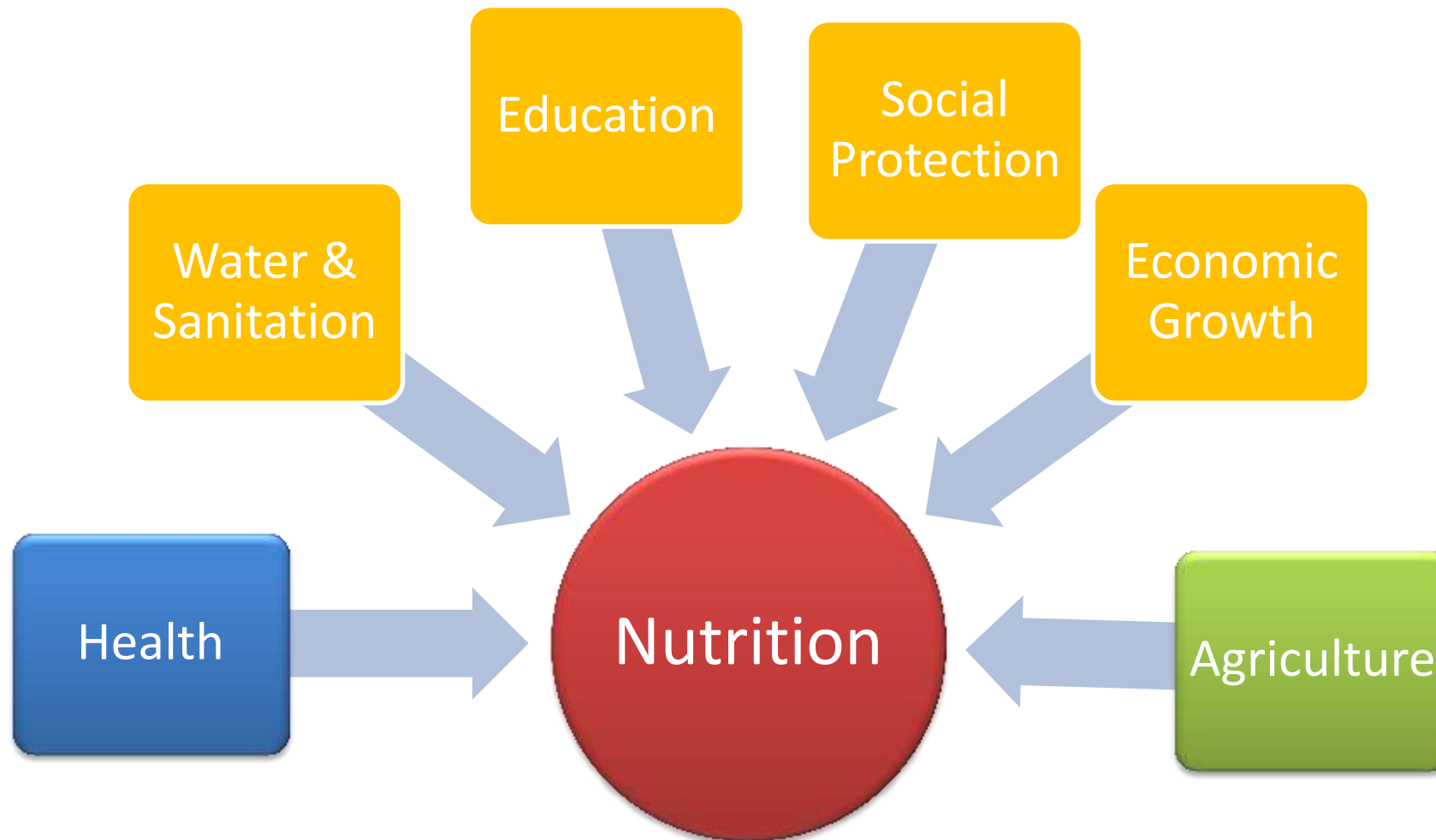
# Malnutrition: The Context

Africa is ranked as having amongst the highest rates in the world and SSA carries a high burden of under-nutrition with 33% of childhood deaths linked to under-nutrition.

17 countries on the continent have stunting rates above 40 percent, and 36 countries have rates above 30 percent



# Addressing Under-nutrition Requires a Multi-sectoral Approach



# MYTHS: What does Agriculture do for Nutrition?

Food quality is synonymous to food quantity



Being over weight or fat is wealth or good living



Micronutrient supplements are for people with a medical condition

There are "special foods" for men and not for women and children



Stunting is hereditary and has nothing to do with food



# Agriculture is More than Just Food



**Nutrition for people**



**Nutrition for the environment**



**Income, jobs and poverty reduction – contribution to GDP**



**Non-food products, such as fibre and skins**



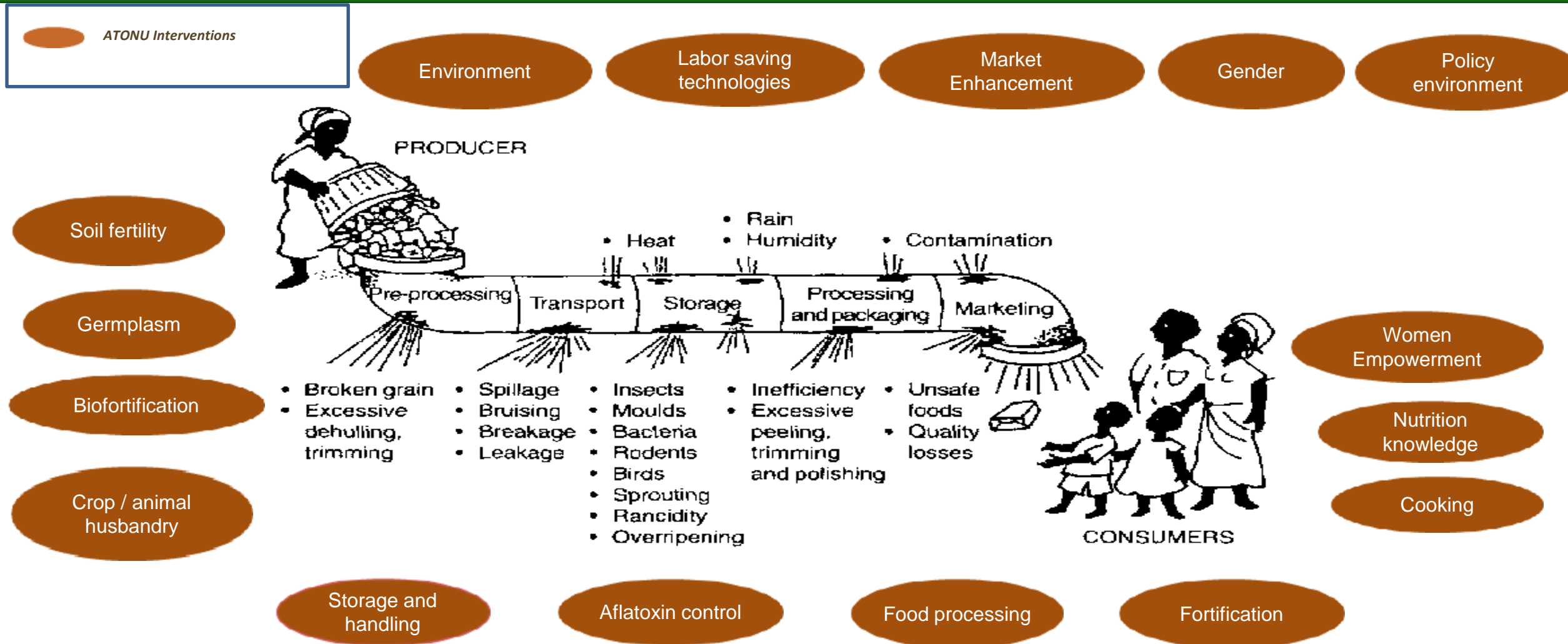
**Culture, livelihood and women - it is a basis for local level decision making, unique to a given culture**

# AG-Nutrition Pathways

1. Food production for household consumption;
2. Income-oriented production for food, health and other non-food items;
3. Empowerment of women as agents;
4. Reduction in real food prices associated with increased agricultural production; and
5. Nutrition Sensitive Agricultural Growth.



# Where are the opportunities for Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Interventions?



# ATONU Project Objectives

**ATONU project seeks to:**

- ***Design agricultural projects that deliver positive nutrition outcomes;***
- ***Generate robust evidence on what agriculture can do for nutrition;***
- ***Provide technical assistance to ensure effectiveness of nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture programmes.***





# ATONU Problem Statement

## Under-nourished smallholder farm families:

- Smallholder farm families cannot afford health care.
- Food they produce is not positively contributing to good health.
- There are **leakages in the agriculture value chain**.
- By investing in **nutrition sensitive agriculture**, ATONU will ensure that food landing on the table has the maximum possible nutrients for a healthy active life.
- This is currently not happening because of **poor designs; poor evidence base; policy disconnect; low investments** and the **disconnect between agriculture and nutrition** communities.



# ATONU Theory of Change

1.a) Promising agricultural projects identified for possible interventions

1.b) Methods for designing, implementing and evaluating interventions identified, adapted and assembled

2) Tailored nutrition sensitive interventions are designed, implemented and evaluated

3) Successful models communicated, disseminated and promoted for adoption

4a) Lessons and successes from ATONU out scaled to other agriculture projects

4b) Practitioners knowledgeable and equipped with evidence on how to design nutrition sensitive agriculture projects

4c) Policy makers and investors incorporate a nutrition lens in the design of agriculture projects

5) Agriculture projects generate nutritional outcomes that benefit smallholder farm families particularly women of child bearing age and children in the first 1000 days



# ATONU Key Research Questions

1. **Production** - What can soils, germplasm, fertilizer use, etc. do for nutrition? How can product handling and processing (milking, harvesting, etc.) contribute to nutrition?
2. **Income** - Under what conditions do increases in agricultural income lead to improved nutritional outcomes?
3. **Gender** - What is the effect of agricultural activities on nutrition of children, women and men in smallholder farm families?
4. **Women empowerment** - Which entry points along the agricultural value chain have the greatest potential impact for empowering women?



# ATONU Key Research Questions

- 5. Behavior Change** - How can best practices in nutrition, education and health be integrated into agricultural programmes and projects to improve nutrition status of women and young children?
- 6. Programme Design** - How can agricultural programmes be designed to improve nutritional outcomes within smallholder farm families? What are the appropriate indicators for measuring the nutritional impact of agricultural interventions across the value chain?
- 7. Capacity development** - How can multi-sectoral Agriculture-Nutrition decision-makers, practitioners and policy advocates be equipped with knowledge/evidence to support and advocate for nutrition sensitive agriculture?
- 8. Delivery Mechanism** - How can the agriculture and nutrition sectors work together to more effectively reduce hunger and malnutrition among women of child bearing age and children?

