

# Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia



*With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*

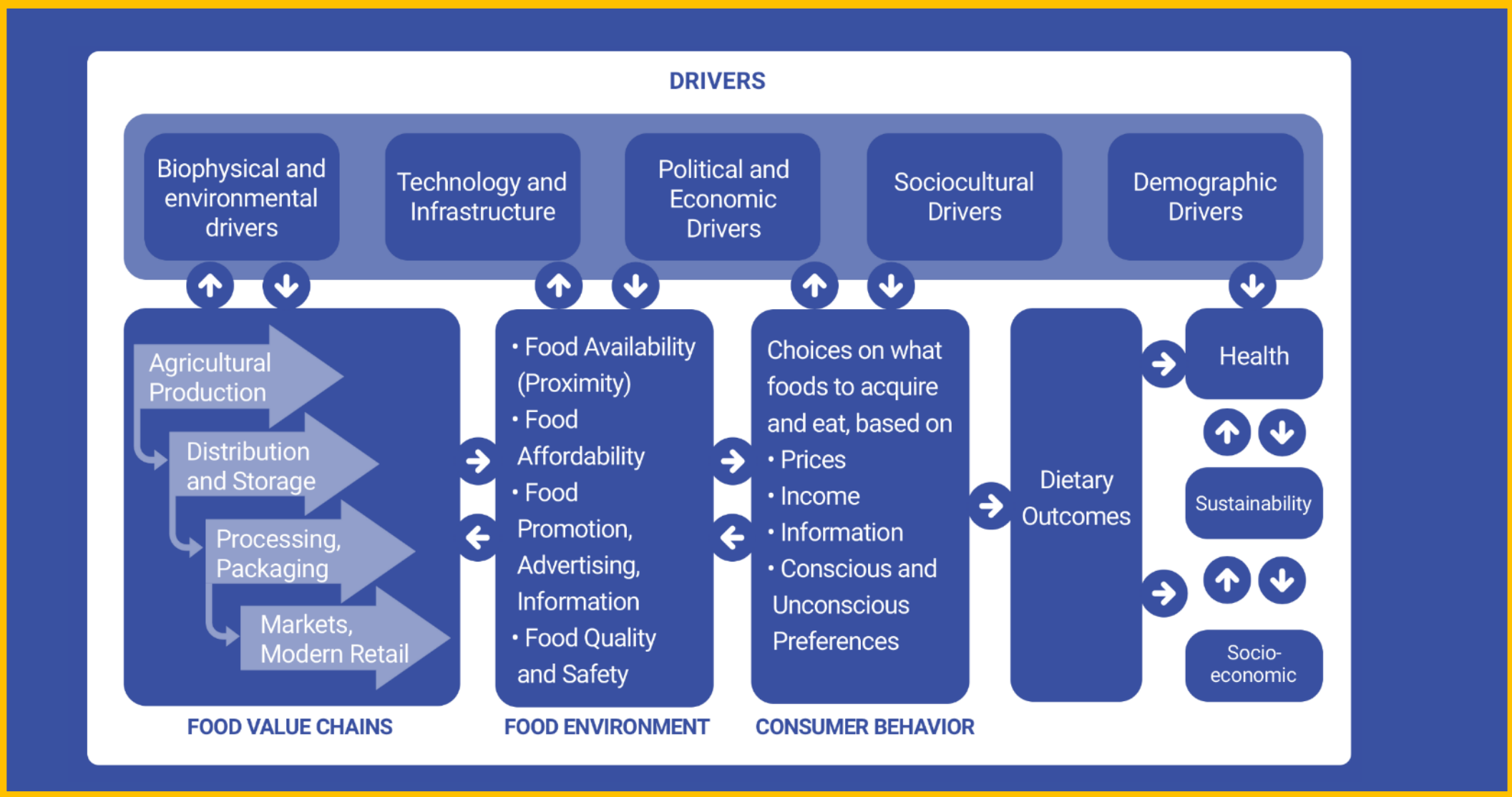
# Delivering cross-cutting actions to the local food system in Vietnam

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Alliance



# Figure 1: Simplified HLPE Framework for Food Systems



From de Brauw et al 2019, based on the HLPE framework

# Sustainable Food System Profiles

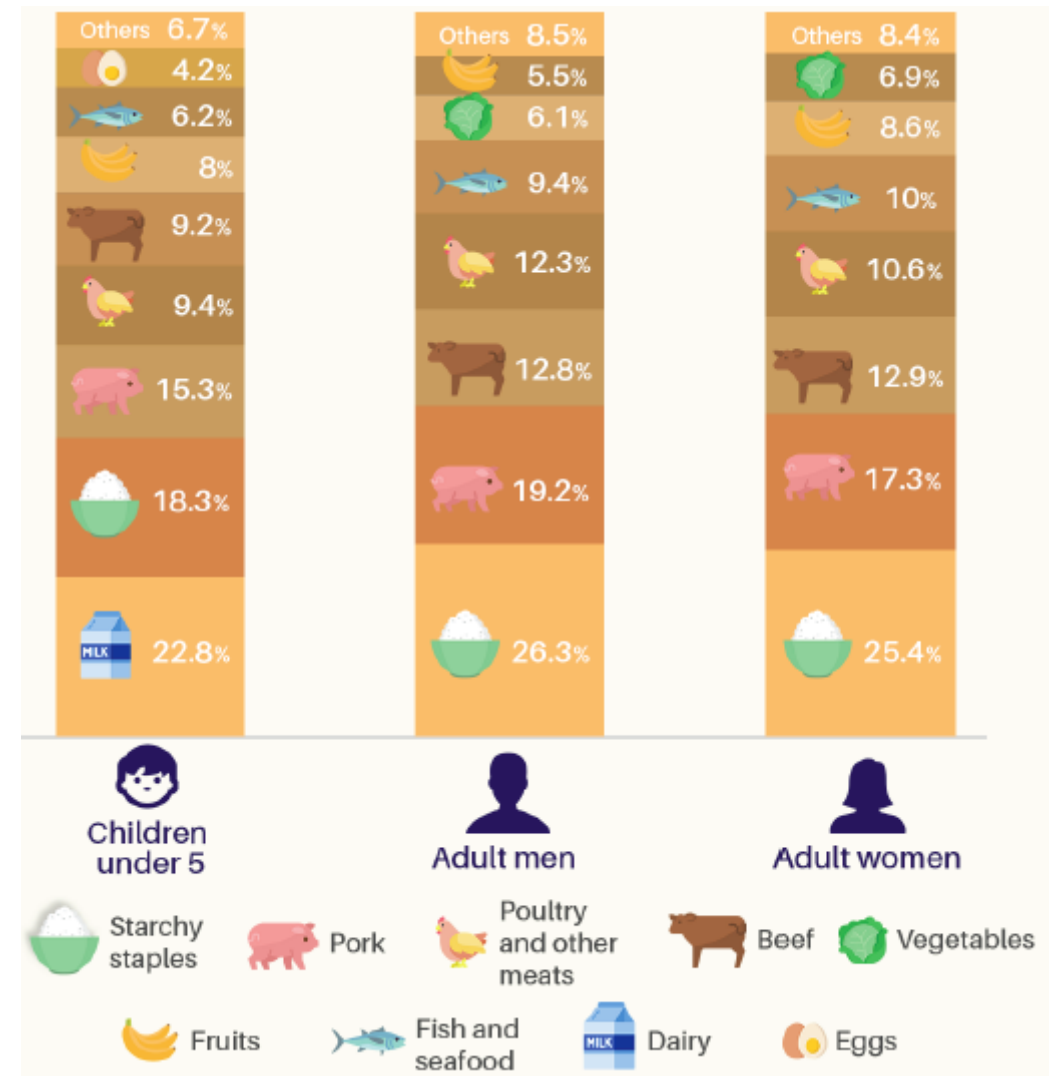
- Conducted in 2018-2020
- 3 separate food systems profiles and a comparison profile along the rural-urban transect
- Executed with the National Institute of Nutrition and local groups

[https://bit.ly/fsprofiles\\_vietnam](https://bit.ly/fsprofiles_vietnam)



# Zooming in on Moc Chau

- More than 60% of population comes from at least 10 minority ethnic groups
- Environment: Suitable for year-long production
- Prevalence of poverty and malnutrition
- High consumption of meat and dairy





- Vast differences in **access, opportunities, and infrastructure** that involve food supply chains, food environments, consumer behavior
- Increase in agricultural production **influenced by national and global demand** is driving productivity in rural areas
- Seasonal variations are affecting the production of high value crops and are hampering the access to much-needed fruits and vegetables



- The Food System Profiles of the rural-urban to urban transect were used to describe the current state of food systems in Northern Vietnam during the National and Sub-national dialogues for UNFSS.

# Opportunities to improve food systems

## SEED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- Implemented from 2019-2022 in Mai Son and Sa Pa districts
- Inadequate access to quality seeds of both exogenous and indigenous varieties
- Aims to meeting farmer seed access and seed security to achieve food security and diversity





# Opportunities to improve food systems

## SEED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- Interventions: farmer capacity building on seed and vegetable production, importance of diversity and nutrition
- Farmer Business School approach to produce and market quality seeds and vegetables
- Formation of Diet Health Clubs composed of ethnic minority women



# Opportunities to improve food systems

## ASSESSING INFORMAL FOOD FLOWS

- Implemented in 2018-2020
- Provide Wi-Fi to assess food flows in traditional markets
- Partnered with the General Statistics Office
- Aimed to characterize and monitor food traders and retailers, and consumer food flows



# Opportunities to improve food systems

## ASSESSING INFORMAL FOOD FLOWS

- Food flows are largely informal
- Provides real-time database to track changes in food flows
- Novel approach in collecting data was able to contribute to identifying policy and planning options to improve food system transformation



# Opportunities to improve food systems

## FOOD AND VEGETABLE NUTRITION

- Aims to describe the general trends surrounding fruit and vegetable consumption in households and characterize how retail affects fruit and vegetable sales
- Co-designing prototypes and methods with retailers to sell more fruits and vegetables



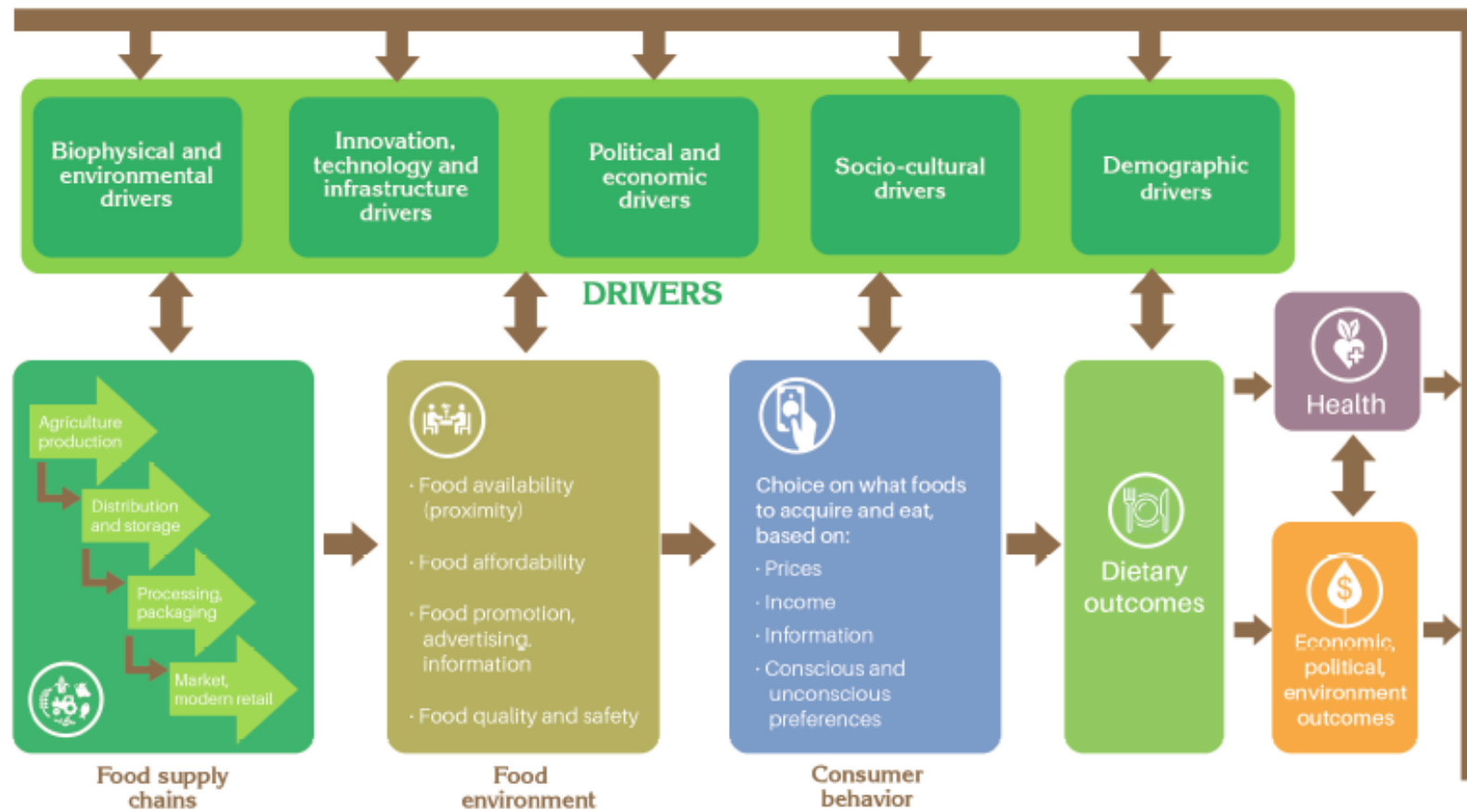
# Opportunities to improve food systems

## FOOD AND VEGETABLE NUTRITION

- Addresses food safety concerns
- Developed outreach activities for raising awareness on fruit and vegetables consumption
  - Coupons
  - Modern stalls
  - Social Media and Public Address system



# Undertaking uncertainties & disaster events



# Lessons learned



Photo: Reuters

- Understanding the interaction of the districts and provinces in the Northern Vietnam region allowed for the local food system and food value chains to develop as they respond and recover from shocks.

# Lessons learned



- The support of important actors who are on management boards, authorities, service providers and participants ensure smoother implementation of new approaches to explore food system issues.



# Lessons learned



- Recognize that many food traders and sellers as well as consumers are also family farmers. Actions to enable the food distribution will help family farmers to have better access to food.



# Thank you!

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