

THE CASE FOR NUTRITION SENSITIVE VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS

What gets measured gets improved

*Maha Tahiri, PhD.
Adjunct Professor, Tufts University*

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY NUTRITION SENSITIVE VALUE CHAIN

“Nutrition sensitive value chain: A food chain consists of all stakeholders who participate in the coordinated production & value-adding activities that are needed to make food products (FAO, 2014). Though the traditional focus has been on economic value, nutrition sensitive value chains leverage opportunities to enhance supply and/or demand for nutrition foods, as well as opportunities to add nutritional value (and/or minimize food and nutrient loss) at each step of the chain, thereby improving the availability, affordability, quality and acceptability of nutritious foods. For lasting impacts on nutrition, this approach must be placed in a sustainable context”

Global Forum on Food security and Nutrition, FAO, WFP, IFAD, Biodiversity International



RATIONALE FOR A NUTRITION SENSITIVE VALUE CHAIN APPROACH



Maternal and Child Nutrition 2

Evidence-based interventions for improvement of maternal and child nutrition: what can be done and at what cost?

Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Jai K Das, Arjumand Rizvi, Michelle F Gaffey, Neff Walker, Susan Horton, Patrick Webb, Anna Lartey, Robert E Black, The Lancet Nutrition Interventions Review Group, and the Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group

Impacts of agriculture on nutrition: Nature of the evidence and research gaps

Patrick Webb and Eileen Kennedy

- Lancet on maternal & child nutrition 2008: 36 countries representing 90% of the global malnutrition burden and concluded that implementation at scale of the interventions would not achieve global targets
- Lancet follow up series 2013: only 15% of death of children younger than 5 years if populations can access 10 evidence base nutrition intervention at 90% coverage.
- The lancet group concluded: " *nutrition intervention should be combined with nutrition sensitive approaches ie women empowerment, agriculture, food systems, education, employment, social protection, and safety nets..*"
- Webb & Kennedy: analysis of 10 papers showed that "the empirical evidence for plausible and significant impacts of agriculture on defined nutrition outcomes remains disappointingly scarce" .

Strategies for nutrition sensitive value chain intervention



- Biofortification
- Micronutrient fertilisers
- Innovation on Nutrient-rich varieties & Labor saving methods

- Intercropping
- Soil & water management
- Greenhouses
- Support nutrient-rich production

- Food safety std
- Mandatory fortification
- Nutrient preserving processing
- packing horticulture prd at cooperative level

- Road & energy infrastructure
- Rural transport Policy
- Refrigerated transport

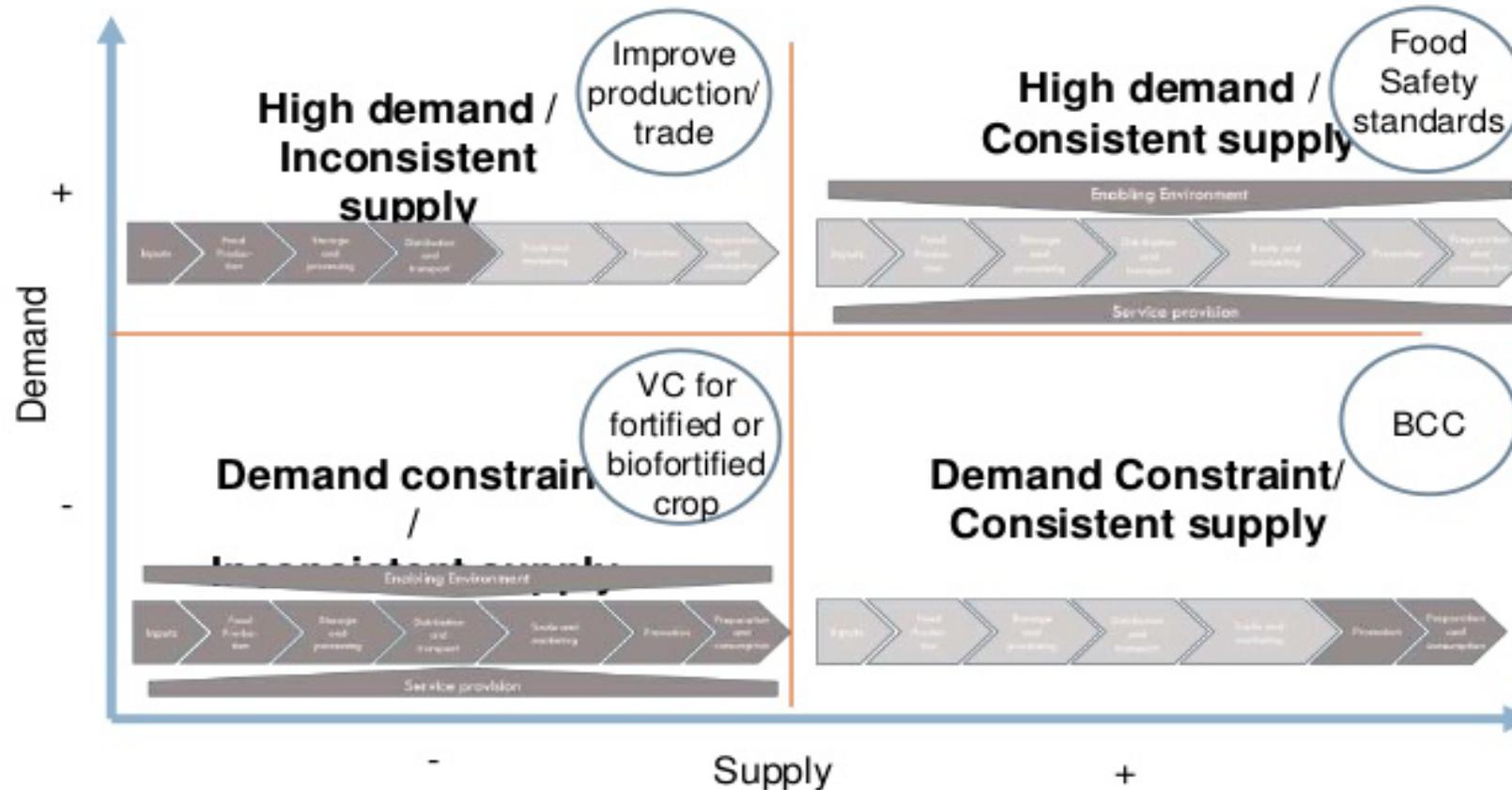
- Trade policies & agreements
- infrastructure
- ↑ N domestic & international buyers
- Expanding local demand
- Behavior change Com

- Family meals
- Exposure of children to a variety of foods
- Cooking classes
- Policies to ↓ food waste
- Safe disposal of agricultural waste

1-INCREASE SUPPLY

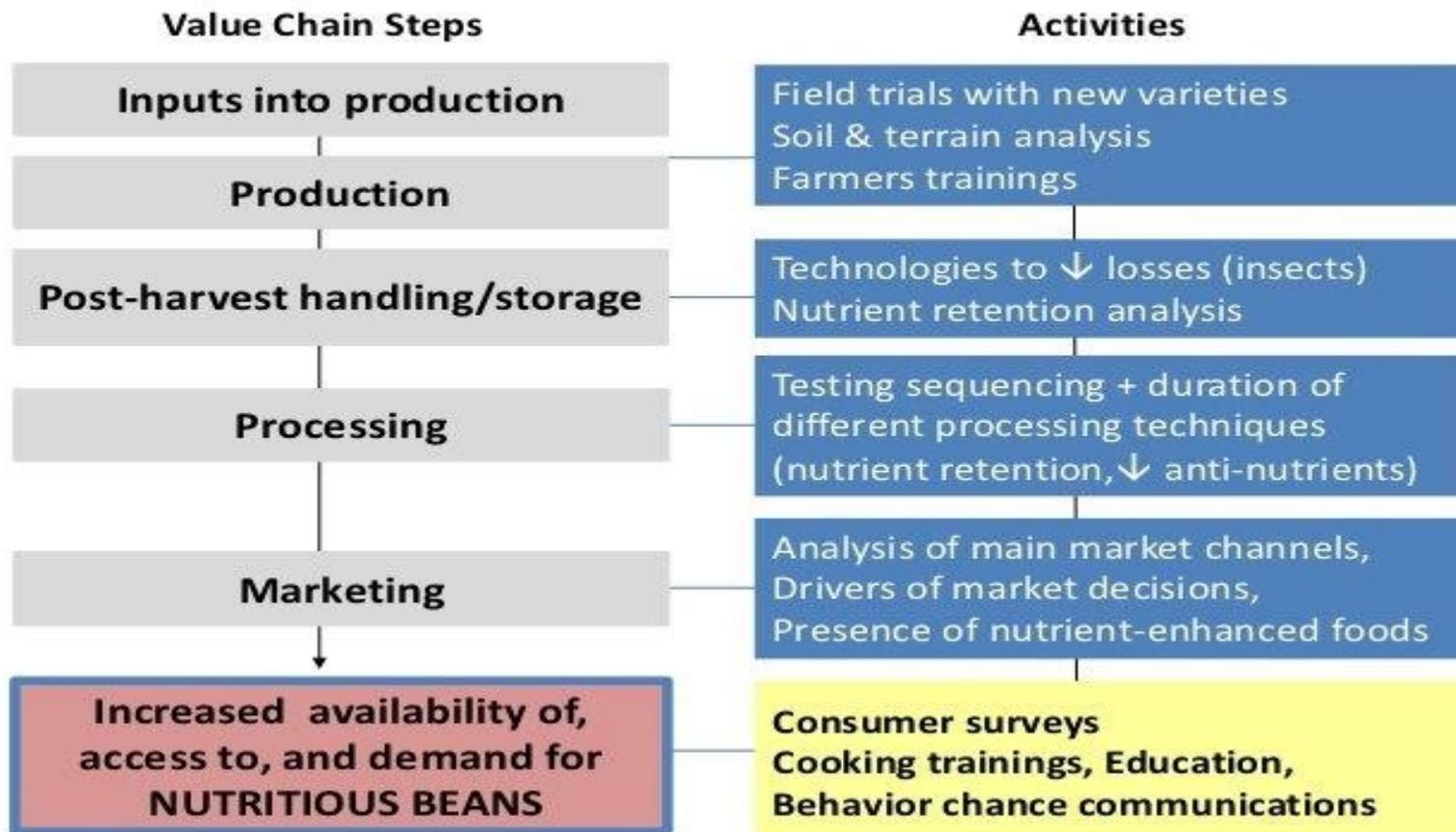
2-INCREASE DEMAND

NSVC Strategies depends on the scenario



Example Enhancing Nutritional Value and Marketability of Beans through Research and Strengthening Key Value Chain Stakeholders in Uganda

A Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chain for Beans (Uganda)



Proof of concept: Laiterie du Berger LB (Le Port *et al.* 2017)

Impact of the delivery of Iron-fortified yogurt through a dairy value chain program on hemoglobin



- LB Buys milk from semi-nomadic pastoralists to produce a fortified traditional yogurt. Milk availability is seasonal, powder was used to make the fortified Yogurt.
- Anemia was 80% at Baseline
- Yogurts were offered when pastoralists met their milk delivery targets which in turn regularized milk collection
- Yogurts were delivered the next week when milk was picked up to optimize transport cost
- Yogurt were directly delivered to women
- Behavior Communication change approach on fortified products was used concomitantly
- Hb increased significantly in the intervention group (+0.55g/dl) after 1 year in 24 to 59month children

Considerations

- Clear definition of the nutrition problem and the goal
- Broad search for solutions but need to be applicable locally
- Coordination of the whole chain is key
- Add value to the actors along the value chain
- Adopt “consumer first” approach, the best way to increase or create demand
- Influence Policy to elevate nutrition in their agenda
- Last but not least engage the private sector: from large, vertically integrated multinational companies to Individuals who transport, store, aggregate, or sell food