

The importance of climate resilience for food security, illustrated through projects of FAO

Flemish Parliament
21 October 2019

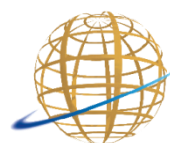
In collaboration with:



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Parlement



UNRIC



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Global Network





SPEAKERS

- **H.E. Tedson Aubrey Kalebe**, Ambassador of Malawi in Belgium
- **James Okoth**, Deputy FAO Representative Malawi FAO Malawi
- **Eva Maes**, Policy Advisor on Agriculture and Food Security, Flanders
Department of Foreign Affairs

MODERATOR

- **Ruben Arnaerts**, Trainee Project Manager CIFAL Flanders



OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Tedson Aubrey Kalebe

Ambassador of Malawi in Belgium



Eva Maes

Policy Advisor on Agriculture and Food Security, Flanders Department of
Foreign affairs



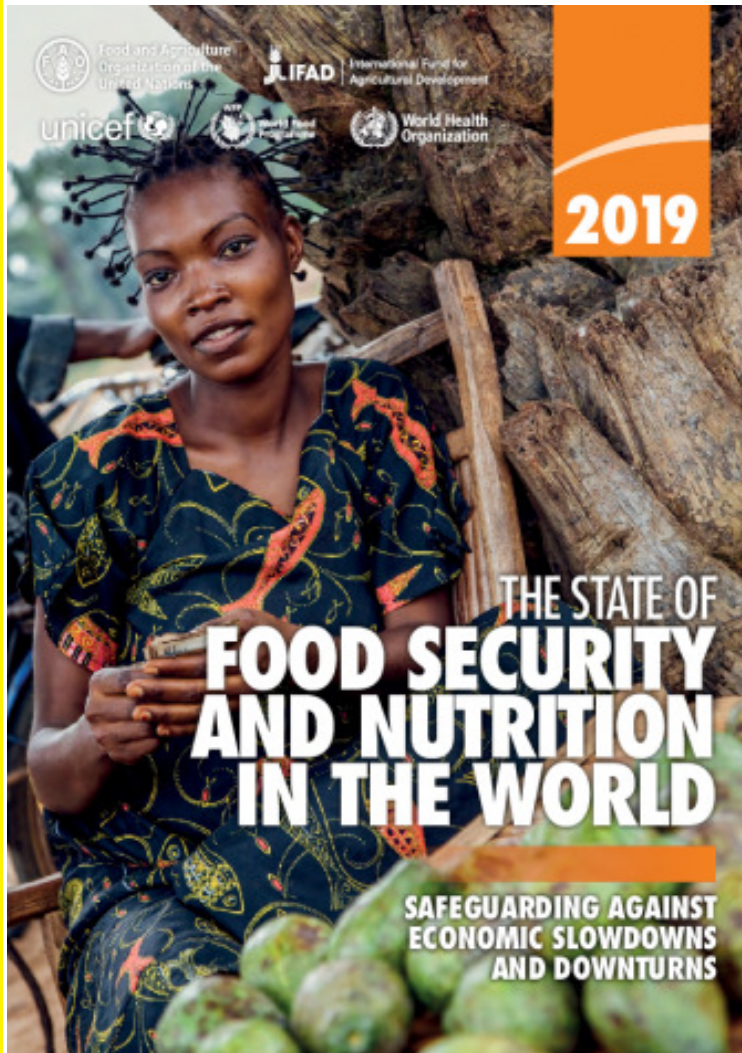
Flanders
State of the Art

The importance of climate resilience for food security in Malawi

Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs

UN DAY Flanders – 21 OCTOBER 2019

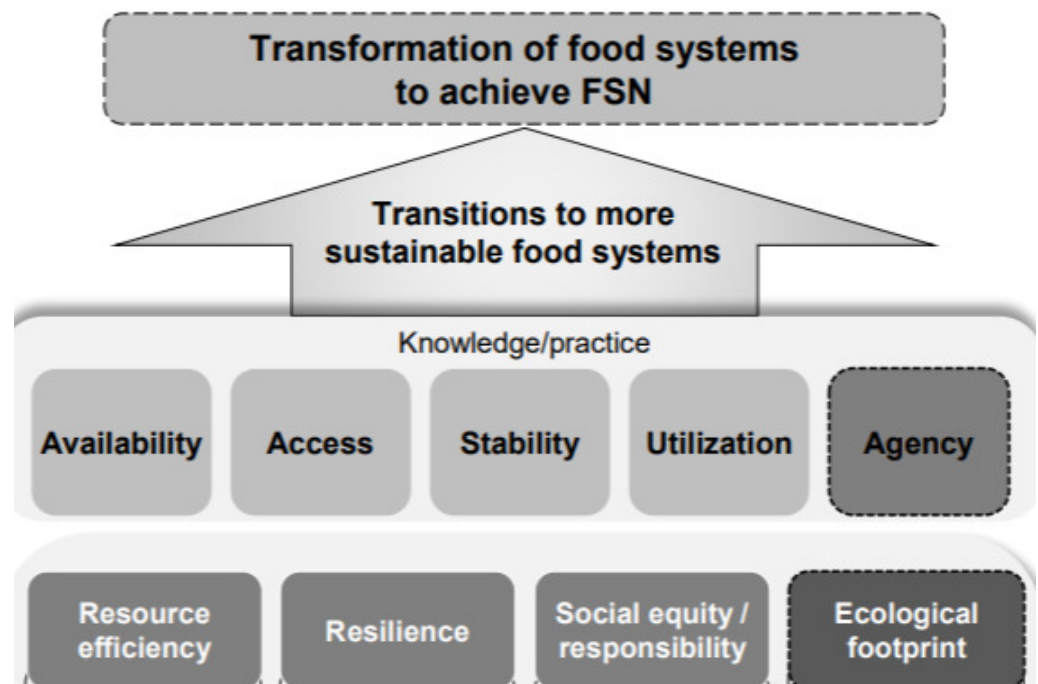




- ▶ 820 mio people are hungry
- ▶ 2 billion people: no regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food
- ▶ Overweight and obesity
- ▶ Economic slowdown and downturns
⇒ ↘ Resilience capacity
- + Mounting challenges

Right to adequate food

- ▶ pro-poor and inclusive transformation
 - economic and social policies
 - tackling existing inequalities
- ▶ Global food systems at crossroads
 - Food systems & nutrition
 - Agro-ecology and other innovative approaches
 - Sustainable food systems



Government of Flanders intends to contribute to a new international partnership for sustainable development based on solidarity, equality, cooperation and international law

- **Agriculture**
- **Food security**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Health**



2 ZERO HUNGER



Strong focus on Southern Africa and cooperation with three partner countries



Malawi



Mozambique



South Africa

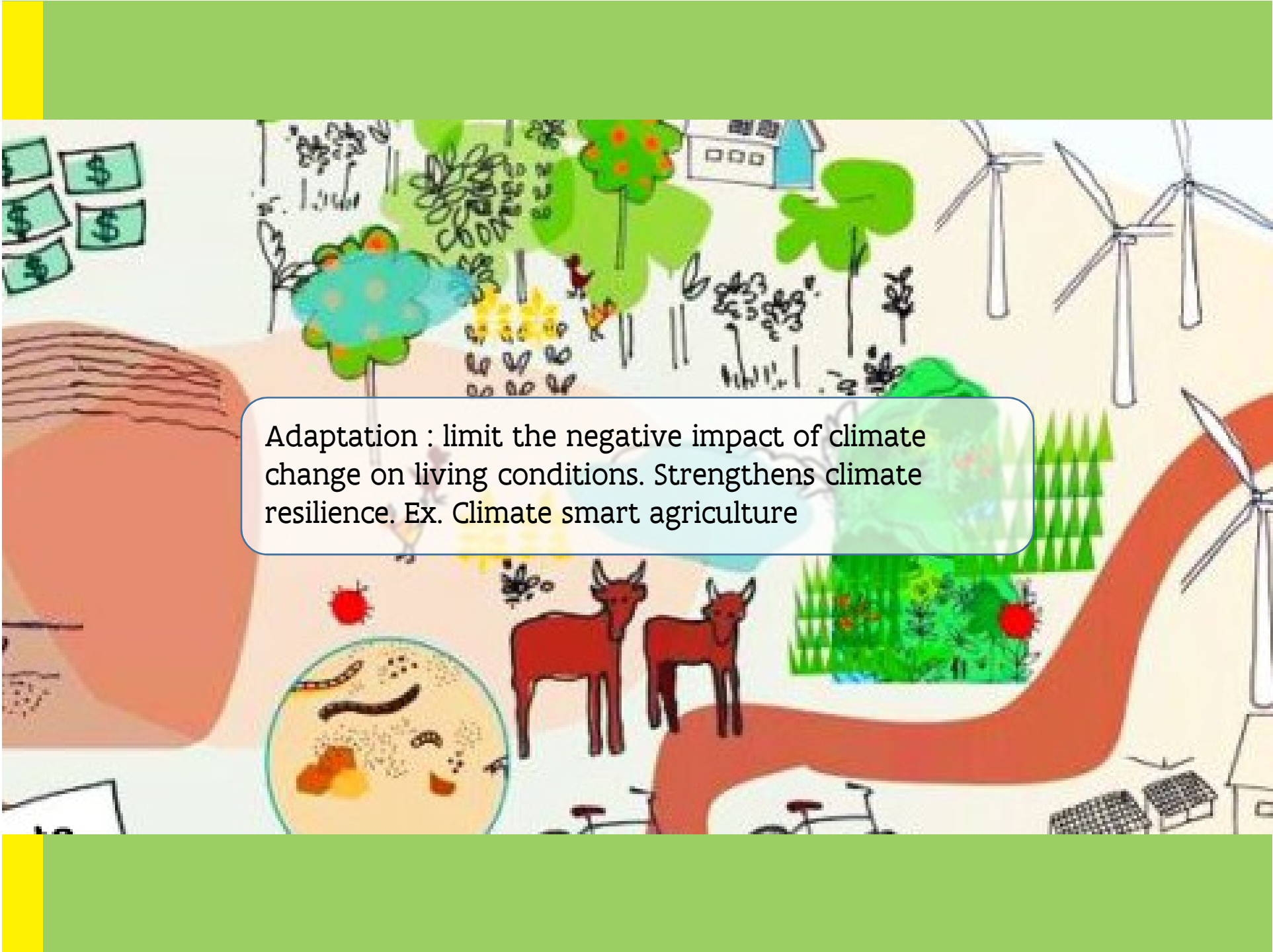
Agenda 2030

Key values: Human rights, good governance & equal opportunities

Innovation, systems thinking and partnerships



Climate
finance

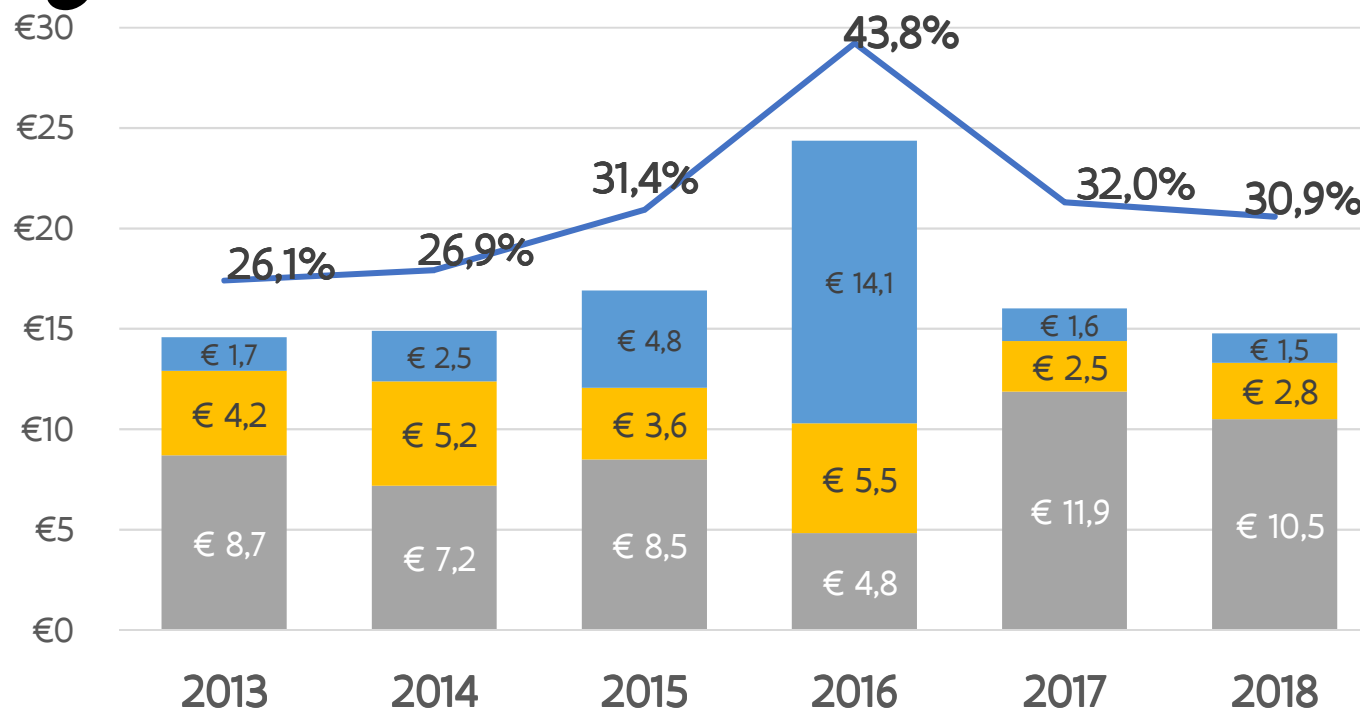


Adaptation : limit the negative impact of climate change on living conditions. Strengthens climate resilience. Ex. Climate smart agriculture



Mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ex. green energy, energy efficiency, carbon harvesting and storage

Co-operation with multilateral organisations



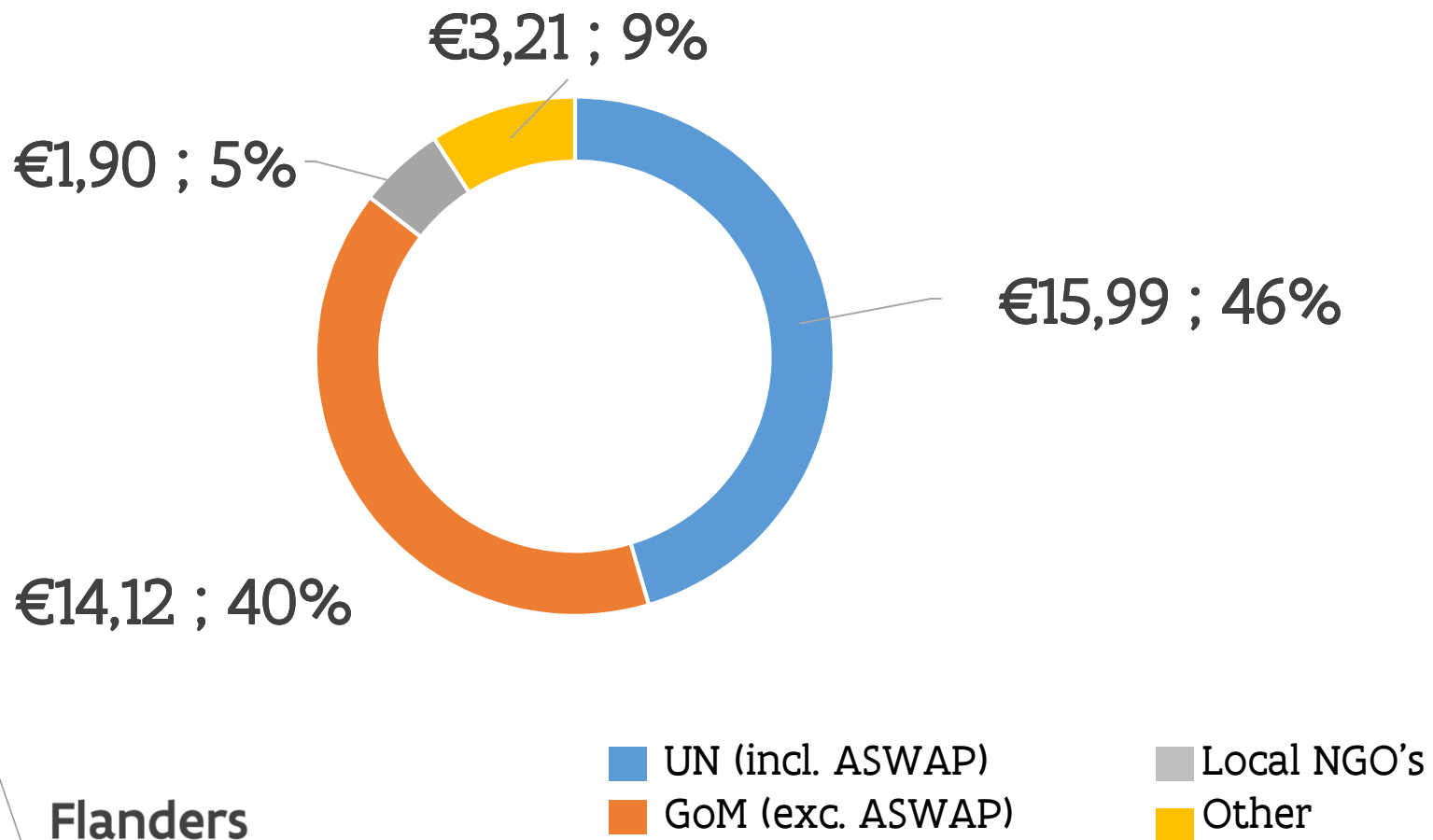
- Bi-Multi contributions, earmarked on projects
- Bi-Multi contributions, earmarked on existing pgms and funds
- Unearmarked, multilateral contributions

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

FLANDERS MALAWI 2019 - 2023

- ▶ transformation of the agricultural sector
- ▶ specific attention to women and youth
- ▶ increase, diversify and commercialize agricultural production in a sustainable way
- ▶ participate in inclusive markets
- ▶ better, resilient livelihoods.

ODA to Malawi - 2014-2018



Food security/climate resilience

UN – Flanders in Malawi



Way Forward



Flanders
State of the Art



James Okoth

Deputy FAO Representative, Malawi FAO Malawi

Building Resilience of Communities to Effects of Climate Change (*Experiences from Malawi*)

OKOTH, James Robert

FAO MALAWI



Context

- Marginal and fragile ecosystems prone to hydrological hazards
- Extreme weather conditions – recurrent & prolonged dry spells, poor rainfall distribution, flash floods, etc.
- Massive environmental degradation and deterioration of rangeland health and productivity (*more invasive, poisonous weeds & woody species*)
- New epicentres for Transboundary Animal Diseases and Pests
- Fast growing population
- Cumulative effects of successive shocks have led to low productivity resulting in Chronic Food and Nutrition insecurity



Programming Realities

- Gender dimension - Livelihoods of vulnerable segments of society (*women, elderly & child hh with little control over productive assets*) more impacted by effects of CC
- Resilience building is complex due to heterogeneity and multi-faceted nature of the vulnerability drivers
- Fragmented frameworks and initiatives undermining attainment of desired goals
- Short funding cycles
- Capacities of Extension Services to cope with complex change
- Heavy reliance on wood fuel



Opportunities

- Policy and development strategy instruments prioritising CC – MGDS, NAIP, MNSSP and NRS
- Government has adopted a multi sectoral approach to tackle underlying drivers and effects of CC
- Development partners (Donors, UN and CSOs) increasingly embracing more holistic approaches
- Reforms within the UN leading to more joint and long term programming



Approach

- Blending Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation addressing multiple threats to livelihoods with short- and medium-term interventions
- **Catchment**-base interventions – critical mass of good practice
- **Programme** approach Vs one-off projects
- Comprehensive institutional **capacity development** to augment exiting conventional approaches with requisite responsive & holistic transformative farmer education
- Involvement of key institutions (academia, research, traditional leaders etc.)
- Placing the resources users at the centre of diagnosis and planning for their community interventions - **Community outreach**



Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- Strengthening agricultural extension delivery services to be responsive to the unique needs of farming communities under CC
- Enhancing surveillance capabilities for timely response to pest and disease outbreaks
- Enhancing coordination and linkages across agriculture, social protection and resilience programmes
- Climate risk monitoring and early warning systems
- Linking short-term emergency response to long term resilience programming

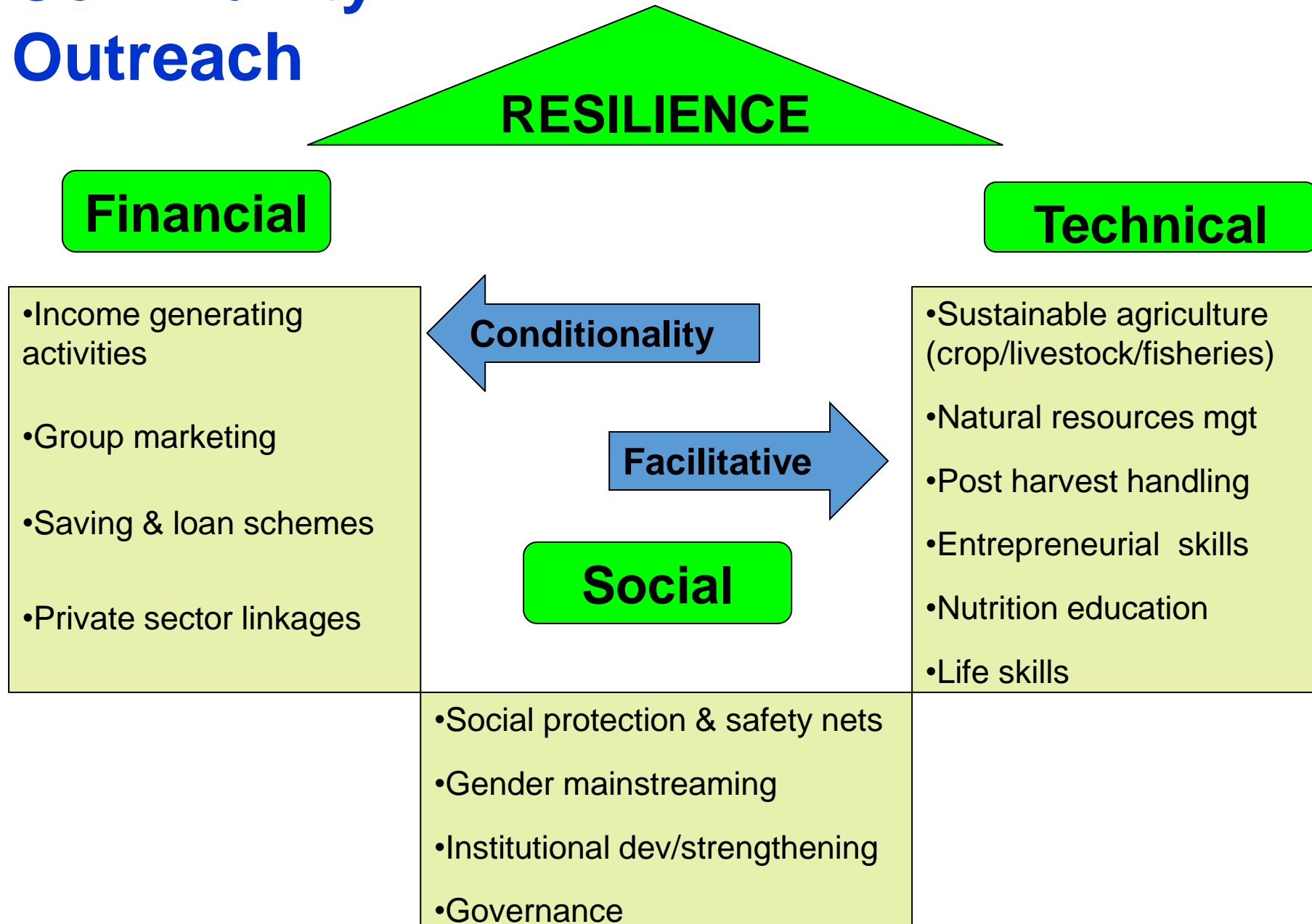


Community Outreach

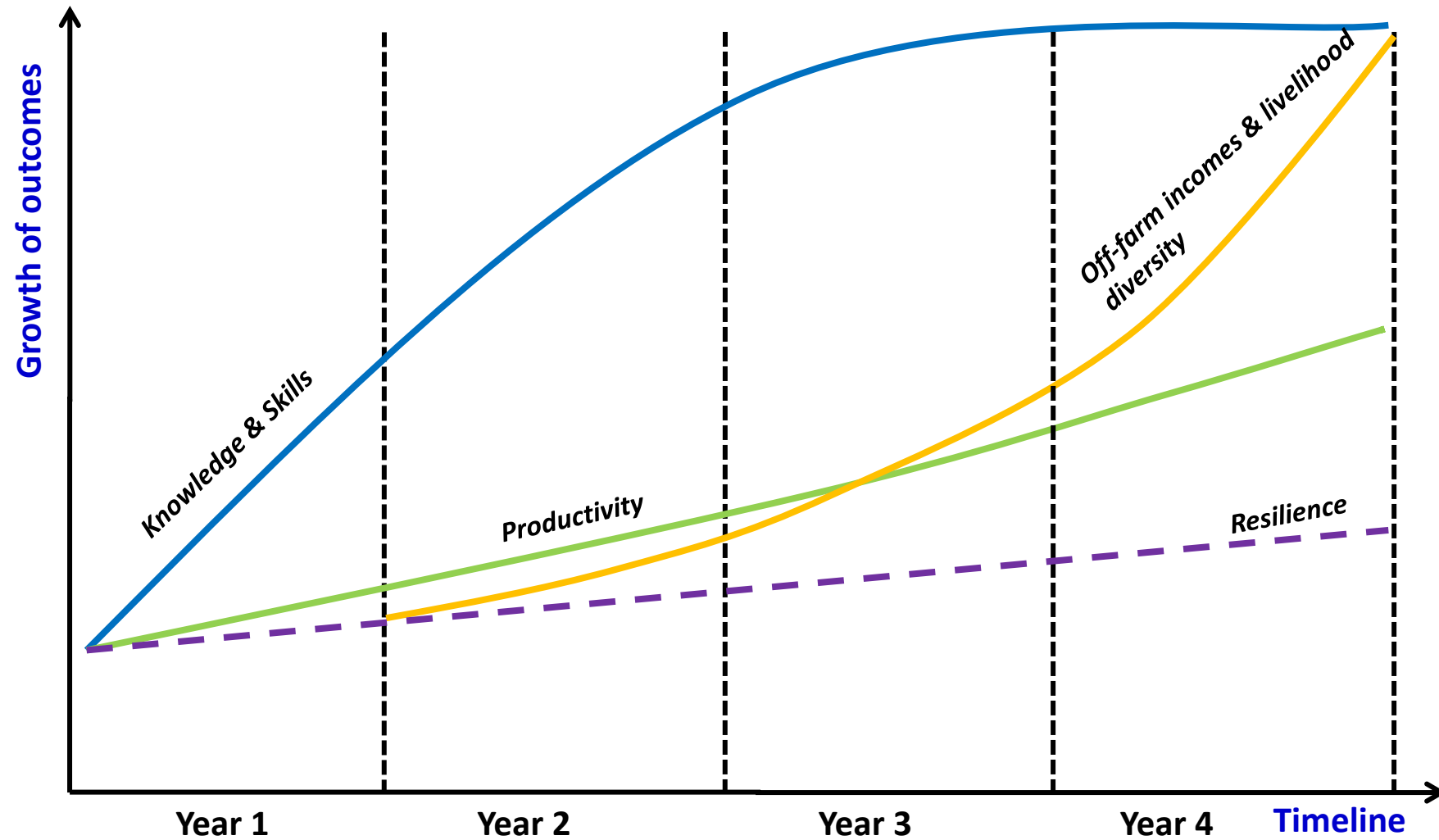
- Placing communities at the centre of risk management
- **Diversification** and **Accumulation** of assets, two precursors to building household and community resilience
- Enhances farmer peer learning & transformative empowerment (knowledge) through FFS
- Diverse and dynamic **Content** - blending DRR and CCA addressing multiple threats to livelihoods with short- & medium-term interventions
- Working simultaneously on three mutually reinforcing dimensions: **Technical** + **Financial** + **Social**



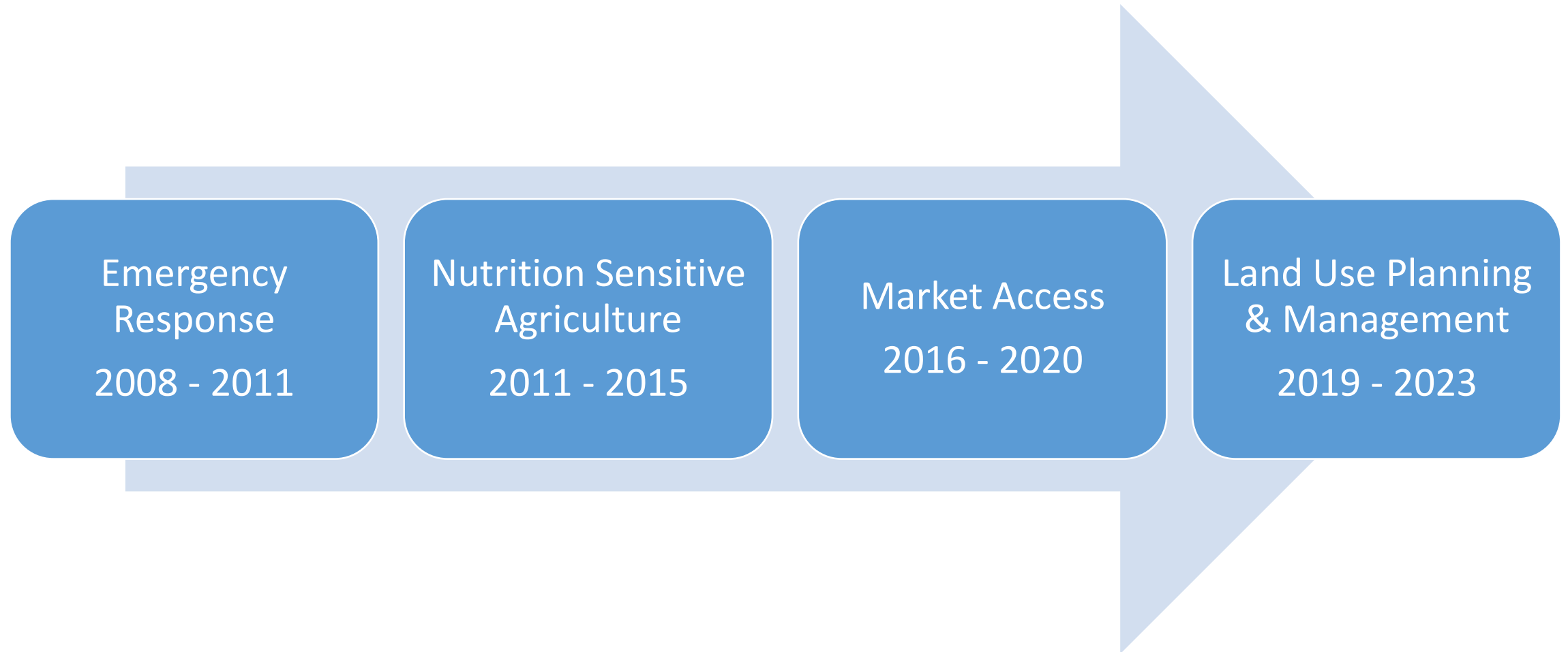
Community Outreach



Schematic Progression of Results

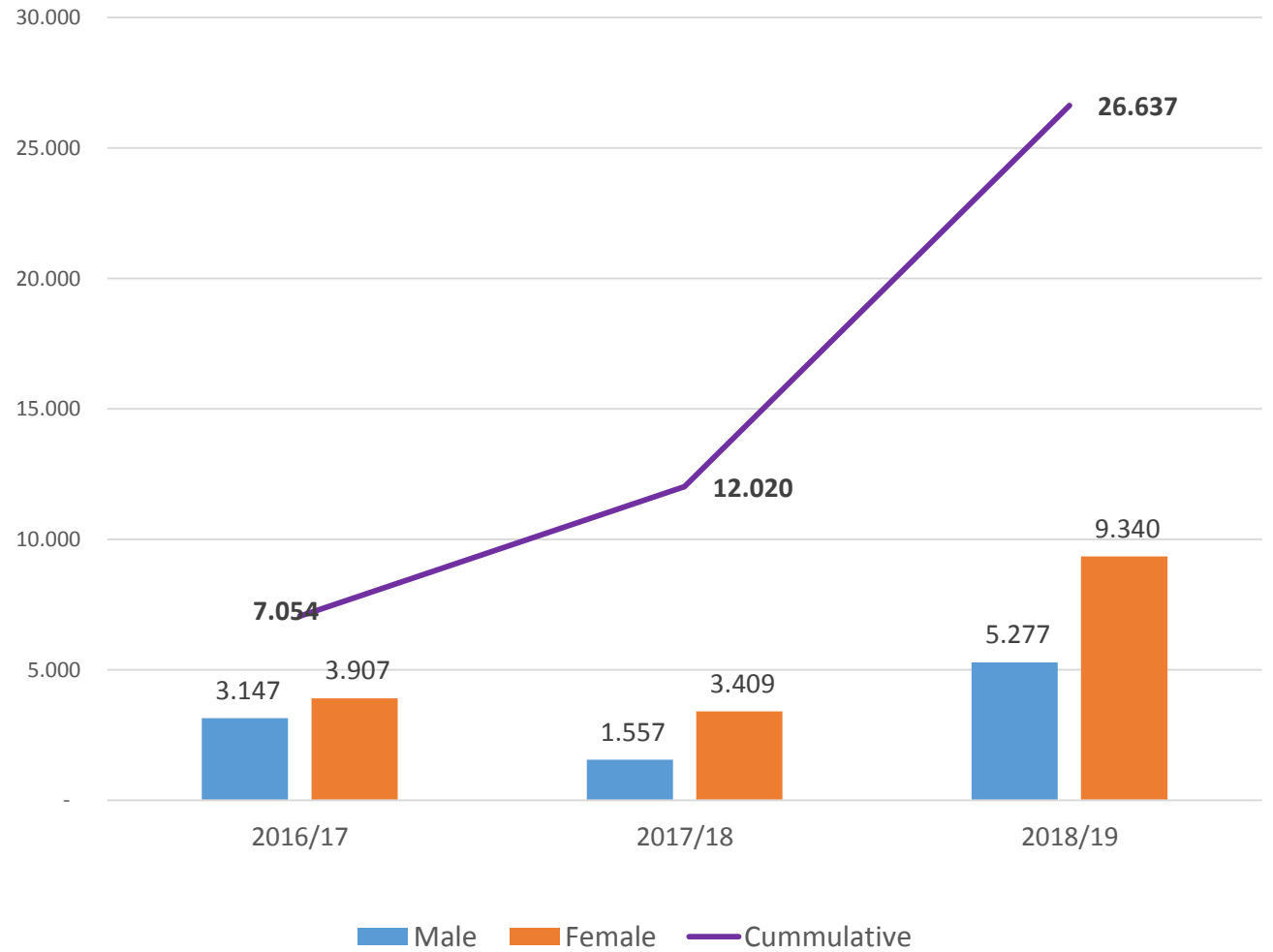


FAO – GoM Collaboration with Support from the Government of Flanders



Profile of Beneficiaries

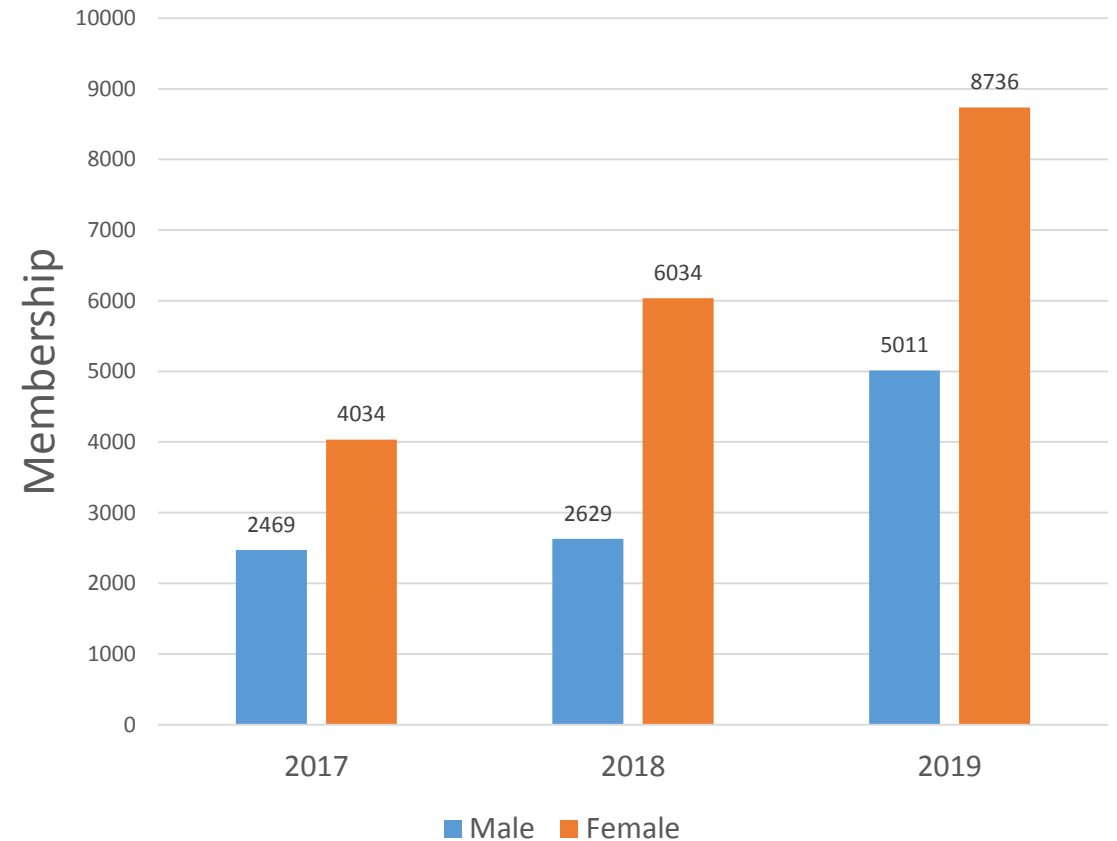
- 991 Farmer Organisations nurtured
- Direct beneficiary HH to date: 26,637
- Proportion of Women: 63%
- Proportion of Youth: 36%
- Direct beneficiary population: 133,185
- Community outreach scope of influence: 400,000



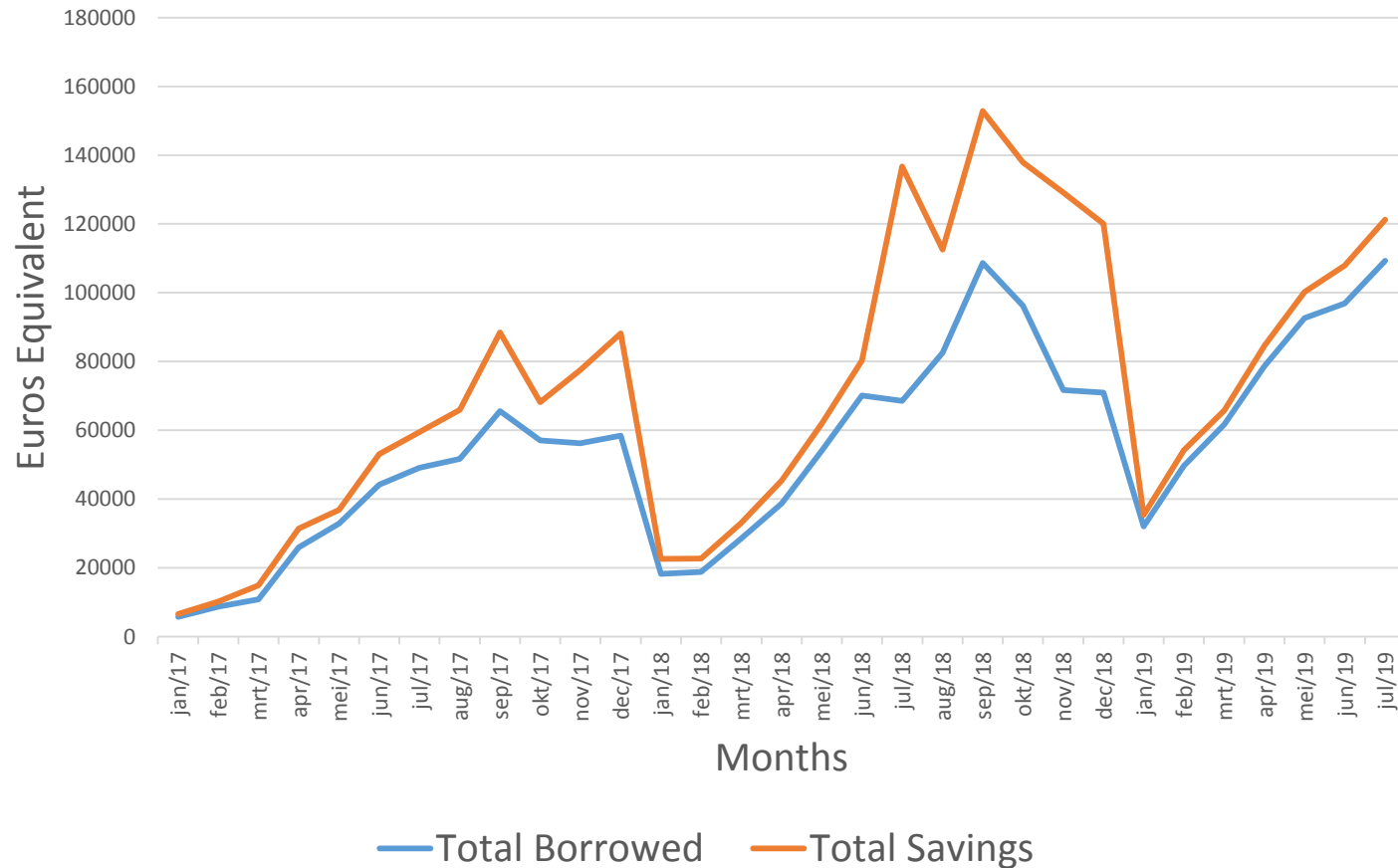
Rural Savings Mobilisation

- Women more receptive to participating in group savings at 63%
- Women are less likely to default loans
- Translating technical & entrepreneurial skills, into meaningful small businesses hence diversifying sources of income and more resilient
- Strong correlation between participating in group saving and engaging in bulking and collective marketing

Enrolment in Group Savings



Savings and Loan Trends 2017 - 2019

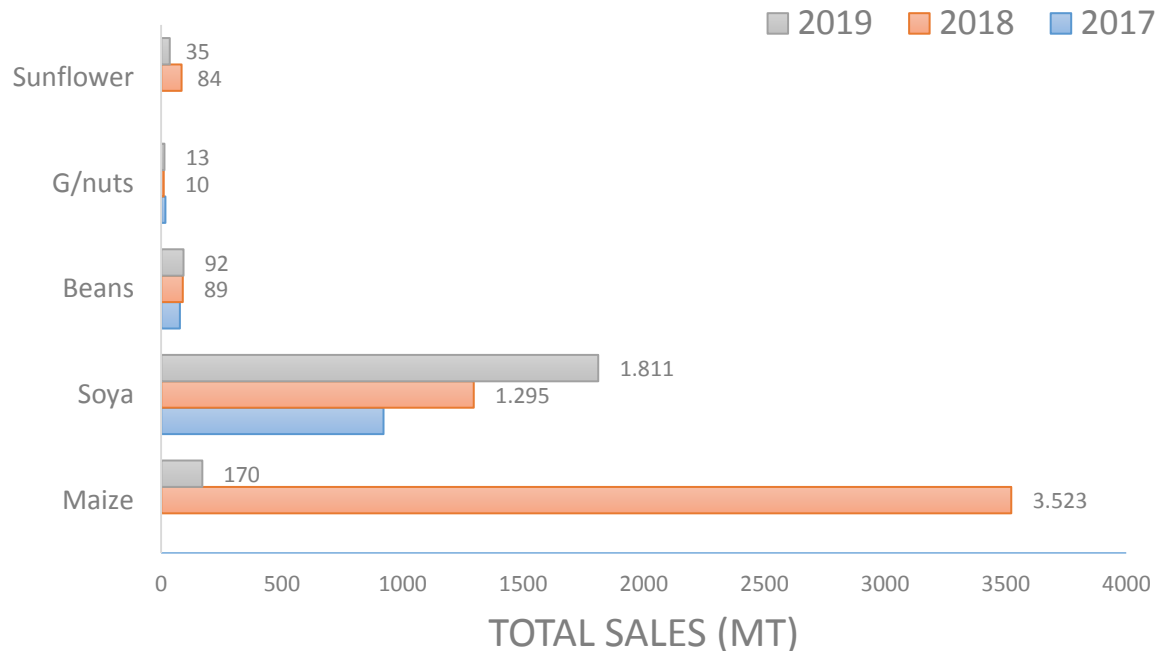


- Gradual growth in accumulated savings: **€130 917** in 2018 and **€121 232** as of July 2019
- About 90% of saving in circulation as loans accruing interests to members
- Households able to procure own inputs in a timely manner – depicted by the depreciations in the curves



Commodity Aggregation

Commodities Sales through Collective Bulking centres



Better hh income translating in improved livelihoods & resilience

- Increased functional commodity bulking centre by 126% and contracts with agro processors have improved farmers' bargain
- Increased volumes aggregated:
 - Soya from 6MT to 1 811 MT
 - Beans from 1 MT to 92 MT
- Income from the 2019 sales
 - Soya : €619 288
 - Beans : €70 845
 - Maize : €39 087



Conclusions

- The iterative programming incorporating emerging lessons has over the years resulted into meaningful strengthening of community resilience
- Building Community resilience is a process that requires time, responsive and holistic transformative farmer education to complement existing Extension Services
- Blending entrepreneurial skills, group savings and knowledge on sustainable production practices is crucial if HH are to translate the concepts into meaningful investments
- Through aggregate marketing, even the very small holders are able to benefit from the good market process to meet their basic needs
- Strengthening extension services to cope with the changing needs of the farmers remains critical



Challenge

- Climate Change Adaptation is conceptual and complex – not ordinary facilitators – need for an inbuilt continuous capacity development
- Results are not immediate and therefore maintaining motivation of the farmers is crucial
- Necessitates translating from field level to farming systems and landscape level beyond a single commodity
- Tendency for geospatial distribution of activities yet this requires harmonization and convergence of interventions with selected communities over time
- Require multi-disciplinary teams which have diverse working methodologies – need for harmonization
- Public good attitude!!!





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