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Agricultural Food Value Chain Pathways

Deliverable No: 4.1 Technical Brief on Key Agricultural Food Value Chain Pathways
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Objective: To identify and map the key local and regional Agri-food value chain pathways showing the relevant actors and enabling environment and service providers

What is Agricultural food Value Chain*?*

Agricultural Food Value Chain (VC) is defined as "the full range of farms and firms and their successive coordinated value-adding activities that produce particular raw (agricultural) materials and transform them into particular food products that are sold to final consumers and disposed of after use, in a manner that is profitable throughout, has broad-based benefits for society, and does not permanently deplete natural resources" (FAO, 2014).

Figure 1: Focus group discussion and key informant interviews in Kenya.

Why to study Agri-food VC pathways*?*

Agribusiness corporations and private sector lack knowledge of smallholder sector as a market for their products/services and as potential suppliers for their inputs. Addressing this missing link between smallholder farmers and other key VC actors through vertical and horizontal integration is vital for economic growth. It also enhances smallholder livelihoods while serving business interest of private companies. Agri-food VC chain mapping was carried out in 6 countries of InnovAfrica Project (Table 1).

Table 1: Country case study sites and VC commodities analysed.

Value Chain	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Rwanda	Tanzania	South-Africa
Maize-Legume	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓
Millets-Legume	-		✓	-	✓	-
Brachiaria forage grass	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-

How to carry out Agri-food VC pathway analysis?

The Agri-food VC analysis on the Maize-Legume, Millets-Legume, and Brachiaria forage grass was carried out using VC model (Figure 2) and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis. In addition, household survey, focus group discussions and literature review were used to gather information on VC actors in each country case study sites.

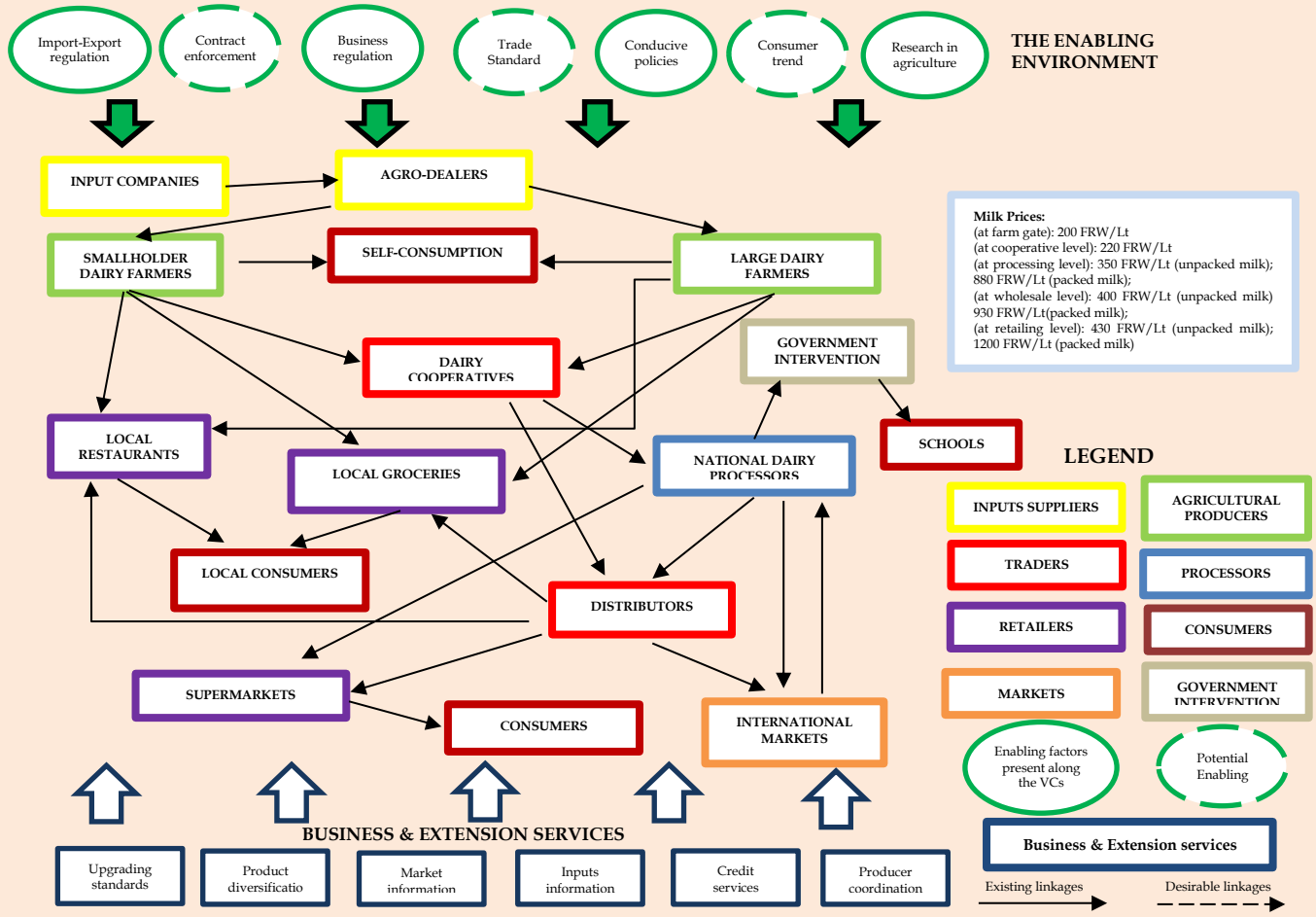

Figure 2: Example of the full VC map used in the analysis (Source: own elaboration).

Key Messages

- The SWOT simulation provides analytical evidence in support of VC model and contributes to identify strategies/policies that could enhance the functioning of the whole VC.
- The VCs are characterised by different levels of complexity and integration among the actors involved along the various chain-segments.
- Many differences exist between the various VCs products and actors in case-studies; e.g. smallholders generally experience low and unstable farm-gate prices, limited access to information, inputs and credit, inadequate infrastructures and market opportunities, and inefficient coordination with the other actors operating along the same chain.

REFERENCES & LINKS

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) (2014) Developing sustainable food VCs – Guiding principles. Rome.

www.innovafrica.eu

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