

Scaling-up Multiple Biofortified Crops for Nutrition Security in Nigeria and Tanzania

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Background

Almost a quarter of the people in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer from micronutrient malnutrition (hidden hunger) in particular, vitamin A, iron and zinc deficiency. Biofortification is recognized as a cost-effective, culturally acceptable, and sustainable solution to reducing hidden hunger.

Building Nutritious Food Baskets (BNFB) Project

The Building Nutritious Food Baskets (BNFB) project is testing a scaling-up model through a multi-crop (“food basket”) approach to contribute to the reduction in hidden hunger in Tanzania and Nigeria. This is done by catalyzing sustainable investments for the production and utilization of biofortified crops, namely vitamin A orange-fleshed sweetpotato; vitamin A (yellow) cassava, vitamin A (orange) maize and high iron beans. The project targets the rural populations, especially young children under the age of five years and women of reproductive age.

Reducing hidden hunger in Nigeria and Tanzania



Preliminary Results

Policies and new investment

- Situation analysis (SITAN) studies on biofortification: national and regional level SITAN reports and advocacy strategies were completed and are being implemented.
- Advocates and champions: **50** advocates and champions have helped implement the national and regional advocacy strategies to raise new investment.
- New investment: **US\$329,243** raised to support programs on biofortification.
- Supportive policies, strategies, plans: biofortification prioritized and included in **5** policy/strategy/plan documents in Nigeria and Tanzania.
- Advocacy and communications materials: a range of products and formats including a document folder, factsheets, flyers, leaflets, pull-up banners, videos, blog articles, posters, success stories and a web page.

Institutional and individual capacity strengthening

- **50** national and regional advocates and champions equipped with technical and advocacy skills to support their advocacy work.
- Biofortification institutionalized and mainstreamed in national programs and institutions e.g. Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute in Nigeria, Sokoine University of Agriculture and the Research, Community and Organizational Development Associates in Tanzania.
- **577 (263 female)** change agents (**283** Nigeria and **294** Tanzania) from public, private sectors and civil society organizations trained as trainers on OFSP, PVA maize and high-iron beans.



The BNFB Model

The BNFB model is based on the hypothesis that *“scaling up is dependent on supportive policy environment, strong institutional capacities and proven technologies”*

- 1. Supportive policy and investment environment:** BNFB builds capacity of diverse advocates and champions to promote and advocate for supportive national and regional policies, strategies and plans that prioritize support to biofortification, and mobilizing of new investment.
- 2. Strong institutional capacities:** BNFB strengthens the capacities of national and community institutions and individuals to design and implement gender-sensitive projects that ensure wide access and utilization of biofortified crops along their respective value chains.
- 3. Proven technologies:** BNFB supports breeding priorities of national agricultural research institutions and private sector companies for biofortified crops. The project facilitate the fast-tracking of release of new varieties and the mainstreaming of biofortified crops in national programs.

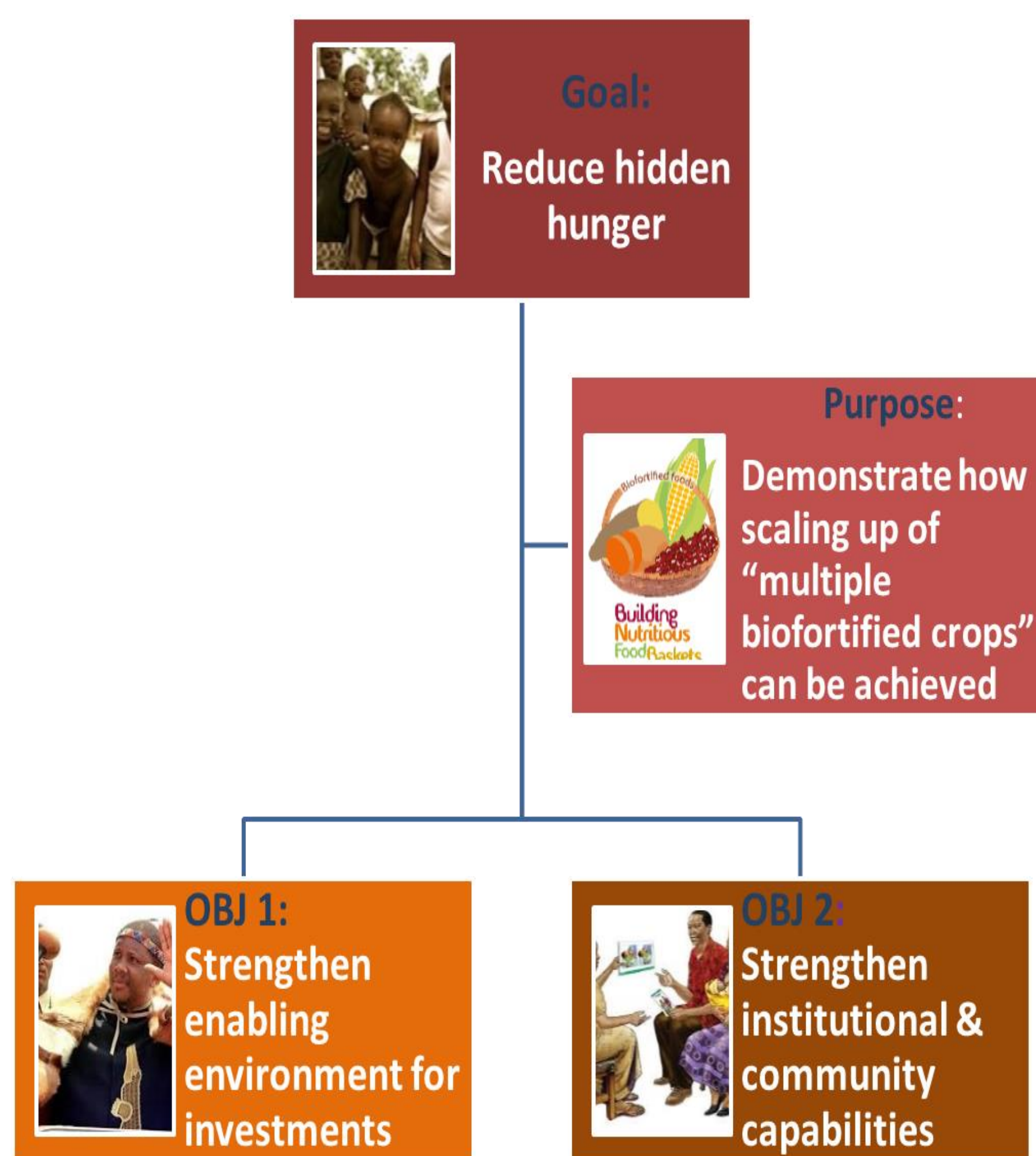
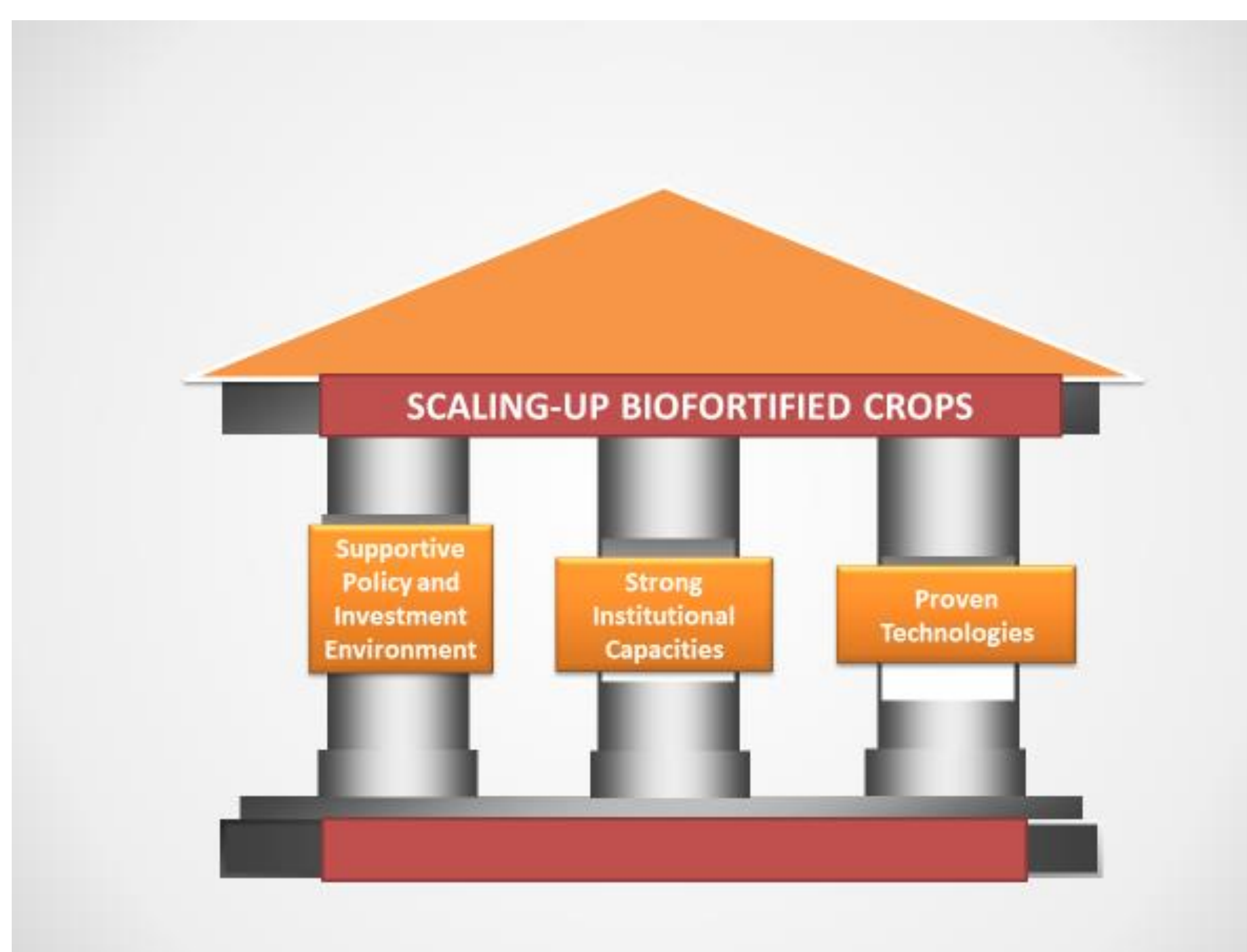


Figure 1: Results hierarchy for the BNFB project



Seed systems

- **4** PVA maize varieties have been released.
- Mother-baby trials have been established for **16** OFSP varieties in Tanzania.
- Seed systems and crop specific (PVA maize, OFSP and high iron beans) platforms launched
- **10** seed companies facilitated to multiply seed and/or process PVA maize grain and OFSP to create demand for biofortified products.

Conclusion

BNFB continues to test a scaling-up model for multiple biofortified crops through a concerted effort of diverse multisectoral multidisciplinary partnership advocating for supportive policies and investment, building strong institutions and ensuring that innovative technologies on biofortification reach a critical mass.

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