

Gender Equity Considerations in Food Systems for Healthier Diets

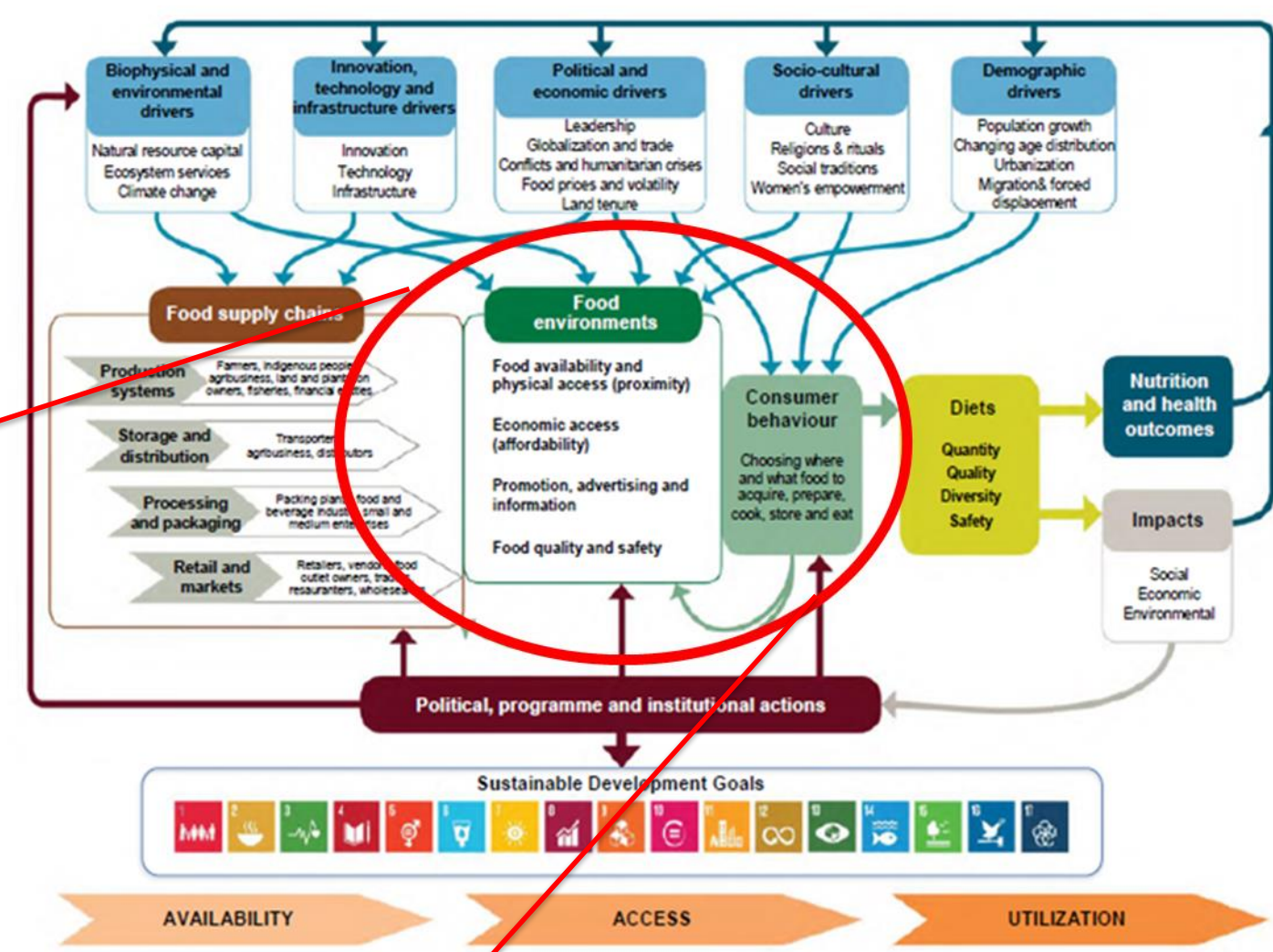
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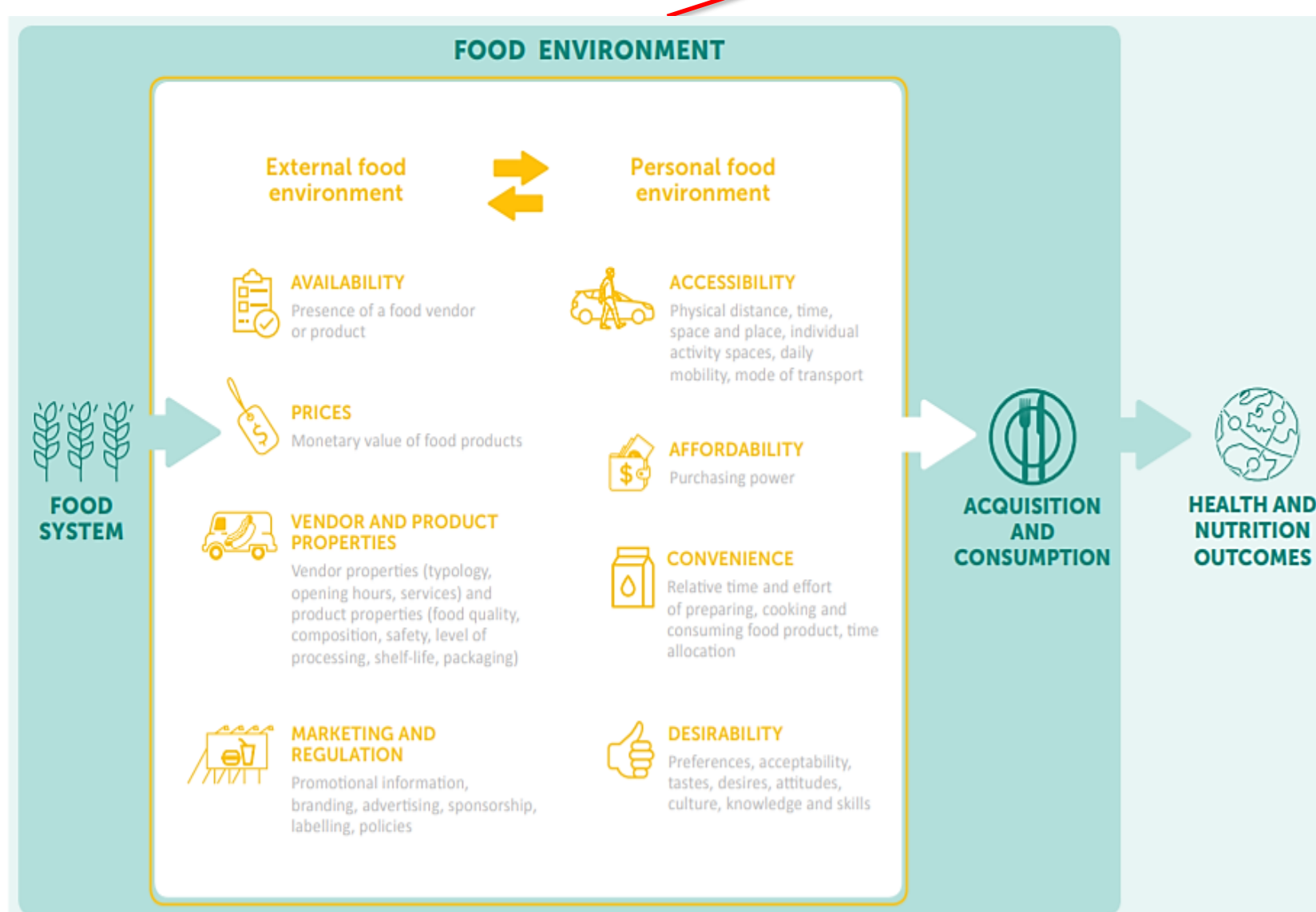
INTRODUCTION

In 2014 High Level Panel Experts (HLPE) provided a food system framework that addresses nutrition and health outcomes through different components. It visualizes how the core concepts of the framework: food environment and consumer behavior interact and influence diets and thus health outcomes. (HLPE, 2017).



Conceptual framework of food systems for diet and nutrition (HLPE, 2017)

Gender is a key issue to consider in the context of food systems that can easily be overlooked but that may play a key role in understanding how food systems can deliver healthy diets and address the triple burden of malnutrition.

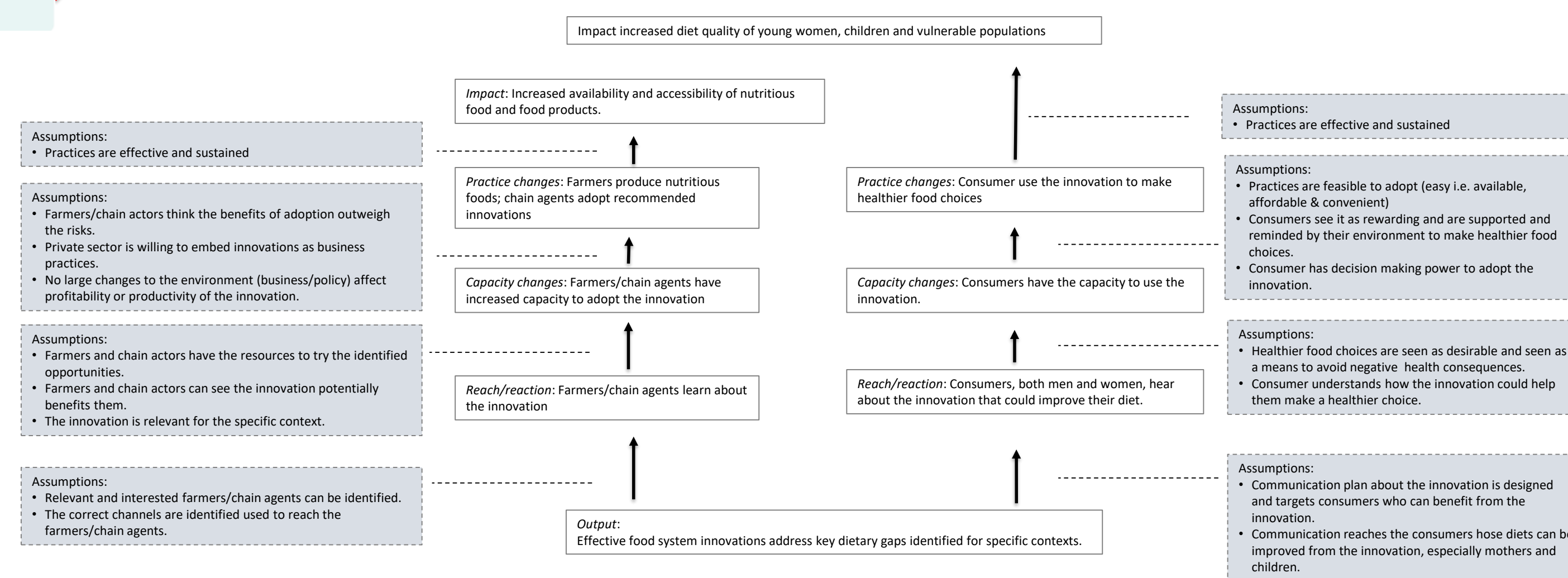


The ANH-FEWG food environment conceptual framework (Turner et al., 2017)

The food environment conceptual framework (Turner et al., 2017) examines the external and personal food environments in more detail and how these relate to health and nutrition outcomes.

Gender equity is not incorporated in the theory of change.

The pathway in the left side focuses on production and supply chain actors.

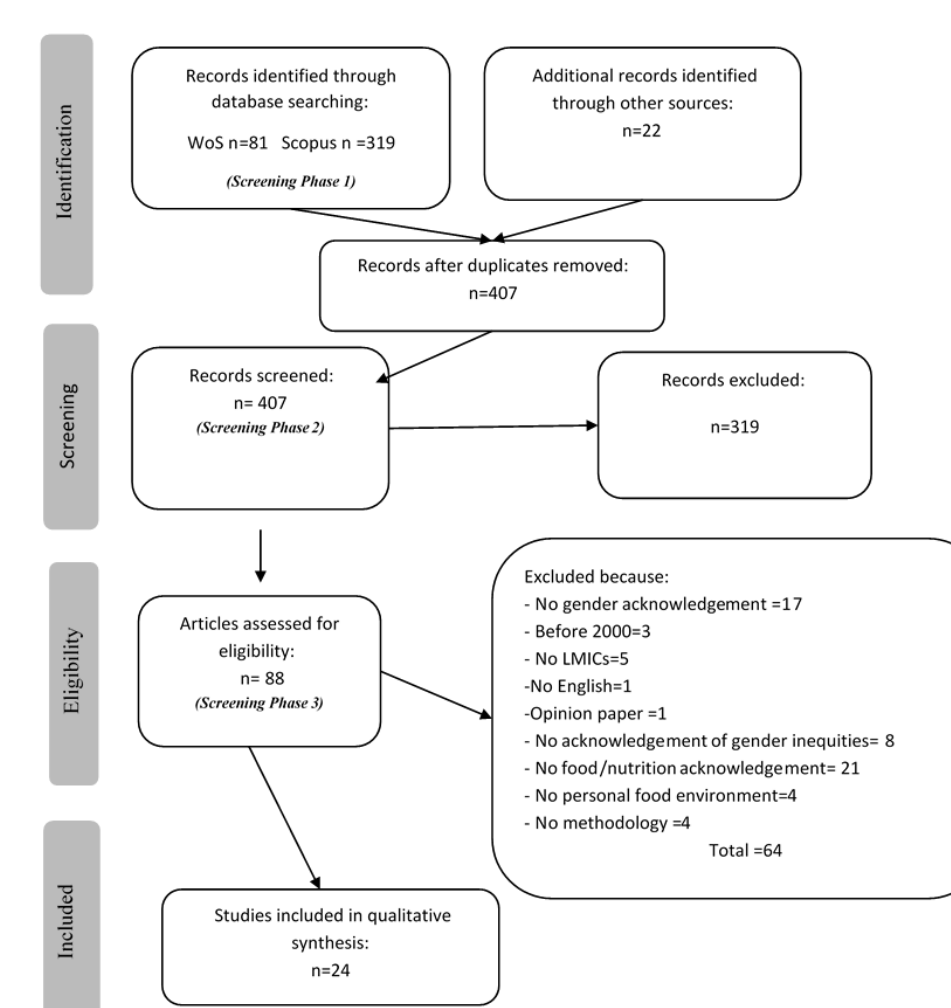
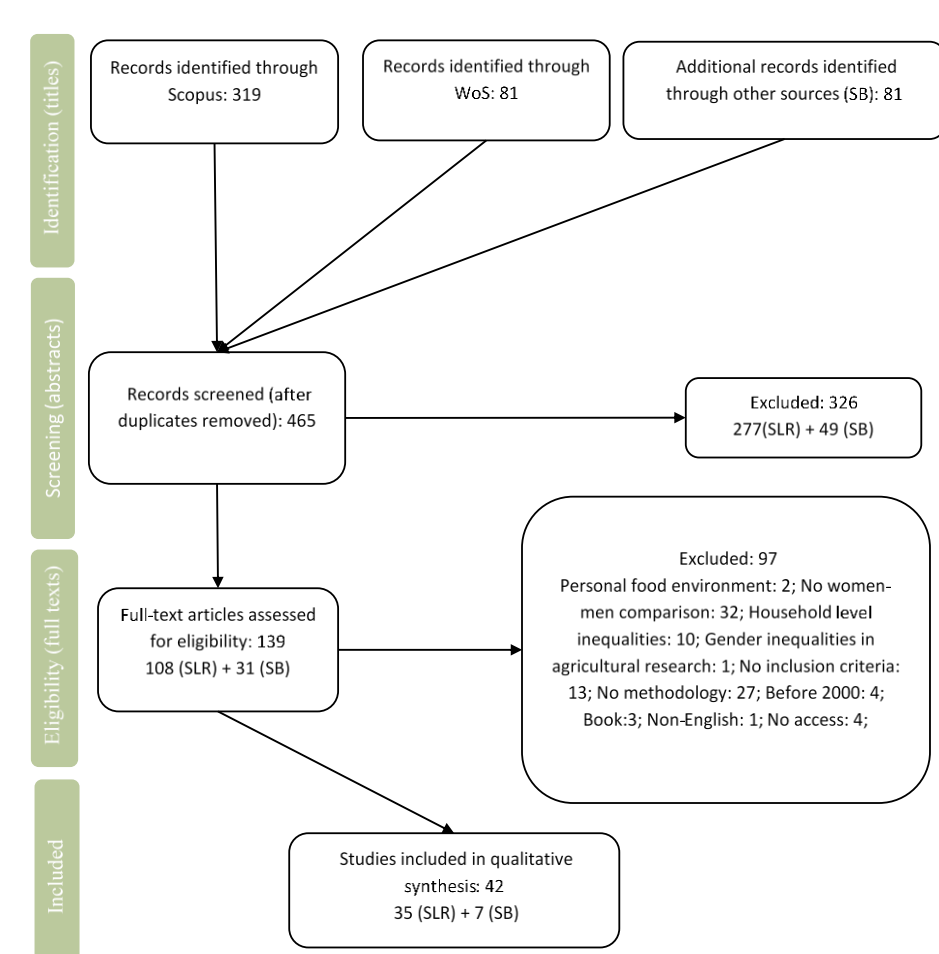


Theory of Change for Cluster of Activity 2: Food Systems Innovation for Flagship 1 of A4NH research program (IFPRI, 2018)

The pathway in the right side focuses on consumers.

METHODS

Systematic literature review



RESULTS

- Most research conducted in Africa.
- **Availability** (production)
 - Gender division of labor and decision-making related to production activities:
 - Men tend to make decisions related to cash crops.
 - Women tend to make decisions related to subsistence crops.
- **Prices**
- **Vendor and product properties**
- **Marketing and regulations**
 - A few studies focused on women's involvement in marketing decisions; but no clear patterns – in some contexts women involved in marketing and in others it's primarily a man's responsibility.

- Most of the research has been made around consumers in Asia and around producers in Africa, and very few in Latin America.
- Most studies focus on rural areas, not urban or peri-urban areas.
- Many studies do not have a comparative group. They focus on women without comparing to men or to different groups of women.

- Most research conducted in Asia.
- **Accessibility:** Women are often less mobile than men for a variety of reasons (childcare responsibilities, threat of violence, etc.) and thus have less access to markets.
- **Affordability:** Female and male consumers do not have equal food purchase power; related to women's economic empowerment and gender wage/income gaps.
- **Convenience:** Women are typically identified as primary care givers, and often face heavier time burdens; thus healthy, affordable convenience foods are needed.
- **Desirability:** While cultural norms often dictate food preferences, power relations within households often dictate how food is allocated (i.e. who is served first, who is favored in terms of quantity and desirable portions). Women, when preparing food, often consider preferences of other household members.

Not many articles on these topics, most related to production.

REFERENCES

HLPE. (2017). *Nutrition and food systems*.
IFPRI. (2018). *Management Response to the External Review of Equity in A4NH*.

Turner, C., Kadiyala, S., Aggarwal, A., Coates, J., Drewnowski, A., Hawkes, C., Walls, H. (2017). *Concepts and methods for food environment research in low and middle income countries*. London, UK.



Collaborative Platform for Gender Research