

Introduction:

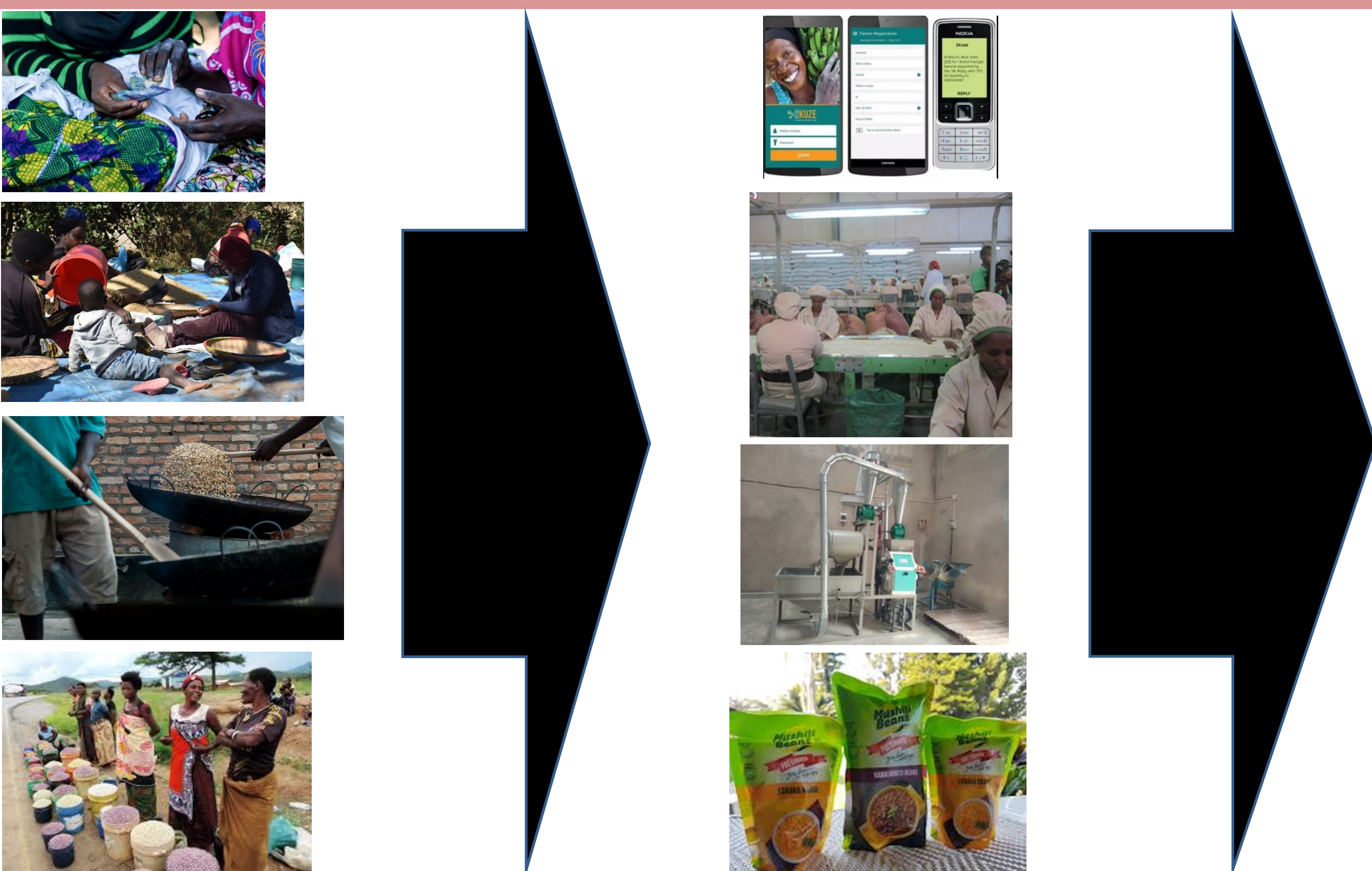
Women constitute more than 60% of bean producers across Africa, providing more than 60% of labour in bean production. Women are also involved in activities in the distribution and consumption hubs along the bean value chain. In collaboration with public and private partners, we have designed gender sensitive interventions aimed at reducing gender inequity through the provision of innovative bean-based technologies, credit and markets thus creating an enabling business environment for beans.

Production hubs - Build capacity to access and use technologies, increase income, resilience and reduce drudgery



- Increase women participation in the development of gender responsive product profiles (genotype by gender), and voice in Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) to meet the needs of all value chain actors
- Build women and youth capacity and participation in seed business
- Increase access to quality bean seed by women and youth through gender responsive seed delivery systems (e.g. small packages of seeds sold to last mile farmers)
- Develop and deploy bean technologies - threshers, planters, herbicides - that reduce drudgery on-farm and increases men's participation
- Increase women participation in gender, nutrition, business training, agronomic management and practices that contributes to increase productivity, income, good health and nutrition
- Develop and deploy digital technology to reach women with information on climate and market

Distribution hubs - Job creation for women and youths, a move towards structured markets and financial inclusion



- MasterCard Farmer Network (MFN) tool digitally connects men, women and youth farmers to markets and formal financial services in tandem with their needs and aspirations
- MFN increases access to credit and loans from historical records of transactions and creates employment for women as agents for aggregators, banks, and mobile agencies
- Increased income for women and youths involved in sorting and packing grains at aggregation and processing centers. In addition, there is the provision of child care facilities
- Through value addition of beans, women get premium prices
- Increased employment opportunities for women marketing bean based products

Consumption hubs - Beans for improved nutrition and health – schools, households and other institutions



- Accessibility and utilization of healthy and nutritious beans and bean-based products
- Home grown schools feeding (kindergartens, primary and secondary) as an entry point for healthy diets through school feeding programs
- Nutrition education, awareness creation and trainings targeting men and boys as champions
- Appearance of food matters. It should appeal to all
- Fast cooking beans that saves fuel, water and energy
- Low flatulence increases bean consumption

Conclusion:

Creating an enabling environment for men, women and youth not only reduces gender inequality but increases bean productivity and builds resilience. Increased access to structured markets is key to agricultural transformation and inclusive growth

