Trans-SEC

Innovating pro-poor Strategies to safeguard Food Security using Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Innovating Strategies to safeguard Food Security using Technology and Knowledge Transfer: Overview and current status
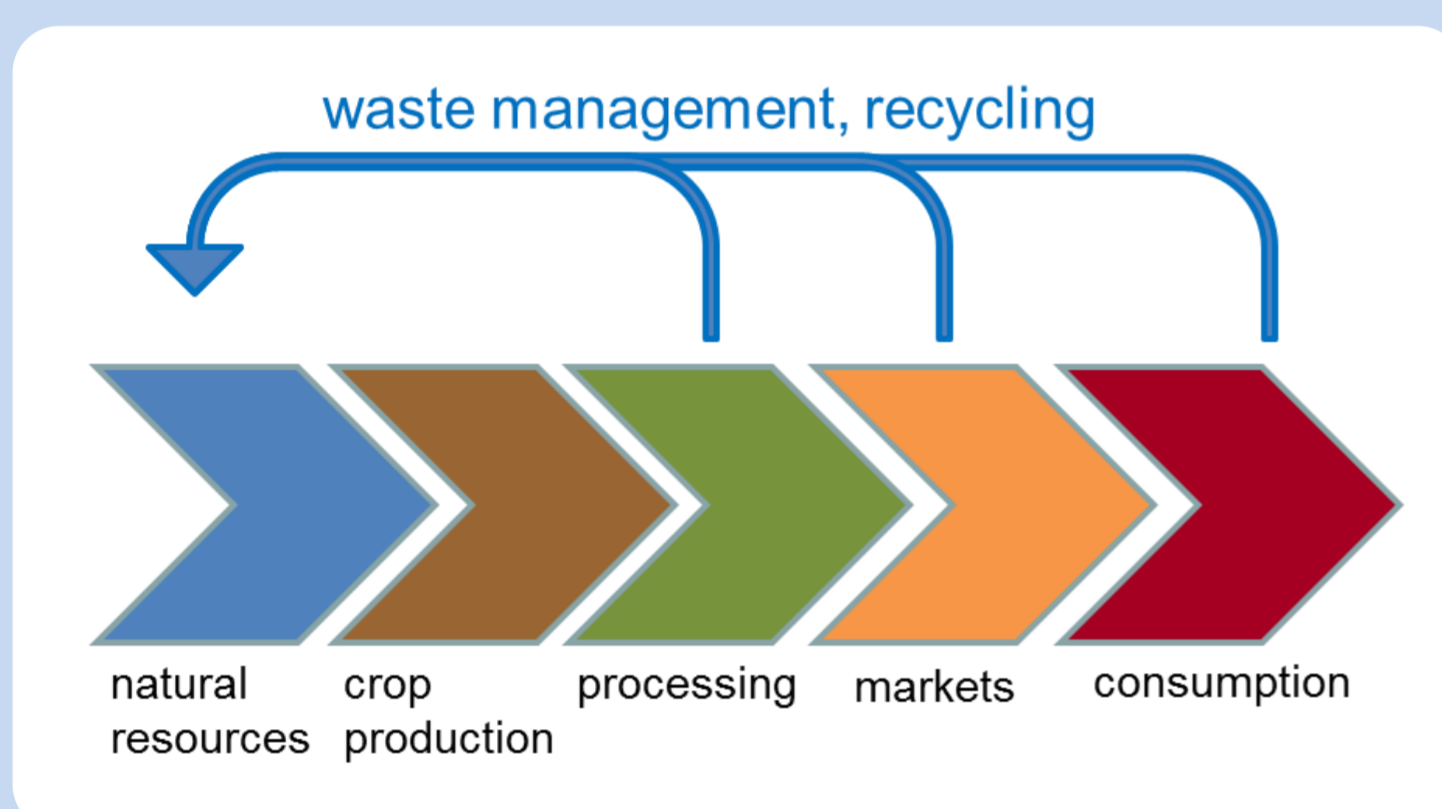
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Introduction

The regional food supply situation, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa requires integrated food system understanding and targeted linking of region- and site-specific innovations. The collaborative research project Trans-SEC is targeted to enhance the Food Security for the most vulnerable rural poor population in Tanzania (Figure 1). The project is composed by 14 institutions from Germany, Tanzania, Kenya and USA.

The concept

To achieve sustainable solutions for food security we focus on entire **Food Value Chains** (FVC) and its nexus elements. This analysis includes the specific cultural, political, social, ecological and economic environments. A broad participation by stakeholders across FVC is key.

The features

- 4 case study sites (CSS) in 2 different regions (semi-arid, sub-humid)
- Research across entire Food Value Chains
- Identification, implementation and testing of upgrading strategies (UPS)
- Tailoring of UPS to be disseminated for regional and national outreach;
- Determining the transferability of results;
- Crops: Maize & sesame (subhumid), millet, sunflower (semiarid); intercropped commodities (pigeon pea, groundnuts); other crops optional
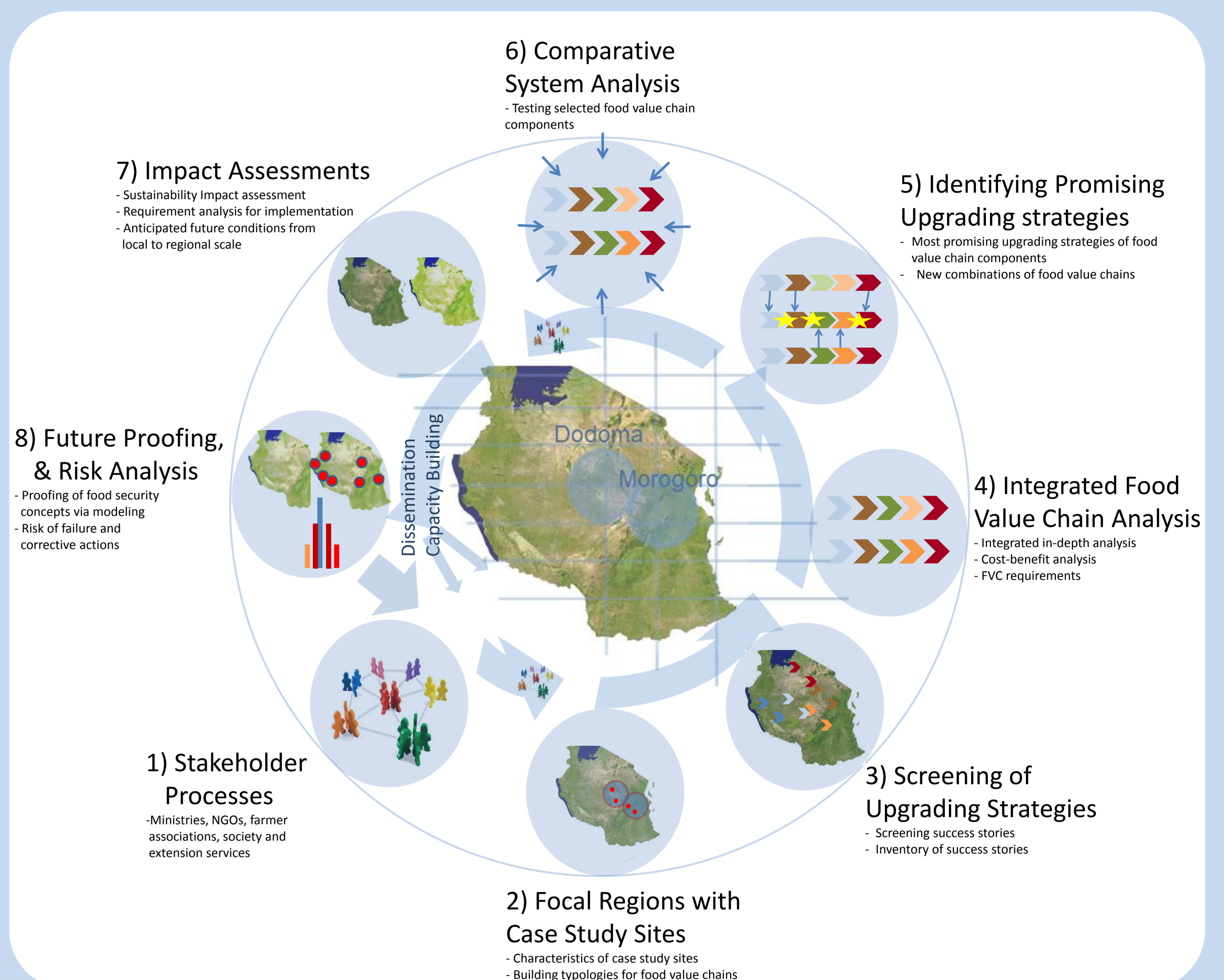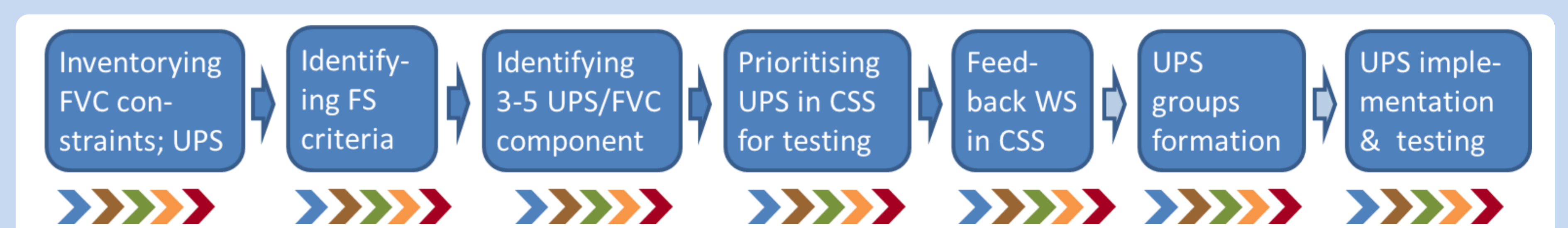

Figure 1: Trans-SEC analytical Tasks

Figure 2: Trans-SEC main activities and chronology (FVC: Food Value Chain; FS: Food Security; UPS: Upgrading strategy; WS: Workshop; CSS: Case study site)

Results

- **Typologizing the FVC** and their components in the CSS ✔
- **Stakeholder** mapping along the FVC ✔
- **Baseline survey** of 150 HH in 4 CSS and 2 control villages ✔
- Screening & **inventorying of UPS** in the CSS, two focal regions and beyond ✔
- **Specification & prioritization** of UPS ✔

- Participative identification of the **most promising 10 UPS** and ex-ante **impact assessments** ✔
- **Feedback** meetings in CSS ✔
- **Implementing UPS** (✔)
- **Monitoring & analyses of UPS** for all five FVC components
- Evaluation and **(ex-post) impact assessment** of UPS

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