CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Measuring Integration

Developing Common Metrics for Integrated Agriculture-Nutrition Interventions

SPRING webinar , February 25, 2015

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faith. action. results.

Motivation

- Agriculture is a major influence on nutrition

Motivation

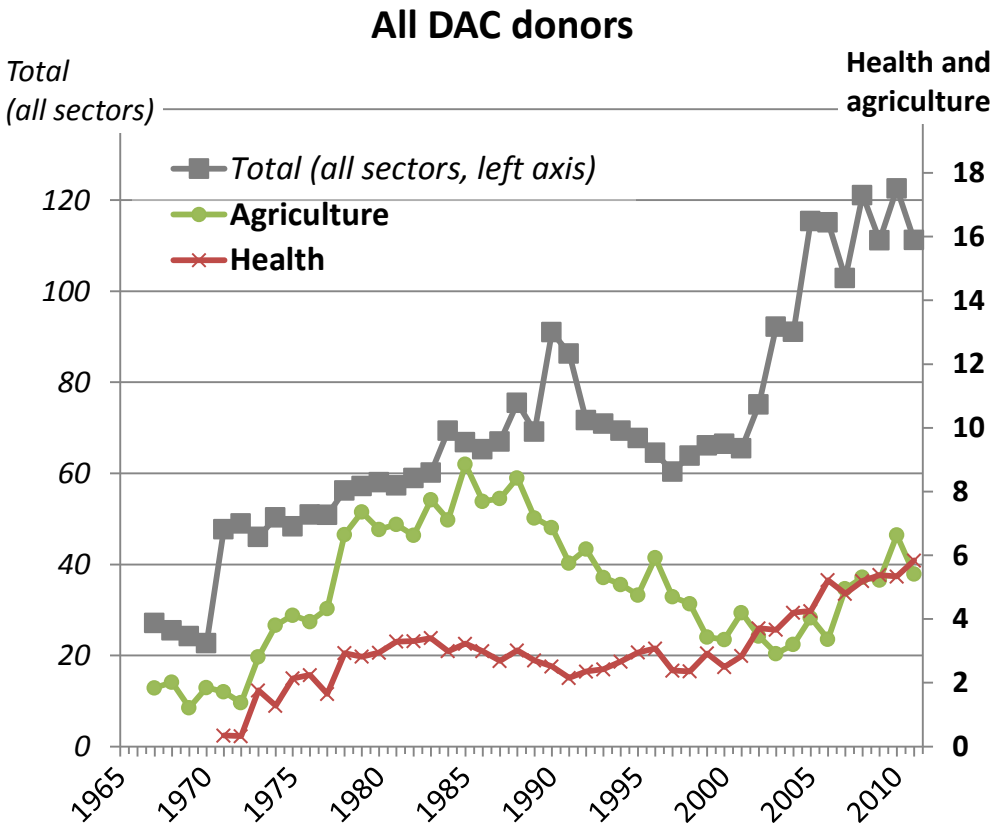
- Agricultural interventions can help hit nutrition targets

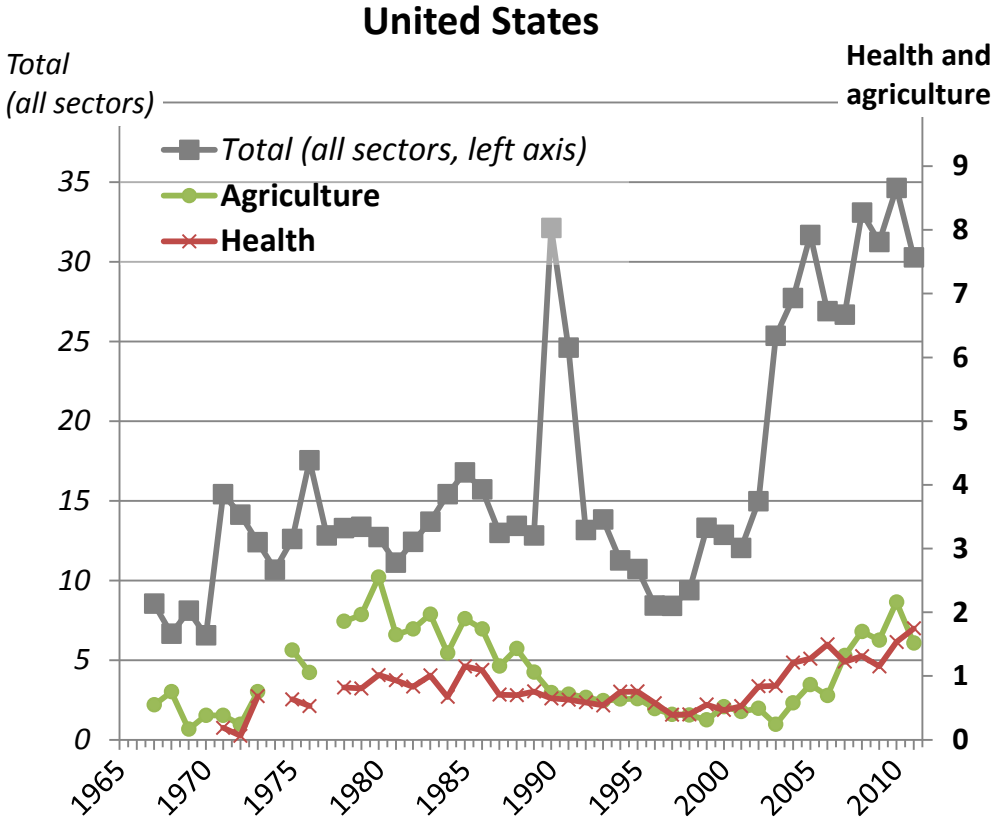
Motivation

- Ag. interventions are now integrated in nutrition projects

Context

- Agricultural assistance is now similar size as aid for health





Note: Health includes nutrition. Agriculture includes forestry and fisheries. Values are billions of constant US dollars at 2012 prices (both axes).

Source: Calculated from OECD (2014), Official Bilateral Commitments by Sector, downloaded 4 Oct. 2014 (http://stats.oecd.org/qwids)

Context

- Agriculture and nutrition are very different

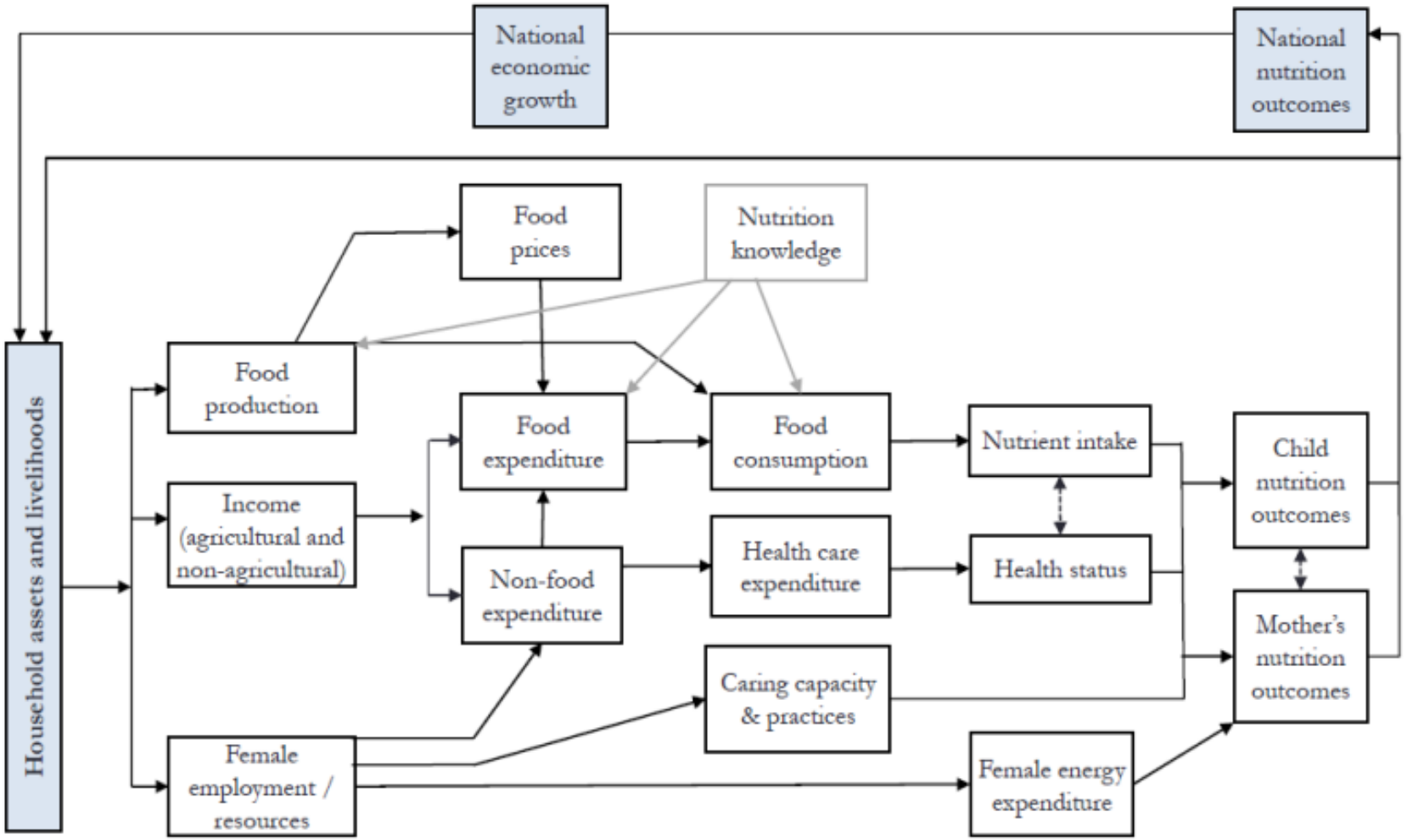
Some stylized differences between agriculture and nutrition

	Agriculture (food production)	Nutrition (food utilization)
Typical intermediate results and primary outcomes	Productivity, income & ending poverty	Diets, disease & ending malnutrition
Typical assessment and evaluation methods	RCTs on stations & farms, then economics of adoption and impact	RCTs in communities, then epidemiology of prevalence and status
Typical targeting of interventions	Public investment for specific locations	Service delivery to specific beneficiaries

Approach

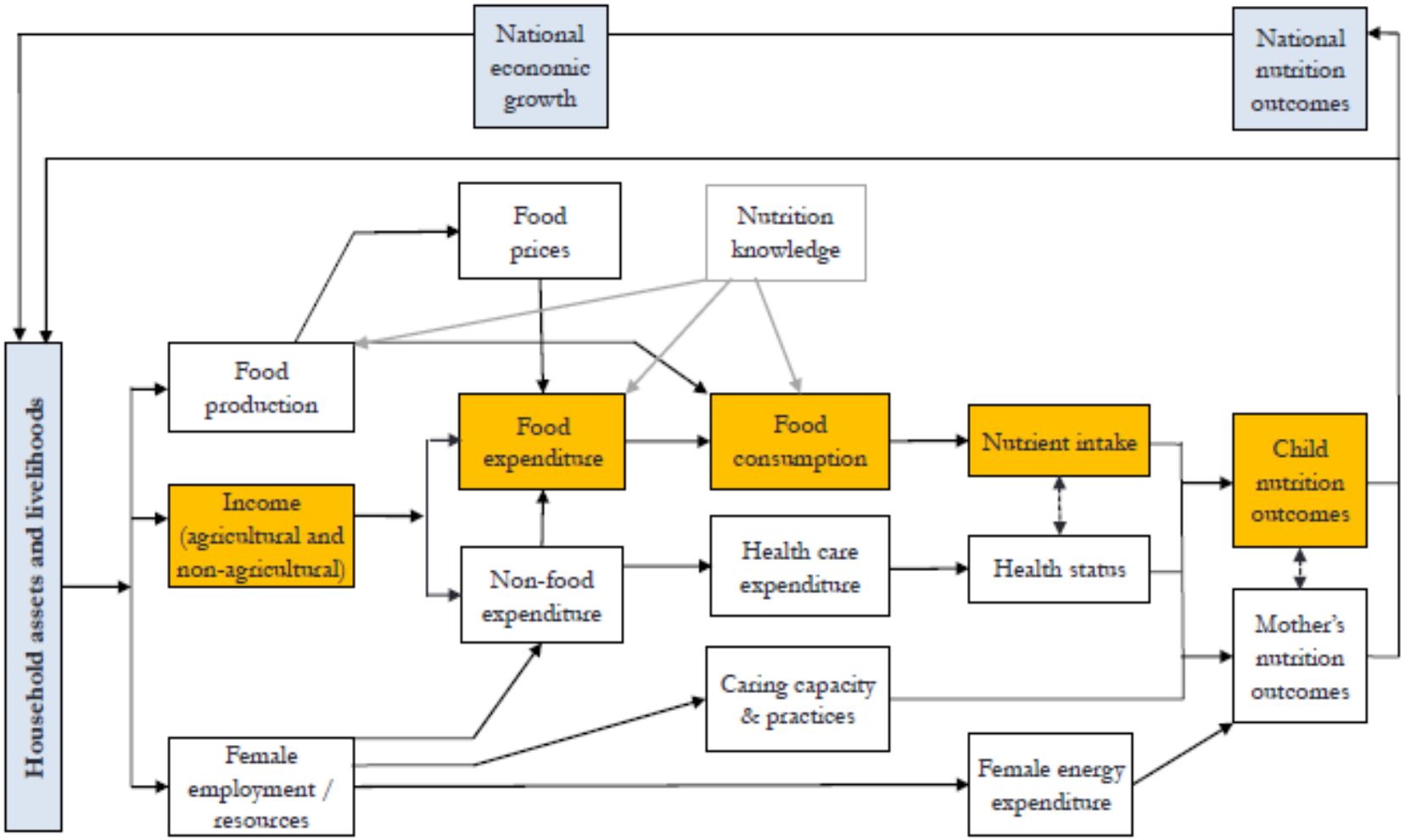
- Programs must take account of *both* ag. and nutrition

Here is SPRING's simplest ag-nutrition causal framework



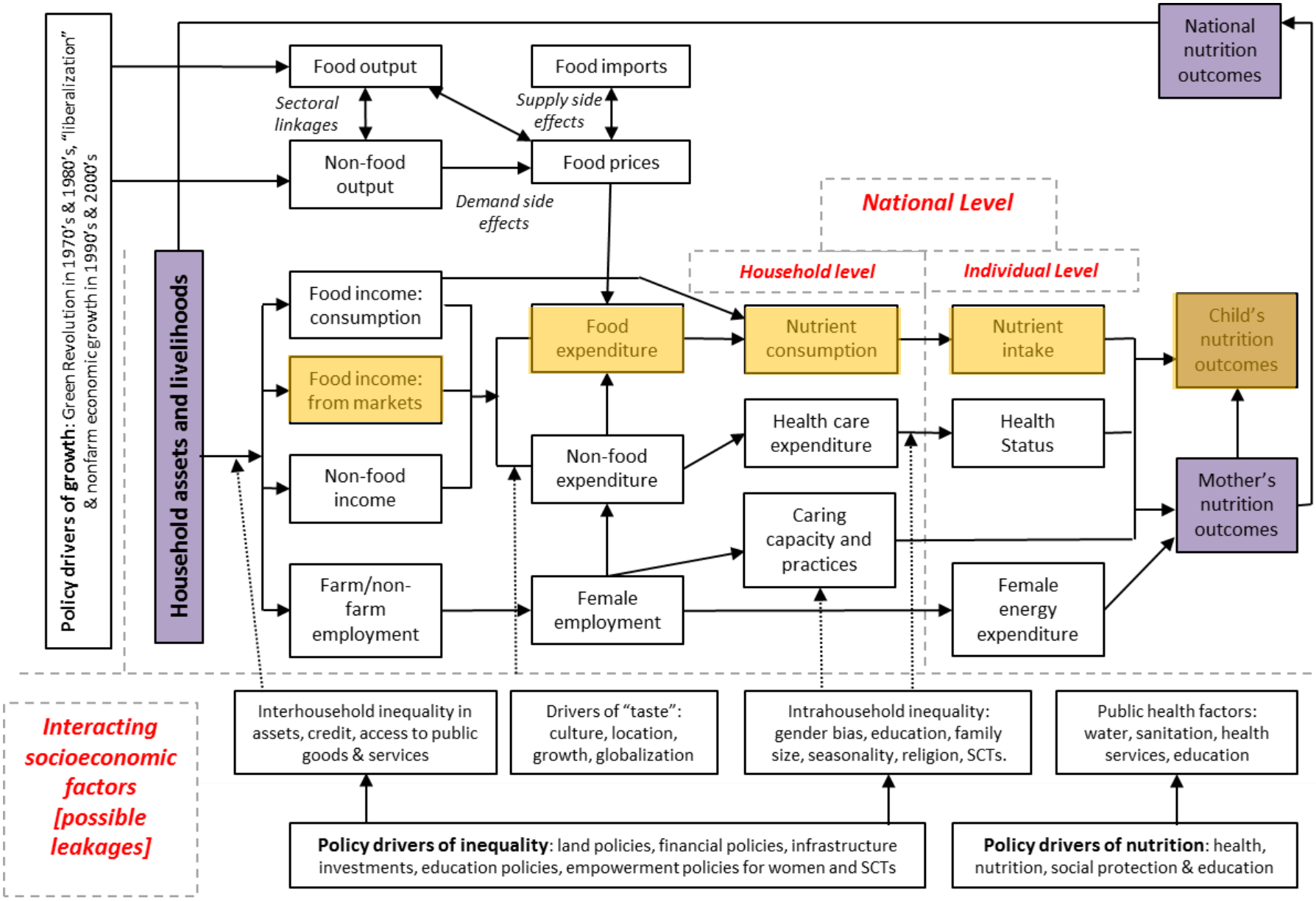
Source: Agriculture-Nutrition causal pathways framework, derived from Gillespie et al. by Anna Herforth and Jody Harris with SPRING, 2014

For example, a value chain project can affect child nutrition



Source: Agriculture-Nutrition causal pathways framework, derived from Gillespie et al. by Anna Herforth and Jody Harris with SPRING, 2014

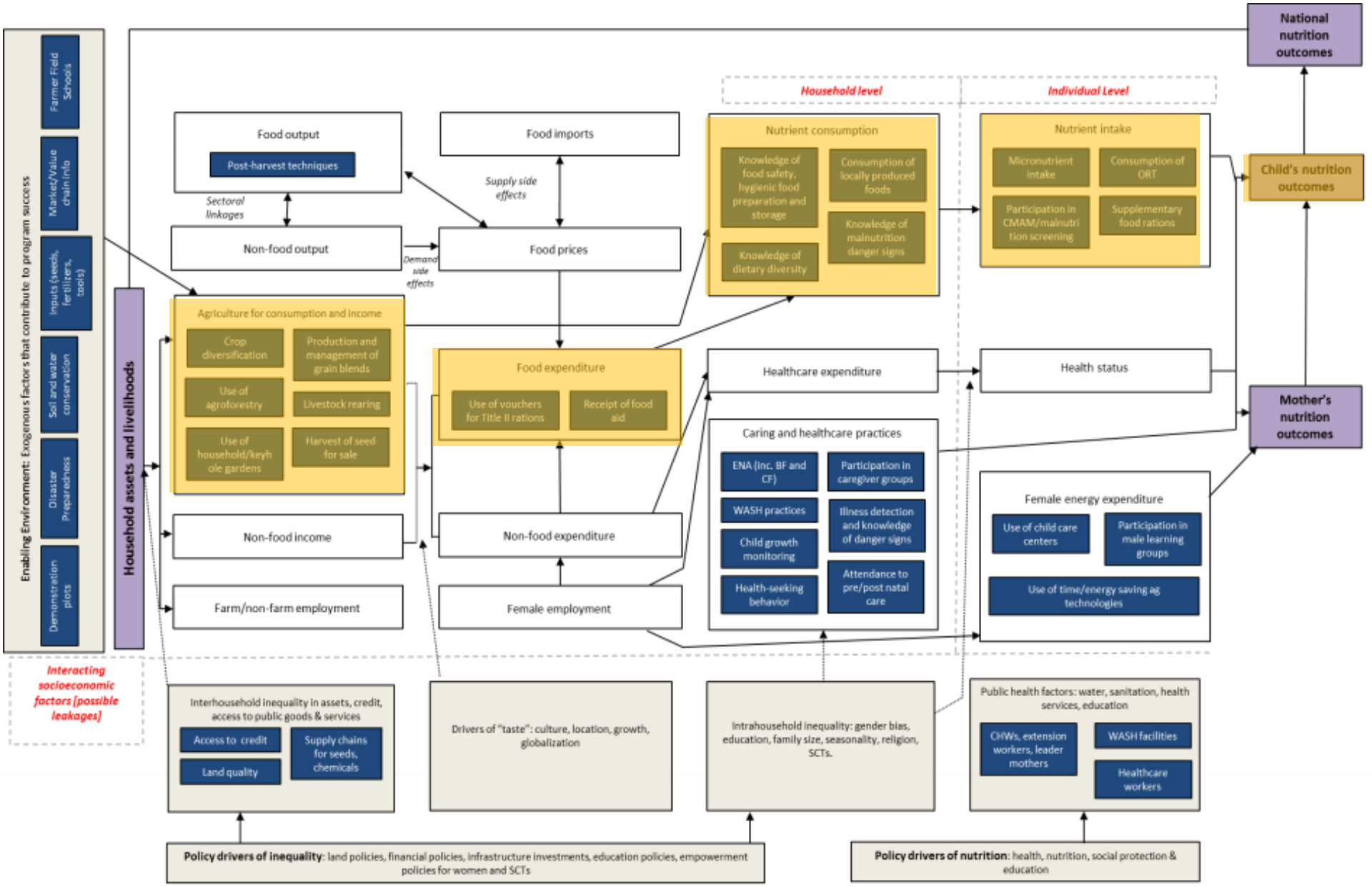
Similarly, in Stuart Gillespie's more complex framework



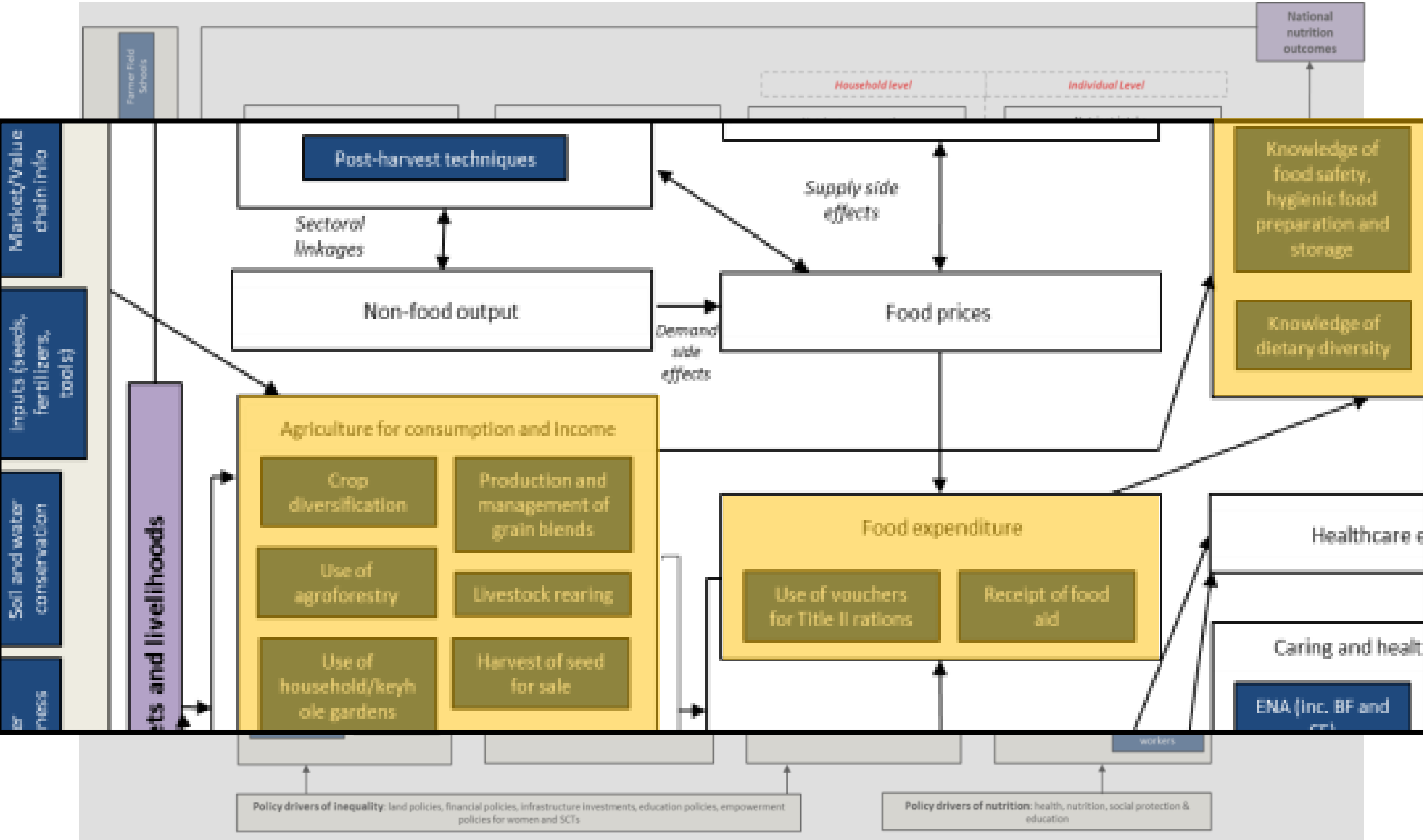
Measuring integration in ag.-nutr. interventions

motivation | context | approach | results | implications

Here is the full CRS program framework, with more detail



Zooming in, we can see specific CRS ag.-nutrition interventions



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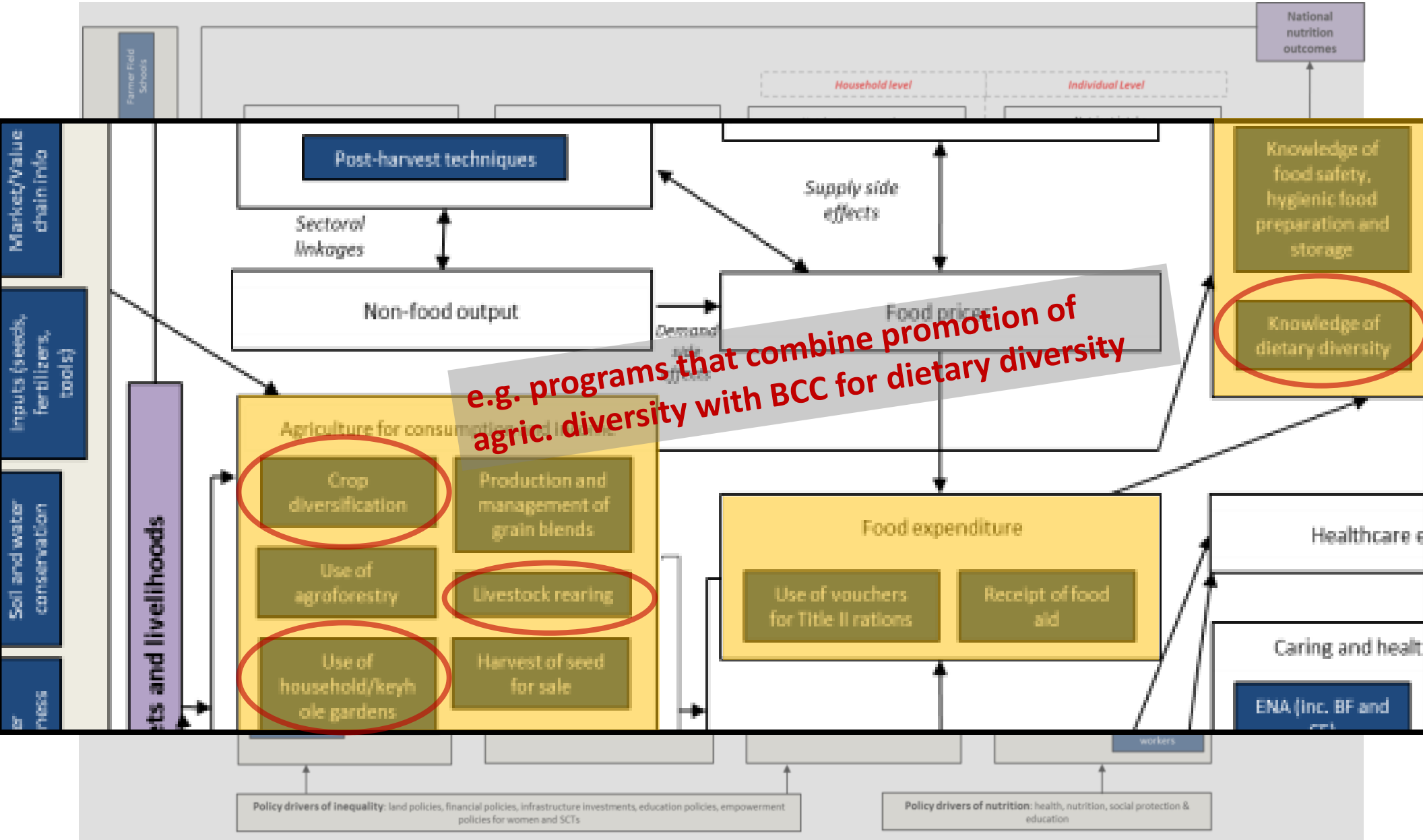
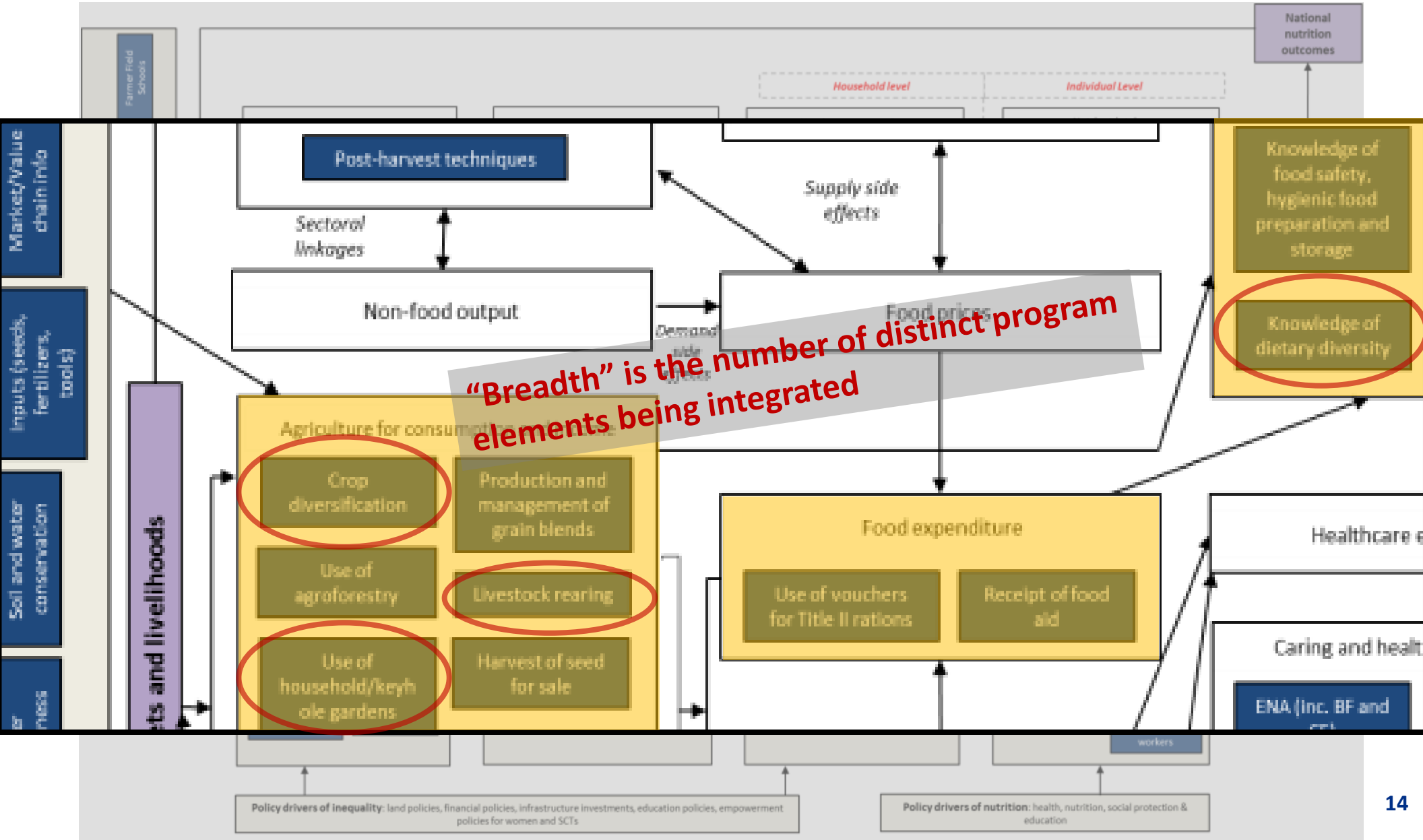
Our goal is to measure integration between program elements



What dimensions of program integration can we measure?



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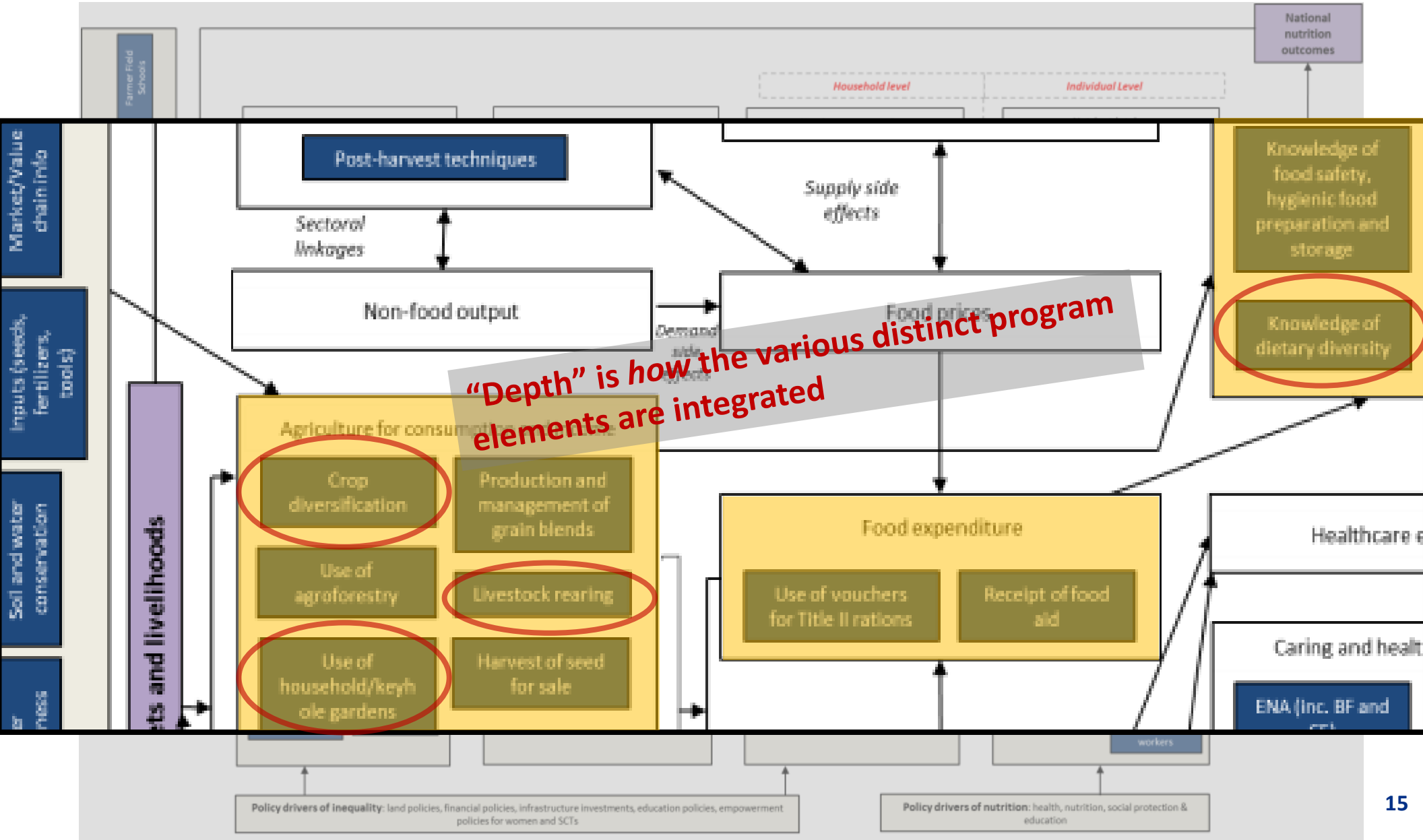

Measuring integration in ag.-nutr. interventions

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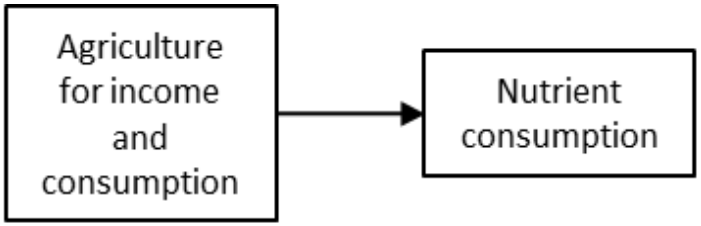
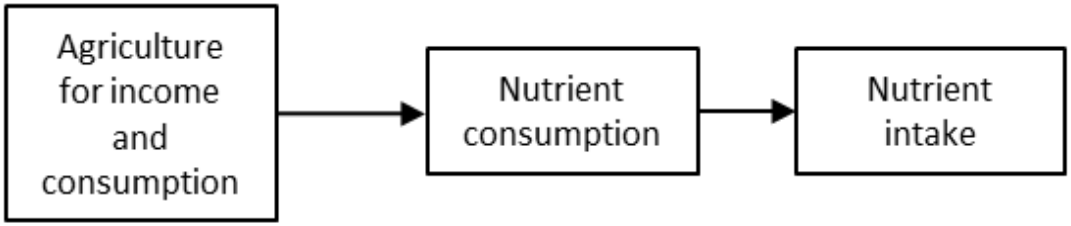
"Breadth of integration" is the range of program elements being coordinated

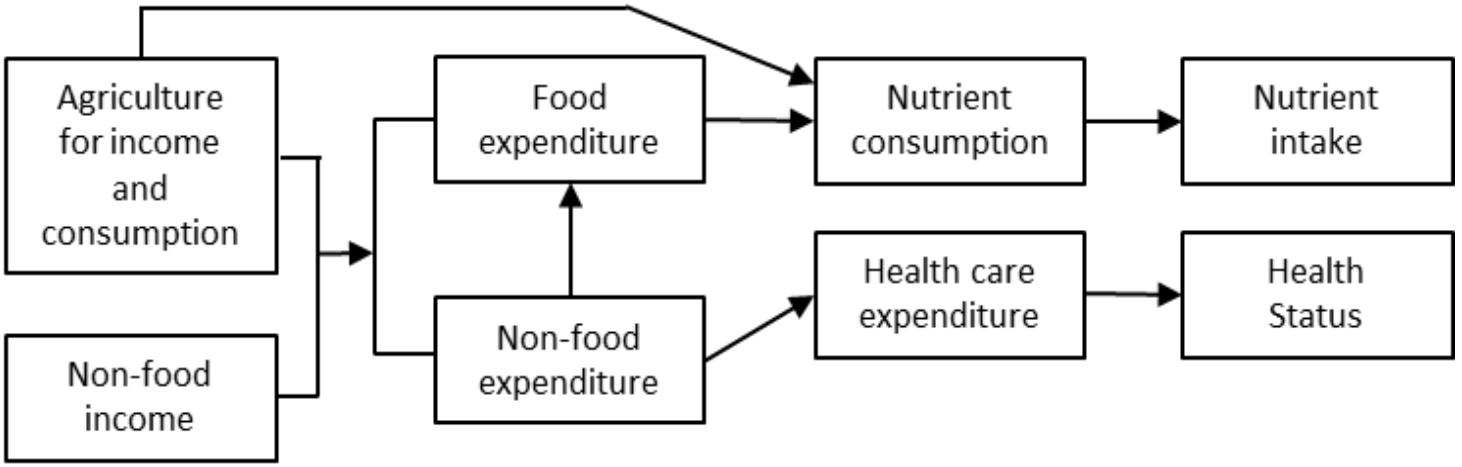
First degree



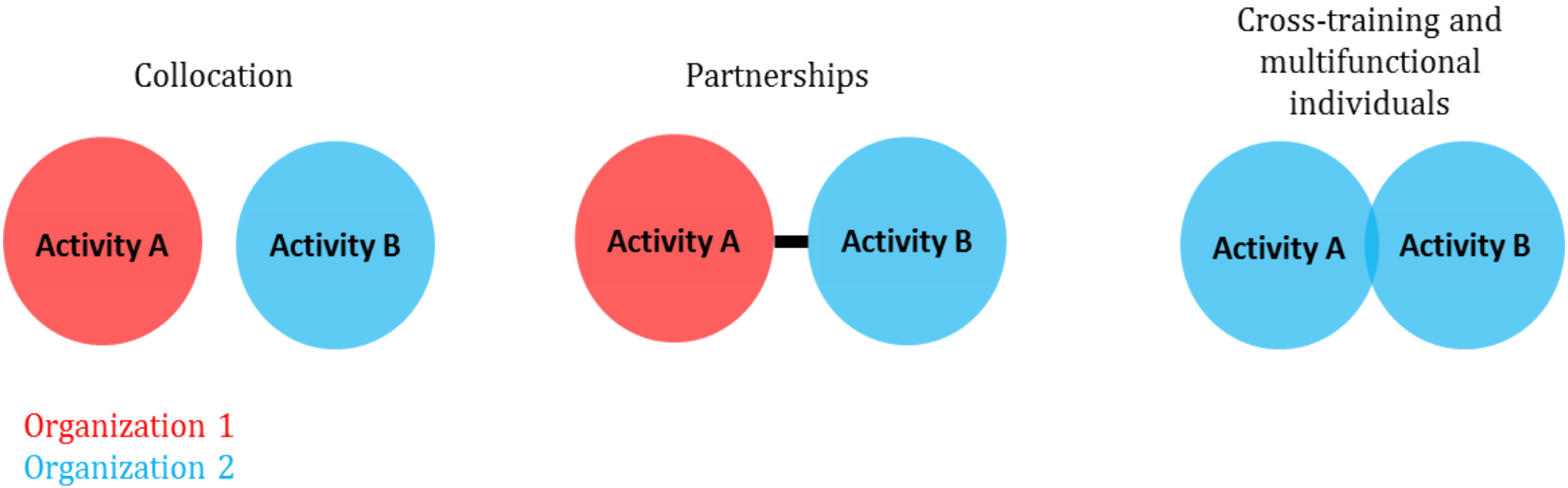
Second degree



Third degree



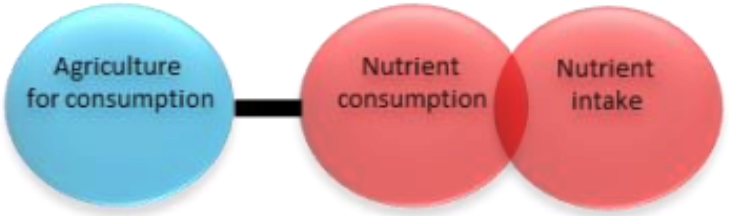
"Depth of integration" is how the various program elements are coordinated by the implementing organization(s)



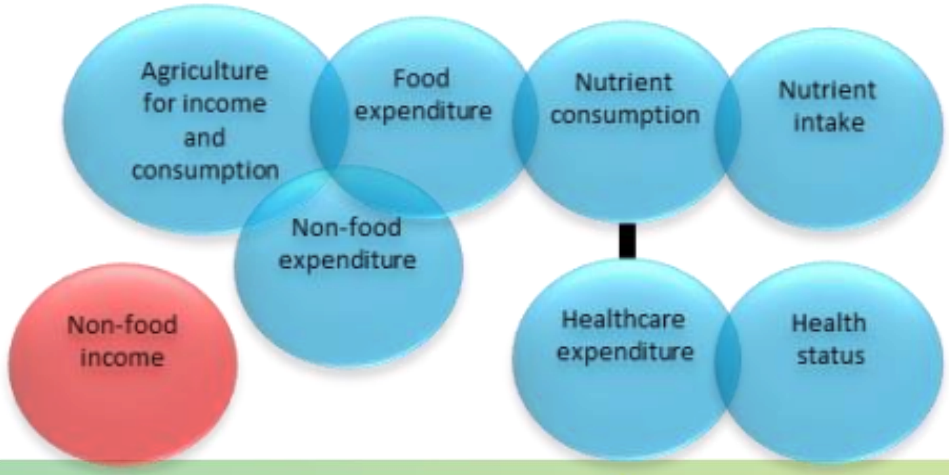
For example, these three programs differ in both depth & breadth of integration

Program A

Program B



Program C



The CRS pilot study: Objectives and Methods

- **Objectives: Could these metrics be useful for real projects?**
  - Can they classify and describe projects in a meaningful way?
  - Can program managers use these measures to guide their work?
- **Methods: How could one implement these new metrics?**
  - We examined all CRS projects funded between 2008 and 2013 whose proposals explicitly involve "integrated" or "integration" between agriculture and nutrition
  - Found 17 projects implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America
  - Two consultants independently classify each project's design using the CRS framework with identified interventions from these 17 projects, in terms of "breadth" and "depth"
  - The consultants generally reported identical scores; in a few cases, ambiguities were clarified by field staff

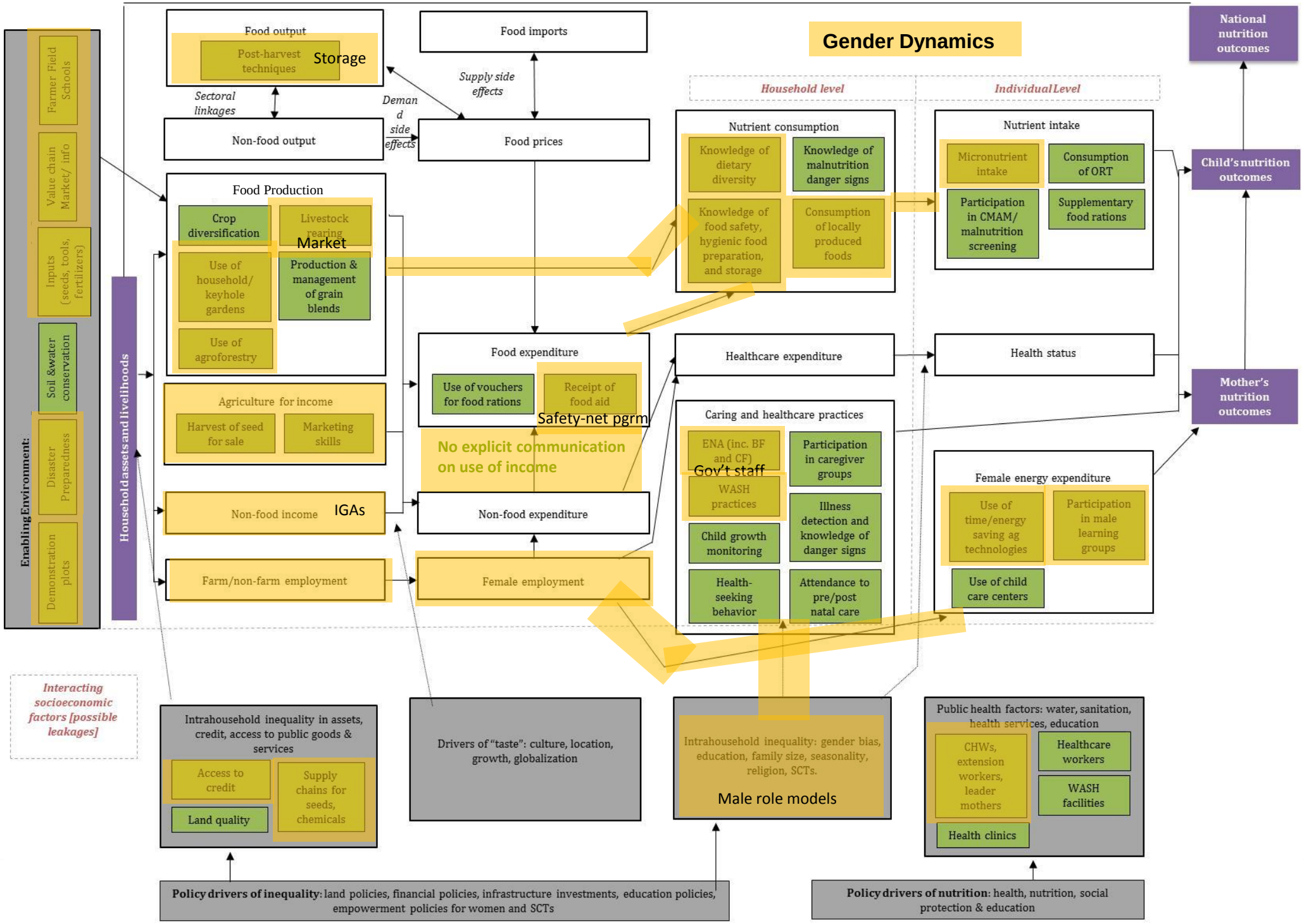
The CRS pilot study: Numerical findings

Breadth and depth of integration in a sample of 17 CRS programs

Breadth of program (number of elements)	1-2	3-5	6+
Depth of integration between elements			
1. Co-location of program elements	0	0	2
2. Partnership among organizations	1	1	8
3. Cross-training and multifunctionality	1	1	3

Source: CRS file data, as reported in W.A. Masters et al. 2014, "Agriculture, nutrition, and health in global development: Typology and metrics for integrated interventions and research. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences,* vol. 1331: 258–269.

Applying the Pathways to CRS Programs



The CRS pilot study: Implications

- **Grounding the Ag-Nut Pathways:** Explicit interventions within each elements helps CRS teams to better understand the pathway's elements
- **Linking across the pathways**: The grounding allows our teams to ask how our interventions are linked, are their breaks within the pathway, and who is receiving the different elements
- **Implementing integrated programs:** Depth & Breadth scores provides the foundation on how well integrated at the higher-levels; need to dig down to better understand the level of integration on the ground
- **Understanding impact:** Next step is to better understand if more integration leads to better impacts. If integration by same implementer or across implementers vary in impact

Thank You