

The Creation of a Comprehensive Conceptual Framework Linking Agriculture and Food System Policies to Nutritional Status

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Disclaimer:

- This presentation contains unpublished data that should not be quoted; for inquiries please contact Rebecca Kanter.

Motivation:

- Agriculture and food systems are important determinants of nutrition and public health, and there is a need for effective multi-sectorial policymaking in this area
- Many published conceptual frameworks illustrate some of the linkages between agriculture, food systems, and health
- A more comprehensive framework that illustrates potential policy-levers would be useful for informing agriculture and food policy to improve nutritional health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)

Primary objective:

- To develop a conceptual framework that would synthesize existing frameworks into a single framework that reflected the various pathways through which agriculture and food system policies can impact nutrition outcomes

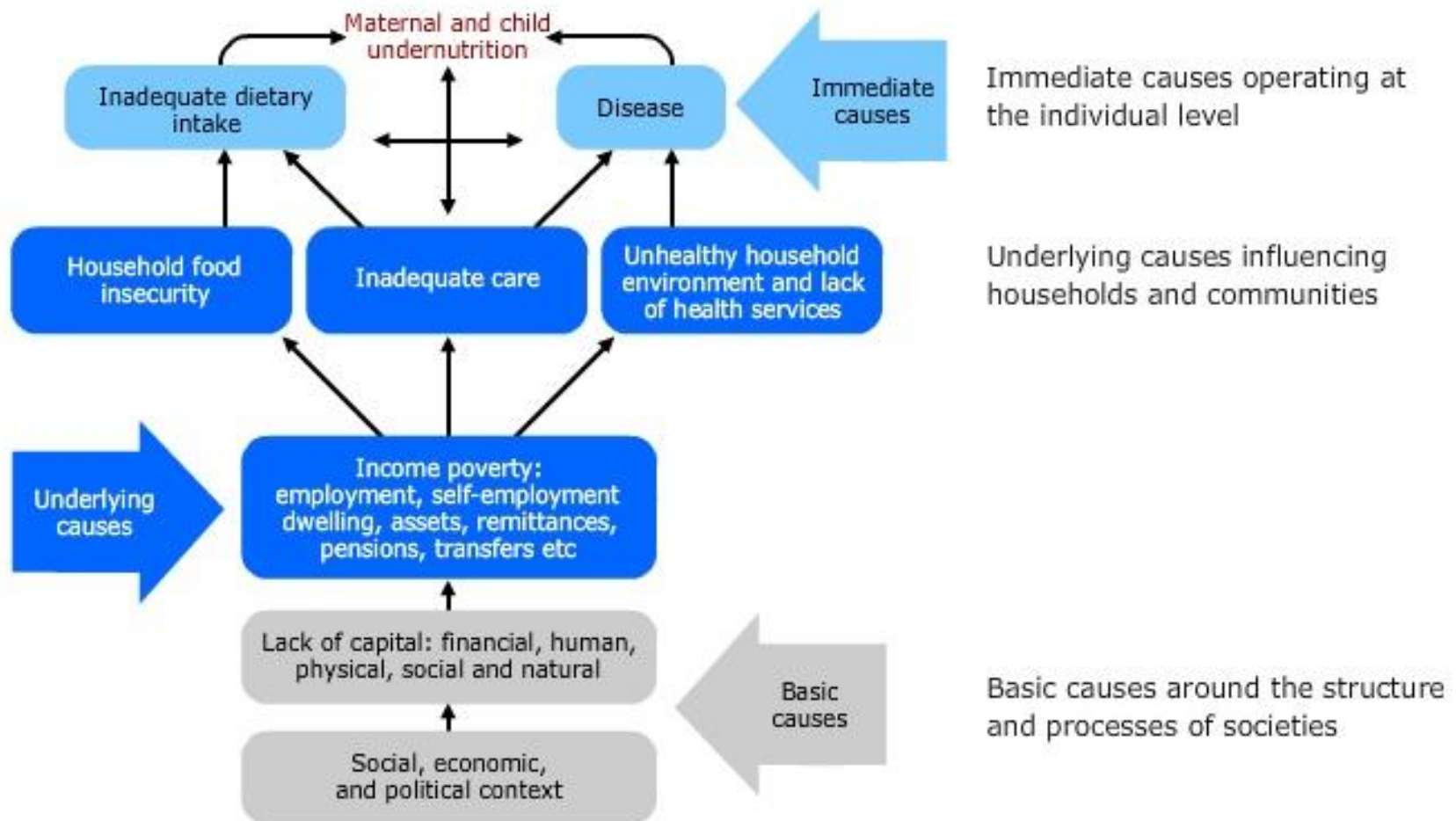
Methods: review existing literature

- Existing literature and conceptual frameworks for how agriculture and food system policies may affect nutritional outcomes were collected
- To narrow the focus of the literature review, the terms “nutritional outcomes”, and “agricultural and food policies” were defined as follows:
 - **Nutritional outcomes:** the main forms of malnutrition, including: undernutrition in terms weight- or height-for-age; micronutrient deficiencies; and overweight and obesity
 - **Agricultural and food system policies:** domestic and international policies and policy-related programmes, including trade policies with agriculture or food system elements
- Often the conceptual frameworks were nested within documents with related information on these themes

Methods: compilation

- References were compiled and existing maps (n = 37) were grouped according to the specific issues they portrayed or what we thought was distinctive about the map, under the following themes:
 - UNICEF conceptual framework
 - Trade policy
 - Food chain
 - Food price policy
 - Farmers
 - Macro-level
 - Synthetic
 - Other

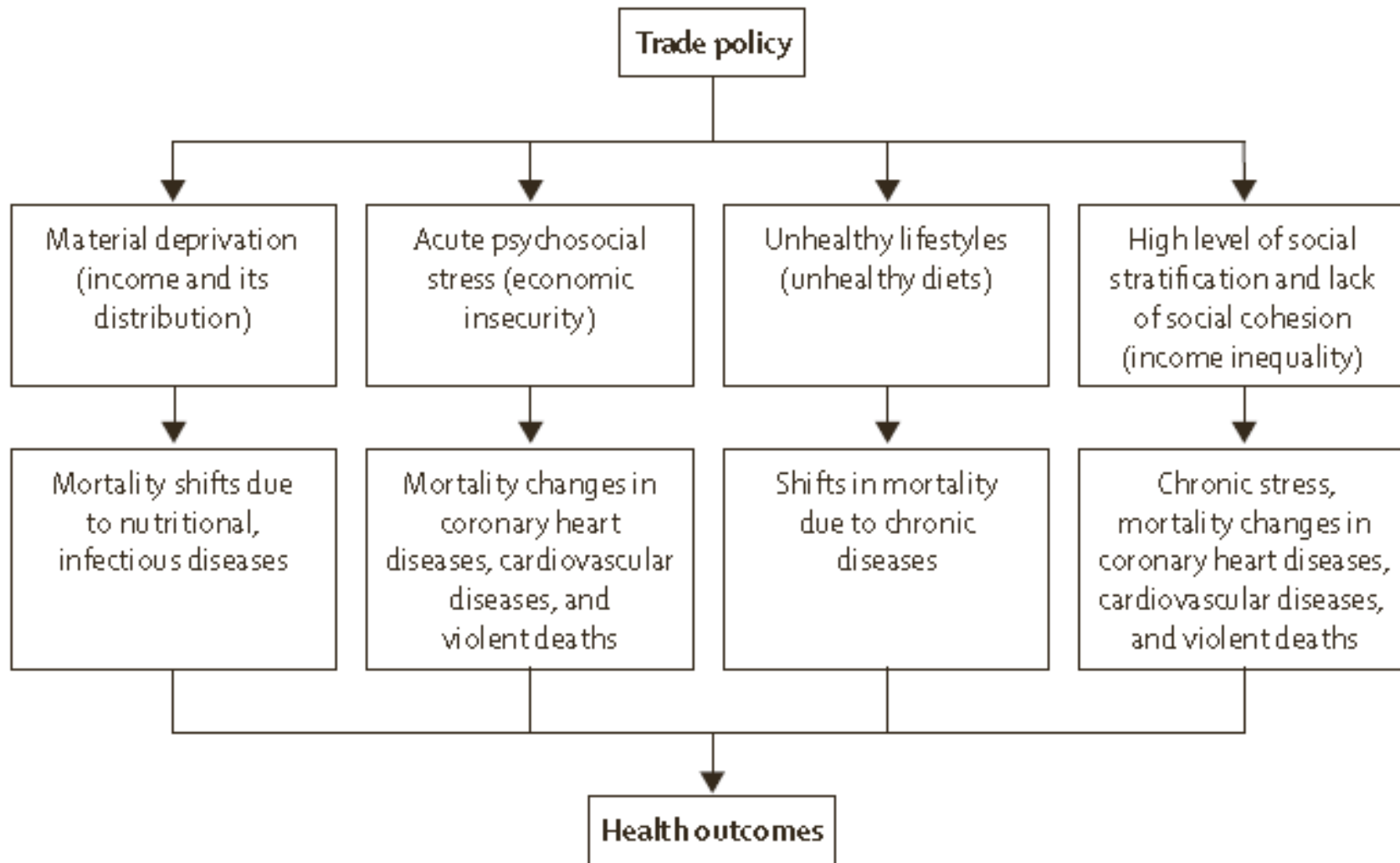
UNICEF conceptual framework



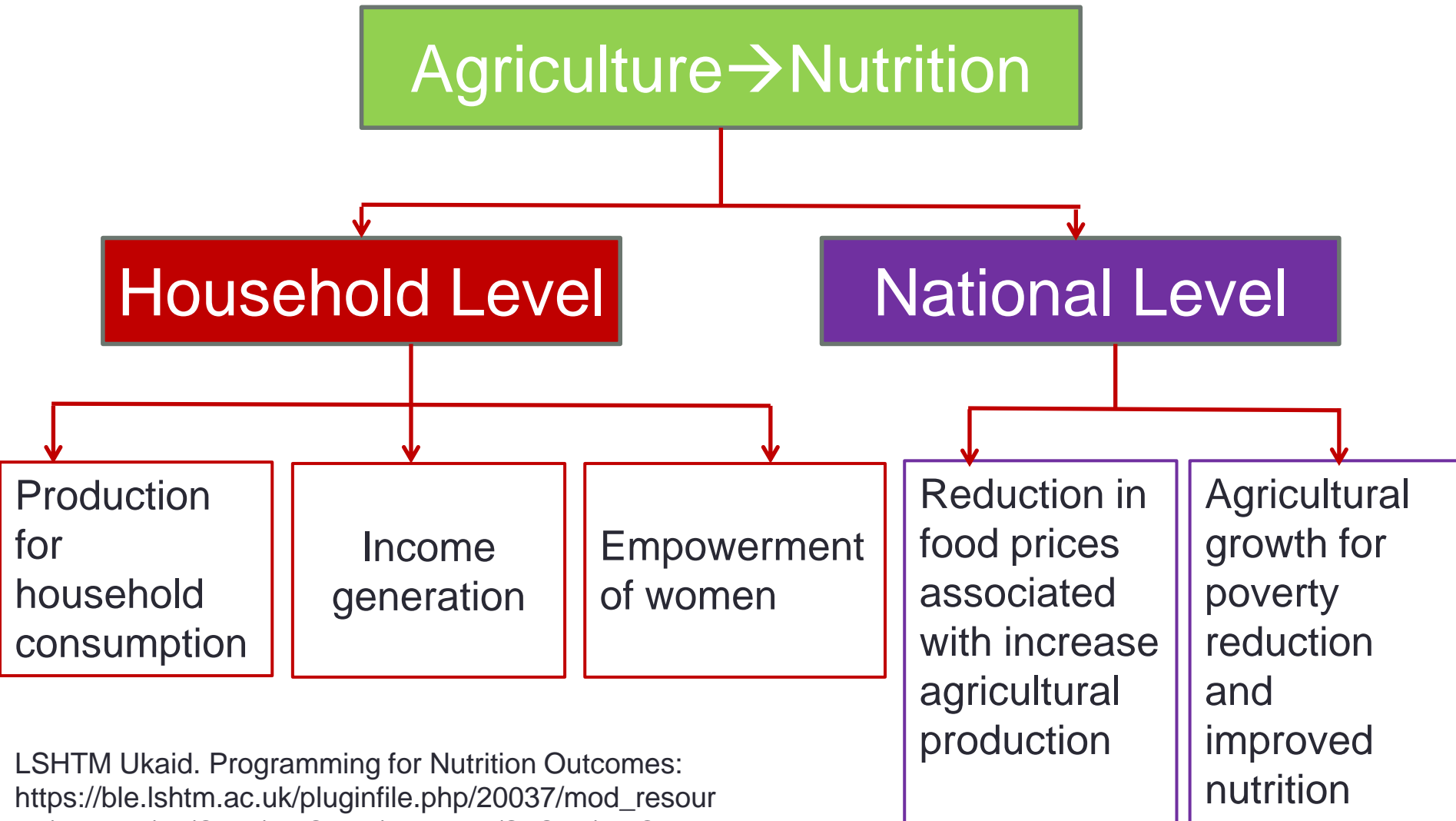
modified by Black et al, Lancet 2008

UNICEF. UNICEF Conceptual Framework:
<http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/training/2.5/4.html>

Map example: trade policy



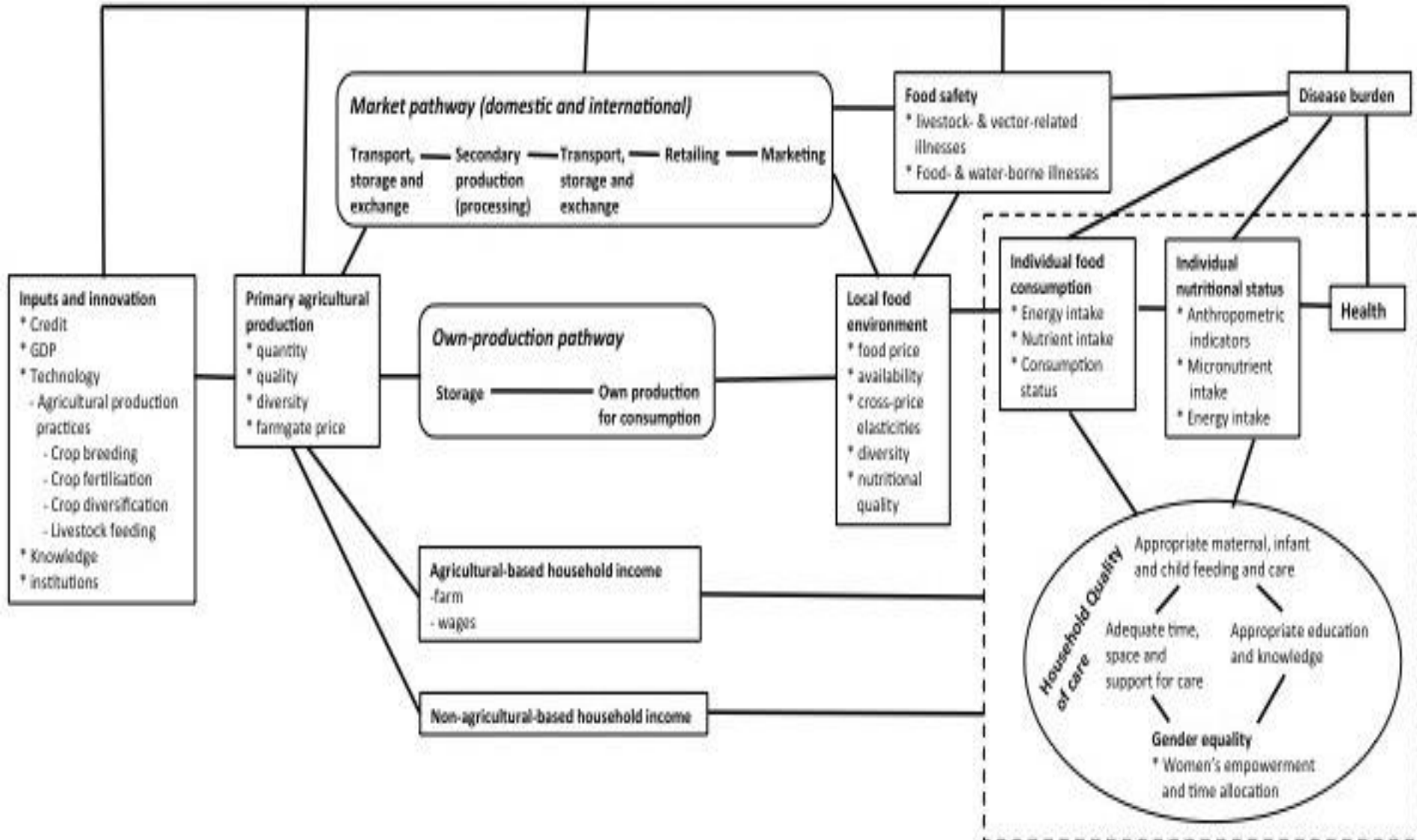
Map example: synthetic



Methods: map assembly

- Expanded upon the UNICEF conceptual framework to illustrate the role of agriculture and food systems on both care and health
- Wanted to describe the effects of policies for people of all ages
- Included the dualistic nature of agriculture and how it is consumed: through a market pathway or through own consumption
- Did not exclude pathways even if difficult to measure in practice
- **A final map was developed that addressed policies in 8 areas: commodity prices; trade; agricultural technology; rural agricultural markets; public distribution systems; food standards/safety; marketing; consumer-facing**

Results: comprehensive framework



How to use the framework for policy

Using the framework:

Step 1: Choose a policy

Step 2: Select a starting point that corresponds to the chosen policy

Step 3: Identify through linked pathways how to move from the starting point to the outcome



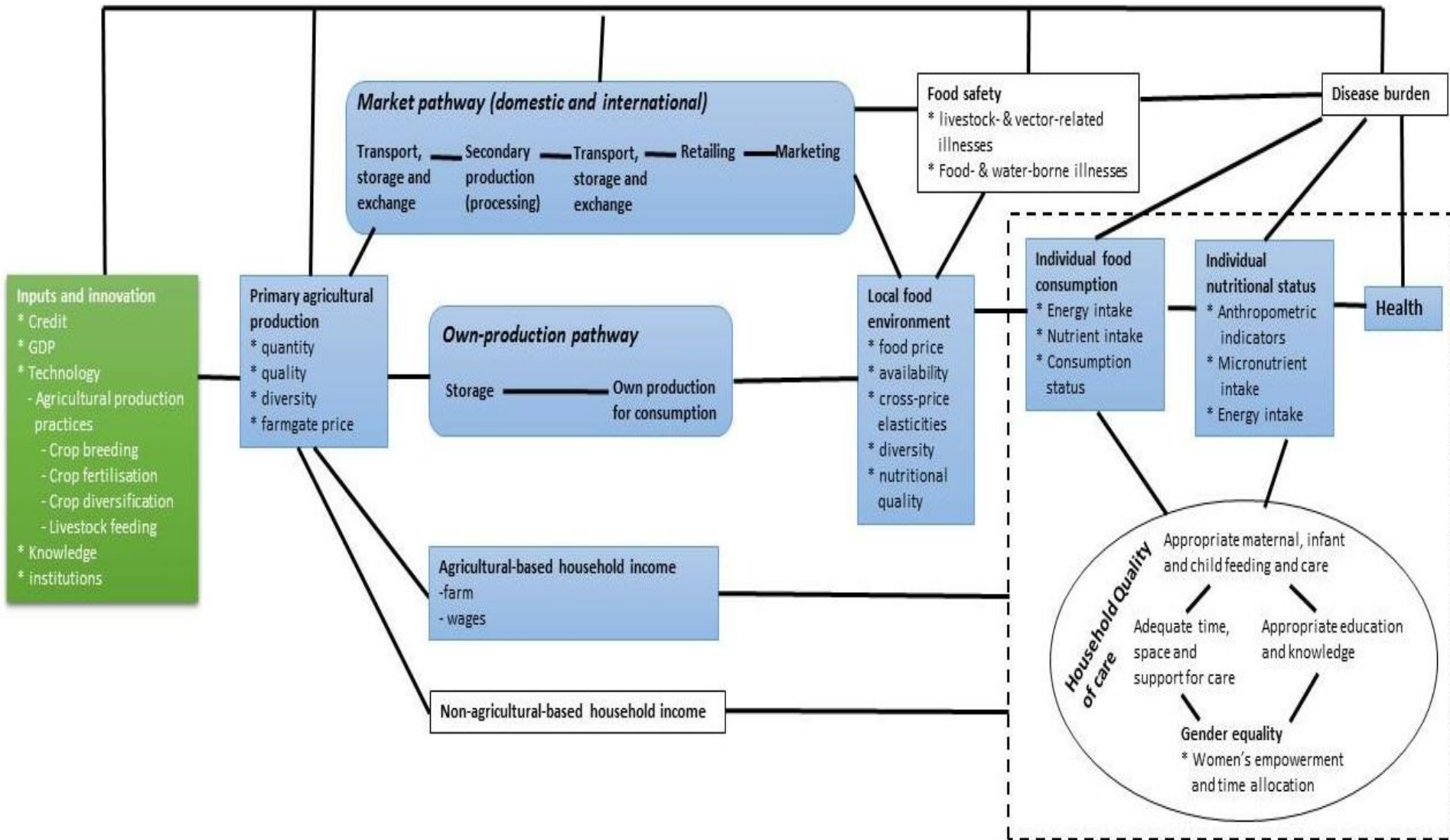
Starting point

Pathway from
policy to health
(outcome)

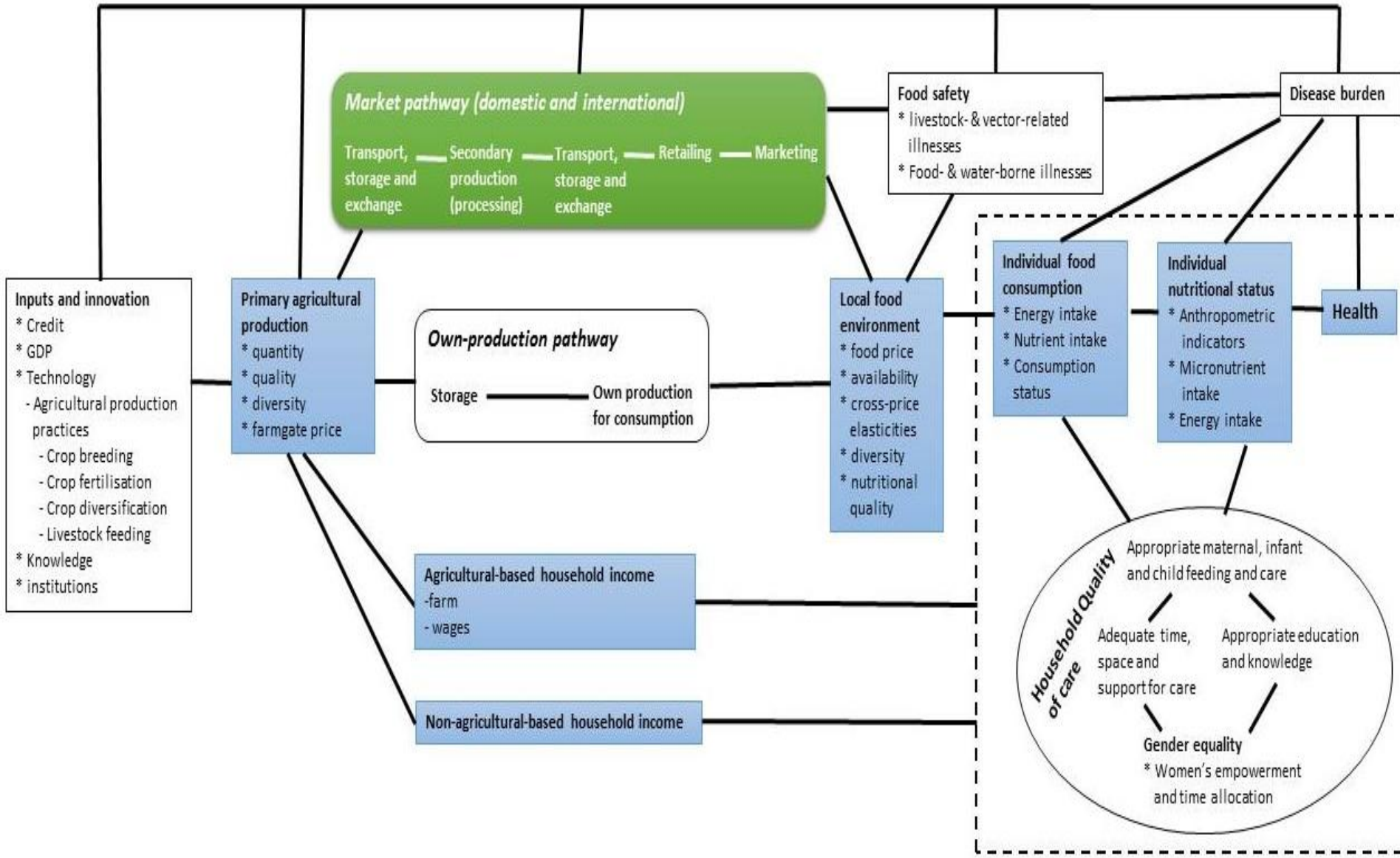
Examples that follow:

1. Agriculture technology: New crop variety
2. Trade policy: Imports
3. Public distributions systems: Cash transfers

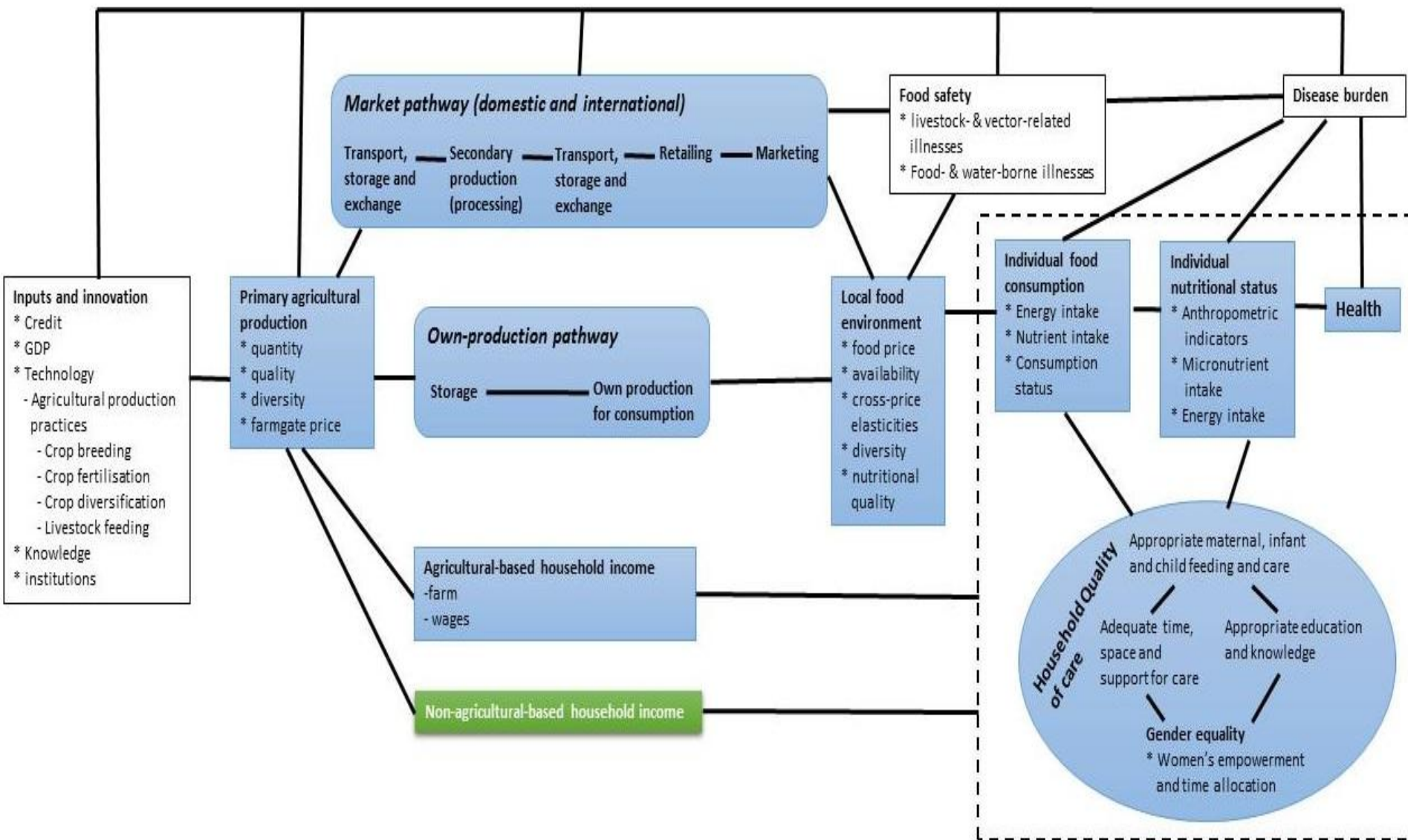
1. Agricultural Technology: New Crop Variety



2. Trade Policies: Imports



3. Public Distribution Systems: Cash Transfer Programmes



Public health significance

- Our conceptual framework can be used by policymakers for the identification of agriculture and food systems solutions that affect public health nutrition
- With our conceptual framework, we aim to shift the focus away from the problems of health and nutrition to that of effective agriculture and food system policy actions and solutions