

Increasing the Impact of EU-Africa ST&I Cooperation: Food and Nutrition Security

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EC-CN+ High level Policy Dialogue Side Event



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Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges

FP 7 CAASTNet Plus Project

- **Objective**

*“ Encourage more and better bi-regional STI cooperation for enhanced outcomes around topics of mutual interest and particularly in relation to the **global societal challenges** of climate change, **food security** and health”.*

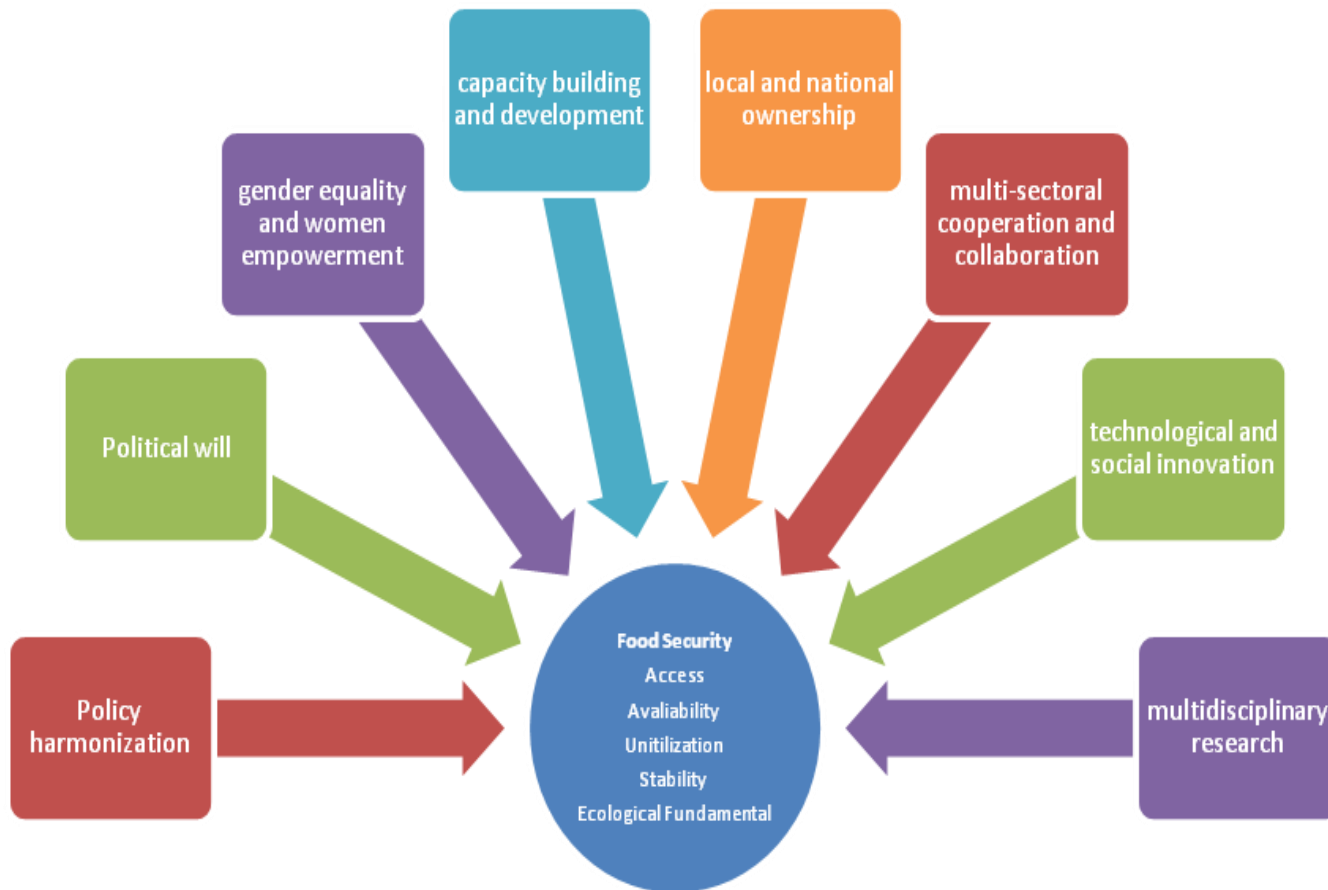
- **Work Package 1 – Food Security Global Challenge**

Purpose – *“to contribute to the structuring and strengthening of cooperation in food security research and innovation between Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa*

Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)

- **Global** – continental and national in scope
- In **Africa** – 200m people undernourished (stunting & micronutrient deficiencies); rising chronic diseases & health care; high food import bill (Euro \$33 billion); ecological challenges – water & soils.
- In **Europe** – food waste and over-nutrition
- Joint AU & EU Priority (JAES 8)
- **Multifaceted** – political, social, environmental, scientific/technological ... dimensions

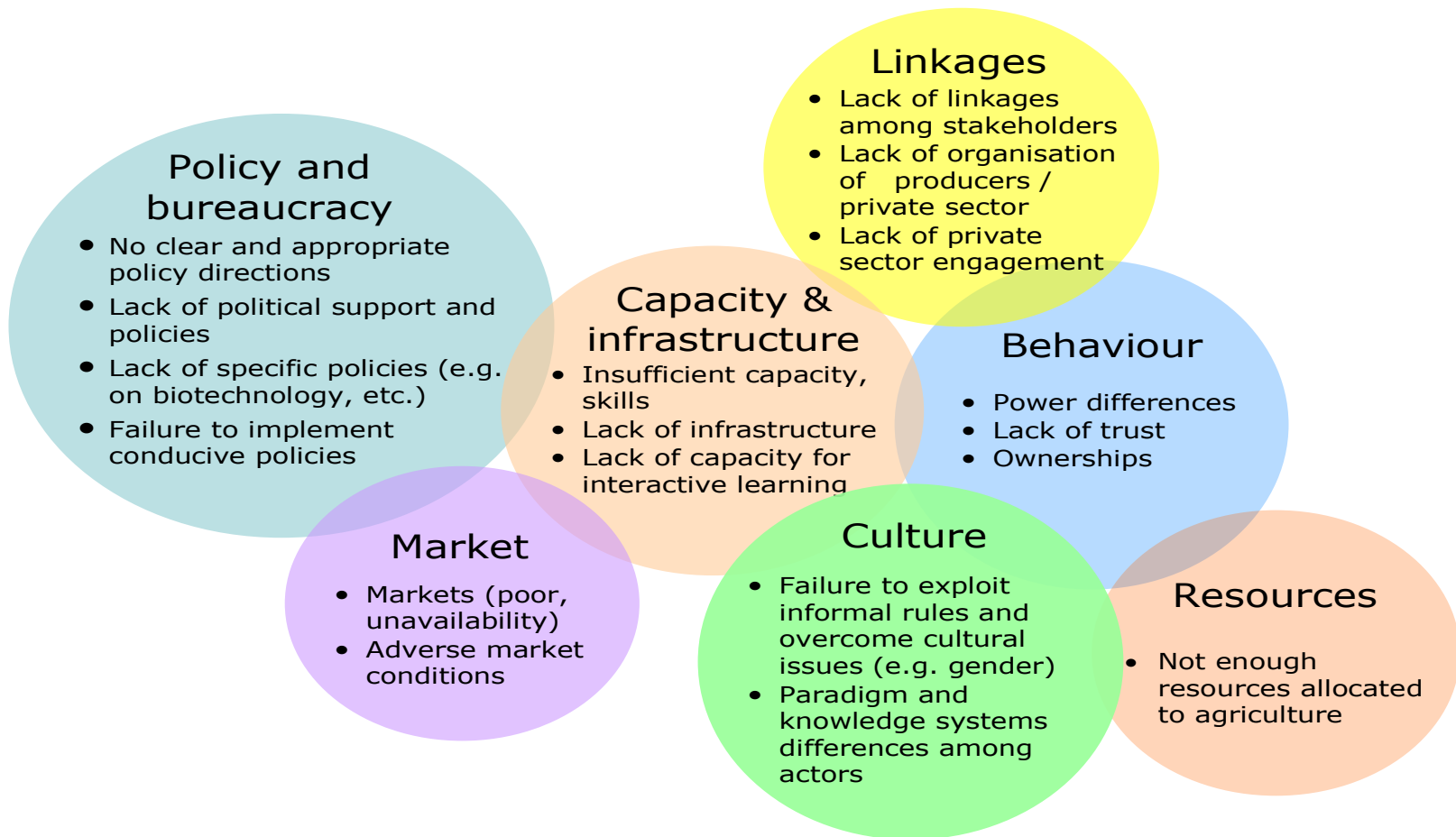
FNS – a Multipronged Approach



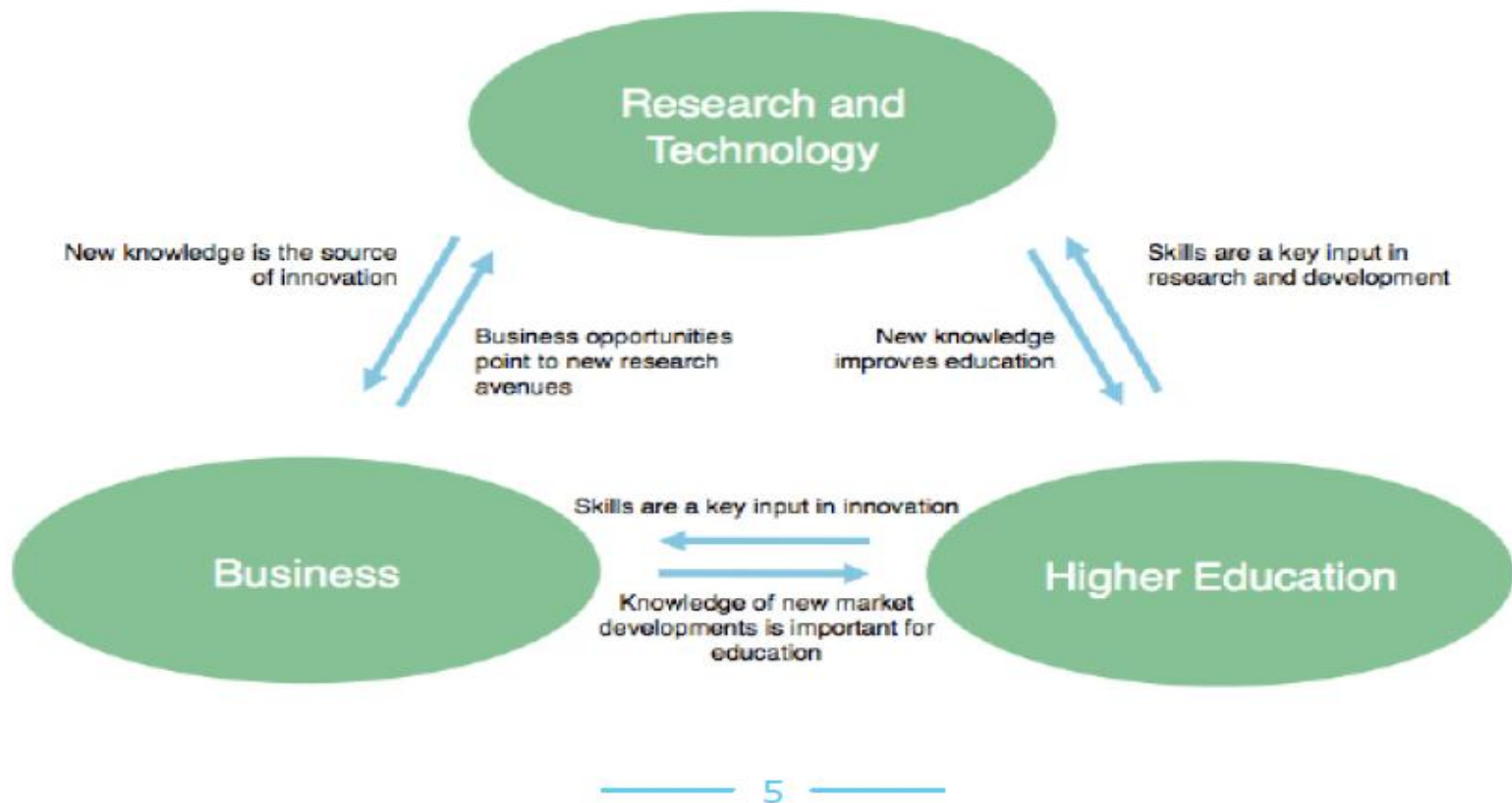
Africa - EU and ST&I

- **Africa's R&D investment** – <1% GDP; under-resourced universities & research organizations;
- **EU 27 R&D** investment – 2% GDP; about 9% public spending on R&D; superior infrastructure
- **AU ST&I Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024)** - Mission “*To accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy*” – **No budget** stipulated
- **EU 2020 – Innovation Union** – “*To increase an innovation-friendly environment that makes it easier for great ideas to be turned into products and services that will bring economic growth and jobs*” – **Budget of 70 -80 billion Euro** -Horizon 2020:

Factors hindering innovation



Factors Enhancing Innovation



Council of the European Union (2008). 2020 Vision for the European Research Area

In - Report of European Inst of Innovation and Technology, June 2012. p.5

CN+ WPI - Objectives

Assess the **impact** of Africa-Europe collaborative research on joint **food security** priorities

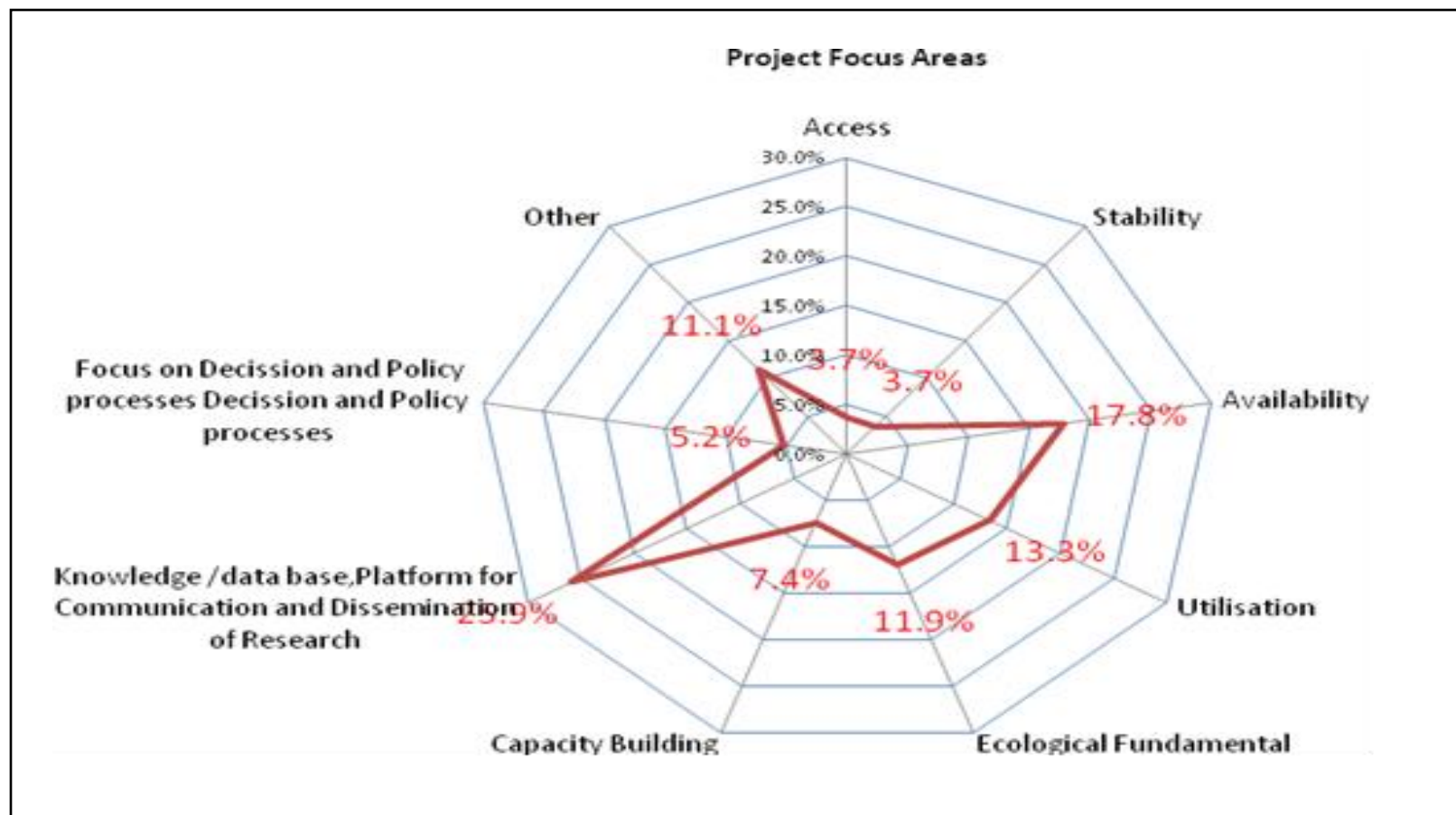
Contribute to **bridging the public-private gap** for the dissemination and **exploitation** of food security research results

Foster a **Europe-Africa multi-actor platform** which promotes synergies & coordination of programming and/or policy approaches within & between **EU** and **AU** MS for addressing researchable joint priorities

CN+ WPI - Desk Research

- **Compiled a database of EU funded** bi-regional research cooperation and programmes and bilateral MS **FNS** projects (n.b information on private research funding not available).
- **Reviewed** policy documents, published reports
- **Classified** EU funded projects (73) according to main security pillars – AASU+E, thematic focus, budget, participating organizations, countries etc

FNS snapshot of Joint Projects (73)



Budget - Euro 344 million (74% EC contribution)

Bilateral MS Projects

- *Austria, France, Germany, The Netherlands*
 - *Interesting projects e.g. Austria livestock production scenarios & weather forecasts and soil data forecasts for Africa; Wageningen UR integrated seed sector development*
 - *Country focus & partners e.g. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Uganda,*
 - *Difficult to capture budget information*
 - *Explore/provide opportunities for cross-learning between MS and EU cooperation projects*

Recommendations

- **Support** : **Co-owned** and **co-funded** joint FNS programming - Multi-disciplinary research / science excellence / capacity building on joint priorities
- **Develop** : A roadmap for bi-regional cooperation in STI in collaboration with stakeholders (**workshop**)
- **Consider** - A joint **Africa-EU STI Think Tank** on FNS - for guiding & influencing policy and evaluating impact
- **Establish** - Bi-regional **platforms** of private investors, public sector, researchers & academics, SMEs – for enhancing innovation & competitiveness

CN+ - Next Steps

- **Complete** analysis of bi-regional and bilateral MS FNS cooperation programmes & projects – conduct survey & interviews for project leaders & partners
- **Convene** stakeholder meetings to share results and identify pathways for strengthening STI bi-regional cooperation on FNS (**joint priorities & roadmap**)
- **Organize** and host bi-regional platform events of African-EU private investors, public sector officials, researchers & academics, SMEs (**research uptake**)
- **Publish** and disseminate policy and briefing papers and monitor uptake of recommendations

Thank you
Merci



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