

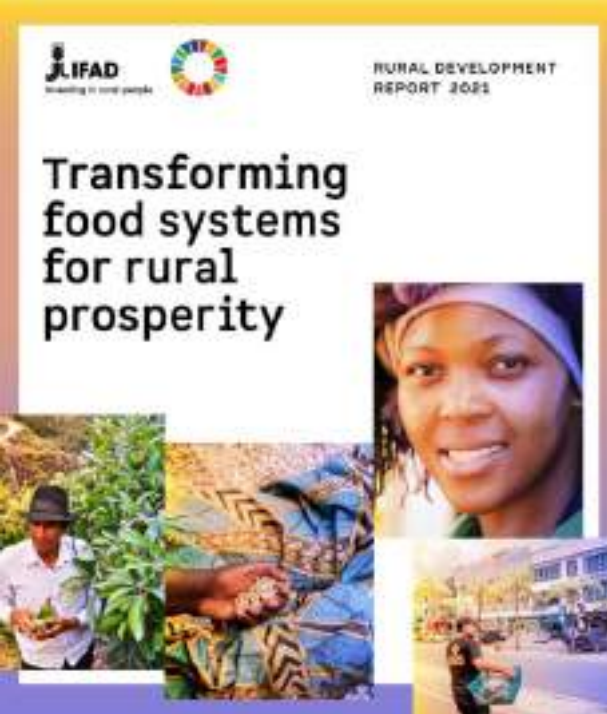
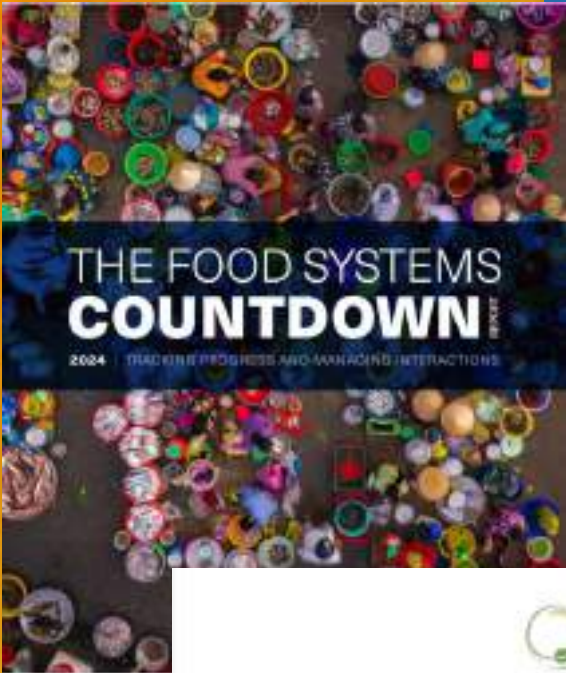
# Harvesting Lessons from Global Case Studies of Food System Transformation

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10 June 2026



# Food systems transformation is firmly on the global agenda...





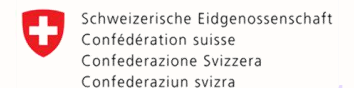
A vibrant display of fresh produce at a market stall. The stall is filled with numerous plastic buckets of various colors (blue, green, yellow, orange) arranged in rows. Each bucket is overflowing with different types of vegetables. In the top row, there are buckets of red tomatoes, yellow lemons, and green bell peppers. The middle row features green bell peppers, yellow lemons, and purple onions. The bottom row includes green bell peppers, yellow lemons, and purple onions. The background shows more buckets of produce, creating a sense of abundance. The overall scene is bright and colorful, typical of a bustling outdoor market.

**But how does it happen in practice?**



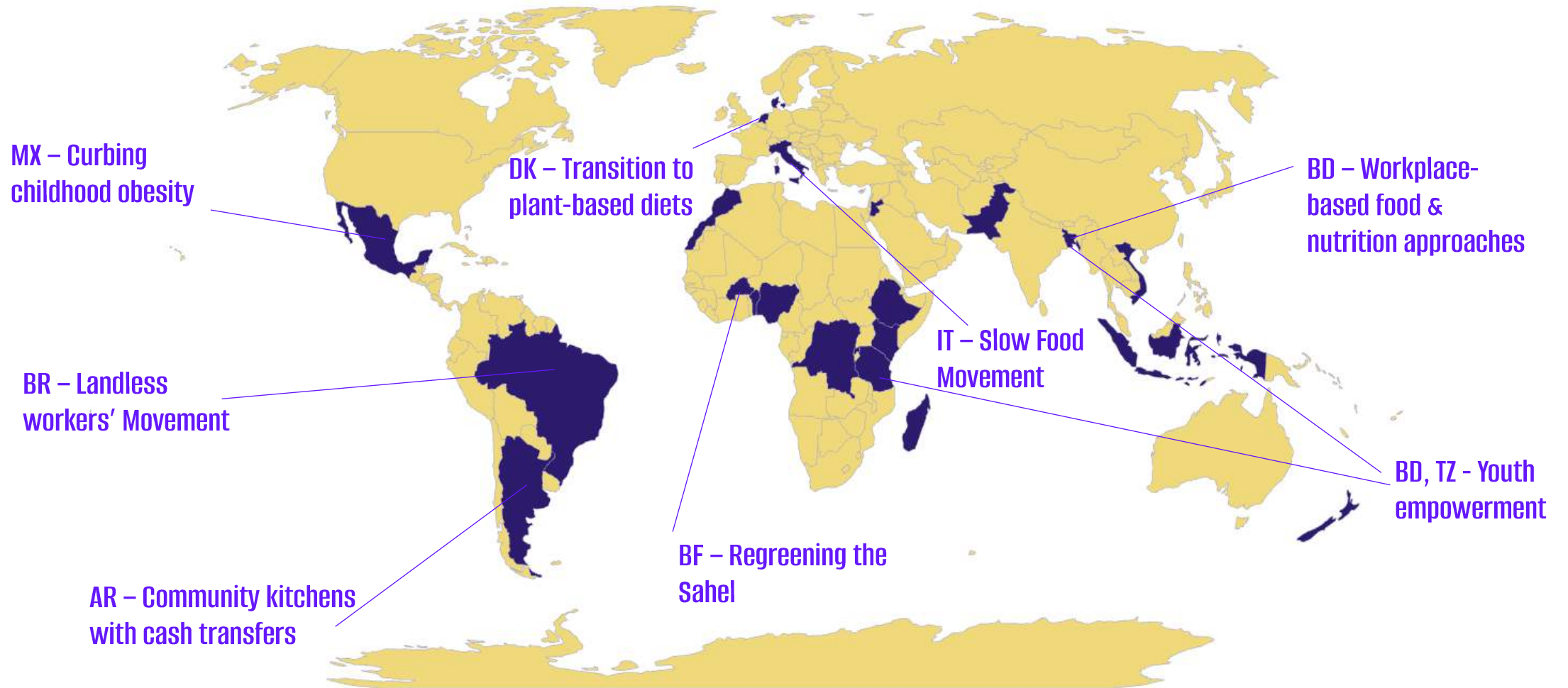
# Exemplars of Food Systems Transformation

**Aim:** Document case studies of food system transformation in practice to provide concrete examples of what it can look like and the factors that can foster or inhibit transformative steps or processes — **to inform and inspire future action.**



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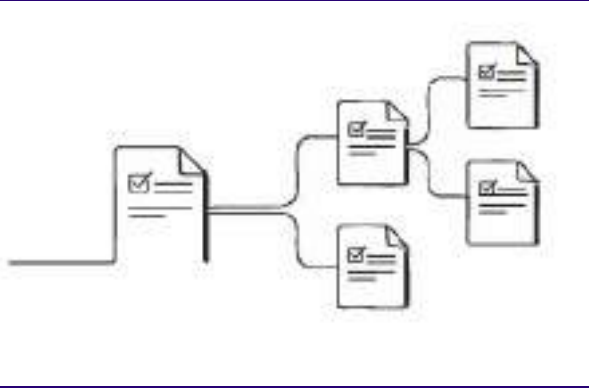
# Selected Cases







# Methods



## Individual case studies

Literature review + primary data collection.

Primarily qualitative; quantitative where feasible (largely secondary data).

Either retrospective or in real time.



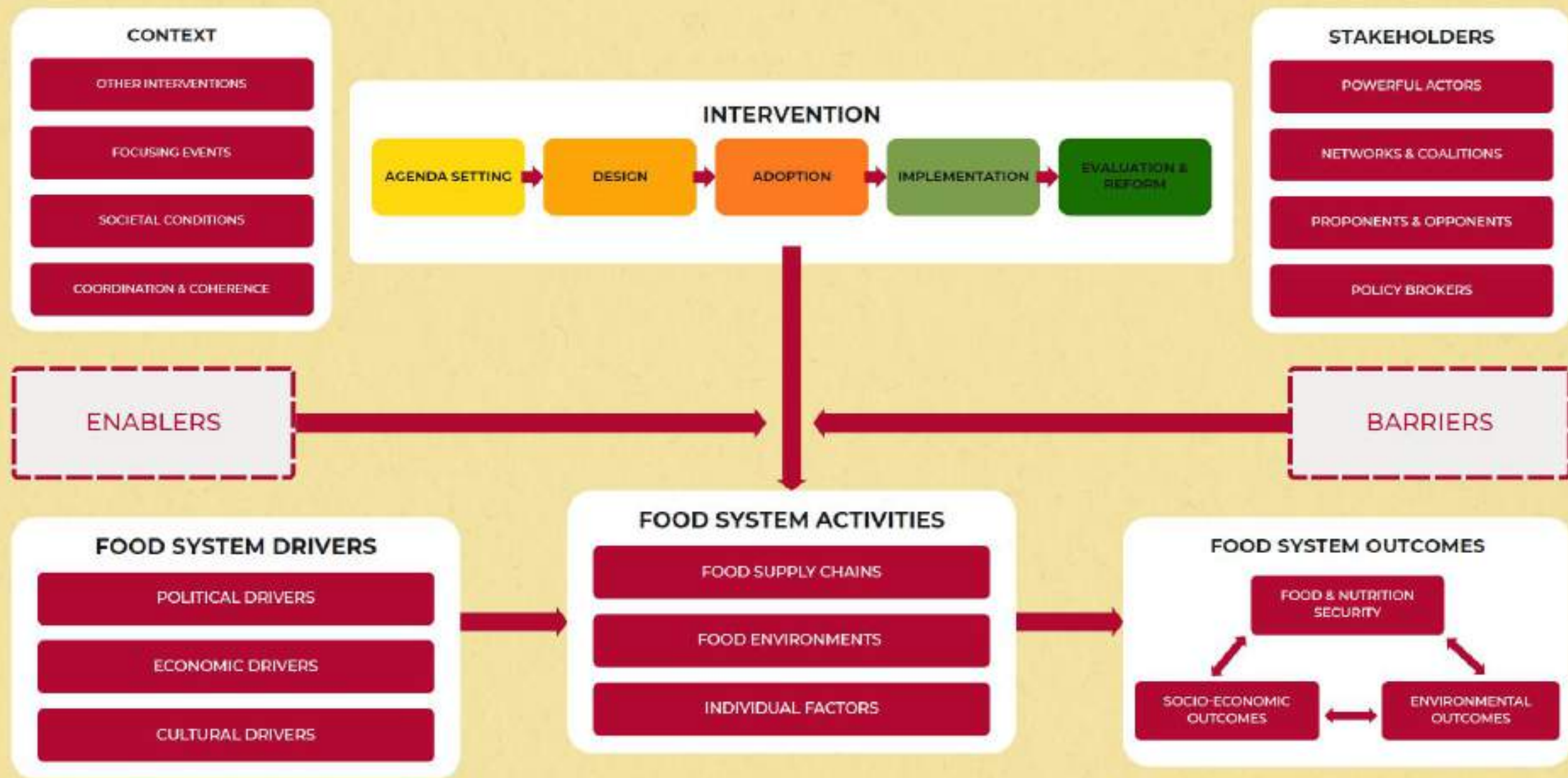
## Yielding cross-cutting insights

Viewing cases jointly to draw shared lessons (for research and practice).

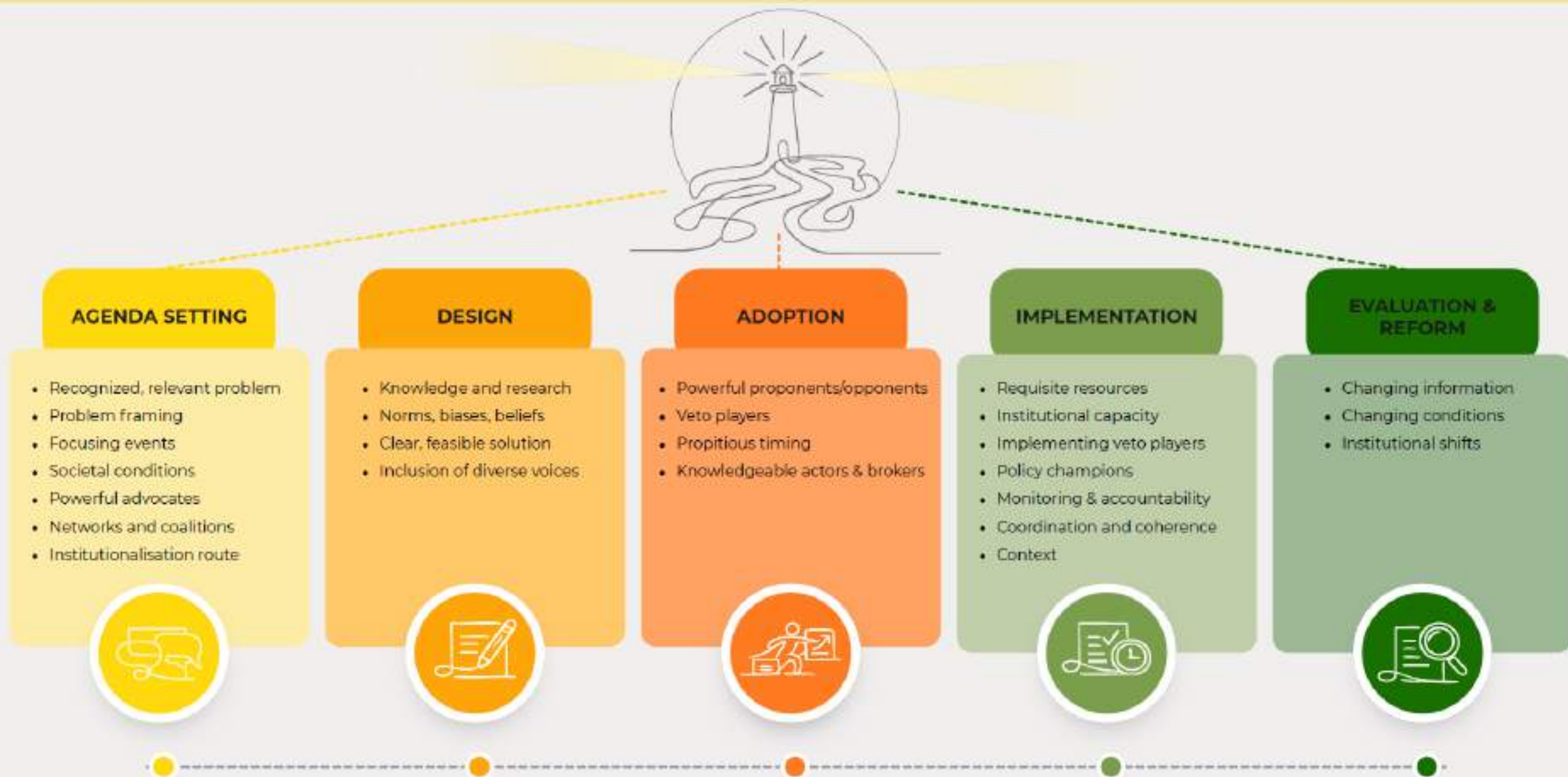
Using a shared framework and analytic approach.

Grouping cases within themes.













# Four Methodological Challenges

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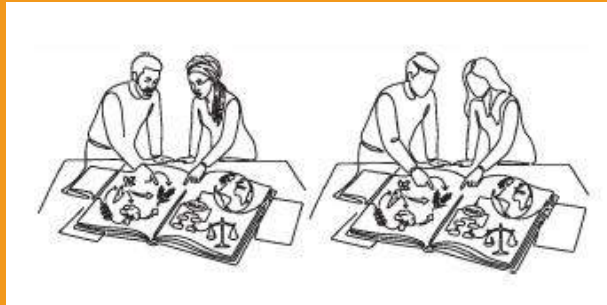




## What counts as FST?

*Purposeful change (brought about intentionally and with specific action) to reshape the food system to improve its socio-economic, food and nutrition security, and/or environmental outcomes.*

What scale? How much change? Narrow versus broad?



## Whose FST?

Aiming to curate a diverse set of change processes, led by and engaging diverse actors.

But equity, inclusion and power are central topics in FST.

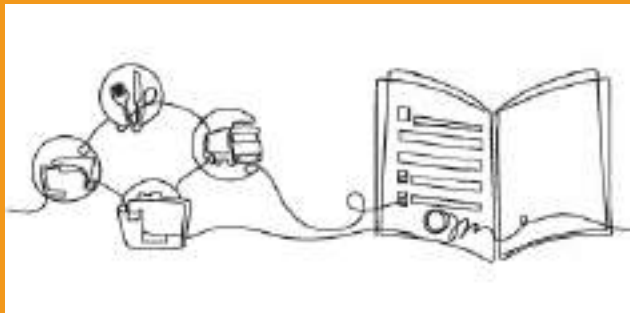
Differing opinions on 'legitimate' transformative processes and actors.



## Complex & Dynamic Processes

Adequately capturing within a case study + distilling to transferrable insights is difficult.

Temporal aspect further complicates.



## Drawing generalizable insights

Capturing diverse cases within a shared analytical framework.

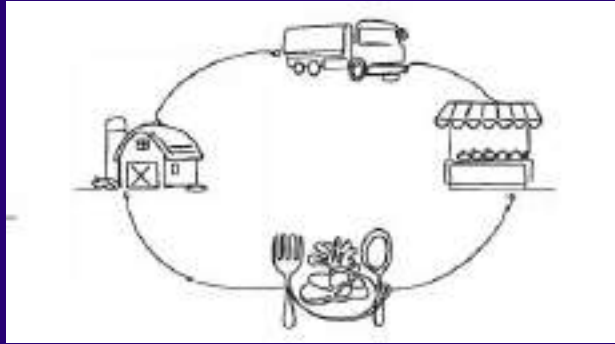
Abstracting from a specific context.





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# Four Emerging Insights



## Food systems thinking has gained uptake and momentum.

Catalytic role of UNFSS.

Gap: translating 'thinking' and 'planning' into action.



## Timing matters

Windows of opportunity and triggering events matter.





## Inclusion can require both give & take

Correcting power asymmetries entails redistributing relative power, which can be a key barrier.



## The path from 'evidence' to 'evidence-based policymaking' is not straight.

Can require disruption of existing processes and ways of doing.

Which evidence? Which interpretations?

What else gets in the way?



# Next Steps



# Next Steps

- Continue identifying and pursuing case studies
- Publish results of individual case studies
- Synthesize cases across and within shared themes to draw generalizable insights
- Share & leverage results to inform practice of studying and supporting food system transformation

 **Watch this space!**





# Thank you!



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