

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The feminization of agriculture: A gender approach to nutrition

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Presentation Outline

- Definitions
- Contribution of women to agriculture
- Challenges in feminization of Agriculture
- Making feminization of agriculture work for nutrition
- Management of increased agricultural time burdens
- Conclusion

Definition

- Feminization refers to the increased participation or greater roles of women in decision-making processes within the community or household.
- Feminization of agriculture refers to women increasing participation in the agricultural labour force, whether as independent producers, as unemployed family workers or as agricultural wage workers, Lastarria-Cornhiel, 2006
- Is the phenomenon new in Africa?

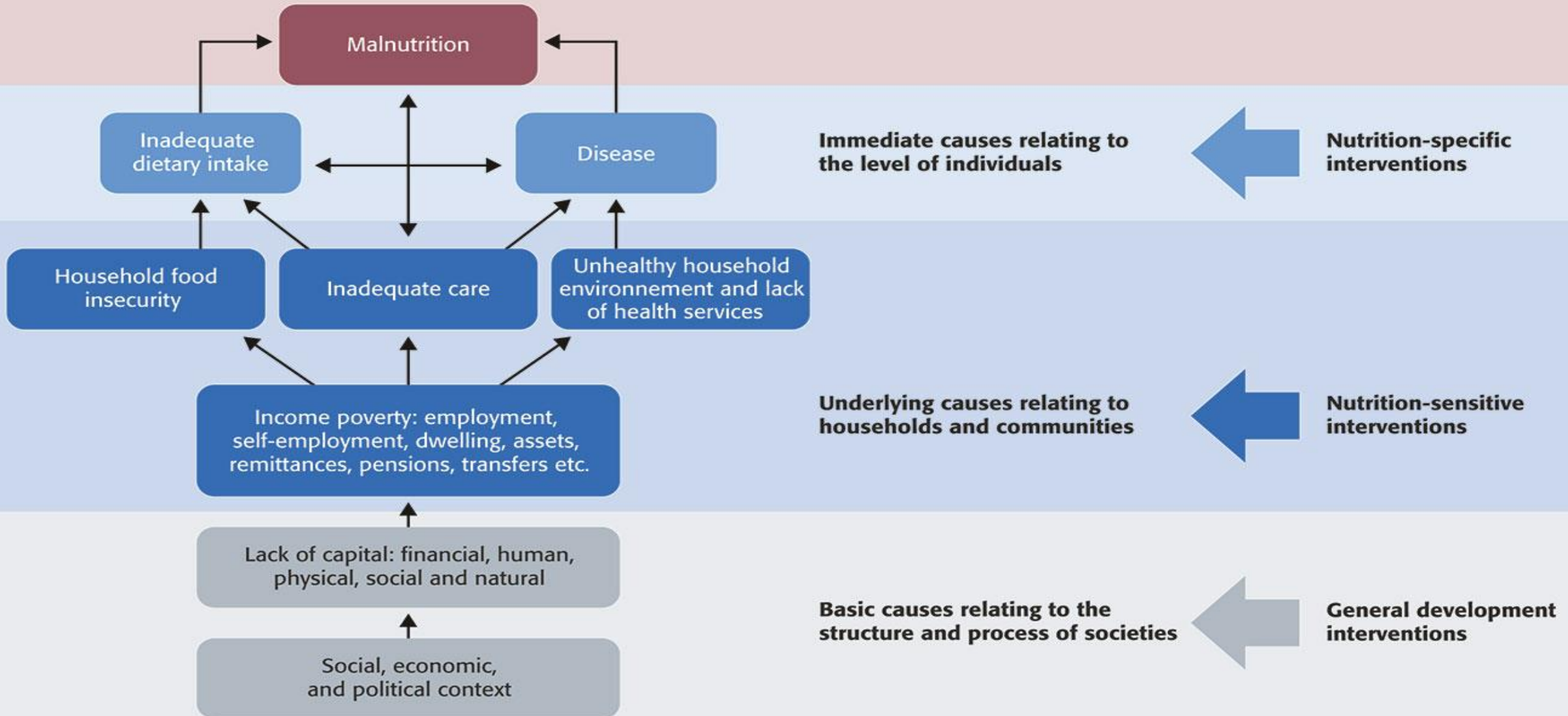
Contribution of women to Agriculture

- Women are heavily involved in agriculture, comprising 40 percent of the agricultural labor force in low-income countries (FAO, 2011).
- They are engaged mainly in unskilled labour in the fruit, vegetable and cut-flower export sector; food processing; retail market
- Leveraging on women role in agriculture has a great potential to address malnutrition but some factors that may have negative impact on nutrition outcomes need to be considered.





Conceptual Framework for Malnutrition



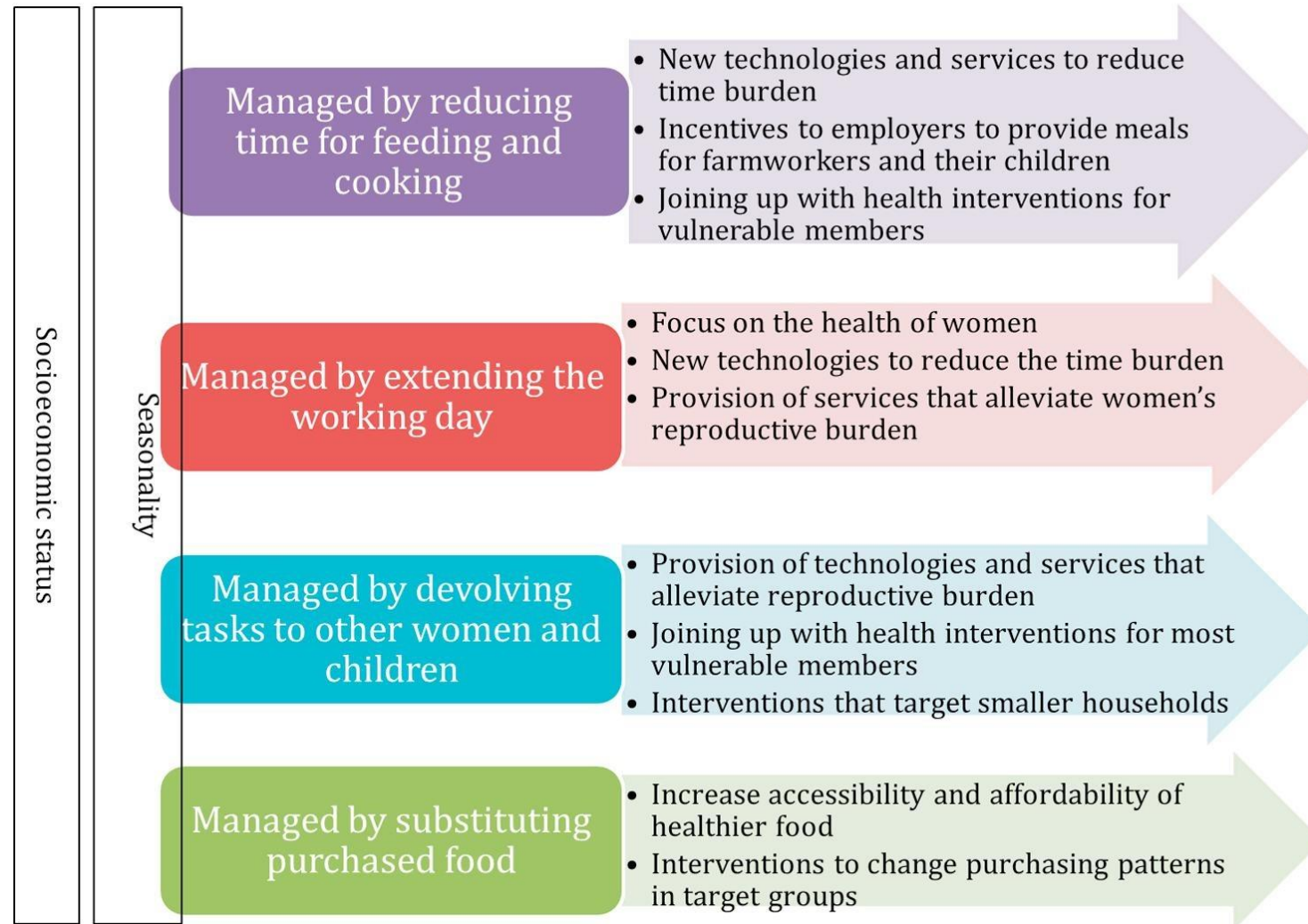
Challenges in Feminization of Agriculture

- Women spend a significant amount of time on agricultural activities which coupled with other activities, leads them to experience high overall time burdens (Rost et al., 2015)
- The overall high time burden leads to time constraints and subsequent decisions about the trade-off between activities that are relevant for nutrition and child care.
- While women are engaged for longer periods in agricultural production, there has been little change in the gender division of labor within the household with regard to reproductive work:
- Kadiyala et al.'s (2014) review of studies from India shows that the increased income obtained through women's wage work does not necessarily improve nutritional outcomes because women have less time to spend on child health.

Making Feminization of Agriculture work for Nutrition

- Gender considerations in feminization of agriculture - effective agricultural interventions need to consider the gender impact on workloads and time constraints (Berti et al., 2004, Arimond et al., 2011).
- When time is a constraint among women in agriculture sector, alternative options for child care are necessary
- Workplace support for mothers in commercial agricultural enterprises
- Utilization of time and energy saving technologies
- Pro women policies that ensure equal access to land, access to credit facilities, appropriate technologies and economic development strategies.
- Building the capacity of Women in decision making – what and when to grow; how to use it; income and budgeting, time management, division of labour

Management of increased agricultural time burdens



Source: D. Johnston et al., 2018

Conclusion

- Is feminization of agriculture a gender approach to nutrition? Yes and No
- Women's growing contribution of labour in agriculture adds to the already heavy work burdens of most rural women, thereby further undermining their well-being and nutrition status of household members
- If women are empowered in time management, nutrition knowledge, care practices and decision making, then their engagement in agriculture may result in positive nutrition outcomes

Thank You

