



# Linking livestock interventions and human nutrition in West Africa and Sahel countries

## Perceptions, experiences and challenges

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INSTITUTE



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Research on Agriculture and Health



Humanitarian Aid  
and Civil Protection

# Context / Rationale

## Malnutrition:

- Persistence of high rates of malnutrition (in all forms)
- Total number of malnourished children is increasing every year.
- Fighting malnutrition as a priority for the Sahel countries (e.g. SUN movement, AGIR initiative)

## Livestock livelihoods & Animal production:

- Arid and semi-arid areas with limited potential for agriculture (crop) production, but more suitable for livestock raising
- Importance of livestock livelihoods and animal production in the Sahel
- High nutritional value of ASFs

## Study objectives

- Assess **current linkages** between livestock interventions and human nutrition in West Africa
- Discuss current **barriers** and **challenges** as identified by both nutrition and livestock experts working in West Africa
- Highlight **lessons learnt** from institutions in strengthening human nutrition and livestock linkages in humanitarian interventions

# Study process

## Scoping study complemented with literature review

→ Outputs: 3 background documents shared with participants previous to the workshop



## Workshop

→ Outputs: workshop presentations and report; country action plans for follow up

A table with multiple columns and rows, likely a data table or action plan. The table has a header row with columns for 'Pays', 'Thème', 'Indicateur', 'Niveau', 'Responsable', and 'Statut'. The table contains several rows of data, including entries for 'Mali', 'Niger', and 'Cote d'Ivoire'.

# Scoping study methodology

- Cross-sectional qualitative study
- 36 people interviewed:
  - From 27 national and international institutions (development partners, government, private sector)
  - Working in the 6 Sahel countries or at regional level
  - Selection based on their current activities and/or on potential roles in linking livestock and human nutrition
- SSI structured around 6 themes: (1) current importance to link livestock & nutrition; (2) existing gaps; (3) key linking factors; (4) interventions and their impacts on nutrition; (5) tools currently or with potential to be used; (6) coordination issues
- Thematic qualitative analysis of the data

# Workshop methodology (1/2)



- 60 Participants from 6 Sahel countries and regional offices
- Nutrition and livestock experts (+ resilience, M&E experts)
- Participatory group work + participants' case studies presentations

- Working groups based on 4 livestock-related livelihoods affected by different crises:
  - Pastoralists <-> conflict
  - agro-pastoralists <-> drought
  - little poultry producers <-> animal epidemic
  - urban HH without livestock <-> economic crisis

# Workshop methodology (2/2)

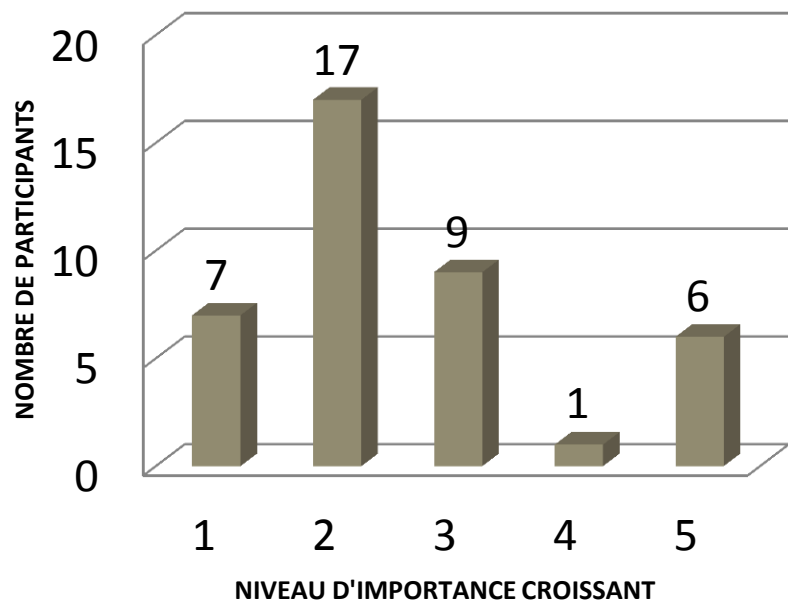
## Group work + cases studies presentations:

- Taboos & dietary patterns related to ASFs
- Causal pathways from livestock to nutrition
- Negative impacts on nutrition and preventive and/or mitigating measures
- Nutrition causal analysis by crisis-livestock livelihood groups
- Elements for “Nutrition-sensitive” interventions
- Indicators to measure nutrition outcomes
- Coordination challenges
- Gender issues
- Innovations

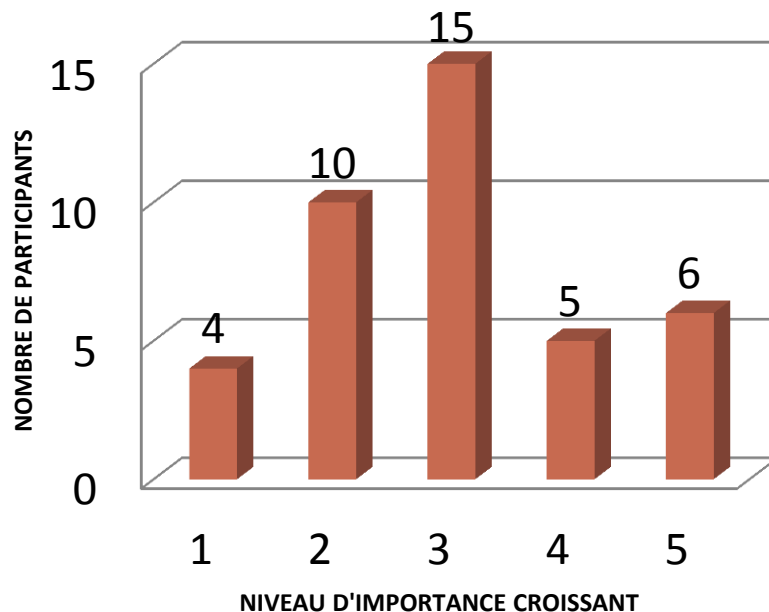


# Perceptions of livestock–Nutrition linkages

Do you think that integrating nutrition into livestock interventions is perceived as a priority for the livestock sector (n=40)?



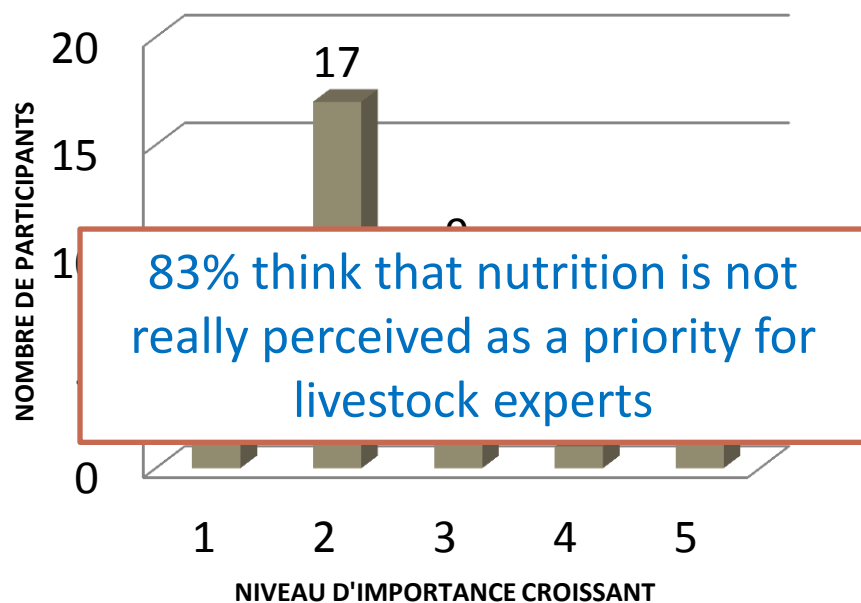
Do you think nutrition experts perceive livestock interventions and ASF consumption as a priority to tackle malnutrition (n=39)?



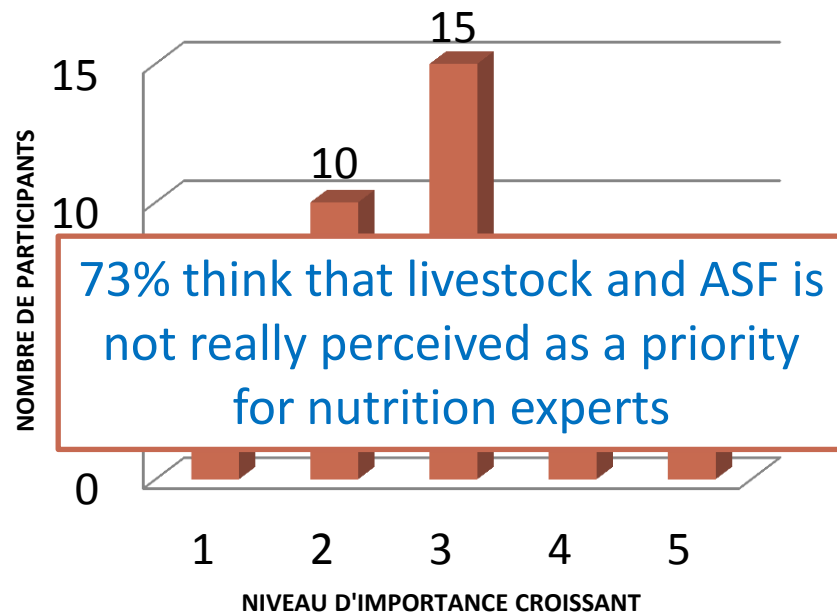


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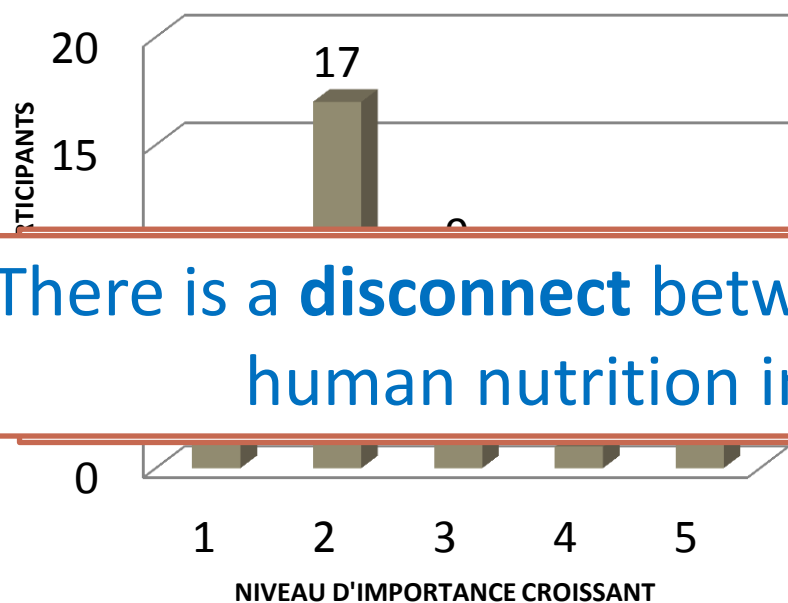


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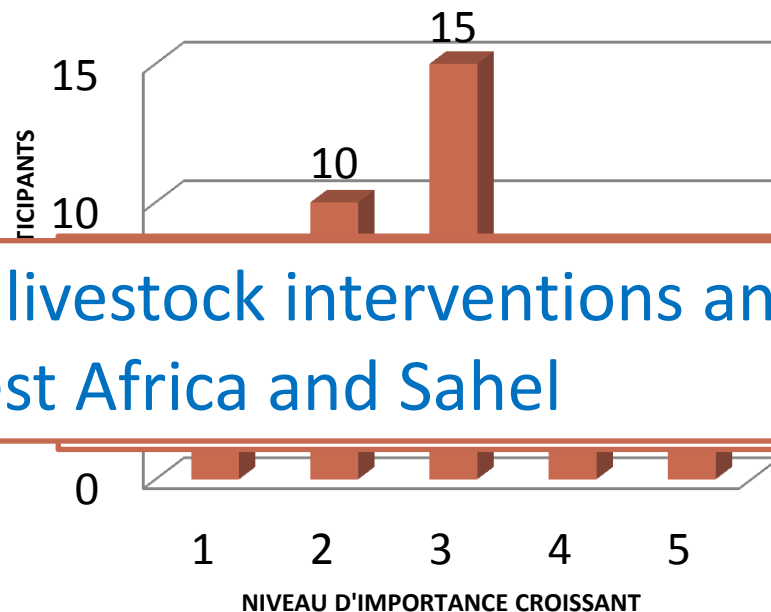


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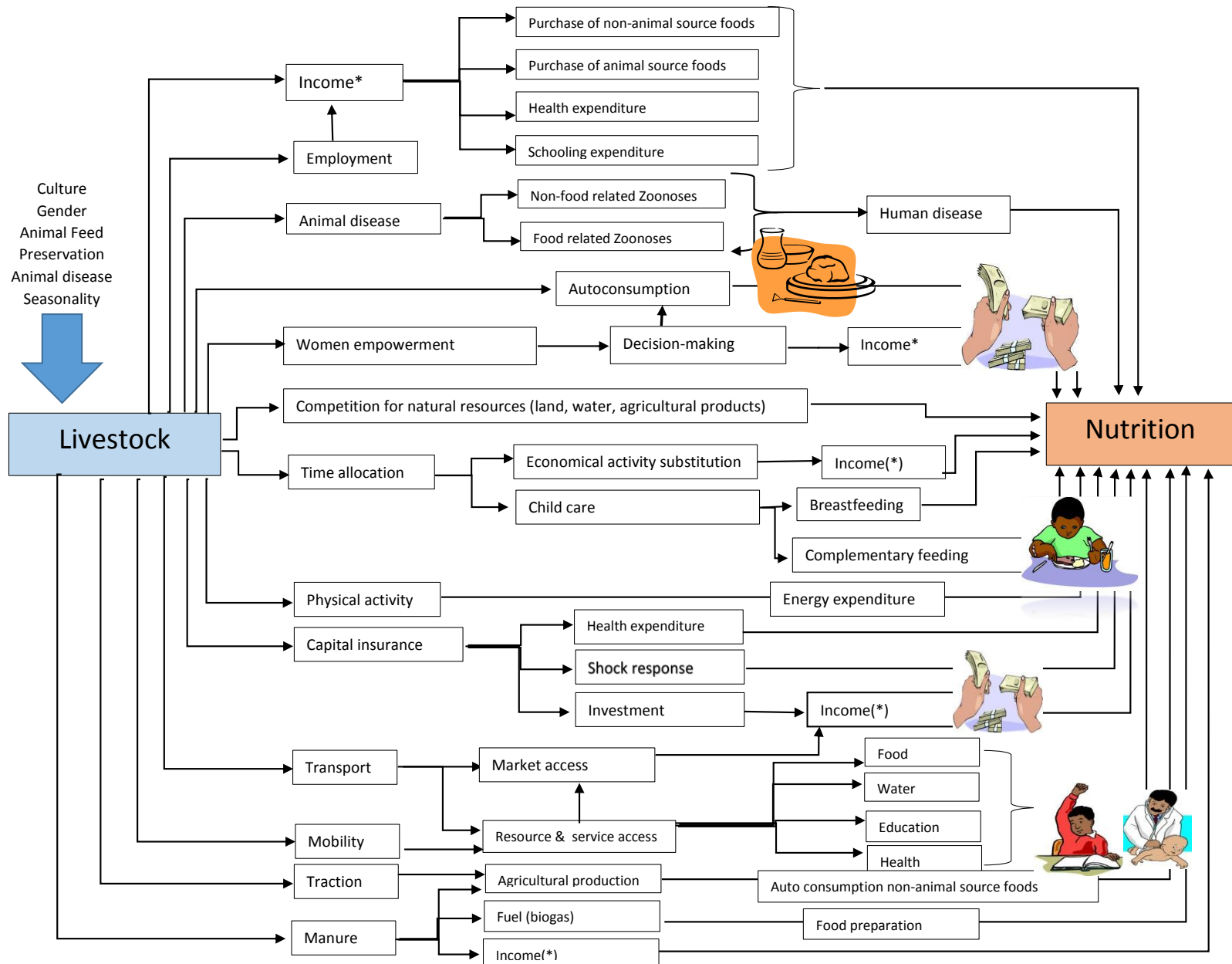


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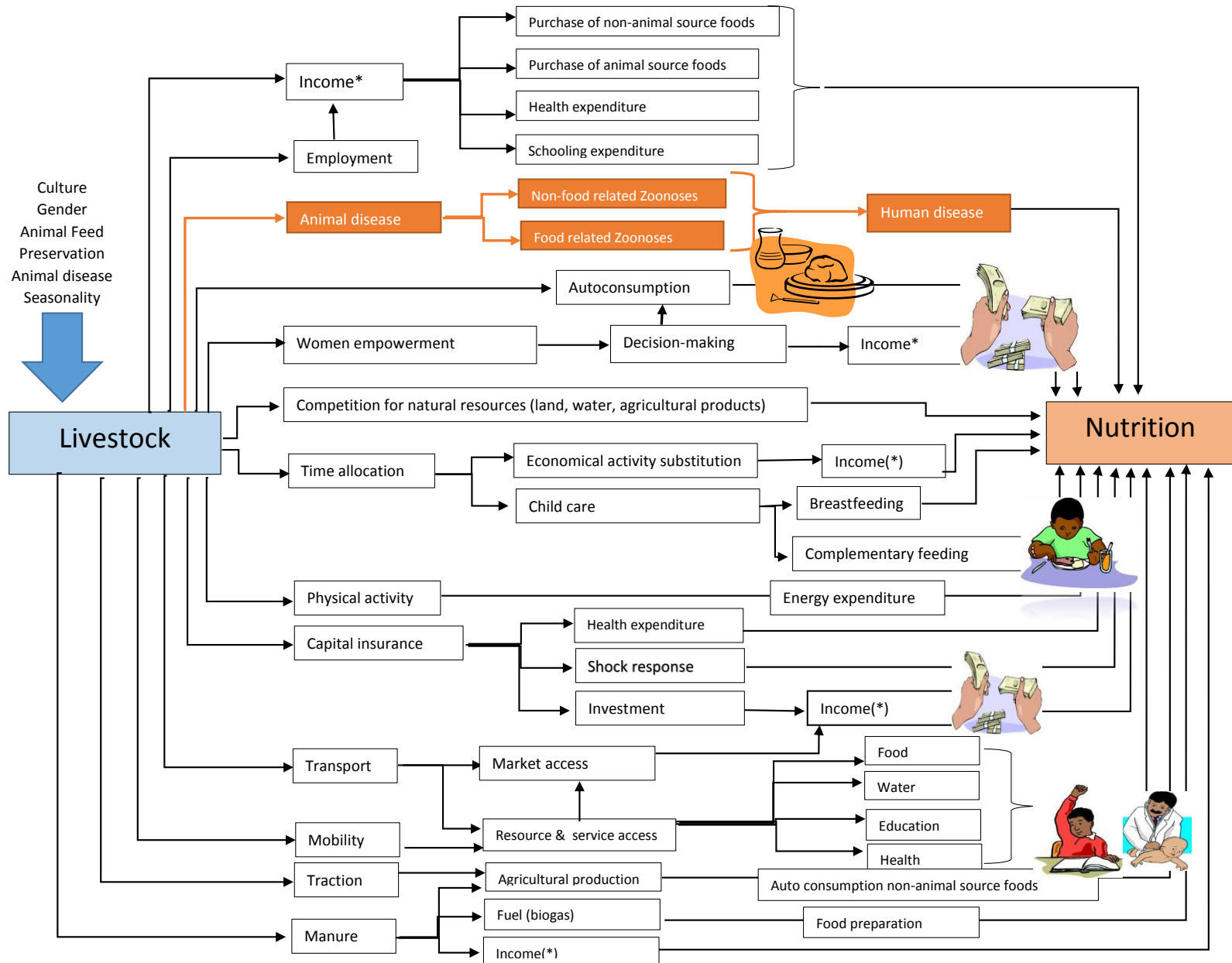


There is a **disconnect** between livestock interventions and human nutrition in West Africa and Sahel

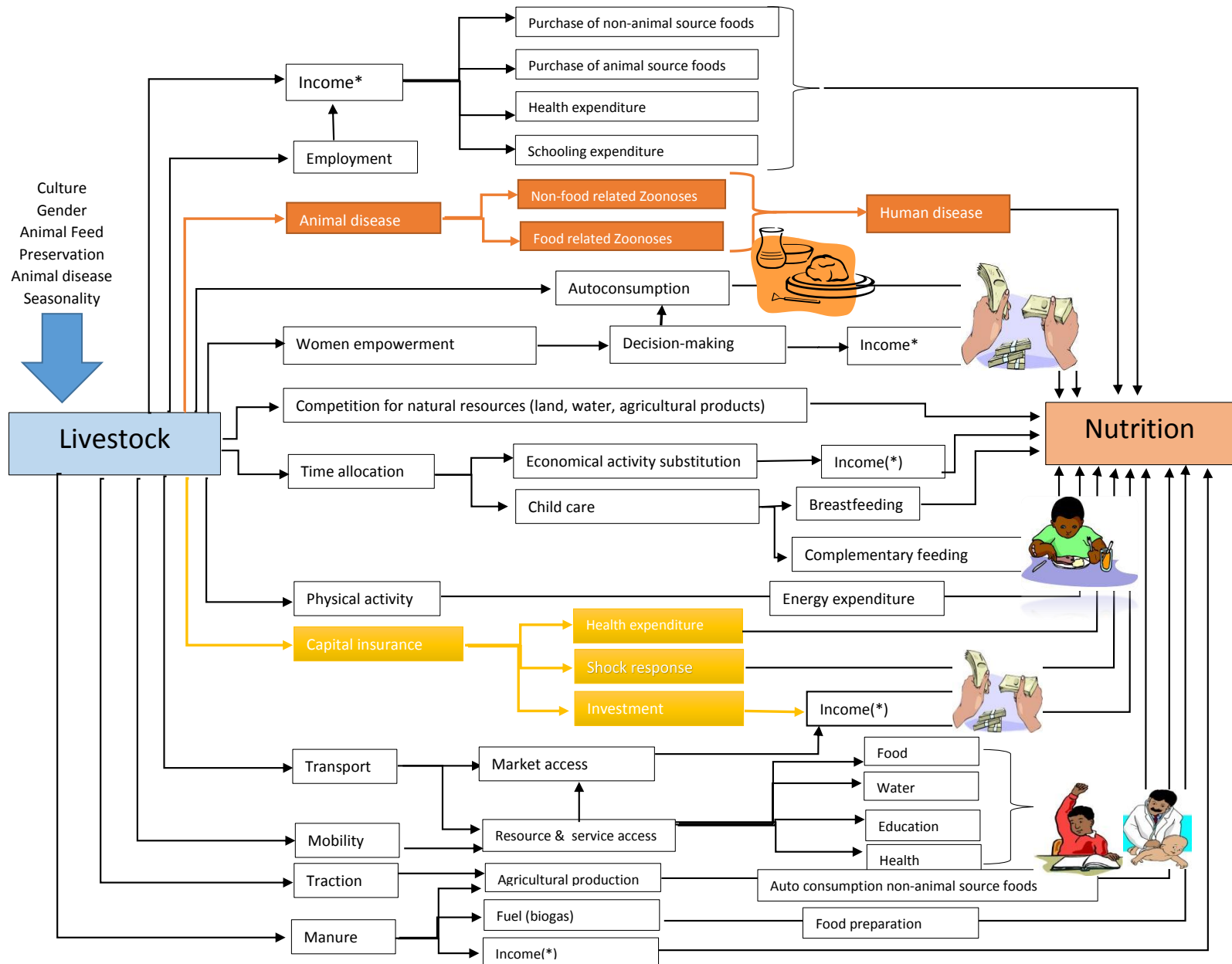
# Impact pathways livestock-nutrition



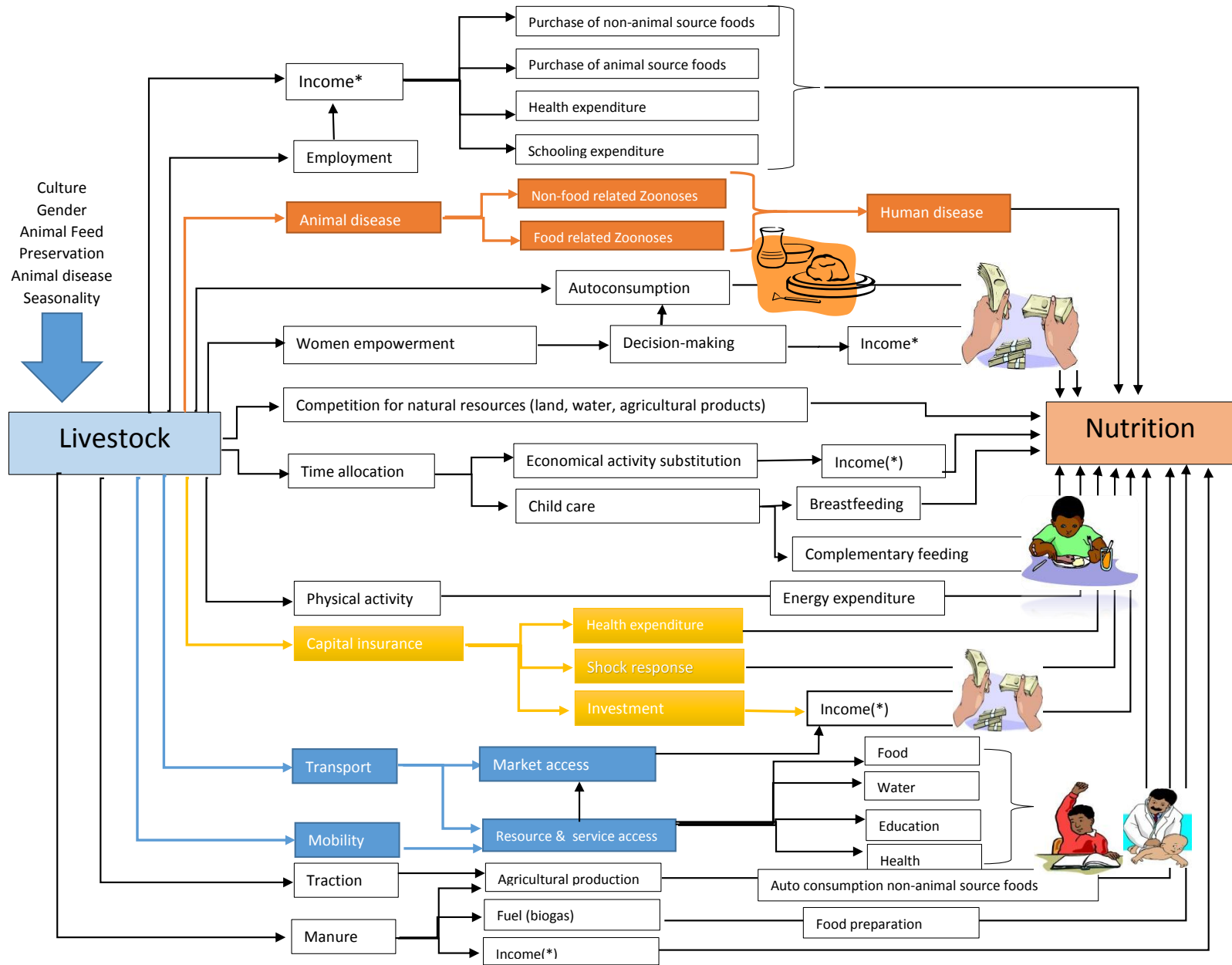
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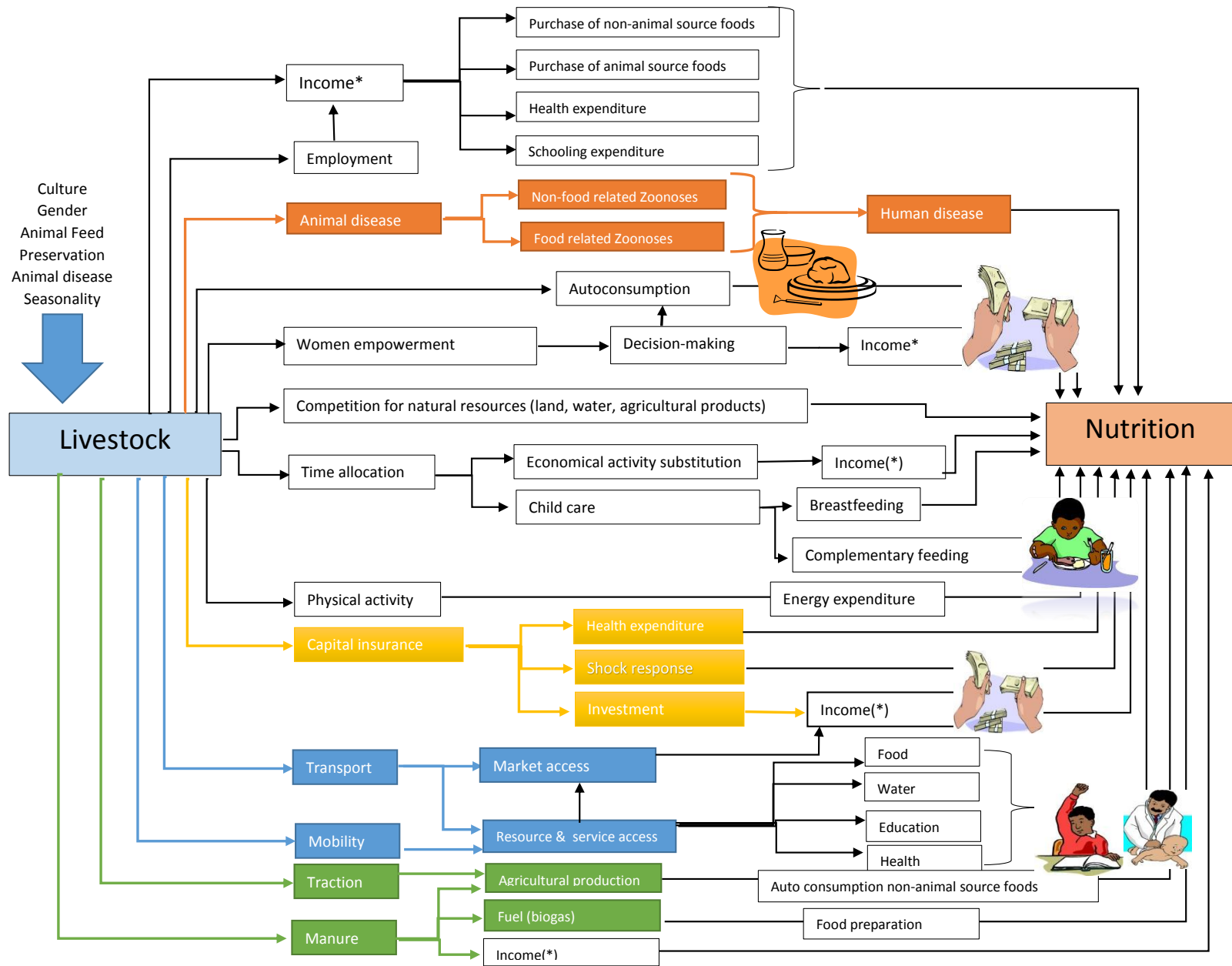
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# Impact pathways livestock-nutrition



# Barriers and challenges

- Cultural factors:
  - Taboos, local food consumption patterns, dietary practices, tribal rules, ....
  - Gender and intra-household distribution inequity
- “Income interference”:
  - Animal production perceived as a source of income rather than a source of food
  - Market integration leads to a shift from consumption to sale
  - Reinforce by lack of knowledge of the nutritional value of ASFs (not only a source of protein)



## Examples of taboos related to ASFs

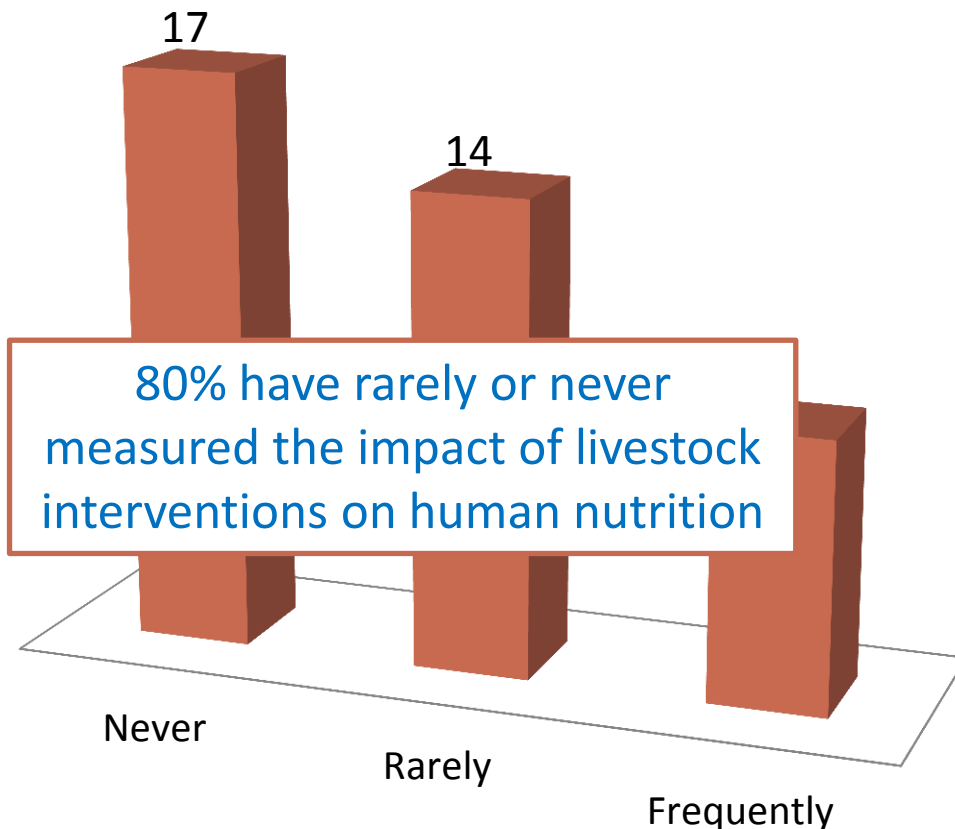
- Milk: curative properties; divine properties; not boiled (loss of nutrients)
- Beef: are kept for the household's chief; not for pregnant women (excessive bleeding during the delivery)
- Pork: Not consumed by Muslims; Religious taboo
- Eggs: Children could suffer from stunting and become thieves; Pregnant women have a higher risk to have bold children

# Barriers and challenges: knowledge, expertise, evidence

- Technical expertise on each sector:
  - Low expertise on nutrition among livestock experts
  - Low expertise on livestock interventions among nutritionists: “livestock more complex than crops”
- Operational challenges:
  - Lack of know-how to mainstream nutrition in interventions, to measure nutrition outcomes (e.g. “animal-level” vs “individual-level” indicators)?
- Lack of evidence on the linkages:
  - Complexity of the linkages between nutrition and livestock discourages
  - Need to demystify / build evidence

# Measuring nutrition outcomes

Have you ever monitored the nutrition impact of livestock interventions?



Average per participants' specific sector expertise (n=39):

Livestock = 1.9

Nutrition = 1.9

Other = 1.7

# Barriers and challenges

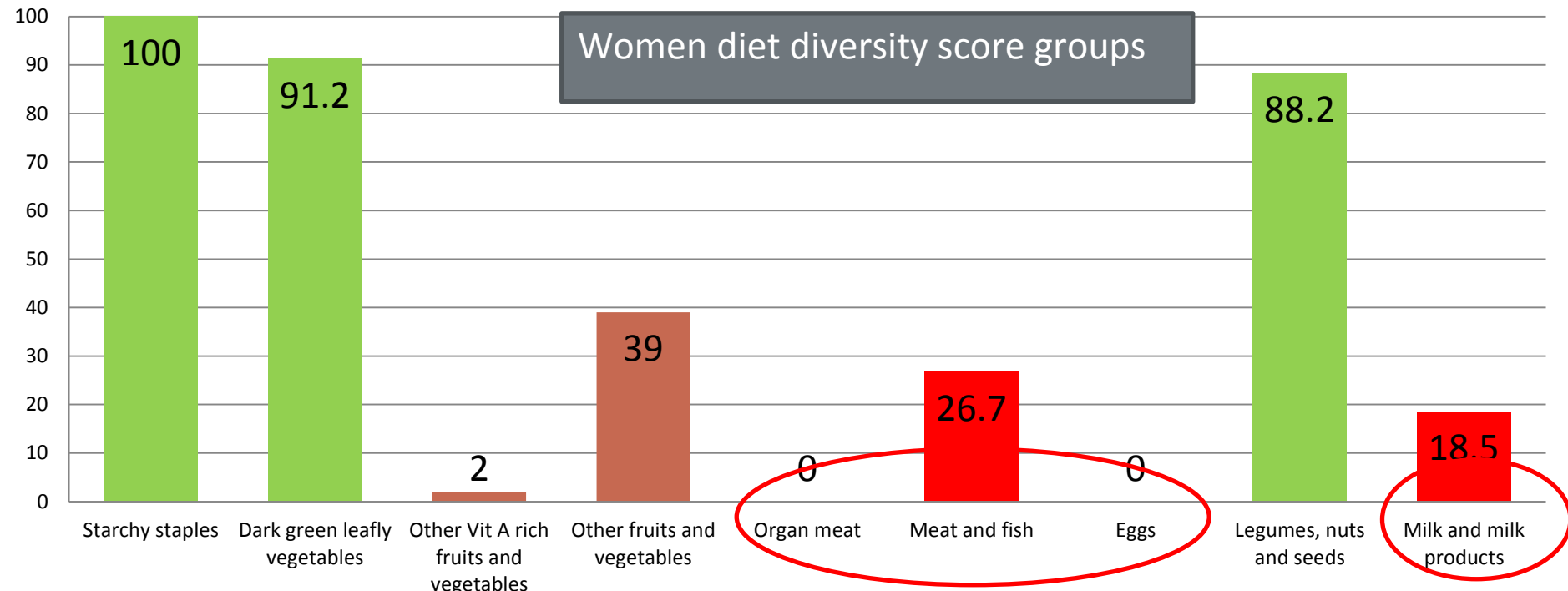
- Funding issues:
  - funding cycle often too short (humanitarian interventions) to allow measuring impact
  - Livestock not as a priority (focus on agriculture/crop)
- Coordination issues:
  - Nutritionists don't work with livestock experts
  - Silo approach between line ministries

## Lessons learnt

### **Factors to consider when designing interventions:**

- Type of livestock livelihoods (small / big ruminants, poultry, etc.) and related pathways
- Targeting
- Potential of livestock value chains and market access
- Extension of ASF shelf-life/ preservation methods
- Mobility patterns of pastoralists and implications on reduced access to market and services
- Use of individual dietary indicators

# Example of use of Women diet diversity score in livestock project



- 3 food groups consumed by women: starchy staples; dark green leaves; legumes, nuts and seeds
- 2/3 of women don't eat ASFs (iron-rich food)

## Example of use of women diet diversity score in livestock project

“Using this indicator allows measuring direct impact of livestock intervention on ASF consumption (milk, meat,...), both in quantity and quality. We we realized how important it is to incorporate well defined measurable nutrition objectives from the early design of the intervention” M. Chapon, AVSF

## Way forward

How to convince livestock and nutrition professionals that ASF has a great potential for improving nutrition?  
How to increase the nutrition impact of livestock interventions?

- Strengthen links between researchers/ practitioners
- Needs to collect and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt
- Capacity Development materials (sub-sector: livestock)
- Promote the dialogue between sector experts
- Potential to promote this study model in other regions



# THANK YOU!

- Workshop report:  
<http://bit.ly/1Hroau9>



- Short videos in French and English:  
<https://youtu.be/UMDq1ZF1LMQ>  
<https://youtu.be/oDS0BMTNxos>  
<https://youtu.be/FecBW-WIaBE>

