



Developed for UNEP

Sustainable Food System Transformation in West Asia Strategy

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Sustainable Food System Transformation Strategy for West Asia

- Developed for UNEP.
- August – December 2023
- Consultations with stakeholders was carried.



Critical Transition Pathways

Nature Action
Climate Action
**Chemicals &
Pollutions Action**



1. Safeguard land and water ecosystems advancing One Health

2. Regenerating agroecosystems, pastures, freshwater & marine environments

3. Food system diversification

1. Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) Integrated Ocean Management (IOM)

- Interdisciplinary, systemic approaches.
- Focuses on evidence-based ecosystem.
- Applied to managing large-scale areas (agroecosystems, forests, meadows, pastures; wetland basins, coastal areas).
- Requires involvement of different ministries.
- Involving stakeholders to reduce degradation and improve ecosystem health.
- Long-term - outcomes take time to fully manifest.



2. Sustainable Agricultural Production

- ❑ Sustainable intensification of production systems
- ❑ Agroecological approaches



3. Reduce, Utilize, and Valorize Organic Waste

Includes:

- plant waste;
- animal waste;
- industrial and municipal solid waste.

Major pollution source – air, land, water.



4. Safe Management and Utilization of Polluting Water Discharges

- Municipal sewerage.
- Desalination brine.
- Agricultural brine (*very limited data in the region*).



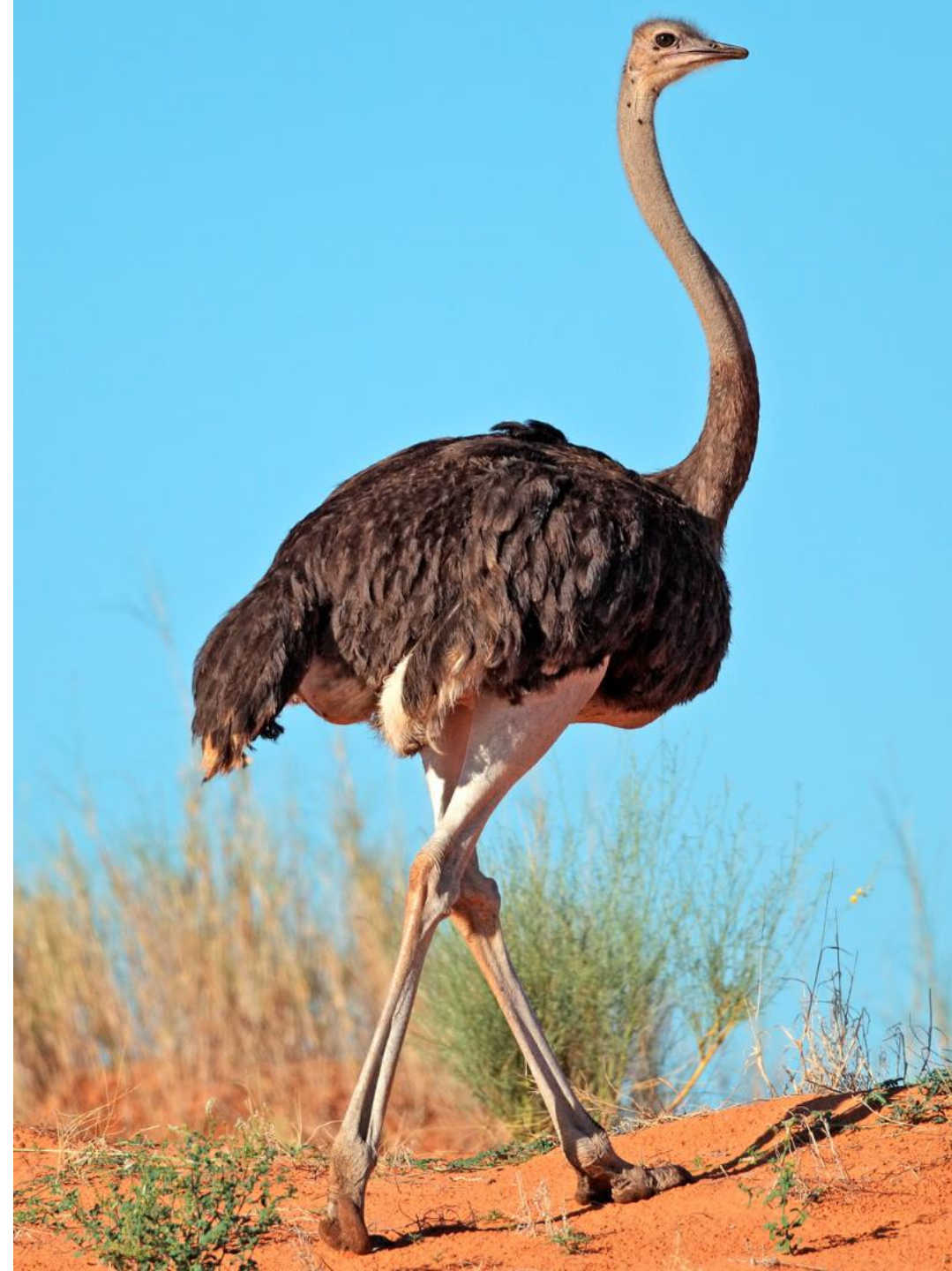


5. Safe and Productive Use of Agrochemicals

- Synthetic fertilizers – nitrogen and phosphorus
- Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides.
- Vaccines and veterinary antibiotics
- Growth hormones.

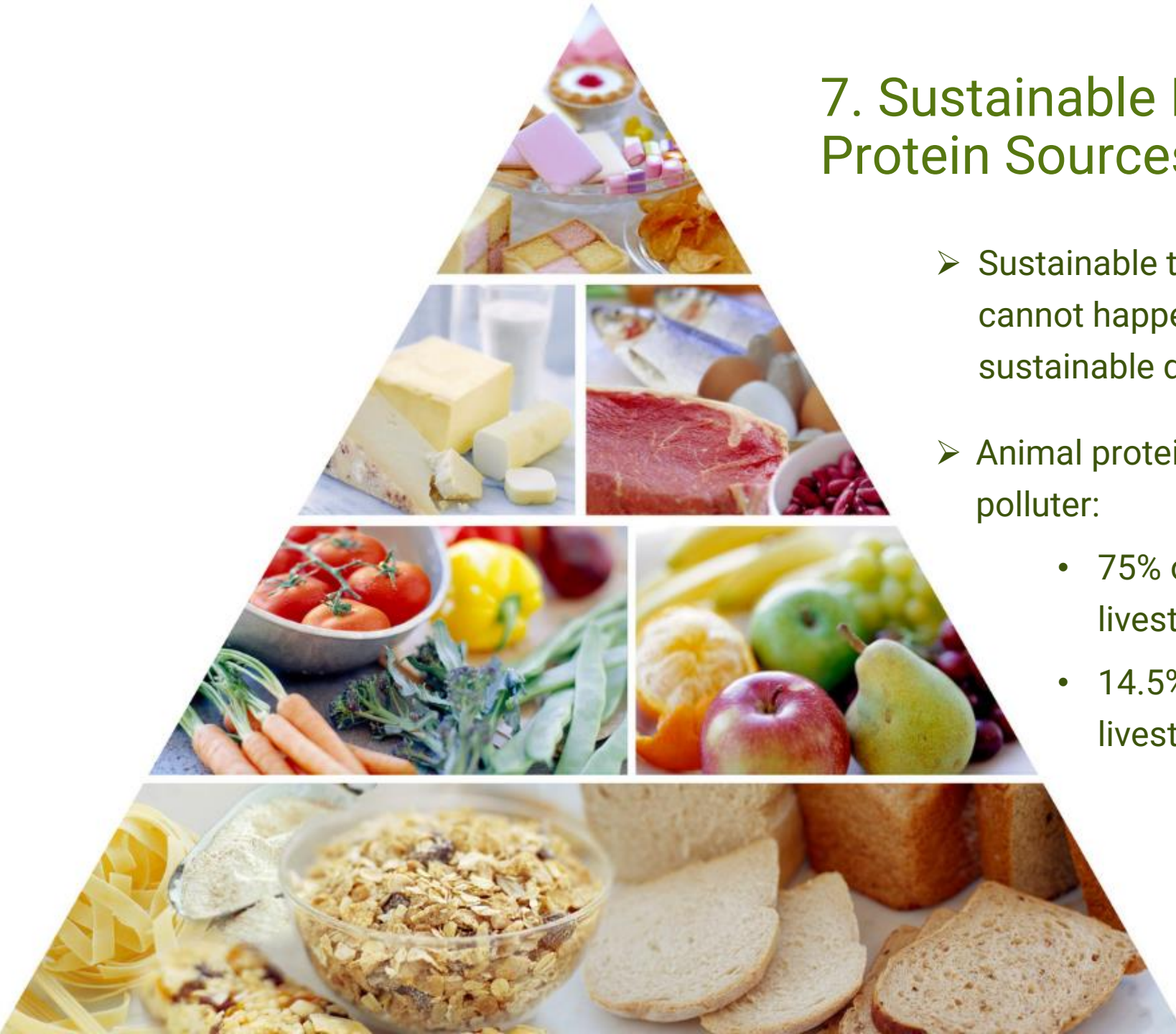
6. Utilize potential of native biodiversity

- West Asia has a rich biodiversity with a wide selection of wild species including edible species with unexplored and underexploited potential
- Agrobiodiversity is critical for:
 - ✓ conserving ecosystem structure.
 - ✓ safeguarding species diversity which supports agro-ecosystems' functions and food production.
 - ✓ Supports climate change adaptation for food and nutrition security.



7. Sustainable Diets and Alternative Protein Sources

- Sustainable transformation of the food system cannot happen without adopting healthy and sustainable diets.
- Animal protein important dietary input but a major polluter:
 - 75% of global farming land is used for livestock (farms, feed)
 - 14.5% of global GHGs originate from the livestock sector.



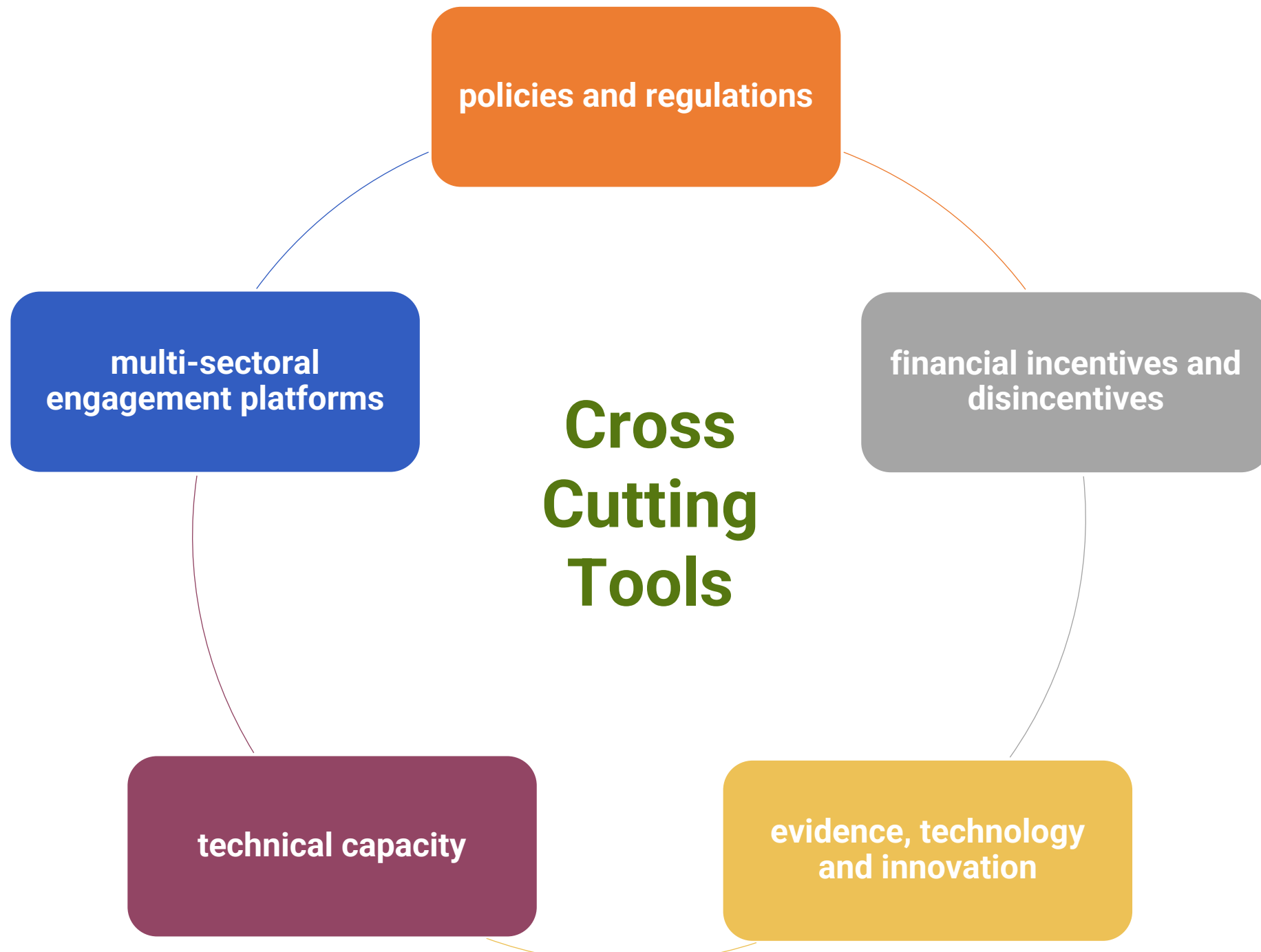


Alternative Protein Sources

- aquatic (e.g. algae),
- plant-based (grains, legumes, nuts, fungus),
- insect-based,
- laboratory-cultured

Relatively new concept with much room for research and innovation.

Very little happening in West Asia.



Critical Transition Pathways

1. Safeguard land and water ecosystems and advance One Health.
2. Regenerating agroecosystems, pastures, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
3. Food systems Diversification

Tools

- Policies and Regulations.
- Financial incentives/ disincentives.
- Evidence, technology, innovation.
- Technical capacity.
- Multi-sectoral engagement platforms.

Entry Points

1. Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and Integrated Ocean Management (IOM)
2. Sustainable Agricultural Production
3. Reduce, Utilize, and Valorize Organic Waste
4. Safe Management and Utilization of Polluting Water Discharges
5. Safe and Productive Use of Agrochemicals
6. Utilize Potential of Native Biodiversity
7. Sustainable Diets and Alternative Protein Sources

Sustainable Development Goals

