



Leveraging the Agrifood System for Jobs

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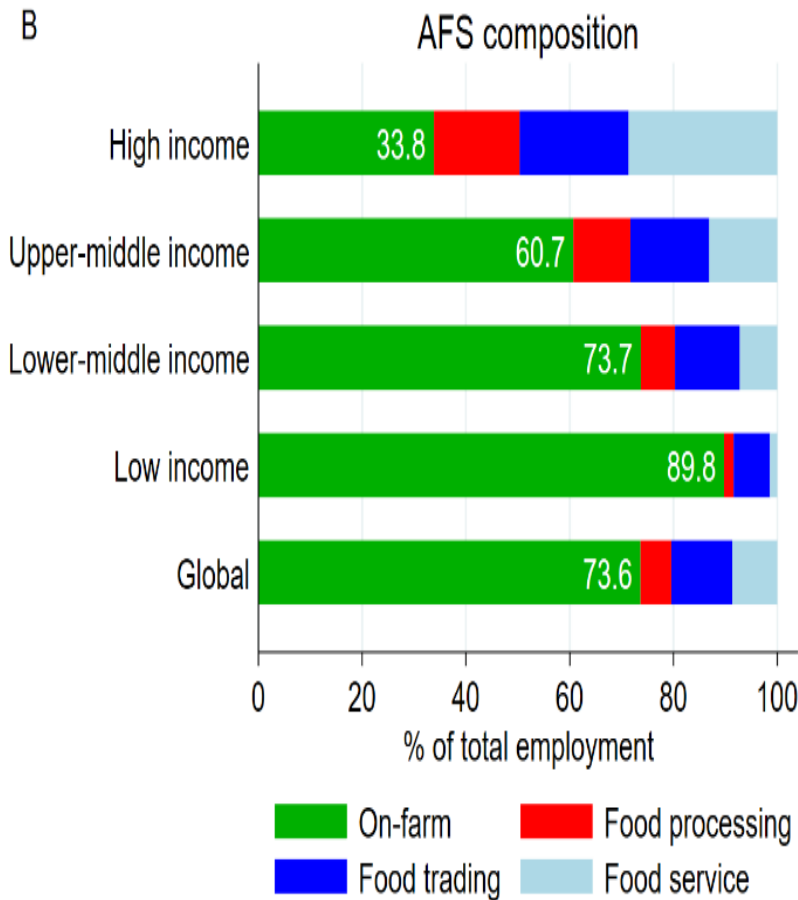
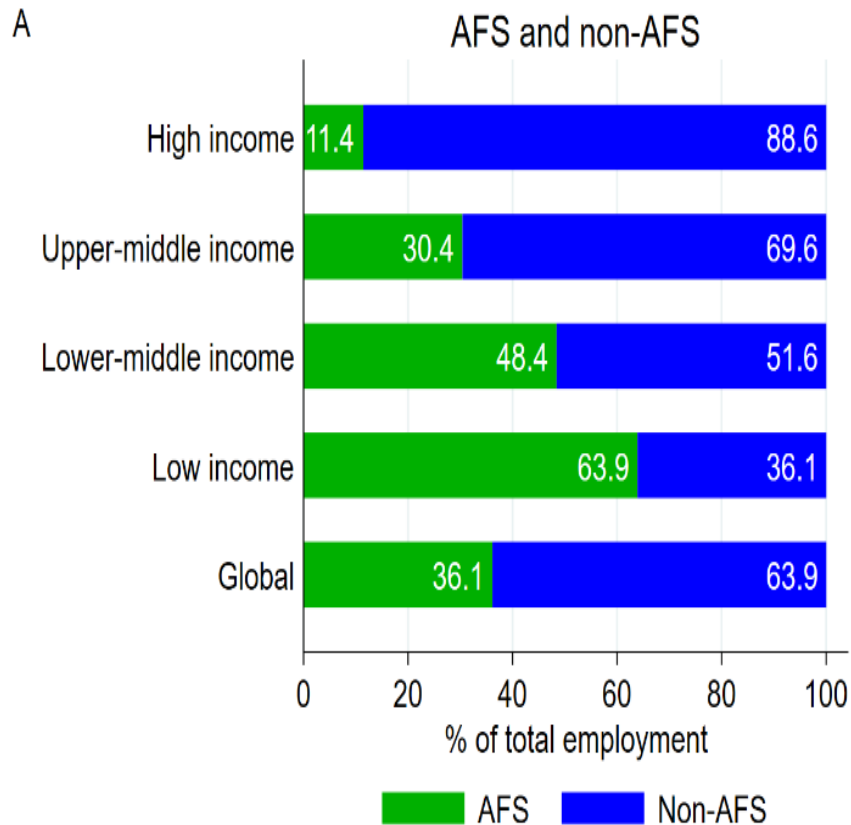
Presentation at the virtual
“Future of Youth Jobs in AFS in
Africa” meeting organized by
IFPRI, Nairobi, July 15, 2025

Jobs in AFS – Stylized facts

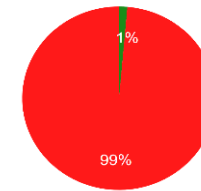
AFS: a dominant employer

Mostly on farm smallholders;
Off-farm: more trading than processing

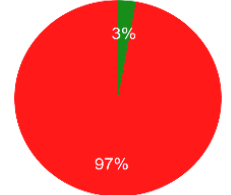
AFS jobs mostly self-employment
(on & off-farm) > increase earnings



On-farm AFS
LIC

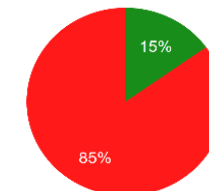


LMIC

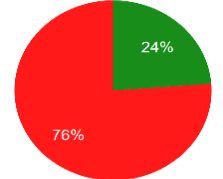


Off-farm AFS

LIC



LMIC



Paid-employment jobs

Self-employment jobs

AFS Job Metrics and Prospect Factors

Metrics of success

Number of jobs

- Full/part-time
- Permanent/seasonal
- On and off-farm

Job Quality

- Earnings/wage
- Income volatility/job security
- Working conditions

Co-benefits

- Youth
- Women

Prospect Factors

AFS growth potential:
population, income,
urbanization

Share of AFS value added
going to farmers & workers

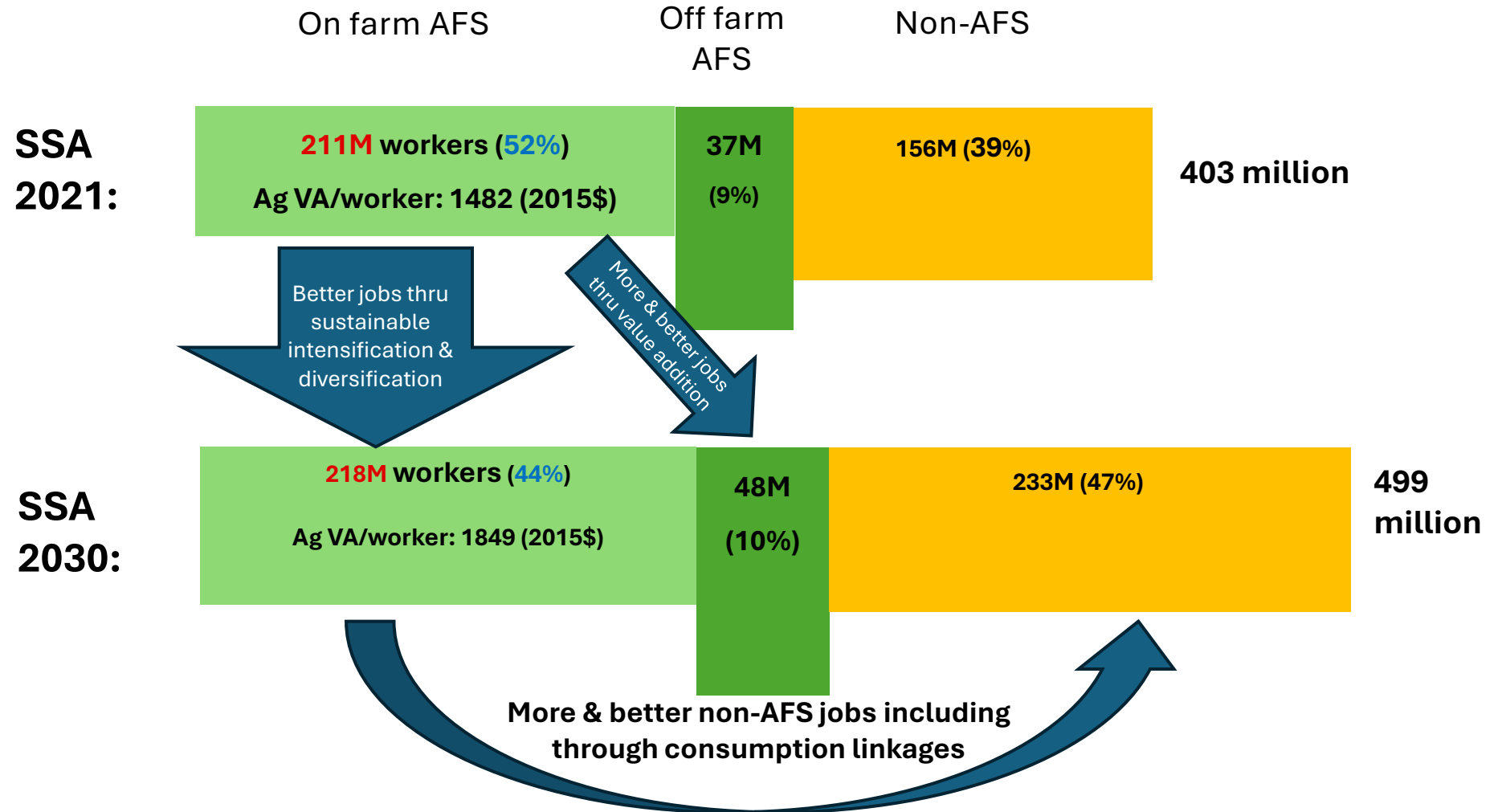
workers contributing to
the AFS earnings

New jobs from
consumption linkages

Job Prospects in AFS:

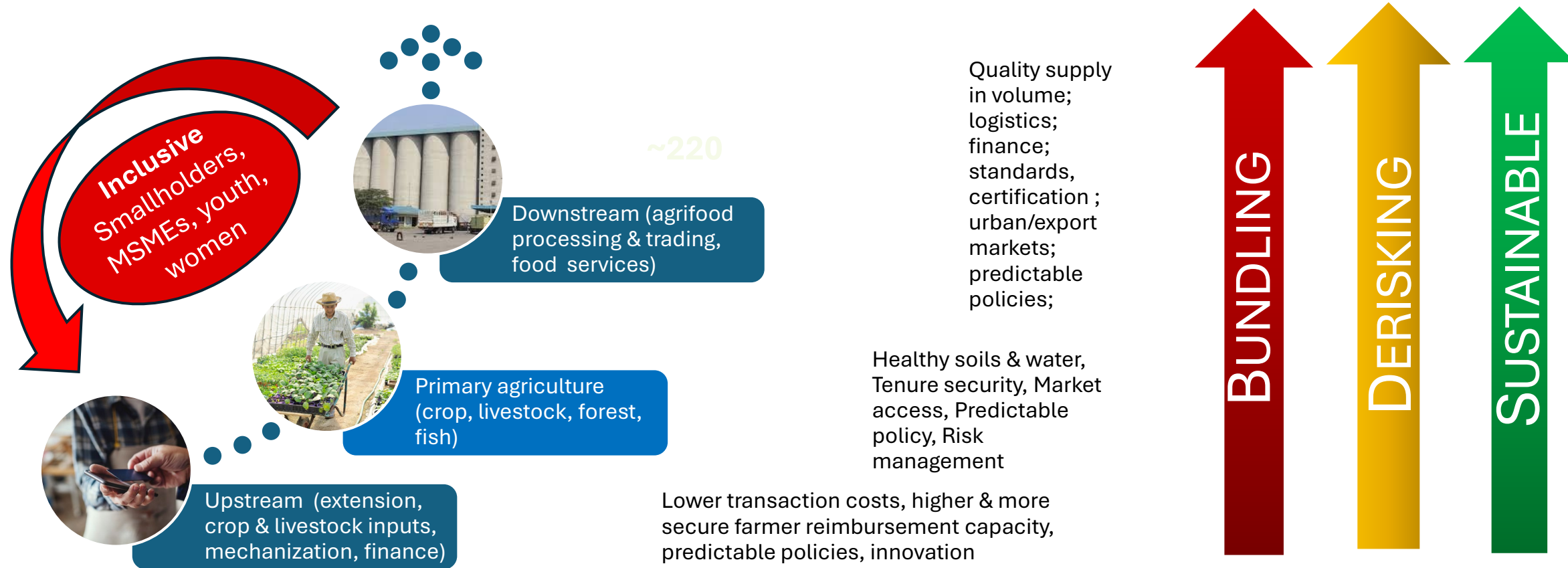
Meeting growing demand for agrifood, diet diversity & processed foods
can create many better jobs on farm & more and better jobs off-farm

Back of the
envelope
example



How to Broker the Transition?

Overcoming the multiple constraints that bind at once requires inclusive value chain development (iVCD)



Digitization, AI and automation offer new opportunities

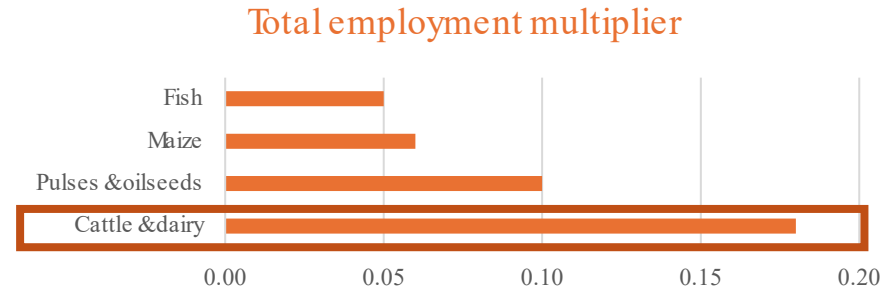
Value chain prioritization

More
Jobs

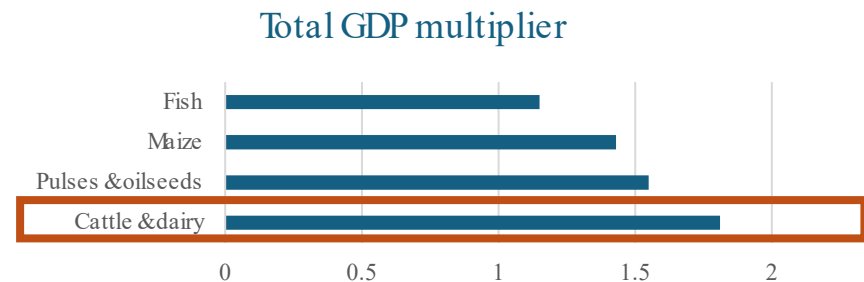
Better
Jobs

Inclusive
Jobs

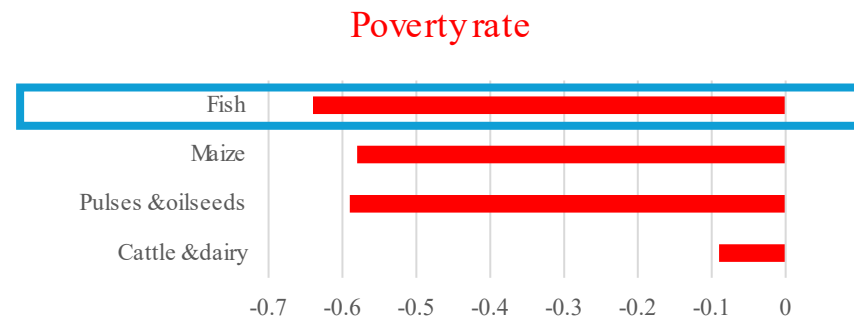
Job outcomes from productivity growth - Kenya



More jobs when more downward VA,
more labor-intensive processes, and/or
more elastic demand (e.g. export)



Better jobs when substantial
downstream processing/trading



More poverty reduction when smallholders
or products consumed by the poor (incl.
urban)

- ➔ Staples: maize and pulses/oilseeds score well on all criteria;
- ➔ Non-staples: beef/dairy: most jobs & value addition; fish: most poverty reduction

Preparing Youth and Women for AFS Employment - Maximizing Job Co-benefits

Youth engagement

- Remove barriers to youth entry in farming (land, credit, poor working conditions)
- Remove barriers to off-farm AFS employment (skills, capital)

Female employment

- Reduce gender ag productivity gap (knowledge, land, finance)
- Remove barriers to off-farm AFS employment (child care, physical security, skills & finance)