

FSNet-Africa World Food Day Webinar: "Finding pathways towards agroecological transitions in Africa" – 14 October 2022

Supply chains – the missing & misunderstood middle in sustainable production and consumption

Panel Discussion 1: Reflecting on the past: Diverse agroecology practices/perspective and integration into agricultural production

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Ethical Trade in African Horticulture (DFID, 2002-4)

The Governance Implications of Private Standards (DFID-ESRC, 2007-2010)

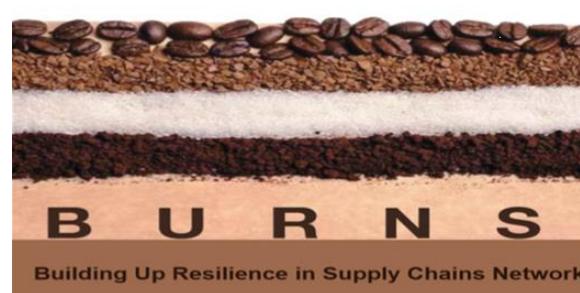
Building Up Resilience in Supply Chains Network (White Rose, 2013)

Differentiated resilience in Agri-food Chains (N8, 2017)

Embedding a learning culture and facilitating Fairtrade-academic links (ESRC Impact Accelerator, 2017)

Farmers' perspectives on challenges in the food system: a collaborative research partnership (AHRC, 2019-22)

Disruptions in food supply chains- impacts on producers and consumers, WP6 of H3 (2022-4)



**HEALTHY SOIL
HEALTHY FOOD
HEALTHY PEOPLE**

Part of the Transforming
UK Food Systems SPF Programme

Focus of my work



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How supply chains can become more sustainable and if/how trade can deliver sustainable development



- Sustainability standards
- Fair trade companies
- Producer voice
- Worker rights
- Food & agriculture
- Global Value Chains



TRANSFORMATIONAL

LEVEL 5
Build a new global food system based on participation, localness, fairness and justice

LEVEL 4
Reconnect consumers and producers through the development of alternative food networks

LEVEL 3
Redesign agroecosystems

LEVEL 2
Substitute conventional inputs and practices with agroecological alternatives

LEVEL 1
Increase efficiency of input use and reduce use of costly, scarce or environmentally damaging inputs

FOOD SYSTEM

AGROECOSYSTEM



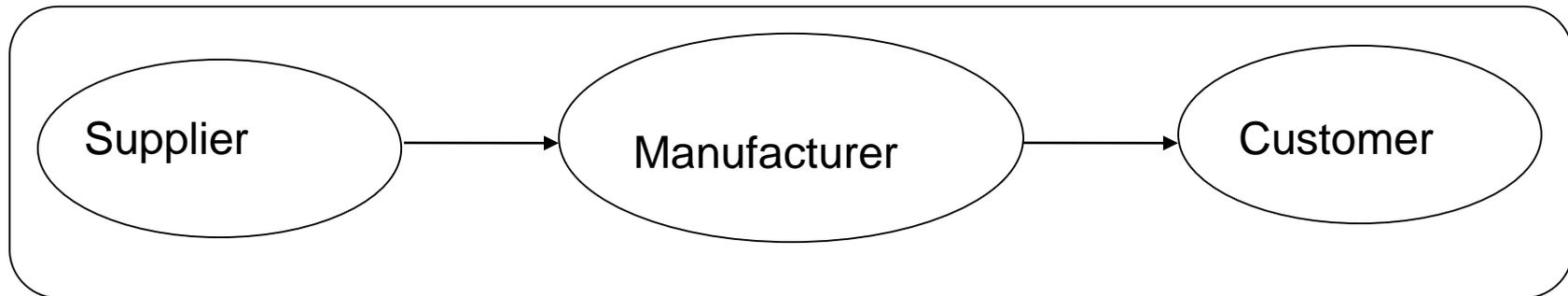
ILLUSTRATIONS: DOROTTYA POOR

THE FIVE LEVELS OF TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE RELATED 13 PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY

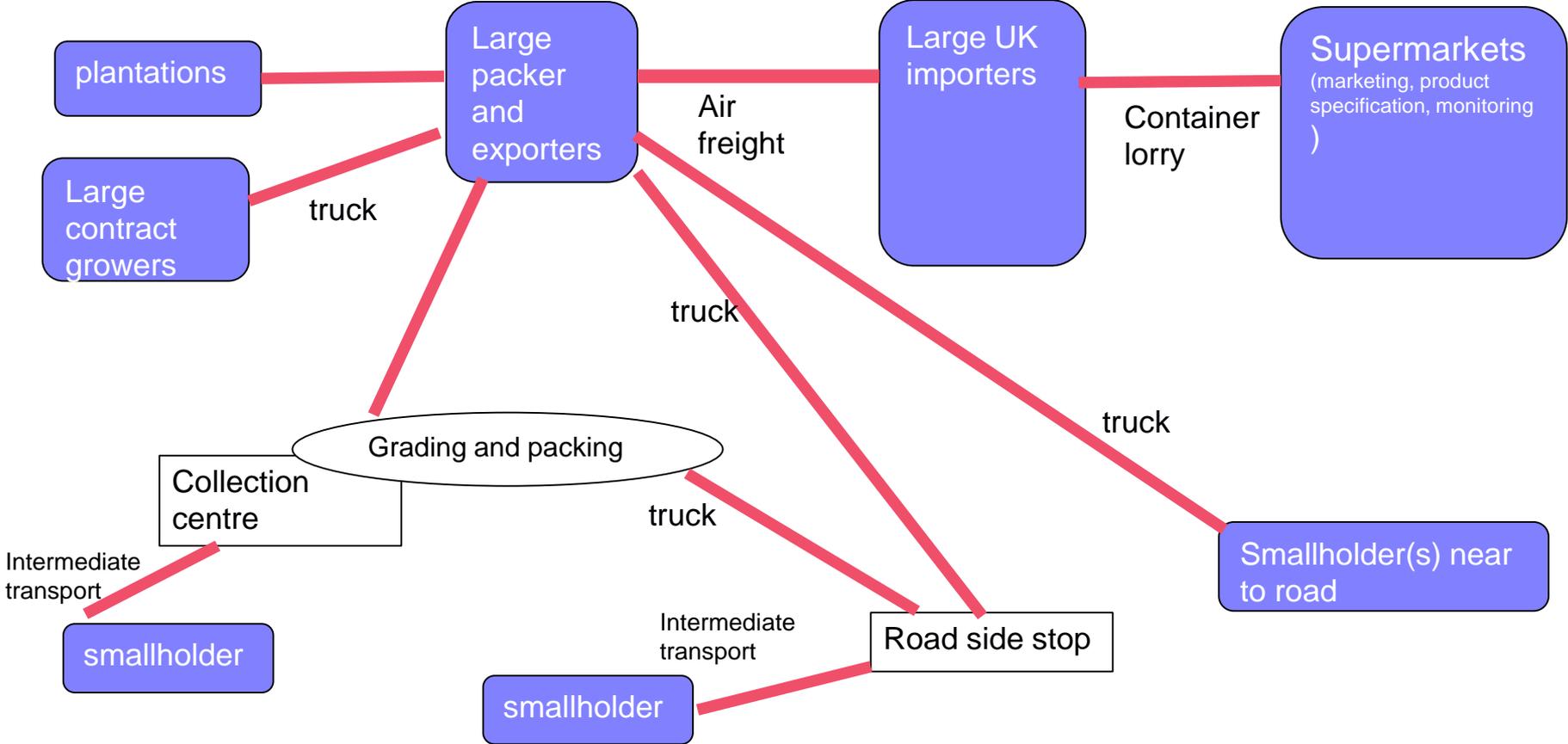
SOURCE: GLIESSMAN (2007) AND HILPE (2019)

“The food system is characterised by different perspectives which are often opposed, as well as by suspicion and conflict. The hope is that this seminar can be useful as a way to begin reconstructing relationships grounded on transparency and trust.”

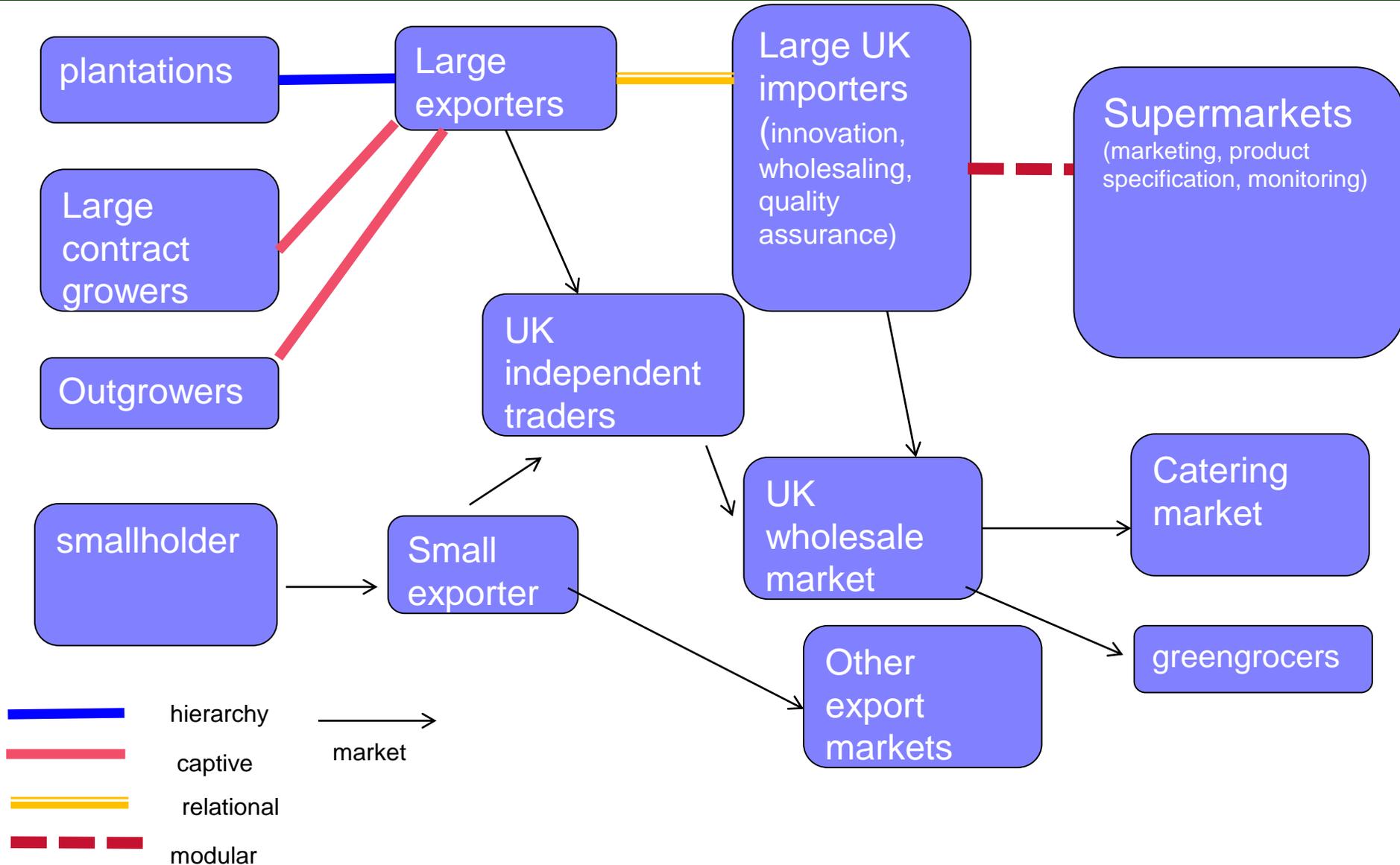
The Supply Chain Concept



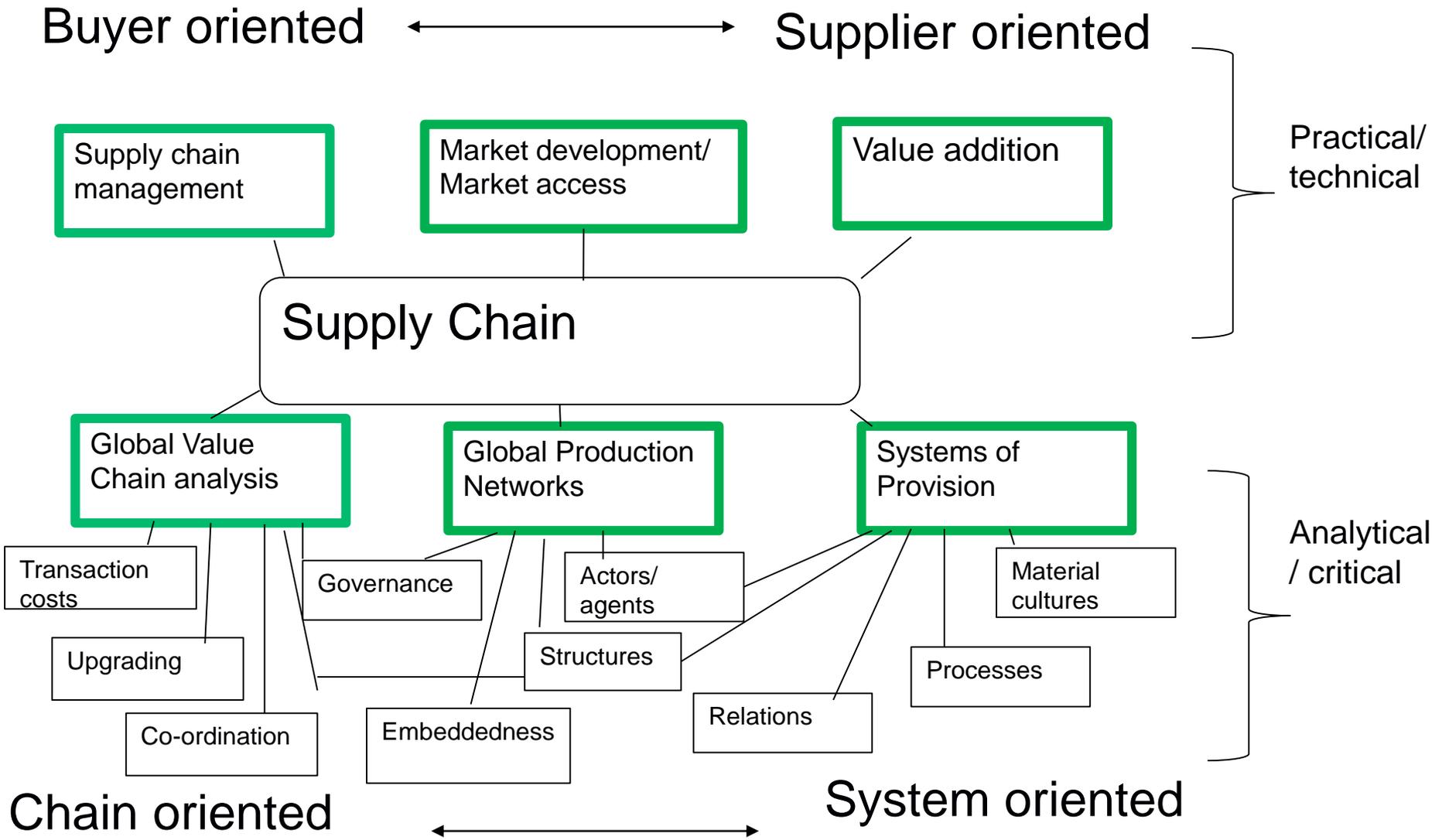
French beans from Kenya to UK supermarkets, with focus on transport logistics



French beans from Kenya to UK supermarkets, with focus on co-ordination between nodes



Supply chains- a conceptual map





Supply chains are constructs rooted in a material reality, but experienced and perceived in diverse ways

- Spaces for participation: actors internal and external to the chain influence standard content choice and implementation through visible, invisible and hidden power (Tallontire et al 2011)
- Power exercised by MNCs in shaping legislation over land allocation and incorporation of smallholders – ‘power of presence’ (Manda et al 2020)
- Role of ideational power in shaping narratives about use of standards and why (Nelson and Tallontire 2014)
- Ideas of supply chain resilience focus on buyer – not systemic or consideration of producer (Tallontire et al, 2015)

Competing narratives in standards development & implementation



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Table 1: Narratives associated with private standards in UK-Kenya global agrifood chains

	Global Sourcing Narrative	Pragmatic Development Narrative	Broader Development Narrative	Potentially Transformative Narrative
Framing of sustainability challenge	<p>Good agricultural practice is framed as primarily as an issue of the delivery of safe produce to consumers obtained from efficient, reliable and sustainable sources. (Some risk to reputation if smallholders excluded).</p> <p>Labour issues are primarily a risk management issue.</p>	<p>Good agricultural practice is dominated by the delivery of safe produce for consumers, but also market access for smallholders (mainly <u>outgrowers</u>) who depend upon this trade for their livelihoods.</p> <p>Worker welfare is <u>important</u> and abuses pose reputational risks.</p>	<p>Environmental sustainability i.e. beyond regulating pesticide use for food safety and health reasons to better agricultural practices and natural resources management and for some standards is linked to the terms of trading as part of farmer livelihood security. Social issues – <u>rights based</u> approach, especially empowerment rights / process oriented</p>	<p>Addressing a broader set of sustainability challenges and tackling beyond the site of production. Tackling inequalities in value chain relations have greater priority. Rights based, but also who gets work, job creation, what kind of jobs and livelihoods are available and to whom. promoting smallholder agency</p>



From working on value chains to working with key actors

- Fair trade organisations as partners in research projects
- Learning together about how academic-practitioner research can work best to generate impact



Justice et al (2018); Tallontire et al (2020)



FAIRTRADE
AFRICA



Farmer perspectives



In building up the capacity of early career researchers to undertake applied research that farmer organisations are looking for, [#MVIWATA](#) & [@UniversityLeeds](#) launches a program that will support producers and nurture the next generation of  food and farming scholars.



 AFSA and 9 others

Working across borders between cultures, disciplines

Successes built on

- Patience
- Empathy
- Relationship building
- Shared goals
- Responsiveness and seizing opportunity



A moving and stirring end to the [@PFAGghana](#) Political Economy Workshop as part of our AHRC GCRF project on Farmers Perspectives in Food Systems as we reflect on next steps to generate a new network of researchers, activists and farmers organisations



11:50 AM · Dec 5, 2021 · Twitter for Android

Challenges & frustrations

- Pandemic reinforcing gaps & inequities
- Organisational cycles that are hard to synch
- Contracting processes
- Precarity and organisational change
- Differential access to technology

Connectivity & co-creation

- Need for more interrogation of the concepts that we are using to describe connections to facilitate inter-disciplinary dialogue- starting points and approaches to knowledge
- Multiple perspectives – not just across disciplines but across sectors to enable more ethical research
- Recognition of power relations in both processes of trade and knowledge creation



THE FIVE LEVELS OF TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE RELATED 13 PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY
SOURCE: GLEESMAN (2007) AND HLFPE (2006)

Thank you!



Justice, J., Tallontire, A., Hastings, J., Mendoza, A., Kour, H (2018) Game play as a safe critical space for exploring research collaboration, SRI Briefing Paper 17, University of Leeds, <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/briefing-notes/>

Manda S, Tallontire A, Dougill AJ. (2020). Business 'Power of Presence': Foreign Capital, Industry Practices, and Politics of Sustainable Development in Zambian Agriculture. *Journal of Development Studies*. 56(1), pp. 186-204

Nelson V; Tallontire A (2014) Battlefields of ideas: changing narratives and power dynamics in private standards in global agricultural value chains, *Agriculture and Human Values*, **31**, pp.481-497. doi: 10.1007/s10460-014-9512-8

Tallontire, A., Mendoza, A., Justice, J, Kour, H, Kaiser J., Hastings, J. (2020) Towards a collaborative approach between practitioners and academics: insights from an academic-Fairtrade collaboration, *Food Chain*. 9(1): 58-77

Tallontire AM; Opondo M; Nelson V; Martin A (2011) Beyond the vertical? Using value chains and governance as a framework to analyse private standards initiatives in agri-food chains, *Agriculture and Human Values*, 28, pp.427-441.