

# STEP-UP

## Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading Uganda and Kenya

### Objective

To contribute to food security and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa through equitable commercial relationships between small farm enterprises and markets. Within the frame of sustainable agricultural production, we focus on the heterogeneous groups of smallholder farmers with an entrepreneurial ambition. STEP-UP will support smallholder producers to access relevant technologies, innovations and management practices for the transition to commercialized production.

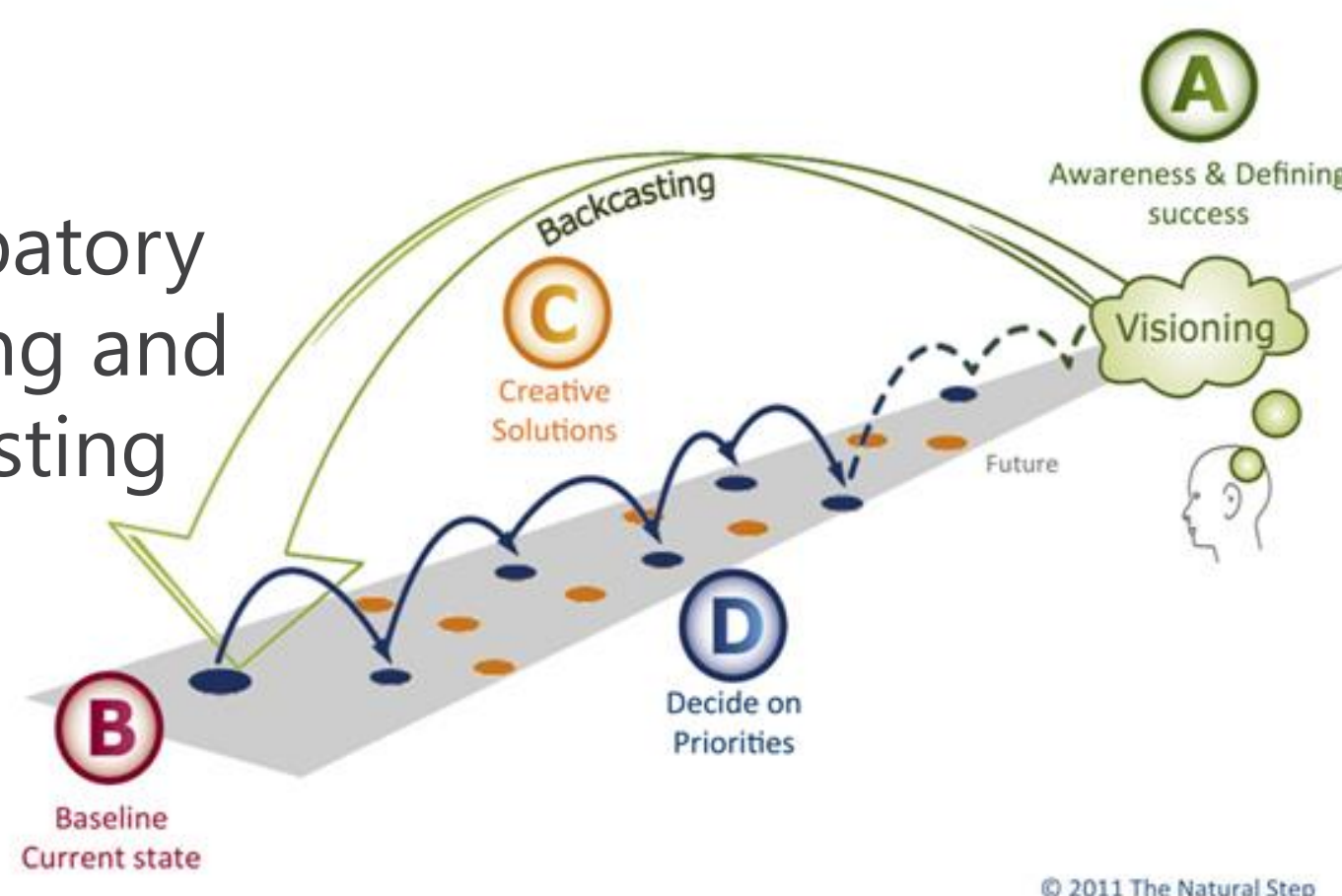
STEP-UP combines sustainable intensification (SI) and market linkage (ML) strategies to enable small farm enterprises (SFEs) to step up towards food and nutrition security, sustainable development and income generation. Through a participatory multi-stakeholder approach promising technologies will be identified, implemented and assessed in mango and banana food value chains (FVC) in Kenya and Uganda.

### Workshop series: Participatory visioning and the selection of interventions.

"What will agriculture in XXX look like in a sustainable future?"

- Focus on four topics:
  - Economic (which crops, yields and income, farm sizes, etc.)
  - Food security (where will food come from, diversity of foods, ensure resources to buy food, etc.)
  - Environmental (natural resource conservation, diversity, pollution, use of inputs, waste management, etc.)
  - Social (working conditions in agriculture, social relations, access to knowledge, political support, etc.)

### Participatory visioning and backcasting



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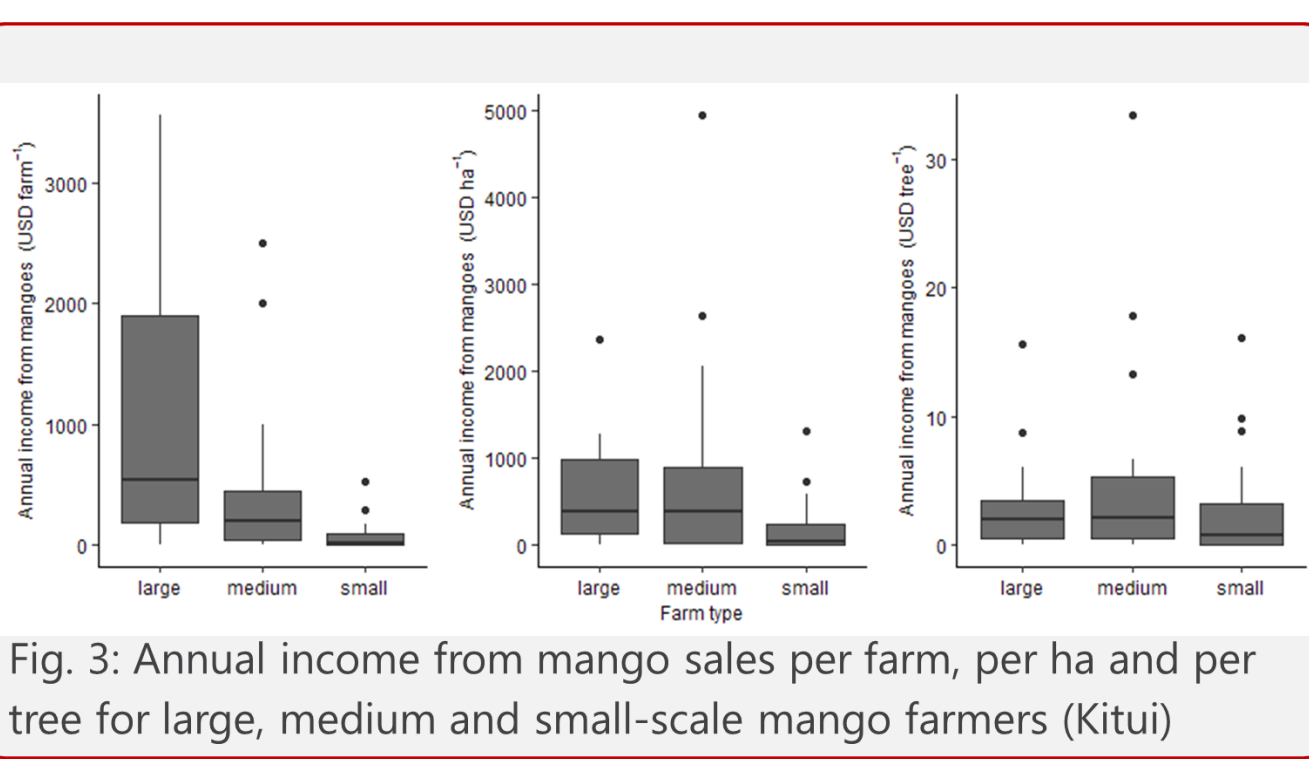


Fig. 3: Annual income from mango sales per farm, per ha and per tree for large, medium and small-scale mango farmers (Kitui)

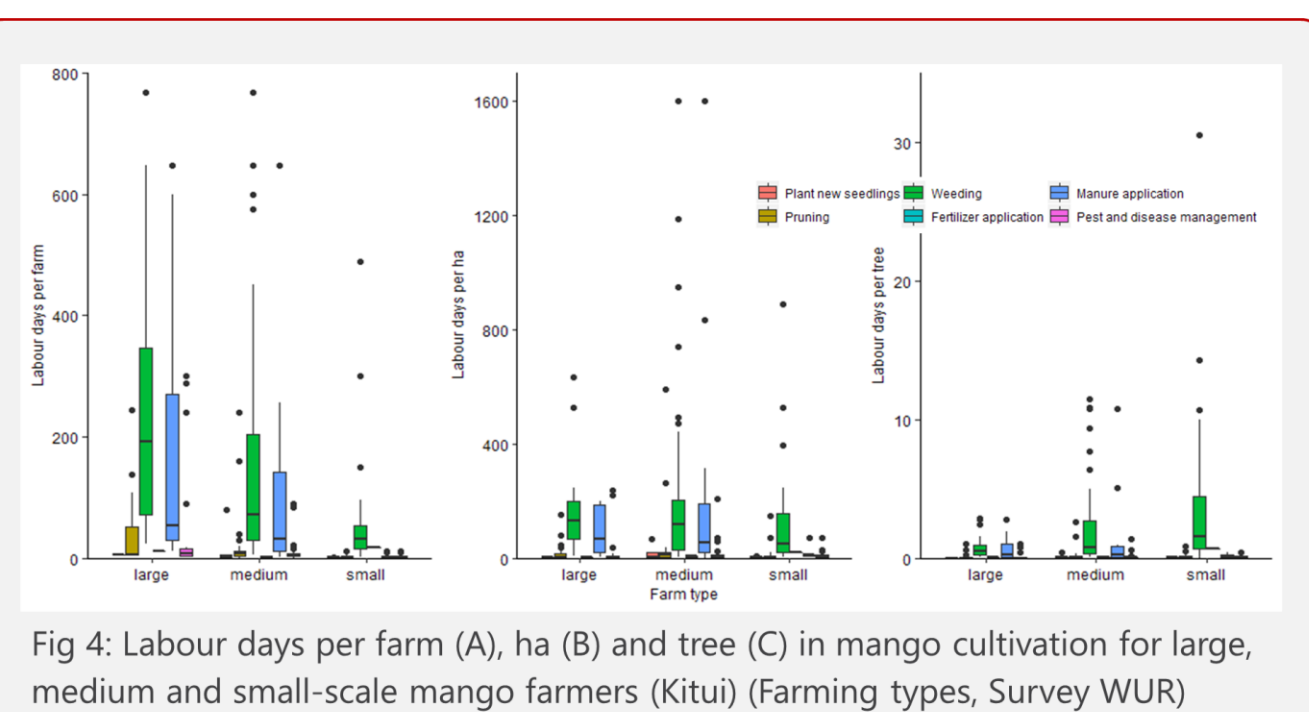


Fig. 4: Labour days per farm (A), ha (B) and tree (C) in mango cultivation for large, medium and small-scale mango farmers (Kitui) (Farming types, Survey WUR)

The training units for training of trainer (ToT) concepts were carefully developed together with the stakeholders. Participatory scenario development and impact assessment are powerful tools to guide discussion and convergence of views on the necessary interventions enabling (agricultural) transformation pathways towards a desired future.

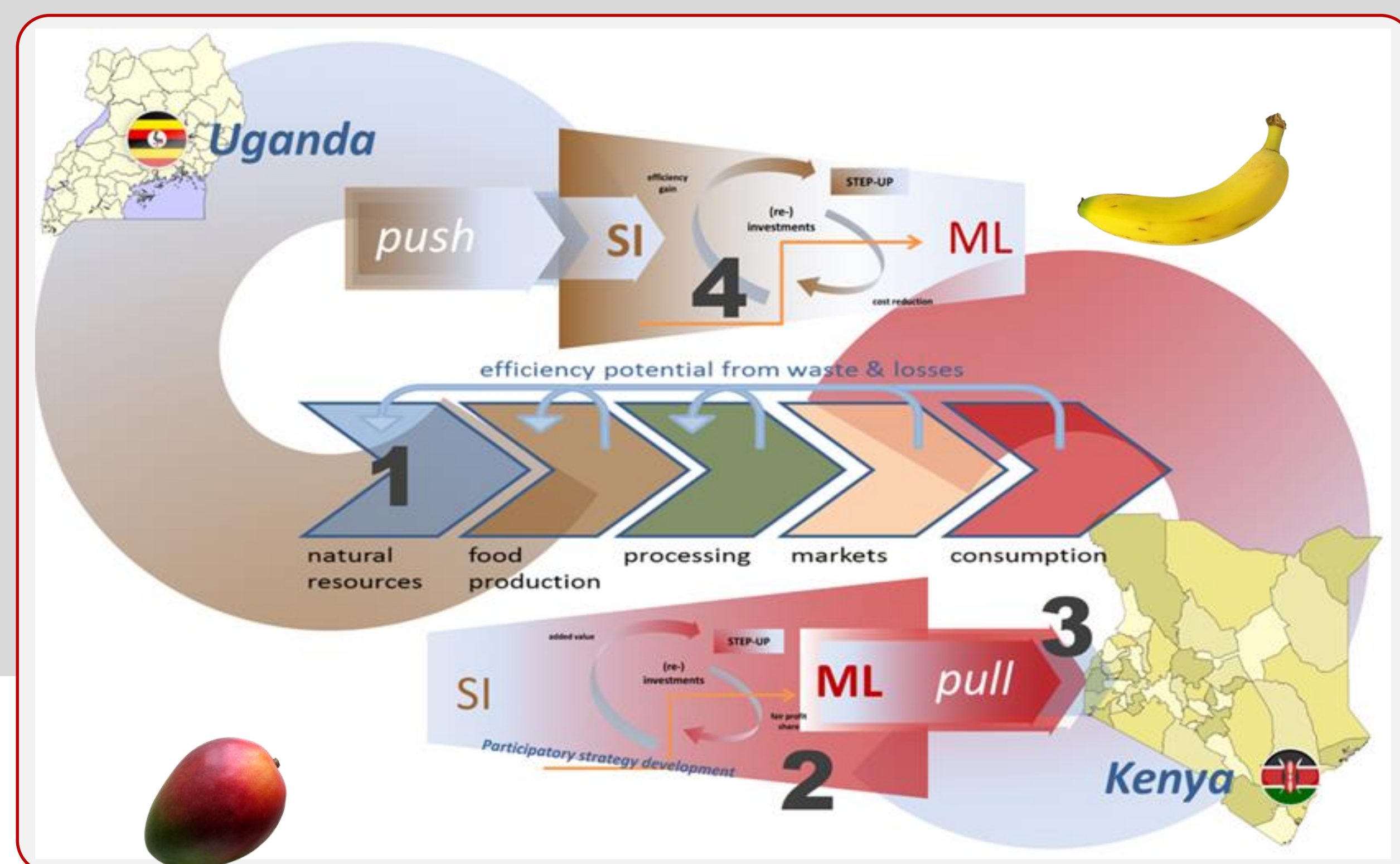


Fig. 1: STEP-UP Conceptional Research Framework

- 1: System analysis of food value chains to identify entry points for SFEs to STEP-UP, chain of mechanisms linking push to pull strategies.
- 2: Participative identification and cross country exchange of sustainable intensification (SI) and market linkage (ML) strategies.
- 3: Food system strategy development, implementation and testing in two countries (push and pull approach).
- 4: Assessing uptake of strategies, due to added value and efficiency gain.

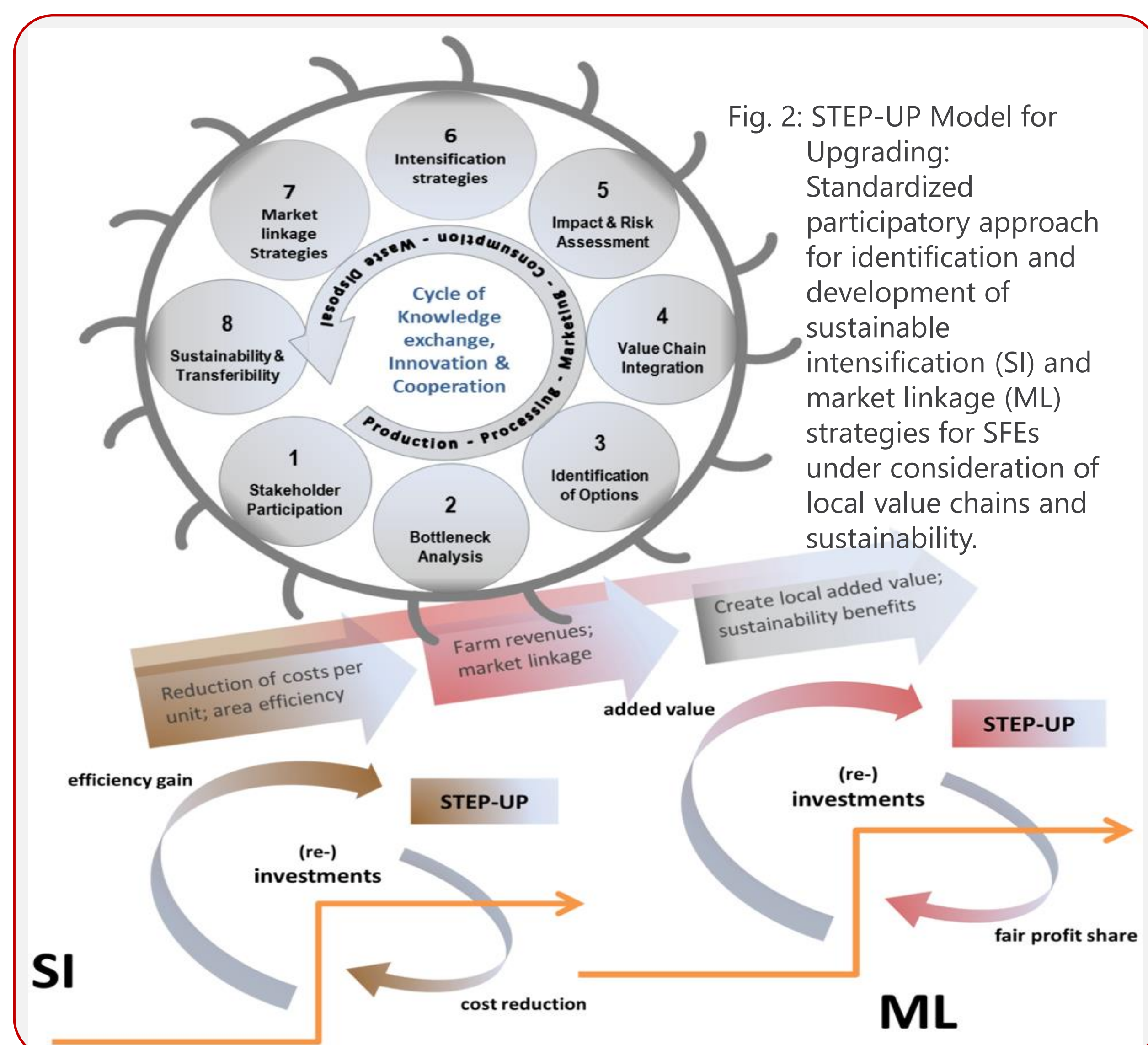


Fig. 2: STEP-UP Model for Upgrading: Standardized participatory approach for identification and development of sustainable intensification (SI) and market linkage (ML) strategies for SFEs under consideration of local value chains and sustainability.



Mr Karani displaying the recommended grafting tools at the practical field work.



Participants (Farmers, VC actors and county staff) during practical ToT units for mango value addition at JKUAT Food Science Workshops.

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