

Analysis of Fodder Value Chains in Burkina Faso and Niger Using Social Network Analysis

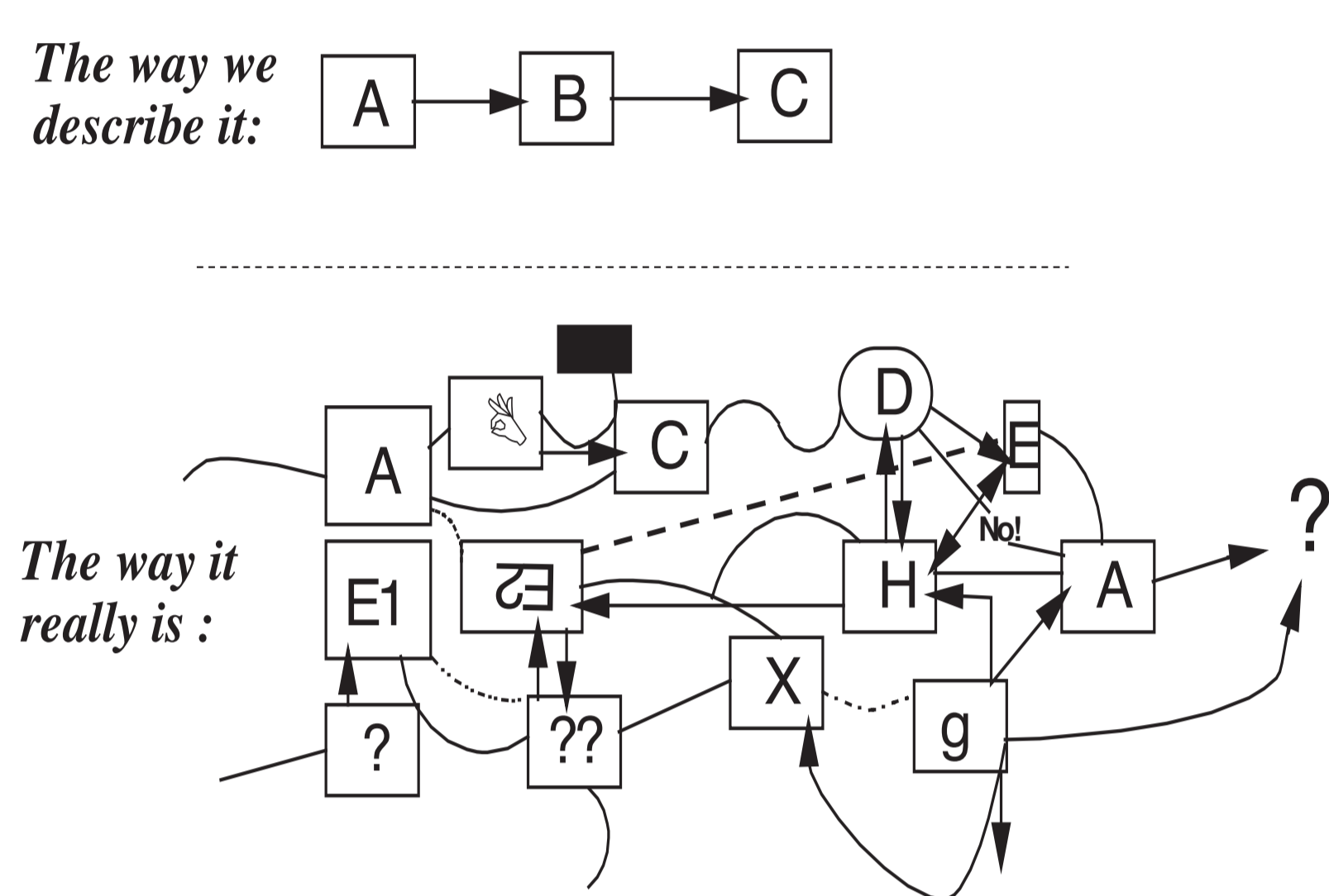
Background

Value chains can drive biomass production and productivity also in degraded landscapes such as Sahelian agro-ecosystems. However, few value-chain studies have succeeded in explicitly documenting or theoretically linking the impact of value-chain activities on poverty, gender and the environment (Bolwig et al., 2010).

Objective

Pilot a visual and participatory value chain mapping approach that combines core ideas of value chain mapping and social network analysis to integrate vertical and horizontal linkages.

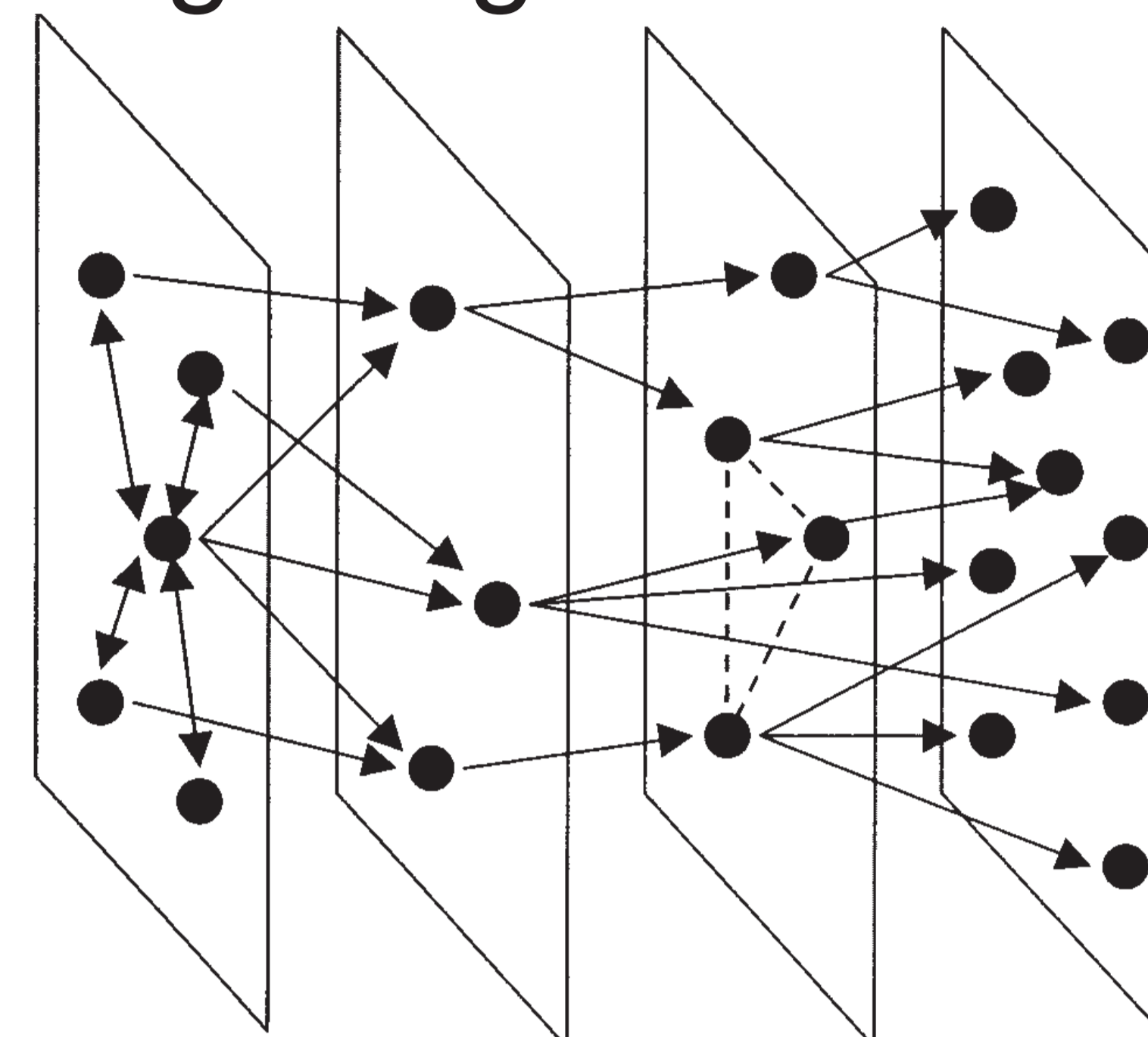
Value Chain Mapping: Theory & reality



Source: Brown, Bessant and Lamming 2000

Stand-alone value chain analysis that traces only the flow of products and money vertically through a system tends to miss important contextual factors and localized processes at the horizontal level.

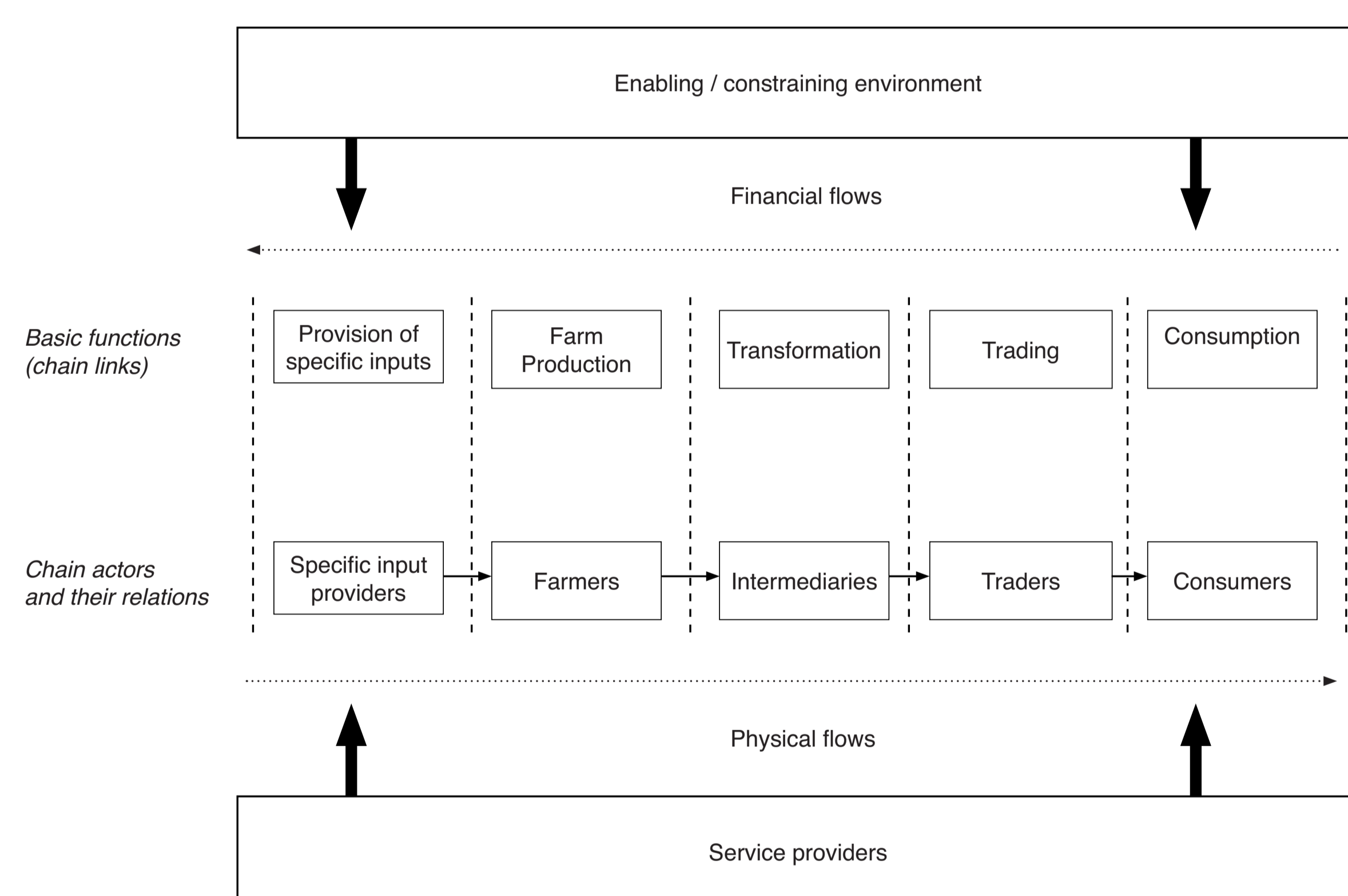
Integrating vertical & horizontal linkages



Source: Lazzarini et al 2001

Through the integration of vertical and horizontal aspects of value chains the affects of value chain restructuring (e.g. upgrading) on poverty and sustainability can be better understood (Bolwig et al., 2010).

Stylized Value Chain Map



Key analytical dimensions



Photo credit: ILRI/Stevie Mann

Participatory visual network research

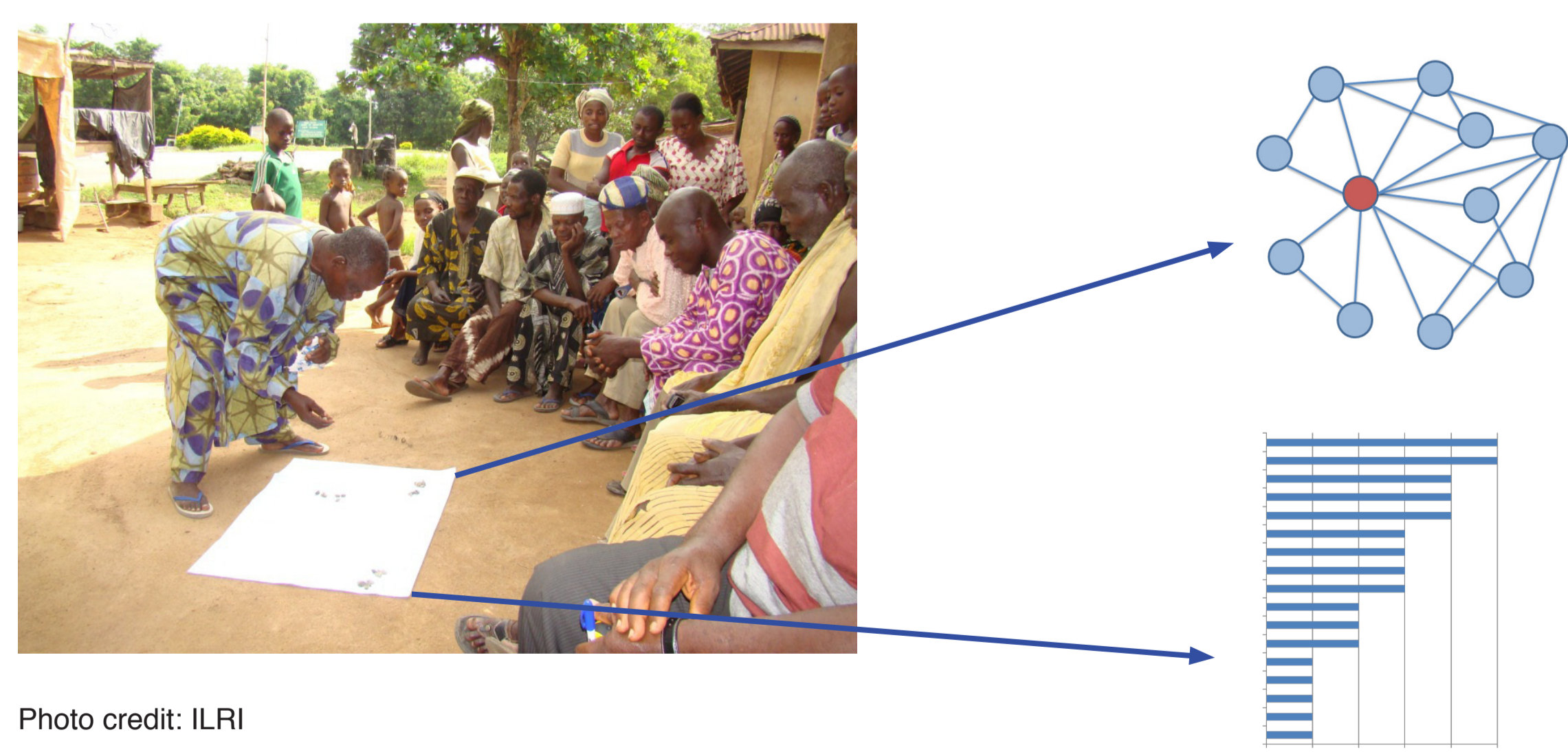


Photo credit: ILRI

Participatory research can measure qualitative changes in processes and relationships. Visual network research allows exploring the horizontal linkages within and between chain segments. Together they open up new possibilities for researching how value chains impact poverty, gender and the environment.

The Project

The research is funded by the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and contributes to the project V8: Realizing the full biomass potential of mixed crop-livestock systems in rapidly changing Sahelian agro-ecological landscapes.

The WLE combines the resources of 11 CGIAR Centers and numerous international, regional and national partners to provide an integrated approach to natural resource management research.

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