

# An analysis of challenges and opportunities for upscaling the organic fertiliser industry in Kenya

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## Challenge

- Organic fertilizers are considered a feasible solution to restore low quality soil, reduce risk to food security and smallholder livelihood and improve climate and agricultural resilience.
- Nevertheless, their development in Kenya is confronted by numerous challenges and corresponding strategies are calling from the multilevel governments.
- Understanding diverse perspectives within the organic fertilizer sector regarding awareness, priorities, and attitudes toward possible improvement, probably will increase mutual communication and consensus among different groups and sectors

## Objective

### To investigate

- the various perspectives held by relevant stakeholders regarding the key development barriers and proposed measurements for improvement that stakeholders deem essential for organic fertilizer development in Kenya
- the main areas of agreement and disagreement between perspectives

## Materials and method

### Q-methodology

- Combining quantitative & qualitative to identify participants' subjectivity
- By ranking the provided statements, answer "From your perspective, what is the biggest barrier to the development of organic fertilizer in Kenya?" An example ranking results in Fig. 2.
- 9-point grid ---- "Most like I think", "Neutral", "Least like I think"
- The results were factor analysed using R.

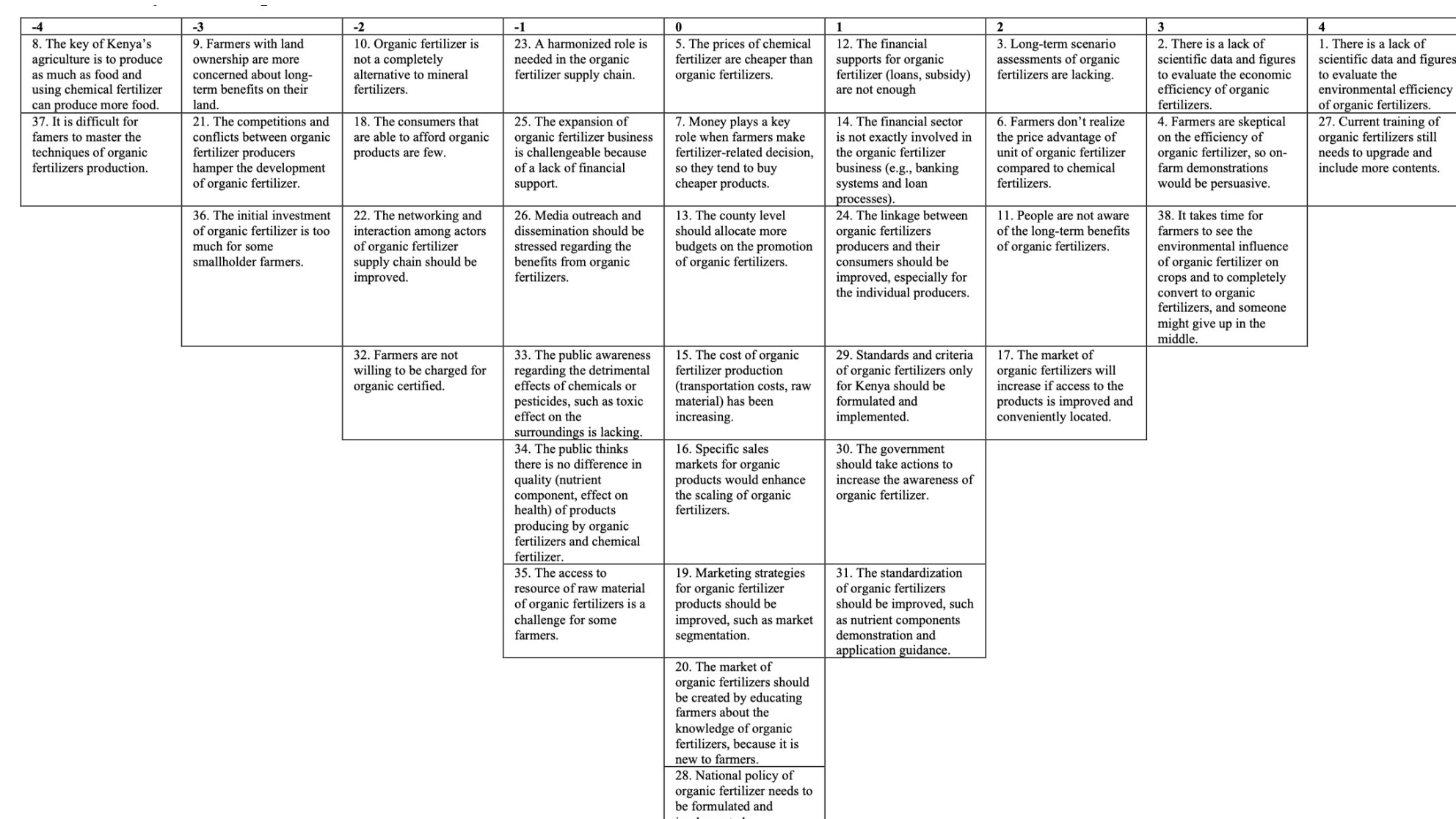


Fig. 1: An example array of statements of one factor

### Site and participation

- 18 participants from 5 stakeholder groups [Research (RE), Farmers (FAR), Policymaker (PO), Entrepreneur (PRI) and NGOs] in Nairobi, Kiambu & Murang'a, Kirinyaga counties (Fig. 2).

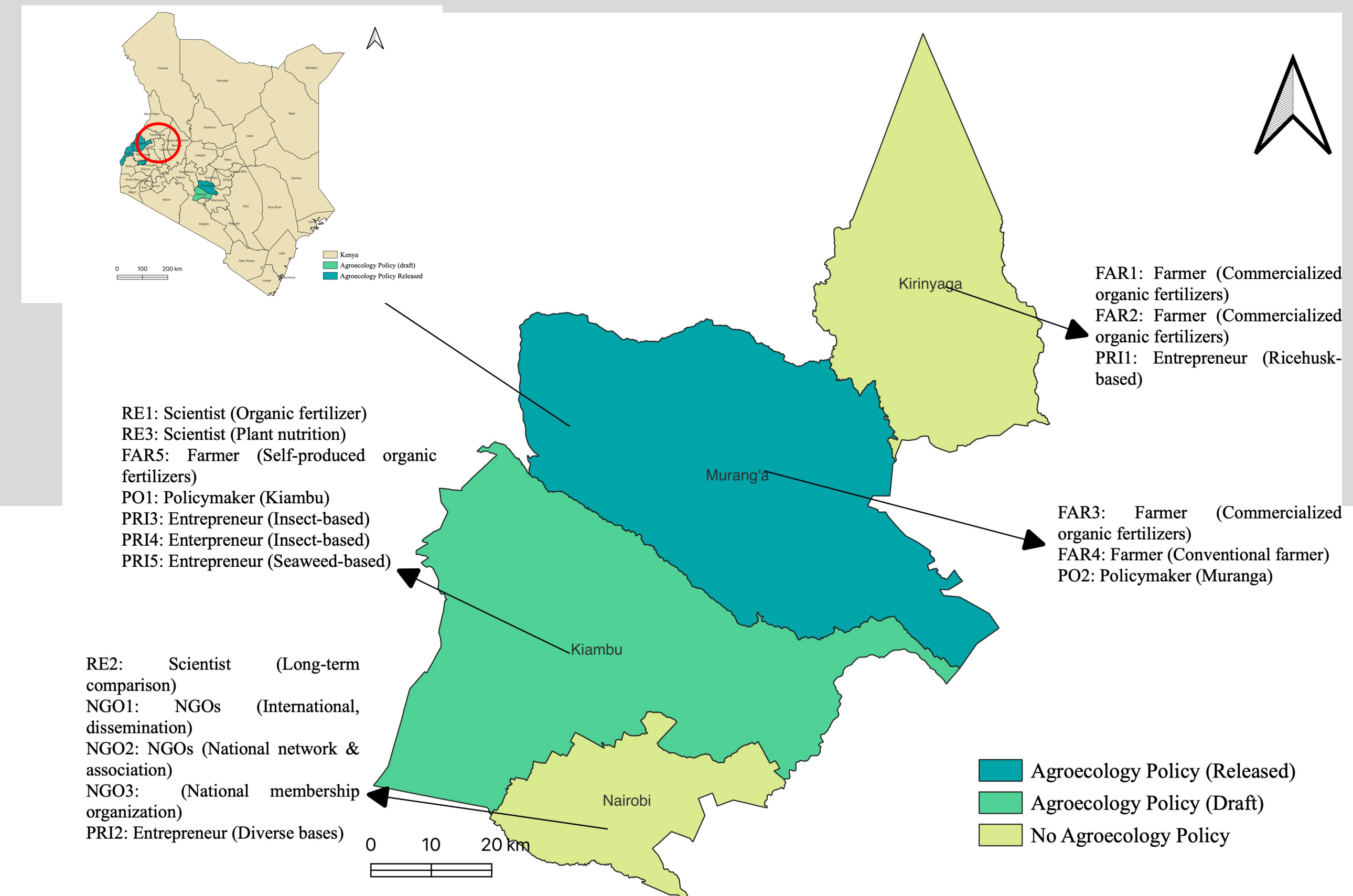


Fig. 2: Distribution of participants

## Results

Three factors were extracted from the research and the results were shown in Tab. 1 and these strategies below were recognized by engaged stakeholders as with high potential to promote the development of the organic fertilizer industry in Kenya

Perception 1: Farmer association Profit-objective: "We need supports"	Perception 2: Entrepreneurs, NGO & Research "It is difficult to convince farmers"	Perception 3: Most diverse "Scientific data will convince them"
OF is better than chemicals for both price advantage and ecological influence	OF is better than chemicals for both price advantage and ecological influence	Obstacles > benefits of using OF: "Quick desire"
Dissemination regarding the benefits of organic fertilizers by TV and radio	Dissemination regarding the benefits of organic fertilizers by TV and radio	Dissemination: current training should be upgraded
Business dynamic: specific sales markets and marketing strategies	On-farm demonstration & conveniently located access	On-farm demonstration & conveniently located access
Financial support	Political & legal support	Lack of scientific data & figure

Grey means No challenge, Yellow means overlapped proposed measures for improvements, Red means different measures by each perception.

Tab. 1: The overview of three perceptions extracted from Q-method

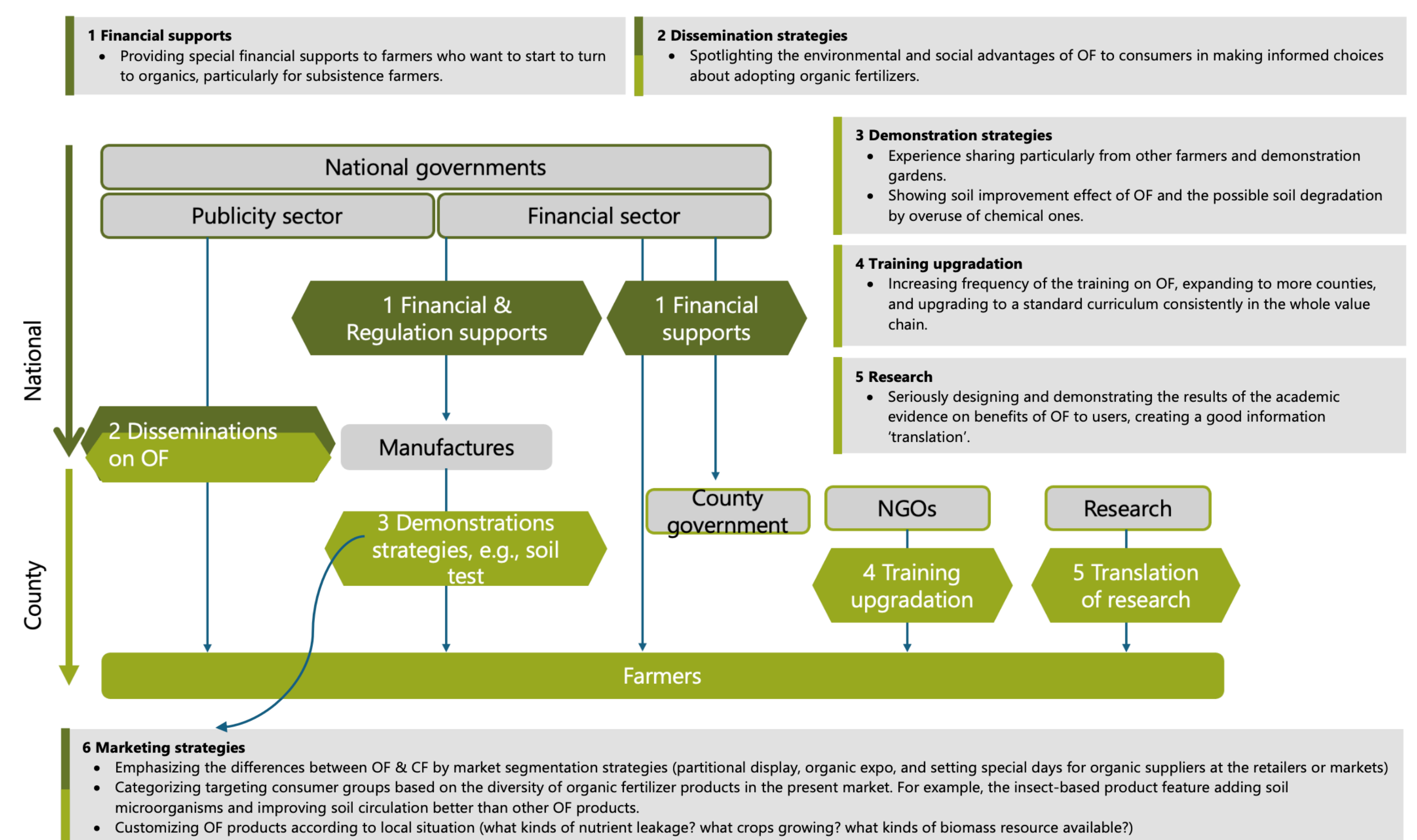


Fig. 3: Proposed measure of improvements regarded by stakeholders for the development of the organic fertilizer industry in Kenya

## Conclusion

- The main barrier hampering the development of the organic fertilizer is diverse among perception groups while the proposed measures for improvement are knowledge dissemination.
- It is highly recommended that multilevel government's administrative priorities should take actions to blend chemical and organic products through means including financial supports, disseminations and outreaches, demonstrates, training upgradation, research and marketing strategies.