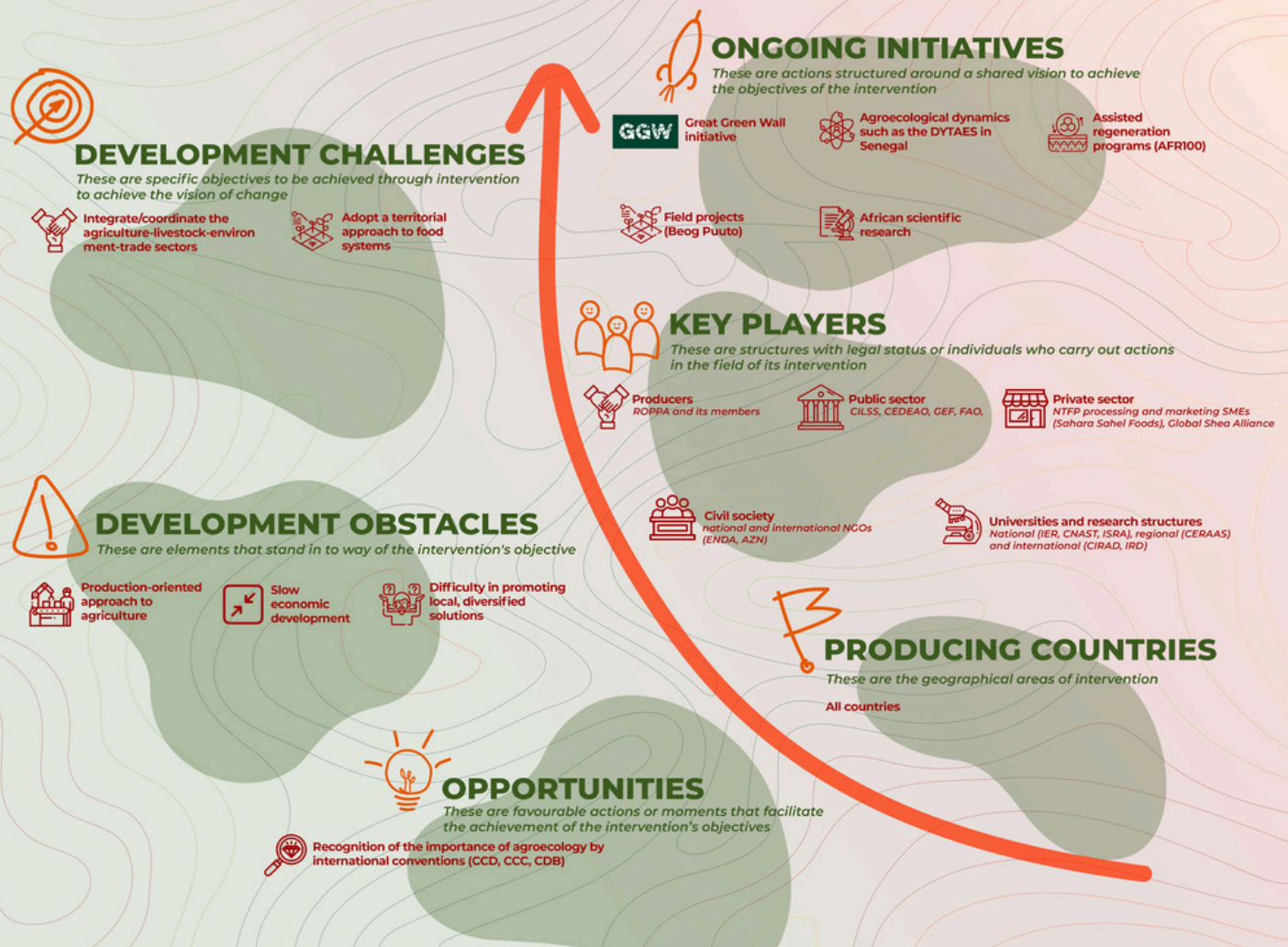
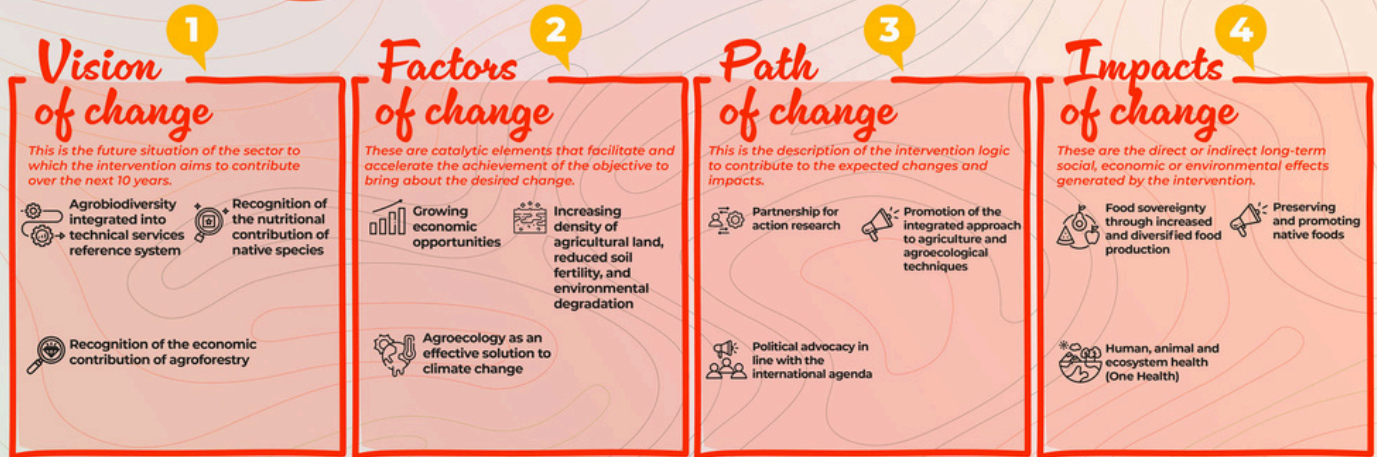




# Agrobiodiversity: the cornerstone of food systems



# AGROBIODIVERSITY

FOR FOOD SECURITY

## Key information

### THE SAHELIAN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS CONTAINS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD PLANTS

*In the Commune of Dialacoto, in Eastern Senegal, the people interviewed identified over 50 species that contribute to the diet of their families and livestock.*

*In Africa, many species of wild plants contribute to the human diet. They can be found in every natural environment, from the wettest to the most arid areas. These species and eating habits differ from region to region, society to society.*

### WILD PLANTS HAVE VERY INTERESTING NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES

*The diversity and nutritional values of wild plants make them essential components of diets in rural communities throughout the seasons. Some are indispensable resources for combating malnutrition and overcoming climatic hazards such as drought and its consequences.*

### WILD PLANTS HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES

*Saba senegalensis (maad, maada);  
Detarium senegalense (ditax);  
Ziziphus mauritiana (jujube);  
Balanites aegyptiaca (desert date);  
Tamarindus indica (tamarind);  
Parkia biglobosa (African locust bean);  
Vitellaria paradoxa (shea).*

*Wild plant products are mainly consumed locally, but some are widely marketed in their natural or processed state. Depending on the country, the economic contribution of wild plant products, other than wood, is not well accounted for, even though it represents several percent of GDP and is essential to many of the communities that use them.*

## Agrobiodiversity sector: current situation

### WILD SPECIES ARE GRADUALLY DISAPPEARING

*Until recently, these species were common in all rural and peri-urban areas. But they are rapidly disappearing as a result of new clearings for agriculture, mining and excessive use – precisely for their economic value*

*In Dialacoto, recent surveys have shown that a third of the species sought-after have disappeared and the second third have become rare.*



### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE NEEDS AGROBIODIVERSITY

*Agrobiodiversity, i.e. the diversity of species taking part in the agroecosystem or the diversity of ecological habitats involved in agriculture, is a key component of agroecology and an insurance policy against the challenges agriculture faces due to climate change.*