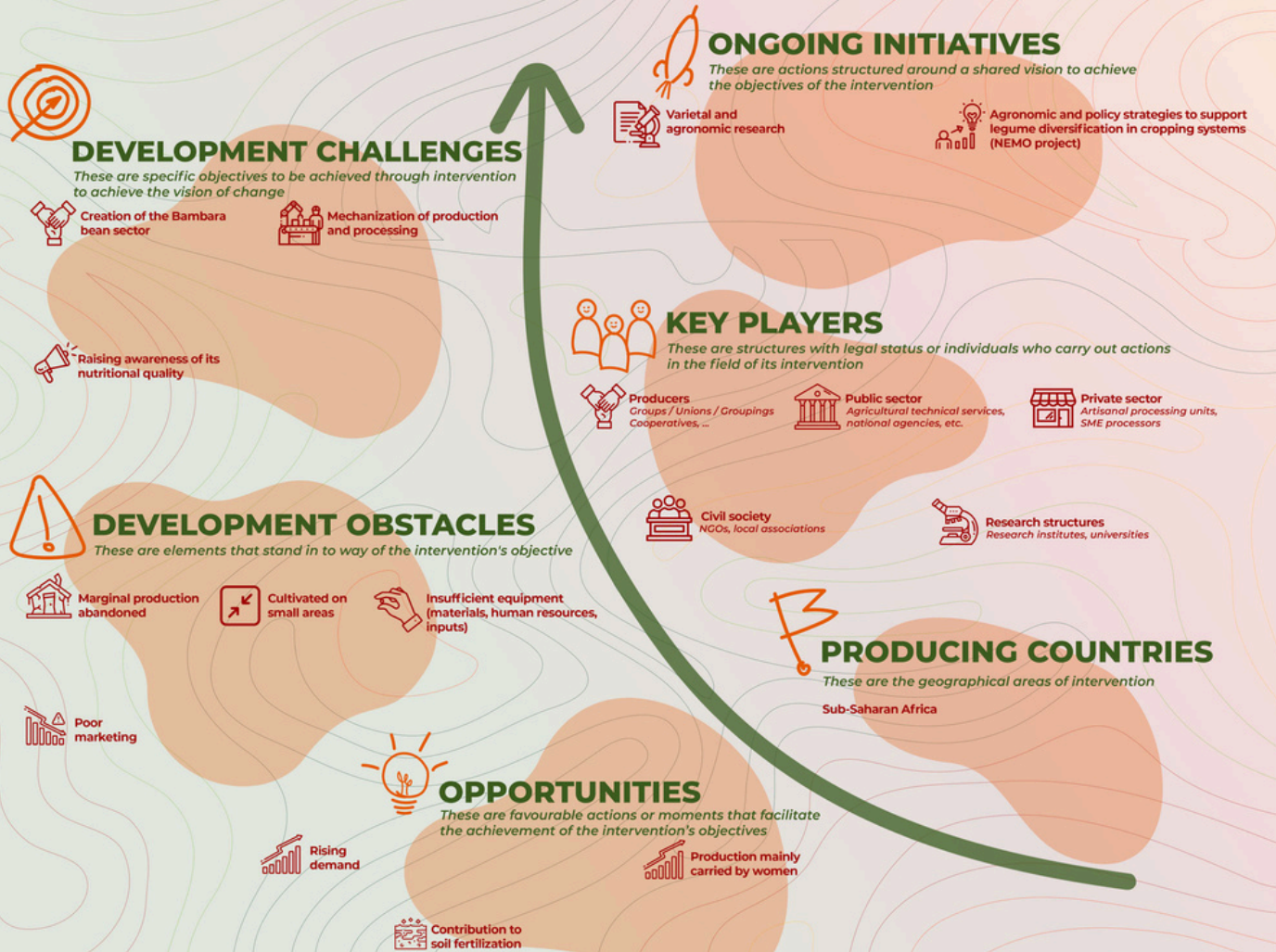
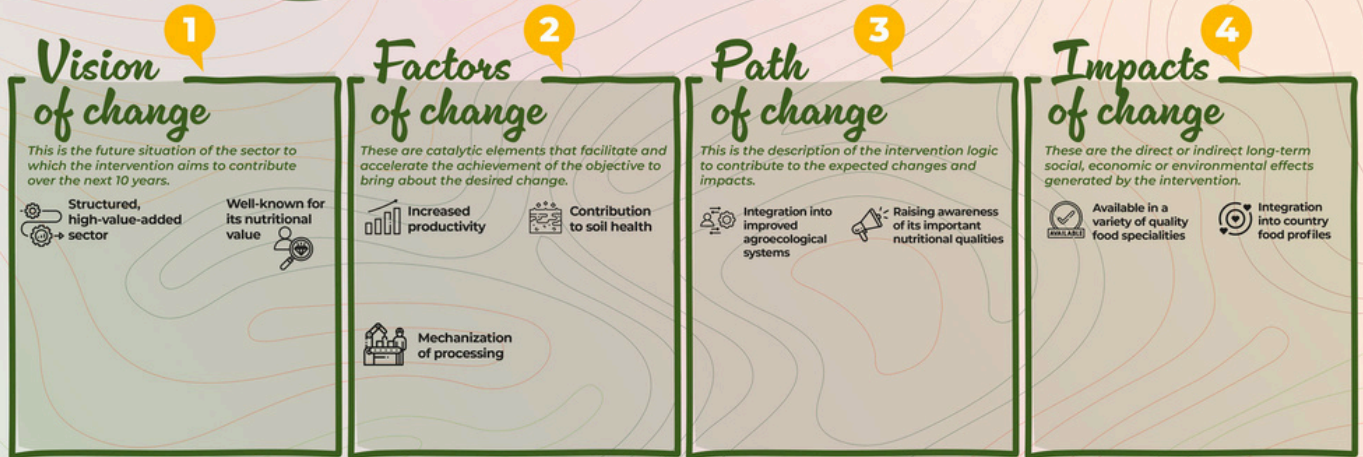




Bambara bean: a high-potential groundnut



BAMBARA BEAN

VIGNA SUBTERRANEA

Key information



Top producing countries in Africa in 2022

- 1- Niger (61753.42t)
- 2- Burkina Faso (57209t)
- 3- Cameroon (40641t)
- 4- Mali (25186t)
- 5- Togo (22884t)
- 6- Zimbabwe (19348t)
- 7- Democratic Republic of the Congo (13663t)
- 8- Zambia (5829t)

PRODUCTION OF THE GROUNDNUT IN AFRICA IS ESTIMATED AT AROUND 0.3 MILLION TONNES PER YEAR. IT IS THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT GRAIN LEGUME.

- Extremely hardy, it can be cultivated in arid climates and grows well on poor soils.
- By enriching the soil through nitrogen fixation, it improves fertility, justifying its integration into crop rotations.
- Bambara groundnut is mainly cultivated by women on small plots of land.
- Though it requires low agricultural inputs, production is time consuming. There is no mechanized solution available for harvesting.
- The actual average yields are significantly lower than potential yields.
- Moreover, negative beliefs associated with the crop in parts of Africa may influence production volume.

Bambara bean sector: current situation

BAMBARA GROUNDNUT IS CONSIDERED AS A "COMPLETE FOOD" CONTRIBUTING TO FOOD SECURITY:

- A promising substitute for animal proteins.
- Balanced composition of macronutrients: carbohydrates, proteins, lipids.
- Rich composition of micronutrients: minerals, phytochemicals.
- In Madagascar, the groundnut is recognized and used for its medicinal virtues.
- The Bambara groundnut reaches maturity before other crops and therefore plays a role in food security during the "hungry season"
- Though it's grown mainly as a subsistence crop, it can be stored when dried and sold when needed.

Traditional recipe with Bambara groundnut



Canning of Bambara groundnut from Madagascar



THE TRADE OF RAW AND PROCESSED BAMBARA GROUNDNUT IS MOSTLY INFORMAL

- Sold in local markets and along roadsides.
- Bambara groundnuts are bottled as snacks or processed into flour

THERE ARE FEW INITIATIVES TO FORMALIZE PROCESSING AND SALES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOR INSTANCE:

- Canned Bambara groundnut is available in Madagascar and in Zimbabwe
- Pastries are sold in shops in Zimbabwe