

# Agriculture, Food and Health Malaysia's real golden triangle



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# Questions

- **What is the shape and role of current rural and agricultural policies?**
- **How effective are those policies to meet today's challenges?**
- **What implications does this have for policy and research going forward**

# Agricultural policy in ASEAN

- An increase in the availability of staple foods at stable prices
- Policies promoting rapid economic growth.
- A wider re-distribution of income through increasing non agricultural urban employment.





# Rice A Political Crop

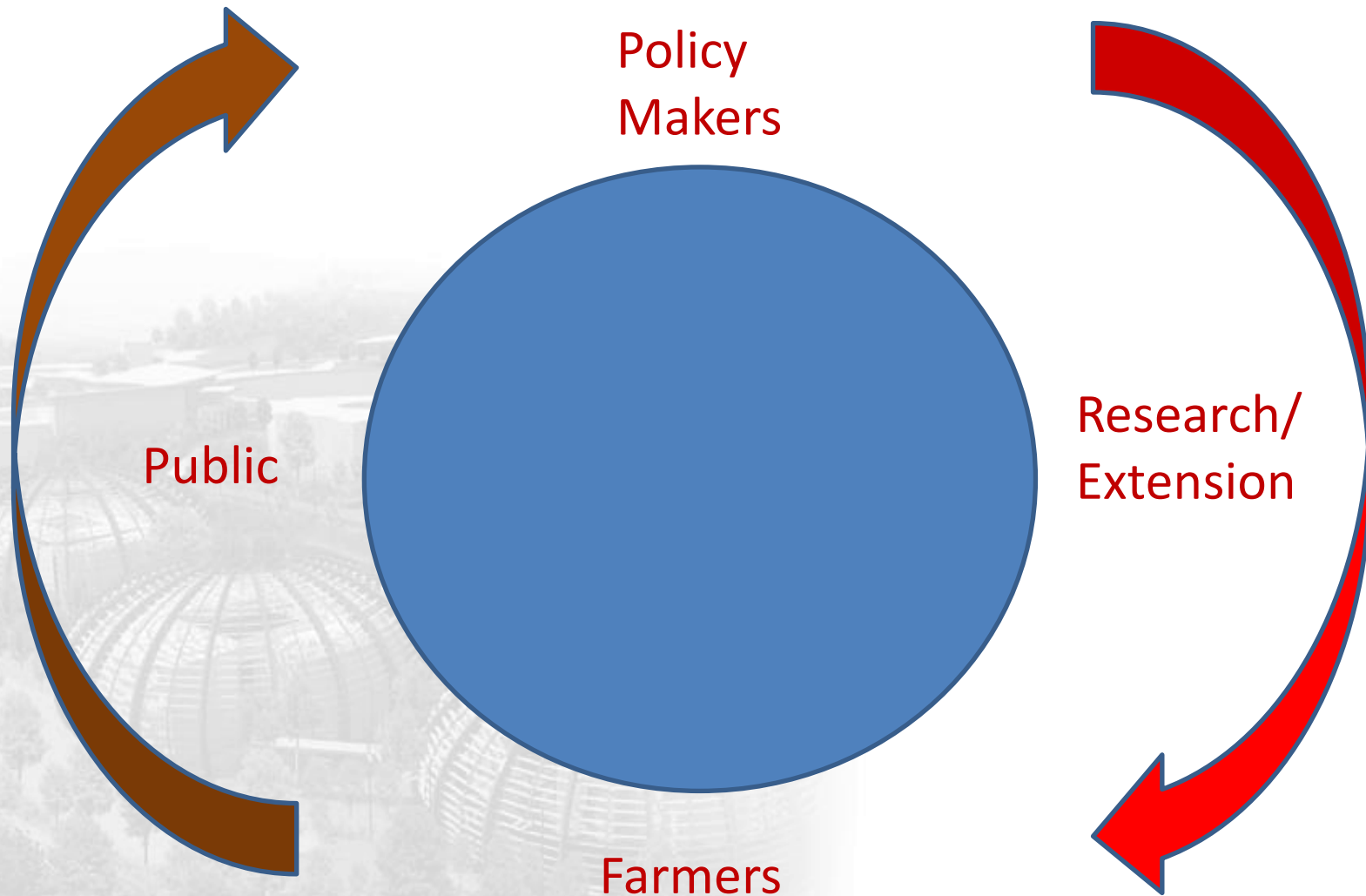


# ASEAN





# Agricultural treadmill



# How effective are those policies now?

- **The on-going struggle for food and nutrition**
- **Transformations in agri-food networks**
- **The implications of wider global and regional socio-economic transformations**

# The on-going struggle for food and nutrition

## Capacity to deliver?

Numerous studies indicate no link between food security and yield increase is:-

*“food insecurity was found to be much higher in Nusa Tenggara, where, paradoxically, food production was a far more central component of livelihoods” (Nielson and Arafin 2012 p. 157)*

In different contexts the cash and subsistence approaches produce different results

# The on-going struggle for food and nutrition

- **Nutritional drawbacks**

**Higher Incidences of;**

- **Obesity**
- **Type 2 diabetes**
- **Cardiovascular illness**
- **Heavy metal concentrations**





# The on-going struggle for food and nutrition

## Nutritional inequality

- **The social gradient in non communicable lifestyle diseases**
- **Weak but significant correlation between poverty and obesity on upper and middle income countries**
- **Stronger correlations between diabetes and cardio vascular disease and social status.**

# The on-going struggle for food and nutrition

## Sustainability

- **Of innovation – The Yield Ceiling  
(Power and Knowledge in agriculture)**
- **Socio-economic – Rural Decline**
- **Agro-ecological – Biocide?**

# Transformations in agri-food networks

- **Changing consumer tastes  
(Westernisation or Easternisation?)**
- **The changing structure of food retailing  
(Challenges and opportunities”?)**
- **The durability and potential of small holders  
(Maximising strengths)**
- **The growing role of none tradable outputs.**

# Implications of wider socio-economic transformations for agriculture

## The Janus faces of urbanisation - land pressures and human resource issues

- The myth of the urban-rural dichotomy
- The historical specificity of urbanisation in south east Asia
- Divergence from the dichotomous model
- The urbanisation as a rural issue
- Peri-urbanism and hobby farming



# The Old and The New



# **Implications of wider socio-economic transformations for agriculture**

- **Developments in regional trade and the ASEAN Economic Community**
- **Internal freeing up of trade**
- **Common approach to external trade**
- **Protecting intellectual capital**

**Current policies do not deal with all of the challenges currently facing rural areas in the ASEAN**

**These deficiencies have wider implications for the development of the region**

# Asian agriculture local and global challenges

Focus on the longevity and durability of existing forms of policy

*“policy debate appears to be trapped in the mindset of the 1970’s: being production-centric, supply-centric, public sector-centric, rice centric and nation centric... ..despite the realities of the 2010s” (Wong 2012).*



# Monoculture and Change



# Cultivation

Plant Physiology

Gene Networks

Breeding

Post Harvest

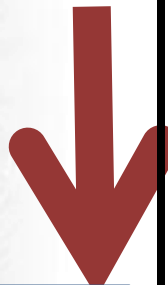
Processing

Marketing

Nutrition

Health

# Consumption



**Agriculture**

**Food**

**Nutrition**

# Diversity

- Different areas have different physical and environmental characteristics
- Different areas are impacted by socio-economic transformation in different ways
- The responses of specific actors to similar events vary significantly

# Multidimensional

- Includes local and industry issues (food and nutritional policies and programmes)
- Regional Dimension: ASEAN food security and trade regulation/development
- Global issues: Global Food Security, World | Trade

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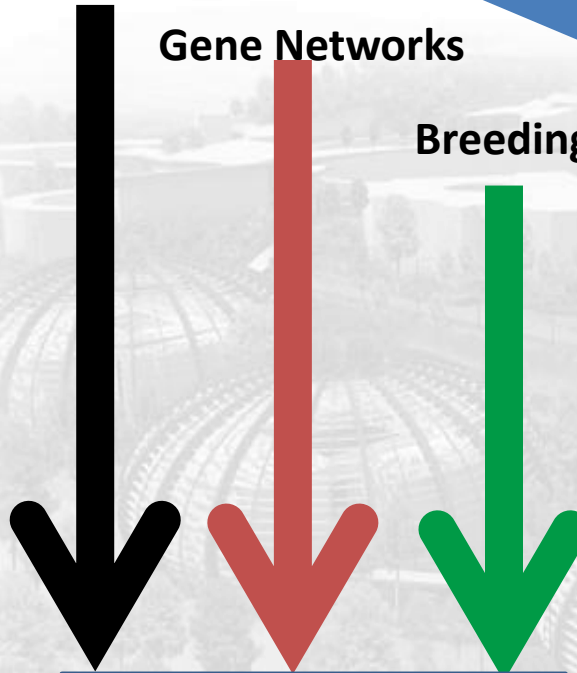
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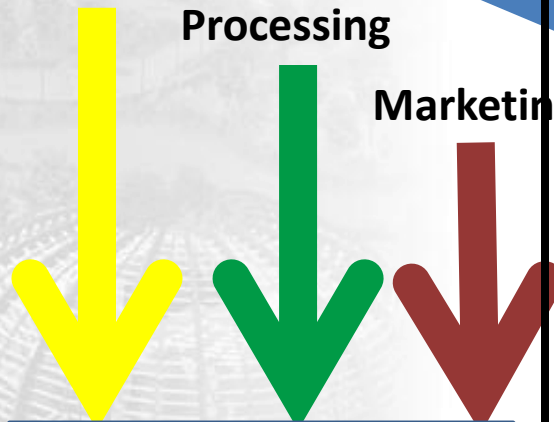
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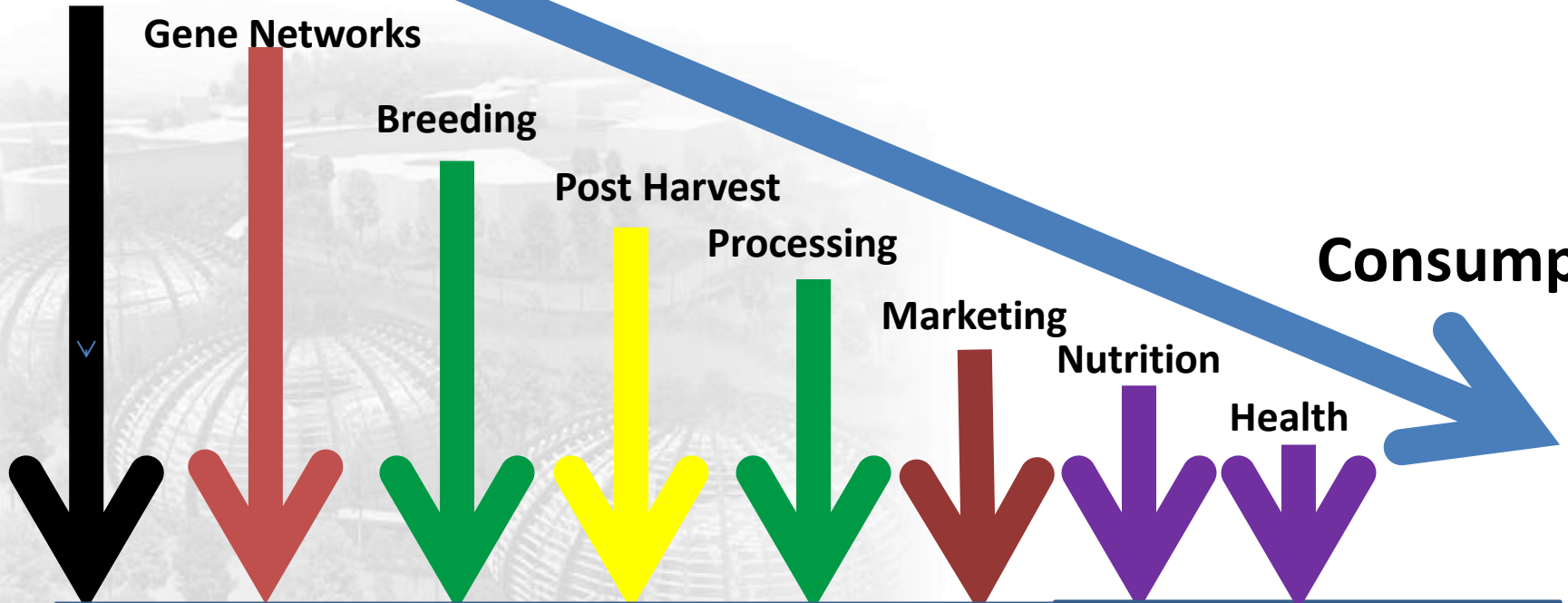
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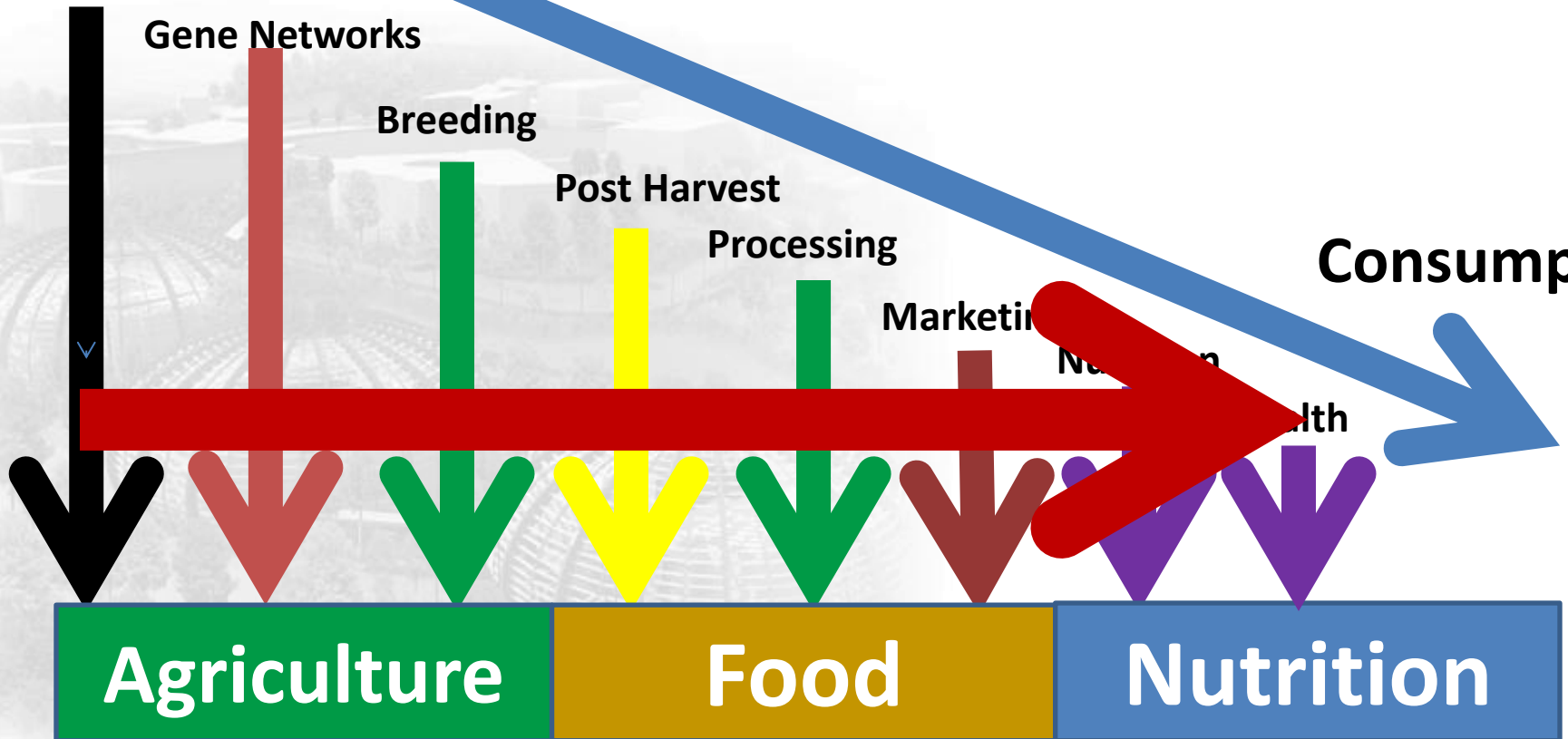
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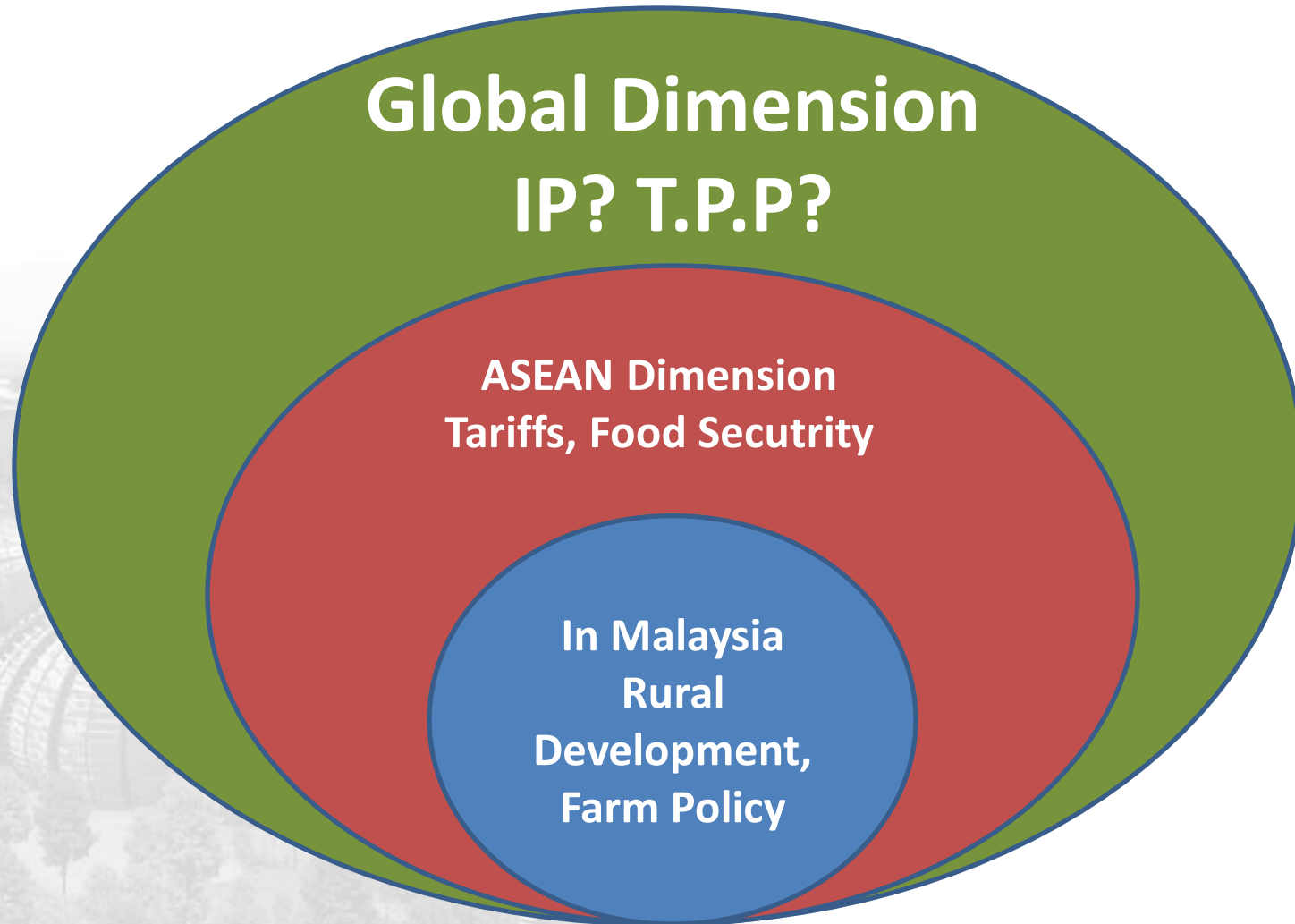
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# Multi Scalar



# Summary

- Pay attention to what happens in rural areas
- Generic methods rather than generic explanations
- Avoid employing generalised models of historical change – implications for comparative research
- Appreciate unique nature of current changes in asia.
- Understand how local agriculture connects to global sites