



# Understanding the agroecology strategy for Zambia

**Zambia's 1<sup>st</sup> Agroecology Conference**

**Theme: “Agroecology for inclusiveness, social, economic and environmental sustenance”.**

**Dates: 21 to 22 May 2024**

**Venue: Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka, Zambia**

**By**

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# Presentation outline

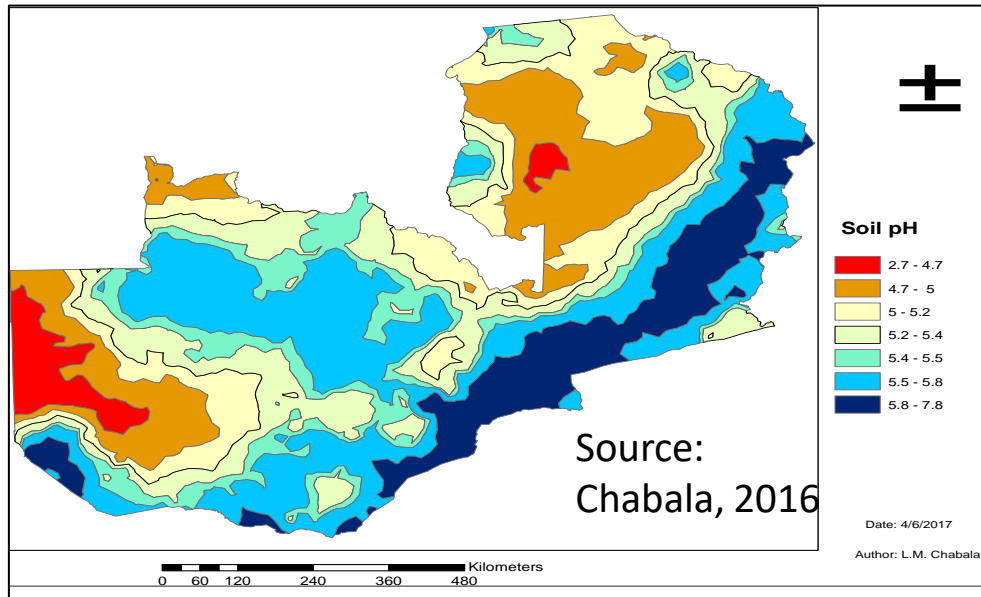
- **Understanding the problem**
- **Policies, frameworks, Networks, strategies, structures in place or are being developed to support Agro-Ecology**
- **Conclusion**

# Understanding the problem?

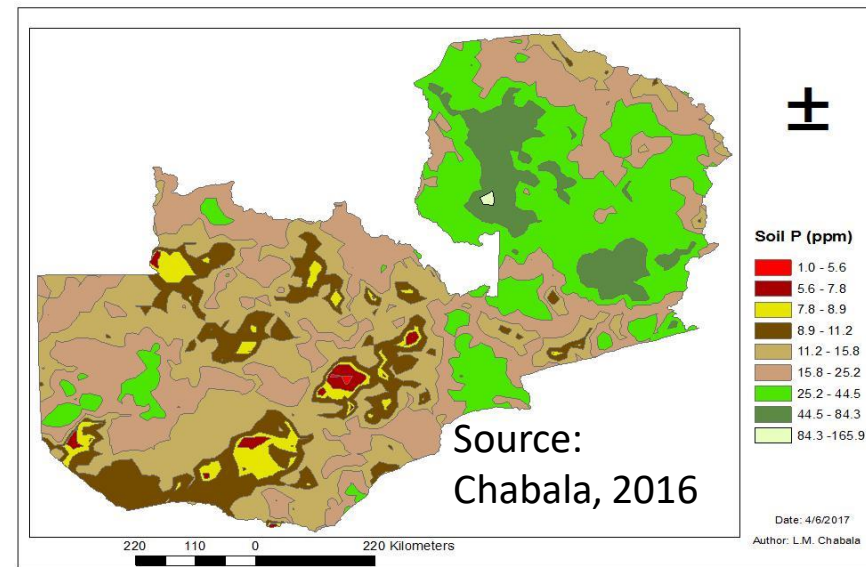
Production characterised by low productivity:

□ Low yields

1. E.g. Maize 0.8 to 1.72 ton/ha against a potential yield of 10 to 12 tons/ha



2. Prevalence of acidic soils (Al & Mn toxicity) in Cowpea growing areas

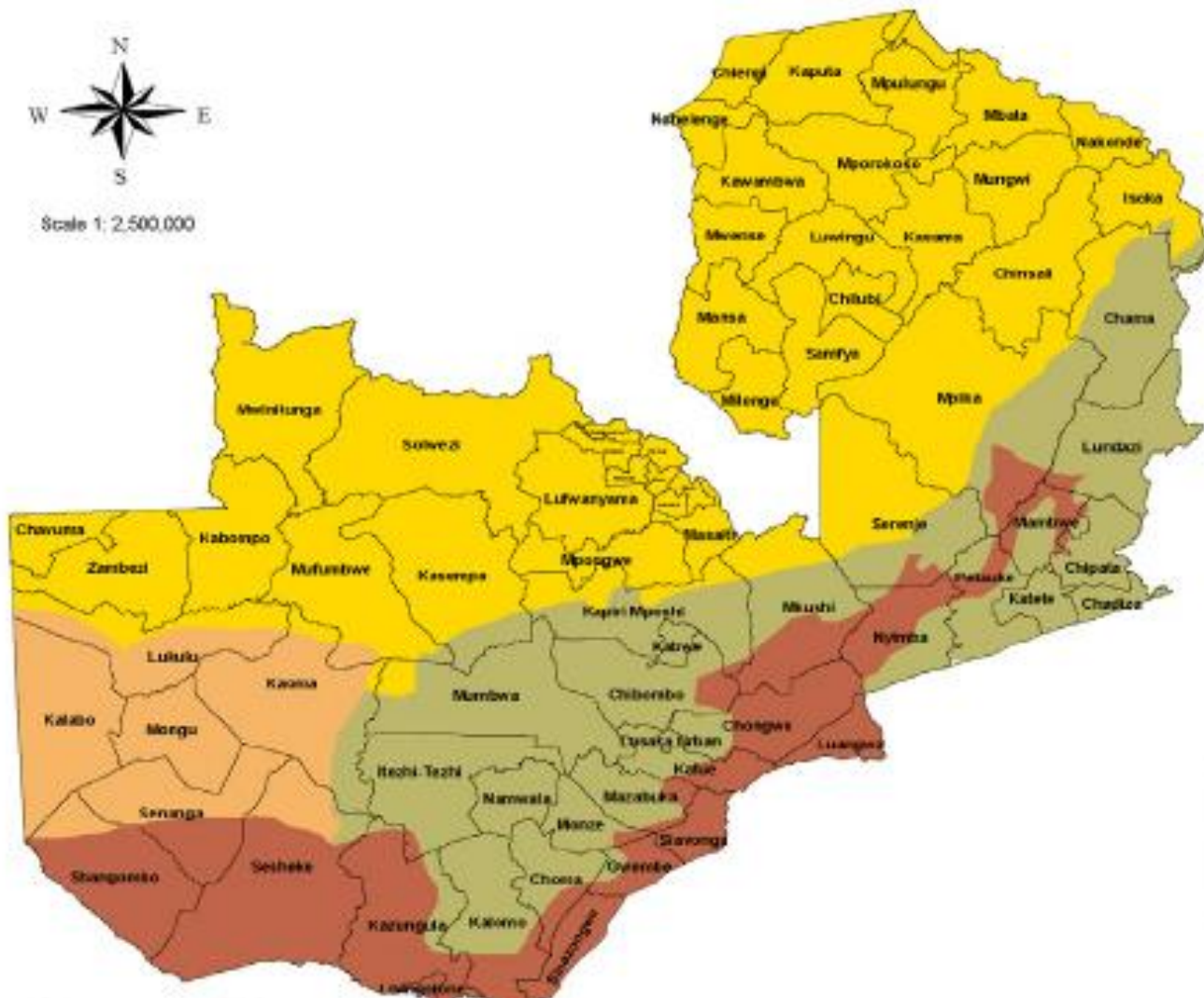


3. Low inherent soil fertility (Figure 2),
4. Inadequate application of plant nutrients,
5. **Inadequate number** of varieties with high yield potential,
6. Poor quality seed,
7. Inadequate control of pests and diseases,
8. **Problems associated with climate change.**

# Agro-Ecological Regions

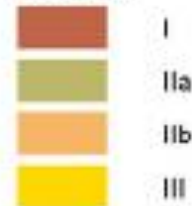


Scale 1: 2,500,000



## LEGEND

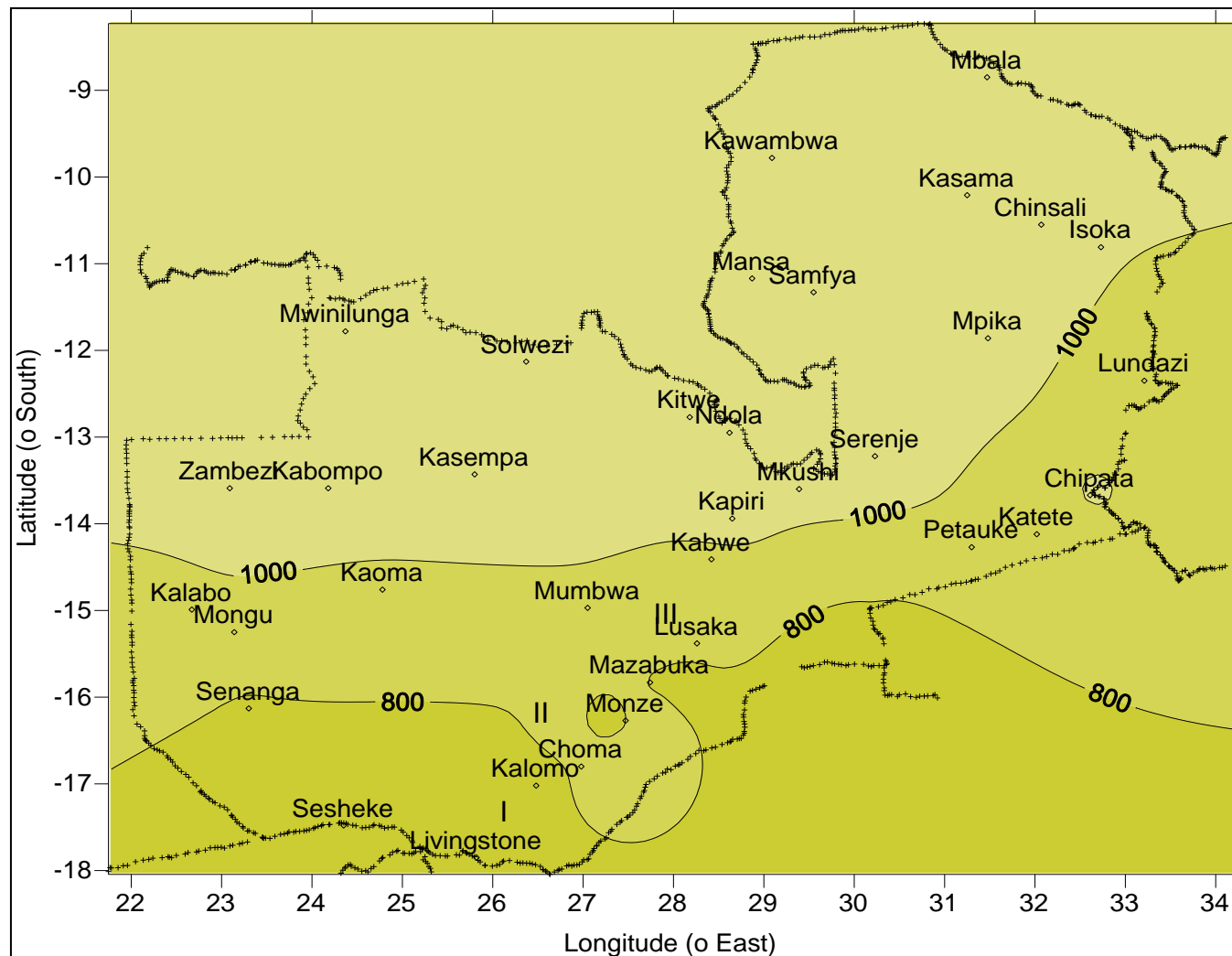
Regions



## KEY

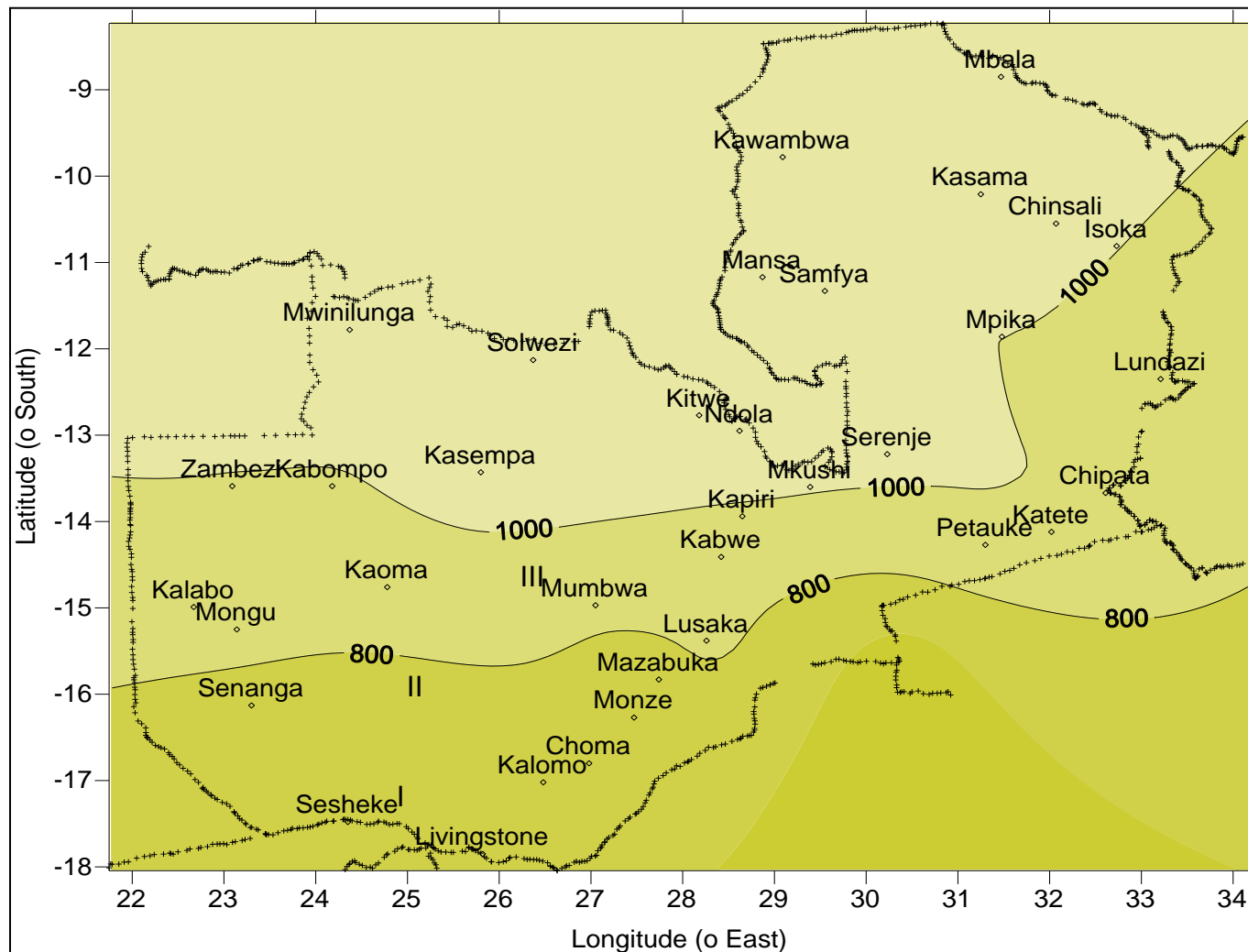
District boundary

200 0 200 400 Kilometers



Source: Shitumbanuma. V. 2008

Figure 3. Agro-ecological Region boundaries of Zambia based on the 1940 to 1970 seasonal rainfall means



Source: Shitumbanuma. V. 2008

Figure 4. Agro-ecological Region boundaries of Zambia based on the 1971 to 2005 seasonal rainfall means

# UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

There is a **notable shift** in our Agro-ecological Regions:

- Becoming drier with:
  - Shrinking of Region III from expansion of Region II into Region III,
  - Expansion of Region I into Region II
- This will entail shift of agricultural cropping into Region III with predominantly acidic soils from Region II as well as Region II being **increasingly drier**.
- There is, therefore, need to **develop** and grow crops **adapted** to **adverse** environmental conditions

# POLICIES, FRAMEWORKS, NETWORKS, STRATEGIES, STRUCTURES ARE IN PLACE OR ARE BEING DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT AGRO-ECOLOGY

- GRZ has formulated several macro-economic and sectoral policies including:
  - 1) The Zambia Vision 2030
  - 2) 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan
- GRZ also has:
  - 1) National Policy on Climate Change
  - 2) National Adaptation Programme of Action
  - 3) Draft National Climate Change Response Strategy
  - 4) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
  - 5) Green Growth Strategy



# 3. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR POLICY DIRECTIONS

- And within the Agricultural Sector itself:

- 1) Second National Agricultural policy

- 2) Zambia National Agriculture Investment Programme/Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme

# COMMON MEASURES/PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN VISION 2030; 8NDP & NDC

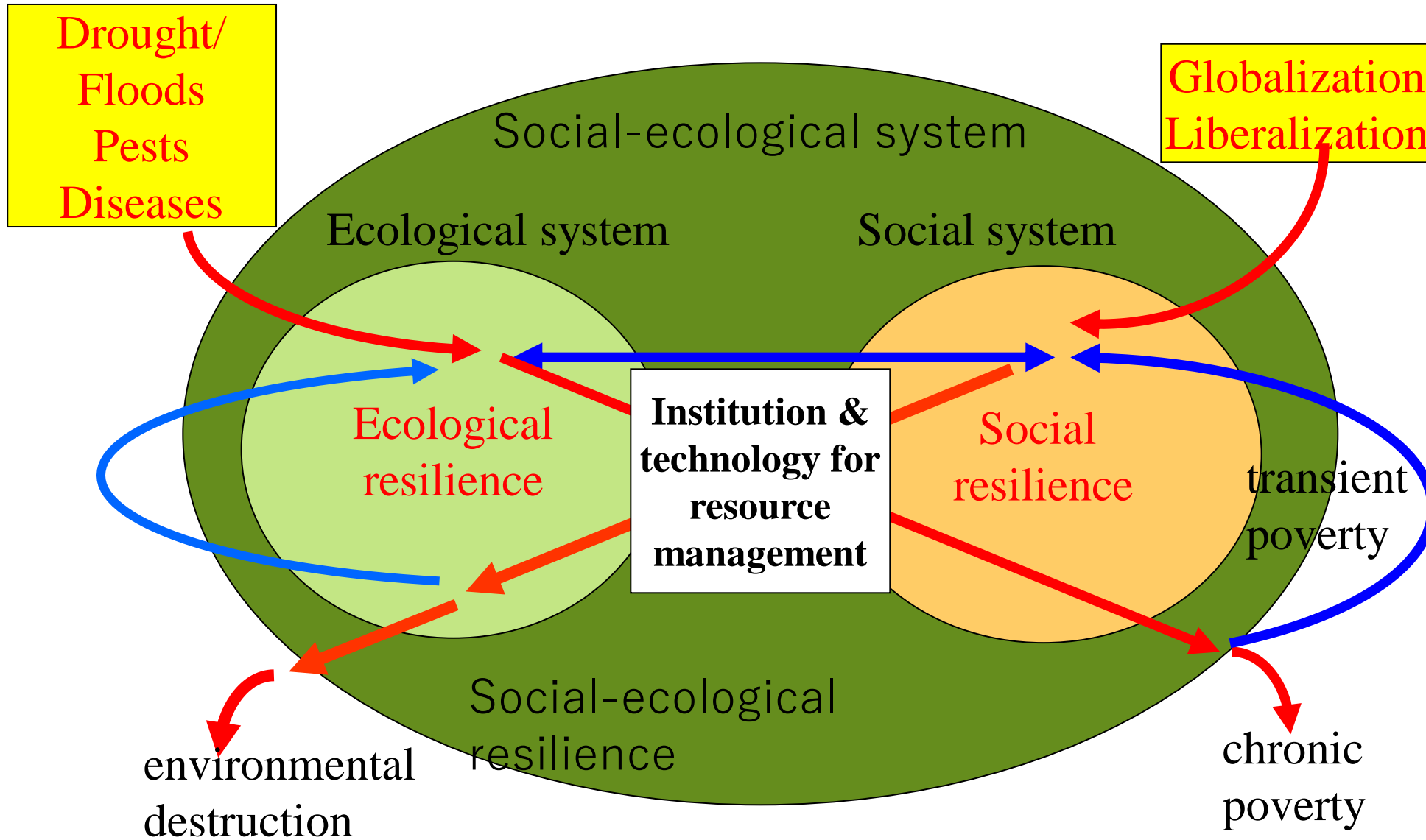
- Conservation farming/Agroforestry
- Crop diversification
- Appropriate Irrigation and water harvesting
- Mixed farming/crop livestock integration
- Drought tolerant crop development and promotion
- Promotion of indigenous/local livestock breeds
- Livestock feed conservation for dry season (fodder banks)
- Disease and pest surveillance and control
- Promotion of aquaculture

# 5 CONCLUSIONS

# EFFORTS TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, IS AGRO-ECOLOGY THE WAY TO GO!!!

- Concern for the advance of Agro-ecology (AE) cannot be underplayed.
- Given the challenge of increasing temperatures, destructive flooding, and reducing rainfall:
  - All posing a threat on food security and people's livelihoods in the country;
  - Due to increasing drought occurrences, erratic rainfall conditions, and disturbed livelihoods.
- This calls for concerted effort between Government and Partners to already put in place appropriate policy mechanisms to arrest this situation.

# Reduce Vulnerability to increase resilience



- **THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**