



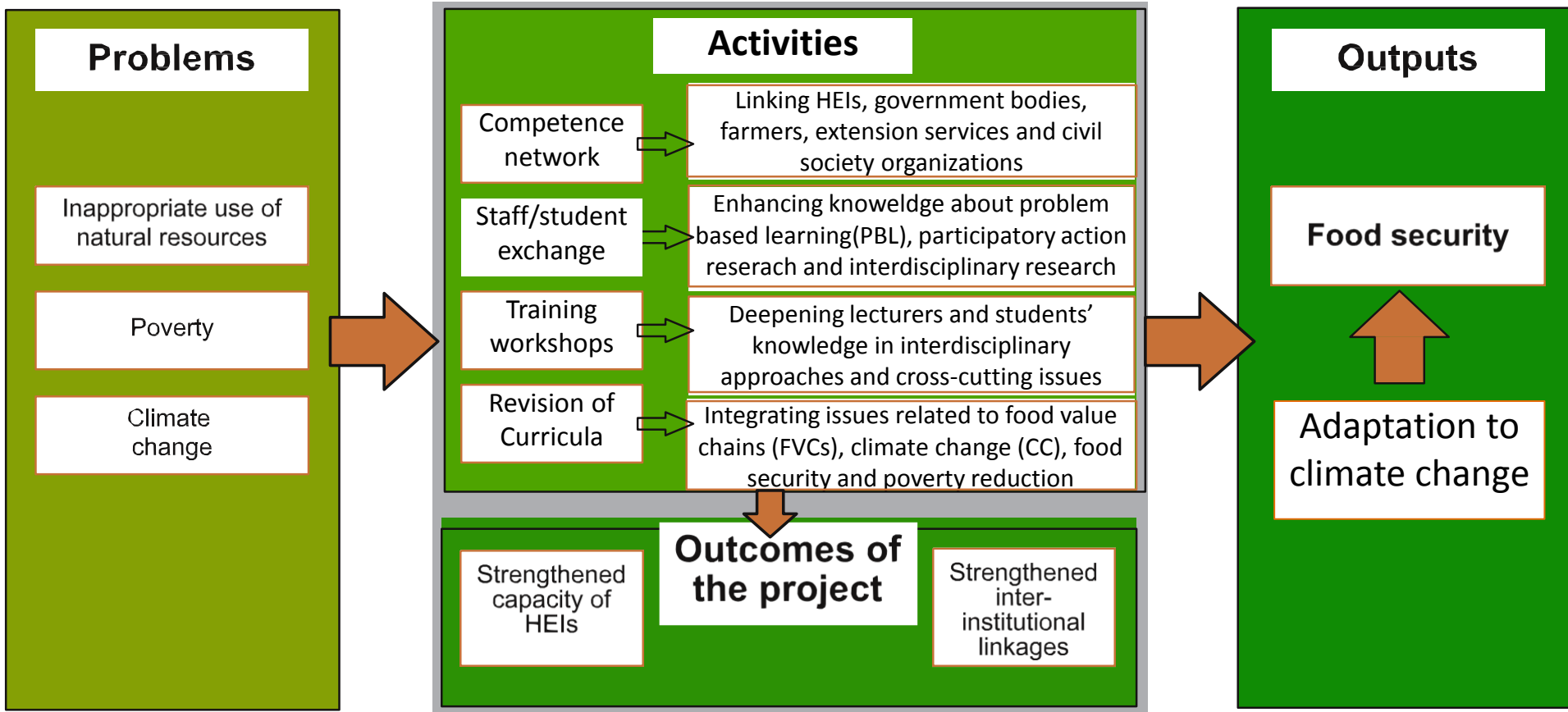
Value Chain Development for Food Security in the Context of Climate Change - A contribution through strengthening capacity in higher education in Eastern Africa (ValueSeC)



Background

In East Africa, sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of productive agricultural land are priority objectives to secure the nutrition of rural as well as growing urban populations. Here, a large majority of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. At the same time, small-scale farmers are most vulnerable to changes in cropping conditions, facing an immediate risk of crop failure. In Ethiopia and Kenya, climate change is projected to cause higher mean temperatures and dramatic changes in rainfall patterns, higher risk of droughts, shorter growing seasons and new distributions of pests and diseases. As a consequence, climate change will affect food security, food availability as well as food system stability.

ValueSeC Framework



Competence Network



Main results of the project so far:

- Academic staff and graduate students have participated in an exchange program and study projects to foster mutual sharing of skills
- Teaching modules have been revised as well as existing modules adapted to the needs of market and taught to students at African partner universities
- Skills of academic staffs and students have been enhanced through trainings for problem oriented research
- A network between partners' universities has been further strengthened not only among themselves but also with respective local stakeholders.
- The Competence Network has been established, institutionalized and is used for joint activities and mutual knowledge transfer
- The project activities, results and outcomes have been communicated to different stakeholders and international audiences

Overall objectives of the project:

- ❖ Strengthening the capacity of HEIs in Kenya and Ethiopia to cope with issues of food security, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation in areas of food value chains
- ❖ Fostering Inter-institutional linkages, networking and academic partnerships among HEIs within East Africa as well as with European HEIs in a sustainable manner

The project would have positive impacts on the:

- ❖ Capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt with climate change stress
- ❖ Income growth and food security of smallholder farmers
- ❖ Number of inter-African academic partnerships active in food value chain and climate change research and
- ❖ Sustainable inter-institutional linkages of African and European universities



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