



TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe

Enabling legume processing: opportunities and barriers

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Introduction

Agri-food systems supported by **home-grown and -processed legumes** offer a sustainable alternative to help combat the damaging environmental, health and socio-economic paradigms which characterise our time.

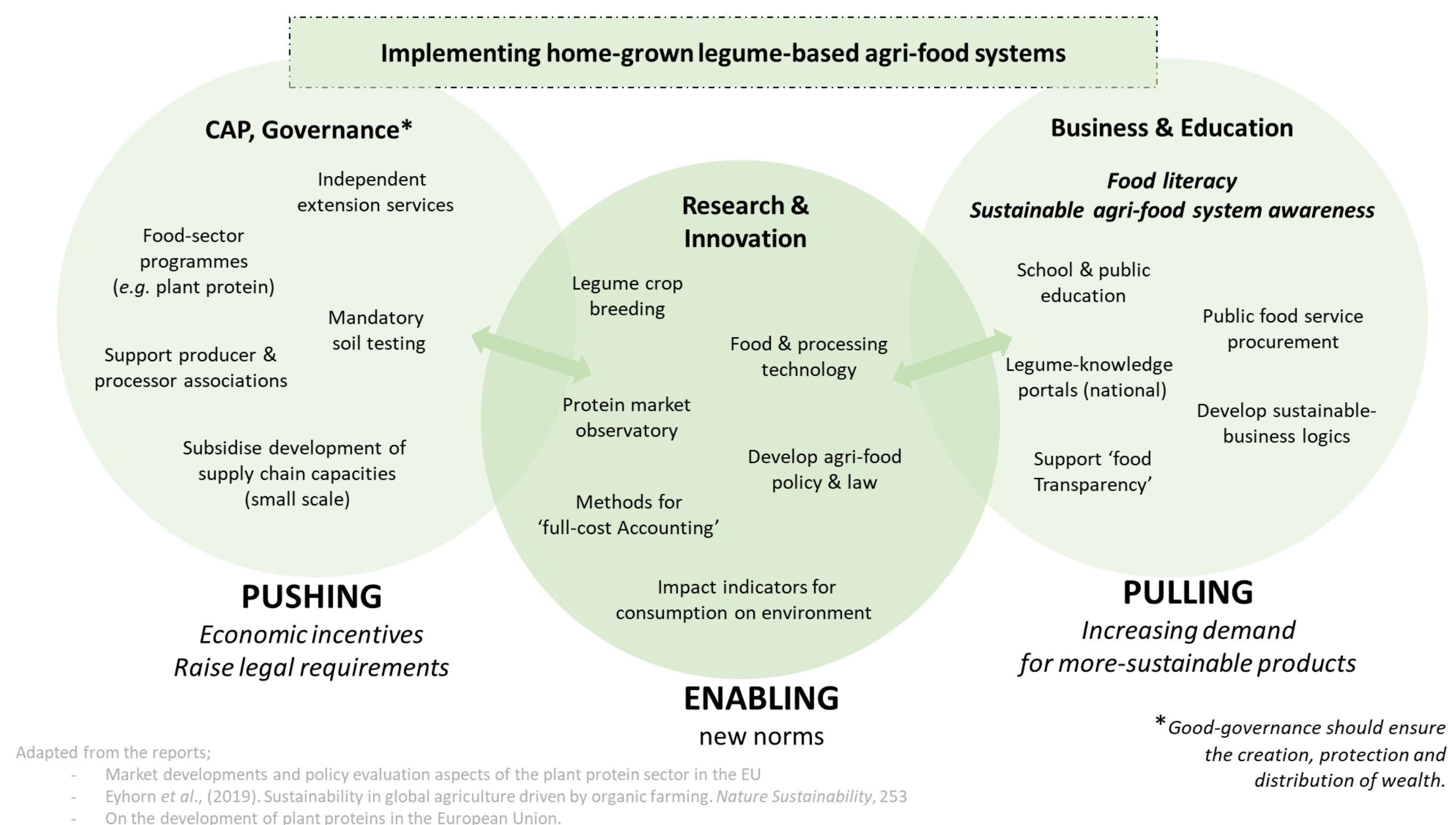
However, European food systems are on average 80% legume-import dependant, and mainly for use as animal feed.

What can be done to help improved home-grown production and processing capacities in Europe?

Push, Pull and Enabling

European food systems are legume-dependant. However, the many benefits of legumes to personal health, the environment and biodiversity are forfeited - as the legumes consumed are not home-grown or processed.

Therefore, **'push', 'pull' and 'enabling' approaches need to be delivered in a strategic fashion** (Fig. 1, opposite).



Summary

- **Consumer-citizens** are the main drivers of the shift towards greater consumption of legume-based foods, but is the food they purchase home-grown and -processed?
- Such consumer led demand deserves more support *via* consistent and coordinated policies across the food-production, -health, -education- and -research sectors.
- Efforts should focus on ensuring:
 - 1) higher standards of **'good-food governance'** and 'food-literacy' with special respect to **'good-food culture'** and **'-transparency'** (or traceability); and,
 - 2) the development of **smaller-scale local processing capacities** which help nurture 'good-food culture'; and reconnect producers with consumers.

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