

# Small farms, evolving typologies to support policy making

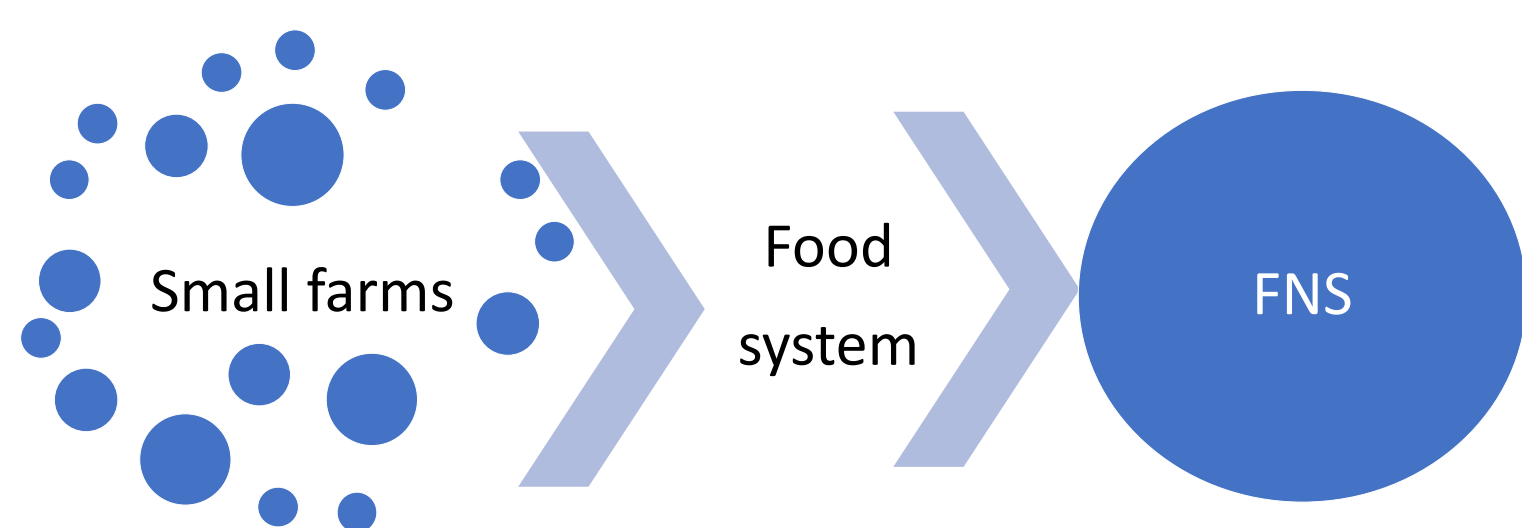
Francesca Galli<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Prosperi<sup>1</sup>, Teresa Pinto Correia<sup>2</sup>, Maria Rivera Mendez<sup>2</sup>, Gianluca Brunori<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Pisa, Italy  
<sup>2</sup> ICAAM - Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais Mediterrânicas, Evora, Portugal

[francesca.galli@unipi.it](mailto:francesca.galli@unipi.it)

## Research question and aims

Small family farms represent the largest number of farmers globally. Farm - household needs and dynamics balance self-provisioning and economic integration in different ways. Small farm households interact with territorial food systems in different ways in different context



**What is the contribution of different small farm types and strategies to food system outcomes, in diverse regional food system context?**

This work elaborates on what is a small farm and the patterns between food system types, strategies and contributions to food system outcomes. Building upon SALSA project results (types of food system, farm types and strategies) case study examples show a variety of links between farm types – strategies – food system outcomes.

## Methodology and data

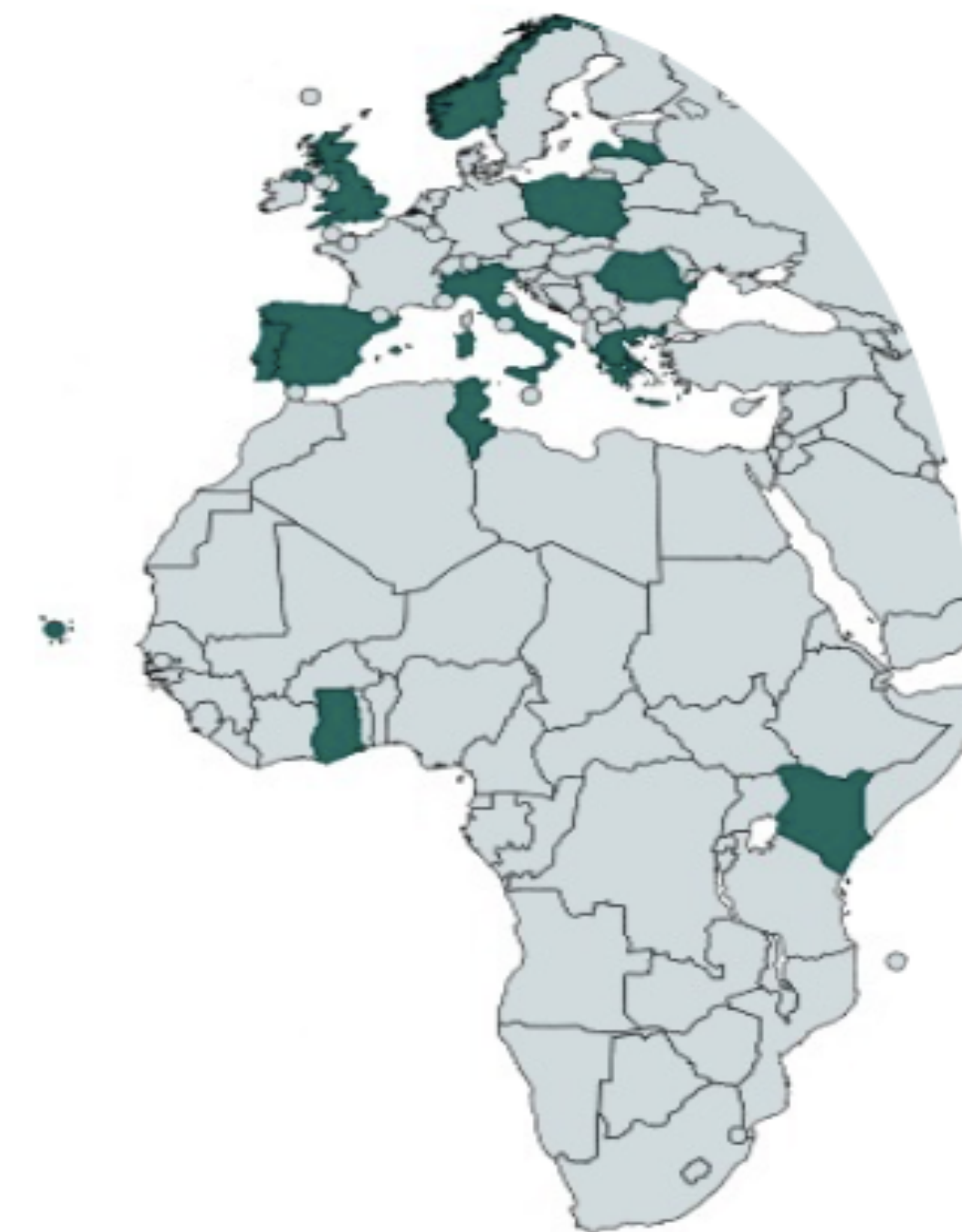
This research comprises:

- Coding of regional reports:
  - 30 Reference Regions (NUTS3)
  - 109 focus groups (3/4 products per region)
  - Small Farm Interviews
- Cross reading of project deliverables: food system analysis, small farm typology in EU and Africa
- Dedicated workshop and questionnaire to project researchers.

Key questions:

- In relation to what do farmers define themselves ‘small’ in your context? What are the most relevant differences between ‘small’ and ‘large’?
- Which farm type best describes your example? What farm strategies are in place? What outcomes do they contribute to?

Figure 3. Countries where the RR analysed in SALSA are found



## Results

### Farm types

‘Weak market orientation’:

“Part-time”, farming is a secondary activity that supplements other sources of income, generally young farmers; a high proportion of production stays in household. 11% of sample.

“Conventional strugglers”, relatively poor, and oldest; farming is rooted in tradition and it accounts for high proportion of income; high proportion of production stays in household. 32% of sample.

‘Strong market orientation’:

“Conventional entrepreneurs”, relatively wealthy, relatively old and established in farming; do not use certification; access markets through cooperatives. 26% of the sample.

“Business specialized”, wealthiest group, relatively old and established in farming; access to markets through cooperatives, invest in certification. 23% of the sample.

“Business multifunctional”, wealthy, relatively young and new to farming; invest in certification; diverse portfolio of buyers. 8% of the sample.

### Farm strategies

Intensification upscaling	Downsizing reduced income acceptance	Technological innovation	Externalisation (production, work-force, marketing)	Shift to hobby farming
Household self-provisioning	Abandonment	Insurance contracts, risk mitigation	Pluriactivity	Multi-functionality
Reliance on public welfare (pensions, food aid)	Cooperation and sharing (informal)	Cooperatives	Food quality enhancement (PDO, trademarks)	On/off farm processing
Agri-food local networks	Organic, integrated production	CAP subsidies reliance		

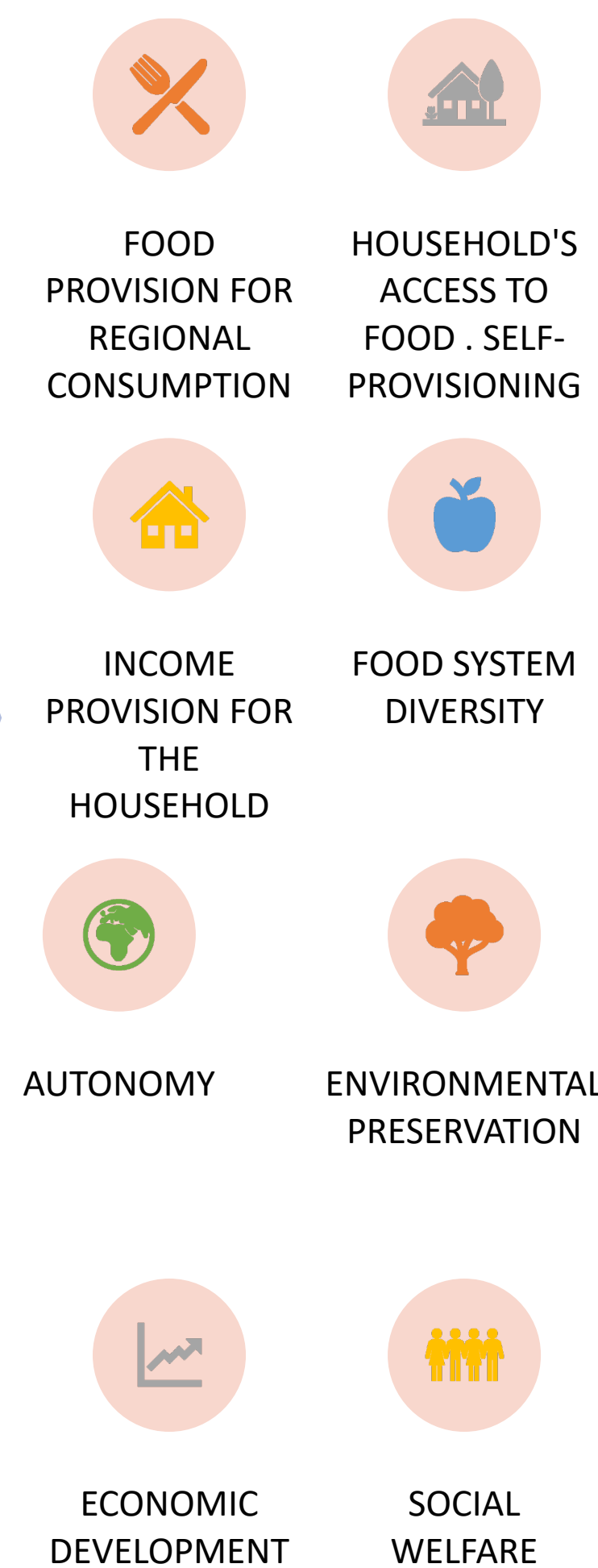
- Cluser analysis of small farm types
- Analysis of small farm contribution and relations with regional food systems
- Specific examples of small farm contribution to regional food and nutrition security

Table 5. General overview of the contribution of SF to FNS per product and RR

% of total Regional production produced by SF	Minimum amount of product that stays in the RR		
	Low (0-33%)	Medium (34-66%)	High (67-100%)
0-20	MONTANA (BG)- CEREAL VAUCLUSE (FR)- WINE AND FRUIT PISA (IT)- CEREAL HEDMARK (NO)- MEAT, POTATO, DAIRY AND FRUIT ALENTEJO (PT) - MEAT GIURGIU (RO)- OIL PLANTS AND CEREAL CORDOB A (ES) - OIL PLANT, CEREAL AND WINE EAST SCOTLAND (UK)- MEAT WEST SCOTLAND (UK)- MEAT AND MEAT	IMATHIA (GR)-MEAT ILEIA (GR) -VEGETABLES PISA (IT) WINE AND MEAT LATGALE (LV)- DAIRY PIERIGA (LV)- DAIRY VILNAUS (LT)- VEGETABLES ALENTEJO (PT)- OIL PLANT AND WINE OESTE (PT)- EGGS BISTRITA (RO)- FRUIT EAST SCOTLAND (UK) - MEAT AND POTATOES	SANTIAGO (CV)- MEAT ILLE-ET-VILAINE (FR) MEAT LARISA (GR)-VEGETABLES PISA (IT) - VEGETABLES LATGALE (LV)- POTATOES, CEREAL PIERIGA (LV)- VEGETABLES, CEREAL ALENTEJO (PT) - VEGETABLES EAST SCOTLAND (UK) - VEGETABLES WEST SCOTLAND (UK)- EGGS
20-40	RZEZOWSKI (PL)- MEAT OESTE (PT)- WINE CASTELLÓN (ES)- OIL PLANTS CORDOBA (ES)- DAIRY	VARAZDINSKA (HR) POTATOES GUSHEGU DISTRICT (GH)- MEAT LARISA (GR)- FRUIT AND MEAT VILNAUS (LT)- CEREAL AND DAIRY OESTE (PT)- PEAR	ILE-ET-VILAINE (FR)- FRUIT GUSHEGU DISTRICT (GH)- CEREAL LUCCA (IT)-FRUIT RZEZOWSKI (PL)- CEREAL AND MEAT
40-60	ILEIA (GR)- FRUIT LUCCA (IT)- WINE NOWOSADEKI (PL)- DAIRY NOWOTARSKI (PL)- DAIRY	IMATHIA (GR)- FRUIT AND WINE LARISA (GR)- FRUIT PIERIGA (LV)- FRUIT OESTE (PT)- POTATOES	JHOCECKY KRAJ (CZ)- EGGS NOWOSADEKI (PL)- POTATOES AND CEREAL NOWOTARSKI (PL)- POTATOES WEST SCOTLAND (UK)- VEGETABLES
60-80	ILEIA (GR)- OIL PLANTS LUCCA (IT)- OIL PLANTS NOWOTARSKI (PL)- MEAT BISTRITA (PL)- DAIRY CASTELLÓN (ES)- FRUIT AND MEAT	VARAZDINSKA (HR)- MEAT GUSHEGU DISTRICT (GH)- OIL PLANT IMATHIA (GR) FRUIT VILNAUS (LT)- FRUIT BALAKA DISTRICT (MW)-VEGETABLES RZEZOWSKI (PL)- POTATOES	JHOCECKY KRAJ (CZ)- MEAT GUSHEGU DISTRICT (GH)- CEREAL LUCCA (IT)- HONEY LATGALE (LV)- HONEY BALAKA DISTRICT (MW)- VEGETABLES NOWOTARSKI (PL)- CEREAL
80-100	UGUNJA (KN)- VEGETABLES NOWOSADEKI (PL)- FRIOT GIURGIU (RO) VEGETABLES CASTELLÓN (ES)- FRUIT HAOUARIA (TN)- VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLES	ILEIA (GR)- FRUIT BALAKA DISTRICT (MW)-CEREAL BISTRITA (RO)- MEAT	SANTIAGO (CV)- VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND CEREAL UGUNJA (KN)- CEREAL, VEGETABLES AND BEANS BALAKA DISTRICT (MW)- MEAT BISTRITA (RO)- POTATOES GIURGIU (RO)- EGGS

LEGEND AFR SE NE SE

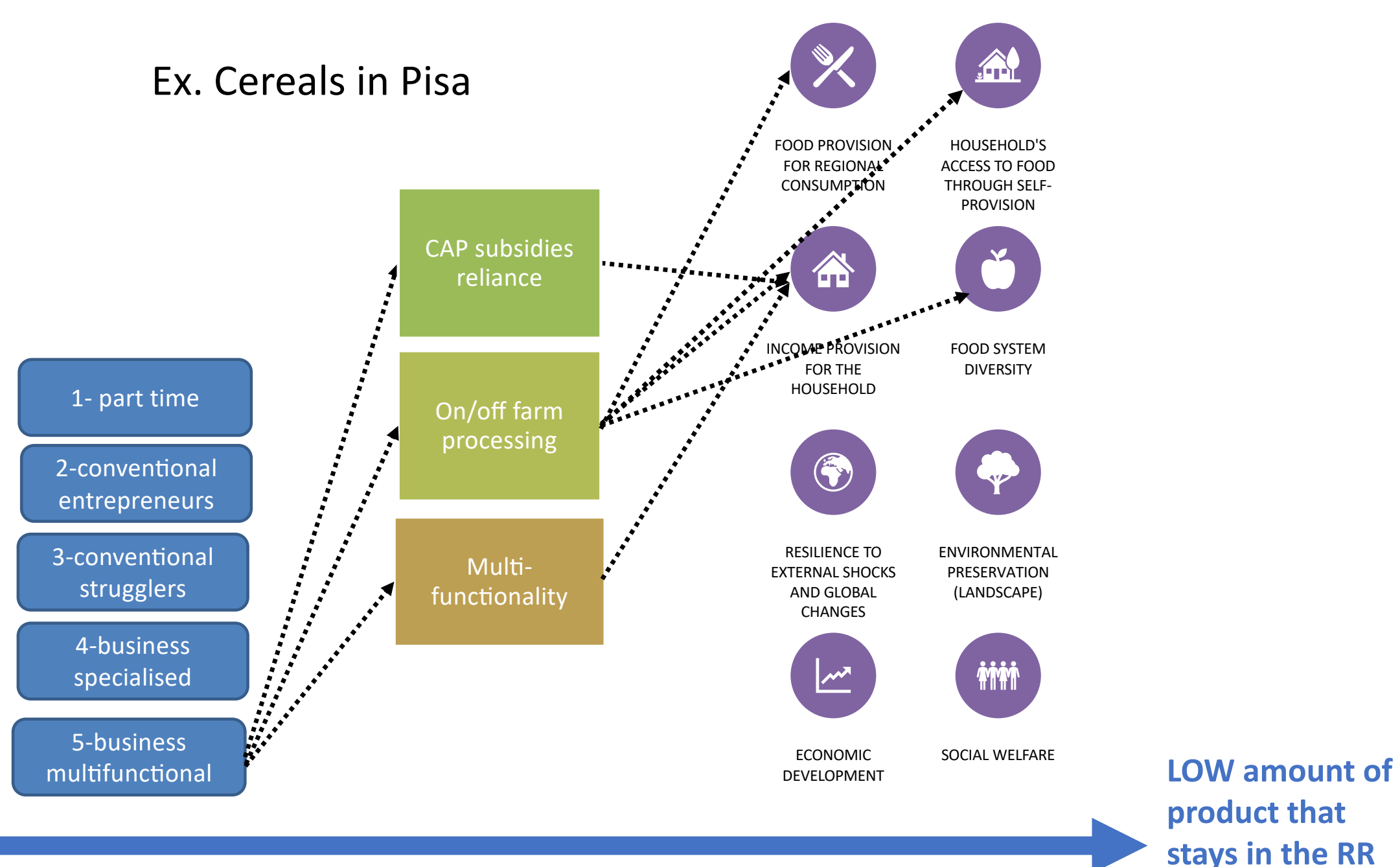
### Food system outcomes



LOW contribution by SF to regional production

### Region specific cases

Ex. Cereals in Pisa



### Key Messages

- SF contribute more to regional food availability in African and Eastern European regions and less in Northern and Southern Europe. This contribution is also directly related to the total number of small farms that exist in that particular region.