

# Strengthening Agricultural Producers' Organizations in an era of disengagement of States

*"A way of addressing food security concerns of smallholder family farms in West Africa"*

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## > OUTLINE

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Strengthening institutional capacities of agric. producers' organizations (APOs):

*Accelerating the insertion of smallholder agriculture family farming (AFF) into the market to better address food security issues*

### 3. Conclusion: Key messages



**Agriculture Family Farming (AFF) remains the main source of food production in West Africa. It provides more than 90% of total food commodities supply.**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Family Farm</b>	<b>Commercial Agriculture</b>
<b>Role of household labor</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Little or none</b>
<b>Priority objectives</b>	<b>Consume; Stock; Sale</b>	<b>Sale; Buy; Consume</b>
<b>Diversification</b>	<b>High: to reduce exposure to risk</b>	<b>Low: Specialization on very few crops and activities</b>
<b>Links to markets</b>	<b>Weak: but becoming stronger</b>	<b>Strong</b>
<b>Land access</b>	<b>Inheritance and social arrangements</b>	<b>Purchase</b>

The majority of poor and vulnerable people depend on agriculture (crop, livestock, forestry, fishery, etc.). Their vulnerability to food crises relies on:

1. **Availability and stability of food:** Environment factors (climate, pests...); lack of access to inputs, credit, markets, etc.
2. **Accessibility:** Poverty – lack of income generating opportunities, etc.
3. **Utilization** (nutrition aspects): Insecure basic conditions (health, education...), poverty, etc.

Food security: A “situation [...] when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAO, 2002)

**In most countries food security strategies rely on “agricultural modernization”.**

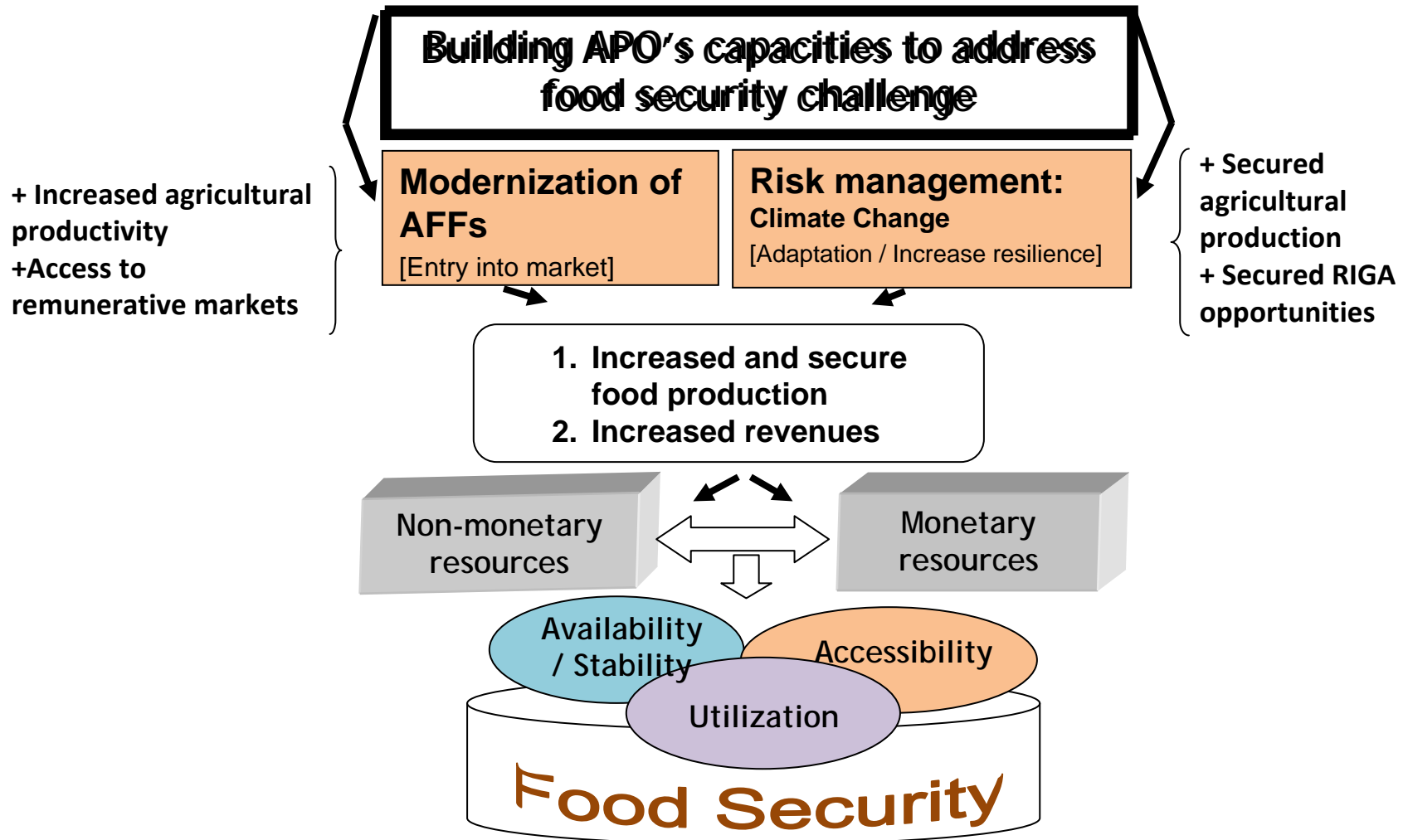
**But these policies have to be set up in an era of Structural Policies Adjustment (SPA):**

**1. Agricultural & rural Producers’ Organizations become essential actors: participating in policy decision making; ensuring different functions within the food production and supply chains, etc.**

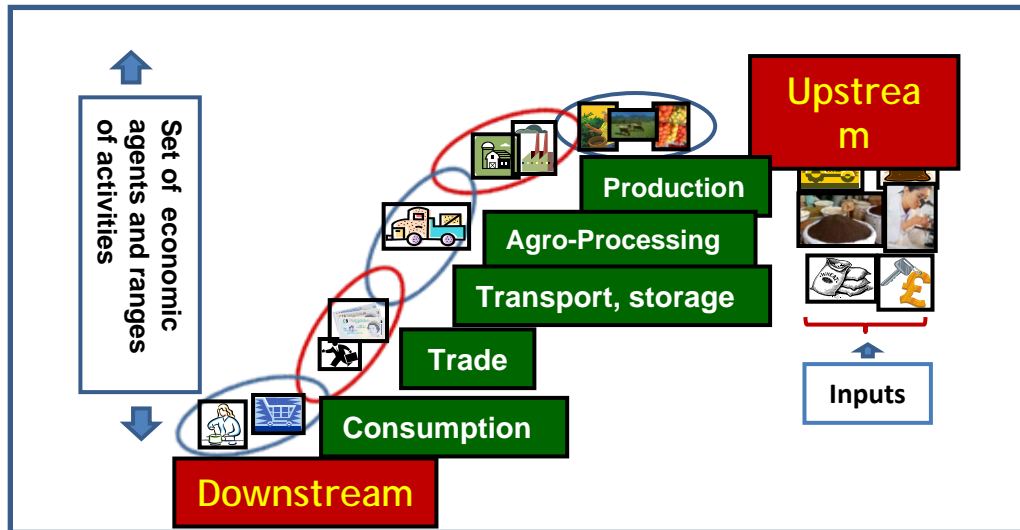
**2. Building the institutional capacities of the countries can not be imagined without taking into account APOs.**

# > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES

Two major expected roles with regards to food security concerns

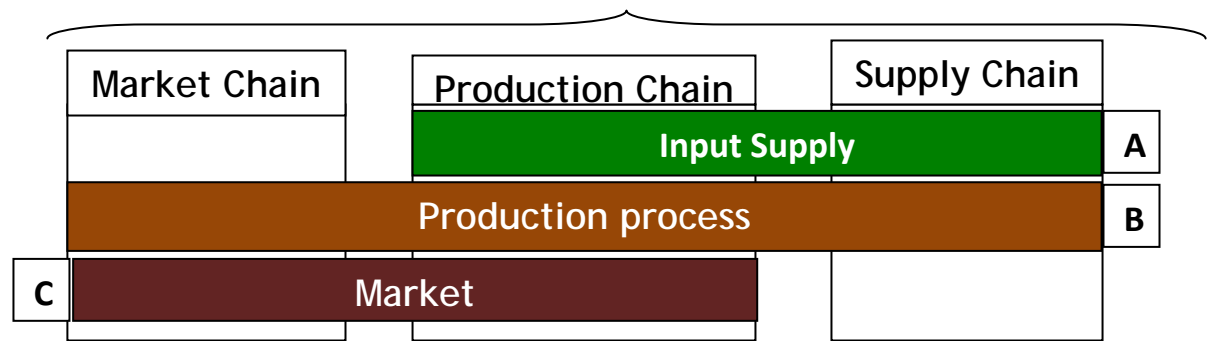


# > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES



**Building the capacities of APOs = a way to accelerate the insertion of smallholder AFFs into the market – market opportunities increase AFFs willingness to modernize and produce more food.**

*Set of skills needed to succeed: key functions to be assumed by RPOs*



- |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutional / organizational: Cooperatives: Input supply, saving &amp; lending, etc.</li> <li>- Negotiation: contracting with operators</li> </ul> | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical, economic management of farms</li> <li>- A+C</li> </ul> | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutional / organizational: Cooperatives: Processing, marketing</li> <li>- Negotiation: Contracting with operators; Advocacy/policy dialogue</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|

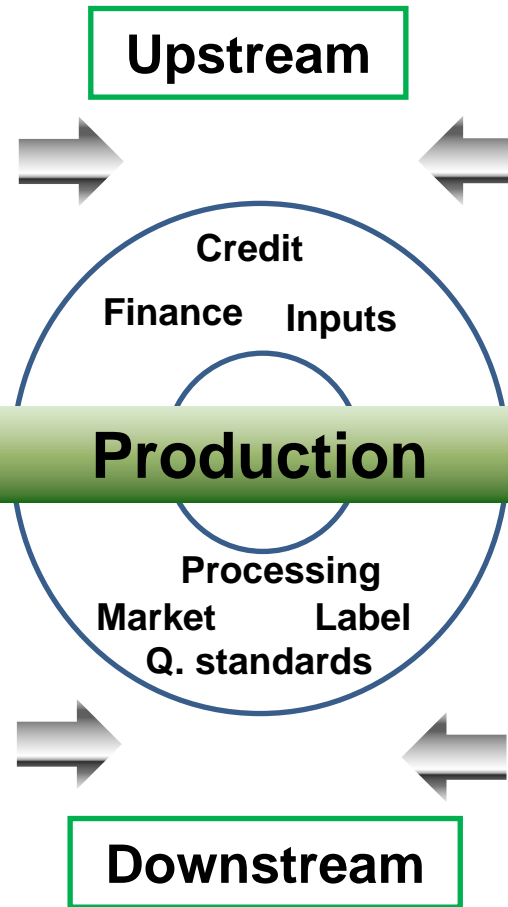
# > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES

## Rice success story in the “Office du Niger” (Mali)



Synergy  
between  
different  
economic  
actors

Public  
&  
Private



**Upstream**

**Incentive  
institutional  
environment**

- + Restructuration (Privatization)
- + Emergence APOs
- + Structural investments (Transport, Water, Market infrast...)
- + Land policies (Land use permit)

**Downstream**

## > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES

**“Jε ka fere”**: APOs interacting with other economic actors to create an incentive environment for investment in agriculture intensification

	Upstream	Downstream
<b>Economic agents and their roles</b>	<p><b>BNDA, CAREC, FCRMD</b>: credit, inputs, equipment, etc.</p> <p><b>CAFON</b>: equipment (production &amp; Processing)</p>	<p><b>Private processors</b>: Millers, Huskers</p> <p><b>NGO “Afrique Verte”</b>: Processing, Trade</p>
<b>Incentive environment for investment in agricultural intensification</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Producers have remunerative prices</li> <li>2. Producers have access to inputs required for the use of agricultural innovations</li> <li>3. Secure land tenure system (Land Use Permit) encourages farmers to invest in land management and soil fertility</li> </ol>	
<b>Impacts</b>	<p>Spectacular rice yields increase from 3 tons in 1994 to 6.1 tons/ha on average in 2003</p>	

**“Jε ka fere”**: Farmers’ Trade Cooperative

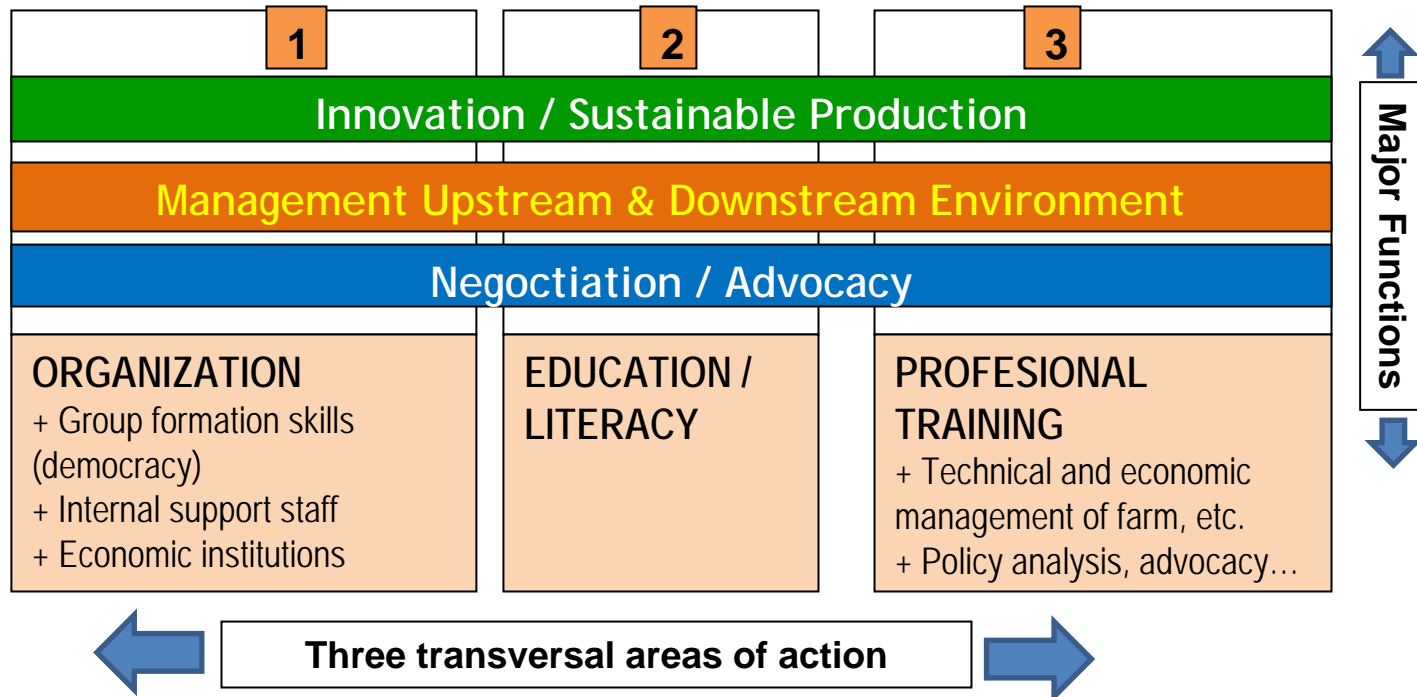
**BNDA**: National Agricultural Development Bank; **CAFON**: Blacksmith’s cooperative at the Office du Niger;

**FCRMD**: Federation of Mutualist Rural Banks of the Delta; **CAREC**: Rural Credit and Savings Bank;

## > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES

### What are the ways of strengthening the institutional capacities of APOs?

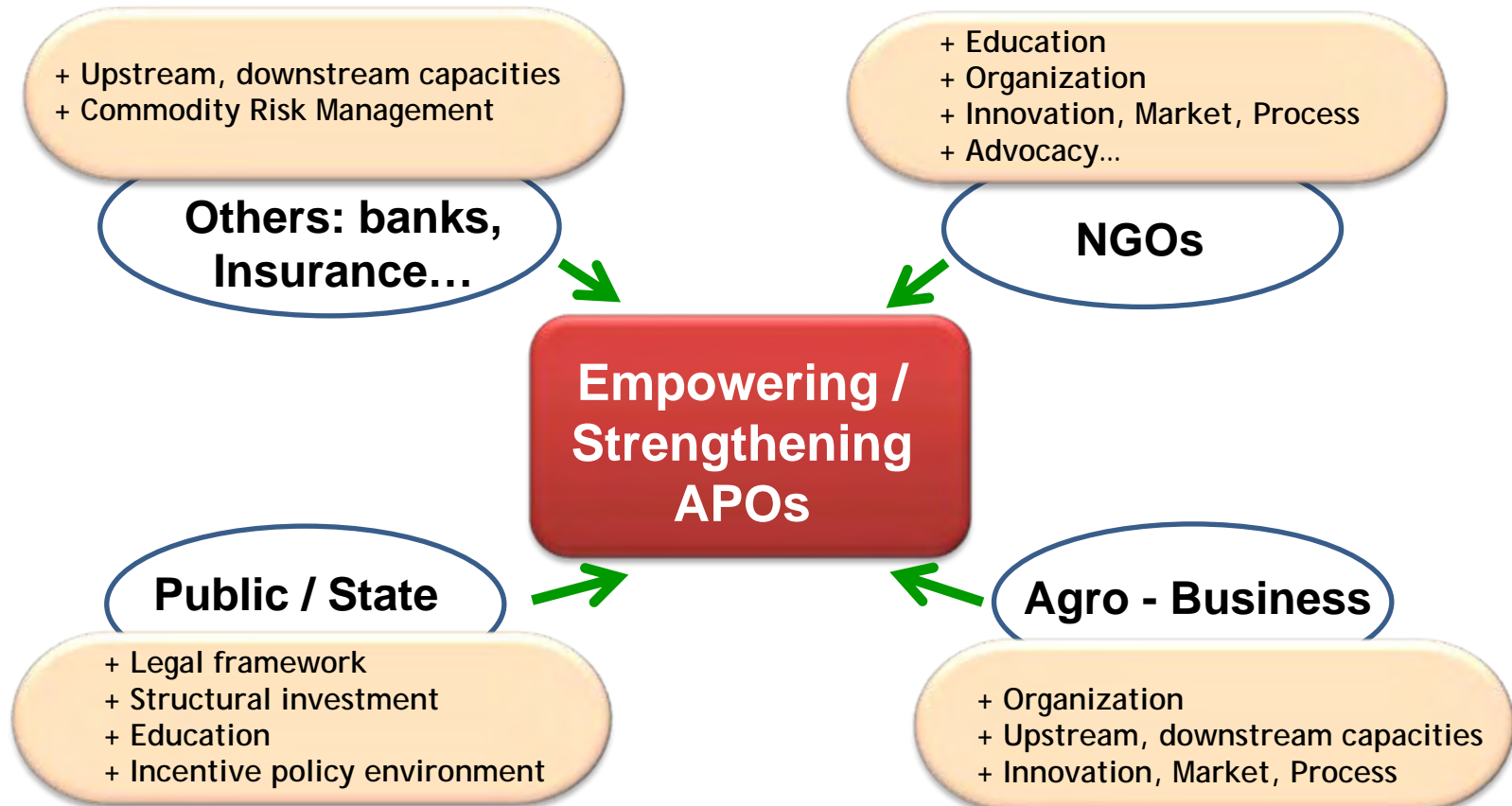
Three transversal actions to address the major functions to be assumed by APOs



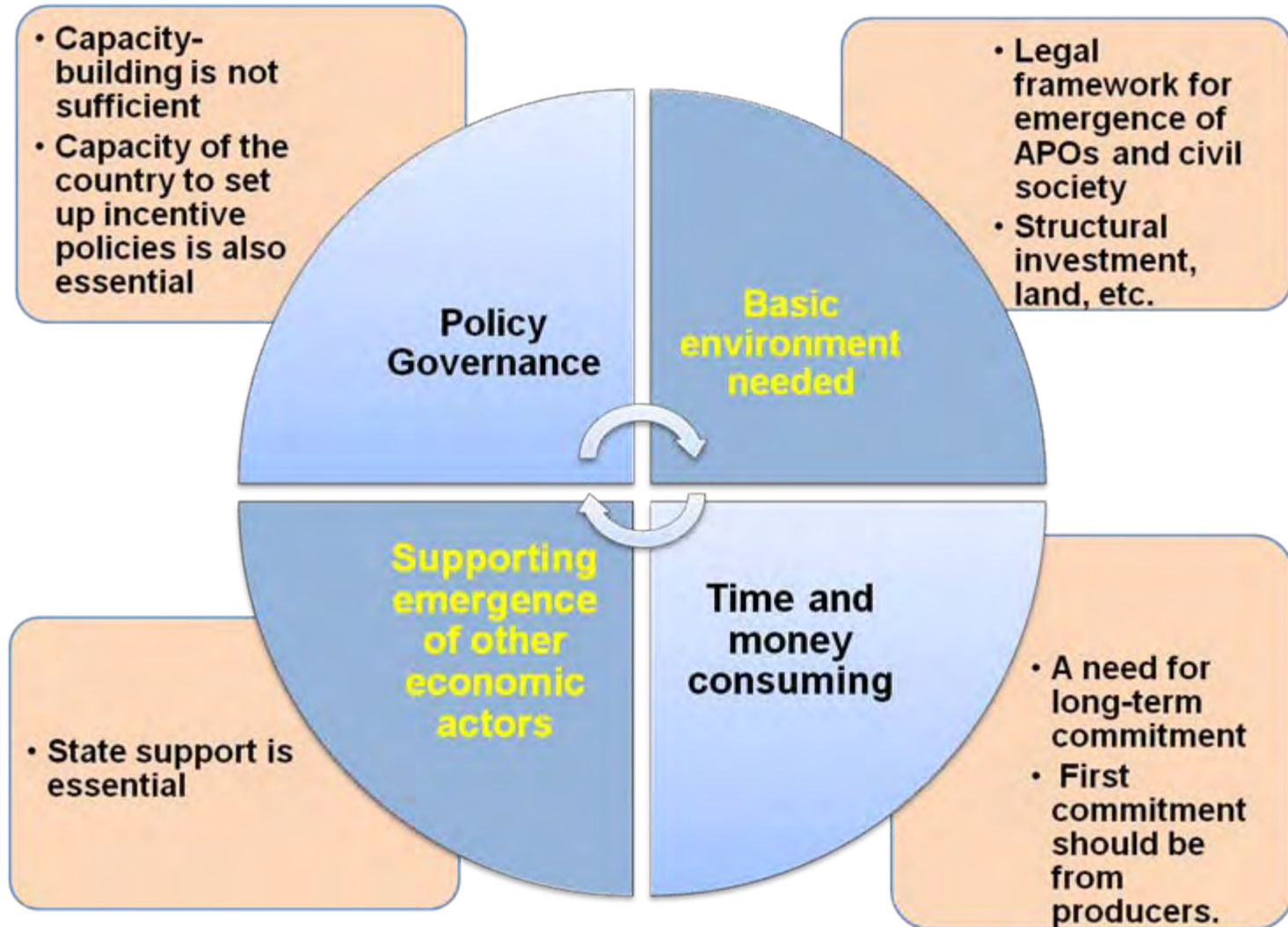
# > STRENGTHENING APOs CAPACITIES

## Who will be in charge?

A public/private partnership needed to succeed



## > CONCLUSION



Thank you for your attention

