



HOUSEHOLDS AS PERMACULTURE NODES

A Promising Sustainable Living System for
Communities in Eastern and Southern
Africa



UKUVUNA
**DESIGN HOUSEHOLD
& FOOD SYSTEMS**



UKUVUNA
**NATURE RESTORATION
SYSTEMS**



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**NATURE'S HEALING
PLANTS & NUTRITION**



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**SEED RESTORATION
& PLANT BREEDING
SYSTEMS**

Where are we?



Eastern & Southern Africa



Agriculture in the region

- Agricultural production is central to the region's development that at least 70% of the total population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment
- Systems of farming is mixed (organic farming, chemical-intensive or genetically engineered, permaculture)
- Agriculture contributes 35% to the region's Gross Domestic Product
- 40% of the region's population live below the international poverty datum line of US\$1 per day
- In SADC only 5% of all land is arable. But only 45% of this land is cultivated, and only 4% of the cultivated land is under irrigation and thus for commercial monoculture farmers

Africa and regional challenges

- Africa population will increase to 2.4 billion people by 2050 according to UNICEF
- The majority of the population will be women and youth
- Land grab in Africa by corporates and Food insecurity
- Allocation of resources and subsidies (Tribalism and politics)
- Food Policy by African union and its allies favours middle class people and industrialised food systems rather than smallholder farmers
- Controlling of food prices
- GMO, industrial intensive farming, mono-crop farms have low yields at a long term and pollute people and the environment

Africa and regional challenges

- Land redistribution to unskilled people (votes gain)
- Smallholder farmers systems underdeveloped not much of the agenda or buzz word for heads of states
- Food aid to Africa creating dependence to local people
- Food vs Biofuel, feeds for dogs, dairy&meat animals
- Erosion of biodiversity and cultural resources
- Smallholder farmers are known for poor living systems, nutrition insecurity and environmental injustice

Permaculture History in Eastern & Southern Africa

- 30 years Zimbabwe and Botswana
- Fambidzanai in Zimbabwe, Pelum, NFN & ReScope
- 20 years South Africa and the rest of Eastern and Southern Africa
- 15 Years ago mushrooming of Permaculture Organisations
- Thousands of people trained at attendance certificates, PDC and Diploma levels
- Permaculture created jobs, businesses, improved lifestyles, influenced policy



Challenges in Permaculture Practices

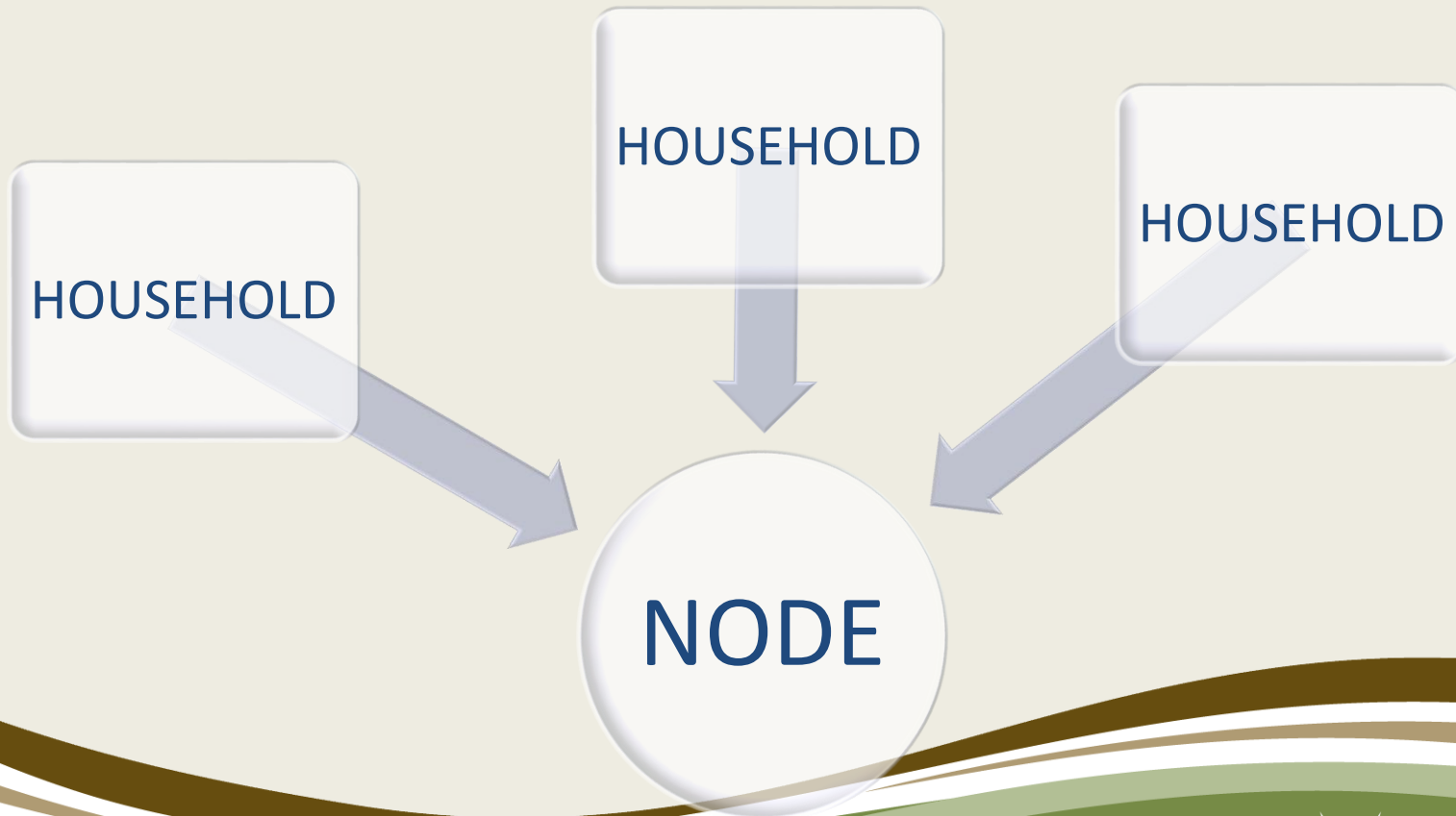
- Permaculture not in mainstream education
- The concept is a challenge to grasp at government and academic levels
- Permaculture perceived as for subsistence farming
- Home consumption vs enterprises
- Land tenure systems, no title deeds for smallholder farmers
- Government agricultural allocation favours commercial farmers
- Inequitable land allocation (fertile land for commercial farmers or politicians)
- Lack of permaculture expertise in the policy makers

Why small Householder farmers should exist

- Directly contribute to food sovereignty, particularly for the most vulnerable.
- Have direct and immediate impact on hunger and poverty.
- With inadequate water supply, infertile land and limited inputs they still produce diversity of food
- They conserve biodiversity and wetlands
- They reduce carbon emission hence sequesterate carbon in their own farming systems
- Where possible, they sell their limited surplus to get an income
- They create secure livelihoods for large numbers of people
- They improve local economy and build own schools, clinics, roads and install own energy systems
- They freely share knowledge and resources

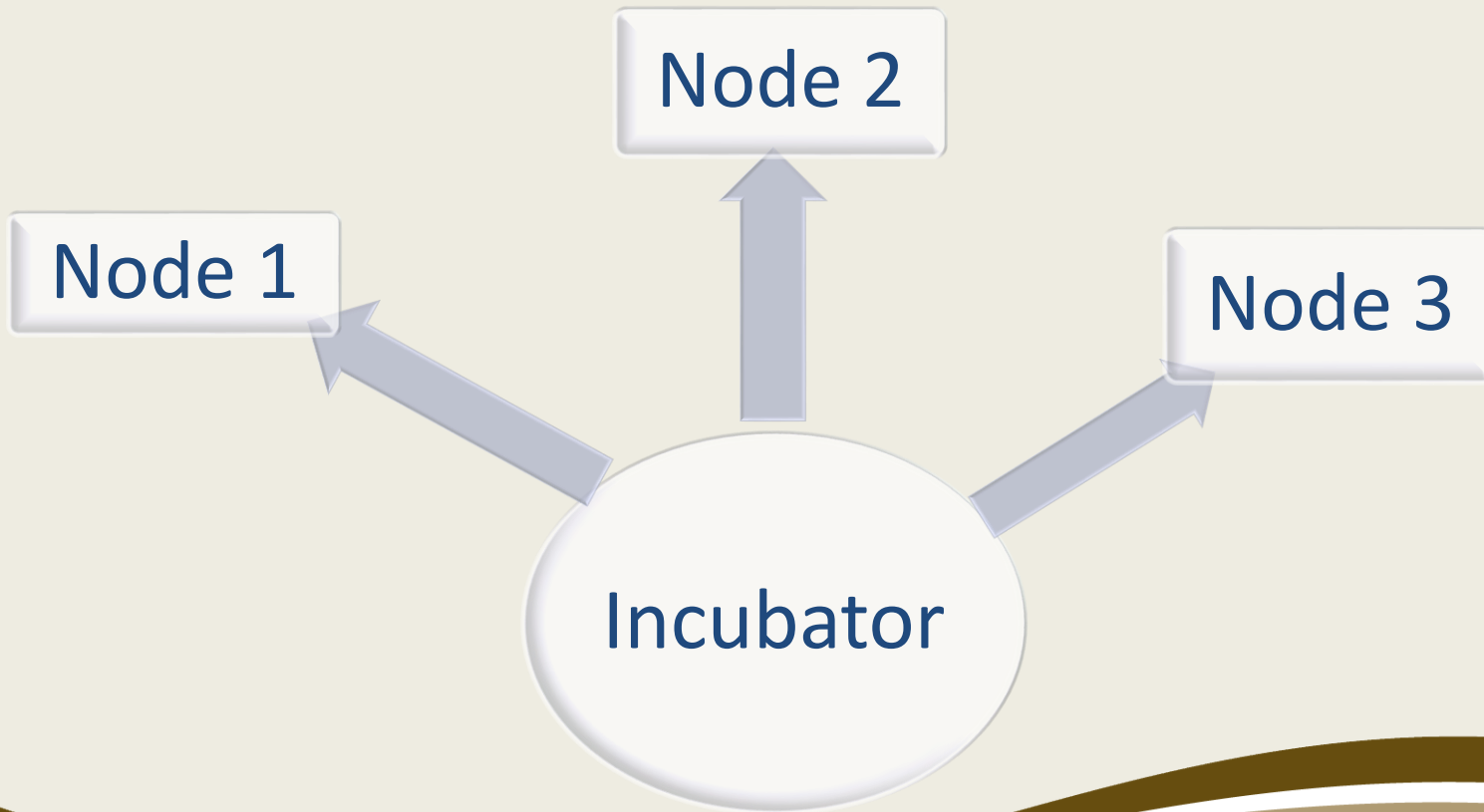
Our approach

Level 1: Identify virtue households for creating nodes



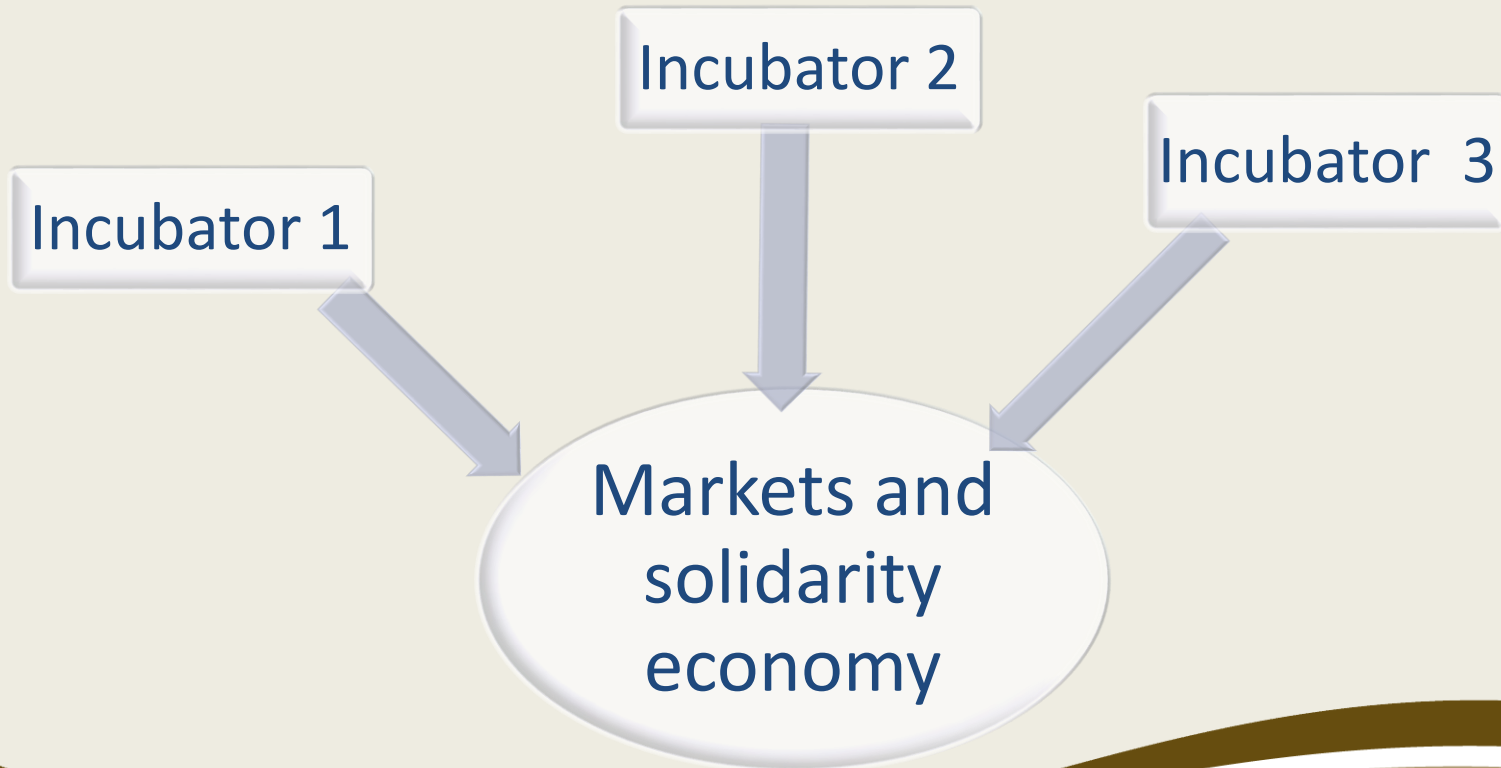
Our approach

Level 2: Incubators supporting nodes



Our approach

Level 3: Incubators to solidarity economy



Households as permaculture nodes - the future

- Create clusters of household farmers (nodes) for establishing incubation programs
- Organize a food sovereignty movement (address farmer rights, equity land redistribution, stop land grabs)
- On-going farmer to farmer training and research
- Work with lean organisations and support cooperative movements
- Create nodes or incubators of diverse and best practise in permaculture
- Access to land, water, and the tools and techniques of traditional, sustainable farming
- **YES** to non-patented open-pollinated seeds and access to local markets
- **NO** to genetically engineered seeds and expensive chemical inputs
- **VIVA** to create a new revolution, a non-capitalistic economy system, a solidarity economy for household farmers

Households as permaculture nodes – how do we get there ?

PARADIGM SHIFT

- Political policy (land, water, solidarity economy, non-GMO)
- Education & training (long-term permaculture qualifications)
- International permaculture associations
- Households & small scale farmers

RESEARCH

- Community based and traditional systems link to local economy systems
- Effectiveness of nodes, and incubators
- Permaculture productivity statistics and contribution to GDP

SUPPORT

- Networking & exchange programs to change paradigms
- Formal and informal research programs
- Integrate permaculture into all curriculums at all educational levels
- Infrastructure development
- Structures for creating and coordinating nodes & incubators for local economy systems