

Subsector analysis of straw mushroom in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

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Project: Scalable straw management options for improved livelihoods, sustainability, and low environmental footprint in rice-based production systems

Introduction

- Straw mushroom (*Volvariella volvacea*) can both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and generate income for farmers
 - one option that can reduce open burning in the Mekong Delta
- Straw mushroom production has only developed in some clusters in the Mekong Delta, scatter and small scale
 - still not yet replaced open burning rice straw
- Changes - introduce combined harvesters, balers, improved outdoor and in-door growing techniques, high demand in mushroom (with safe and healthy issues)
 - Need update information for recommendations or interventions to expand straw mushroom production and reduce open straw burning practice



Objective

Identify interventions for upgrading the value chain or the subsector of straw mushroom in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.



Methodology

Data collection

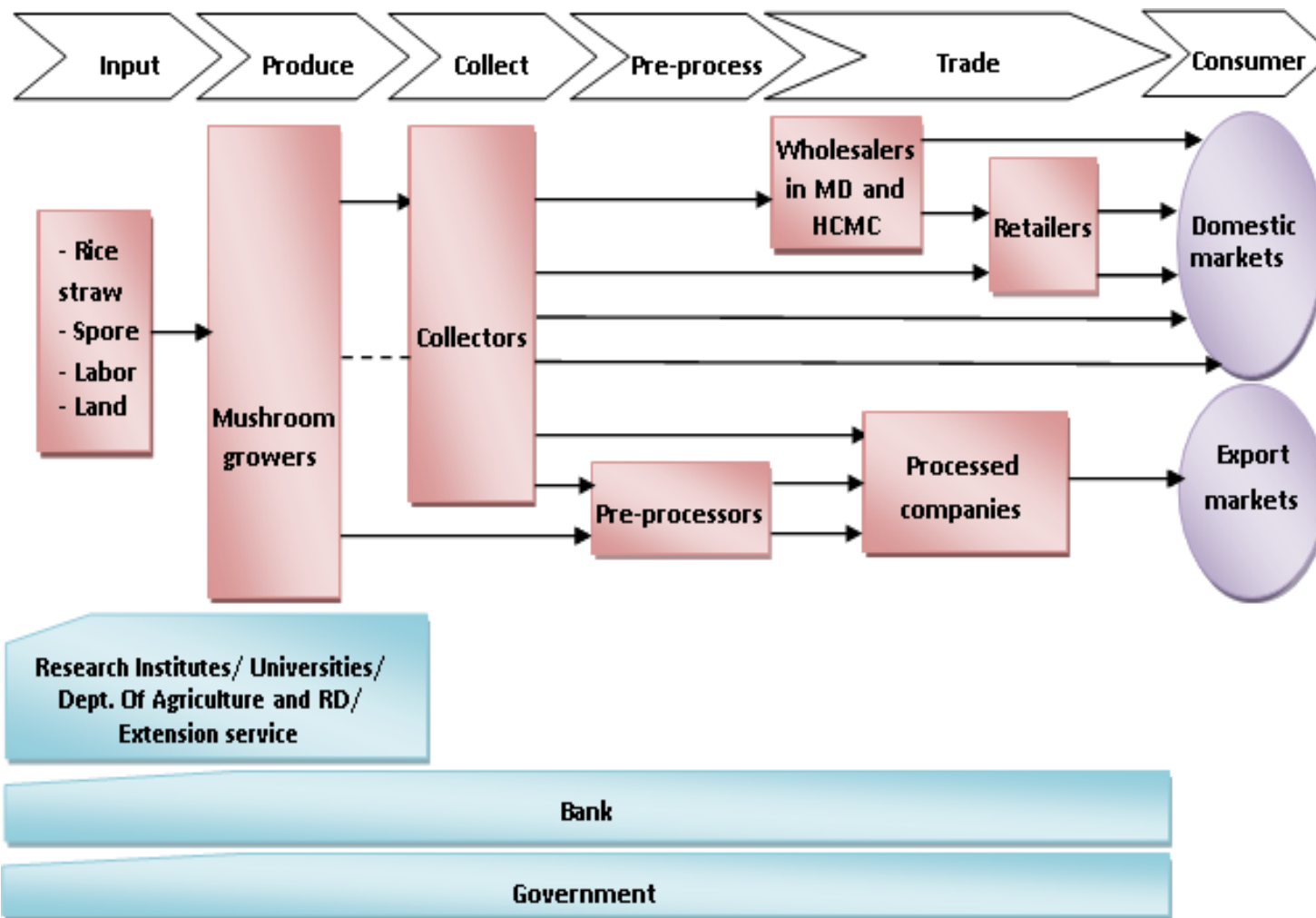
- Review from literature in production and consumption of straw mushroom
 - Share with other projects (IRRI – CCAFS¹, Toan's master thesis and pilot research on upgrading value chain of straw mushroom from Can Tho University)
- Key informant interviews of data gaps from literature
- Apply qualitative approach

Data analysis

- Descriptive analysis, value chain mapping, ranking constrains and interventions, stakeholder analysis



Note: ¹IRRI – CCAFS: Including gender and value chain analysis to develop straw mushroom production in the Mekong Delta: Case study in Vinh Loi District, Bac Lieu Province, Vietnam



~ 60 – 70%
Price fluctuation

~ 30 – 40%
Stricter requirements from exporters

Value chain of straw mushroom in the Mekong Delta

Source: IRRI – CCAFS, Toan's master thesis and IRRI – BMZ

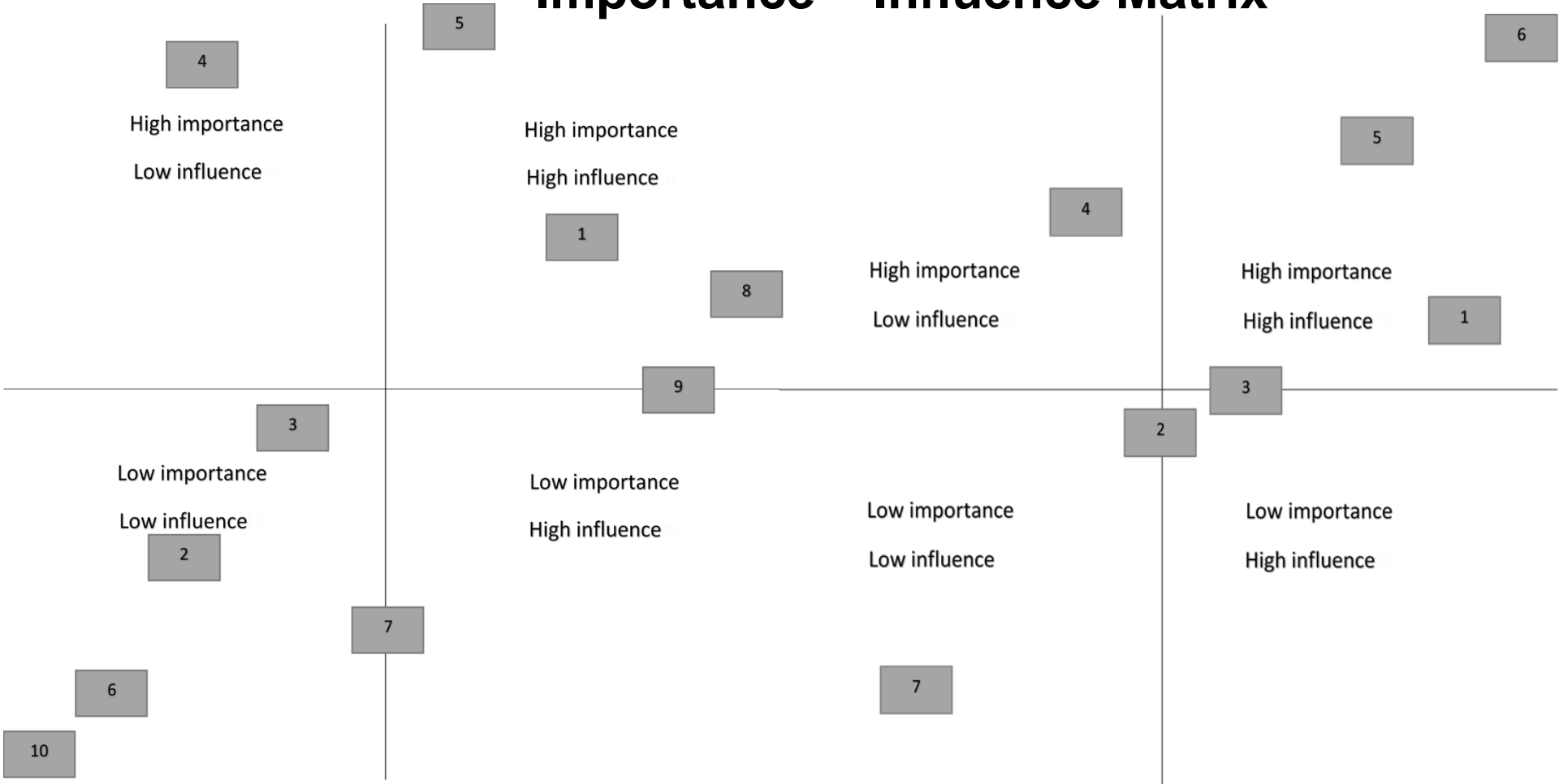


Most constrains

- Straw mushroom growers – low yield (old technique), risky from not sustainable input supplies and selling fresh mushroom (quantity, quality and price)
→ higher cost and lower return
- Input suppliers (straw and spore) – more competitive and lack of pure source of spore
- Collectors, wholesalers, retailers, transporters – lack of equipment for proper transportation (fresh mushroom)
→ Sell all fresh mushroom within one day.
- Pre-processors and processors – risky from quality of mushroom inputs, more competition and stricter requirements from end users of the export markets.
- End users (domestic and export markets) – not much study/ information
- Lack of linkage among the internal and external agents/stakeholders in the value chain



Importance – Influence Matrix



Fresh straw mushroom

Note:

- 1. Mushroom growers
- 2. Spore suppliers
- 3. Rice straw suppliers
- 4. Collectors
- 5. Wholesalers
- 6. Transporters
- 7. Retailers
- 8. Individual consumers
- 9. Institutional consumers
- 10. Extension workers

Processed straw mushroom

Note:

- 1. Mushroom growers
- 2. Spore suppliers
- 3. Rice straw suppliers
- 4. Collectors
- 5. Pre-processors
- 6. Processors
- 7. Extension workers

Lessons learned and suggestions

- Conduct in-depth study on the value chain of straw mushroom in the Mekong Delta.
- More research on the demand of fresh and processed mushroom in both domestic and export markets.
- Research and technologies transfer to the whole chain from the straw collecting system, spore production, straw mushroom cultivation techniques, pre-serving techniques and pre-processing.
- Mushroom growers → apply improved out-door or in-house growing procedures with good and safe practice; cost efficient?
- More collaboration to the whole subsectors/value chain including internal and external agents.

