



# Urban food production and just food systems – barriers to integration

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# Urban food growing and just food systems



- **Urban** food growing has multiple benefits
- But can it contribute to food justice?





# Why food poverty?

- Increasing concern with HH food security and food poverty in food secure countries
- Public and policy unease over foodbank use



- **Are there alternatives?**





# Urban agriculture and food security

- Food systems connect food poverty with societal issues such as low income, poor food practices/choices, poor food environment, high food prices
- Despite increasing, urban agriculture/food growing is not tackling household food security (REF your work?)
  - Could growing your own? help to create a more just and secure food system?

MH1





## Slide 4

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**MH1**

would it help to talk about local food systems? and add refs?

Matthew Hare, 03/07/2019



# Hypothesised systemic barriers to local food growing and food security

- *resource biases*
  - local food systems can end up being dominated by people of higher economic status (Macias, 2008);
- **Policy**
  - Food growing is framed through spatial planning and not economic strategy
  - Meaning that it falls under environmental services not economic growth, nor food provisioning
- **Research**
  - Favours agricultural systems and innovation
  - Some reject community gardens as facilitator of neoliberal rationalities
- *institutional biases*
  - the promotion of local food initiatives is the remit of the council's environment department;
- **Market bias**
  - Economies of scale are not available to small scale producers
  - They are forced to produce premium, niche products rather than affordable staples
- **Cultural**
  - Expectations for 'clean' blemish free food, plastic wrapped





# Objective:

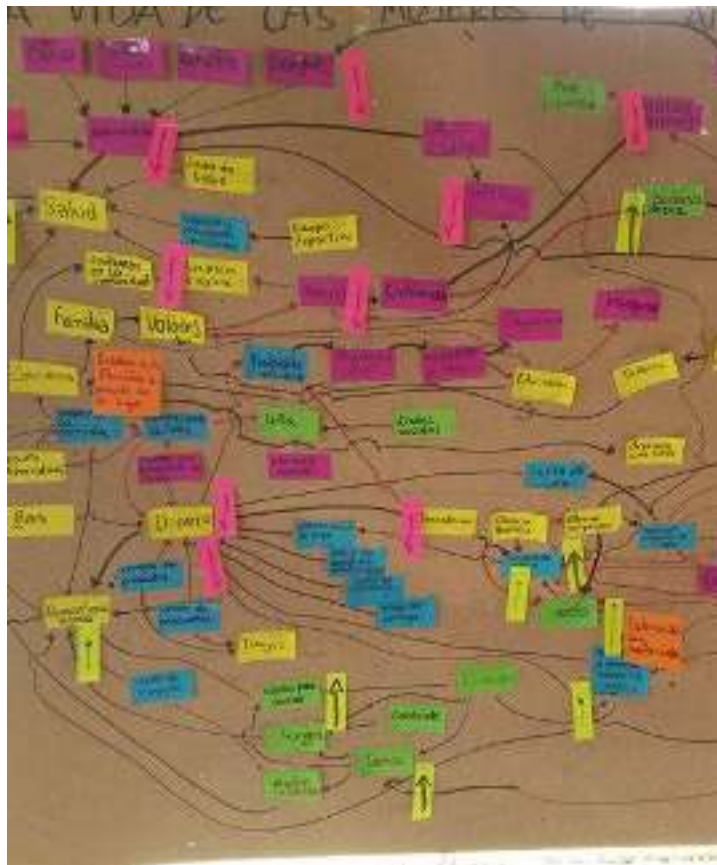
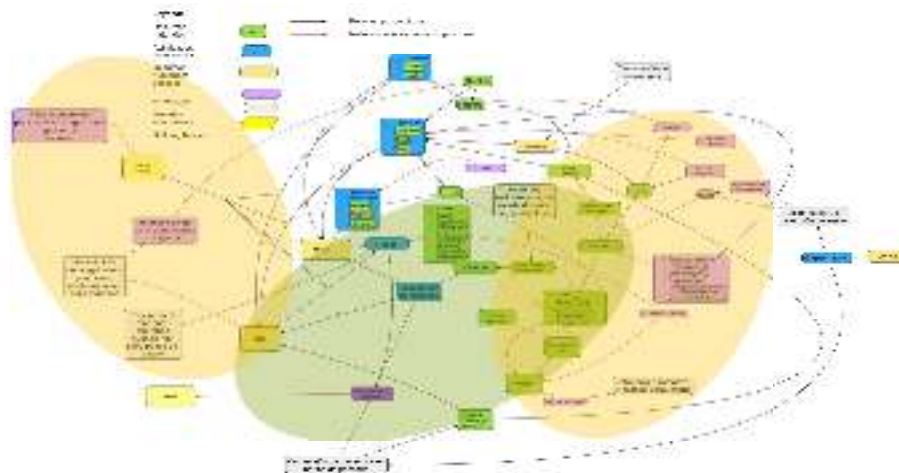
## ***Re-Forging the Link between Urban Agriculture and Food Poverty***

- carry out a transdisciplinary diagnosis of the importance and impact of barriers and drivers *... in all their interconnected complexity*
- co-construct an integrated strategy for re-forging the link in Aberdeen





# Methodology - diagnosis



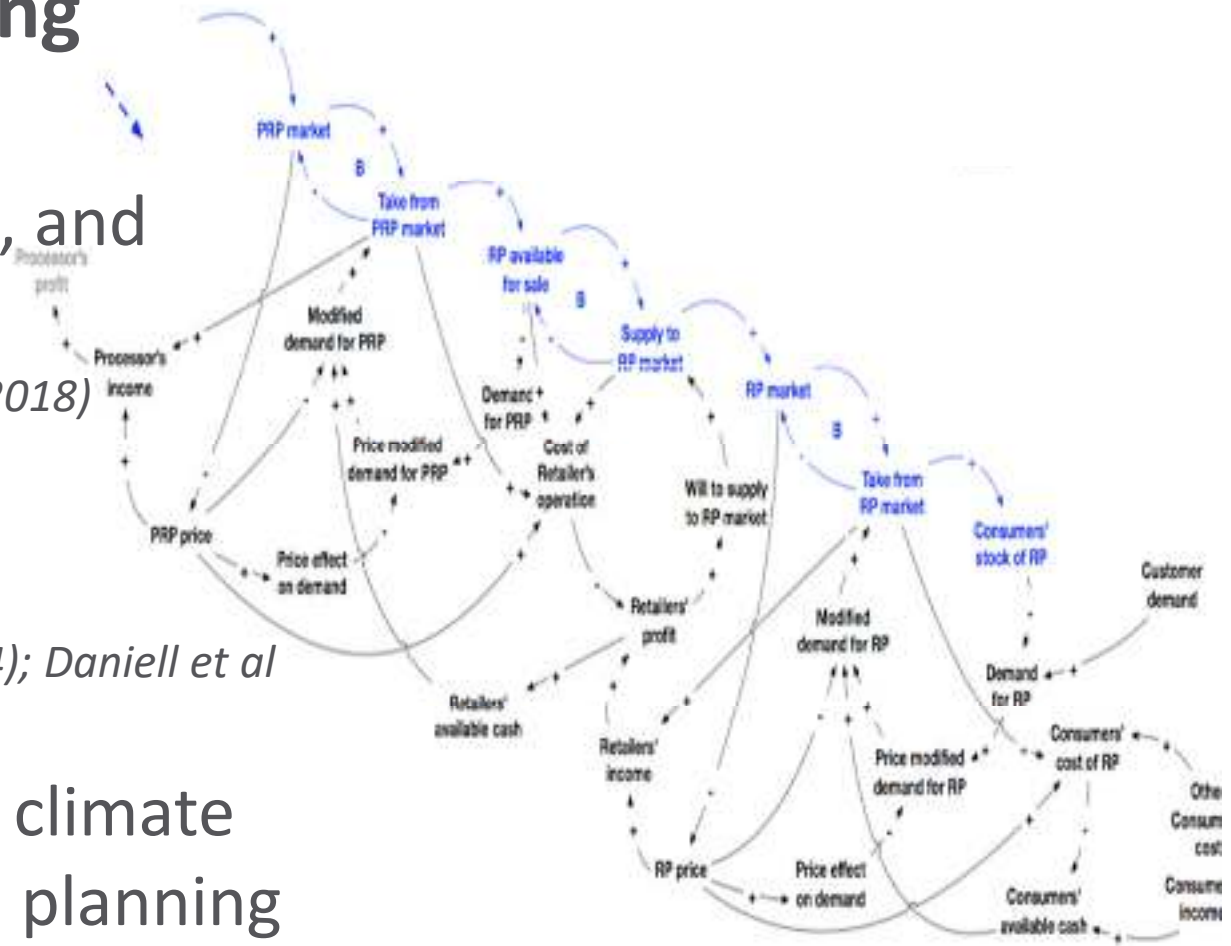
- Participatory systems modelling (Hare, 2011)
- workshops with different stakeholder groups
  - Local government
    - Planning, social services, environment
  - Low income householders
  - Local food system networks
  - Researchers
- In situ co-creation of a causal loop model of the complex system (Vennix, 1996)



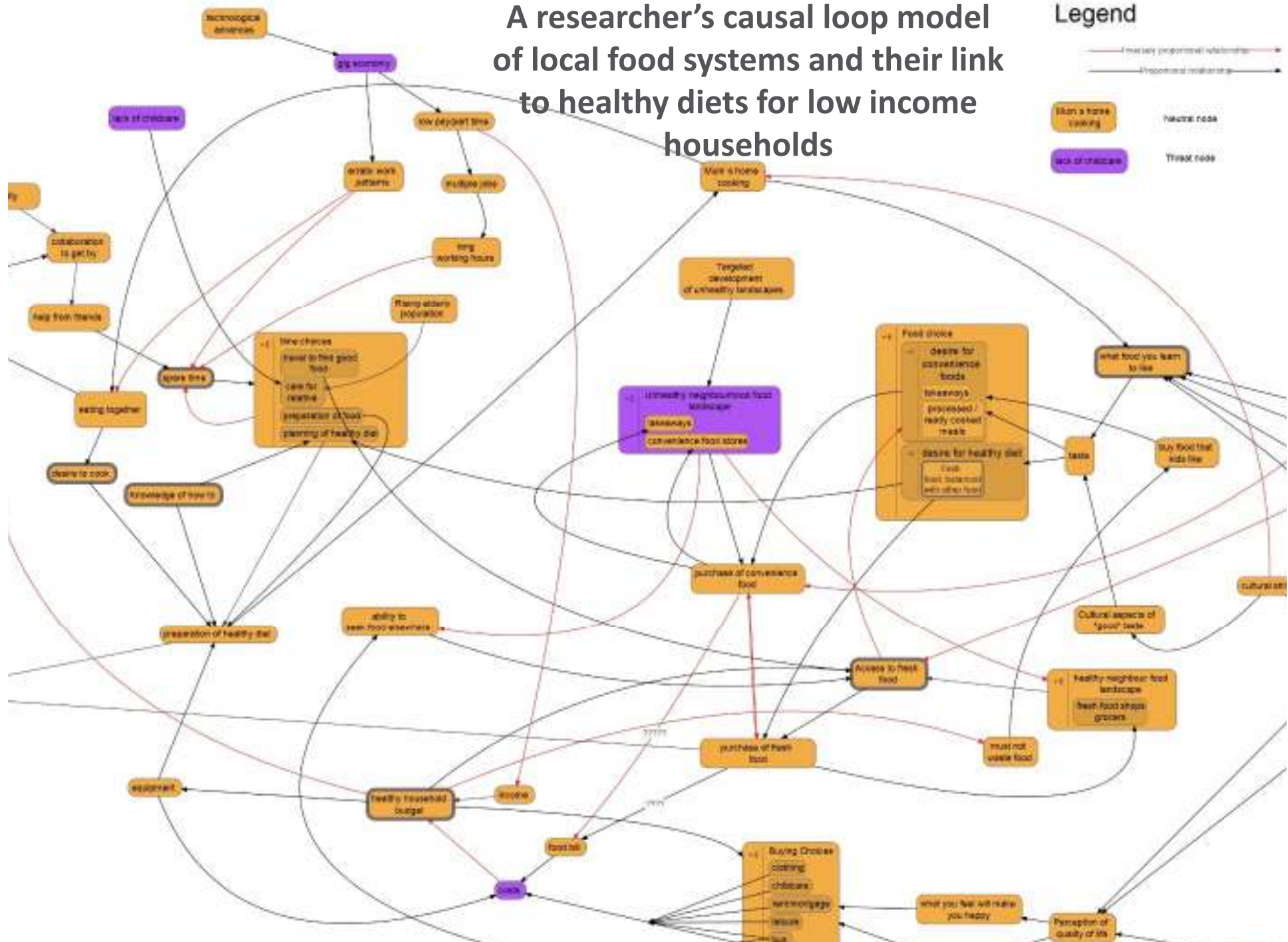


# Systems Modelling Precedents

- Food supply, value, and decision chains
  - (Gudbrandsdottir et al. 2018)
- Water resources management
  - Pahl-Wostl & Hare (2004); Daniell et al (2010);
- Community-based climate change adaptation planning
  - Hare et al (2014); Camacho et al. (2018)





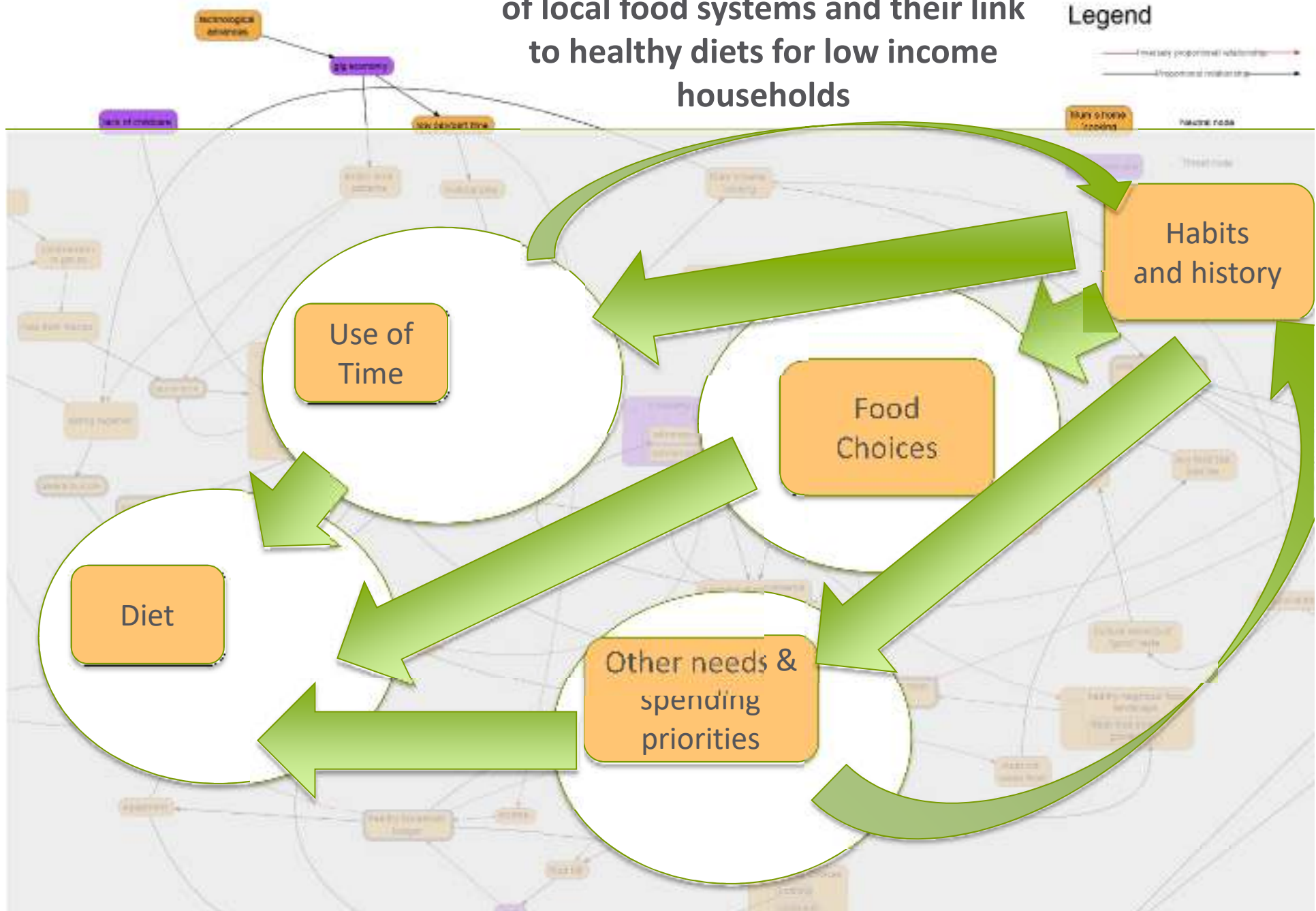
**THESE 6000**



# A researcher's causal loop model of local food systems and their link to healthy diets for low income households

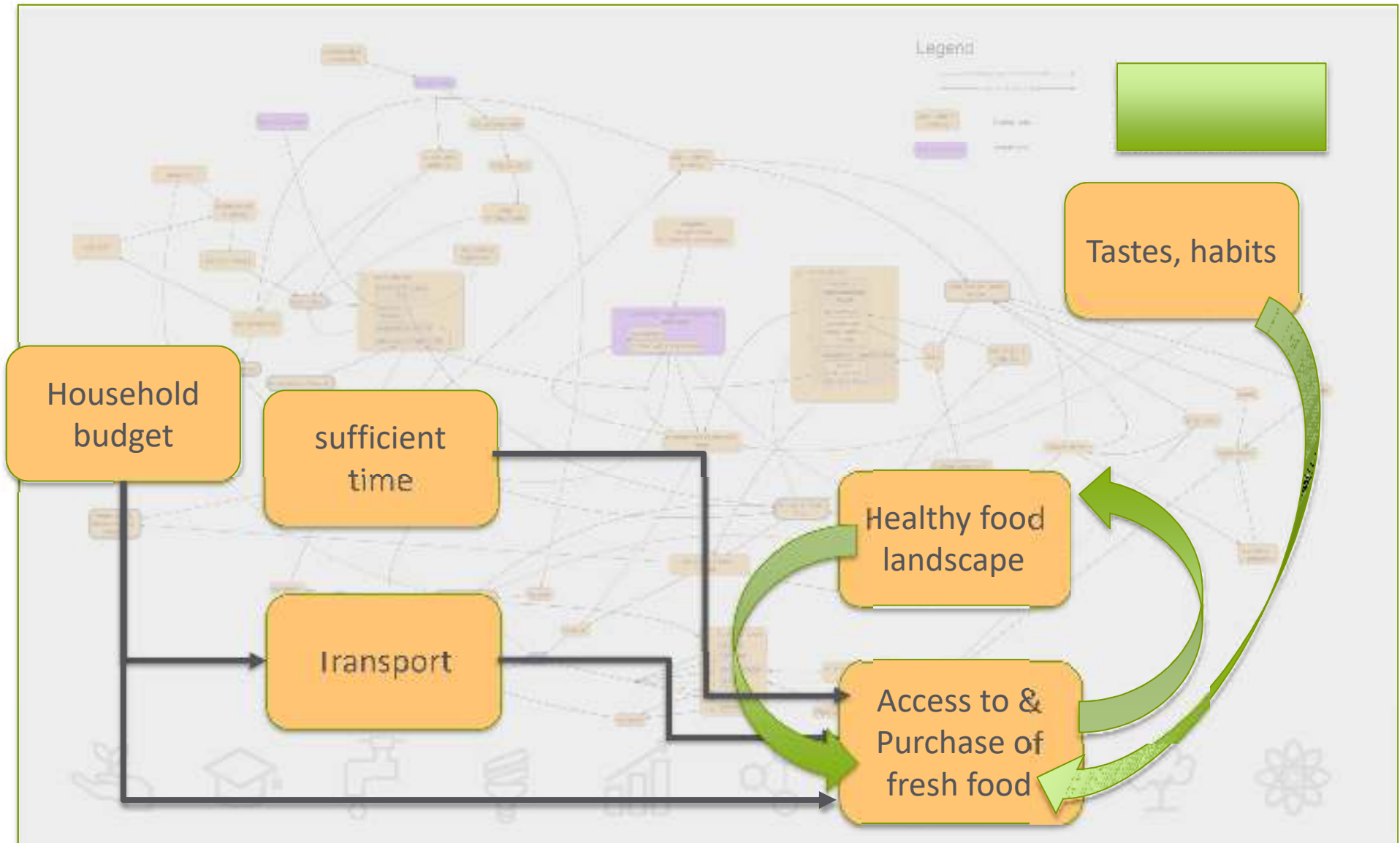


Legend



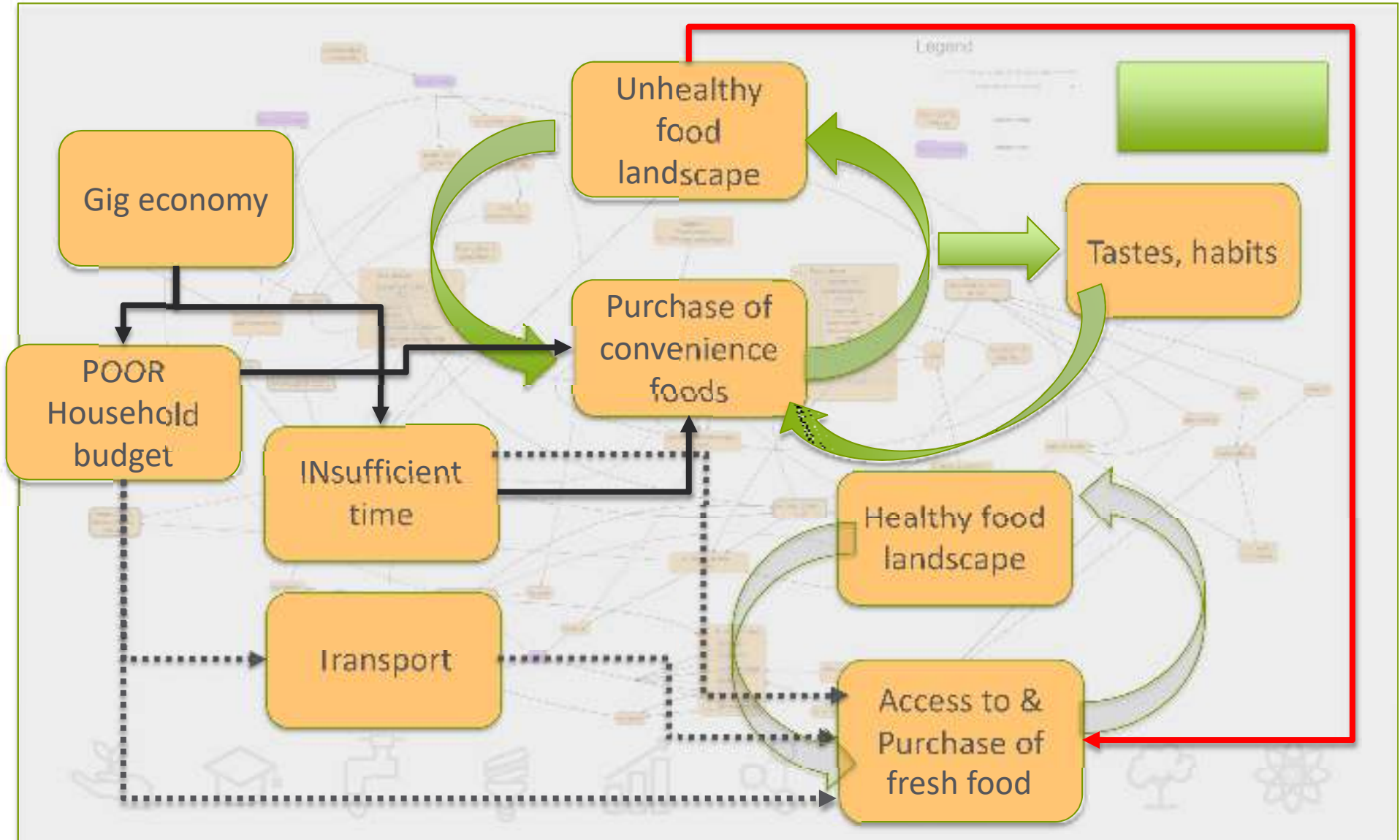


# A researcher's causal loop model ...



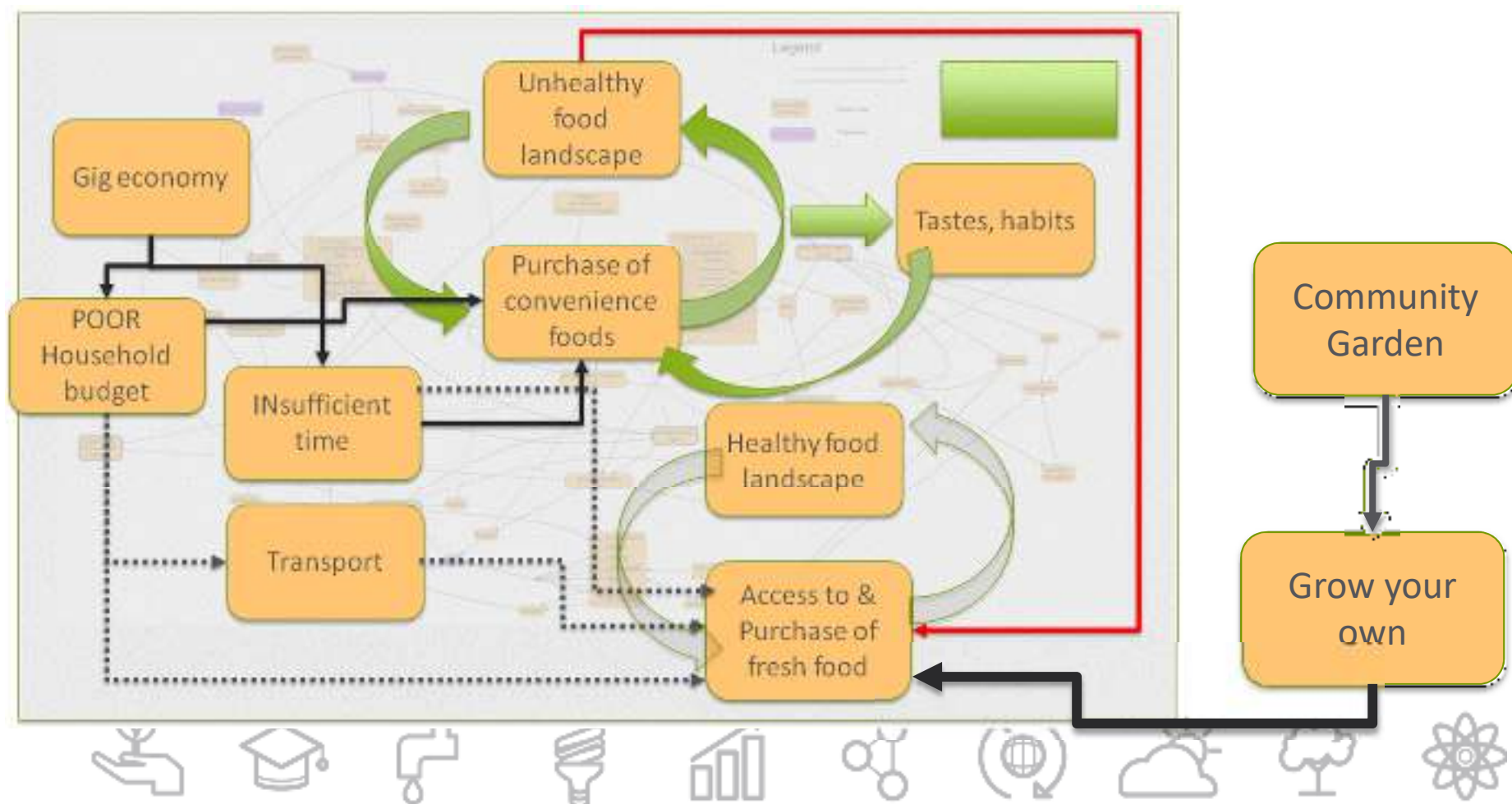


# A researcher's causal loop model ...



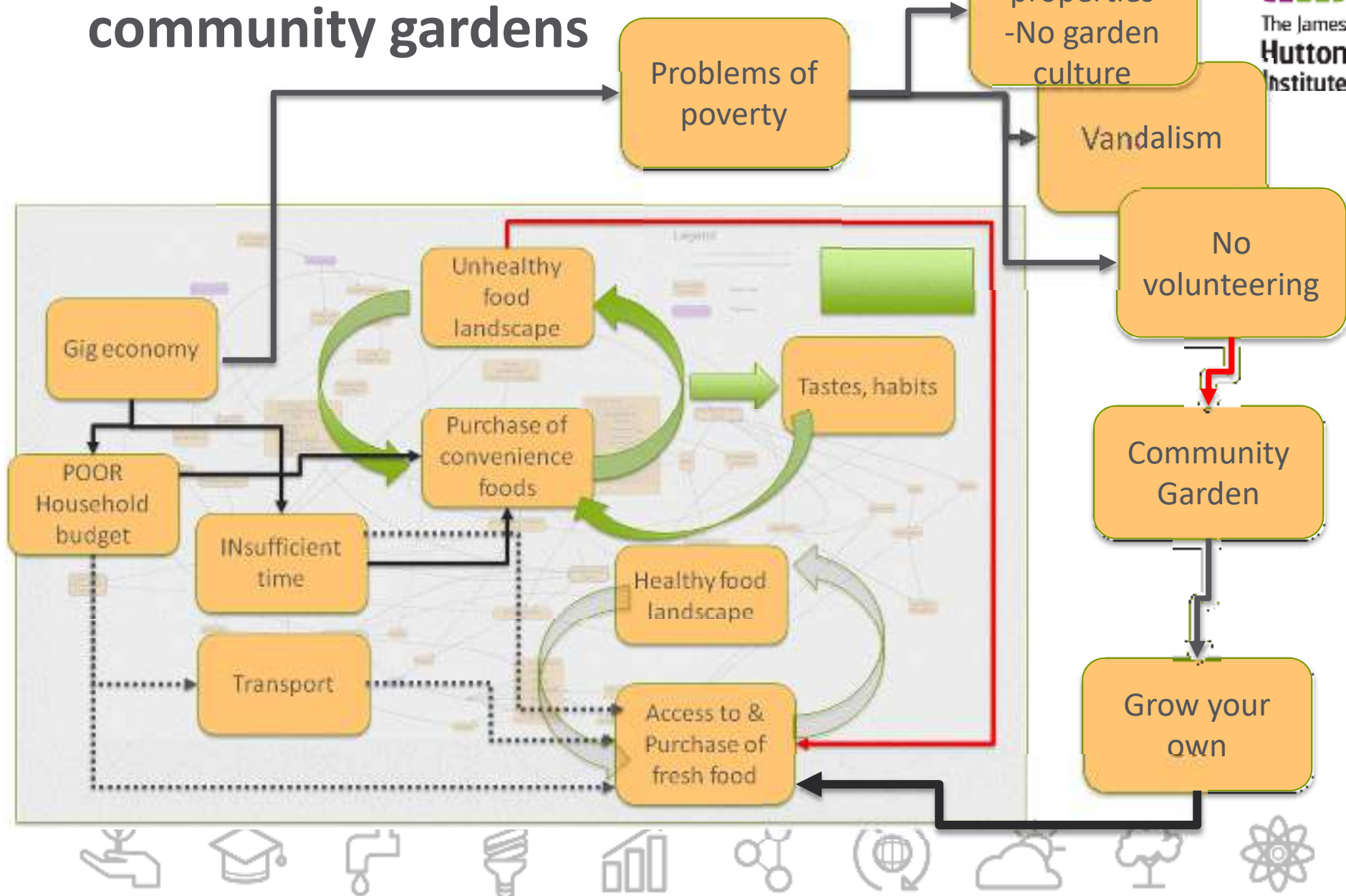


# A view of a support worker – impact of community gardens





# A view of a support worker – impact community gardens





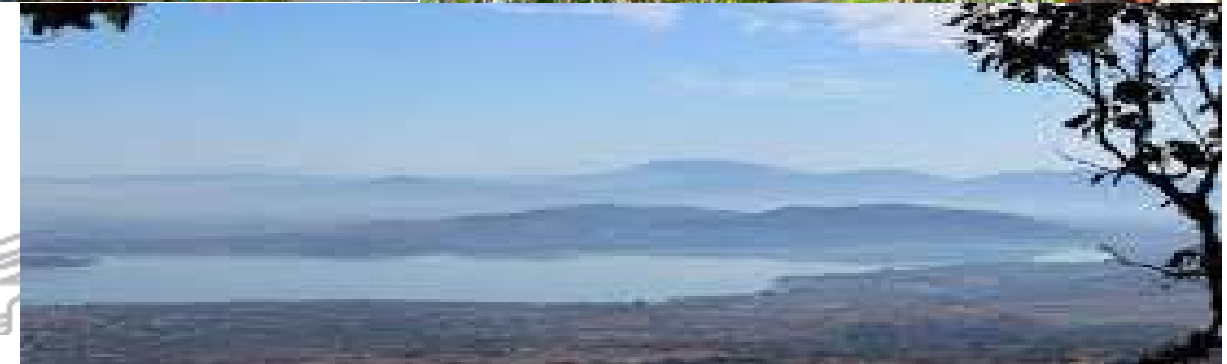
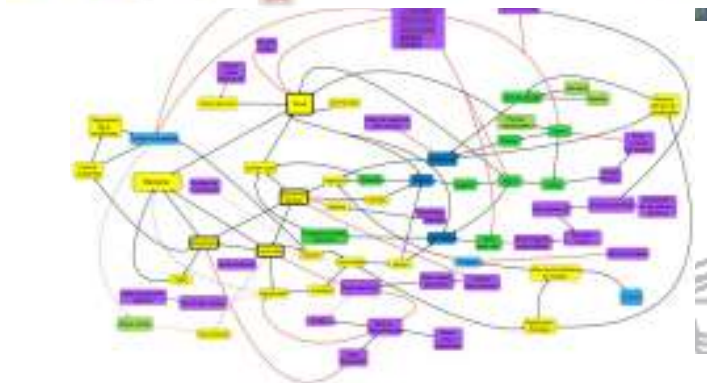
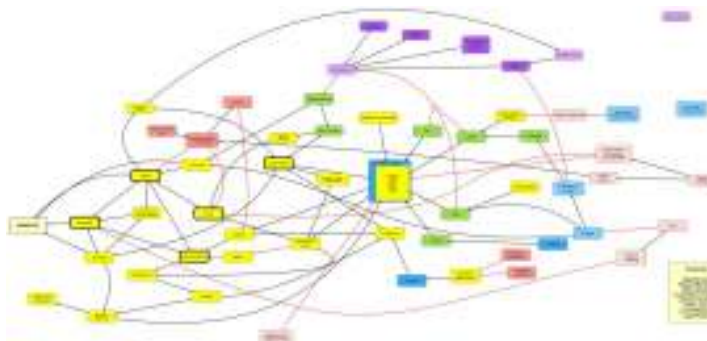
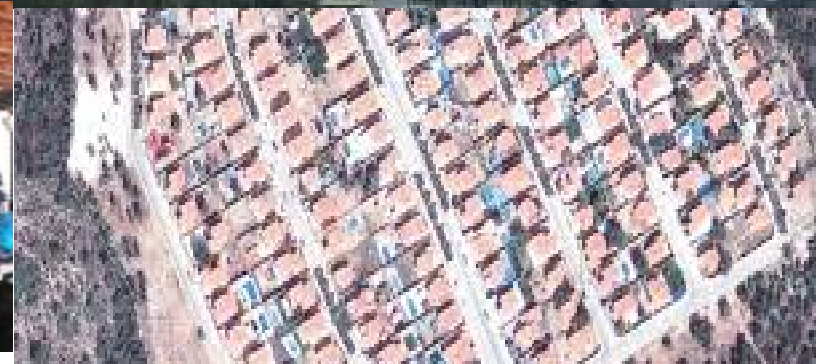
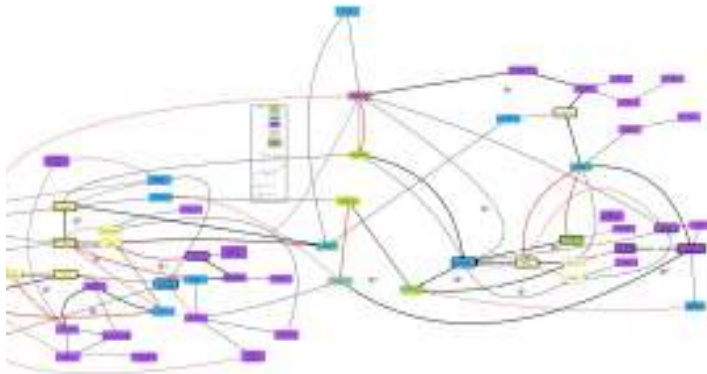
**The next TWO SLIDES RE MEXICO - #16  
and 17 are OPTIONAL before summary  
slides**





# A model of dystopic transition from rural to peri-urban livelihoods in Mexico

Hare, Pena del Valle, & Perez (2019)





# Models of In-Migrants to Peri-Urban Zones in Mexico

- Despite growing your own still a habit and knowledge widespread
- Poor housing → lack of growing space
- Low wages → multiple jobs → lack of time for growing and preparing fresh food
- Community cooperation dying out
- Vandalism and insecurity
- Change of government, end of community garden





# Summary

- Increasing levels of urban agriculture are not necessarily translating into reduced food poverty
- What can be done to forge the link?
- Transdisciplinary participatory modelling to co-construct a strategy, based on the multi-sectoral complexity of the problem
- OPTIONAL: Certain similarities in dynamics between Scotland and Mexico – even food growing know-how not enough





# Not only is access to land a problem ...

- “Near landless”
  - Ownership of land, but no real control over its use
  - *Borras, jr, S.M., and Franco, J. (2018) The challenge of locating land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation politics within a social justice perspective. The Third World Quarterly, 39(7) pp. 13081325*
- “Near time-less”, as well?
- For support workers as well
  - “There are mair important things, than helping poor families grow fruit and tatties”





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