

# AFSA'S THEORY OF CHANGE

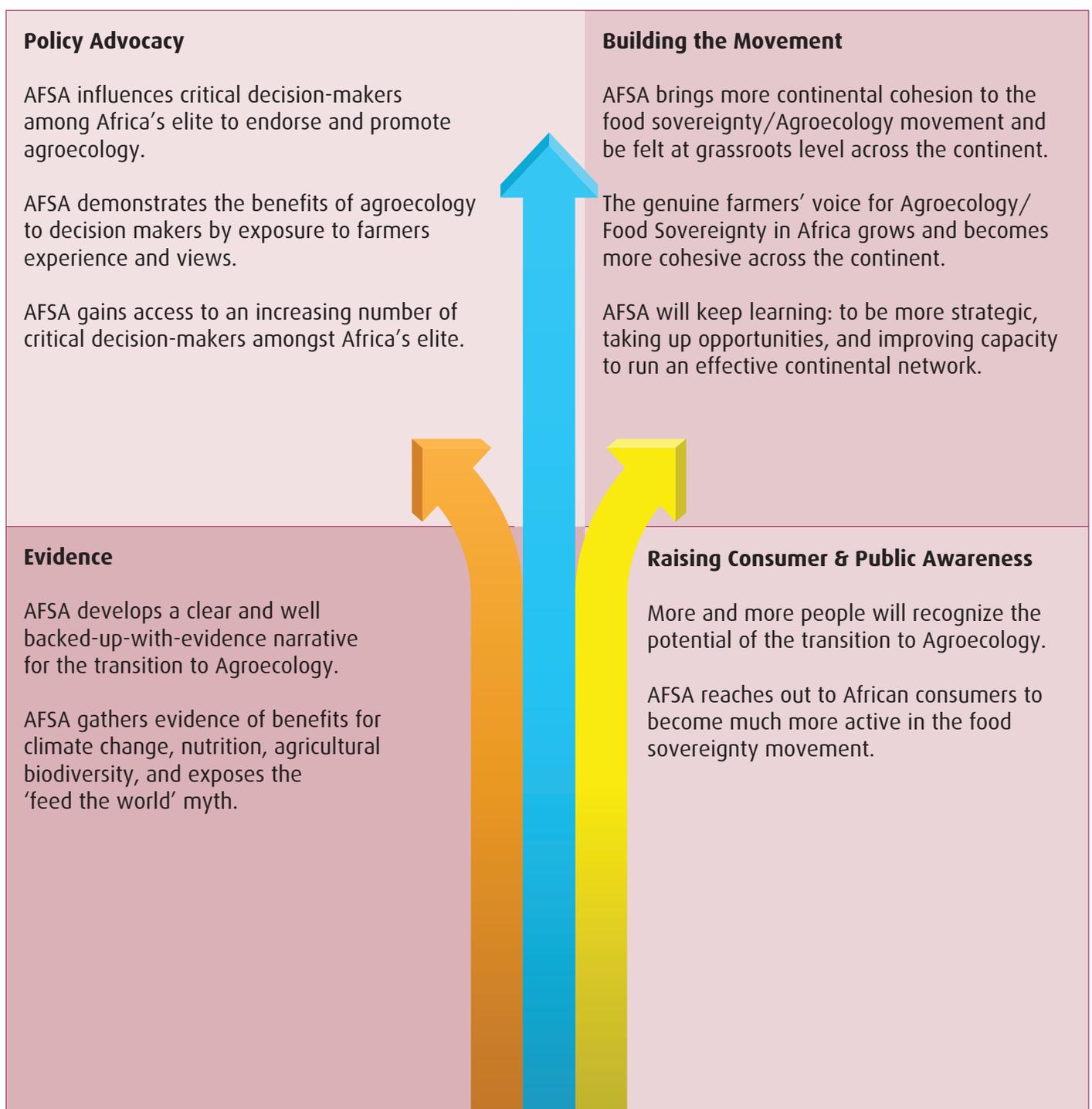


# The Long-Term Change Needed

The definite, widespread, and irreversible transition to Agroecology as the dominant farming and food system in Africa.

- The significant strengthening of the Food Sovereignty/Agroecology movement in Africa both qualitatively (more cohesive, more strategic, better documented) and quantitatively (numbers of people and institutions involved).
- The creation of a supportive policy environment for the transition to agroecology as the future of farming in Africa.

## The Process of Change



# Assumptions

<p><b>Policy Advocacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher-level bodies need to be influenced if a shift to Agroecology is going to happen; and it's certainly possible to start influencing several of these bodies.</li><li>• Corporate businesses involved in Agriculture and across the food chain that they dominate will continue to pour billions of dollars into promotional activities for industrial agriculture and food systems.</li><li>• The reductionist mindset that looks to technology solutions and outside experts to solve Africa's farming and food problems is dominant in places, particularly amongst the elite who run the continent (politicians, academics, scientists, business people....).</li><li>• There is growing recognition – particularly among the public - that the industrial food system is unsustainable and that change is needed;</li></ul>	<p><b>Building the Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AFSA will become felt deeply within member networks and in their members, right to the grassroots.</li><li>• CSOs involved in activities related to Food sovereignty/ Agroecology will increasingly recognize the importance of contributing to the bigger picture while doing their own focused work.</li><li>• International funding will continue to be available to support Food Sovereignty/ Agroecology work in Africa.</li><li>• AFSA member organizations will play an active part in driving AFSA and thus AFSA will be able to keep a small and lean secretariat.</li><li>• AFSA will be able to find the balance between being radical and principled while also reaching out to the wider public. Internally this will mean that there is enough trust between members to allow this.</li></ul>
<p><b>Evidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The right kind of documentation disseminated in an effective way is/will be a critical element/ part of the shift towards Agroecology.</li><li>• That we are able to get evidence that both adequately captures the holistic nature of Agroecology and satisfies those who are steeped in reductionist approaches.</li><li>• There are countless on-the-ground examples of ' Agroecology in transition' all over the continent; and there is a huge potential for strengthening these practices.</li></ul>	<p><b>Consumer / Public Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a growing Agroecology/Food Sovereignty movement in Africa, which AFSA can strengthen considerably, including by bringing more cohesion to it.</li><li>• As consumers understand food issues more, they will begin to move en masse towards embracing food sovereignty.</li><li>• The growing Food Sovereignty/Agroecology movement will not evolve and sustain only through conferences, but mainly when AFSA will succeed in transforming farmers, consumers and civil society organizations into change agents.</li></ul>

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“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.”

The time for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty is Now. The growing emphasis on the need for sustainability, for resilience to climate change, for a return to nutritious eating, for agricultural biodiversity in farming systems, and for farmers not to be dependent on outside inputs and interests, all these factors call out for a transition to Agroecology. Food sovereignty brings consumers into this equation. There is a growing momentum globally and within Africa towards Agroecology and Food Sovereignty. AFSA was formed to intensify and 'grow' this momentum in a more cohesive way.

## IF AFSA can:

- gather a variety of evidence on the transition to Agroecology and disseminate this effectively
- strengthen the consumer movement in Africa around issues of food sovereignty
- help strengthen the genuine farmers' voice for Agroecology at national and regional levels
- bring stronger cohesion and collaboration amongst civil society players
- engage policy makers across the continent in an effective way

## THEN AFSA will:

- influence policy towards a transition to Agroecology and food sovereignty
- contribute significantly to the Food Sovereignty citizen movement across Africa

