BiomassWeb

Improving food security in Africa through increased system productivity of biomass-based value webs

BiomassWeb Team

Aims and Research Foci

- BiomassWeb **aims at** increasing the availability and access to food in Sub-Saharan Africa through producing, processing and distributing more and high-value biomass for food and non-food purposes.
- This will be **achieved through** research-based concepts for establishing efficient and effective value webs through enhancements of conventional food-based value chains.
- In the **long term**, BiomassWeb will contribute to preparing Africa's bio-economy for the growing global biomass demand.

Key Subjects

BiomassWeb is dedicated to the three key determinants of food and nutrition security:

1. Food availability through enhanced productivity of biomass.
2. Food accessibility through generation of income via production, processing and distribution of non-food biomass.
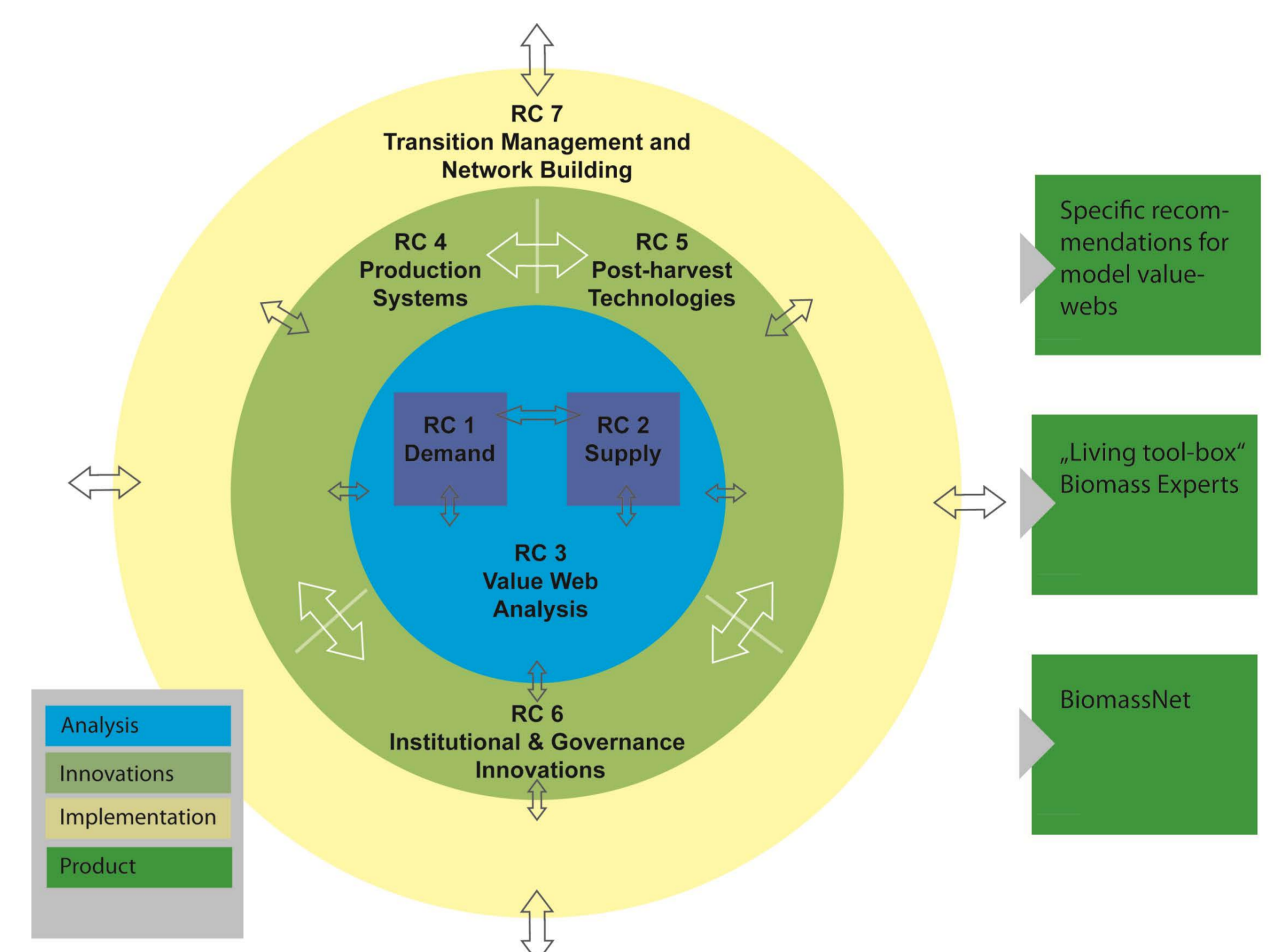3. Food utilization through food quality enhancement.

Project Structure

There are three thematic thrusts (Fig. 1):

1. Scientific **analysis** of supply and demand as well as value webs (blue, inner circle).
2. Research on **innovation** in production systems and postharvest technologies, as well as innovations regarding institutional and governmental developments (green, middle circle).
3. The **implementation** of project results by means of integration and networking with stakeholders and civil society actors outside of the BiomassWeb project (yellow, outer circle).

Fig. 1.: The project structure.

Project Outputs

- Specific recommendations for the crops and countries that are being studied as 'model' value webs.
- Methods, tools, and regional biomass resource experts to address future biomass challenges.
- A pan-African network ('BiomassNet') which serves as a stakeholder platform in the biomass sector.

Project Region and Focus Crops

Our research focusses on the productive Sudanian Savanna belt (Ghana, Nigeria) and the East African highlands (Ethiopia). Specific exemplary 'model' value webs will be studied based on cassava, maize, banana/plantain/enset and biomass derived from natural vegetation and agroforestry systems.

Project Region and Countries (S. Nussbaum, ZFL Uni Bonn).

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