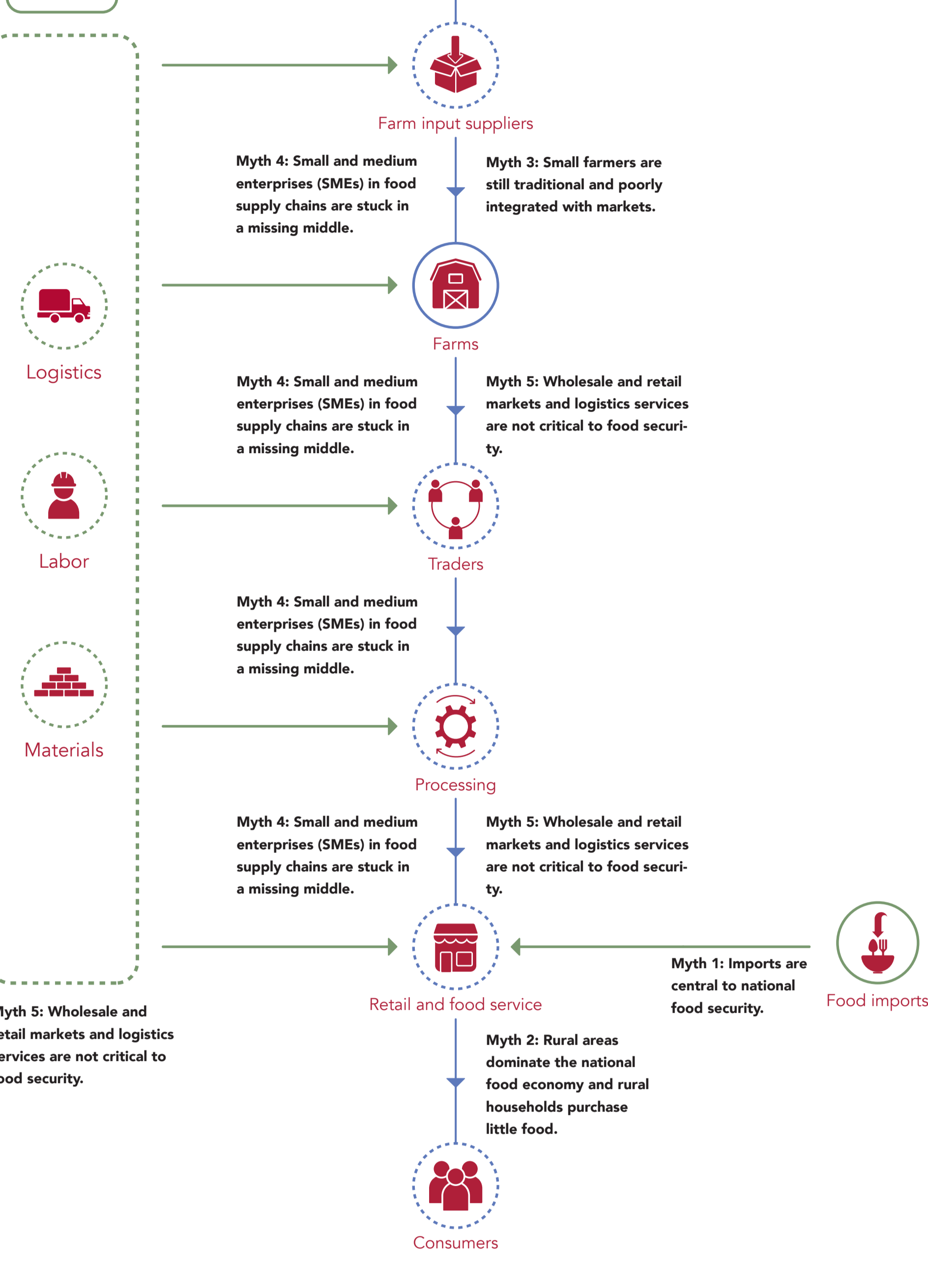


DEBUNKING 6 MYTHS ABOUT THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

90% by weight of food consumed is from **domestic food supply chains**

Small and medium enterprises deliver **85%** of the food supply chains

Purchases of food are **80%** of total consumption



MYTH 1: "IMPORTS ARE CENTRAL TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY."

13% is the **import share** of total food consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in 2017

The **share of imports** in these 5 African countries is below 10%



Whilst keeping **trade barriers open** in times of crisis is important, more attention should have been paid to the **domestic supply chains with regards to COVID-19**

This will **maintain food flows**

MYTH 2: "RURAL AREAS DOMINATE THE NATIONAL FOOD ECONOMY AND RURAL HOUSEHOLDS PURCHASE LITTLE FOOD."

43%

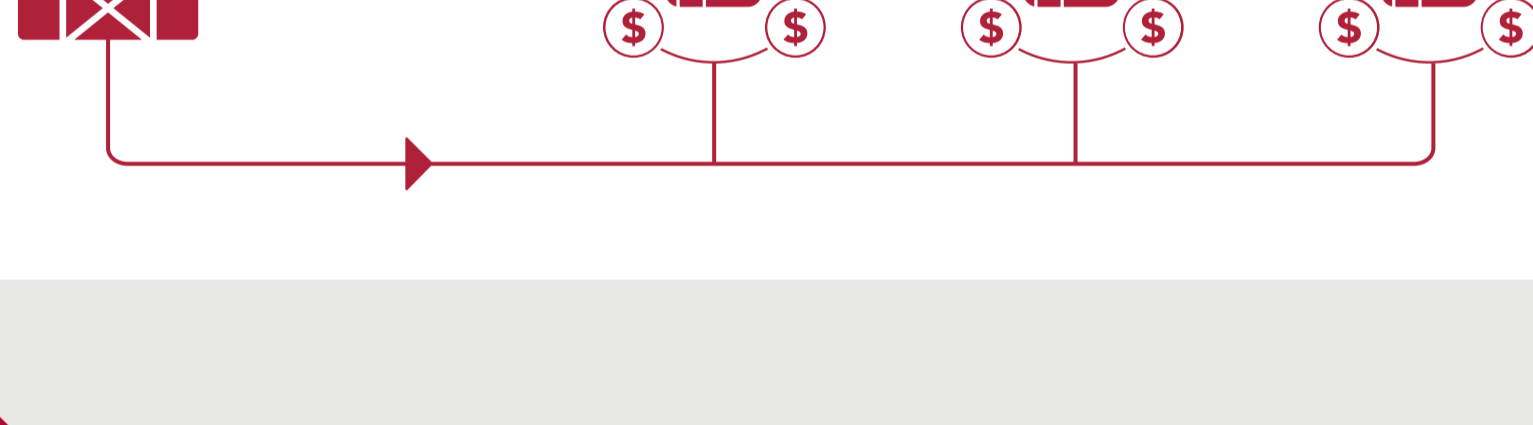
of SSA are classified as urban population. Their consumption is **1.4 times higher** than their urban share in population due to **income differences**

67%

of rural food consumption is through **food purchases** (based on a study of Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda)

MYTH 3: "SMALL FARMERS ARE STILL TRADITIONAL AND POORLY INTEGRATED WITH MARKETS."

African farmers are selling significant amounts to output markets and purchasing inputs which shows that farmers are highly engaged in commercialized markets



MYTH 4: "SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS ARE STUCK IN A MISSING MIDDLE."

SME sector is vibrant but growth is constrained by:



MYTH 5: "WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MARKETS AND LOGISTICS SERVICES ARE NOT CRITICAL TO FOOD SECURITY."

This infrastructure is key for moving food around and making it affordable and available safely



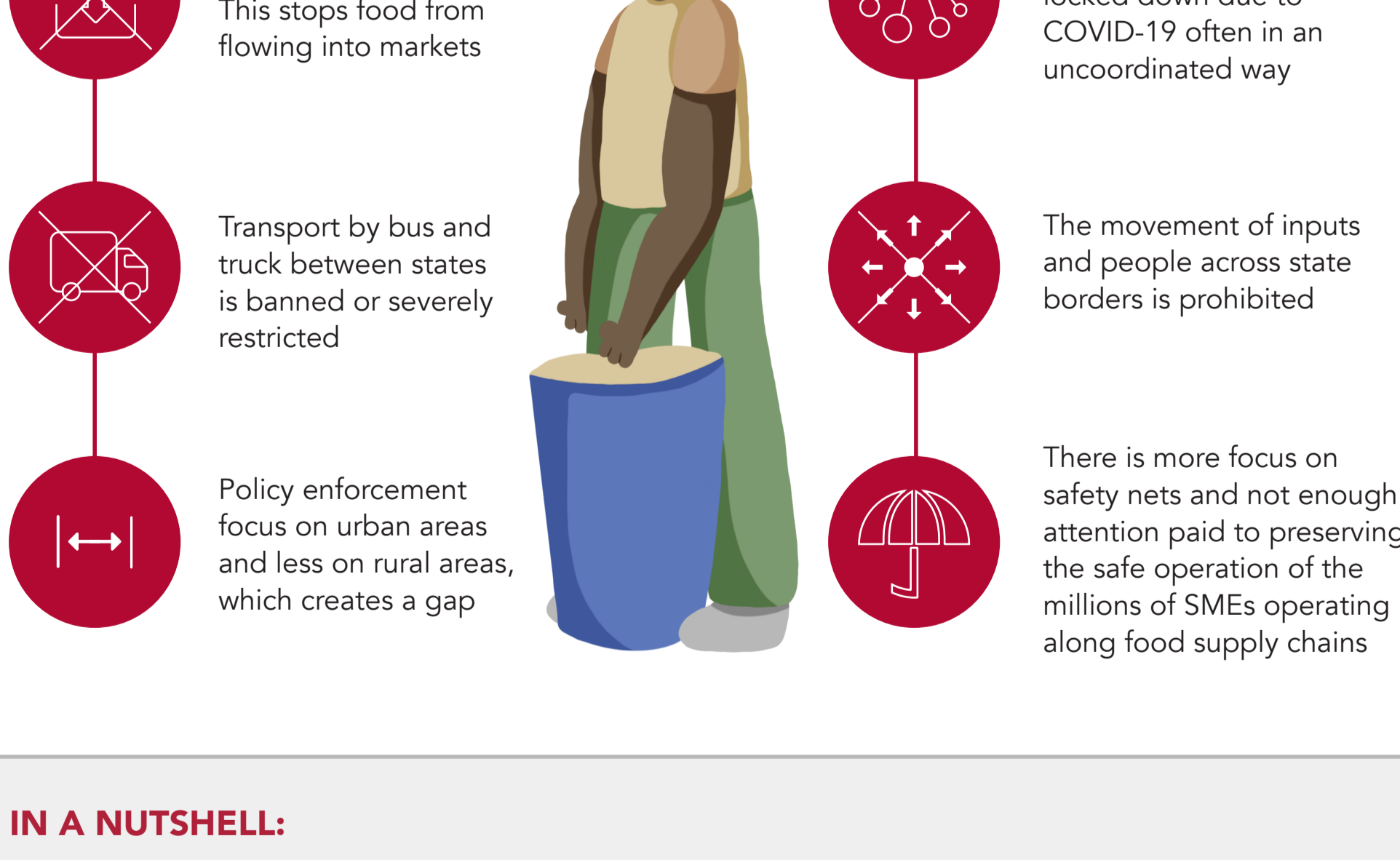
MYTH 6: "ROLE OF WOMEN IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS IS UNDERMINED."

Women work up to **13 hours per week** longer than men in agriculture

Women account for **60-80%** of food production in developing countries

Women represent **74%** of **informal small traders**. Their income is mostly spent on basic household needs (i.e. food, schooling)

6 IMPACTS OF PERPETUATING THESE MYTHS



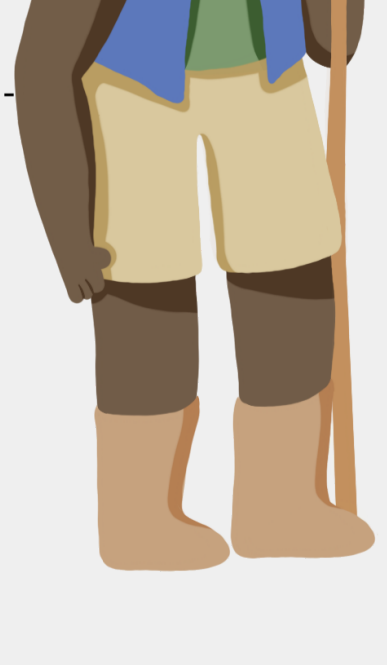
IN A NUTSHELL:

In developing policies for COVID-19 response (lockdowns) and recovery, African policy responses should have done more to:

The conclusion GAIN and partners came to when designing our Keep Food Markets Working Programme 2020:

Focus on keeping the "bones and arteries" of the food system open - **letting food move**

Support SMEs through **cheap loans** and **targeted subsidies** leveraged to upgrade facilities



Support SMEs

Keep wet markets open

Support the nutrition of workers in the vertical and lateral food supply chains

\$1 MILLION was distributed in 2020 by GAIN in small grants to African food supply chain SMEs

POLICY MATTERS AND EVIDENCE MATTERS FOR FOOD SYSTEM DESIGN

CREDIT:

This infographic has been prepared by GAIN based on the blog **Keeping food flowing within African food systems by busting policy myths** penned by GAIN's Executive Director Lawrence Haddad commenting on the paper "**Essential non-essentials: COVID-19 policy missteps in Nigeria rooted in persistent myths about African food supply chains**

Professor Lenis Saweda O. Liverpool-Tasie, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics - who co-authored the paper, provided feedback in the making of this infographic

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