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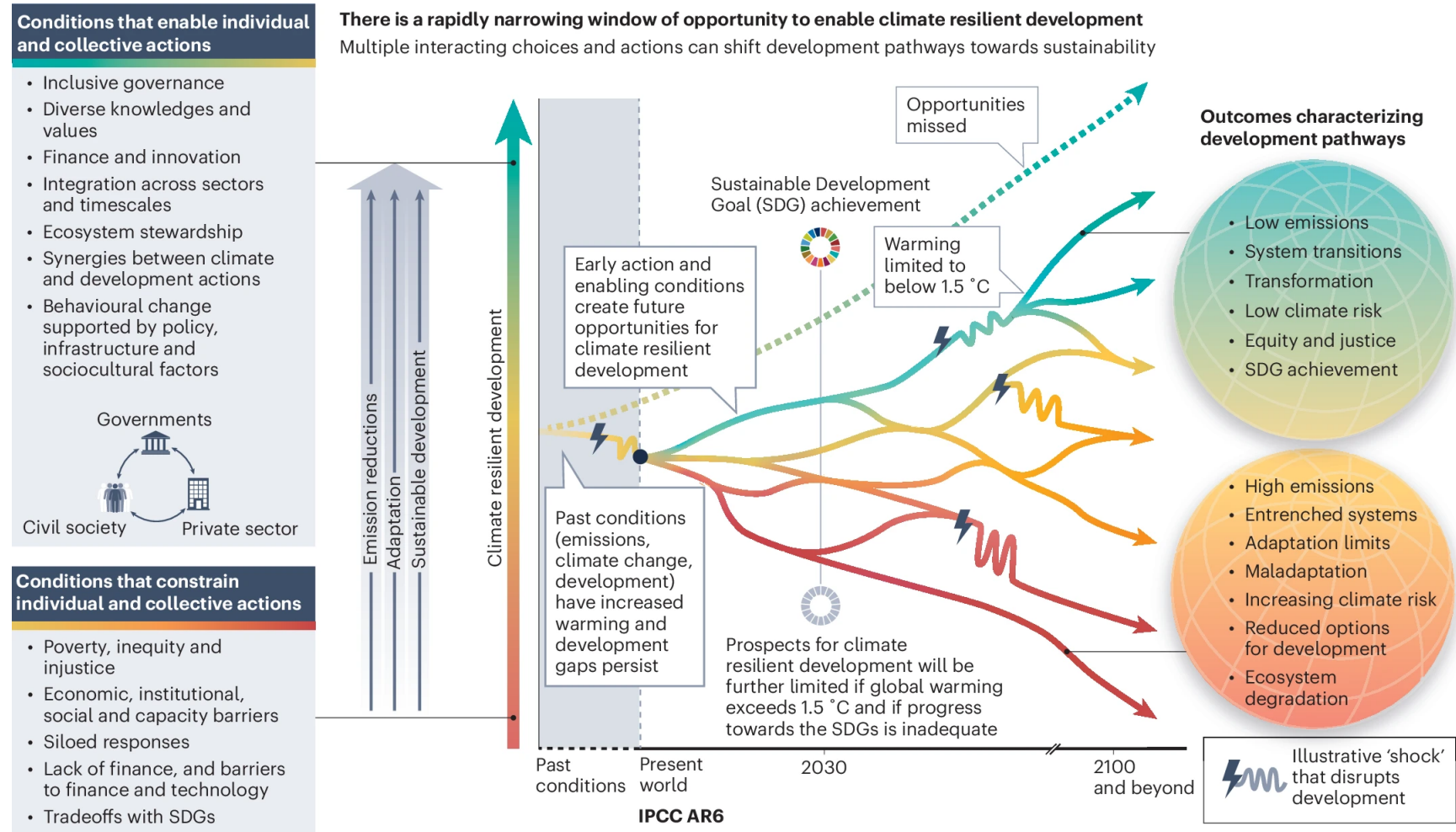
Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY AND CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT: ADDING VALUE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TRADE

GIB MEETING, 26-27 May 2025

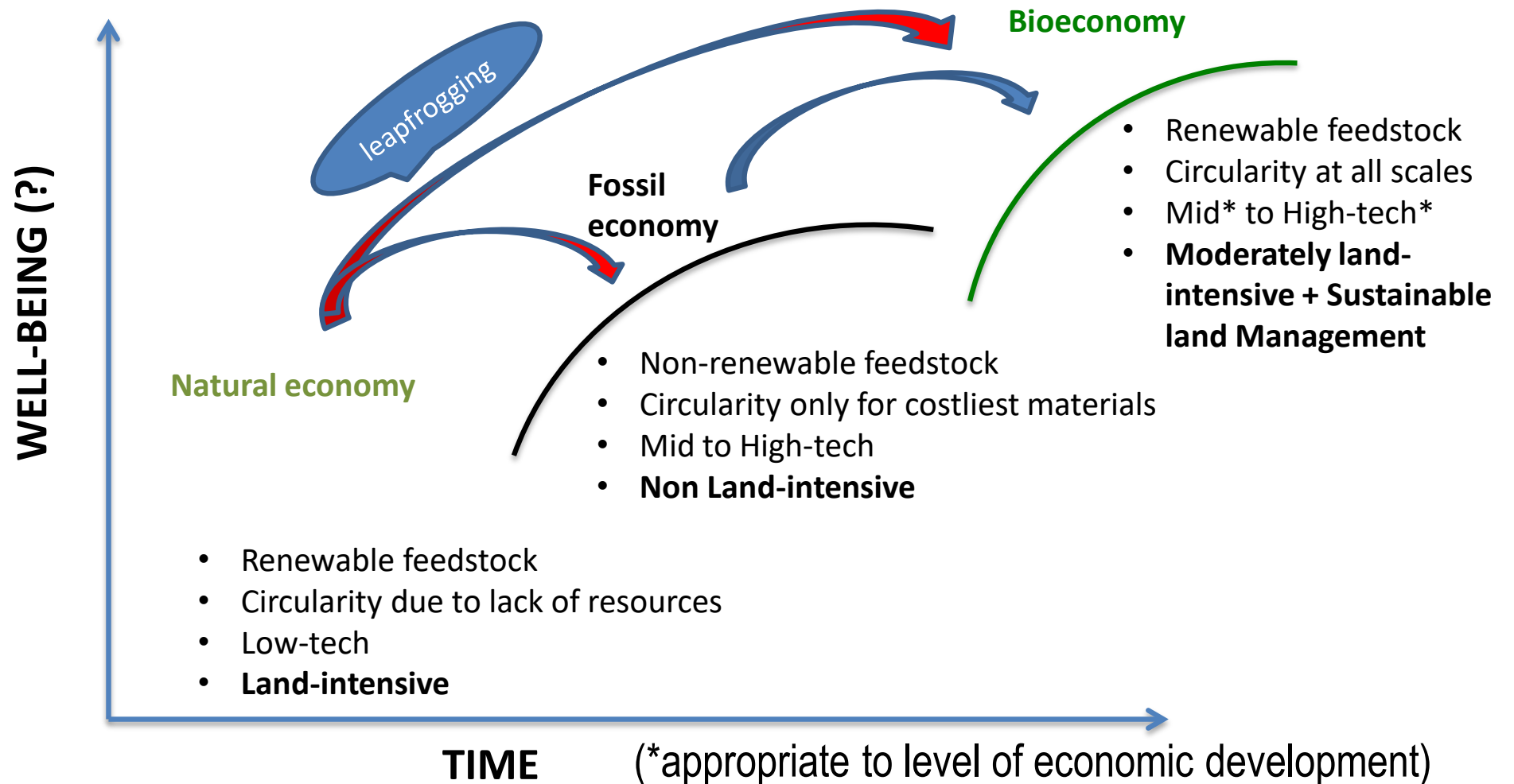
Francis X. Johnson, Senior Research Fellow
Stockholm Environment Institute
IPCC AR6 Lead Author (SRCCL and SYR)

CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT



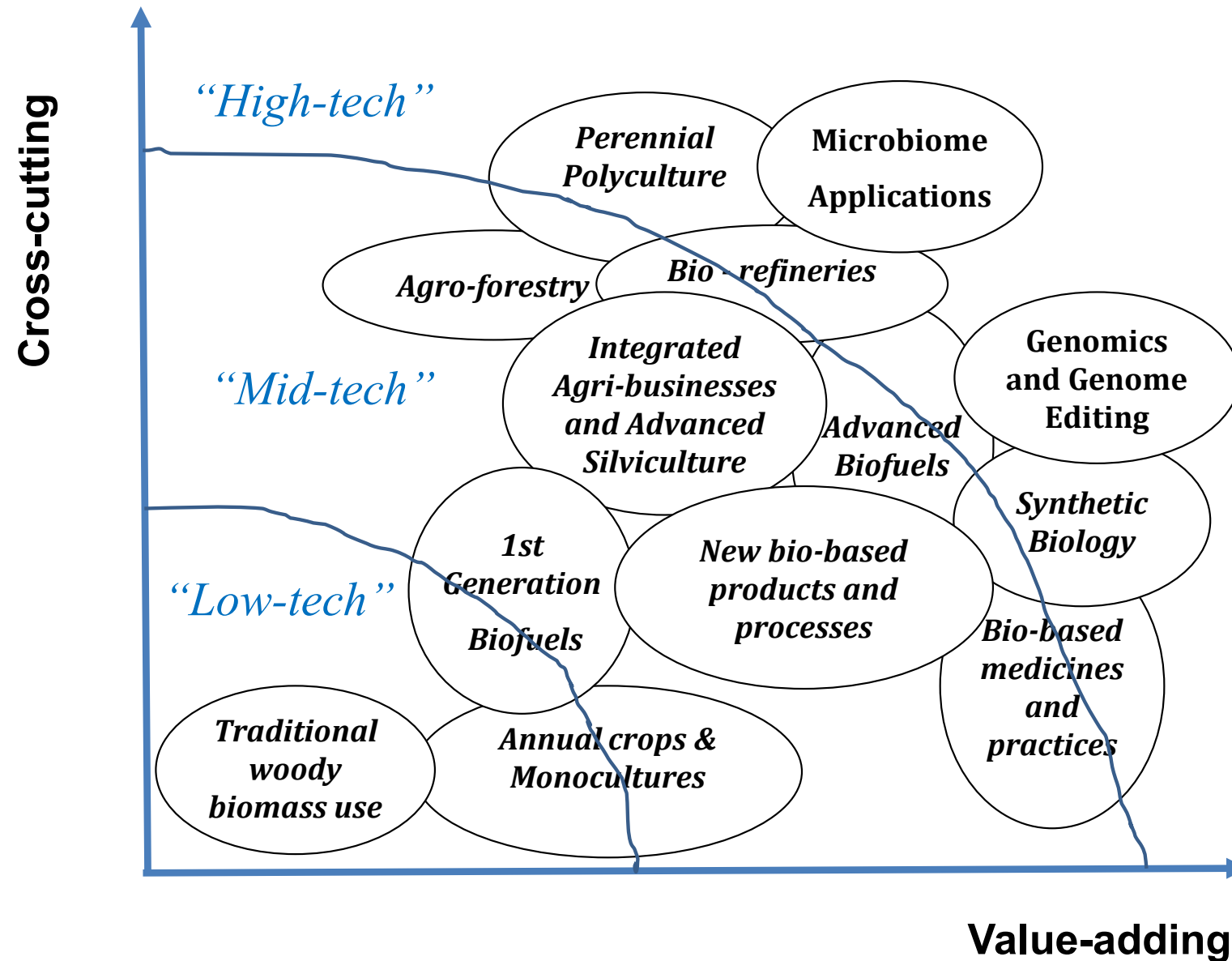
SOURCE: IPCC Synthesis Report (SYR) Sixth Assessment, 2023

Transitions in the use of land and biomass are closely related to the long-term transformation to a circular and sustainable bioeconomy



(Modified from Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy)

Dimensions of the Bioeconomy: Cross-cutting vs. Value-adding



Key role for trade and international cooperation: Capturing/combining local, regional and global benefits

- Tropical and sub-tropical countries have a comparative advantage over temperate regions in supplying biomass and bio-resources at low economic cost (due to labor intensity and labor costs) and environmental cost (especially since environmental impacts of transport by ship are small compared to land use impacts at the source).
- Unlike the fossil economy, bio-based products, processes and services have inherently local dimensions in biomass sourcing, management capacity, and resource knowledge that can help to support community and rural development.
- Transboundary climate risks, especially those related to agriculture and food systems, can disrupt international supply chains; shorter local and regional bioeconomy supply chains with alternative sources or applications can hedge against such risks.
- Bioeconomy development can synergize with carbon removal and nature-based solutions, addressing climate mitigation aims at lower cost and/or with less dependence on technical solutions.
- But to capture such synergies, availability and trade in key technologies, capacities and innovation platforms from regional and global sources are needed to avoid implementation bottlenecks.

Selected insights from Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) 2024

- **Urban redesign, trade transformation, and standardizing global bioeconomy metrics** support the transition away from fossil-based industries. There are opportunities for countries in the Global South to move away from outdated raw material supply chains and instead focus on local production and/or use of value-added products, services, & bio-based processes.
- Value-added from bioeconomy development is not only in traditional terms of trade; also encompasses **social and environmental added value** through contributions to cultural cohesion, community resource stewardship, and enhancement of ecosystem services to reduce pollution and improve quality of life. These elements often have **transnational components encompassing implied trade**.
- Challenges for bio-entrepreneurship in Asia, Africa, and Latin America include a lack of training, difficulty in applying knowledge to specific contexts, limited access to finance, and challenges in developing partnerships. The Global South and North can cooperate for mutual benefit through **technology transfer, financing, fair trade, and triangular cooperation**. These strategies aim to create win-win solutions that address shared challenges and foster a sustainable bioeconomy.
- **Free trade agreements**, e.g. African Continental Free Trade Agreement, implicitly support bioeconomy initiatives, and can be utilized more directly in strategy development. Actionable recommendations include generating robust data, learning from country experiences, aligning with existing strategies, revisiting trade policies, leveraging climate funds, and promoting **public-private partnerships**.
- **Regional bioeconomy cooperation** in areas such as Southeast Asia could contribute to sustainable trade and growth, considering differences and complementarities with respect to bio-resources, infrastructure and technical capacities. ASEAN networks could aim to enhance bioeconomy development through training and partnerships and could serve as a model for global bioeconomy collaboration

Thanks for your attention!



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GBS 2024 co-host
Nairobi, 23-24 October



**GLOBAL
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Francis X. Johnson
francis.x.johnson@sei.org

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