

# **Food security, environmental protection and poverty reduction in the mountainous region of South-east Asia**

**Sushil Pandey**

***(Independent researcher)***

**and**

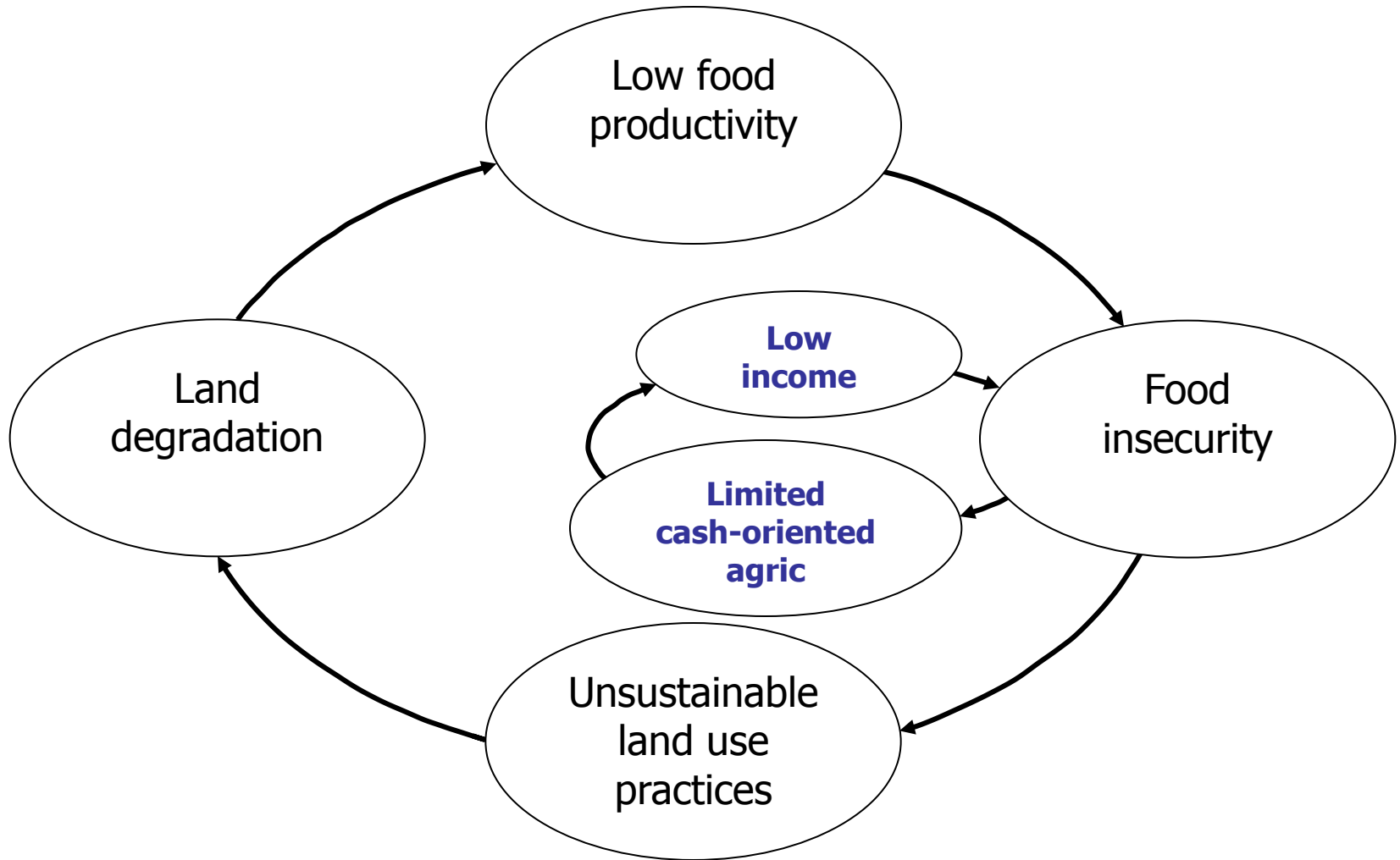
**Huaiyu Wang**

***(Beijing Institute of Technology)***

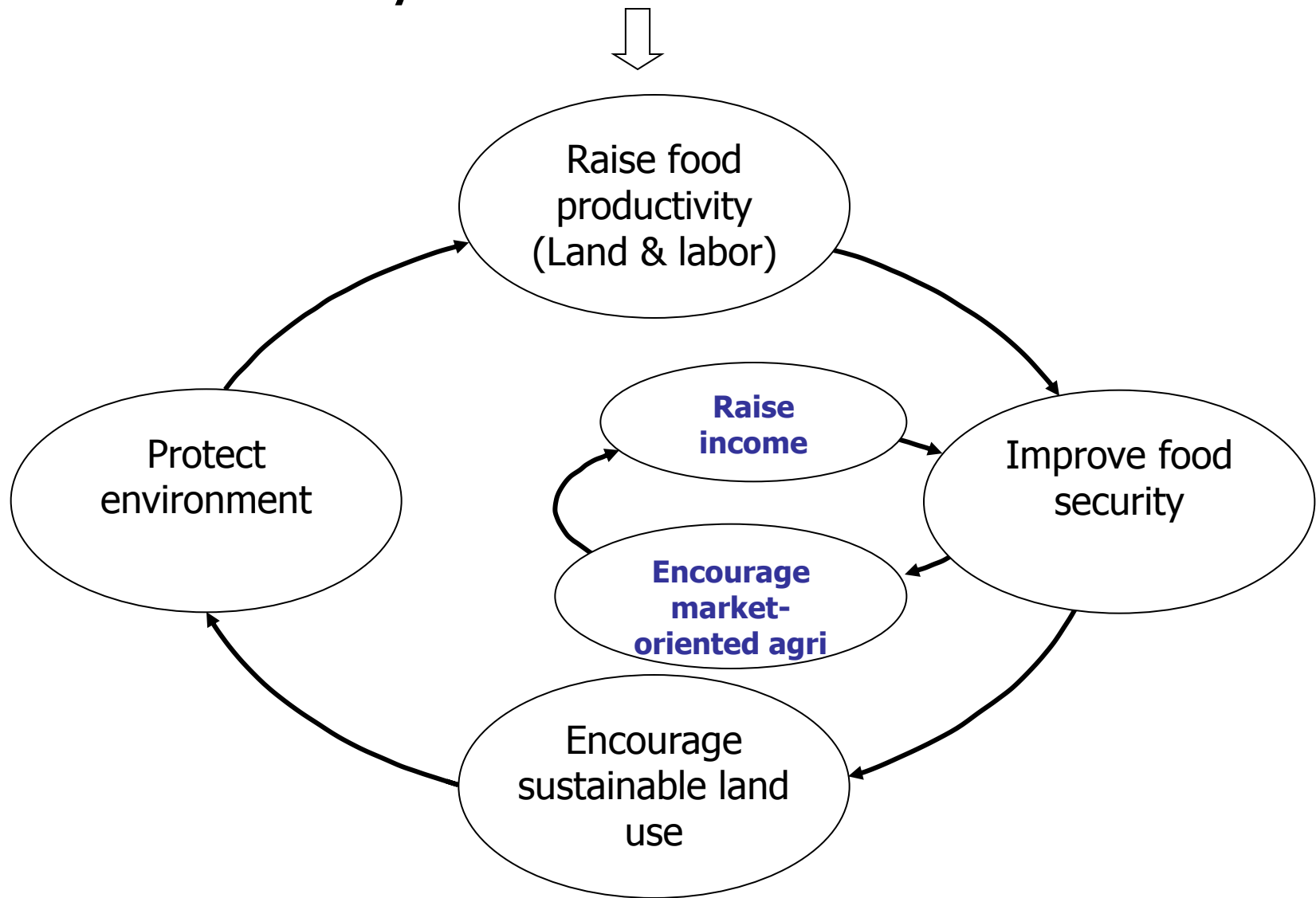
# Key characteristics of uplands of SE Asia

- Large and important domain
- High diversity
- Important for post MFG-agenda
- Concentration of poverty and food insecurity
- Ethnic minority are now the “majority” of the poor
- Environmental degradation

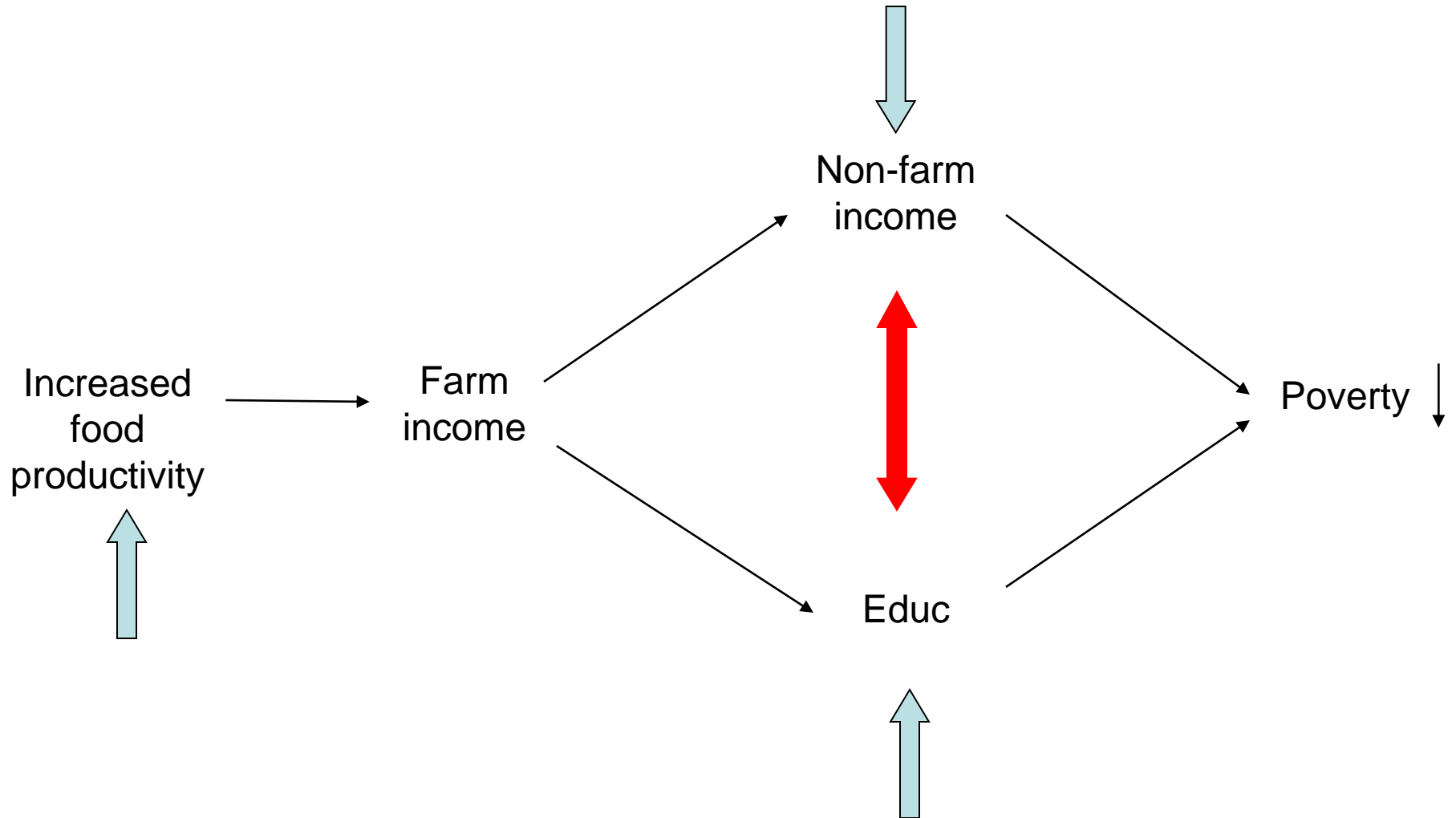
# A vicious cycle



# Virtuous cycle



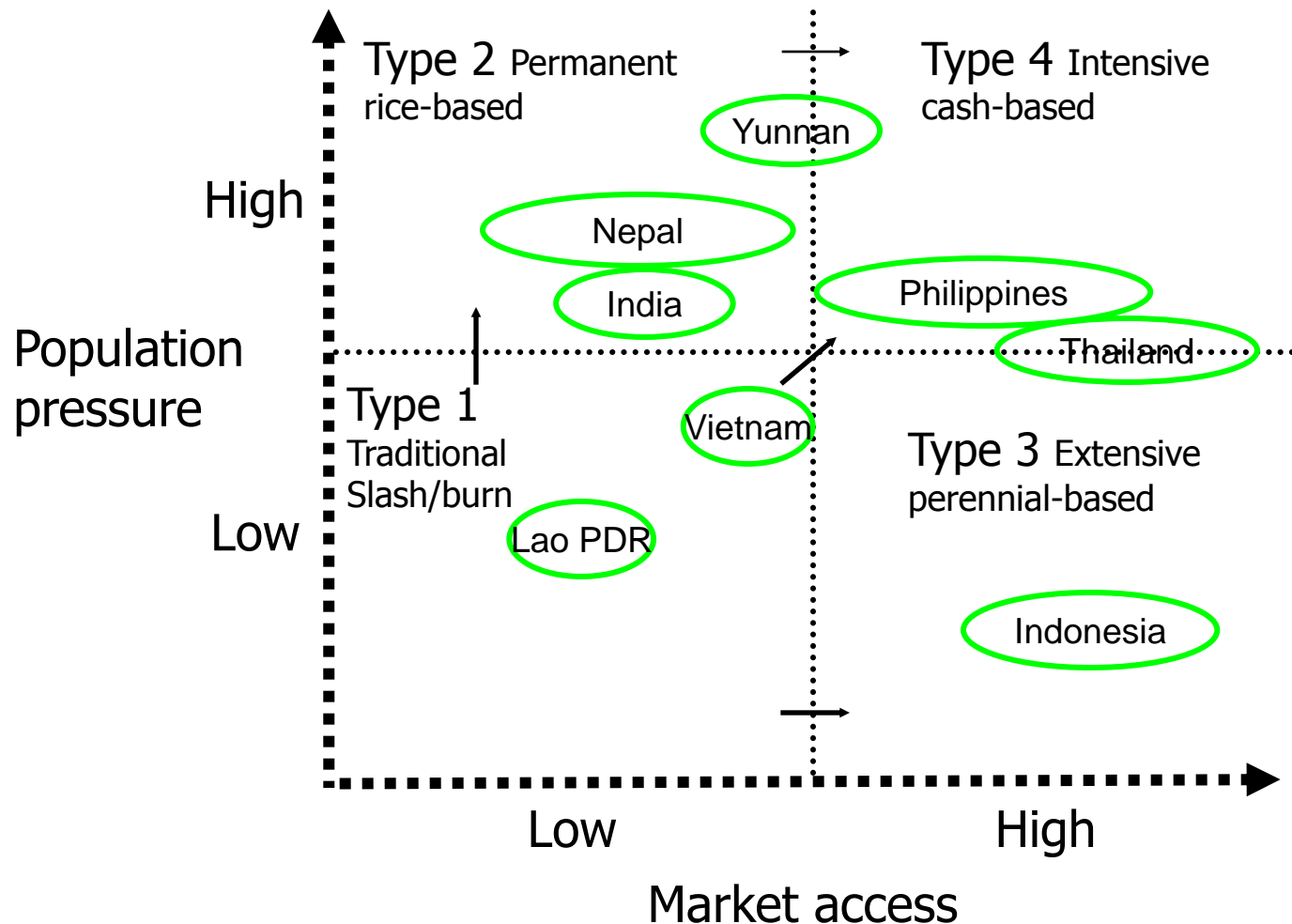
# Major entry points for poverty reduction



# Driving Forces in Uplands

- Rapid growth in population
- Increasing access to markets
- Increased commercialization of agriculture
- Changes in land policies
- Increased investments in uplands

# Uplands in Transition



# Some key experiences in SE Asia (

- Yunnan
- Thailand
- Vietnam/Laos











# Outcome of Changes in Yunnan

- Higher-yielding upland rice systems
- Food secure households
- Diversified systems with cash components
- Less-intensive use of fragile sloping lands

# Thailand

- Horticulture-led changes
- Food production important for ethnic minorities
- Resource use conflicts
- Rising environmental concerns







Rice landscapes in Northern Vietnam

# Key Interventions within Agriculture

- Improved technologies for productivity gain
- Improved access to technology and information
- Strengthening of value chains

# Key Interventions Outside Agriculture

- Security of land tenure
- Rural roads/marketing infrastructures
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Management of commons/FTFP
- Social safety nets



# Concluding Remarks

- Agriculture: a key entry point
- Multi-sector interventions
- Targeted approach while recognizing diversity
- Safety nets and empowerment of minorities
- Broader reforms/strengthening local institutions