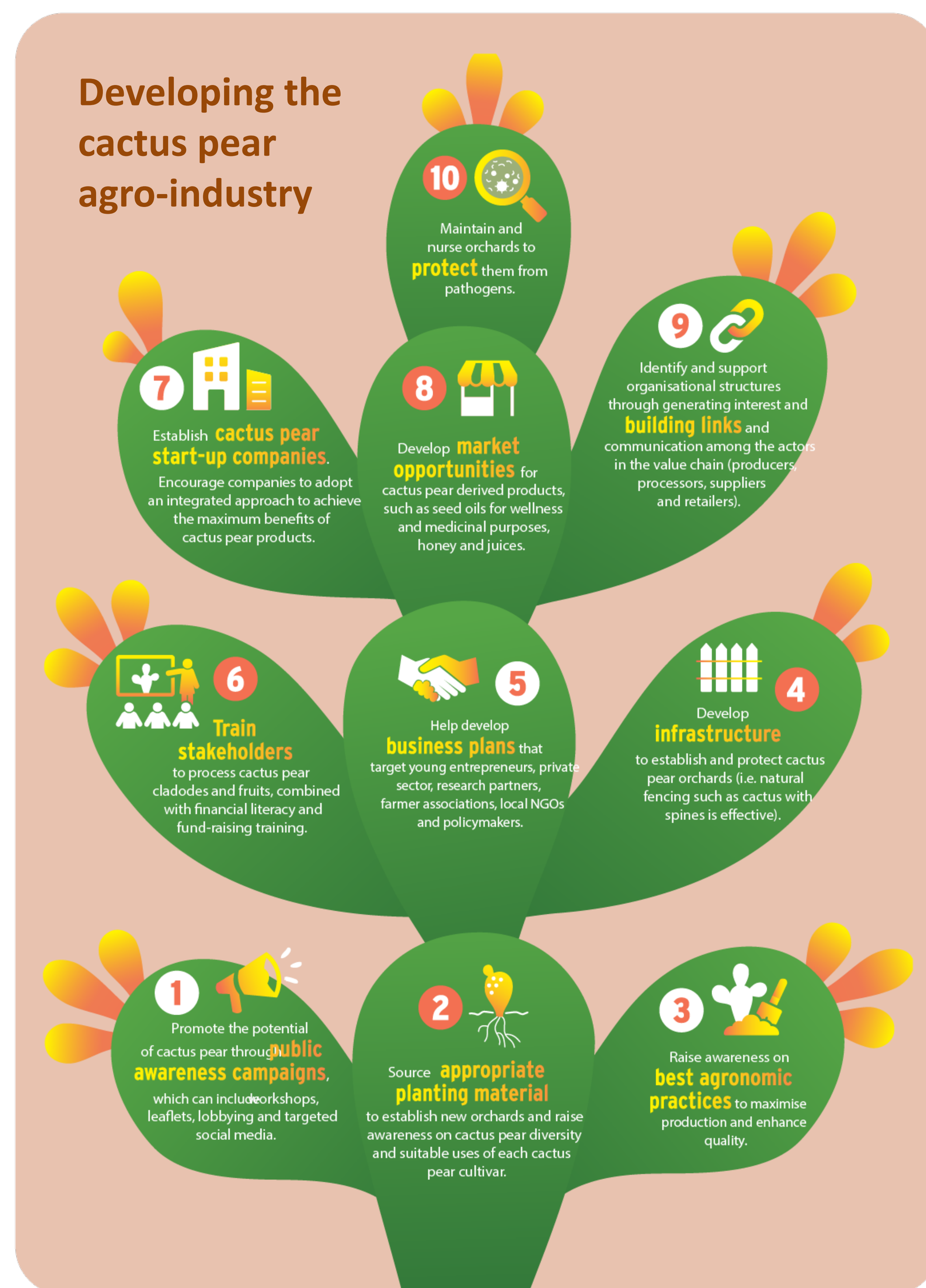


Context

- Harness the potential of cactus pear cultivation in arid regions to overcome extreme conditions that impede crop growth
- Expand cactus pear production in dry areas to capitalize on its remarkable ability to thrive in resource and water-limited environments
- Promote cactus pear cultivation as a resilient and drought-tolerant crop option, ensuring food and feed availability amidst the limited resources of semi-arid regions.

Our innovative approach



Multipurpose Drought-Tolerant Cactus Pear: Empowering Livelihoods and Nourishing Dryland Farmers

- Cactus pear thrives in harsh environments, showcasing adaptability and resilience in poor-quality soils.
- This **multipurpose plant** provides valuable products like livestock fodder and human food, while its high-water content helps in water-scarce regions.
- Cactus pear offers **economic opportunities** for low-income farmers and rural communities with diverse products.
- It **provides environmental benefits** like erosion control, climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife habitat

Mounir Louhaichi, ICARDA
M.Louhaichi@cgiar.org

Sawsan Hassan, ICARDA
S.Hassan@cgiar.org

Progress/outcomes

- 400,000 cladodes planted, promoting cactus pear cultivation.
- Implemented best practices for optimizing cactus pear growth.
- Trained 5,000 beneficiaries in cactus pear cultivation, with 30% women.
- Attracting interest from organizations in arid areas affected by climate change, droughts, and land degradation.
- Growing recognition of additional benefits: erosion prevention, leather production, biofuel.
- Effective partnerships with local and international stakeholders are instrumental in driving progress

Next steps:

- Immediate action is crucial to mitigate the cochineal threat and protect cactus pear materials.
- It is essential to cultivate cochineal-resistant varieties of cactus pear for fruit production, given the current predominance of resistant varieties for fodder purposes.
- The application of the Nagoya Protocol to cactus, despite its limited recognition as a crop, impedes the exchange of genetic resources. Resolving this issue is paramount due to the distinctive characteristics of cactus compared to other crops.



We thank all funders who support this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders.

This document is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence. July 2023

