FOOD POLICY AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

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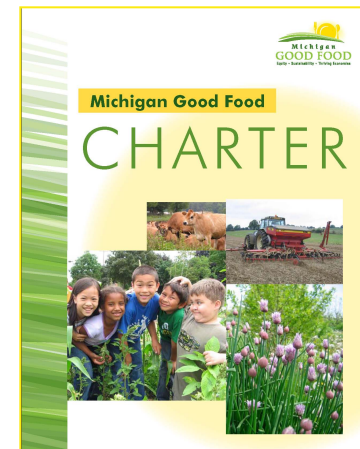CRFS

MSU CENTER *for* REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

MSU Center
for Regional Food Systems

Mission: Develop regionally integrated, sustainable regional food systems

Work: Michigan Good Food Charter, food access and health, farm to institution, **food hubs,** food systems planning and food policy, organic production and marketing, regional food systems research and outreach

POOR NETWORK – THE POOL METAPHOR

How effective? Can't really tell

GOOD NETWORK– THE POOL METAPHOR

What if programs & policy impacts were additive?

ARE ALL NETWORKS CREATED EQUAL?

Which best describes <u>your</u> food policy network?

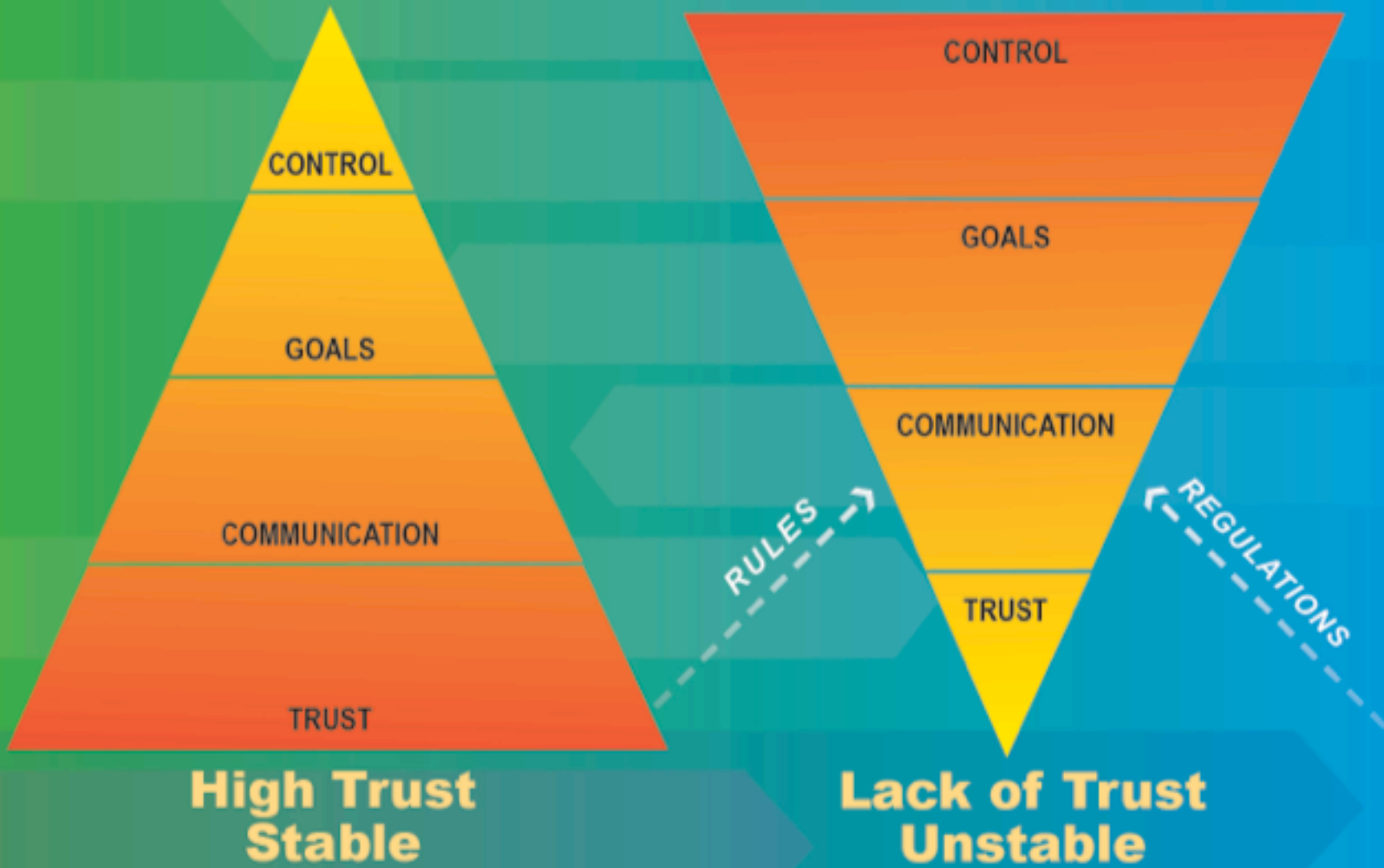| Type of network	Level of Risk (to members) / Systemic Change Potential	How they operate
Cooperating	Low Little chance	Model best practices; test ideas and learn different approaches; convene problem-solving sessions
Coordinating	Low to Moderate Good chance	Push established organizational boundaries; engage in activities requiring greater mutual reliance
Collaborating	Moderate to High Best chance	Methods in place to resolve conflicts; pursuing long-term system creation; radical shifts from past operation; fundamental resource re-allocation

From Vandeventer, P., and M Mandell, 2007. Networks that Work
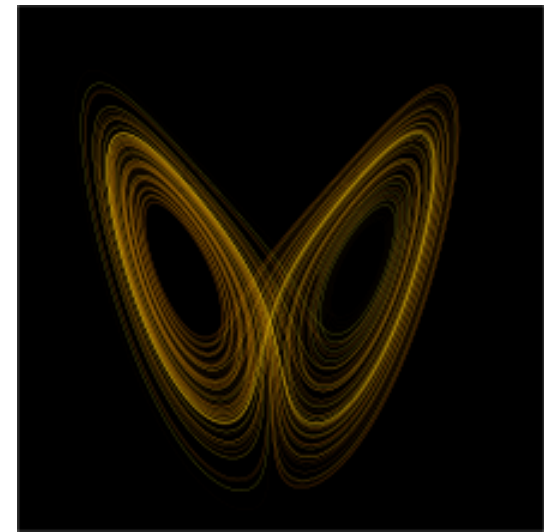
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From: Jack Gibb – Trust Theory

CHAOS THEORY, TRUST, AND NETWORK ECOSYSTEMS

- **<u>Chaos theory</u>** – allow for level of unpredictability at local level to enhance stability and predictability of larger systems

- Higher unpredictability at local network levels allows "ideas and innovations to be amplified" at larger network levels

Butterfly effect

Edward Lorenz

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KEY PEOPLE YOU NEED WHEN NETWORKING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

- **Chief cat herder** – keeping collaboration infrastructure intact and healthy

- **Data analyst/story telle**r – take information people are sharing and tell a compelling story about change

- **Facilitator deluxe** –keep people focused on common agenda, outcomes

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IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR NETWORKING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

Systems Thinking

Helping all see the whole, to better understand the relationships and connections between the parts, to help see how we can effectively change dysfunctional systems
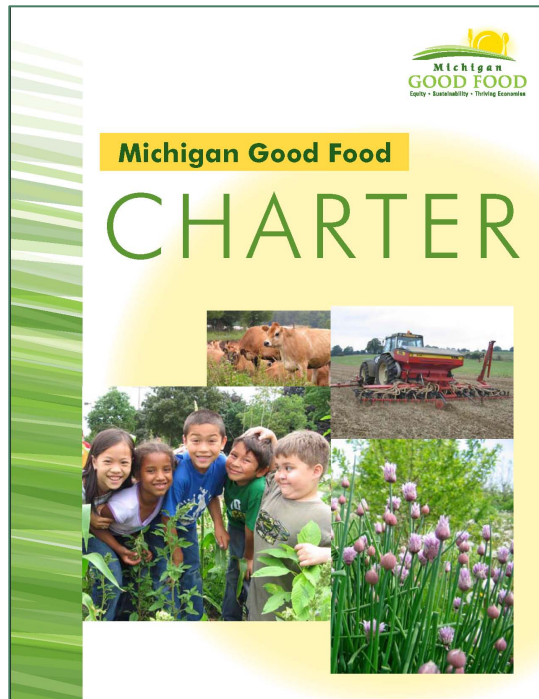
Different Mental Models

Deeply ingrained assumptions, generalizations or perceptions that influence how we understand the world and take action

MENTAL MODELS

OPPORTUNITYISNOWHERE

MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD CHARTER – 2010-2020

"Good Food" policy framework for Michigan

Vision and roadmap
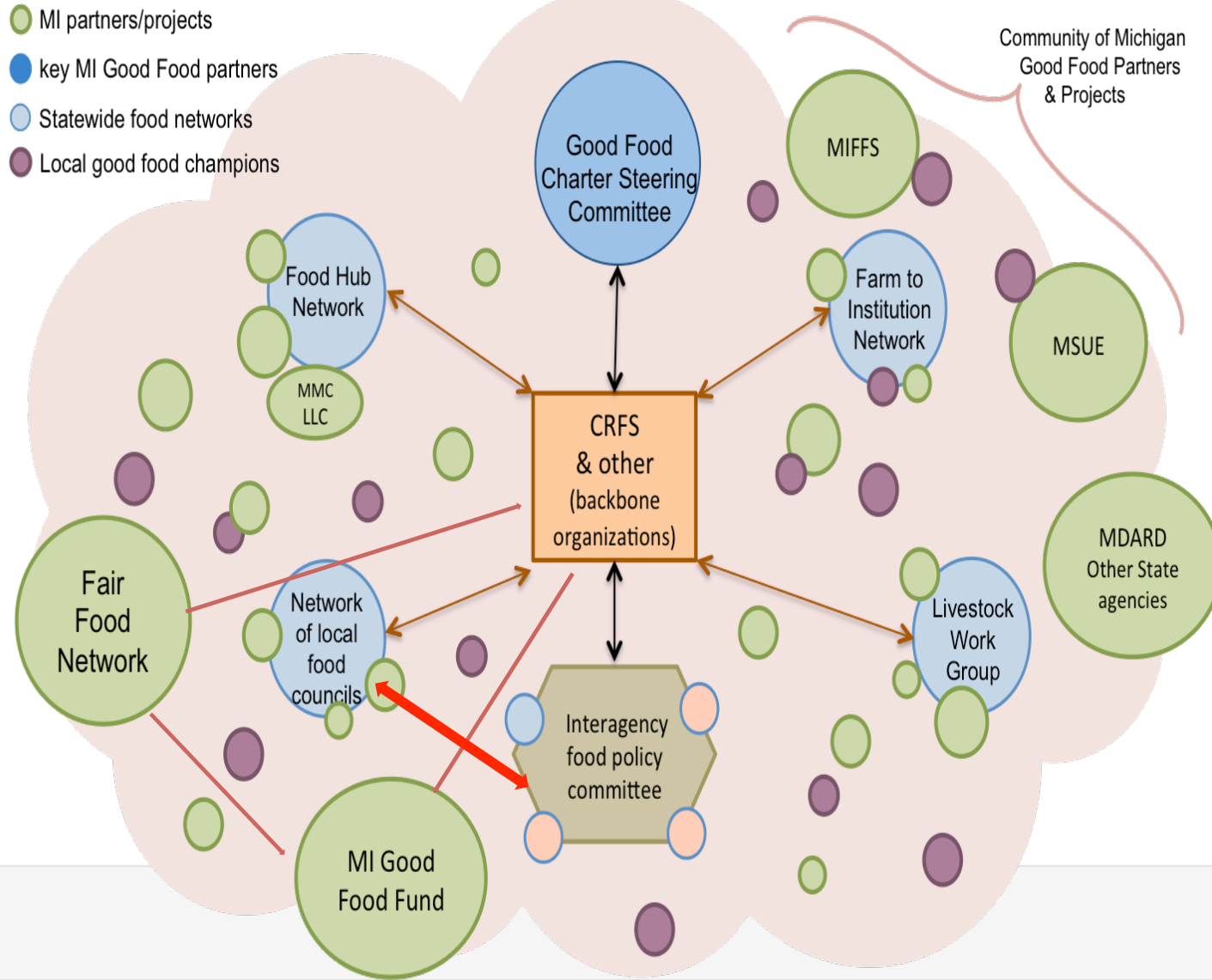
6 goals – local food purchases and fair jobs, healthy food access, nutrition standards and food systems education

25 agenda priorities

www.michiganfood.org

MICHIGAN FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP ECOSYSTEM

A network of networks, projects & organizations to increase food system equity, opportunity, and access

Achieving health, economic, and equity goals.

Supporting the Michigan Good Food Charter.

DEMONSTRATING ALIGNMENT & COLLABORATION IN NETWORKS

Fly at same speed as your neighbor

Maintain a minimum distance

Always turn toward the center

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THANK YOU

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