



Food security and nutrition in Africa

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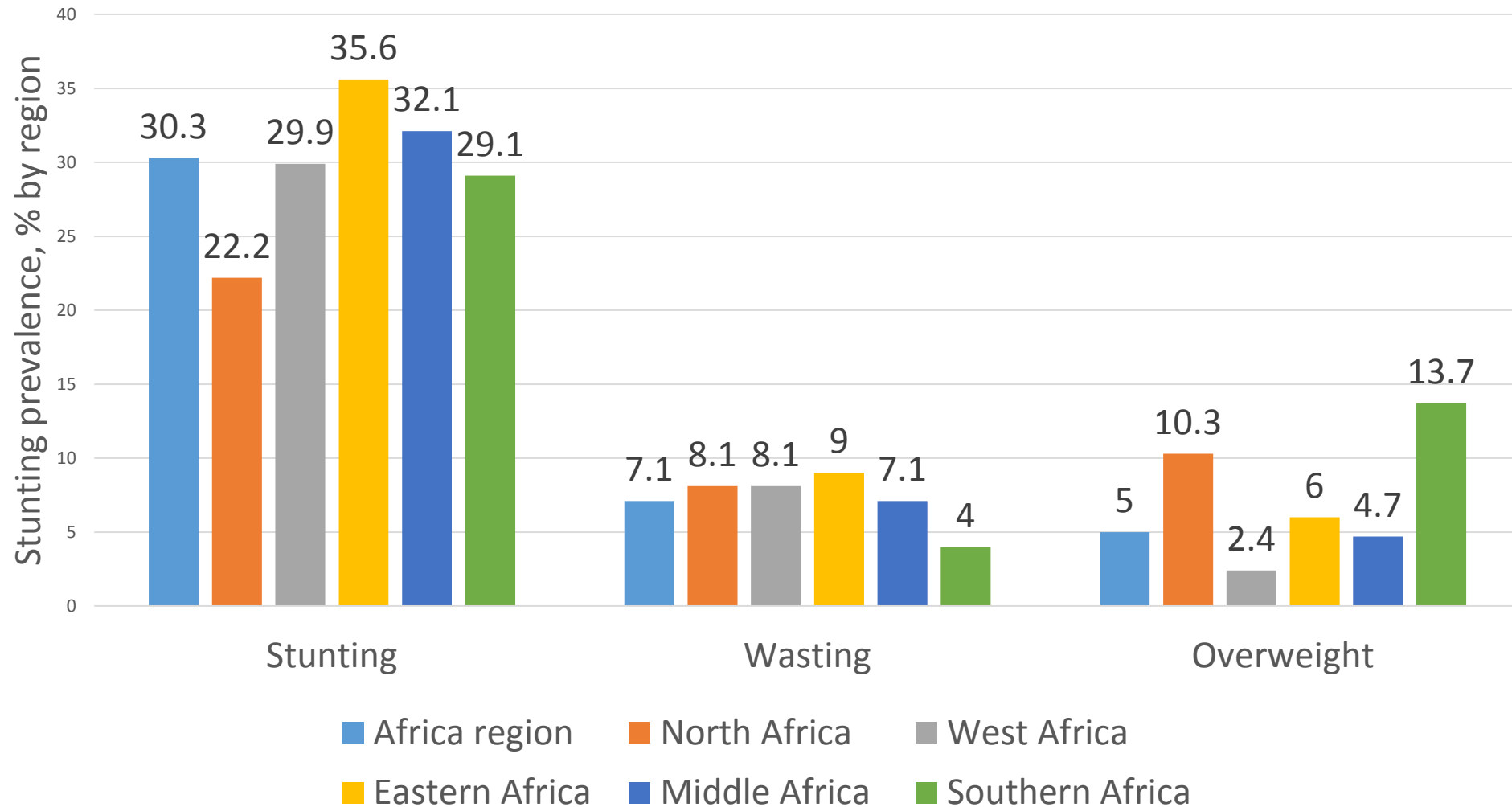
Food Security and Nutrition in Africa

Introduction: key messages

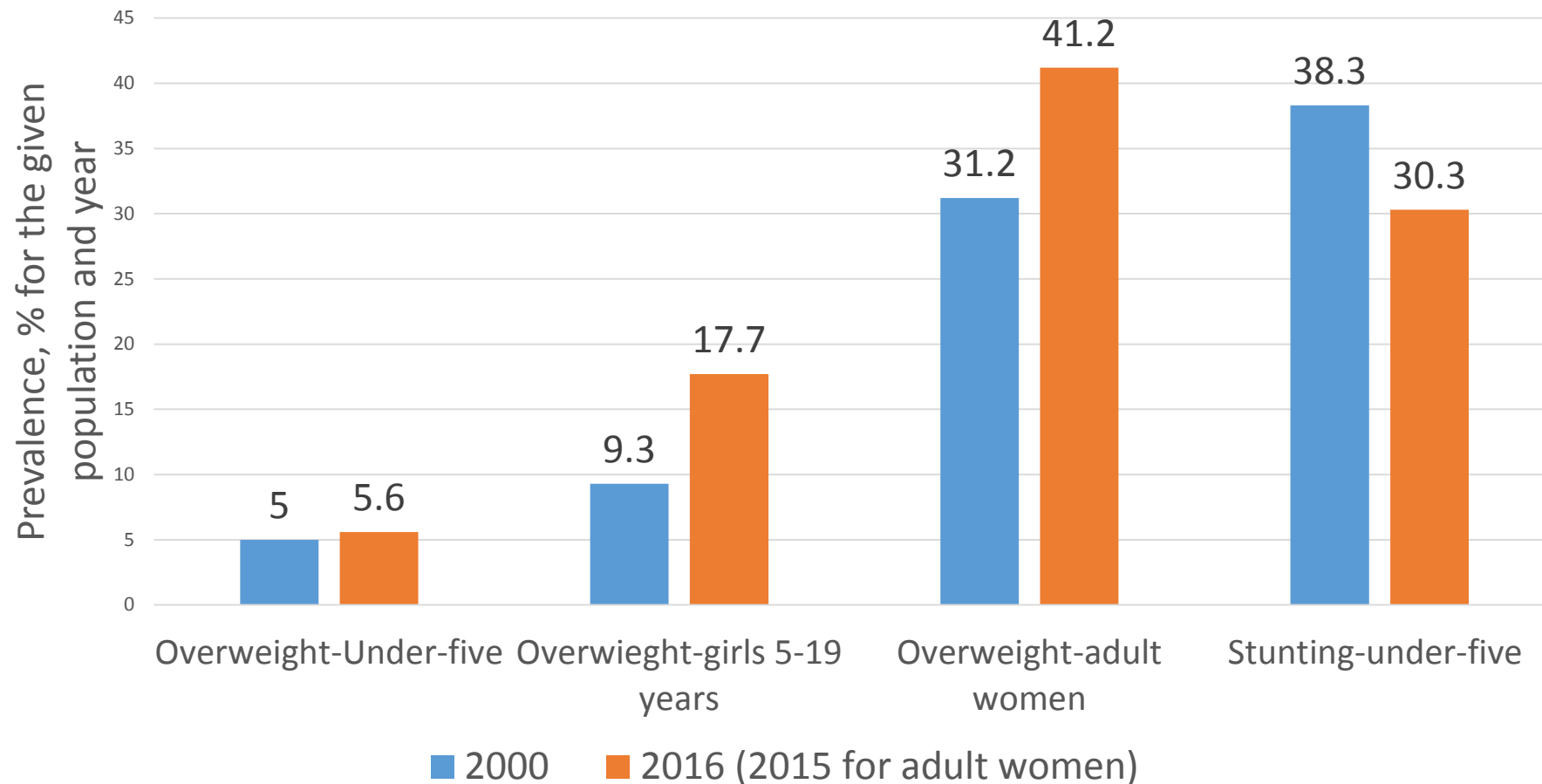
1. Multiple burdens of malnutrition
2. Undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight obesity and diet related NCDs
3. Significant food security challenges
4. Policies and strategies increasingly in place
5. Multiple initiatives galvanized by CAADP and SUN
6. Significant challenges implementing existing policies and programmes effectively
7. How can we do better?
8. Adequate financing and focusing on synergy with a food systems approach

Multiple burdens of malnutrition

Stunting, overweight and wasting prevalence by Africa UN region for children <5 years (adapted from GNR, 2018).

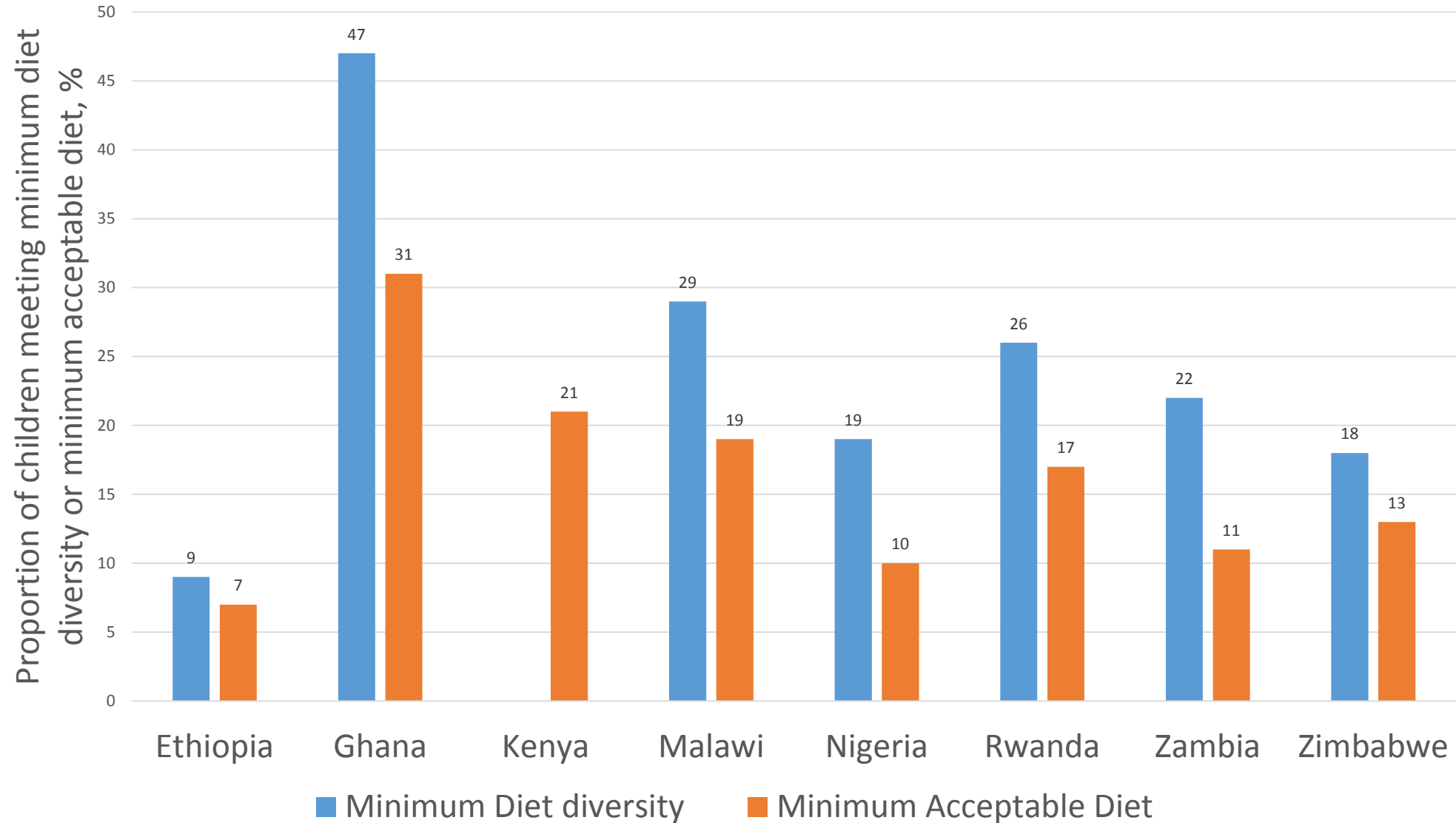


Trend of overweight and stunting for different age categories, Africa averages (source, GNR, 2018)



What are the challenges?

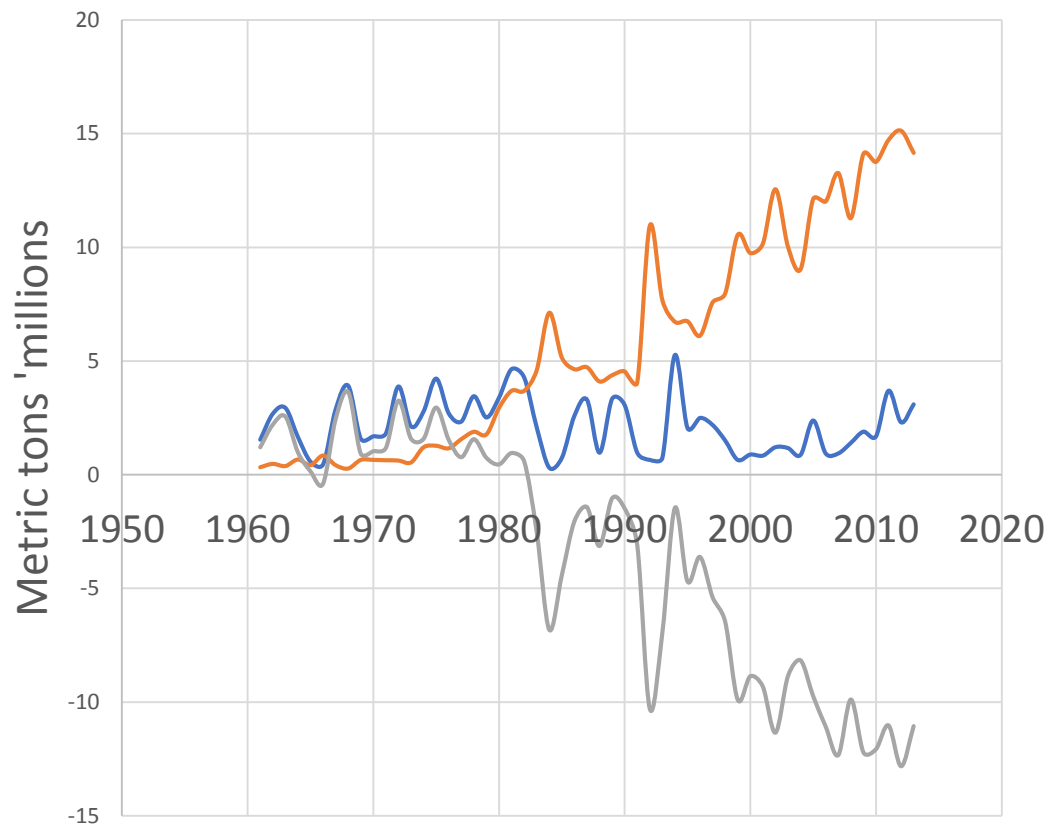
Proportion of children 6-24 months meeting MDD and MAD based on DHS reports (adapted from 2014-16 national DHS Surveys)



Challenges

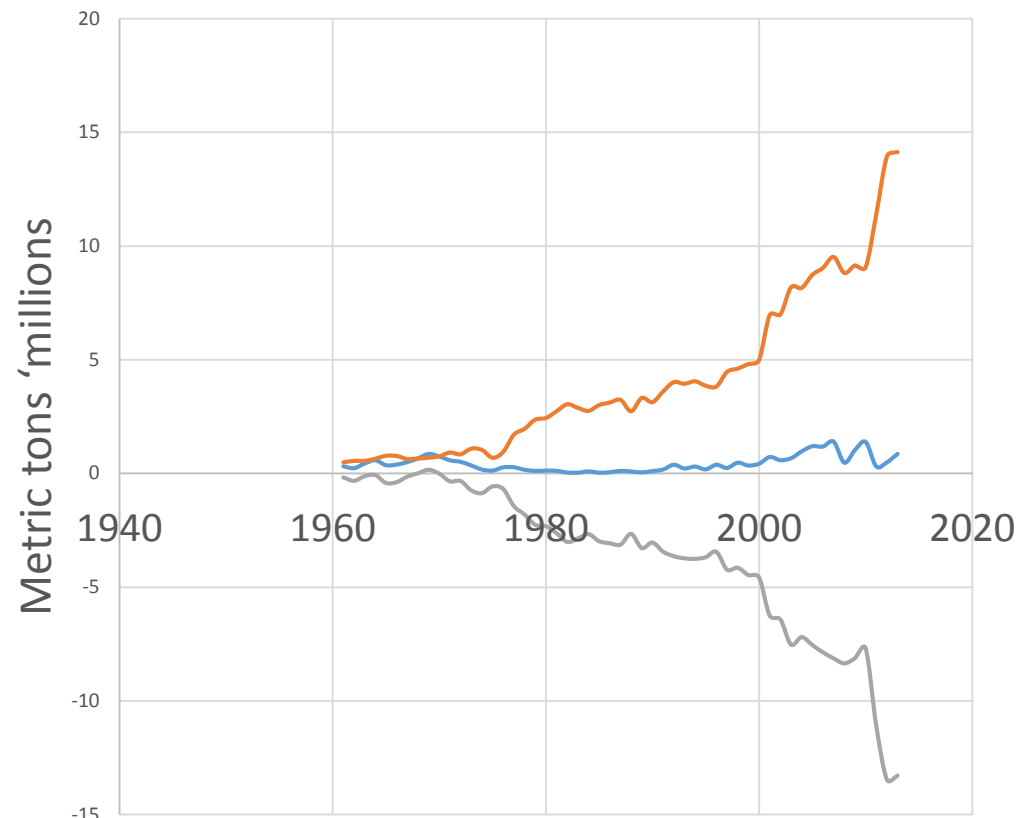
1. We need more diverse diets but agriculture policies and strategies have been biased towards staple foods; access and affordability of nutrient dense foods are limited
2. Food safety is a significant challenge: mycotoxins (aflatoxin); pesticide/chemical residues?; AMR? Water quality?
3. Inadequate food and environmental safety systems
4. Stability of food supply is challenged by heavy dependence on rain fed agriculture but irrigation is a double edged sword

Africa's balance of trade for Maize (A) and Rice (B) (Abera et al., 2019; Covic et al., 2019; Karimov et al., 2019) Based on FAOstat data



A: Maize

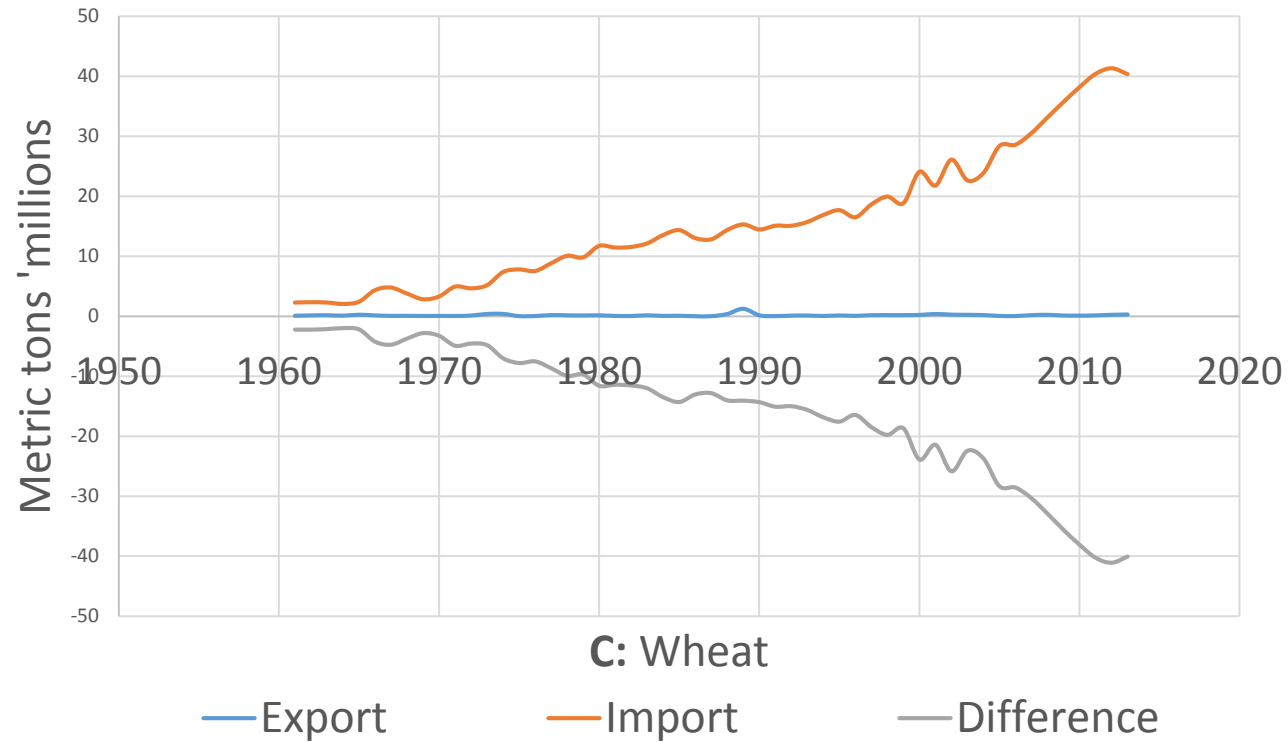
— Export — Import — Difference



B: Rice

— Export — Import — Difference

Africa's balance of trade for Wheat (C) (Abera et al., 2019; Covic et al., 2019; Karimov et al., 2019) Based on FAOstat data



C. Africa Wheat trade balance, million metric tons

The policy and programme environment is looking better and better

Policy and programme context

Agriculture/CAADP: contextualized to countries

- Compacts → NAFSIPs → Malawi nutrition → CAADP results framework
- Joint sector review (Regional SAKSS, Country level SAKSS)
- Done: First CAADP Review 2017; 2019
- Food safety index

Multisectoral action

SUN: contextualized to countries

- Policies → Strategies → Implementation plans → to district levels
- Coordination
- Common frameworks
- SUN-Academy platform or equivalent arrangements; Capacity?

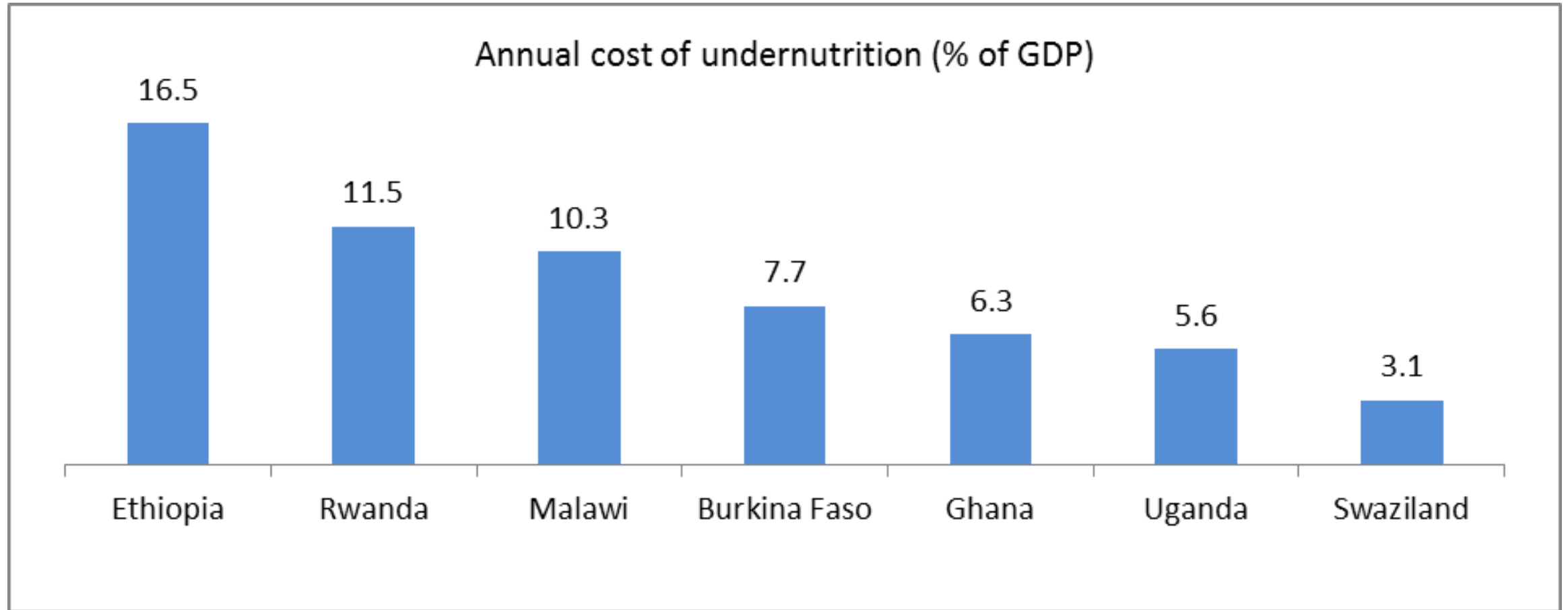
Multisectoral action

Multisectoral nutrition action plan

African Leaders for Nutrition

- Targets heads of state, ministers, champions
- Africa nutrition accountability scorecard

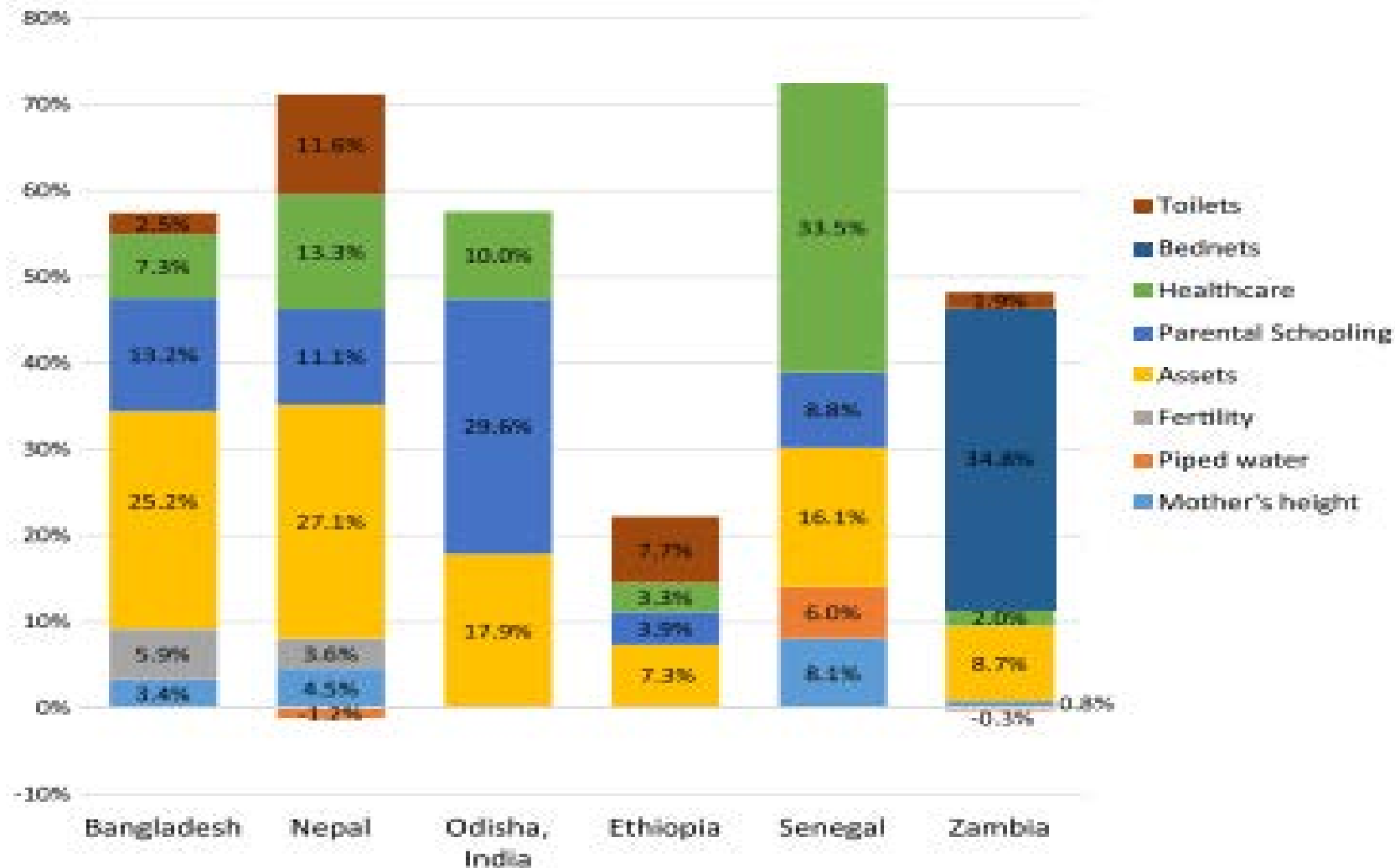
The annual cost of undernutrition



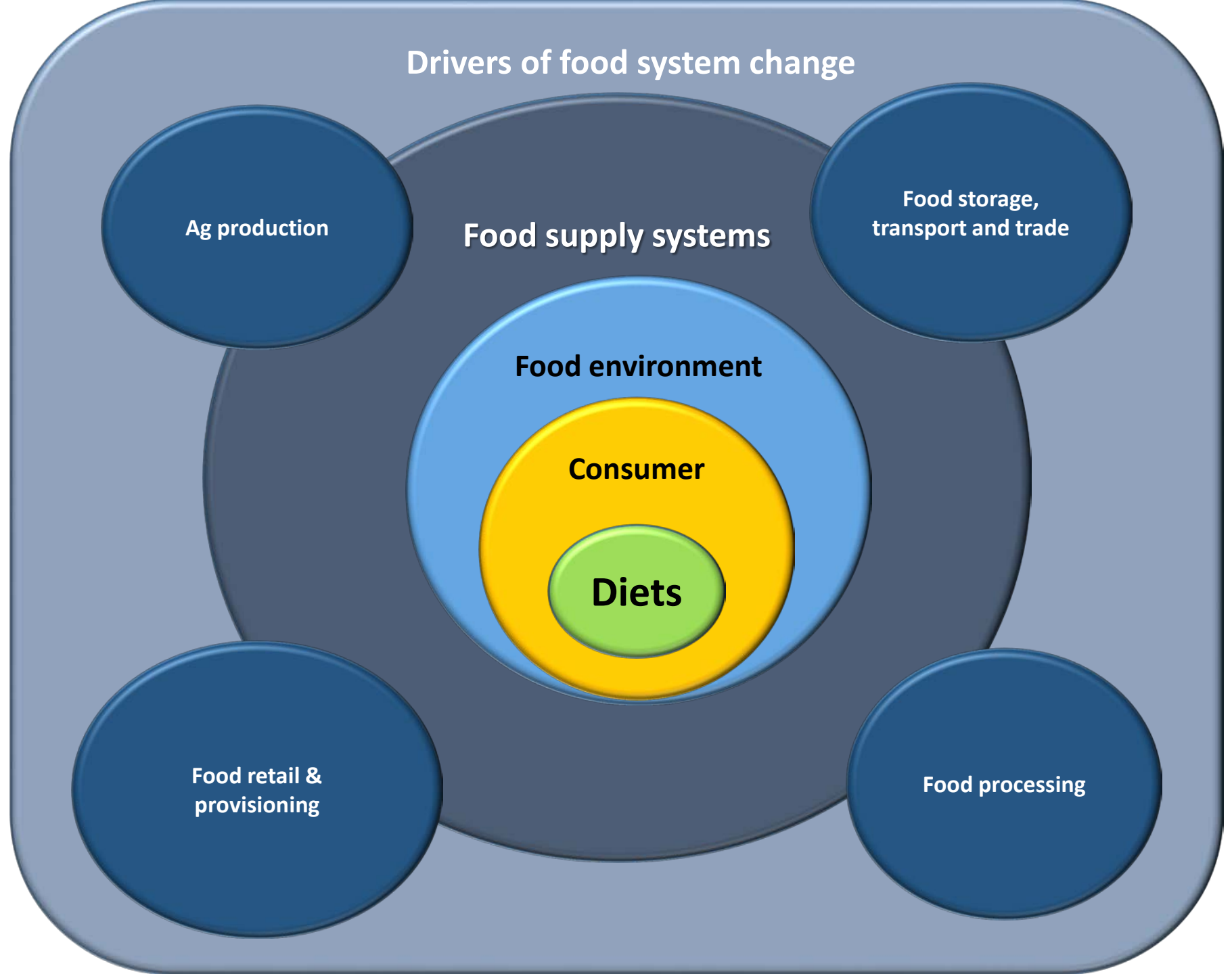
African Union Commission et al. (2014).

How can we do better?

Address context: Estimated contributions of selected factors to changes in HAZ: Bangladesh, Nepal, Odisha (India), Ethiopia, Senegal, Zambia (Source, Headey et al., 2017).

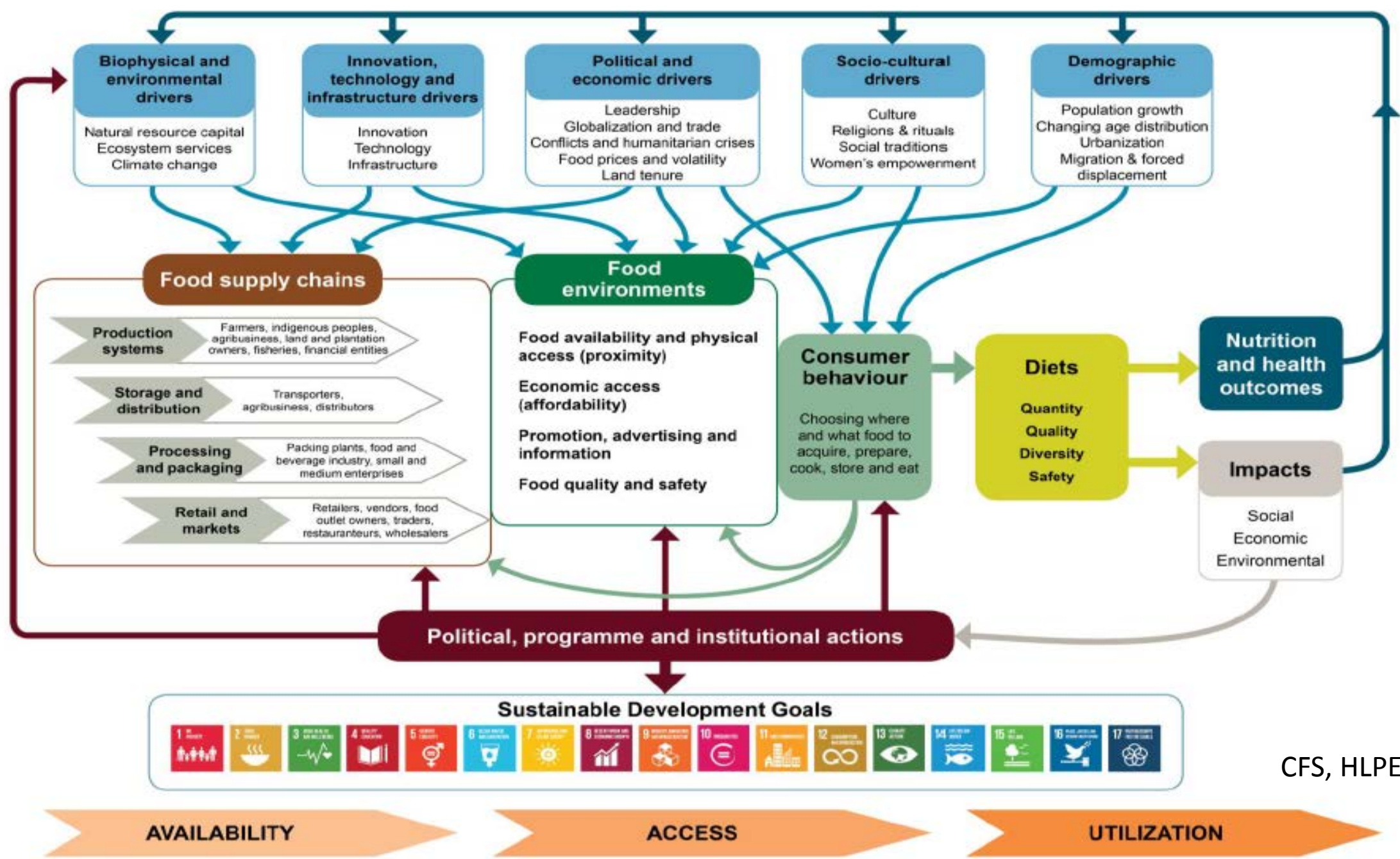


Drivers of food system change



Aim for synergy

- But the prevailing landscape must be better understood.
- Must pay attention to generate evidence on “why” and “how” questions
- African academic institutions must be better engaged



CFS, HLPE 2017

Concluding remarks: How could we do better?

Appropriate alignment and coherence of policies, strategies, programmes and interventions with meaningful collaborative engagement.

- Adequate financing and capacity existing initiatives
- Diversify agriculture, focus on suitability including biofortification
- Manage agricultural intensification with land and water management being critical
- Manage market forces, trade & fiscal policies prudently
- Factors influencing food choices must be mitigated
- Develop/implement value chain innovations & business models with food safety considerations
- Long term sustainability considerations: *“What is in it for Africa in the EAT Lancet Dietary Recommendations?”*

Aim for synergy



Outcome: Better, healthier more sustainable diets