

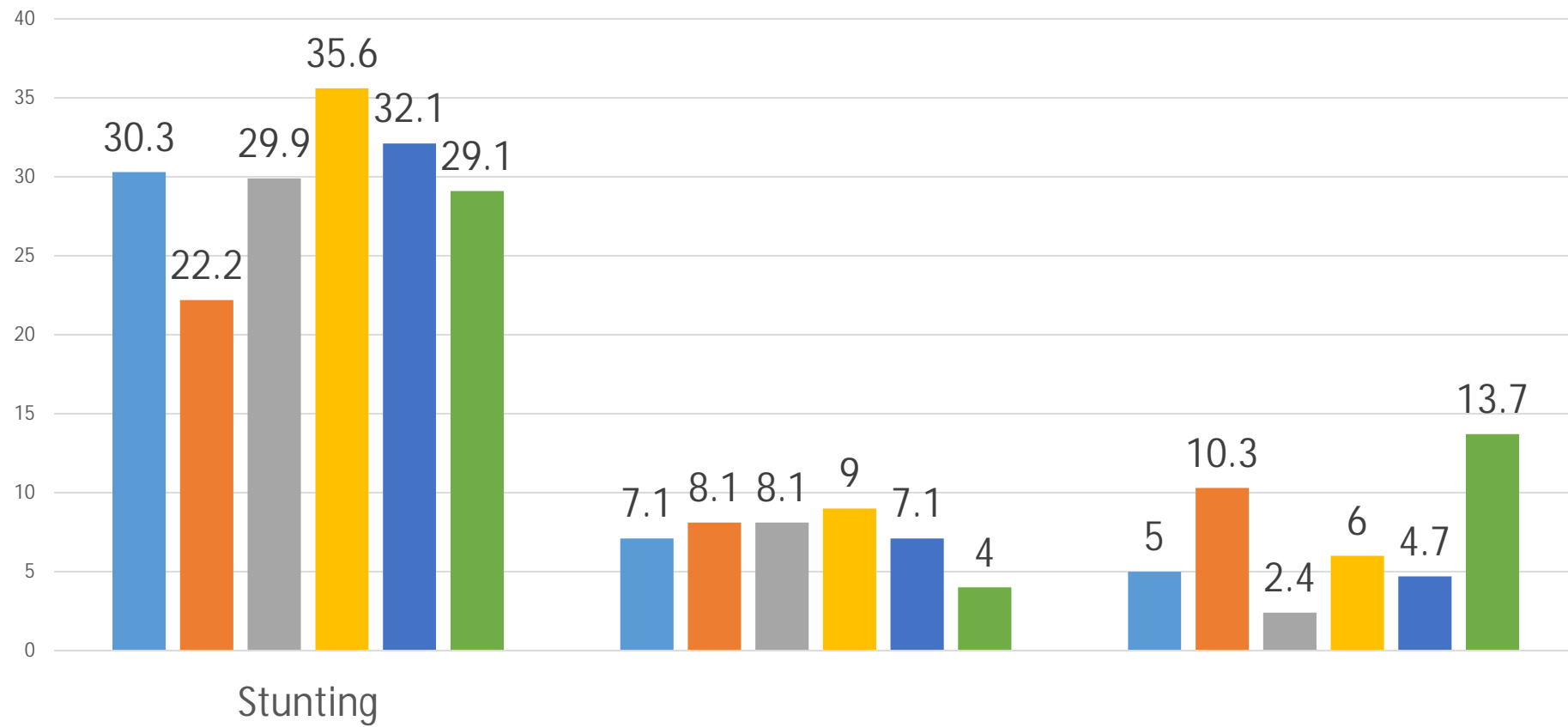
Food security and nutrition in Africa

Expert Group Meeting, DESA
New York 16-17 September 2019

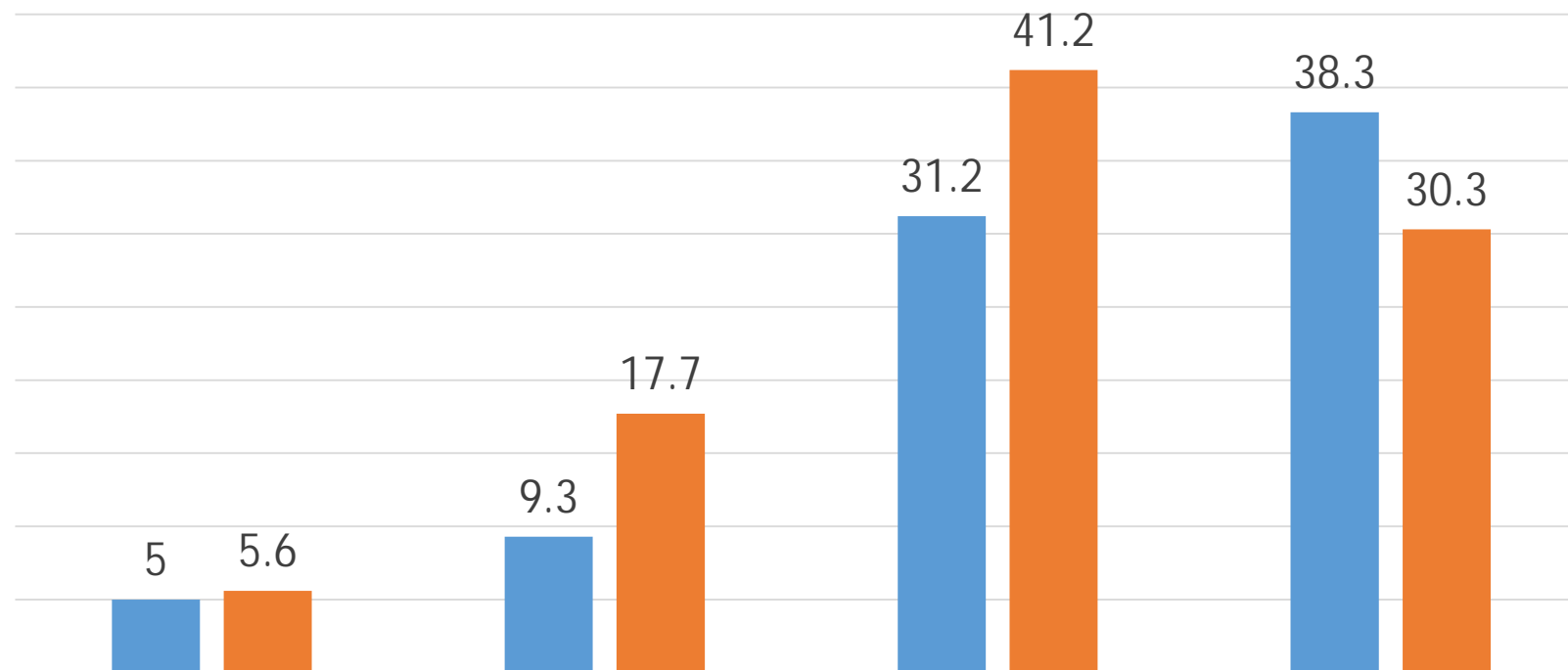
Namukolo Covic,
Senior research Coordinator
IFPRI/A4NH Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Multiple burdens of malnutrition

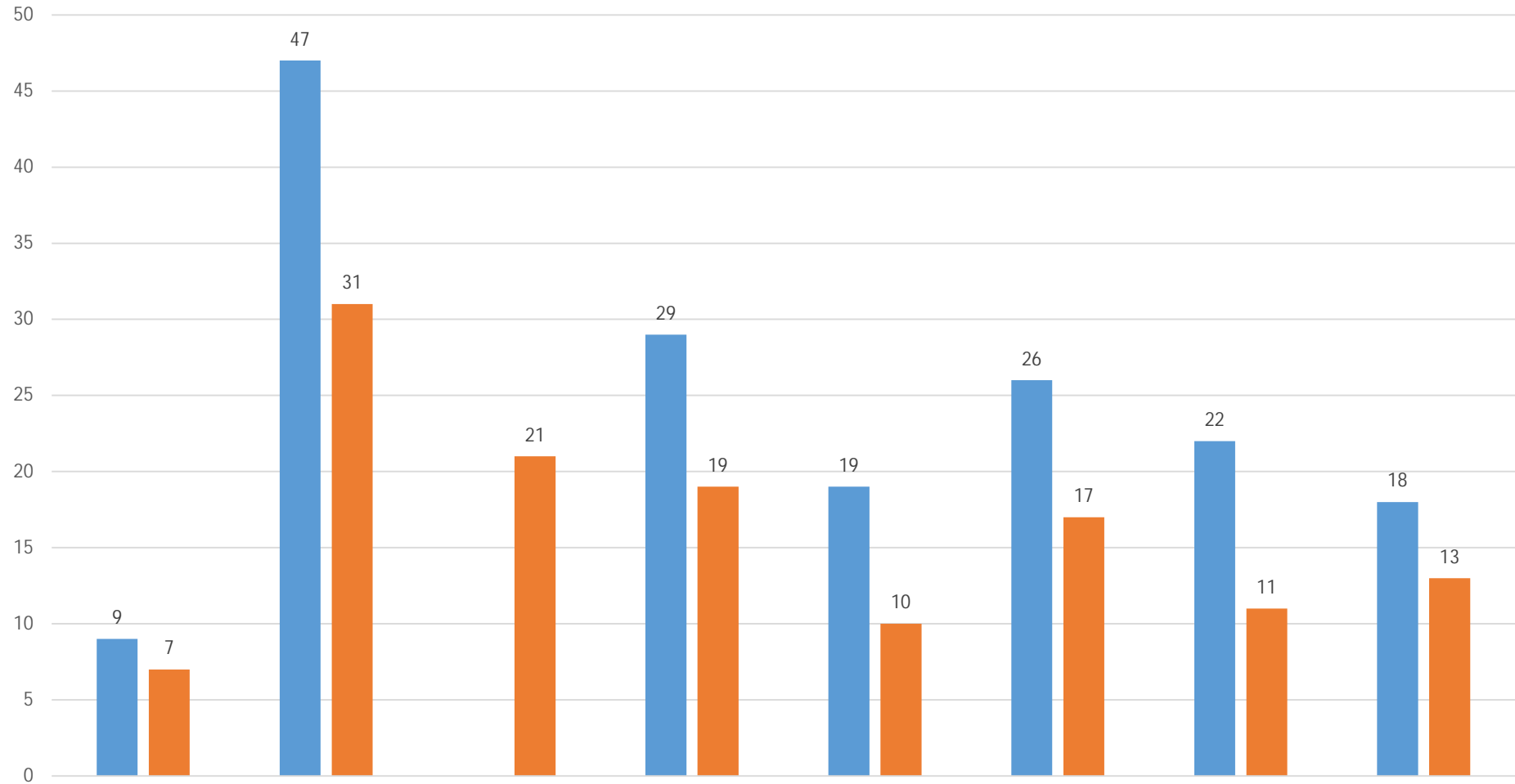


Trend of overweight and stunting for different age categories, Africa averages
(source, GNR, 2018)



What are the challenges?

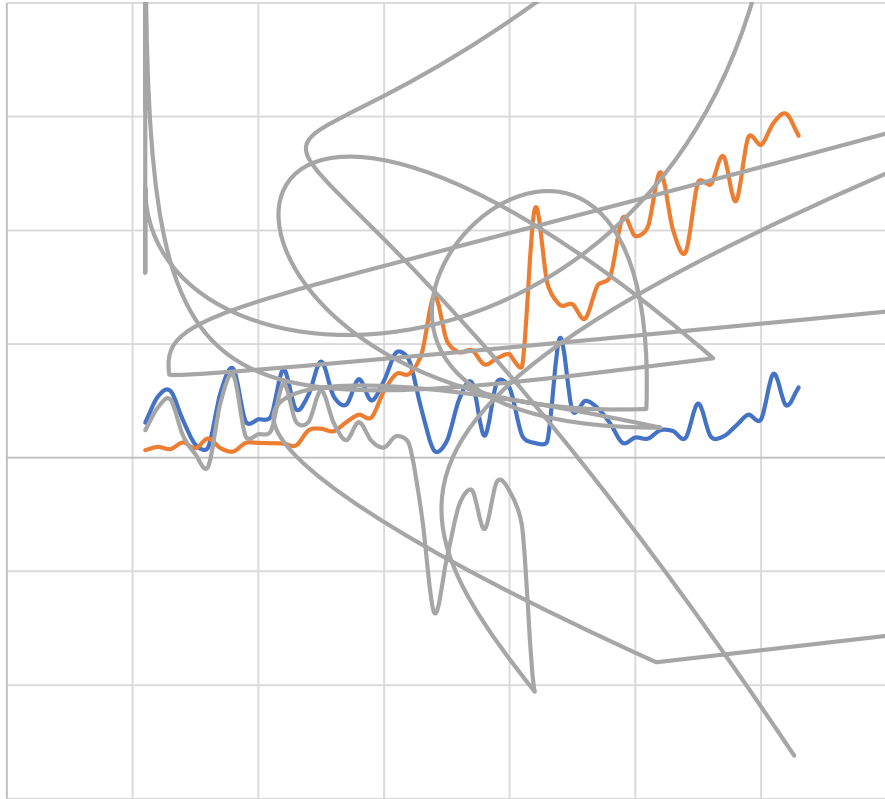
Proportion of children 6-24 months meeting MDD and MAD based on DHS reports (adapted from 2014-16 national DHS Surveys)



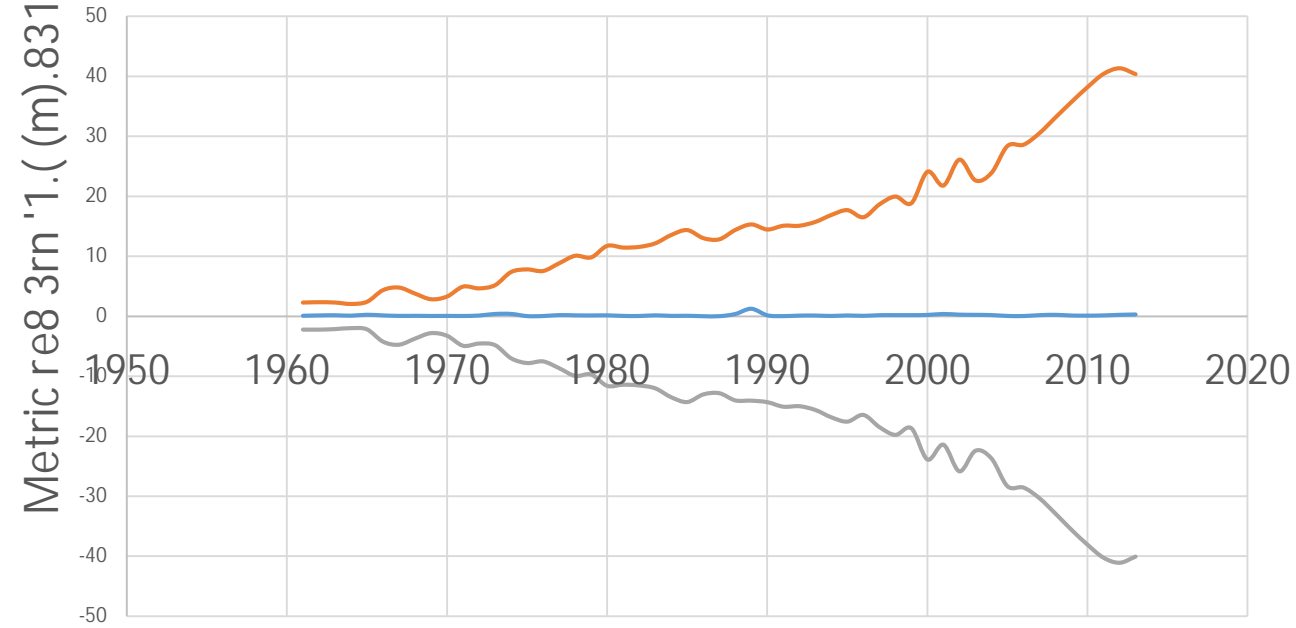
Challenges

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



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



The policy and programme environment is looking better and better

Policy and programme context

Agriculture/CAADP: contextualized to countries

- Compacts ~ NAFSIPs ~ Mainstreaming nutrition ~ CAADP results framework
- Joint sector reviews (ReSAKSS, Regional SAKSS, Country level SAKSS)
- Done: First CAADP Biennial Review 2017; 2019
- Food safety index

SUN: contextualized to countries

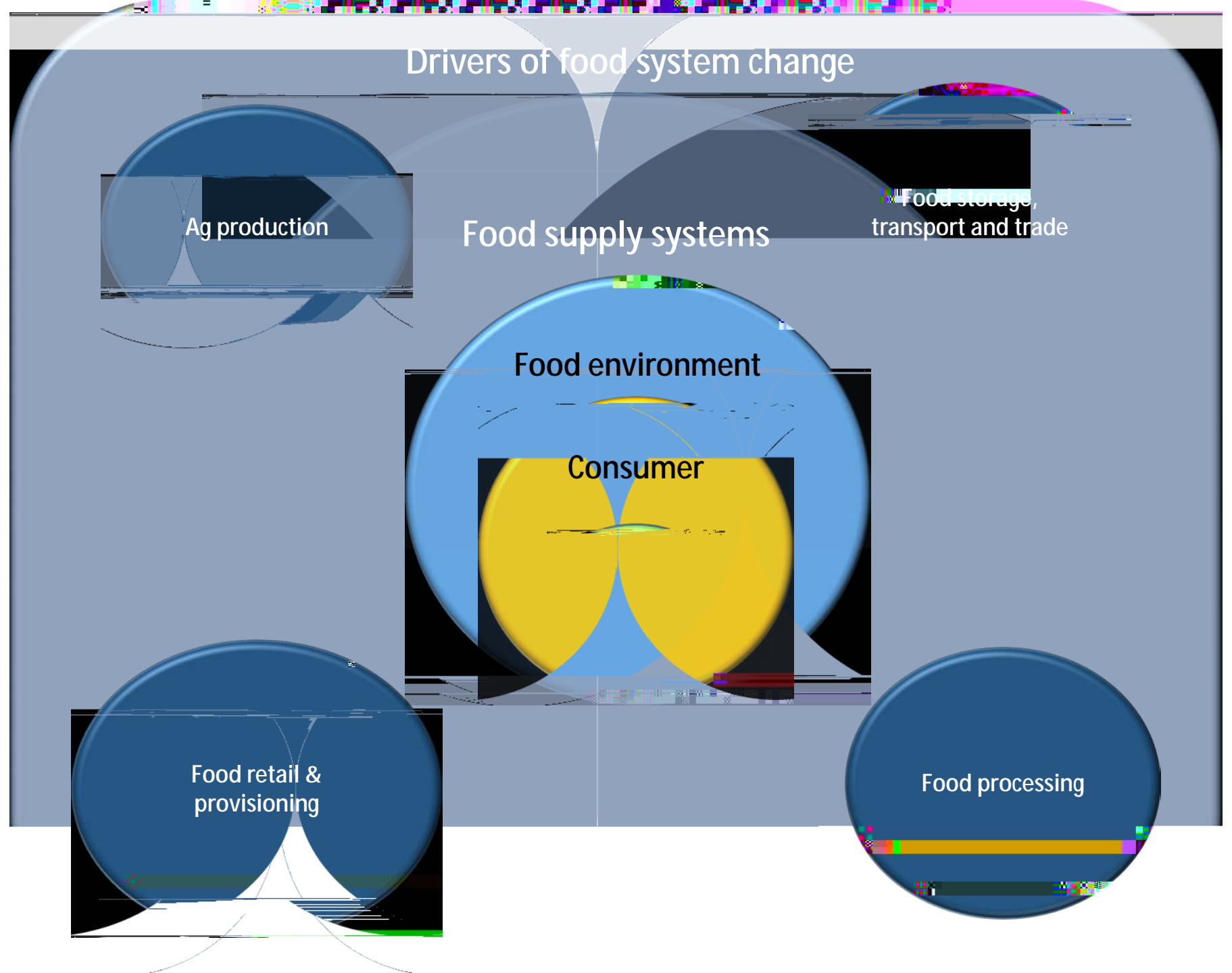
- Policies ~ Strategies ~ implementation plans ~ to district levels
- Coordination bodies
- Common results frameworks
- SUN-Academic Platform or equivalent M&E arrangements;
- Capacity?

The annual cost of undernutrition

How can we do better?

Address context: Estimated contributions of selected factors to changes in HAZ: Bangladesh,

Drivers of food system change



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?"

Outcome: Better, healthier more sustainable diets