

**Evolving Agrifood Systems in Asia:  
Achieving food and nutrition security by  
2030**

**30-31 October 2019**

**Chatrium Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar**



**Improving Food  
Security and  
Nutrition in Sri  
Lanka: A Multi  
Sectoral Approach**

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# Content

- What is food security?
- Is SL food secure?
- What makes SL food (in)secure?
- Policy and Institutional response
- They way forward

# Food Security

*When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996)*

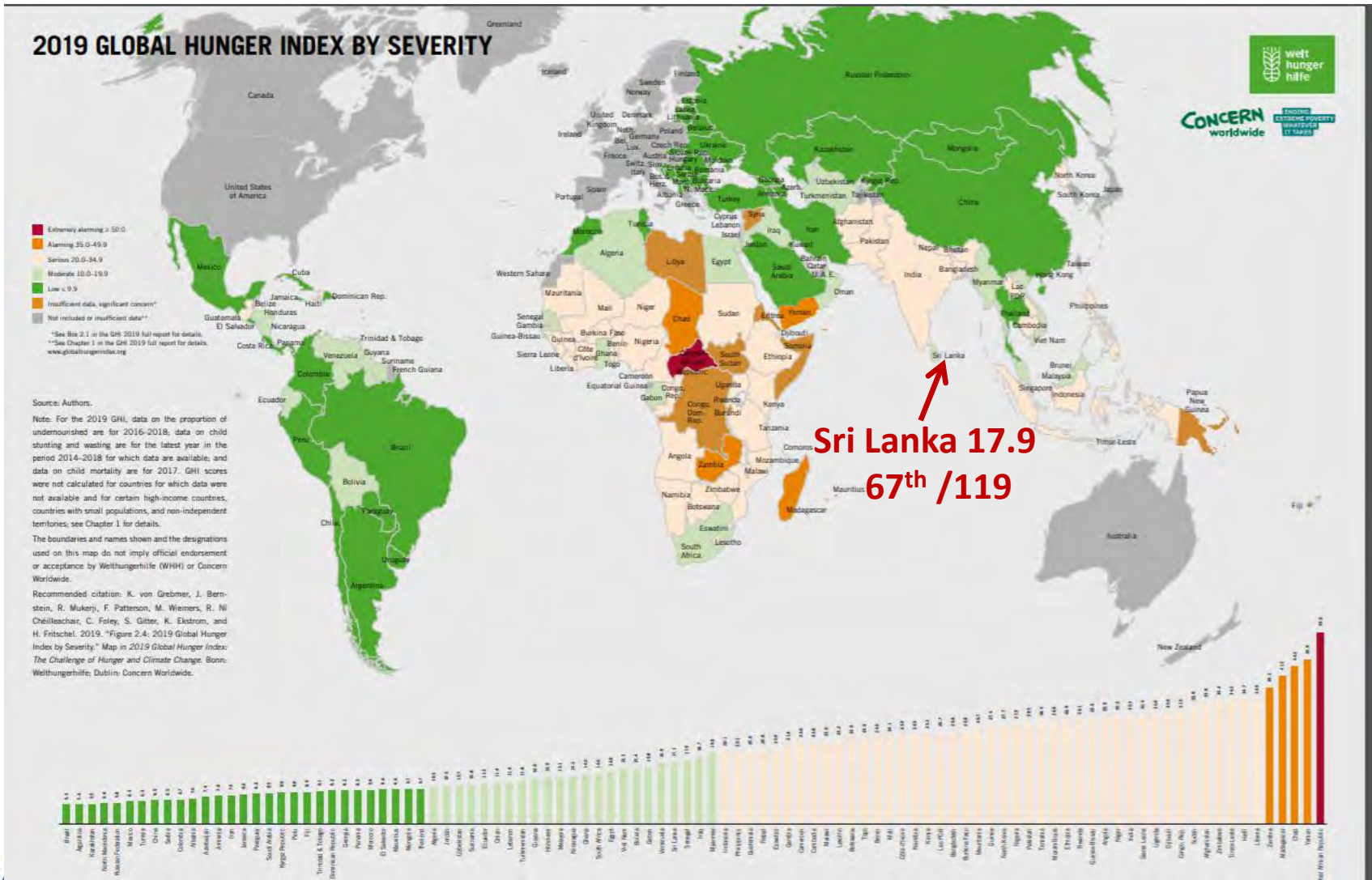


# Is SL Food Secure?

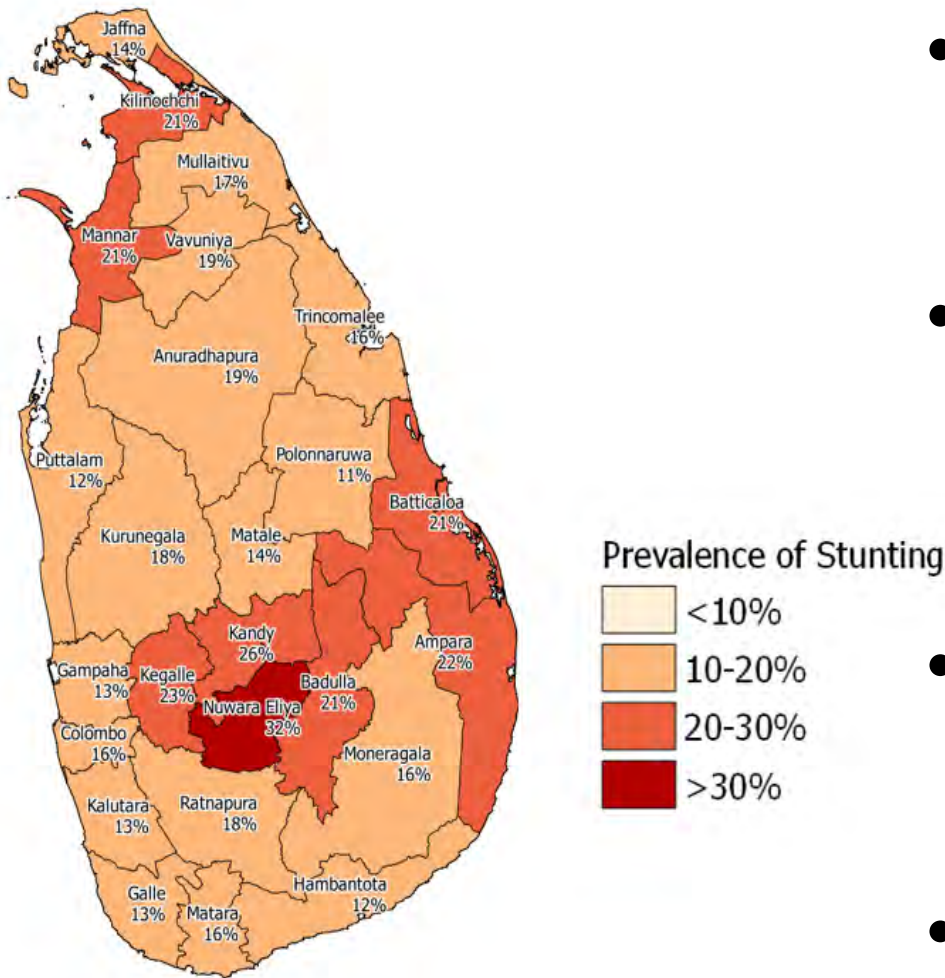




# Global Hunger Index 2018

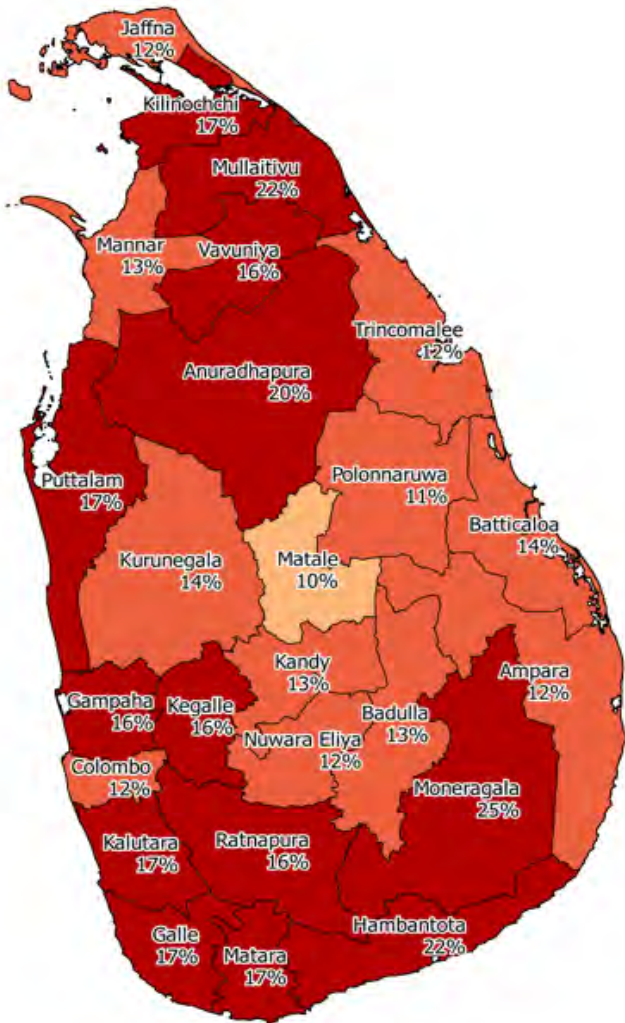


# Stunting Prevalence

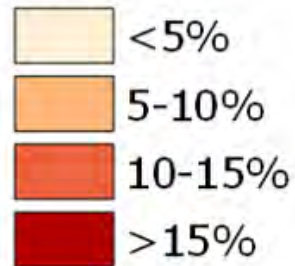


- 50% of children U5 in 1978 → 17% in 2016, stagnated between 15–19 % since 2000
- In the estate sector (32%), it remains twice as high as in rural (17%) or urban (15%) areas.
- Twice as high in the poorest quintile (25%) as in the wealthiest (12%)
- Lowest among children with more educated mothers

# Wasting Prevalence



## Prevalence of Wasting

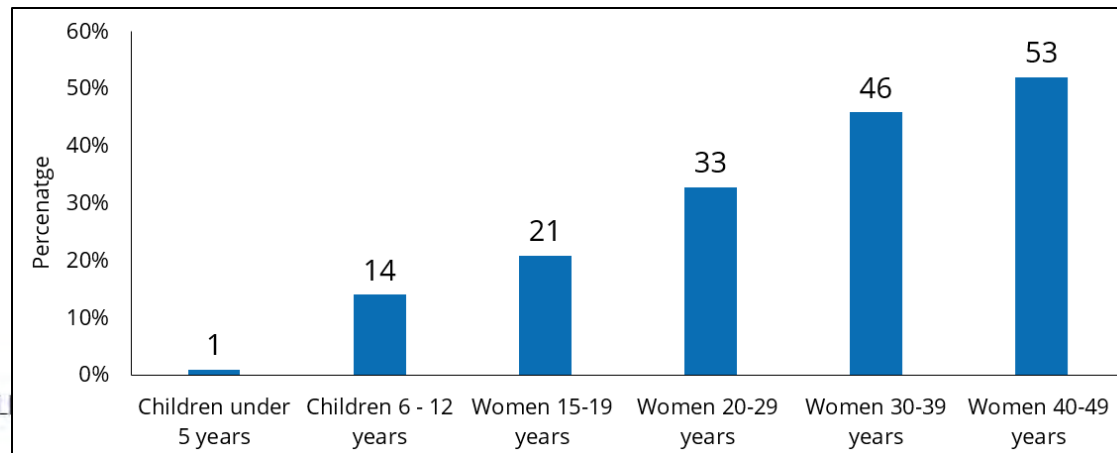


- 15% of children U5 (very high by WHO), with no significant change over the past 40 years
- Reaching as high as 25% in Monaragala
- High in poorest wealth quintile (17%) vs. 10% in the wealthiest quintile
- Lowest among children with more educated mothers



# Overweight/Obesity

- Low among children and adolescents, but 21% of girls aged 15–19 are overweight or obese, a prevalence which increases with age
- 45% of women of reproductive age (15–49 years) are overweight or obese
- Higher in older women, wealthier women, more educated women, and in urban areas



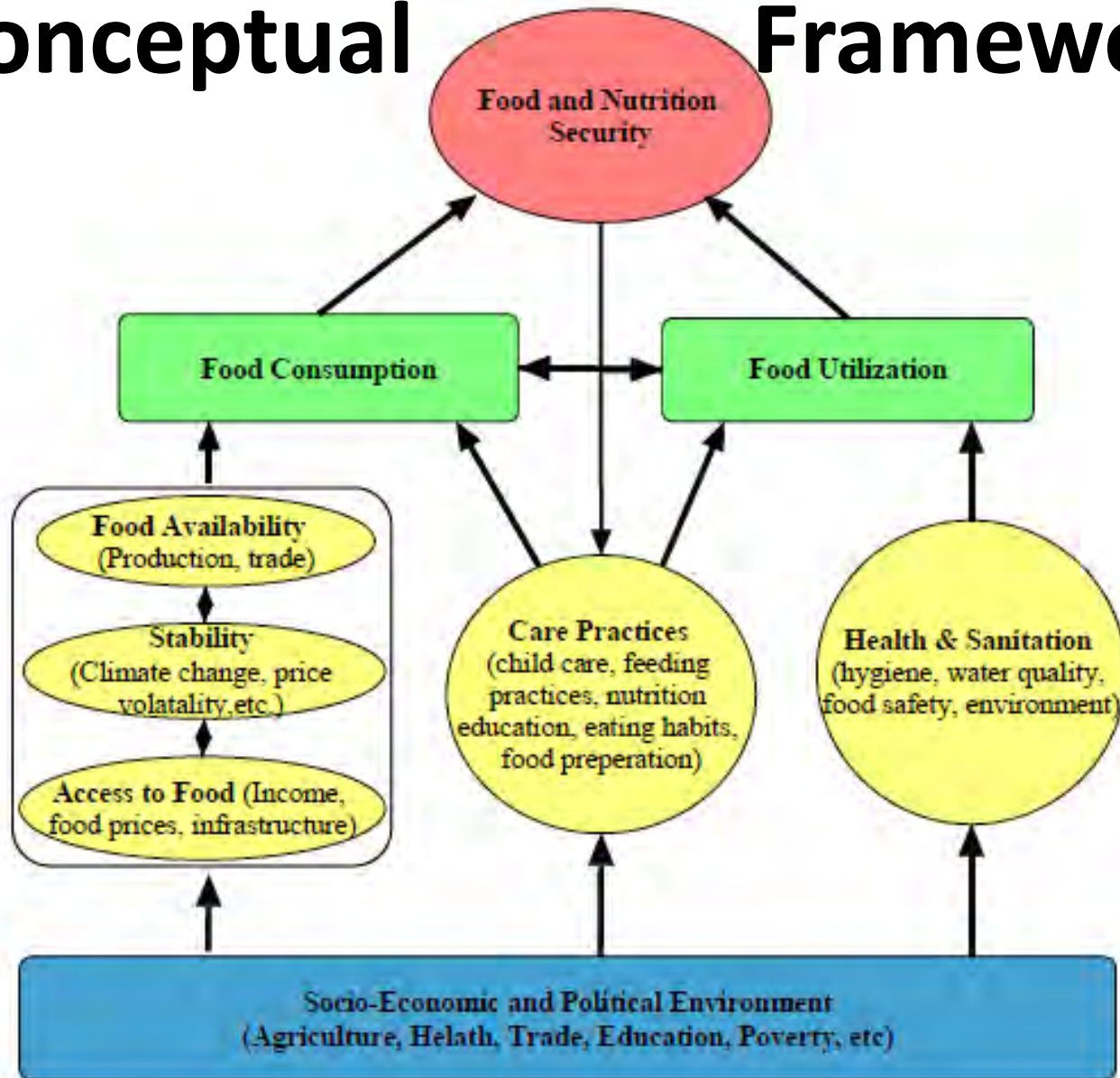
# Micronutrient Deficiencies (MND)

- Prevalence of MNDs (Esp. *Fe* and *Ca*) among children is high
- Anemia prevalence in children U5 showed a steady decrease from 52% in 1970 to 15% in 2012
- There is variation by district (from 5% in Kegalle to 27% in Kilinochchi)
- Children are equally affected across wealth groups (13% in the wealthiest quintile to 18% in the poorest)

# What makes SL food (in)secure?



# Conceptual Framework

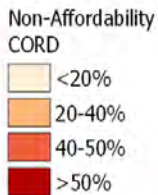
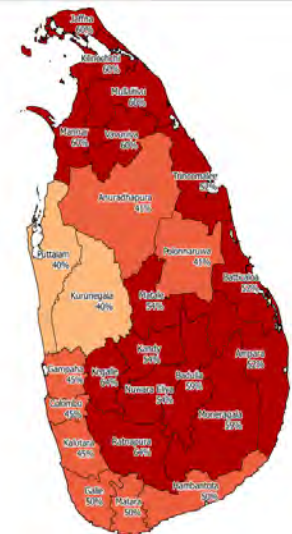
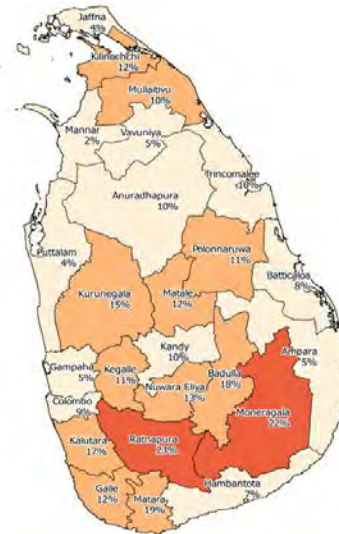
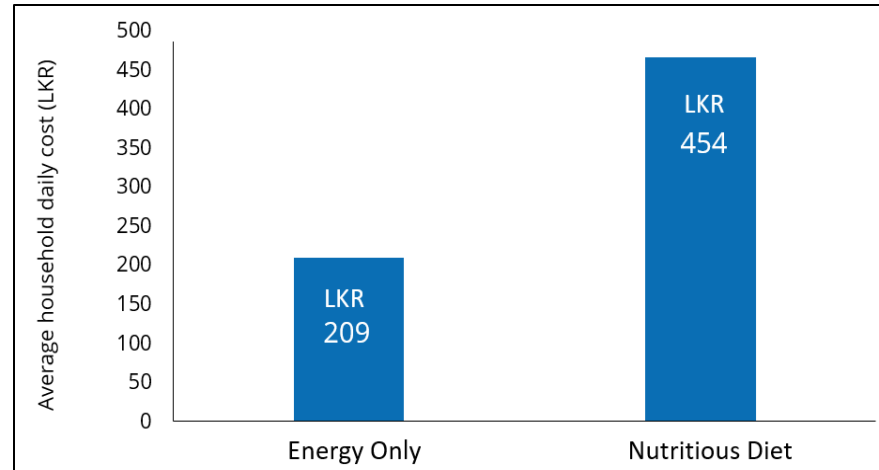


# Food Availability

	National Supply ('000Mt)				Per capita availability		
	Production	Gross Imports	Available supply	Domestic supply rate	Calories /day	Protein g/day	Fat g/day
Cereals	4,297.10	463.37	4,760.47	0.90	1423.98	29.58	1.58
Roots and Tubers	402.04	128.46	530.50	0.76	69.61	0.59	0.09
Sugar	41.99	568.89	610.88	0.07	309.61	0.00	0.00
Pulses & Nuts	51.37	157.41	208.77	0.25	97.74	6.67	2.38
Vegetable	1,023.19	169.49	1,192.68	0.86	78.87	3.70	0.52
T. V. P.	3.74	0.20	3.94	0.95	2.06	0.28	0.01
Fruits	581.60	51.88	633.48	0.92	82.24	1.04	0.25
Meat	147.64	2.42	150.06	0.98	25.43	4.94	0.64
Eggs	76.81	0.03	76.84	1.00	17.59	1.35	1.35
Fish (i) Fresh	457.13	13.50	470.63	0.97	31.58	4.64	1.30
(ii) Dried & Salted	57.08	43.92	101.00	0.57	33.27	6.88	0.55
(iii) Tinned Fish	0.28	20.14	20.42	0.01	4.83	0.59	0.03
Milk (i) Fresh	230.85	0.00	230.85	1.00	15.28	0.68	1.09
(ii) Whole Dried	10.19	83.17	93.36	0.11	62.35	3.24	3.36
(iii) Condensed	5.95	0.03	5.97	1.00	2.63	0.06	0.07
(iv) Milk Food	9.12	0.05	9.17	1.00	0.74	0.05	0.00
Oil & Fats	1027.92	16.01	1,043.92	0.98	372.36	3.02	35.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,423.99</b>	<b>1,718.93</b>	<b>10,142.93</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>2630.14</b>	<b>67.29</b>	<b>48.67</b>

# Access to Food

- This price ranges from LKR 394 in Jaffna/Kilinochchi to LKR 572 in Colombo
- Avg. monthly cost of a nutritious diet (LKR 13,798) < Avg. monthly HH food expenditure (LKR 19,114)



# Stability

- Non-affordability of a nutritious diet may be subject to fluctuations throughout the year
- Variation in food production, prices, and incomes (eg: climate change, PHL) → affect access to a nutritious diet

**Impact of climate change on rice yield in Sri Lanka**

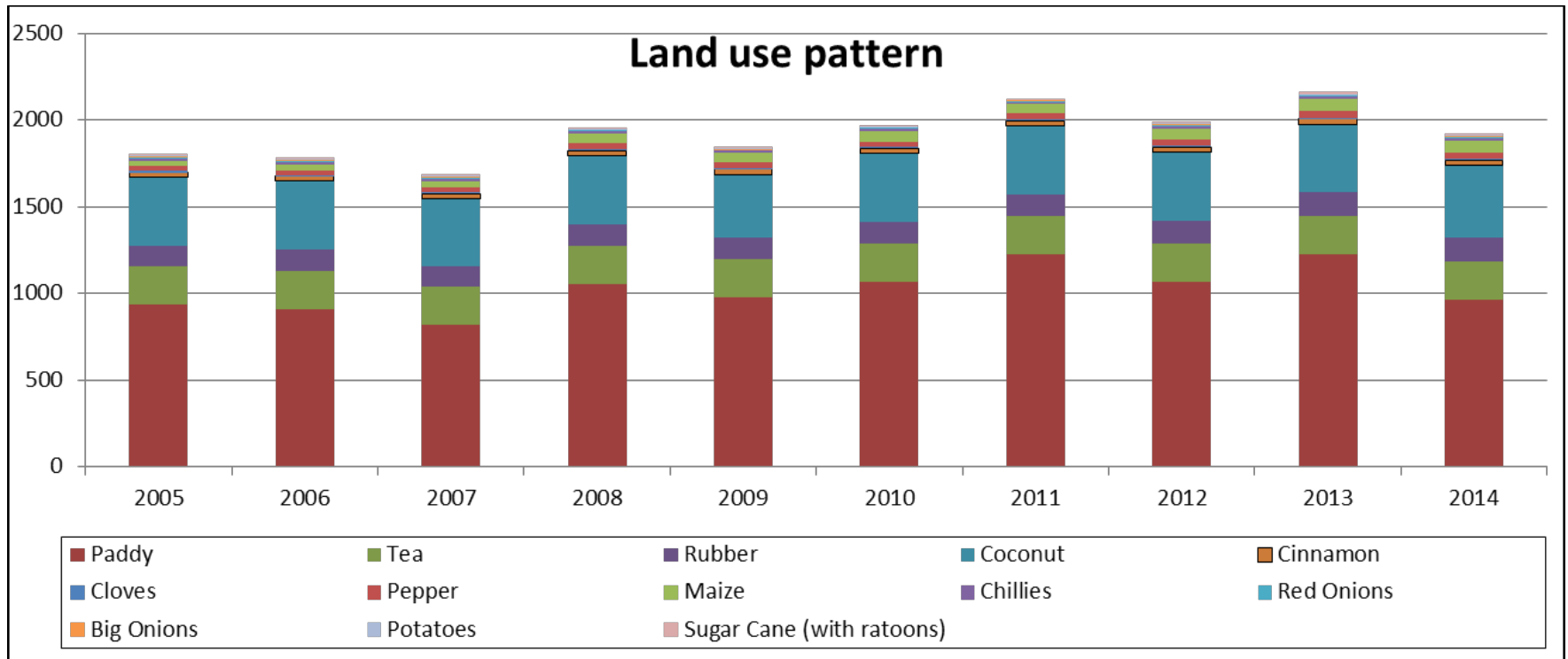
Agro-climatic zone	Current yield (kg/ha)		% change in 2030		% change in 2050		% change in 2080	
	Maha	Yala	Maha	Yala	Maha	Yala	Maha	Yala
Dry-Low	3,498	3,863	-4.2	-6.5	-16.1	-19.8	-29.1	-34.2
Intermediate-Low	4,885	4,612	-2.7	-3.5	-10.6	-15.1	-24.8	-31.5
Intermediate-Mid	4,992	4,761	-1.9	-3.1	-9.3	-12.7	-22.5	-30.3
Intermediate-Upland	3,492	2,955	-1.3	-2.7	-7.5	-11.4	-20.3	-27.5
Wet-Low	3,910	3,711	-0.9	-1.5	-6.0	-10.4	-19.4	-25.1
Wet-Mid	3,538	2,795	-0.8	-1.4	-3.6	-8.2	-18.3	-23.6
Wet-Upland	3,134	2,706	5.7	3.1	2.1	-2.0	-8.6	-12.4

# Yield Stagnation

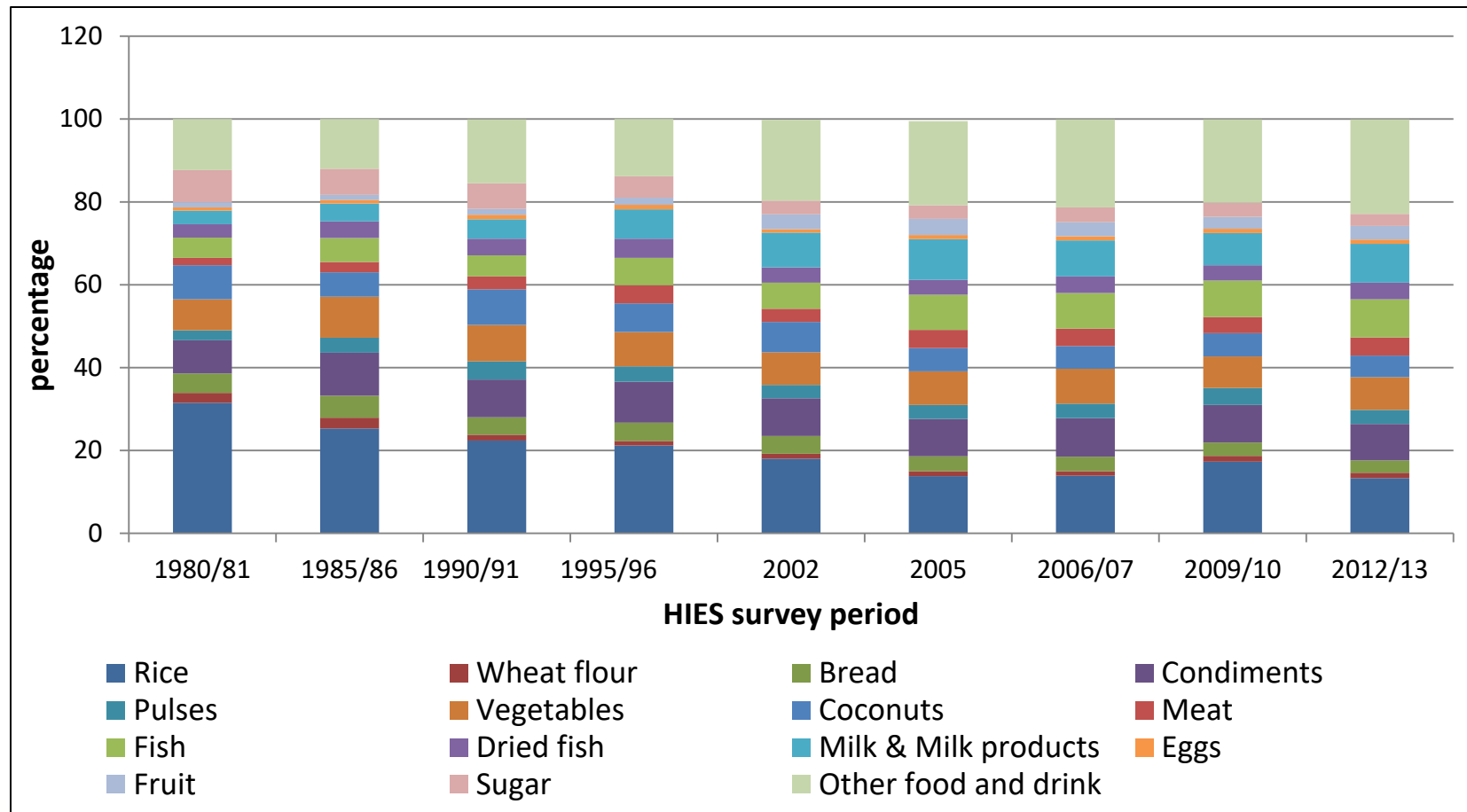
Food product	Yield (t/ha)								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rice	4.5	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.5
Maize	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8
Sorghum	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	2	2.4	1.9
Green gram	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1
Cowpea	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.2
Soya bean	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7
Black gram	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9
Ground nuts	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.8
Red onion	11.9	11.8	11.9	12.1	13.0	12.5	12.8	13.9	15.1
Big onion	11.4	10.8	12.7	13.2	14.3	12.2	12.8	13.9	15.1
Chili	3.7	3.4	4.0	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.8



# Lack of Diversification

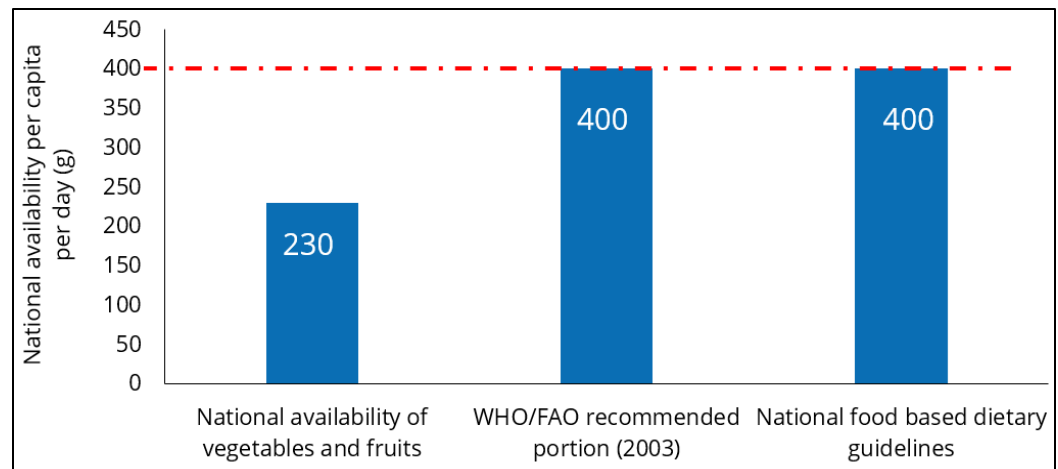
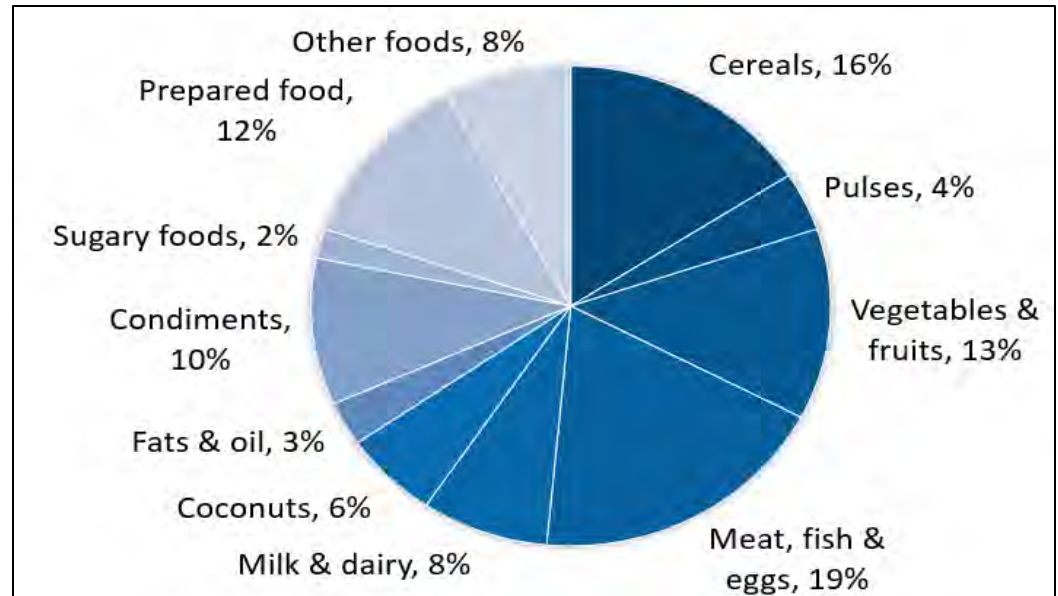


# Allocation of Food Expenditure



# Consumption of Nutritious Food

- Almost half of the food budget on fresh and nutritious foods
- one-third of food expenditure goes toward condiments, prepared food, and uncategorised food



# Policy Response and Institutional framework



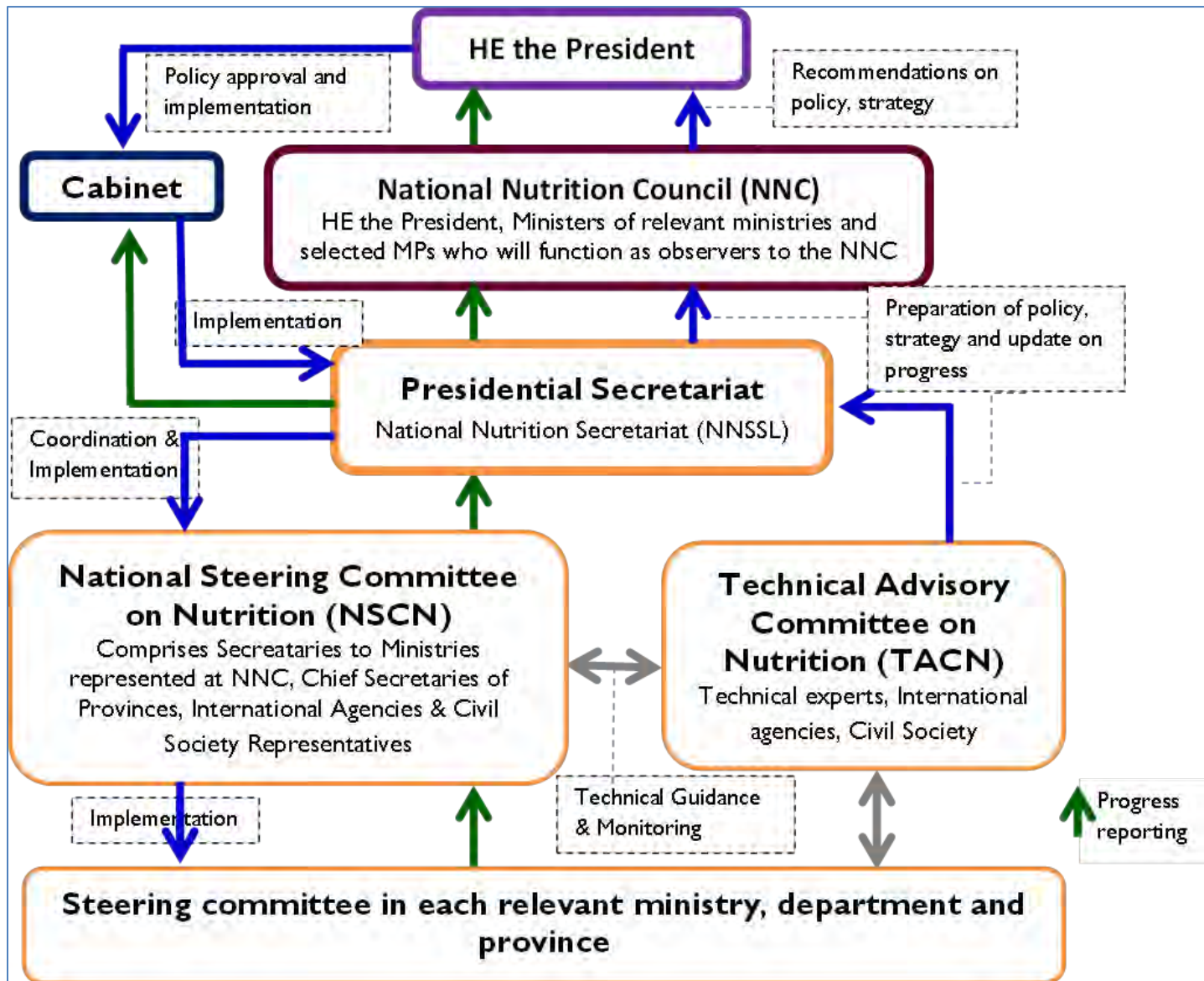
# Policy Responses

- Actions and strategies focused on ensuring food security and nutrition → **NAP (MOA) and NHP (MOH)** with several other policy documents
- The main focus of the past NAPs → self-sufficiency through **increased production of a limited commodity basket** (Not much focus on food security & nutrition sensitiveness)
- NHP → Strengthen the country's public health care system & **providing supplements** to the high prevalence of MNDs (iron, zinc, vitamin A, and iodine)

- **Failed to deliver the required nutrition outcomes** in the country at a macro level
  - lack of human resource capacities and
  - failures in providing adequate nutrition counselling and education
- The problem of food insecurity **does not lie only in the agriculture and health** sector domains
- **Insufficient coordination** among these institutions and the **absence of a central theme**

- NNP 2010 provides a platform for inter-sectoral coordination in order to accelerate achieving nutrition for all
- The Multi-sectoral Action Plan on Nutrition (MSAPN) 2013-2016 → sets targets and milestones to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition as well as to improve food security

# Institutional Framework





# The Way Forward

- Large numbers of different agencies are involved in enforcing and implementing food security policies and programmes → problems of coordination and inter-agency friction (NNP 2019)
- Food security policy package should be adopted by the state as one of the top policy priorities for a stipulated time horizon under a single institutional umbrella (MSAPN 2018-2025)
- Develop a monitoring & evaluation plan and an advocacy and communications strategy for national and sub-national level (MSAPN 2018 – 2025)
- Finalise District Action Plans based on MSAPN 2018–2025 for all 25 districts

# Thank you




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