

Food Security, Nutrition and Price Stability

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

for a world without hunger

Questions: food security, nutrition and price stability

- How should these three aspects be addressed in a post-2015 UN development agenda?
- What role can international institutions play in ensuring food price stability?

What are some key challenges to food and nutrition security?

- ❑ Protracted crises situations
- ❑ Population growth (60% rise in food prodn by 2050)
- ❑ High and volatile food prices
- ❑ Human/economic cost of natural disasters (climate change)
- ❑ agricultural productivity growth declining
- ❑ urbanization & rising incomes
- ❑ Overconsumption & rising obesity rates

How should food security and nutrition concerns be addressed?

Process: use existing mechanisms and agreements:

- Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
 - Developing a *global strategic framework for food security and nutrition*
- UN-SCN, SUN, REACH, UN-HLTF
- “Voluntary guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food”
(*negotiated document*)

How should food security and nutrition concerns be addressed? (2)

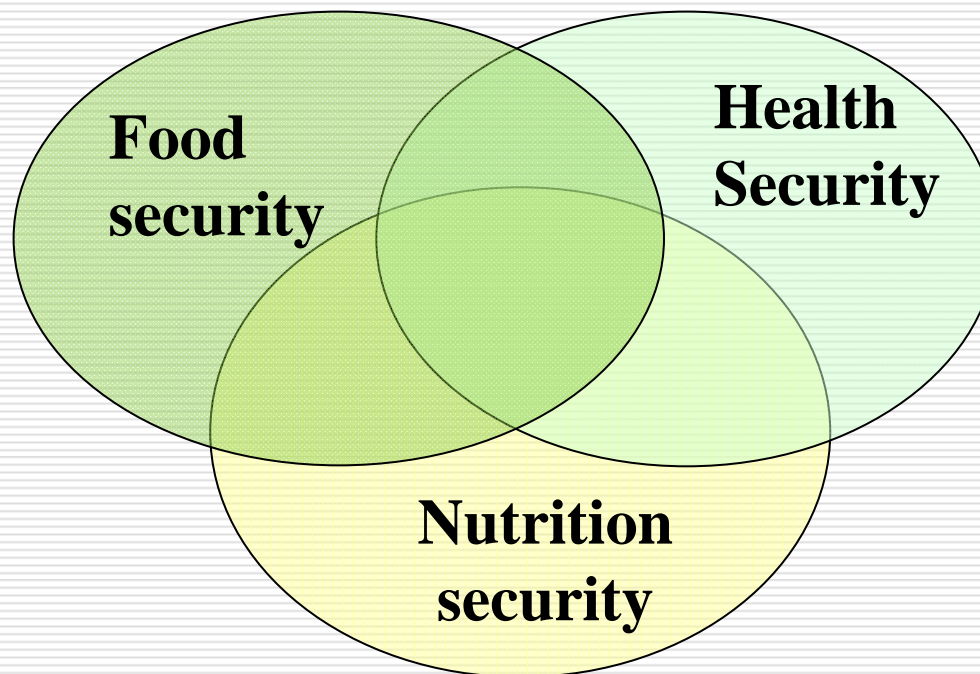
Cross-sectorally – and at different levels – appropriate for each level (*not exhaustive*):

- *Global level*: market transparency, policy coherence, monitoring, improved governance
- *Regional/country*: as above, plus: investment in agriculture and food systems, healthy diets
- *Household & individual levels*: wealth creation, health and sanitation, care and feeding

A focus on people and human well-being

At household and individual level:

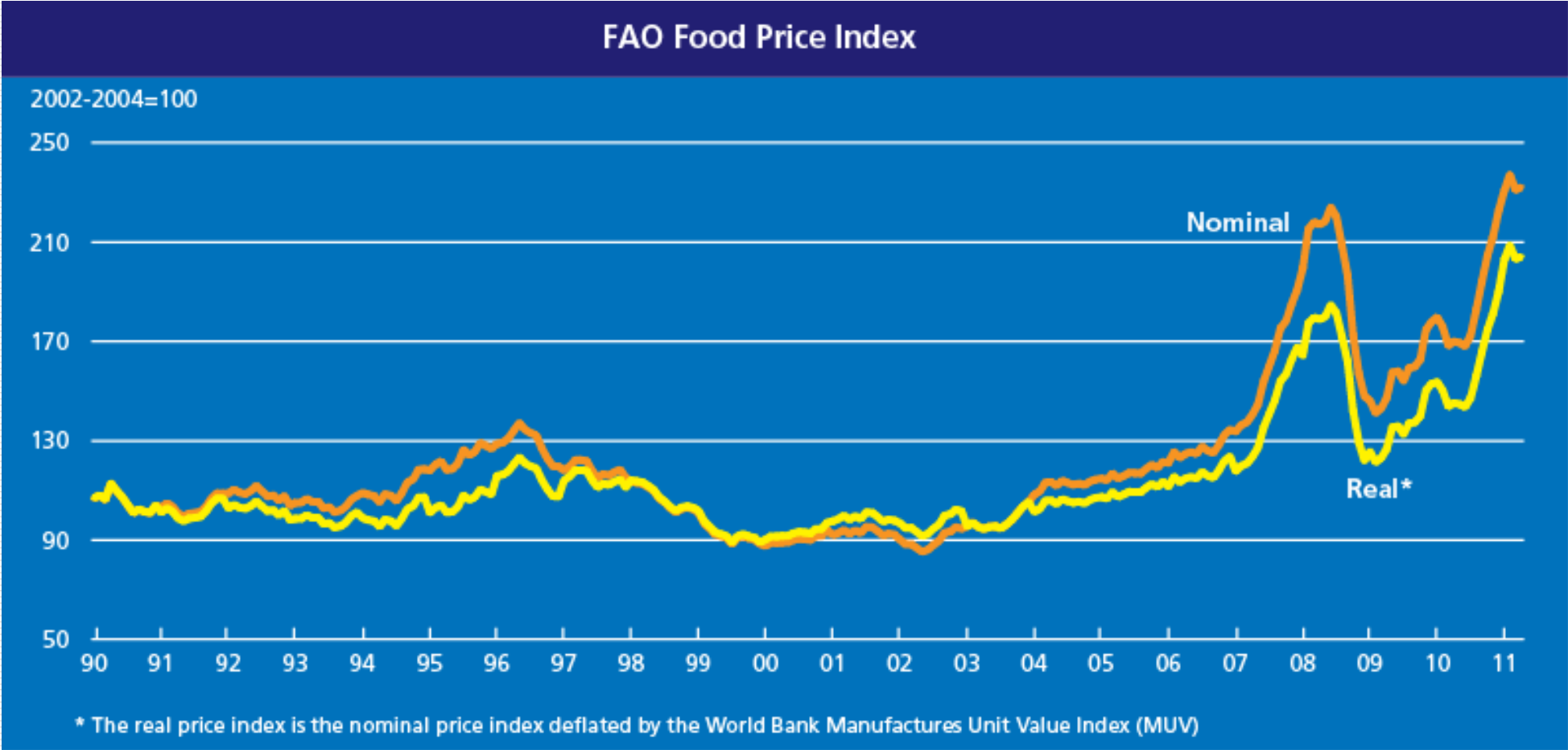
it's about investment in human well-being:



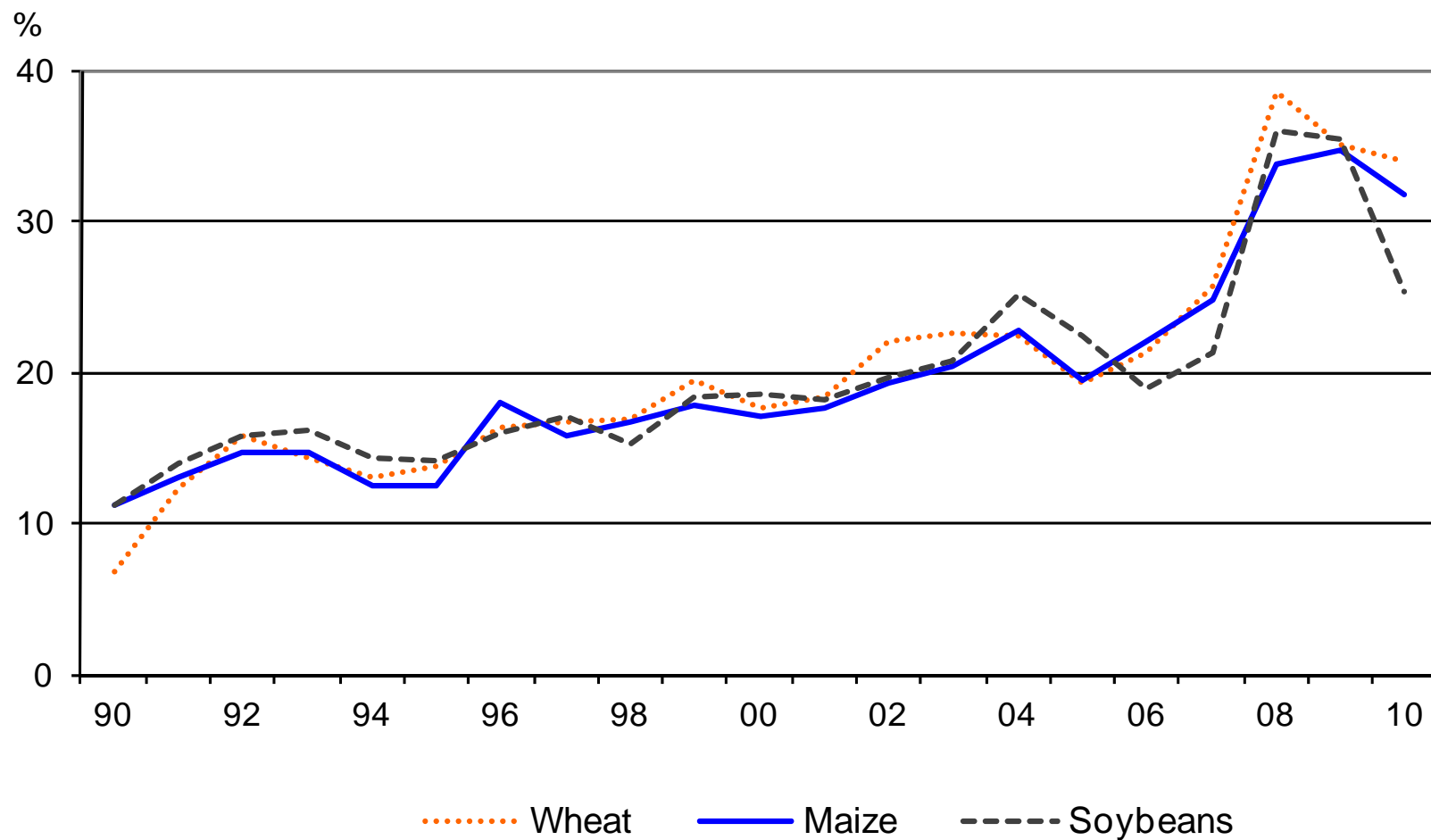
What are some key ingredients to success?

- ❑ Empower women (equal access to productive resources: 2.5-4% increase in agric. production; 100-150m less hungry) FAO/SOFA 2011
- ❑ Build rural skills and knowledge
- ❑ Combat the double burden of malnutrition
- ❑ Strengthen household resilience to shocks
- ❑ Empower the poor to manage risks

Price volatility – the calm before the storm



Food price volatility: 1990-2010



Why high and volatile food prices?

- ❑ Historically low stock levels
- ❑ Weather shocks – drought, floods
- ❑ Rising demand for food (increased incomes)
- ❑ Restrictive trade policies (e.g. surge in rice price)
- ❑ Biofuels (incl. subsidies)
- ❑ Rising oil prices
- ❑ Financial markets (agricultural futures/derivatives)

What role can international institutions play in ensuring food price stability?

Policies to mitigate the effect of food price volatility (SOFI 2011, CFS HLPE, G20)

- ❑ Investment in agricultural production and productivity
- ❑ Attention to smallholders (esp. women; young farmers)
- ❑ Strengthen resilience of food systems
- ❑ Increase transparency through market information
- ❑ Trade policies that promote private sector participation
- ❑ Targeted safety nets designed with the most vulnerable
- ❑ Risk management, including emergency food reserves

Thank you

What is food security?

Food security exists 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.

World Food Summit, November 1996

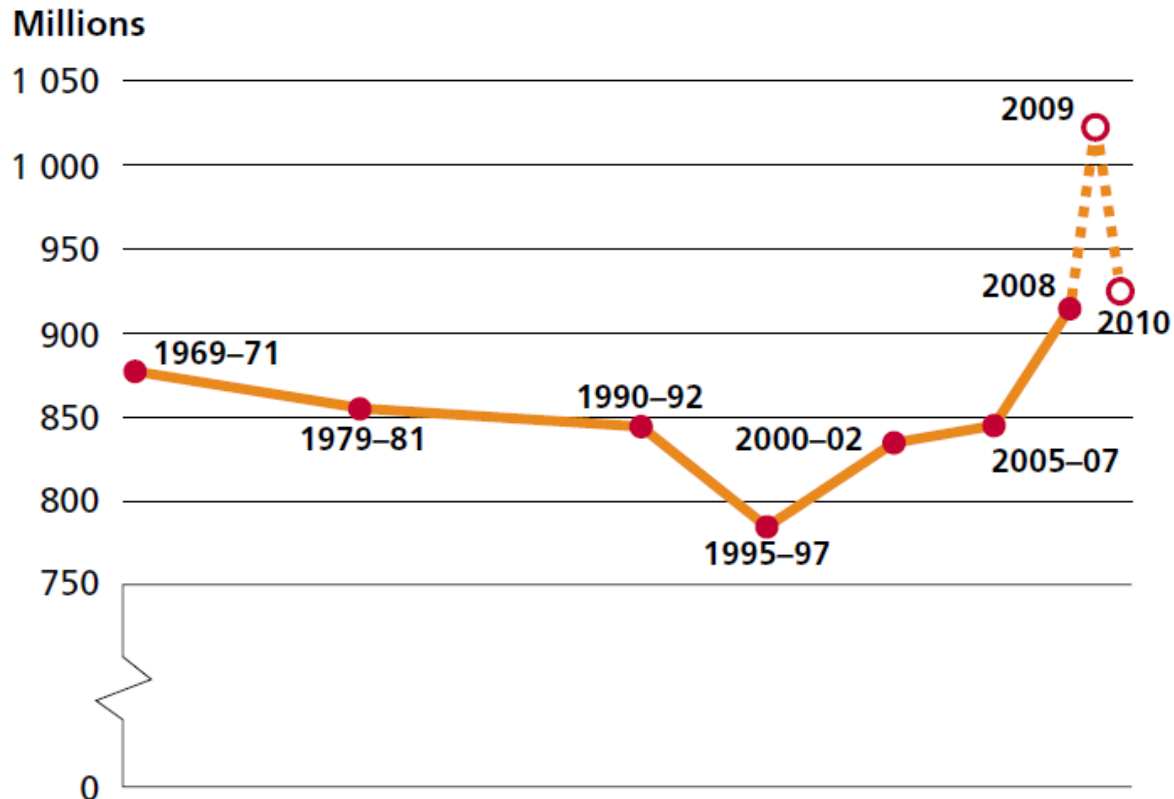
Four dimensions: availability, access, utilization, stability

Key messages

- ❑ High food prices (surge) have affected national, household and individual level food security
- ❑ Driving forces must be fully understood for appropriate action to be taken
- ❑ Persistently high and volatile food prices pose a major risk to development (short and long term)
- ❑ Policy changes and investment are urgently needed

Global hunger: serious set-backs after years of progress

Number of undernourished people in the world, 1969-71 to 2010



Too many still suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition

- ❑ Absolute numbers of hungry are more today than in 1990 (FAO est. 925m in 2010-11)
- ❑ Proportion of undernourished (MDG1) down, but not (yet) on target for 2015
- ❑ 10m children/year die before their 5th birthday (1/3 due to undernutrition)
- ❑ 178m children stunted; 148m underweight
- ❑ Micro-nutrient deficiency ('hidden hunger') affects more than 2 billion people