

# **Food Security** - “big picture” of global challenges and some directions for action

---

**Joachim von Braun**

Director General

International Food Policy Research Institute

The National Academies - GUIRR  
Washington DC, October 22, 2008

# What intellectual framework?

---

- Distinguish endogenous and exogenous food security issues
- Take note of globalization of food systems
- Address short and long term food security
- Consider changing actors for governance and action
- Combine and optimize institutional *and* technological innovation in the food systems

# The Changing Equation of Food and Agriculture

---

## Supply

Land

Water

Inputs & Transport costs

Workforce

Climate change

Agrarian structure

Technology

## Demand

Income growth

Poverty and inequality

Consumer behavior

Bioenergy

Biomass (CO<sub>2</sub>)

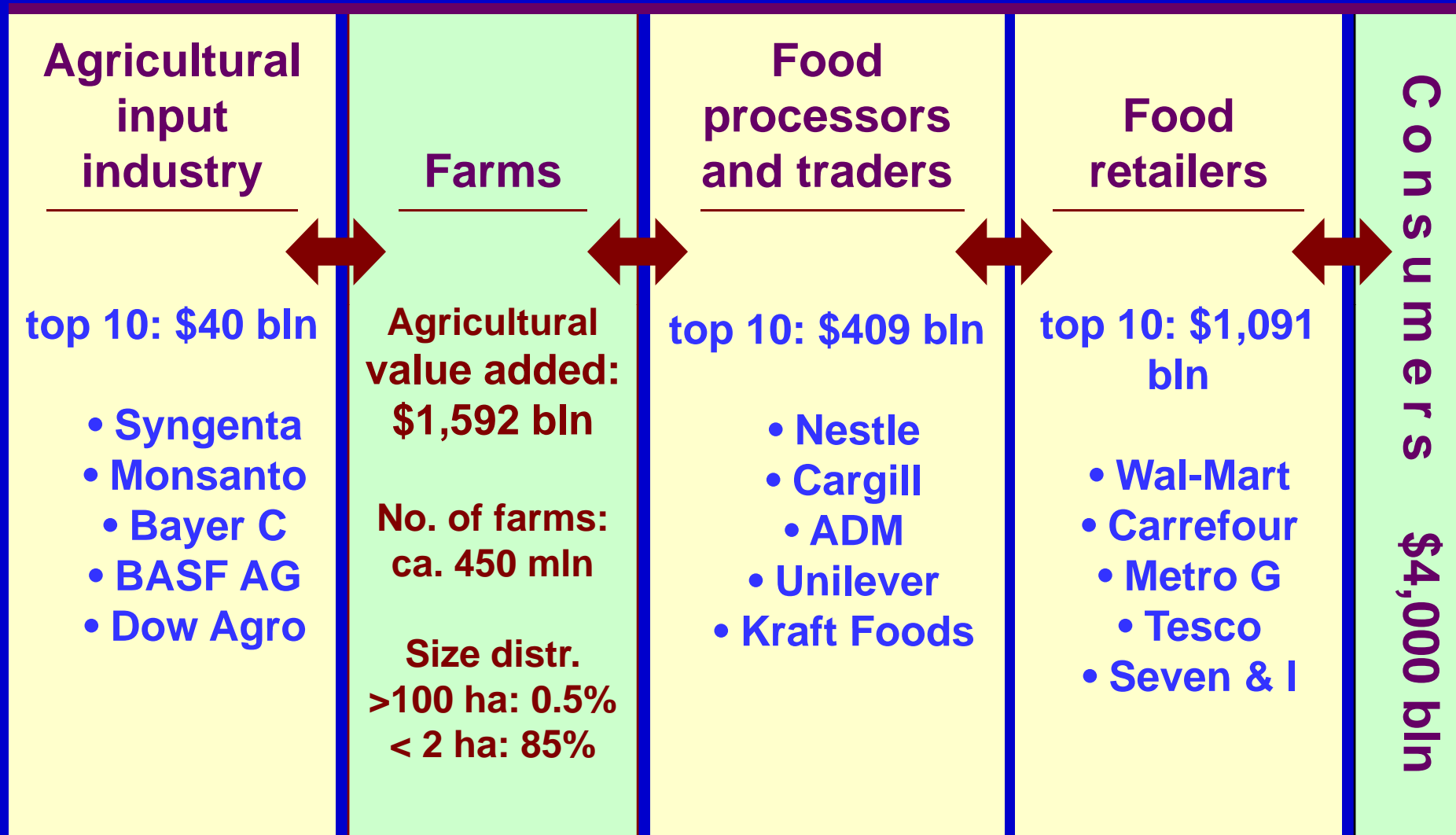
## Processing, Markets & Trade

Information & Standards

Food safety

Supermarkets

# Globalization of the agri-food business chain



Source: von Braun 2008.

# Overview

---

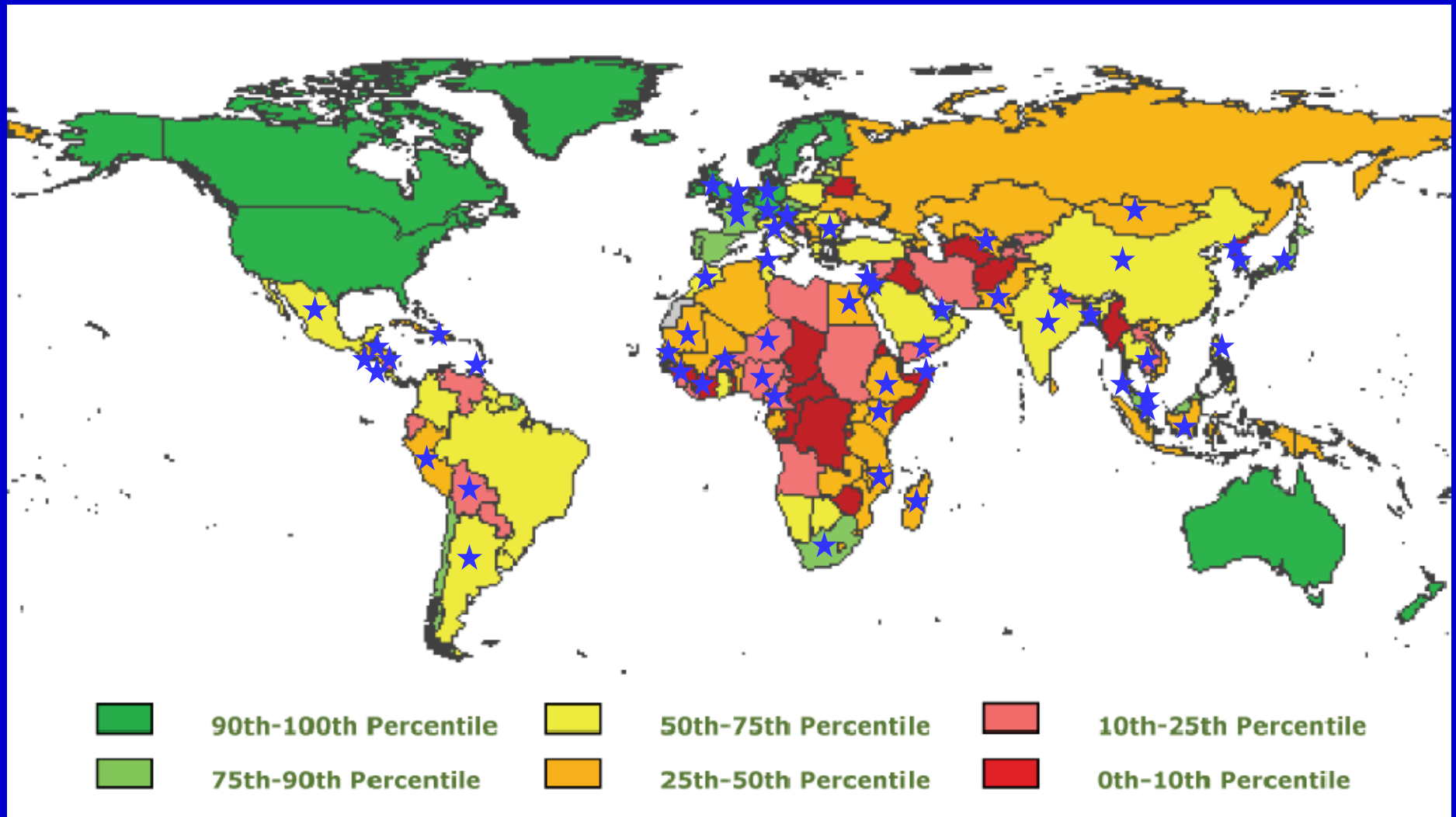
- 1. Global and national food governance architecture**
- 2. Food market policy**
- 3. Nutrition and social protection policy**
- 4. Agricultural science policy**
- 5. Priorities for action**

# **Food-related global public goods that must be addressed by governance architecture**

---

- **Global food emergency responses**
- **Trade and standards**
- **Competition policy**
- **International agricultural research**
- **Food safety and agriculture – health links**
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation**
- **Cross-boundary water**
- **Natural resources (soils, genetic resources, etc.)**

# Government effectiveness 2007 & food protests



# Biofuels: Fundamental change in world food price determination

---

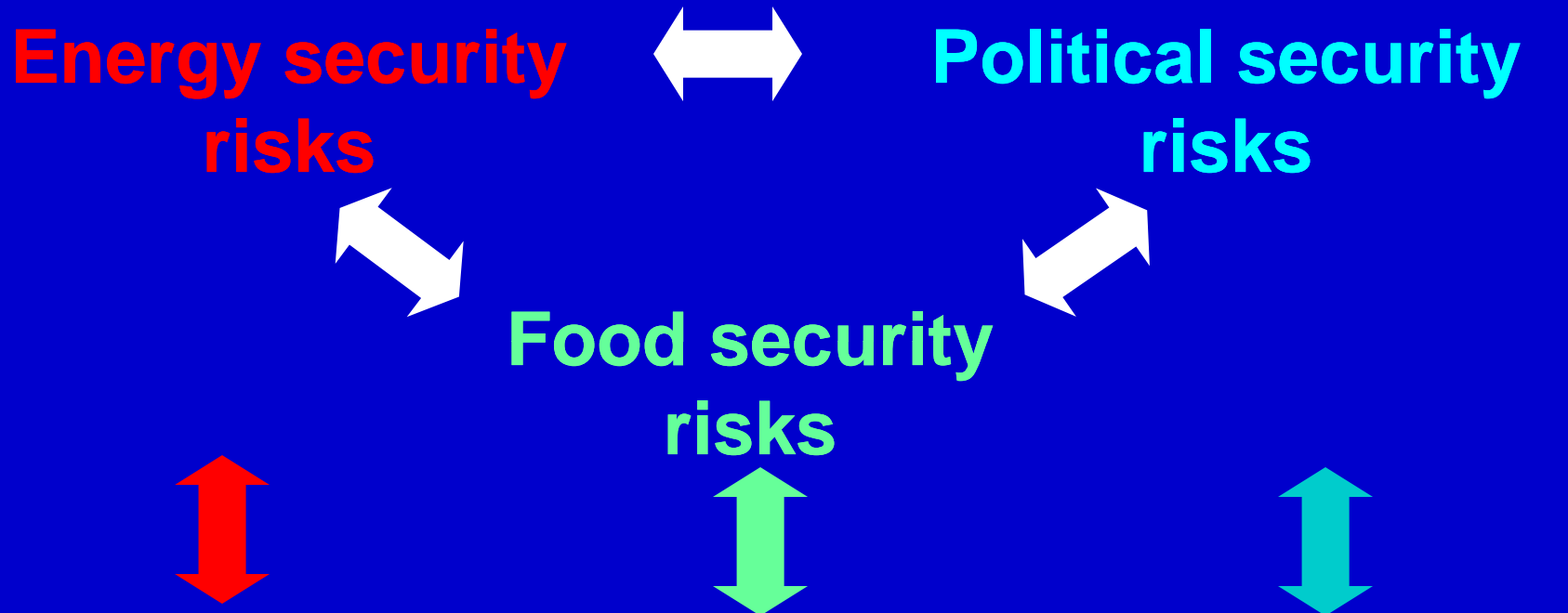
Energy prices now strongly affect not just agric. input prices, but also output prices via grain and oil seed based biofuel competition

Elastic energy demand creates price bands for agricultural commodities

**Increased biofuel demand in 2000-07 contributed to 30% of weighted average increase of global grain prices**

# Food security policy tradeoffs

---



- + Mass protests in almost 60 countries***
- + Inflation and macro-economic imbalances***
- + Environmental sustainability consequences***

# **Options for the new global governance system design**

---

- 1. Improve existing institutions + umbrella structure for food and agriculture**
- 2. Form an innovative government - to - government network**
- 3. Expand current system to explicitly engage new players**

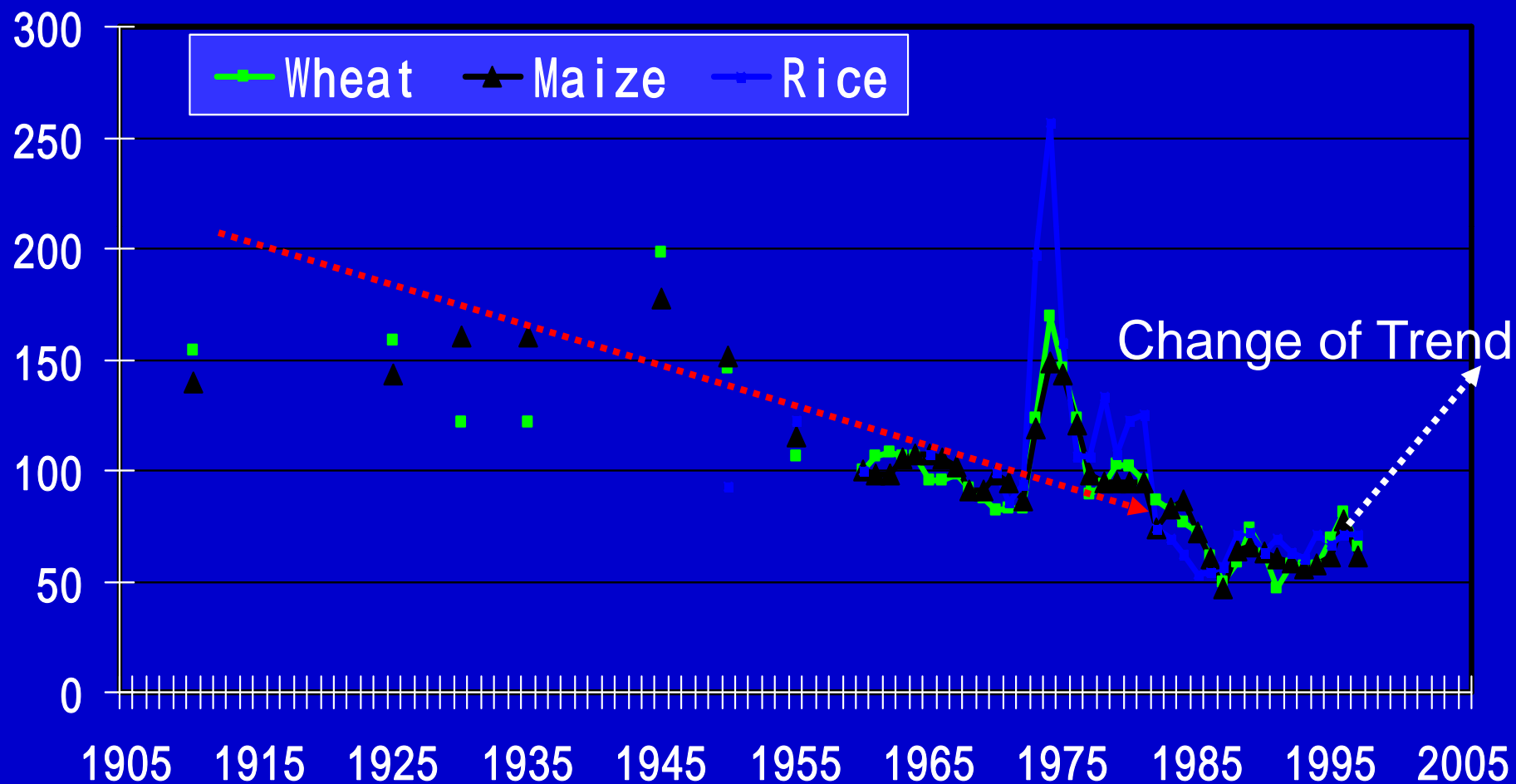
# Overview

---

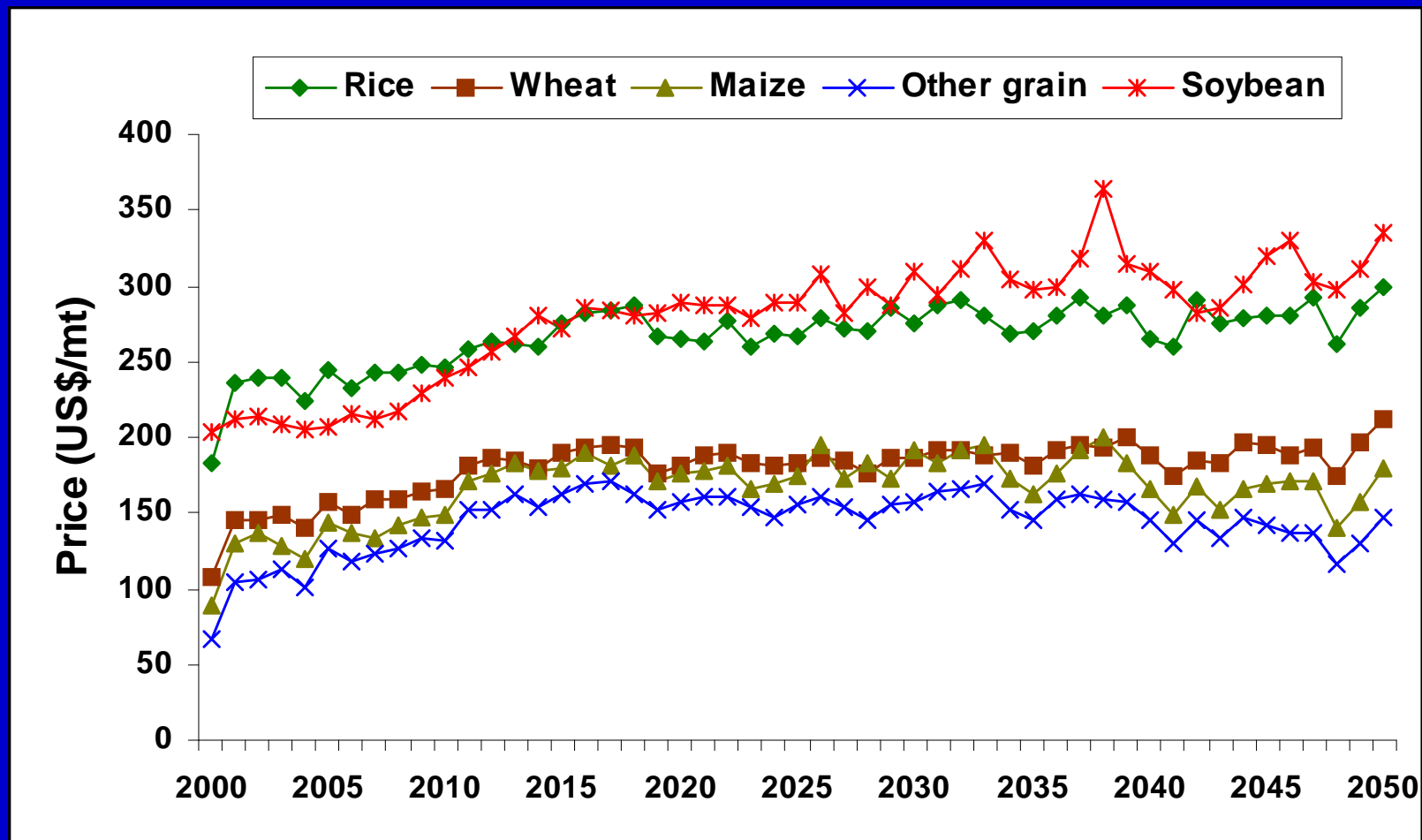
1. Global and national food governance architecture
2. **Food market policy**
3. Nutrition and social protection policy
4. Agricultural science policy
5. Priorities for action

# Cereal Price - Index 1905 - 2000

(All prices = 100 in 1960)



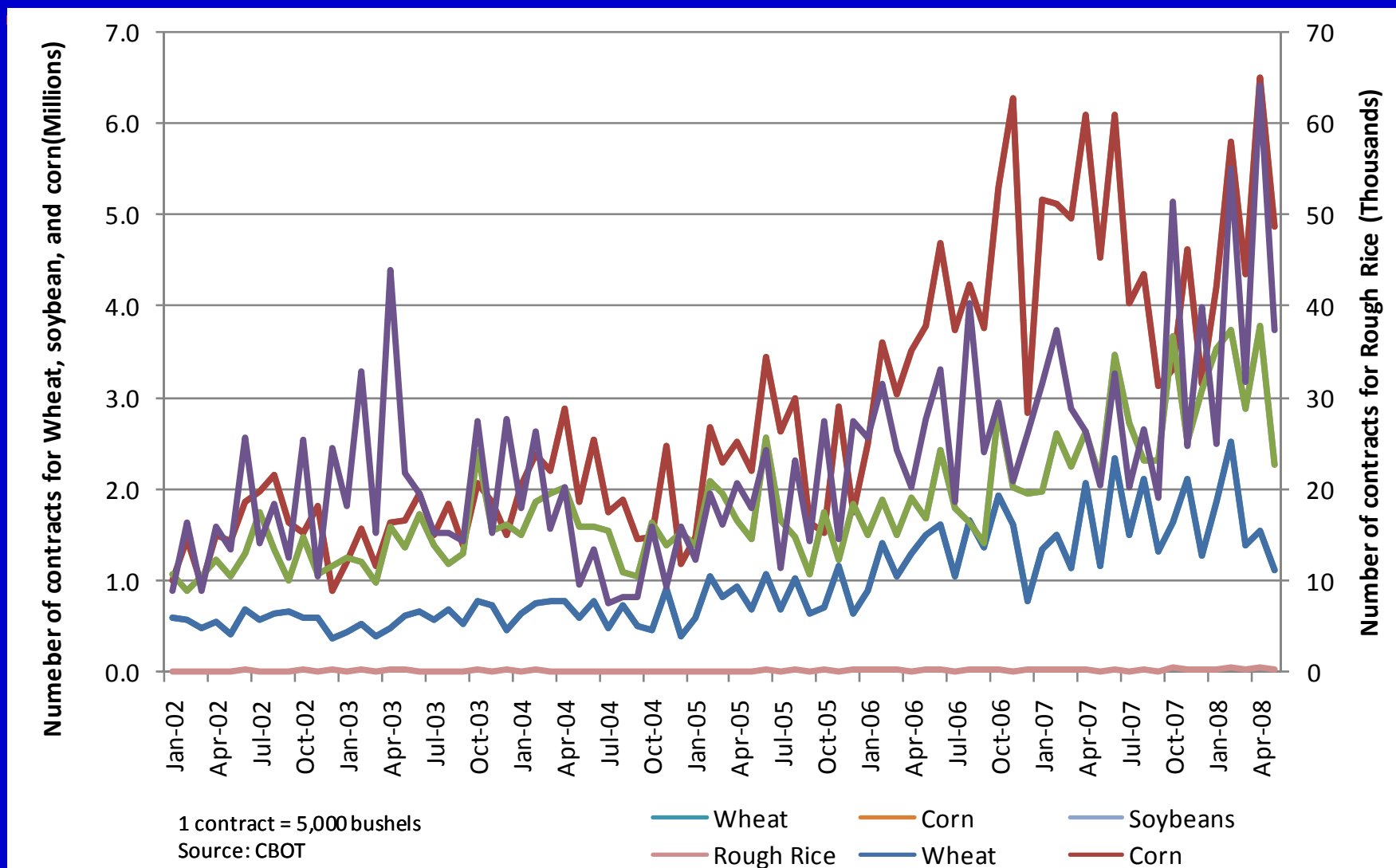
# Real world cereal prices projected to rise 20-40 percent beyond current levels



Source: IFPRI IMPACT projections, business as usual, IPCC SRESB2 climate scenario, September 2007.; Mark Rosegrant

Joachim von Braun, IFPRI, October 2008

## a. Increase in volume



SOURCE: U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

# **Ad hoc trade measures add up to policy failures**

---

- **Export bans/restrictions:**
  - Reduce global market size, increase volatility, and harm import-dependent trading partners
- **Categories of speculators:**
  - Governments, farmers, households, small traders
  - Commercial traders
  - Non-commercial traders

**In Q1 of 2008 futures & options up by 32%**

# Virtual grain reserve policies needed

---

## 1. Independent emergency reserve

- Supplied by major producing countries, funded by G8+5, managed by WFP

## 2. Virtual global reserve

- Promissory resources by each participant
- Guided by high-level technical commission
- Intervention through futures markets

# Overview

---

1. Global and national food governance architecture
2. Food market policy
3. **Nutrition and social protection policy**
4. Agricultural science policy
5. Priorities for action

# A meal for 4 ?

---



# Loss in Purchasing Power: e.g. in El Salvador

---



**In rural areas of El Salvador households can now buy only 56% of what they used to buy 18 months before with the same amount of money**

**Source: WFP with data from DIGESTYC, EHPM, 2003 y MAG, División de Información de Mercado, mayo 06- enero 08. Análisis: PMA, El Salvador, 2008.**

# **Price is only one aspect of food security:**

## **Slow progress in hunger reduction**

---

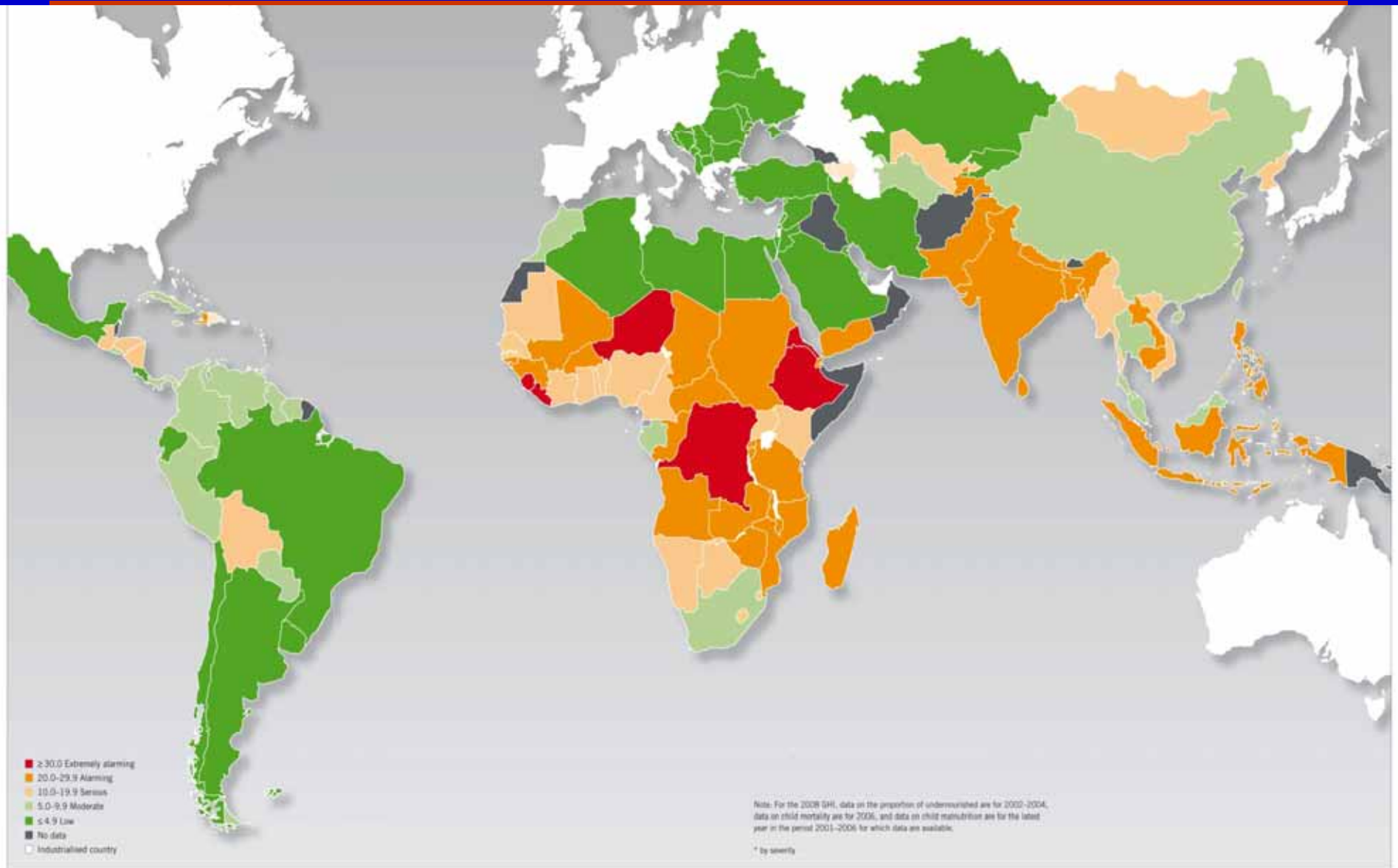
	<b>1990</b>	<b>Most recent*</b>
<b>Proportion of undernourished (%)</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Underweight in children (%)</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<b>Under-five mortality rate (%)</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>

**\*Undernourishment: 2007**

**Underweight: most recent year in 2001-2006**

**Mortality: 2006**

# 2008 Global Hunger Index



# GHI-Winners and Losers

## 1990 - 2008

### 10 Best-Performing Countries (percentage change in GHI)

Kuwait	-72.4
Peru	-71.1
Syrian Arab Republic	-51.7
Turkey	-51.0
Mexico	-50.8
Egypt	-50.1
Vietnam	-47.2
Thailand	-45.9
Brazil	-45.6
Iran	-43.9

### 10 Worst-Performing Countries (percentage change in GHI)

Congo, Dem. Rep.	+67.6
North Korea	+42.8
Swaziland	+32.3
Guinea-Bissau	+19.3
Zimbabwe	+18.0
Burundi	+17.4
Liberia	+16.6
Comoros	+9.9
Botswana	+7.3
Zambia	+0.3

# Impacts of high food prices

---

Impacts driven by initial conditions and adjustments in labor, finance, and goods markets

- A 50% increase in food prices in Bangladesh = 25% more prevalence of iron deficiency in women and children (Bouis 2008)
- Other malign effects: withdrawal of girls from school, distress sale of productive assets, etc.

# Nutrition policies

---

## Priority areas:

- **(Conditional) cash transfers**
- **Early childhood nutrition**
- **School feeding**
- **Employment-based food security programs**

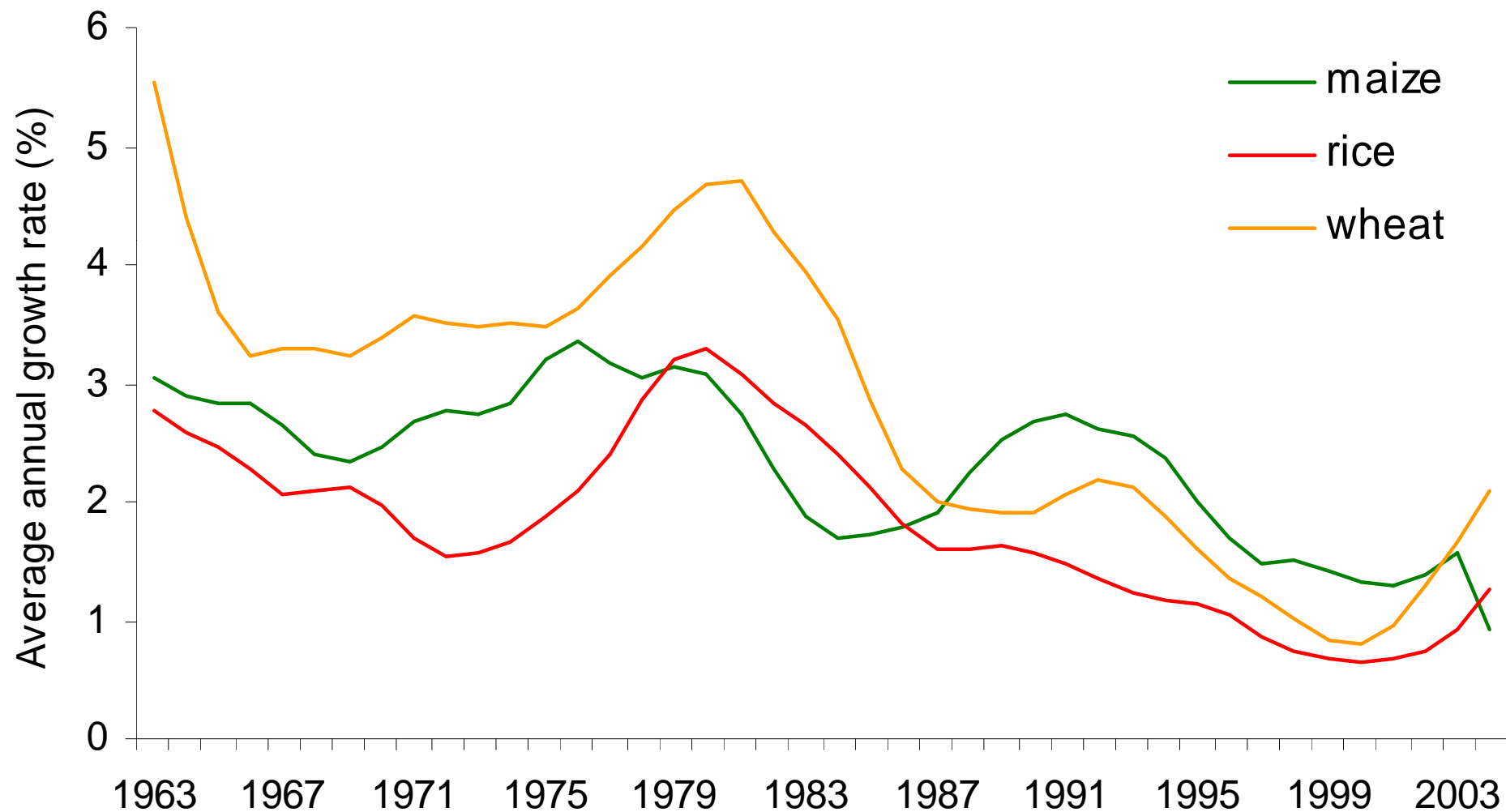
**Children's nutrition is crucial for their  
productivity and earnings as adults**

# Overview

---

1. Global and national food governance architecture
2. Food market policy
3. Nutrition and social protection policy
4. **Agricultural science policy**
5. Priorities for action

# Productivity growth is declining



# Agricultural total factor productivity growth in developing countries

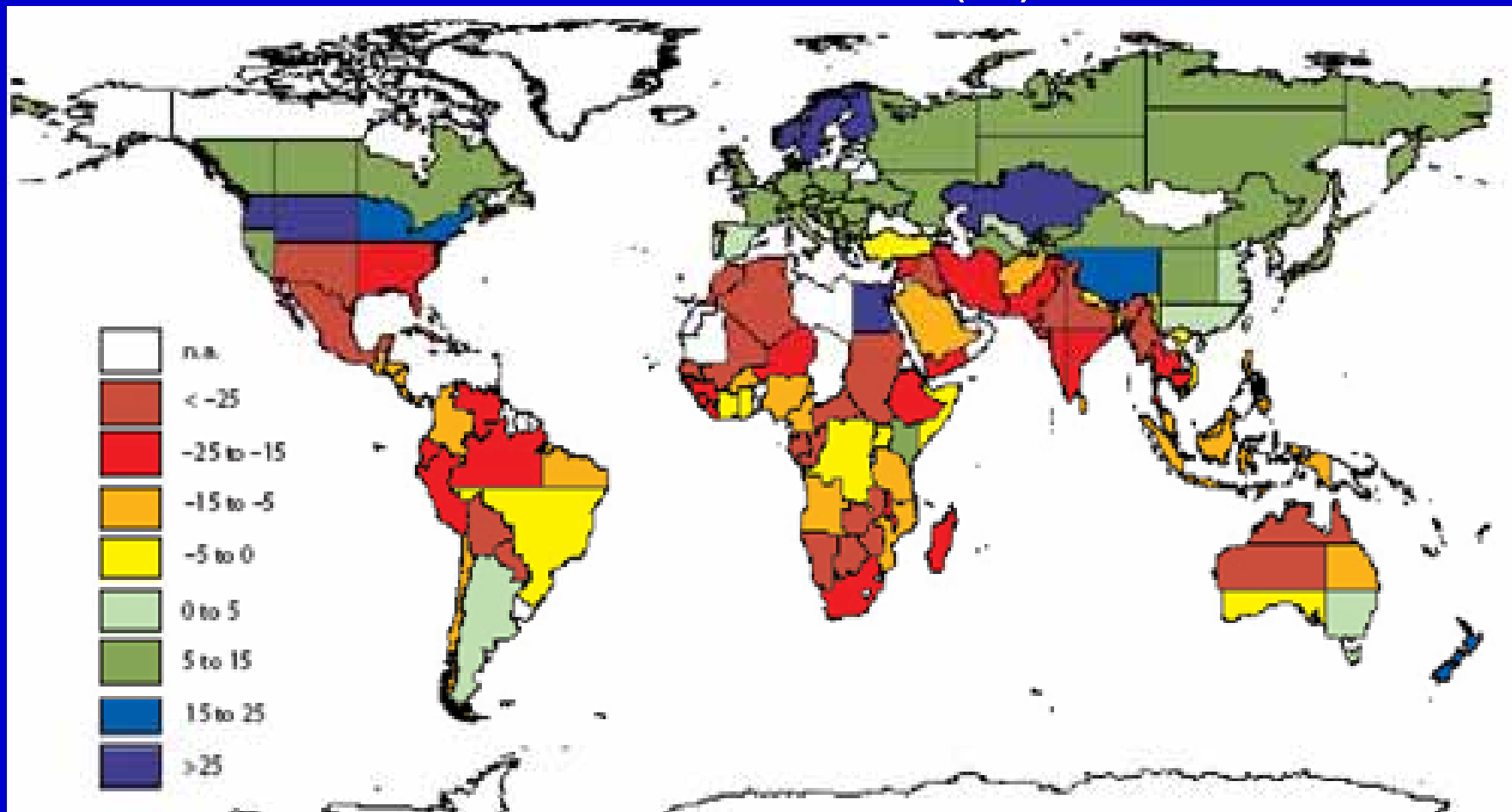
---

**1992-2003**

	<b>%</b>
<b>East Asia</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>East Africa</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>NAWA</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>2.1</b>

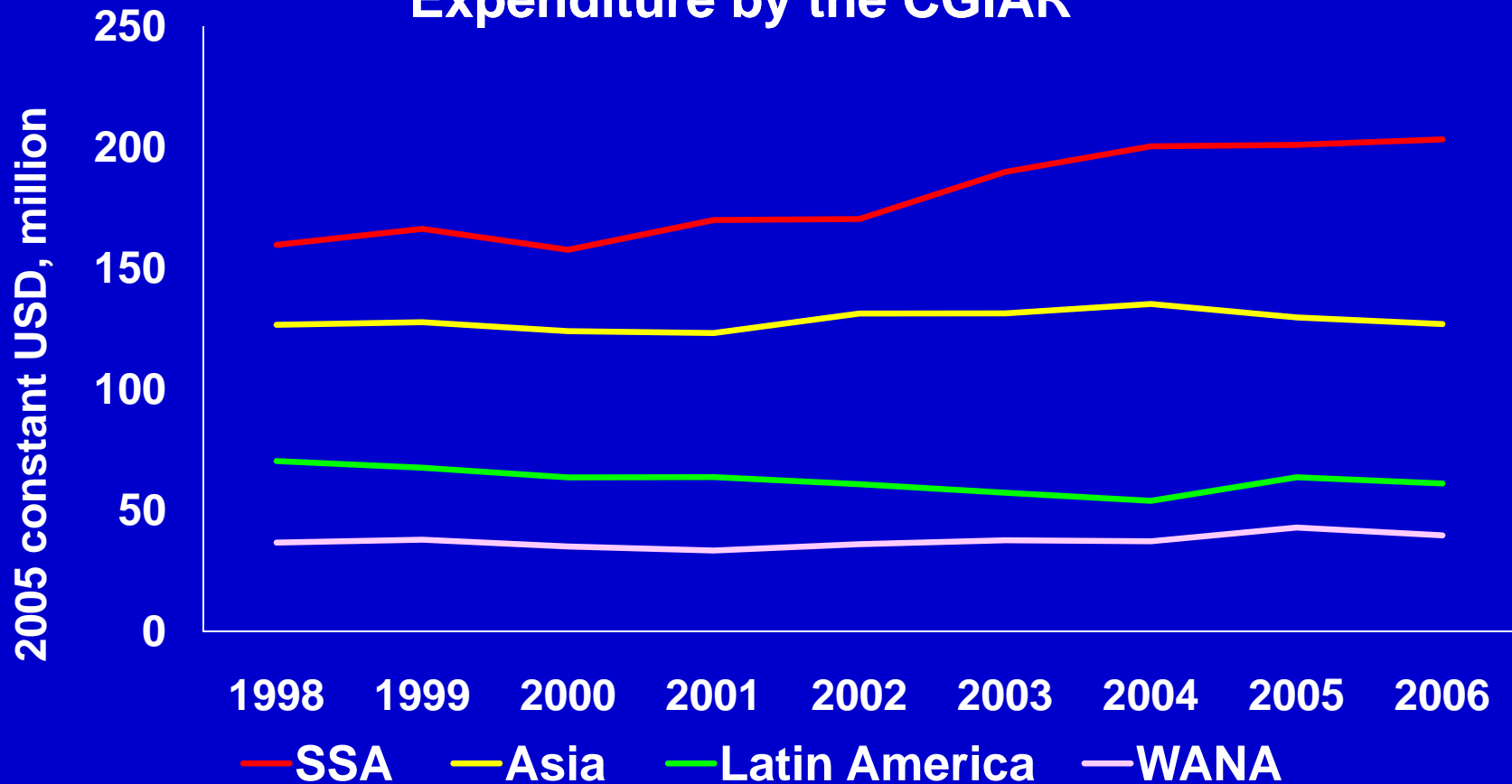
# Threats from climate change – and opportunities in the low carbon economy

Climate change impact on agric. production, factoring in carbon fertilization (%)



# Underinvestment in agricultural R&D

Expenditure by the CGIAR



**Not enough resources to work at the frontiers of science (nanotech, biotech, etc.)**

# Scaling Up R&D Investments

---

**Goal: Reducing risks and maximizing benefits for agricultural growth and food security**

- **WHAT investments should be scaled up?**
- **WHERE should investments take place?**
- **HOW MUCH should investment be accelerated?**
- **WHAT RETURNS on investment can be expected?**

# Overview

---

## **1. Effects of increased international agricultural R&D spending on**

- **agricultural production**
- **poverty reduction**
- **food prices**

## **2. The centers' 14 “best bets” examples for increased investment**

# Effects of Doubling Agricultural R&D\*

## 1: Allocation for Maximum Output

\*CGIAR investment rises from US\$0.5 to US\$1.0 billion

	R&D allocation (mil. 2005 \$)		$\Delta$ in # of poor (mil.) 2008-2020	Agr. output growth (% pts.) 2008-2020
	2008	2013		
SSA	608	933	-67.2	1.14
S Asia	908	2,131	-95.4	1.78
SE Asia	1,956	5,268	-41.0	2.26
NAf WAs	546	614	-0.2	0.23
L America	957	1,004	-0.2	0.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>-203.8</b>	<b>1.55</b>

Source: von Braun, Fan, Meinzen-Dick, Rosegrant, Pratt 2008.

# Doubling Agricultural R&D\*

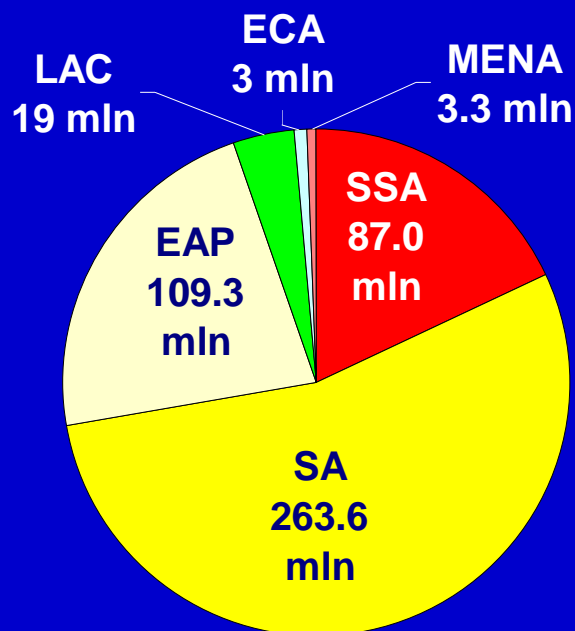
## 2: Allocation for Poverty Reduction

\*CGIAR investment rises from US\$0.5 to US\$1.0 billion

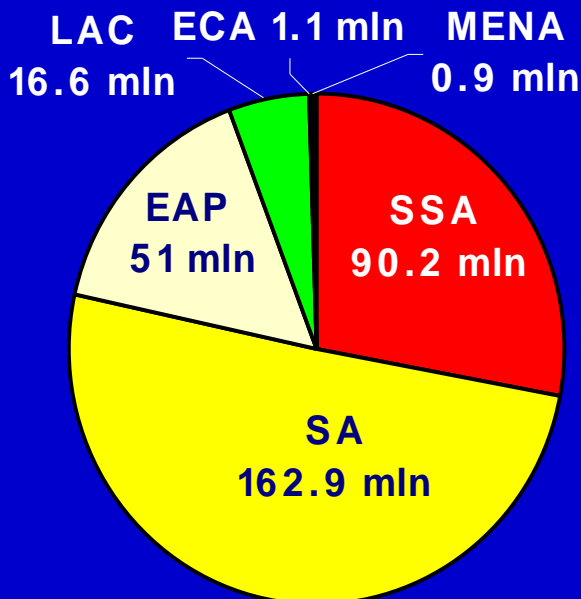
	R&D allocation (mil. 2005 \$)		Δ in # of poor (mil.)	Agr. output growth (% pts.)
	2008	2013	2008-2020	2008-2020
SSA	608	2,913	-143.8	2.75
S Asia	908	3,111	-124.6	2.40
SE Asia	1,956	2,323	-13.4	0.69
NAf WAs	546	614	-0.2	0.23
L America	957	990	-0.2	0.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>-282.1</b>	<b>1.11</b>

Source: von Braun, Fan, Meinzen-Dick, Rosegrant, Pratt 2008.

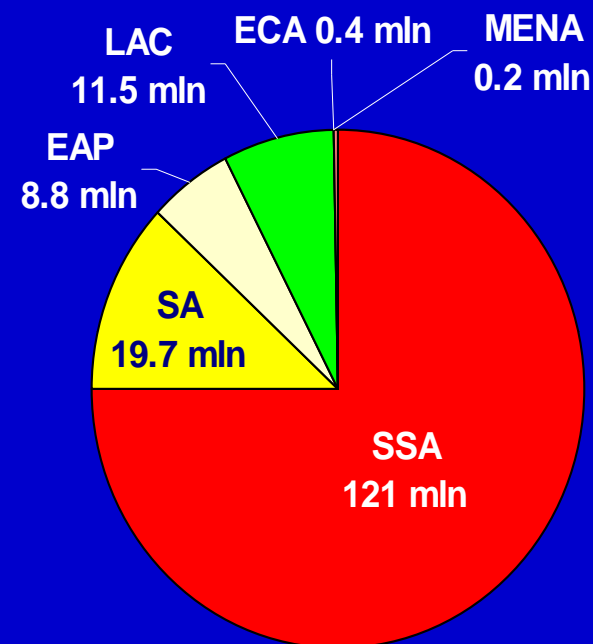
# Where the Poor and Ultra Poor Live (2004)



**People living on  
\$0.75-\$1 a day:  
485 million**



**People living on  
\$0.50-\$0.75 a day:  
323 million**



**People living on  
<\$0.50 a day:  
162 million**

Source: Ahmed et al. 2007.

# **“Best Bets” for Research Investments**

## **I. Food for People**

---

	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cost (Mil. US\$)</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
1	Revitalizing yield growth in intensive cereal systems of Asia	150	More than 3 billion people
2	Ensuring productive and resilient small-scale fisheries	73.5	32 million people
3	Controlling wheat rust	37.5	2.9 billion people
4	Developing vaccine for East Coast Fever in cattle	10.5	32 million people
5	Developing drought-tolerant maize for Africa	100	320 million people
6	Scaling up biofortification	125	672 million people

# **“Best Bets” for Research Investments**

## **II. Environment for People**

---

	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cost (Mil. US\$)</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Increasing carbon sequestration and improving livelihoods of forest people</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48 million people</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Conducting climate change and adaptation research</b>	<b>127.5</b>	<b>1.2 billion people</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Combining organic and inorganic nutrients for increased crop productivity</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>400 million people</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Promoting sustainable groundwater use</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>261 million people</b>

# **“Best Bets” for Research Investments**

## **III. Innovation for People**

---

	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Cost (Mil. US\$)</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Enhancing germplasm exchange</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Global impact</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Improving market information and value chains</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>45 million people</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Including women in extension and innovation</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>200 million people</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Exploiting agriculture-health links to benefit the poor</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Global impact</b>

# Overview

---

1. Global and national food governance architecture
2. Food market policy
3. Nutrition and social protection policy
4. Agricultural science policy
5. **Priorities for action**

# Policies for food security: emergency response and resilience

---

1. **Markets:** Change biofuel policies; Re-build trust in regional and global trade; virtual reserves; safe value chains
2. **Nutrition:** Expand smart food assistance and invest in protection of the vulnerable
3. **Productivity:** Undertake 1) fast-impact production programs, and 2) scale up agric. investment and innovations that are pro-food security and pro-climate