



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# A new vision for agriculture and nutrition - Implications for accountability and impact measurement

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# Accountable for what? A new vision for agriculture & nutrition

- In the past, focus on:
    - staple crop production,
    - calories,
    - poverty reduction / income
  - Today:
    - Food systems have changed: urbanisation, globalisation, market integration
    - Triple burden of malnutrition
- New vision captured in ICN2 & SDGs:
- All forms of malnutrition
  - food systems
  - healthy diets
  - Multi-sectoral approach
- Need to do business differently *and to measure progress and impact differently*

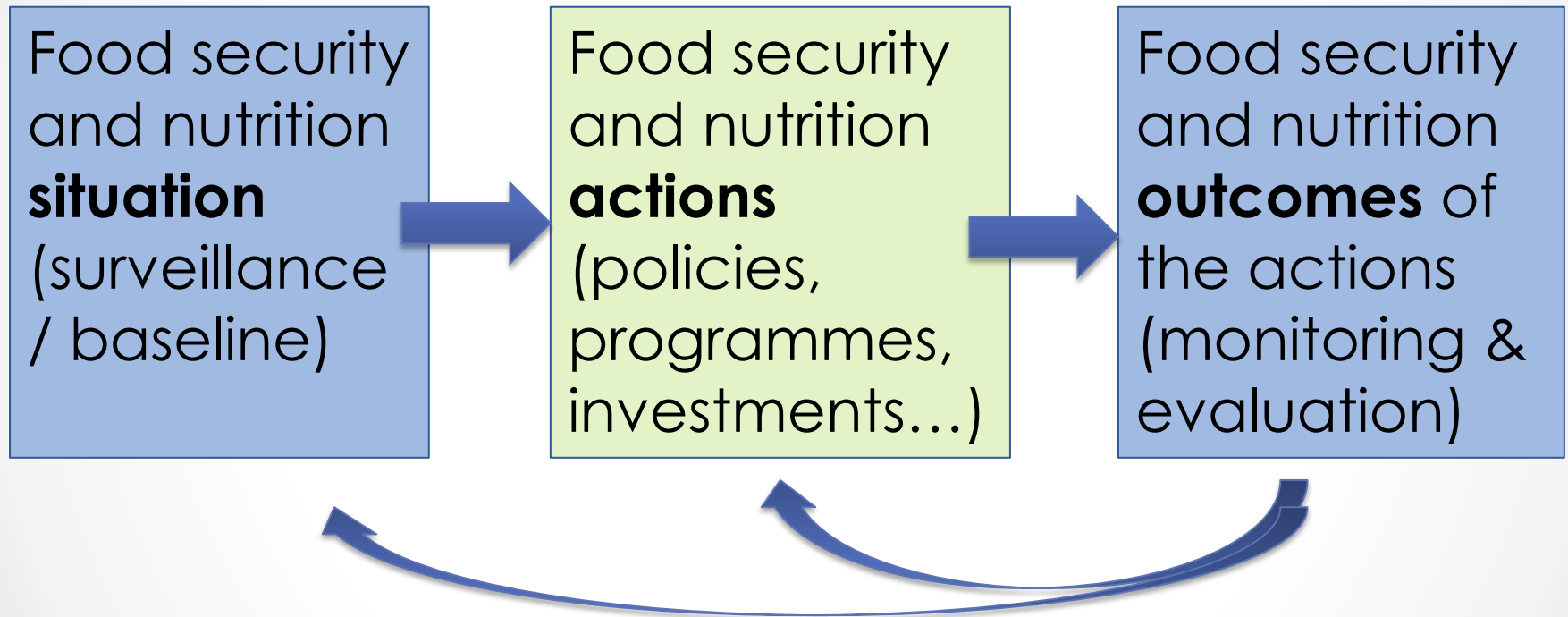


# Why is measurement important?

- Accountability :
  - Are we doing what we say?
  - Are we doing the right things ?
- Identifying good practices to improve policies and programmes
- “What gets measured get managed”: Information shapes & drives policy:
  - Current information systems focus on a vision of agriculture from 50 years ago (World Bank, 2014): the focus on statistics on staple production and prices leads to policies that prioritize staple food production.



# What should we measure?



# Tracking progress towards the achievement of our vision (outcomes)

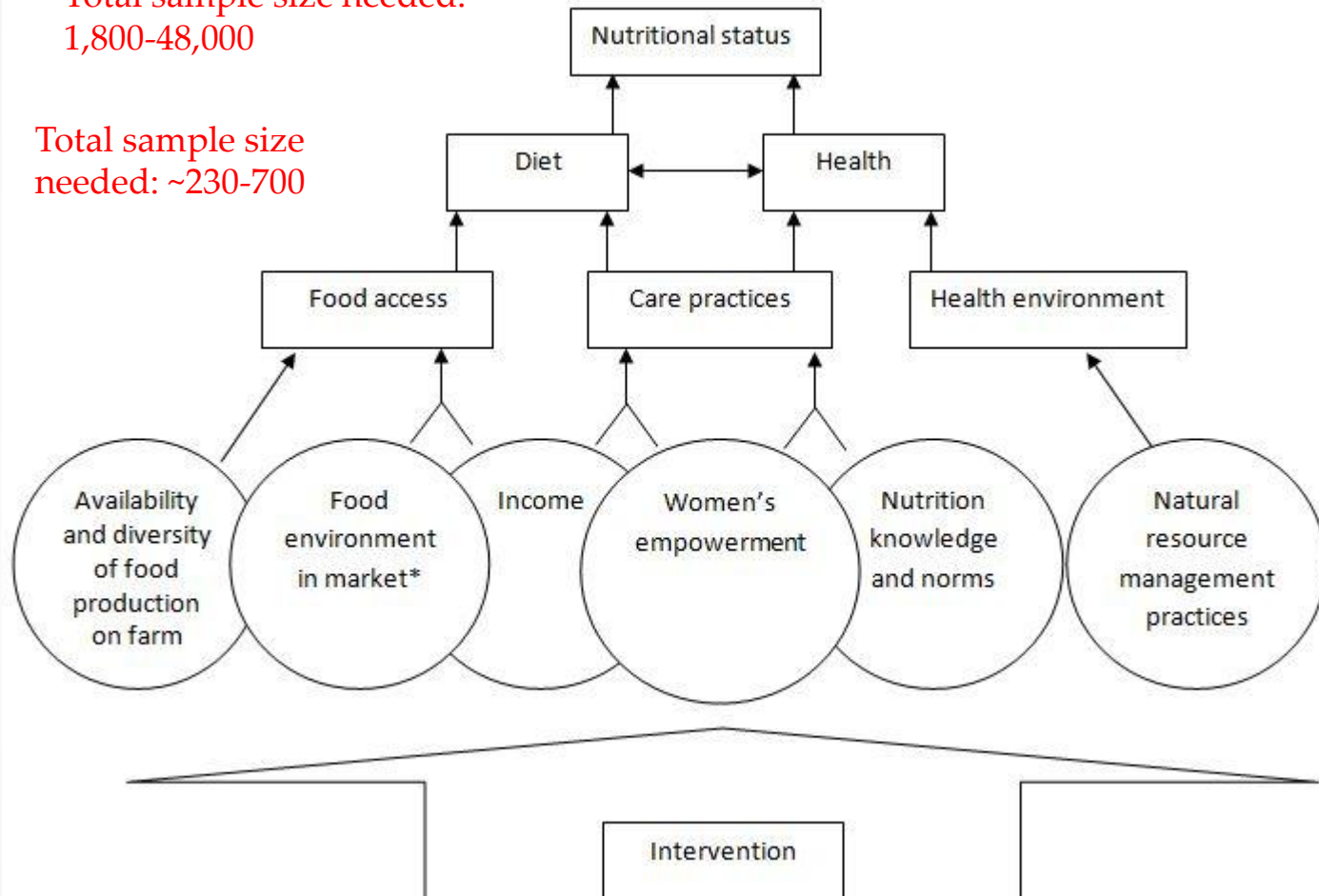
- For situation assessments, and M&E, **we need a suite of food security and nutrition-related indicators that reflect a healthy and sustainable food system**
- Past:
  - focus on staple production
  - access to calorie as indicators of poverty
- Looking forward:
  - Diet quality: individual food consumption
  - Food environment: availability, affordability, convenience & desirability of foods (Herforth and Ahmed, 2015)
  - Gender & social equity
  - Environmental sustainability (biodiversity, “climate smart”, water)



# Categories of indicators to be considered

Total sample size needed:  
1,800-48,000

Total sample size  
needed: ~230-700



Source: Herforth, A and Ballard, T. 2015. *Survey of Nutrition Indicators in Agriculture: What is being measured, what is not being measured, and what can we expect to learn?*

\*The **food environment** constrains and signals consumers what to purchase. It consists of the availability, affordability, convenience, and desirability of various diverse foods. (Herforth and Ahmed 2015)  
Interventions can affect the food environment, and thus the kinds of foods likely to be consumed by consumers.

# Tracking progress on outcomes: challenges & opportunities

- Challenges:
  - Very little individual food consumption data collected & limited capacities to do so
  - Limited information on drivers of food choices and food environment
- Opportunities:
  - New indicators – e.g. Women's Dietary Diversity Score
  - Growing body of research on improved methods and metrics – IMMANA
  - Increasing number of investments including nutrition indicators in M&E
  - Capacity development initiatives emerging



# Tracking *what we do* to achieve our vision

- Ideally, what actions should we monitor?
  - Policies and legal frameworks that shape the food environment
  - Public programmes & investments (government and through development partners) that support the implementation of policies
  - Private sector investments:
    - big (large national and multi-national corporations)
    - Small Medium Enterprises
    - Farmers





# Types of policies that impact the food environment & diets



Source : Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, 2014

# Tracking progress on actions: challenges & opportunities

- Challenges:
  - Tracking actual implementation of policies
  - Tracking private investments very difficult
  - Limited Capacities: even basic monitoring often not in place
  - Monitoring impact of policies on diets difficult because of long & complex impact pathways + interactions between policies.
  - Positive impacts on diets can usually come from coherent set of policies / actions
- Opportunities:
  - Numerous initiatives are mapping, tracking, analyzing investments and policies in food and agriculture → opportunity to leverage this data for nutrition-related analysis
  - Mapping initiatives at country level in context of SUN



# Conclusion: keys for successful evaluation & accountability

- Many challenges persist but many opportunities and initiatives underway to tackle them
- Even with imperfect information systems, need to maximize use of knowledge we have and share experiences (case studies) because changes in policies needed now – need to learn by doing
- Strategic linkages to be strengthened:
  - Between research, policy and field implementation
  - Between sectors (namely health, agriculture, social protection, education)

