
Nutrition-enhancing policies for food and agricultural systems

Per Pinstrup-Andersen

**4th Annual LCIRAH Conference
Birkbeck College, London
June 3-4, 2014**

A nutrition-enhancing food and agricultural system

- What does it mean?
- Underutilized potential?
- Why has the potential not been exploited?
 - Not a single sectorial responsibility
 - Conflicts between nutrition and other goals
 - Market signals – behavior of system agents
 - Limited evidence of impact



Key Health and Nutrition-Related Drivers of Contemporary Food Systems

- **Food Price Changes**
- **Economic Growth, Urbanization and Globalization**
- **Research and Technological Change**
- **Biofuel and Competition for Resources**
- **Land Grabbing**
- **Climate Change**
- **Demographic Change**



CLIMATE CHANGE

GLOBALIZATION

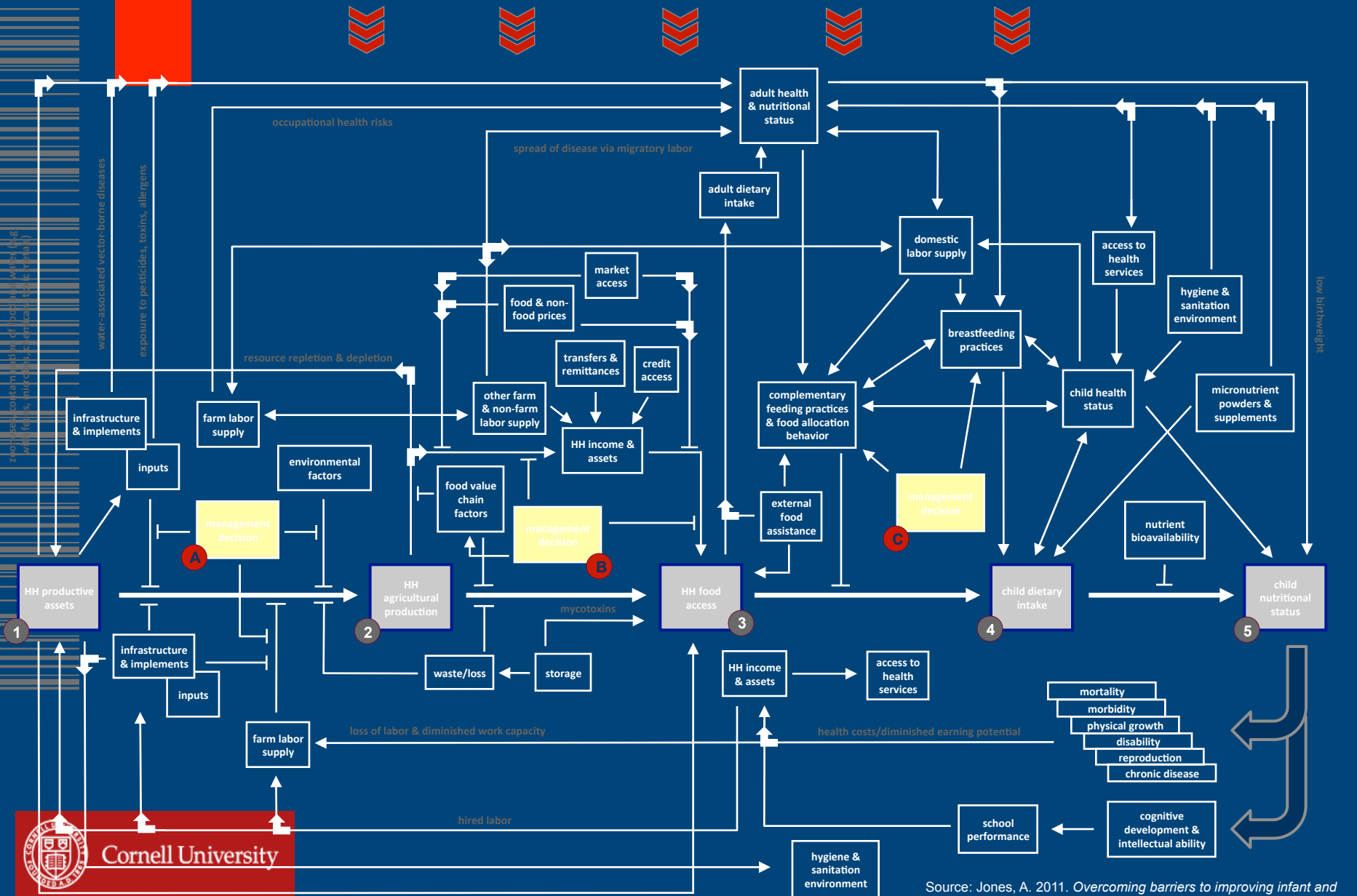
MIGRATION

INSTITUTIONS

POPULATION GROWTH

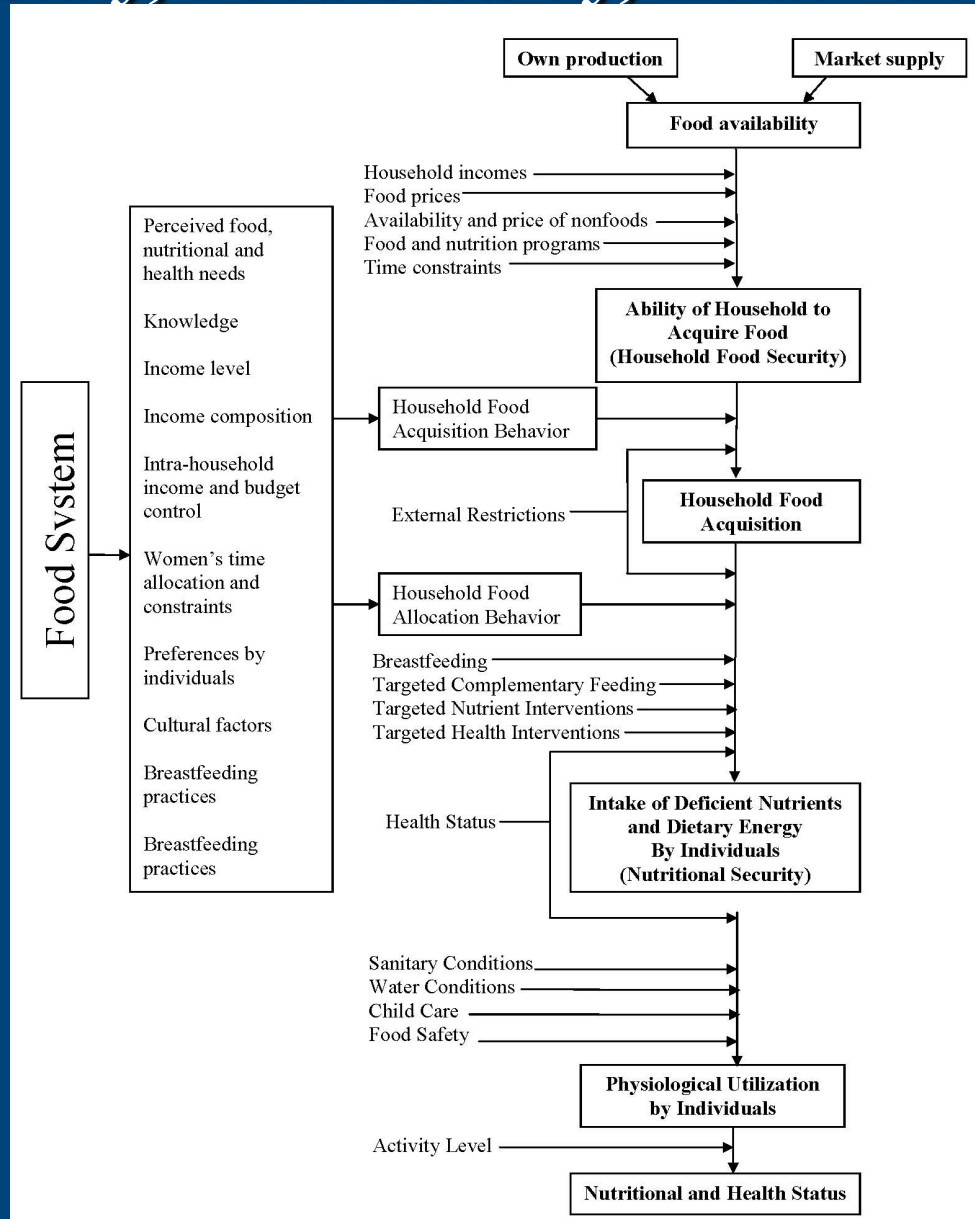
CULTURE & FAMILY

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

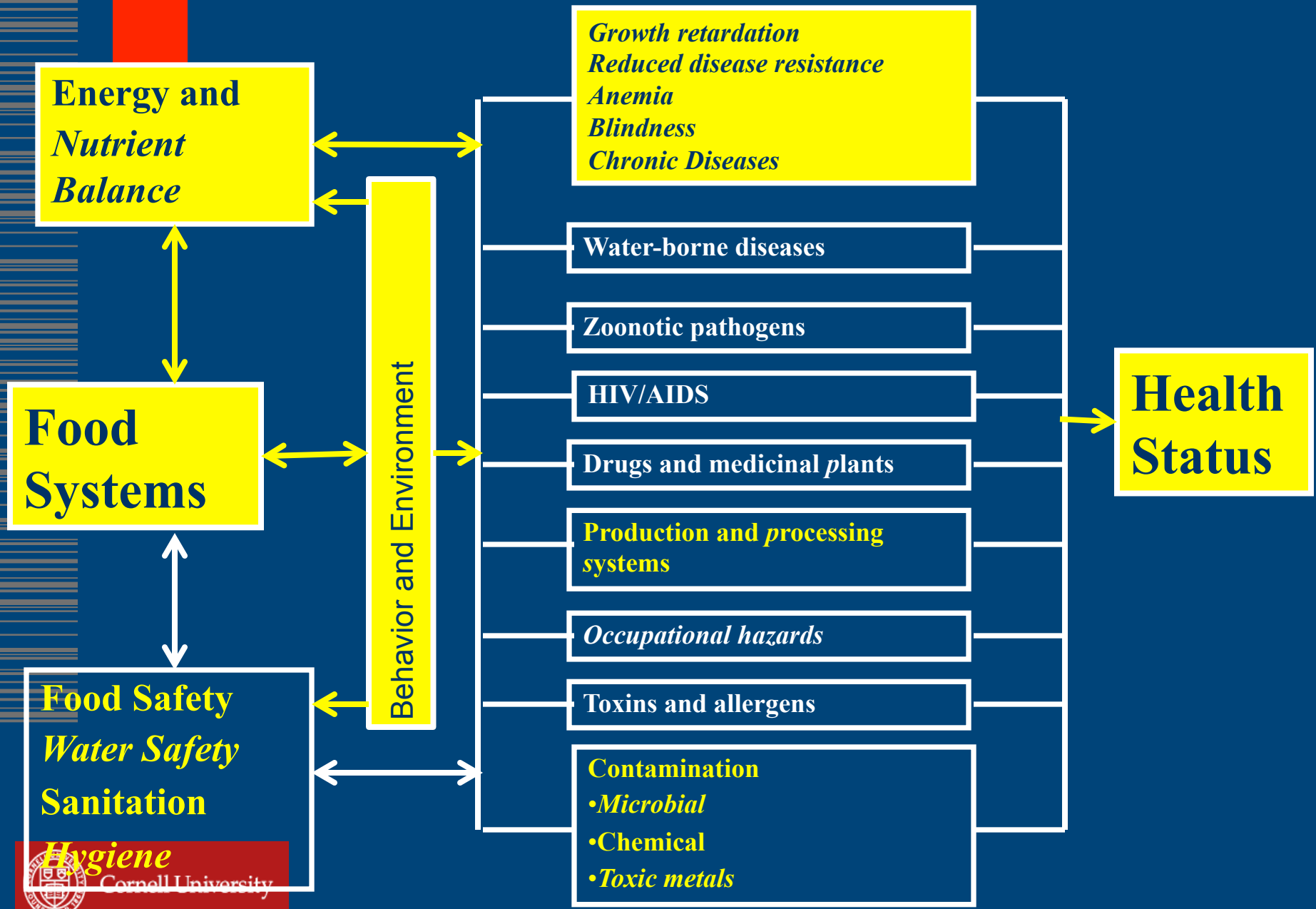


Source: Jones, A. 2011. *Overcoming barriers to improving infant and young child feeding practices in the Bolivian Andes: The role of agriculture and rural livelihoods*. PhD diss., Cornell University.

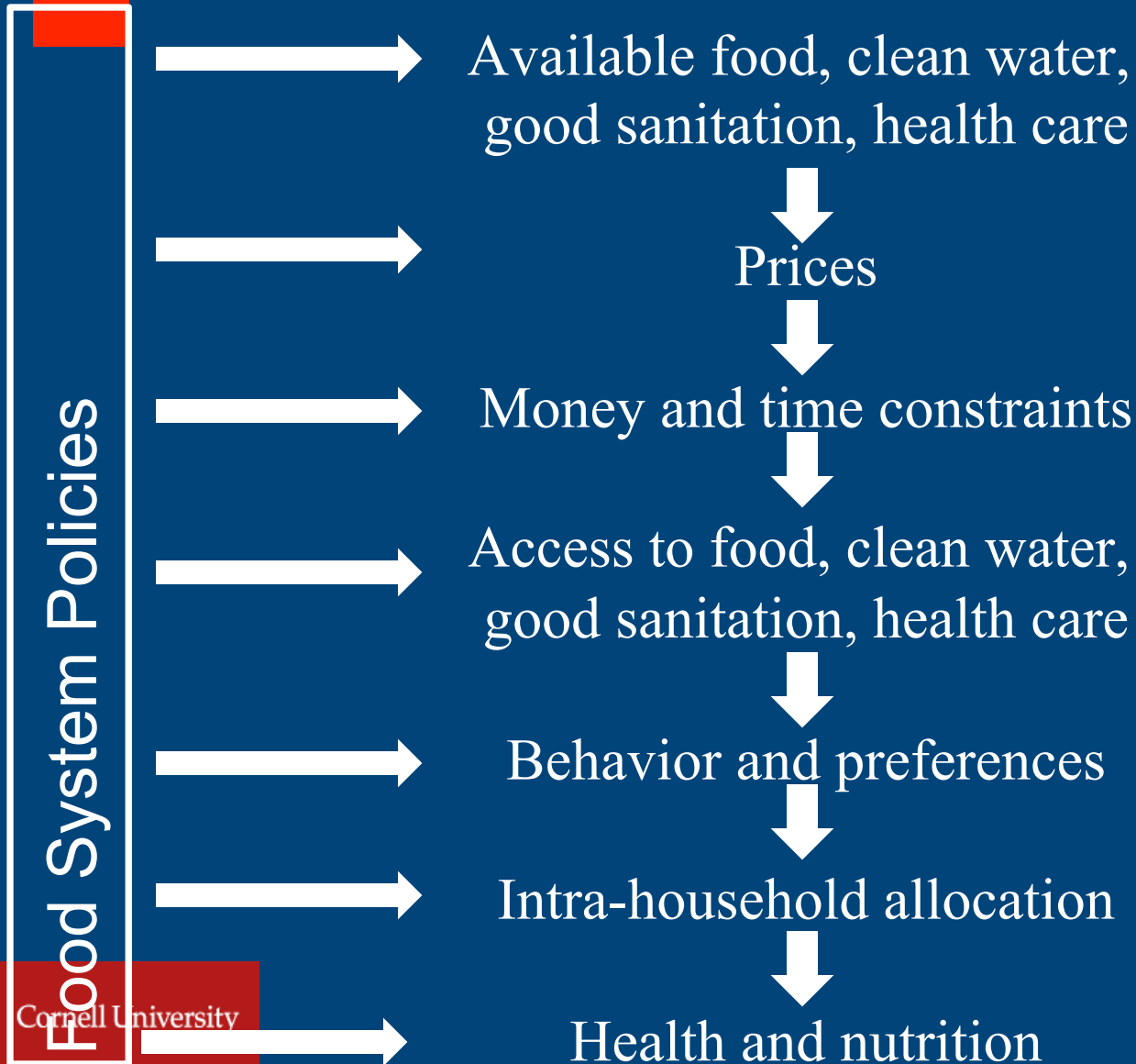
A Simplified Conceptual Framework Linking Food Availability, Food Security, Health and Nutrition



Interactions Between Food Systems and Human Health and Nutrition



The Generic Pathway



Food supply and improved nutrition

- Food supply (availability)
- Food security (access to food)
- Nutrition security (access to nutrients, clean water and good sanitation)
- Improved nutrition (acquisition, allocation and behavior)



Key linkages or pathways (1)

- **Food availability**
 - Quantity, quality, diversity
 - Source: Farm or value chain
 - Source: Own production or market
- **Incomes**
 - Direct and indirect
 - Food or cash



Key linkages or pathways (2)

■ Prices

- Food price level relative to other prices
- Relative prices among foods
- Prices of non-foods

■ Time availability

- Gender-specific
- Productivity increases in women's activities



Key linkages or pathways (3)

- Behavior of consumers, farmers, processors and traders
 - Compatibility or conflict with other goals
 - Agriculture as producer of raw materials
 - Drivers of diet composition
- Non-food factors
 - Water, sanitation and care



Policy Foci (1)

- Interventions are context-specific
- Likely to be relevant in many contexts:
 1. Increase incomes of the poor
 2. Reduce unit-costs of production of nutrients
 3. Reduce nutrient prices to consumers
 4. Pursue diversity in production and consumption
 5. Avoid increasing women's total time requirements



Policy Foci (2)

5. Seek to break the two-way causal link between production and consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor processed food
 - Incentives and regulations in the value chain
 - Knowledge sharing focused on consumers
6. Combine interventions for food, water, sanitation and child and health care.



7. Seek multiple wins Seek break the

Cornell University



HLPE Reports

www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe

- 1. Price Volatility
- 2. Land tenure and investment
- 3. Climate Change
- 4. Social Protection
- 5. Biofuel
- 6. Smallholder Agriculture
- 7. Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 8. Food Losses and Waste

