

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN AFRICA: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

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Progress to date

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- Input paper developed
- Workshopped with writing team (Jan 2017)
- Draft V0 developed and reviewed by the writing team
- Peer review by 8 reviewers and Steering Committee
- Guide revised
- V1 sent to peer reviewers, writing team and Steering Committee (March 2017)
- V1 revised

Focus and approach

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- IAC paper from 2004
- **African agenda – common actions and context**
 - ▣ Agenda 2063
 - ▣ CAADP
 - ▣ Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy
 - ▣ STISA

Focus and approach

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- Clarity of terminology essential
 - ▣ Agreed to focus on food security and nutrition
 - ▣ Recognising that agriculture is essential for addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms (under-nourished, micronutrient deficiencies as well as overweight at obesity).

Key focus – a continuum of experiences

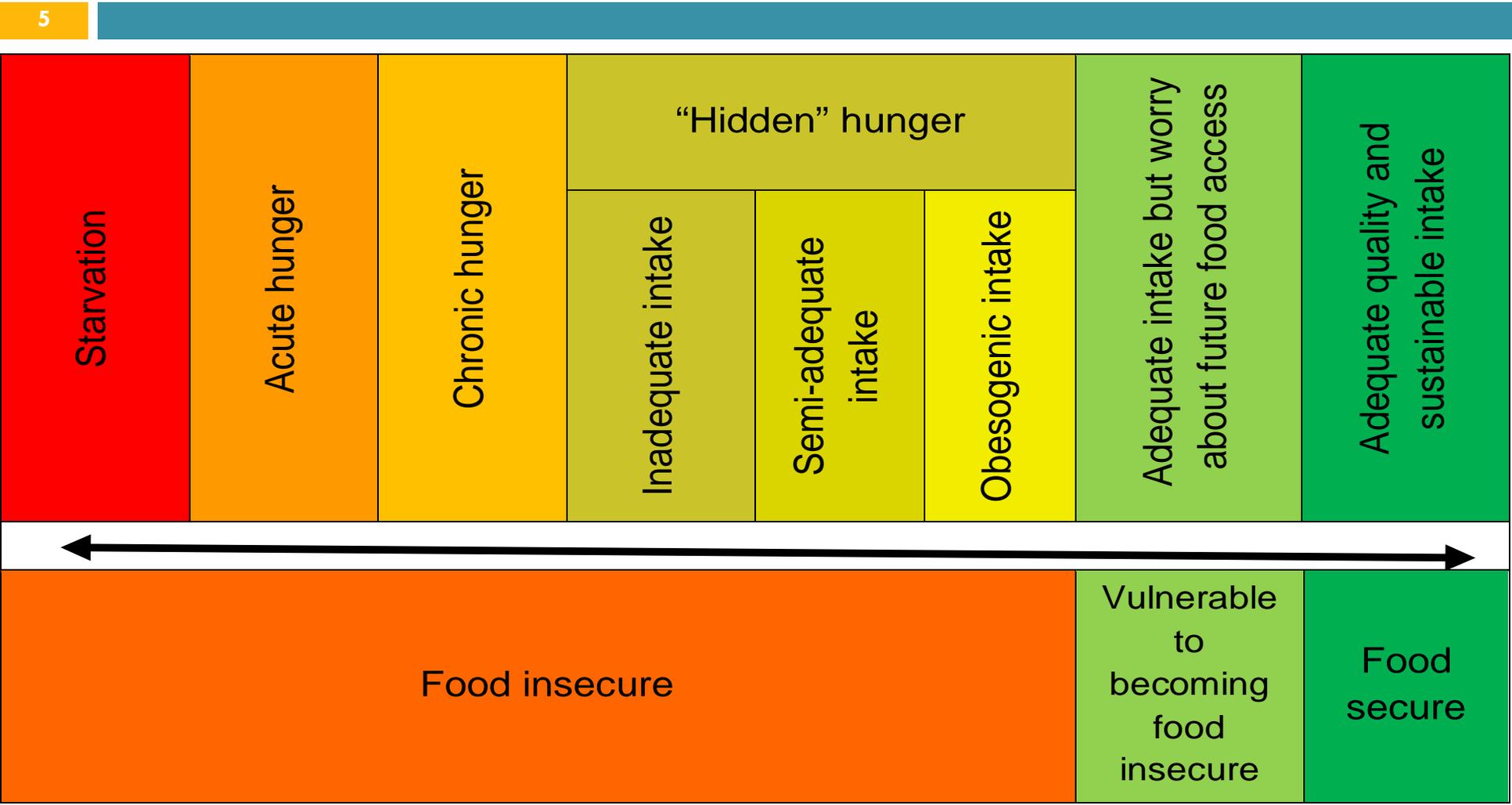
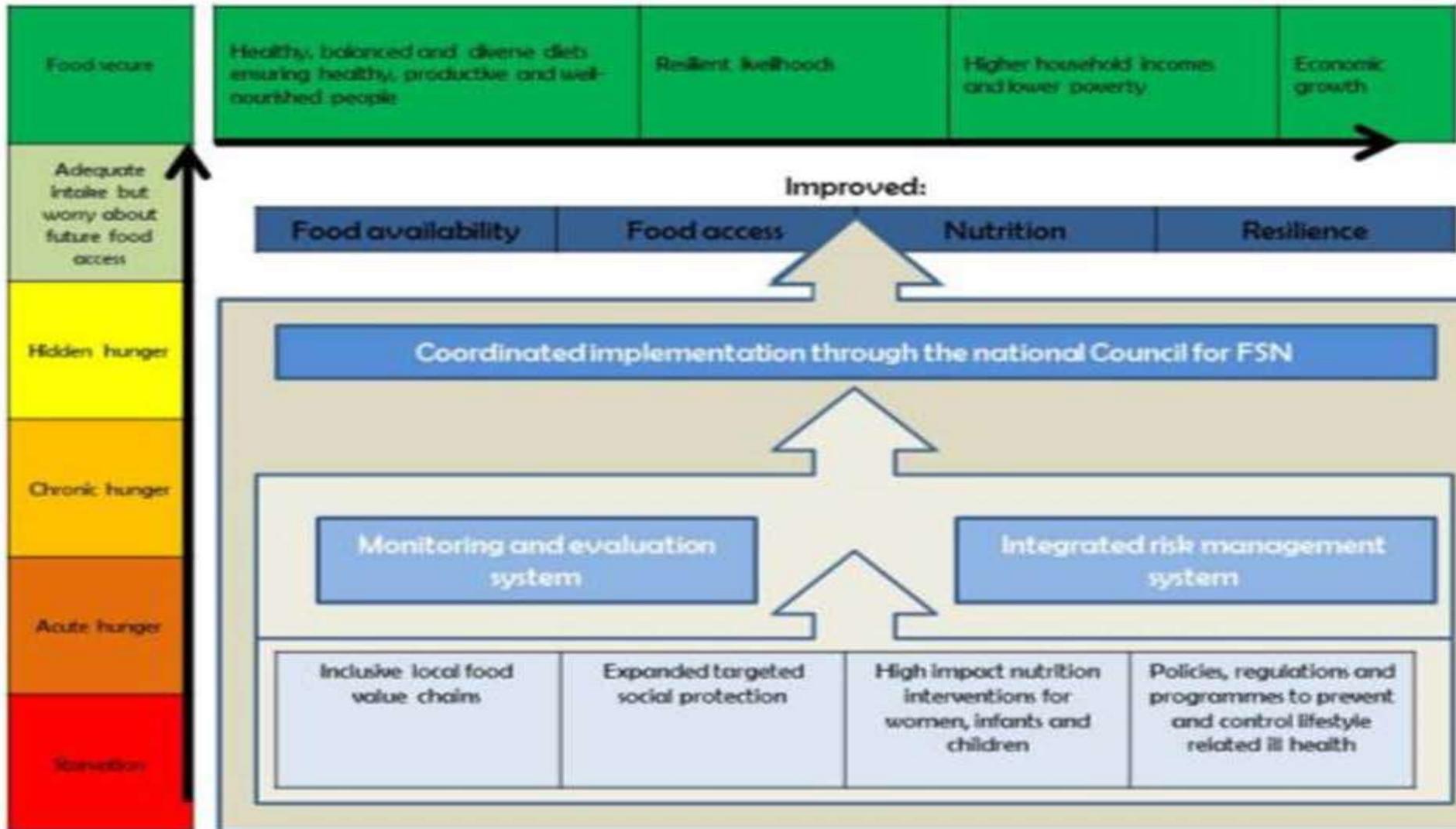


Figure 1: The food security continuum (Hendriks 2015).

Purpose of the guide: developing and STI support to implementing comprehensive policies

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Current situation: food insecurity

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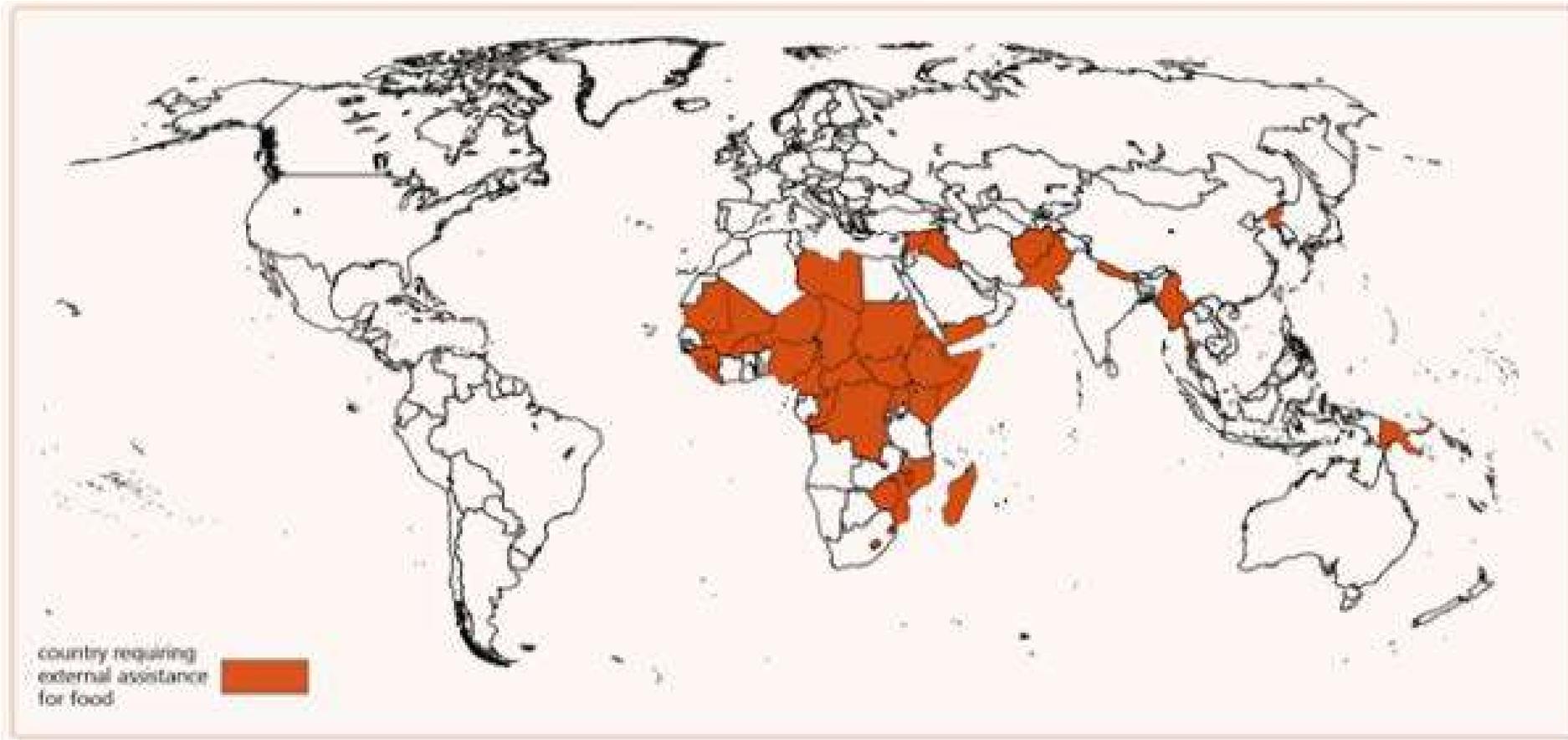
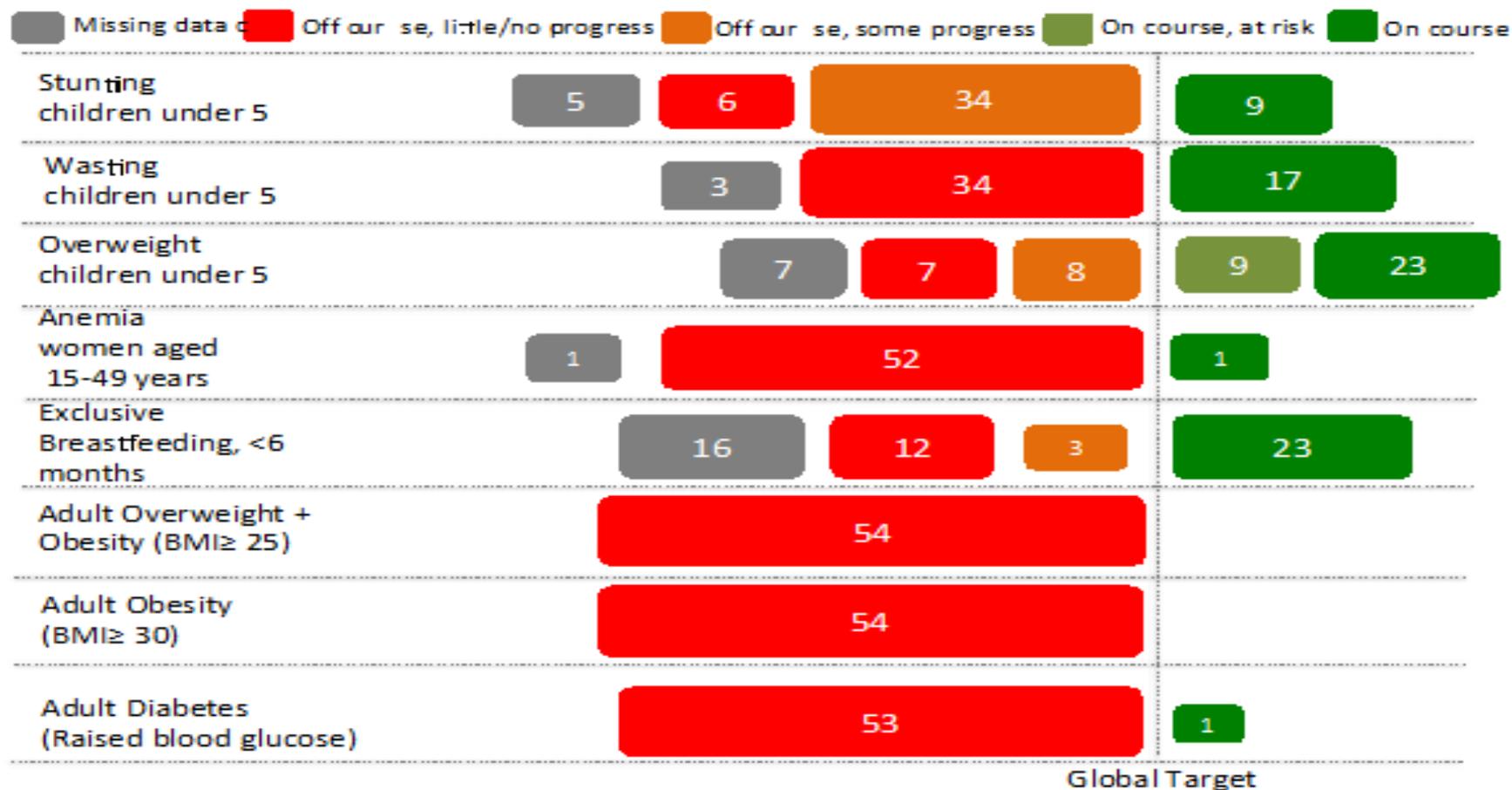


Figure 3: Countries requiring external food assistance, December 2016 (FAO 2016a).

Nutrition – progress? (GNR/IFPRI 2016)

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Human capacity: STI for FSN in Africa

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- Current level of investment in research and development by Africa as a continent puts Africa at a strategic disadvantage with regard to STI (AU 2014e).
 - ▣ Baseline data and monitoring
 - ▣ No traditional field of study
 - ▣ Limited interpretation of food security and conflates this with agriculture policy
 - ▣ Lack of policy implementation
 - ▣ Different sectors speak past each other, struggling to connect and grapple with conceptualisation of the complexity of food security.

Key issues discussed

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- Food availability situation in Africa
 - ▣ Population growth and urbanisation
 - ▣ Agricultural labour, land and productivity
 - ▣ Access, affordability and purchasing power
 - ▣ Stability and resilience
- Malnutrition
 - ▣ Scale and magnitude of malnutrition
 - ▣ Progress in meeting international and continental commitments
- Human capacity assessment for STI and nutrition

Addressing food security and nutrition through STIs in Africa

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- Agricultural transformation
- Agriculture as a driver for broader development
- Pathways for improving nutrition
- Embedding nutrition-specific agriculture to overall development

Crucial policy considerations

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- Policies, institutions and governance
- Harnessing STIs to ensure food system efficiency and sustainability to improve food security and nutrition for all
- The role of STIs in food production amidst uncertainty
- STI for human nutrition health and productivity
- Monitoring, evaluation and accountability
- STI capacity building

Key messages – starting point

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- The context of each country is unique and demands a country-specific approach to creating an overarching comprehensive food security and nutrition framework and plan of action to implement priority programmes.

Key messages

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1. Food security and adequate nutrition are essential for national development, health, productivity and well-being.
2. STIs are key to addressing the problems and to drive transformation in ways that ensure improved nutrition.
3. Food security and nutrition are transversal issues that require comprehensive guiding policies and strong coordination at all levels of government.

Key messages

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4. Comprehensive national growth and development strategies must harness the potential of STI to ensure food security, provide livelihood opportunities for all and build resilience at all levels.
5. Population growth; trends in agricultural, labour and land trends; poverty and weak purchasing power; conflict and migration as well as severe and irregular climatic conditions pose threats to future food security and nutrition.

Key messages

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6. Agriculture is a driver of broader economic and social development and a powerful lever
7. Food security interventions cannot focus solely on increasing the supply of food
8. Africa faces significant levels of all forms of malnutrition
9. STI efforts need to contribute significantly to enhancing production and processing, and prompting the diversification of production and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods

Key messages

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10. Proactive management of food security and nutrition risks along with disaster preparedness are essential.
11. Harnessing the potential of STI requires dialogue and active engagement between policymakers and the STI community.
12. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework is critical
13. Establishing enduring capacity for STI to ensure food security and nutrition at all levels is an absolute necessity.

Recommendations – national policy

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1. Make food security and nutrition a long-term policy priority and commitments
2. Policy reviews and reforms are necessary
3. Incorporate elements and targets into broader development policies and interventions and STI design
4. Establish platforms for dialogue and active engagement
 - a. Include experts from universities, research institutes and academies of sciences in the review, drafting and evaluation of policies and programmes
 - b. Provide the incentives and funding to initiate refocusing of STI efforts

Recommendations - reform

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5. A reorientation of scientific research, technology and innovation efforts is necessary to provide effective solutions at all stages of the food system to improve its efficiency and sustainability, ensure food security and improve nutrition for all, year-round.

Recommendations (reform focus)

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- i. Enhancing sustainable production and the productivity of all foods
- ii. Modernisation of smallholder agriculture
- iii. Developing food processing and preservation technologies and practices
- iv. Diversifying farm production to protect biodiversity, non-farm production for livelihood opportunities and consumption for improved nutrition.
- v. Improving technologies for the fortification and enrichment of processed foods and biofortification.

Recommendations (reform focus)

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- vi. Mitigating and managing risks:
 - a. agricultural, labour and land productivity and irregular climatic conditions
 - b. food safety and contamination risks to ensure safe food.
 - c. pests and diseases, food spoilage and human health
 - d. population growth, poverty, conflict, migration and disaster preparedness.
- vii. Monitor changes in the food system and the impact of these on consumption behaviour, nutrition and human health

Recommendations (Academies)

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6. Focus research efforts on the above priorities as appropriate for each country
7. Provide opportunities for within and between-country exchanges to foster mutual learning and support the scaling up
8. Build effective dialogue and cooperation between African governments and international organizations
9. Build enduring capacity to deliver

Next steps

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- Consider the feedback from this meeting
 - Revise guide
 - Proof reading
 - Type setting
 - Printing
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- Getting the recommendations out there and implemented!