



# Policy Issues in Agriculture and Nutrition linkages in Ethiopia

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16 JULY 2015



# Introduction

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The country is predominantly agrarian, and agriculture plays an important role as primary source of food and essential nutrients (macro and micronutrients)

Agriculture contributes about 40.2 percent of the total GDP in 2014,

Agriculture creates larger employment opportunity in the rural area ,  
export (coffee, oil seeds, pulses, Fruits and vegetables)

Until recently agriculture has focused mainly on production

nutrition focused agricultural programs and interventions is very limited



# Introduction

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Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency has long been recognized as a main public health problem in Ethiopia.

Poor diets are a basic cause of malnutrition that can potentially lead to permanent limitations in mental and physical development children.  
(evidence in Ethiopia)

Women suffering from malnutrition have higher chances delivering low birth weight babies, who in their turn have higher chances to grow up into a malnourished individual.

Consequently, malnutrition is an intergenerational phenomenon and the vicious cycle should be broken



# Introduction

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## AgriDiet aims to

- To understand how agriculture impacts on the nutritional status of the members of rural households in areas of high nutritional vulnerability, and
- Critically assess policies and strategies of the countries
- Identify progresses and gaps
- To identify policies and interventions that can make a positive impact on nutritional status



# Agricultural production and growth

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Fundamental structural changes took place in the economy led by the Ethiopian government's deliberate strategy of Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI)

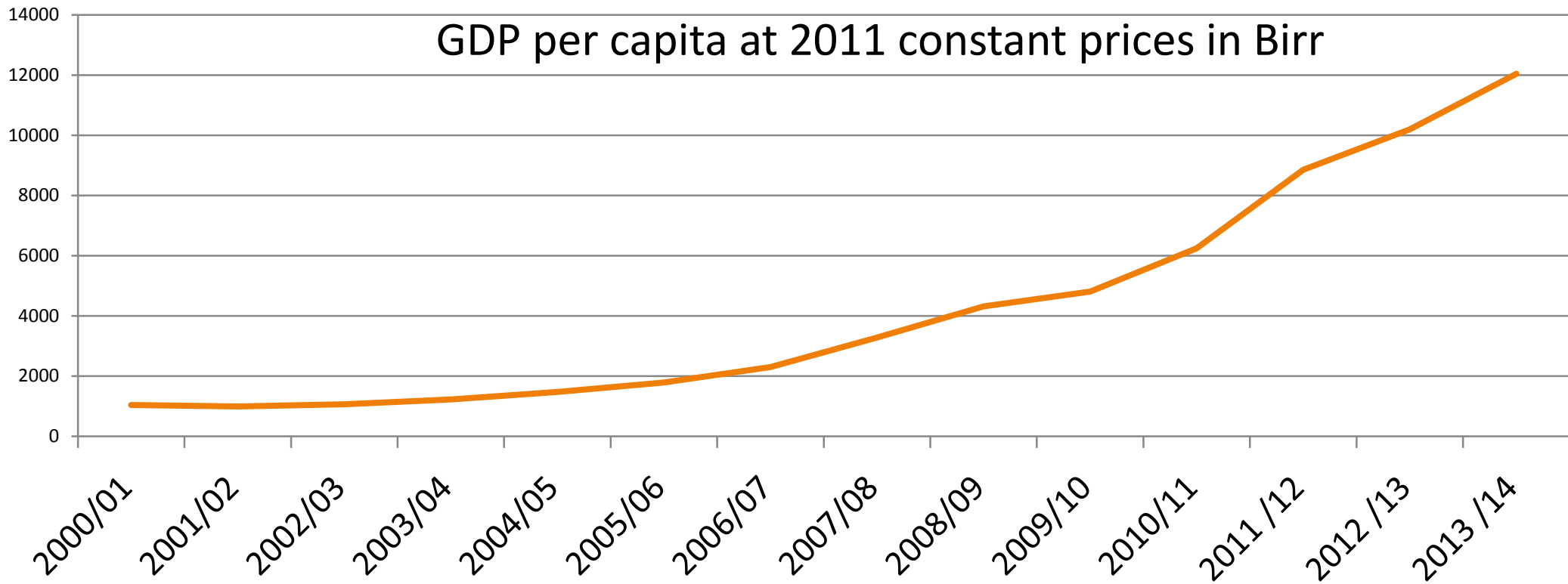
with the exceptions of 2001 and 2002, the real value of agricultural production in Ethiopia grew by roughly 9 percent per year on average.

Resulting the doubling of real agricultural GDP between 2000 and 2011

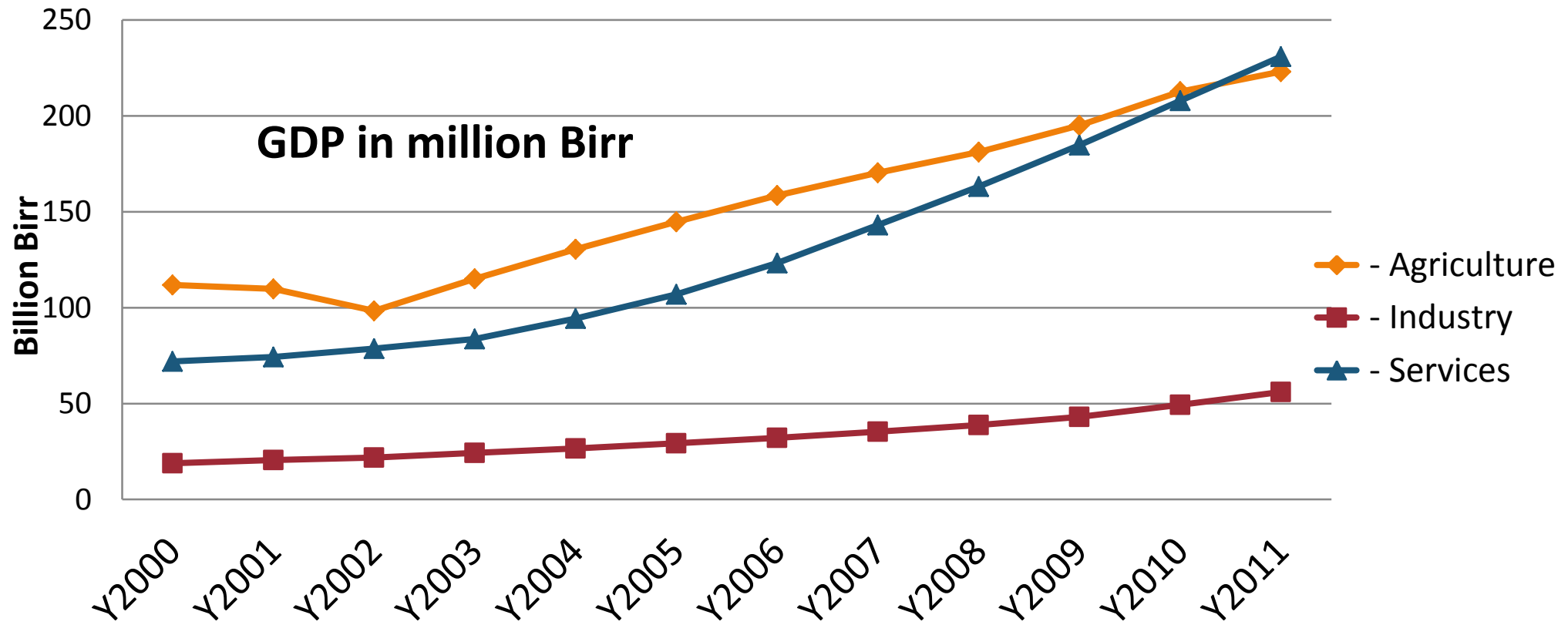
Much of this growth was driven by increased production of cereals, which account for 3/4 of cultivated area



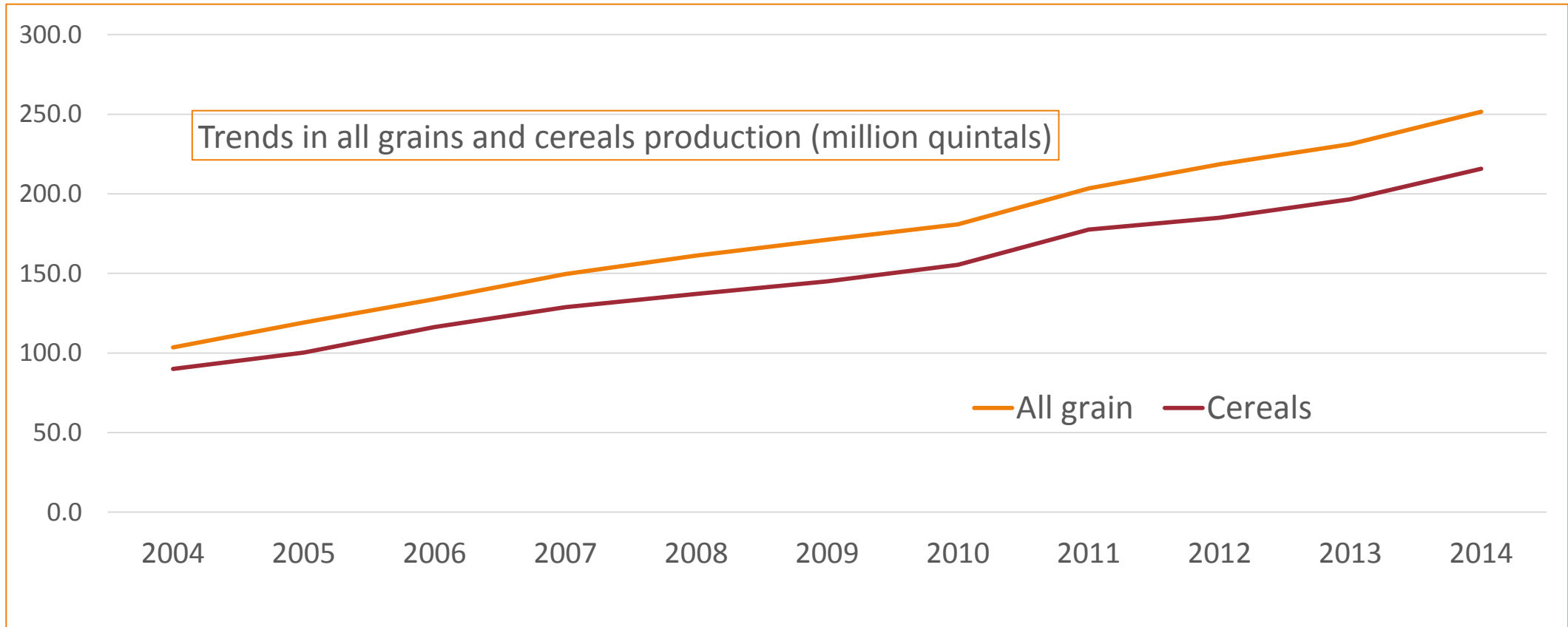
# GDP per capita at 2011 constant prices in Birr



# GDP growth



# Trends in all grains and cereals production (million quintals)



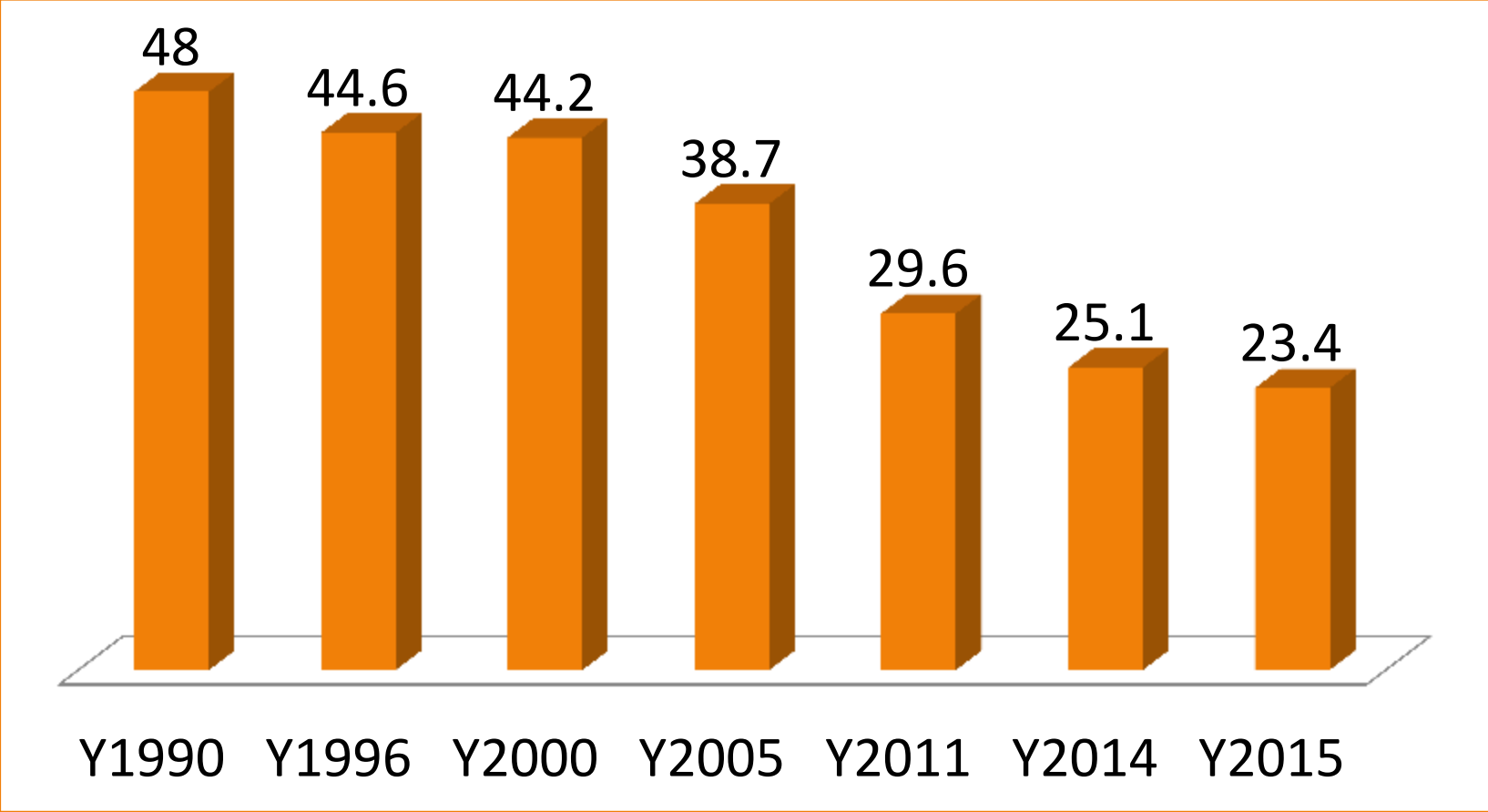


# Kcal consumed per day per adult

	Rural	Urban	Total
1995/1996	1,938	2,050	1,954
1999/2000	2,723	1,861	2,606
2004/2005	2,806	2,387	2,746
2010/2011	2973	2706	2928



# Population living below poverty line (%)

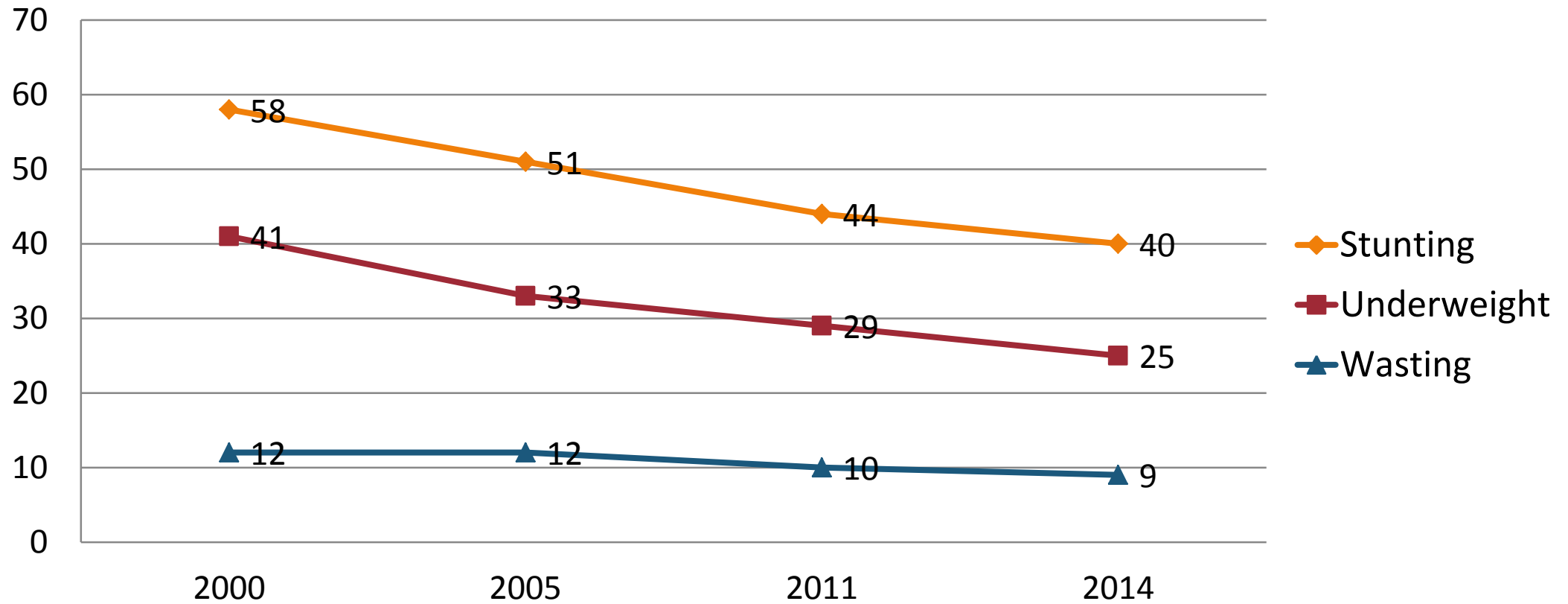


Cereals	<b>57.9</b>
pulses	6.7
oil seeds	0.2
pasta product	0.4
Injera (Bread & Others)	1.9
Meat	<b>0.5</b>
Fish	<b>0.0</b>
Milk,Cheese&Egg	<b>1.2</b>
Oils & Fat	<b>4.3</b>
Vegetables and Fruits	<b>2.2</b>
Spices	1.4
Potato, Tubers& Stems	<b>13.5</b>
Coffee, tea & Hops	2.0
Other Food items	2.2
Foods Out of Home	2.4
Non- Alcoholic Beverages	0.2
Alcoholic Beverage	2.9
Total	100

Main diet of  
Ethiopian  
people %  
(source: HICE)

# Nutritional status of children

**Trends in child malnutrition (2000-2014)**



# Micro-nutrient Malnutrition

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The national anaemia prevalence estimate in children has dropped by 10 percentage points in the past five years, from 54 percent in 2005 to 44 percent in 2011

But still very high

The report also shows that Anaemia is negatively correlated with mother's education and wealth

# Nutrition programs in Ethiopia

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When we looked at the main objective of the agricultural sector in the GTP, it focuses to increase production and productivity of food to make the country food secured.

No specific programs existed to increase the quality of food.

As a result the link between agriculture and nutrition was very weak and not clear.

# Nutrition programs in Ethiopia

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In general the strategy has outline how nutrition could be mainstreamed in the

- agricultural, education, water, trade, and industrial sectors.
- It also envisaged that the program must address equity by dealing with gender sensitive nutritional programs

As a result the agricultural sector is given an additional mandate of increasing the quality (micro-nutrient content) of food produced and mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture:

# Nutrition programs in Ethiopia

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- By increasing the consumption of a diversified diet
- by improving access to and utilization of animal source foods such as dairy, poultry, meat and eggs and by increase production and consumption of fish.
- Established nutrition unit within MoA to mainstream nutrition within agricultural interventions (livestock, horticulture, PSNP, HABP) , policy of agr-investment framework
- This **nutrition unit** will work on strengthening Link between HEW and DA

This shows that there exist a better understanding and willingness of policy makers in Ethiopia to increase the linkage between agriculture and nutrition

However, practical implementation is still staggering



# Policy prescriptions

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The Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework should specifically promote the production of micronutrient-rich crops and animal products, among both small-scale and commercial farmers.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture should have a greater role in the implementation of a fully coordinated National Nutrition Strategy.

The agricultural and health extension services should provide coordinated nutrition education to encourage both production and consumption of a greater diversity of micronutrient-rich foods.

# Policy prescriptions

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Expanded food market to promote the distribution of micronutrient-rich foods,

Care should be taken that poor people have sufficient access to micronutrient-rich foods,

- through more efficient production and distribution, and assisting poor people to grow such foods themselves.

Further research is necessary

- to identify ways to link agriculture and nutrition, and
- to support concrete evidence-based interventions that will have a positive impact on nutritional status, especially with regard to micronutrients.



# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

Agriculture for Nutrition: Enhancing Nutrition through Agricultural Policies and Programmes

17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

- Despite high economic growth in recent years; this has not translated to improved nutrition. Stunting rates as well as micronutrient deficiencies are still high
- In Tanzania 42% of children below five years of age are stunted
- A malnourished child is 10 times more likely to die from diseases than a well nourished child

## Nutrition issues:

- Consequently,
  - Impaired physical and mental development
  - increased risk of disability, morbidity and mortality
- Underlying causes - inadequate intake of nutrients from diversified foods and or overconsumption of monotonous diets (maize) with limited diversified nutrients
- Agriculture provides most of the nutrients needed by humans



# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

- The main focus of agriculture production in Tanzania has been to attain food sufficiency and basically maize sufficiency.
- Growing more food (maize) is not the answer to addressing undernutrition; regions with high maize production have high rates of undernutrition - stunting
- Food availability by itself does not necessarily lead to adequate nutrition; care and support as well as provision of adequate health, water and education services are also necessary.
- The goal of agriculture should be to grow food for nutrition; thus planning for agriculture ought to include the nutrient requirements of the population



# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

**Malnutrition is a multifaceted issue and requires the integration of various sectors and a robust policy framework in addressing it.**

- **Currently this is not happening and may help to explain the slow rate of reduction of malnutrition**
- **Due to limited understanding of the contribution of nutrition to improving sector performance as well as role of each sector to improved nutrition at all levels**
- **Policies are not contributing positively towards improving nutrition;**
- **Each policy should be analysed on how it affects availability, accessibility, utilisation, stability, safety of food and nutrition outcomes of the entire population**





# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

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## Recommendations - 1

- Incorporate issues of nutrition and importance in all policies
- Improve women skills and knowledge on agriculture and nutrition
- Promote increased control over household income and consider the impact of women time allocation to agriculture and child care when planning for agricultural and nutrition programmes
- Develop a food basket for various regions or agro ecological zones to ensure that all foods in the basket are produced and consumed in sufficient amounts to meet daily nutrient requirement



# Improving nutrition through Agriculture in Tanzania

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## Recommendations - 2

- Improve processing and storage capacity and transport of fruits and vegetables
- Develop indicators to assess contribution of crop yield to nutrient supply/yield to understand the contribution of agriculture to nutrition
- Develop indicators for assessing sectoral contribution to undernutrition or improved nutrition
- Strengthen capacity at all levels to empower key actors to implement nutrition-focused agricultural activities; e.g provide support to nutrition workers, include agriculture-nutrition actions in pre-service training of extension workers for agriculture, nutrition and health



1. Thank you

# Thank you

