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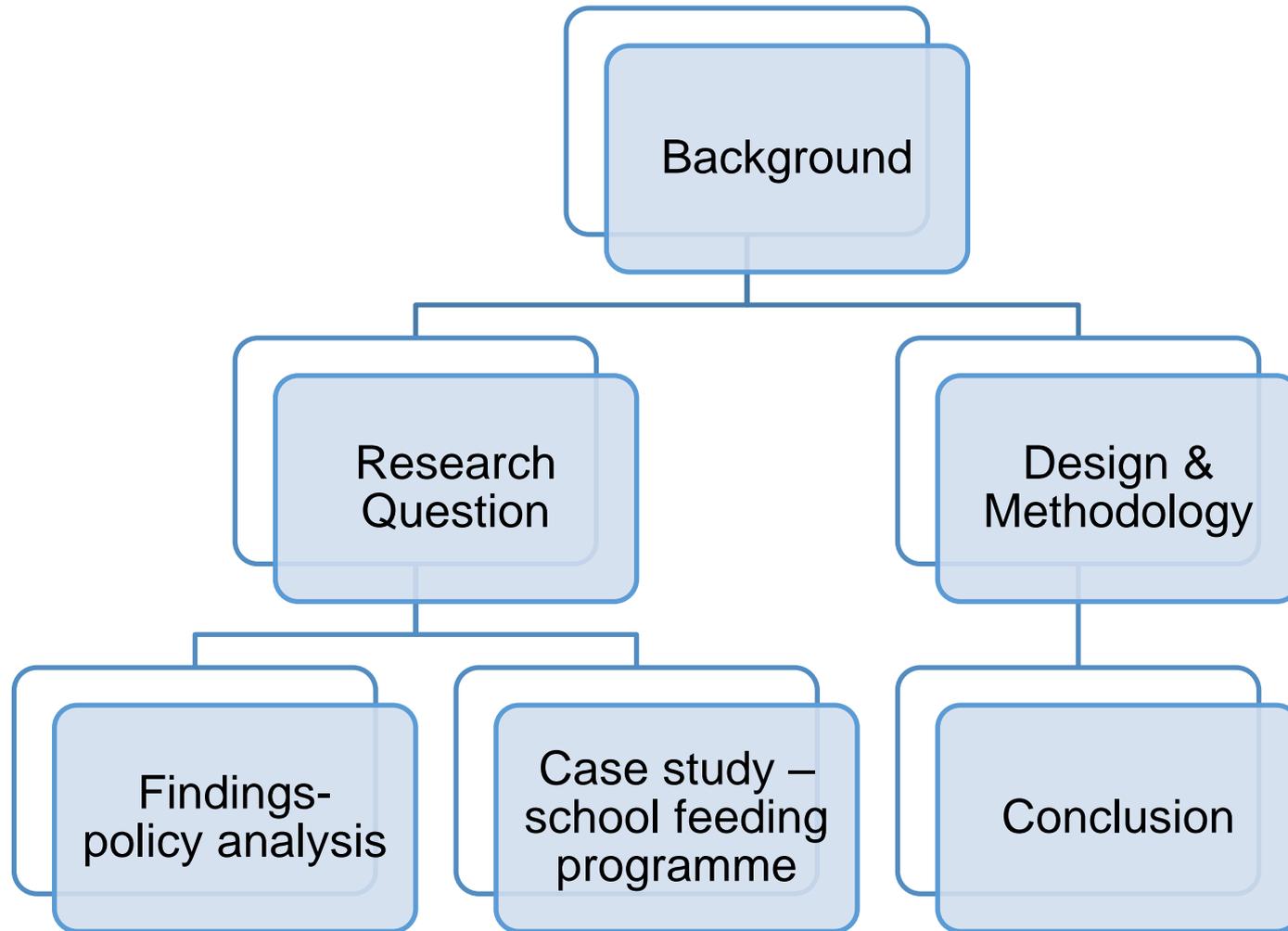
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COHERENCE OF AGRO-FOOD POLICIES WITH NCD PREVENTION POLICIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

DR CATHERINE NDINDA & TEAM

Dr Catherine Ndinda
Dr Sikhulumile Sinyolo
Ms Zinthathu Mazamane
Gobuamang Setswake
Mudzunga Neluheni

Outline of presentation



Background

1. Agricultural sector determines what the general population consumes.
2. South Africa-food secure – sufficient production of the staple food & is able to import when there are shortages
3. Food security at the household level remains a challenge (Ndinda et al 2016)
4. FNSP (2013)-13.5 million South Africans are food insecure
5. Inability of households to afford healthy foods e.g. F&V drives to consume what is affordable, & not nutritious
6. Commercial production determines varieties, quantities & quality of fruit & vegetables available for consumption (DOA, 2013)
7. Affordable – processed foods (high salt/ sugar, & fat)
8. Strategic thrust of policy ‘ensure the availability of safe & nutritious food at national & household levels’ (Department of Agriculture (DOA), 2013:6).

Policy Coherence

Global Consensus – Unhealthy diets- risk factors for NCDs e.g. cardiovascular diseases, cancer, hypertension, stroke & kidney disease (World Heart Federation (WHF), 2015; Heart & Stroke Foundation (2013))

Agri-Food Policies – Undernutrition.

A Triple-Threat –triple burden of undernutrition, HIV & TB, NCDs, & recently COVID-19

Focus – Coherence of agri-food policies with NCD prevention

Policy Coherence

- “policies across a range of domestic areas support, or at the very least do not undermine the attainment of... development objectives” (Barry et al 2010:207).
- Agriculture & food policies - support NCD prevention
- Key question – To what extent do agro-food policies support NCD prevention and control in South Africa

Methodology

Policy analysis

Key informant interviews

63 policies & programmes

35 - Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal , Mpumalanga
National stakeholders
(SANCD Alliance & partners; academics, researchers & NGOs)

Qualitative
Content analysis- key
themes

Findings

1. Identified and reviewed 63 policies and programmes.
2. Assessed alignment with NCDs – i.e. mention of nutrition and health.
3. Coherence – support improved nutrition & health.
4. Lack of coherence – no mention of nutrition or health in the policy or programme identified.
5. Agricultural policies assessed against objectives of NCD prevention and control.

Alignment of local agricultural policies with Global policies/ frameworks

Roadmap for Nutrition in
South Africa

Integrated Food Security
Strategy aligns Food Security
Programme and the National
Policy on Food and Nutrition
Security

Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs) 1996

Rome Declaration on Food Security,
Southern African Development
Community

2012 Report of the United Nations
Special Rapporteur on the right to
food

Sustainable Development Goals

1. Agro - food policies address SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security, & improved nutrition.
2. SDG 2.2. End all forms of malnutrition in children, adolescents and lactating mothers.
3. SDG 2.3. Double agricultural production.
4. SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well being for all.
5. SDG 3.4. Reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs.
6. SDG 2 & 3 are linked. Achieving SDG 2 is important for attaining 3. However, poor nutrition contributes to SDG 3.4.

Coherence of policies with NCD prevention

10 agro-food policies support
19 policies (indirectly)
18 policies relevant, not directly aligned

NCD prevention & control

Coherence of agro-food policies with NCD Prevention policies

Coherence

- Integrated Nutrition Programme (INP)
- National Roadmap for Nutrition in South Africa (2013)

Coherence

- National Policy on Food & Nutrition Security (NPFNS) (2013/14)
- Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS) (2002)

Coherence

- Integrated Food Security & Nutrition Programme (IFSNP)
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) (2014-2019)

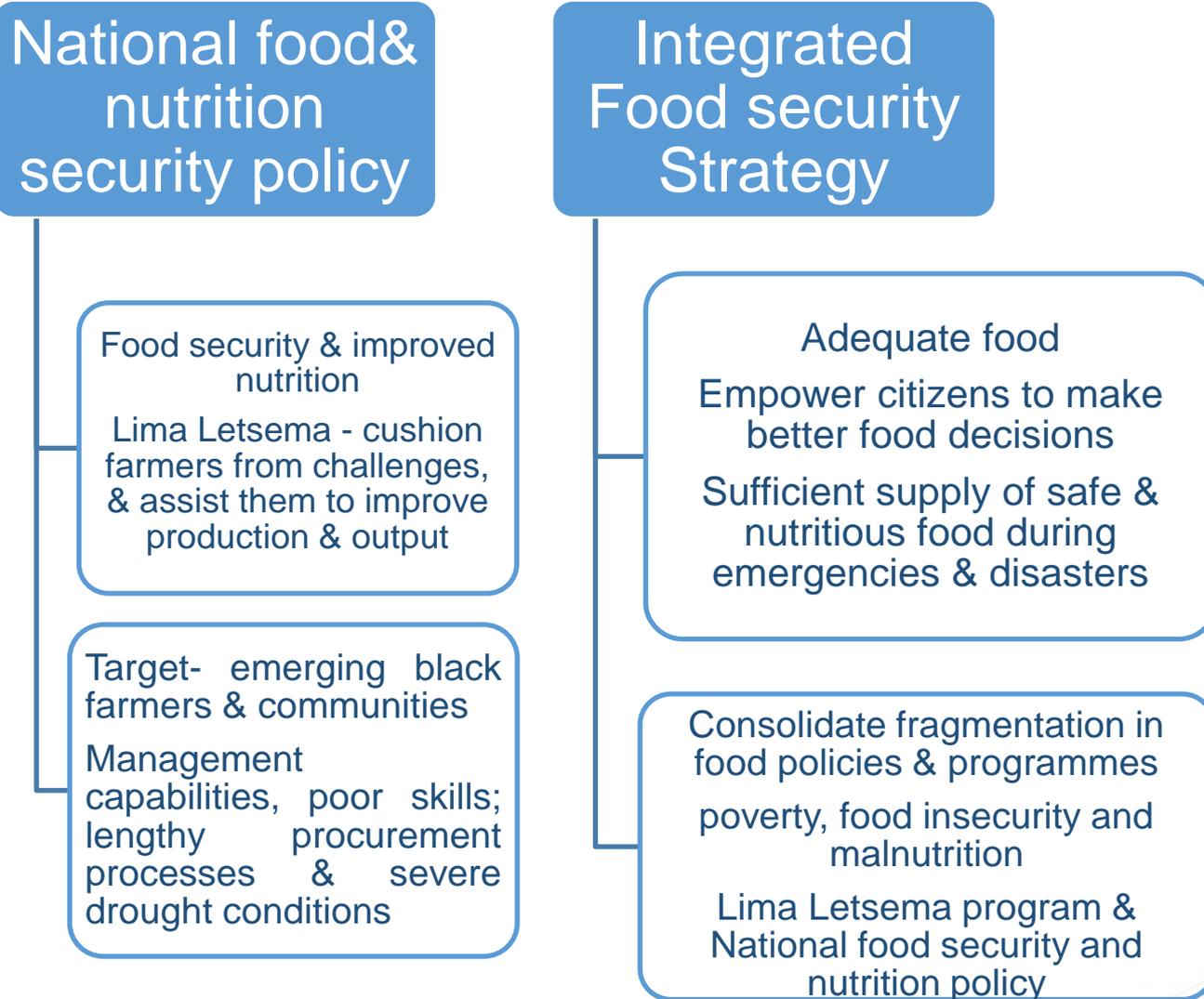
Coherence

- National Development Plan Vision 2030 (Chapter 6) (NDP)
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)

Coherence

- Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRDG)
- Strategic Plan for Maternal, New born, Child & Women's Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition in South Africa (2012)

Agro-food policies- NFNSP & IFSS



School Nutrition Program

SNP

- Alleviate hunger among learners
- Alleviate micro-nutrient deficiency
- Incentive for children to attend school

SNP

- Enhance the learning capacity
- Poor districts - learners (grade R To 7) Fed
- Poor regions—all learners are fed

SNP

- Meals provided for 156 out of 196 days per year
- COVID-19 pandemic – lockdown contributed to hunger & malnutrition
- Government intervention in providing food parcels assisted

School Nutrition Program

1. Promote the consumption of fruits & vegetables for improved health & nutrition
2. A nutrition programme should not be confused with a feeding programme- prevalent in schools.
3. Feeding programme is only concerned with providing food (any type of food) to keep school children.
4. Nutrition programme pays attention to the nutritional value of every meal served.
5. School nutrition programme – objectives are relevant.
6. Implementation flawed- results in feeding scheme & not necessarily nutrition programme.

School Nutrition Program

1. Challenges
2. Advertisement of school nutrition programme tenders
3. Focus on pricing rather questions about qualified specialists – dieticians, nutritionists, & chefs in appointment of service providers.
4. Concerns related to consultation of specialists in planning and implementing the nutrition program in schools.
5. Concerns about sustained inspections & monitoring for compliance nutritional value of food as opposed to simply preparing pap and beans every day.

Discussion & Conclusion

1. Objectives of specific agro-food policies align with the Constitution & NCD prevention
2. Alignment levels co-exist with implementation gaps
3. Poor implementation results in failure to achieve programme & policy outcomes & NCD prevention & control
4. Varied implementation of processes results in misalignment. E.g. School nutrition programme. Objectives specify the goal should be improved nutrition. However challenges in schools result in flawed implementation – optimum nutrition & NCD prevention & control are overlooked
5. Need for alignment both in design & implementation of agri-food policies to contribute to NCD prevention in South Africa

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