

Increasing Agricultural
Productivity & Enhancing
Food Security in Africa

New Challenges &
Opportunities

Harnessing the Potential of Science & the Numbers

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Outline

- 1. What the numbers are telling us?**
- 2. How can we use the numbers to improve agricultural productivity**
- 3. Key messages**



What the numbers are telling us...1/2

Historical trends of agricultural production, productivity and food security

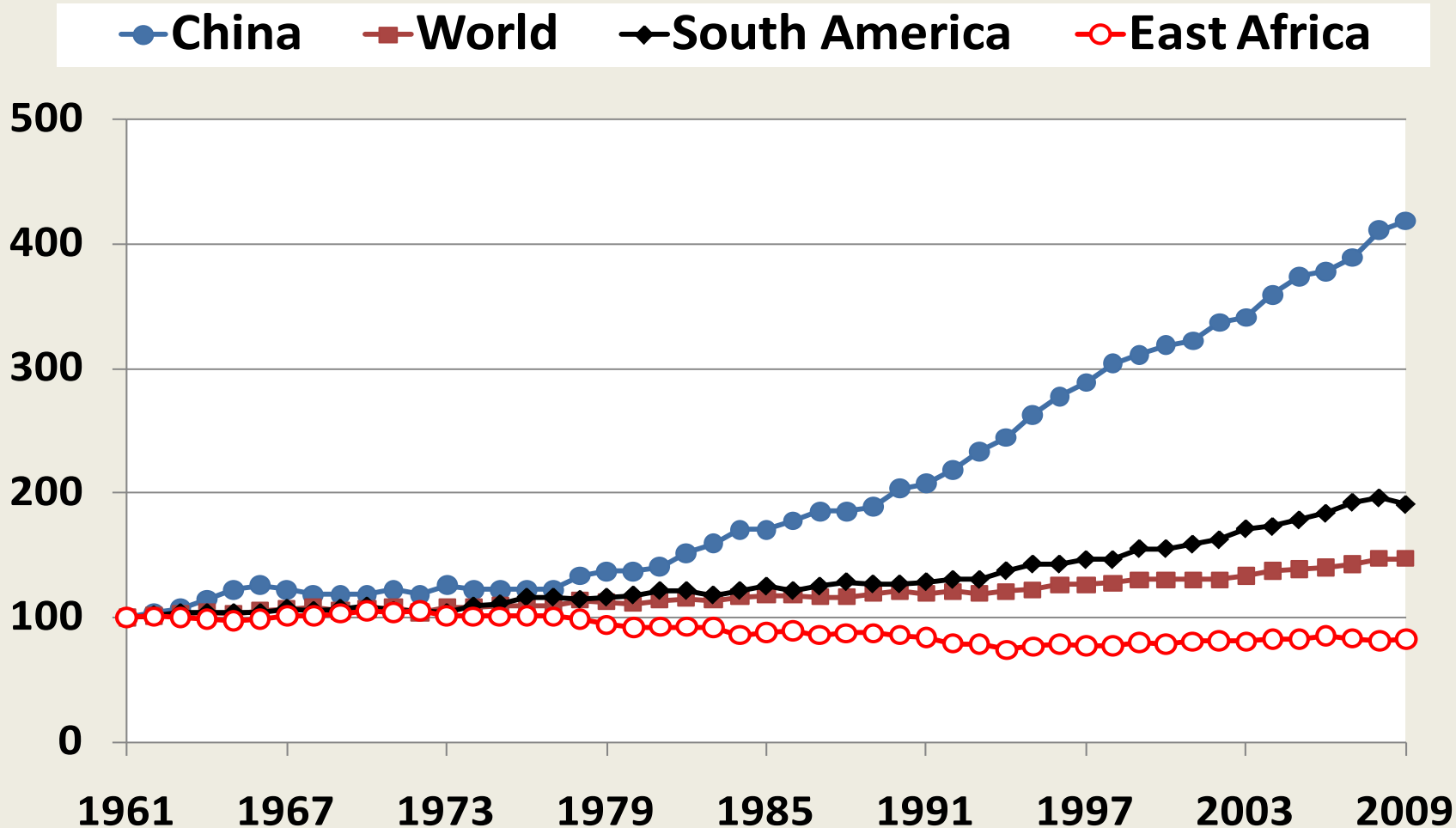
- Stagnation or decline
- Widening gap with the rest of the world

Projections

- Fastest population growth → fast growth in demand for food
- More unfavourable production environment

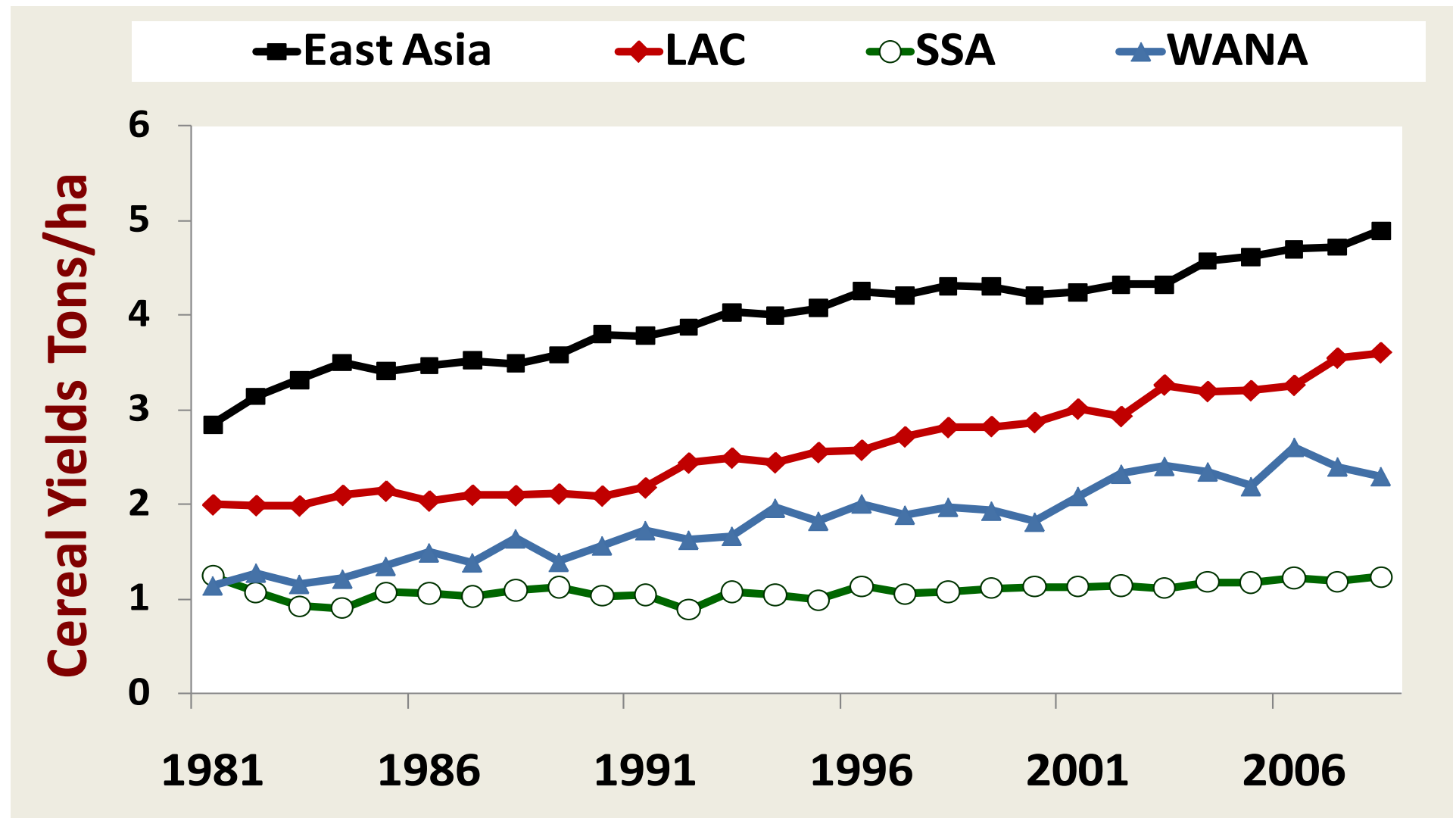
Per Capita Food Production (1961-2009)

Net Per Capita Food PIN Indexed to 100 in 1961 (base: 2004-2006)



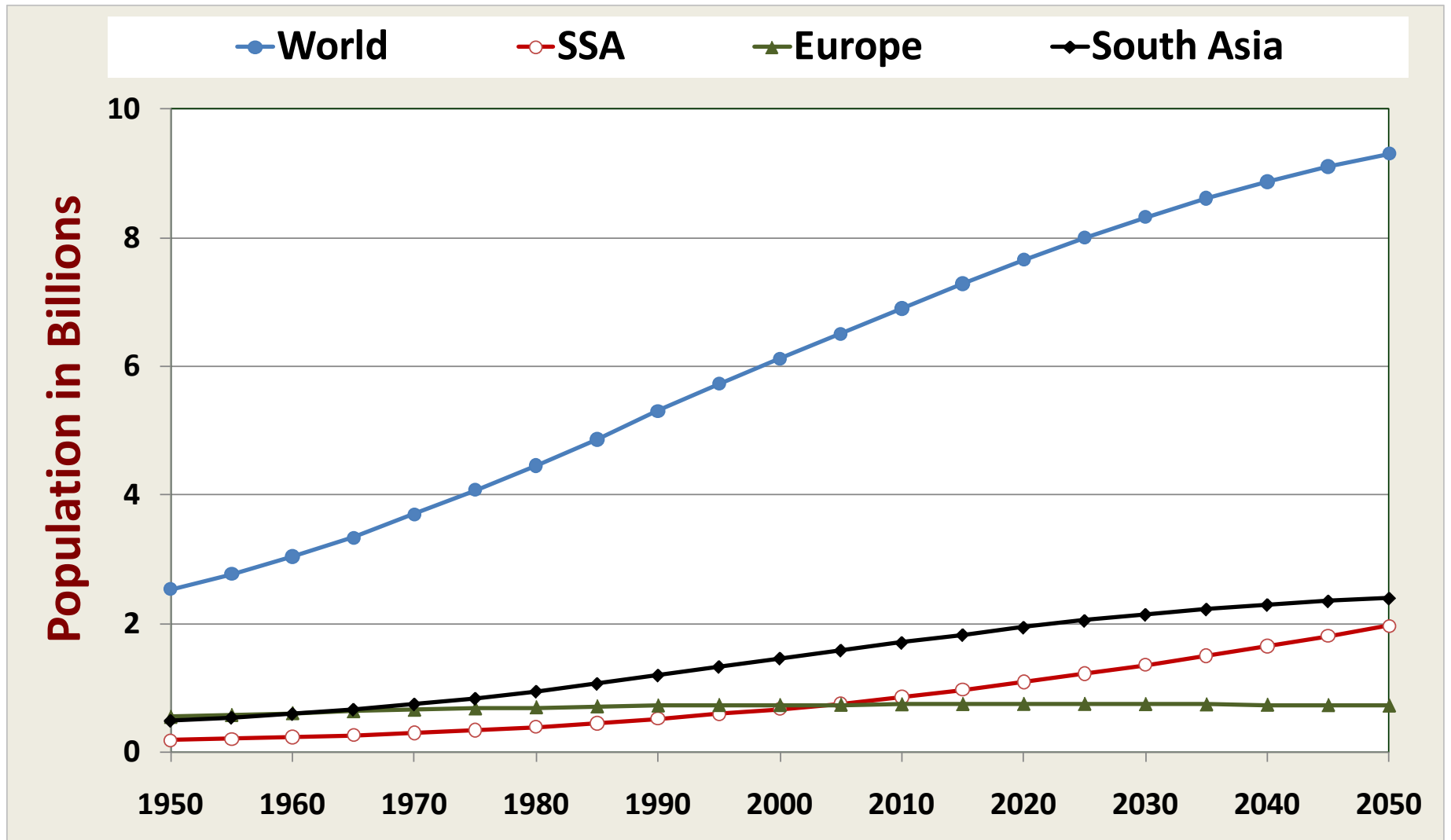
Source: FAOSTAT

Cereal Yield Trend (1981-2008)



Source: FAOSTAT

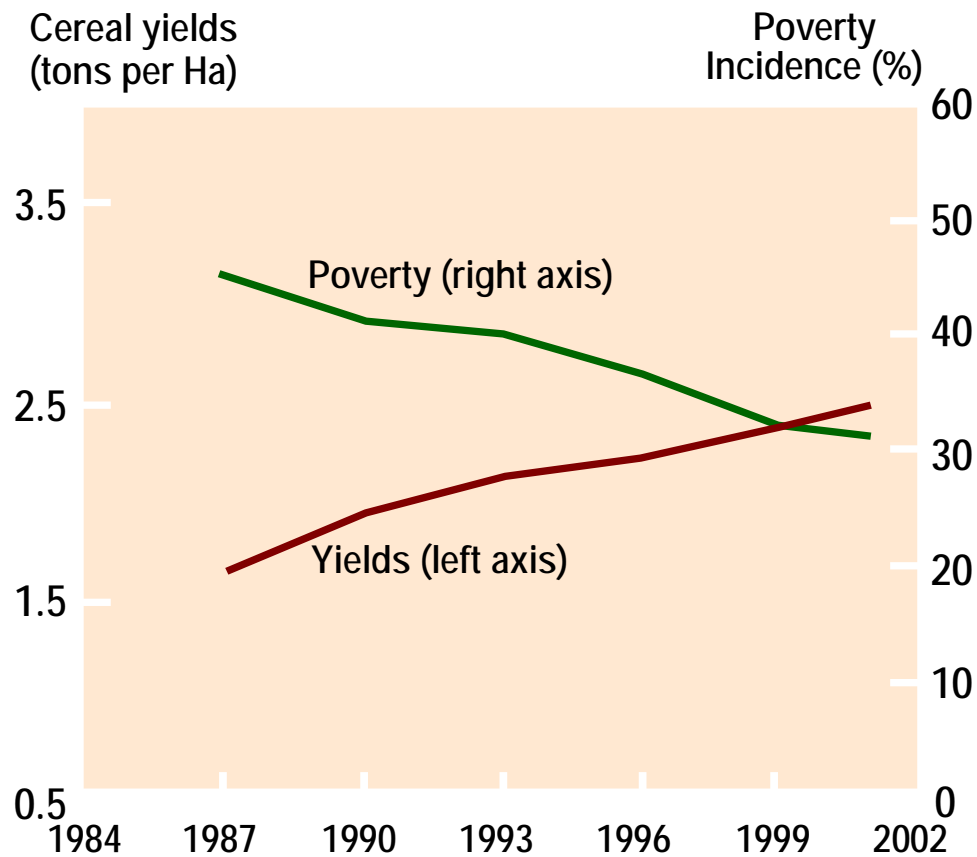
Population projections to 2050



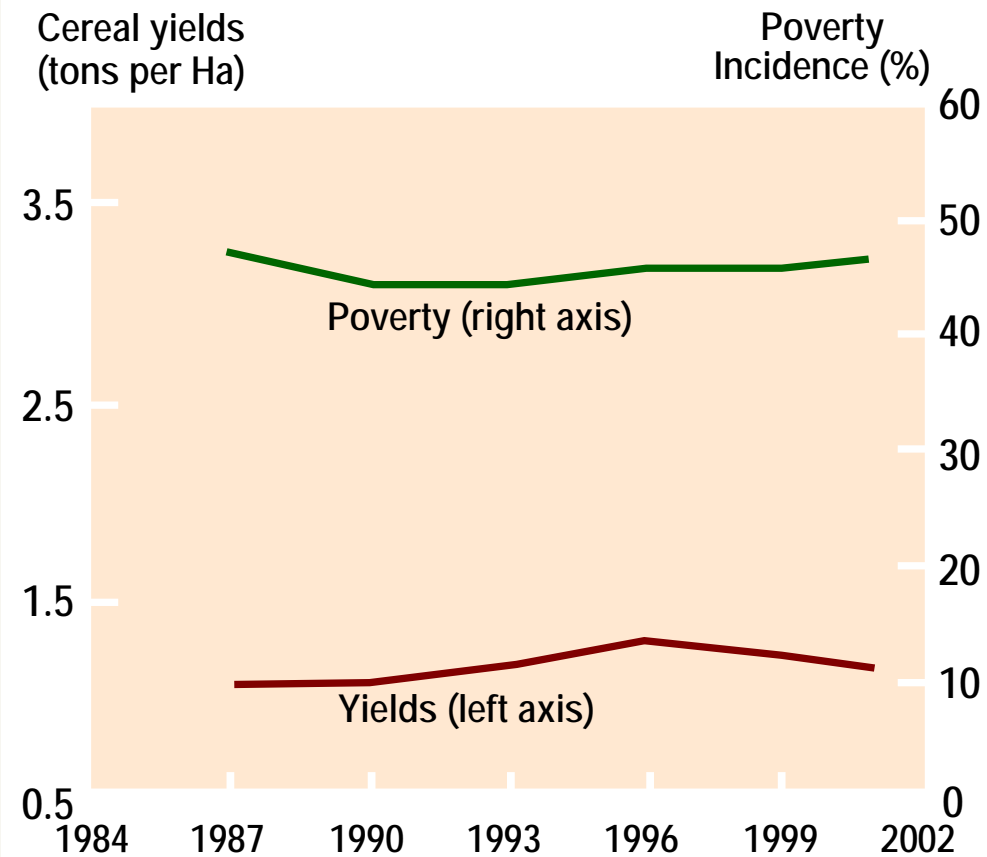
Data Source: UN Population Database
Medium variant scenario (2010-2050)

Agricultural productivity & poverty reduction

South Asia



Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)



Source: WDR 2008



What the numbers are telling us ...2/2

- **Agriculture employs 2/3 of labour force**
- **Agric GDP growth is 2-4 times more effective in reducing poverty than non-AgGDP growth**
 - 1% ↑ in yield can lift > 2m out of poverty (WB)
- **Investment in agricultural R&D offers highest returns on investment**

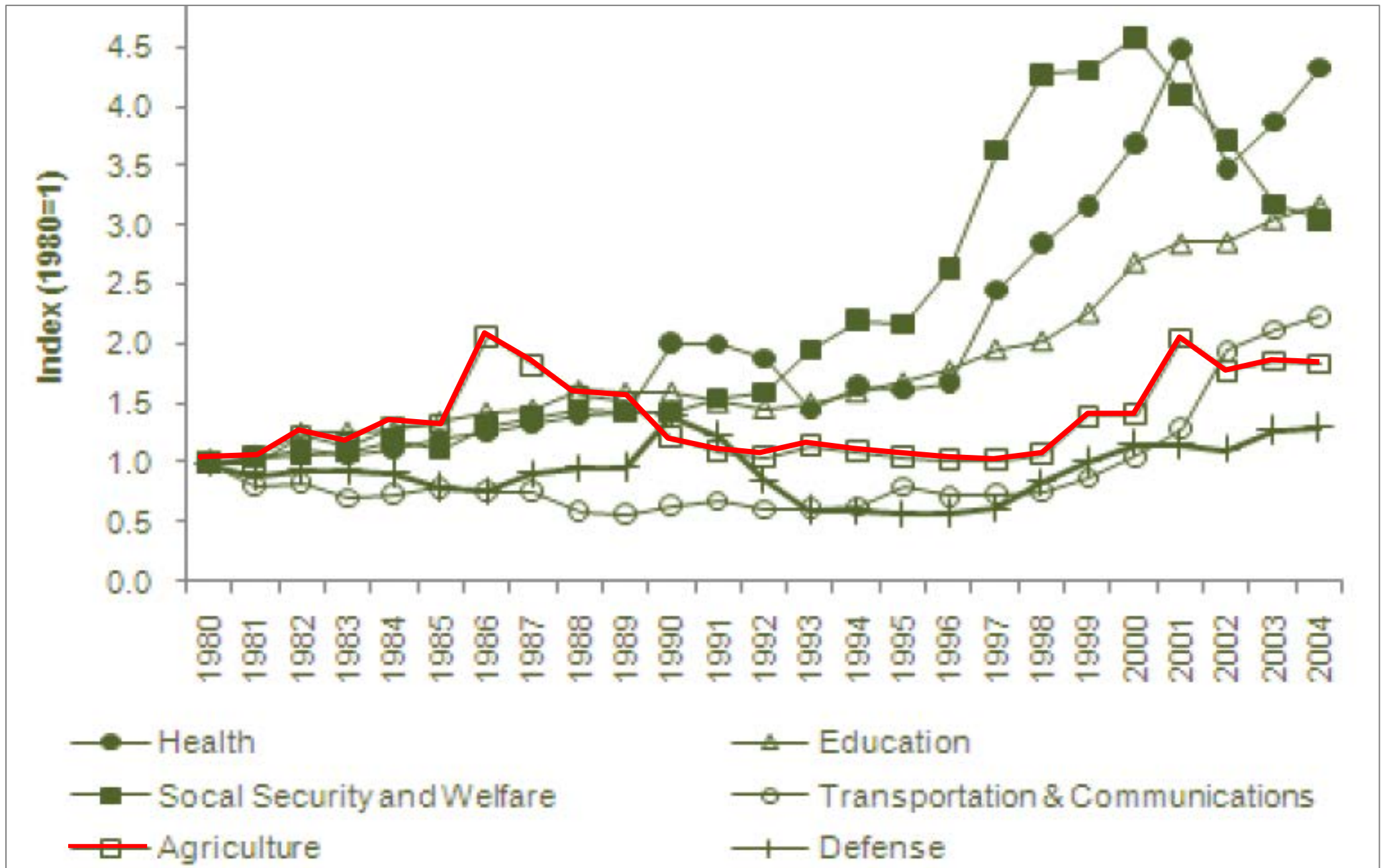
Returns on investment

Rankings

	China	India	Thailand	Vietnam	Uganda
AR4D	1	1	1	1	1
Irrigation	5	4	5	4	
Education	2	3	3	3	3
Roads	3	2	4	2	2
Telecommunications	4				
Electricity	6	8	2		
Health		7			4
Soil & water Conservation		6			
Anti poverty programs		5			

Source: Fan et al. 2008

Government Spending in 12 SSA Countries





What the numbers are really telling us

- **The need to improve agricultural productivity is urgent**
- **Improvement in productivity is attainable**
- **It will require radical actions—a departure from business-as-usual**



Africa's Response

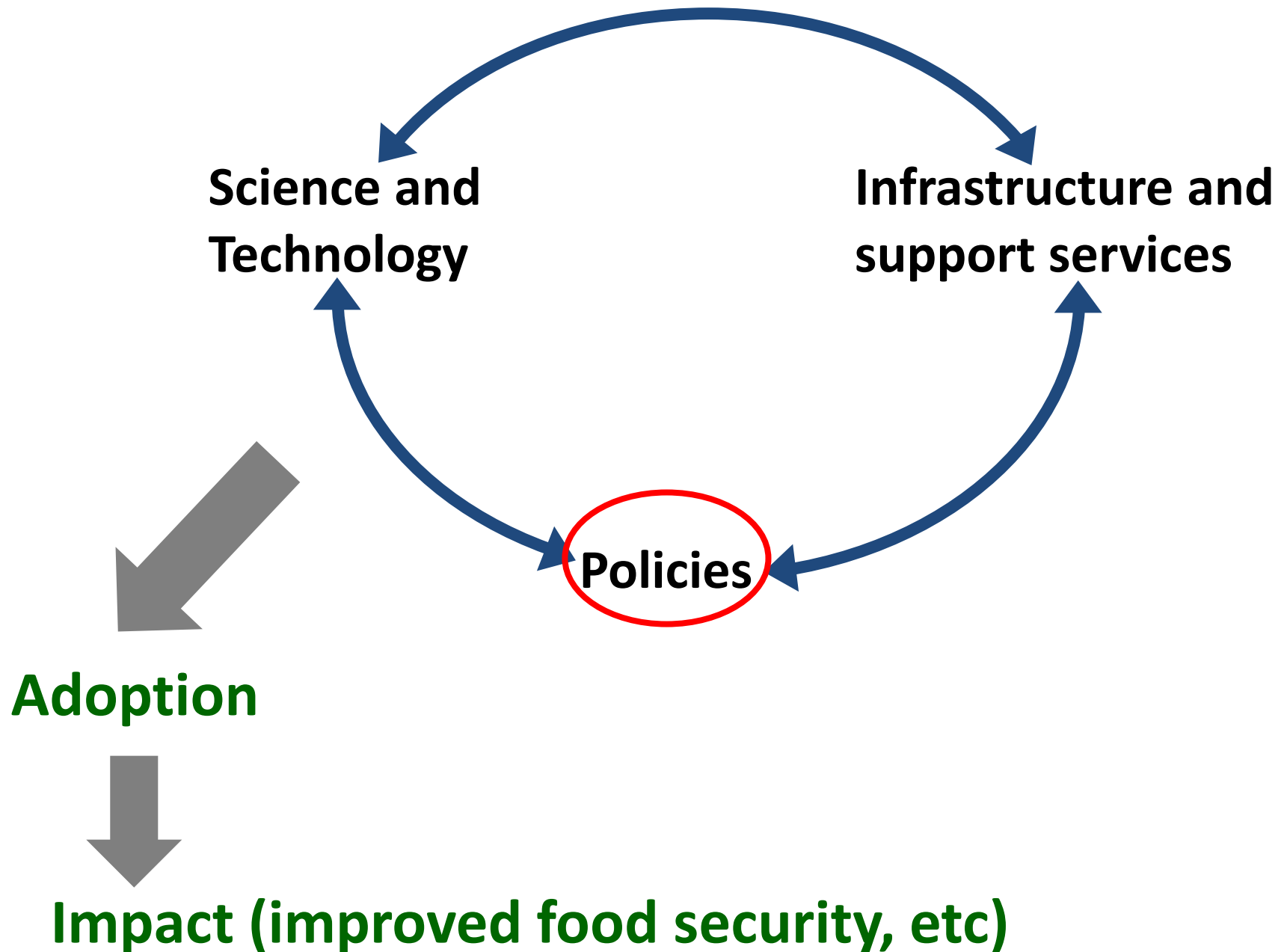
- **CAADP**
 - 6% growth in productivity
 - 10% allocation of national budgets to agriculture
- **Principles**
 - Evidence based planning and policy
 - African-owned and led



Agricultural Science & Technology

- **Provides the knowledge and tools to enhance productivity & reduce losses**
 - **Technologies & practices**
 - **Policy options**
- **Like all tools, benefit depends on their utilization**

Context for S&T to deliver impact





Need to engage with policy makers recognised

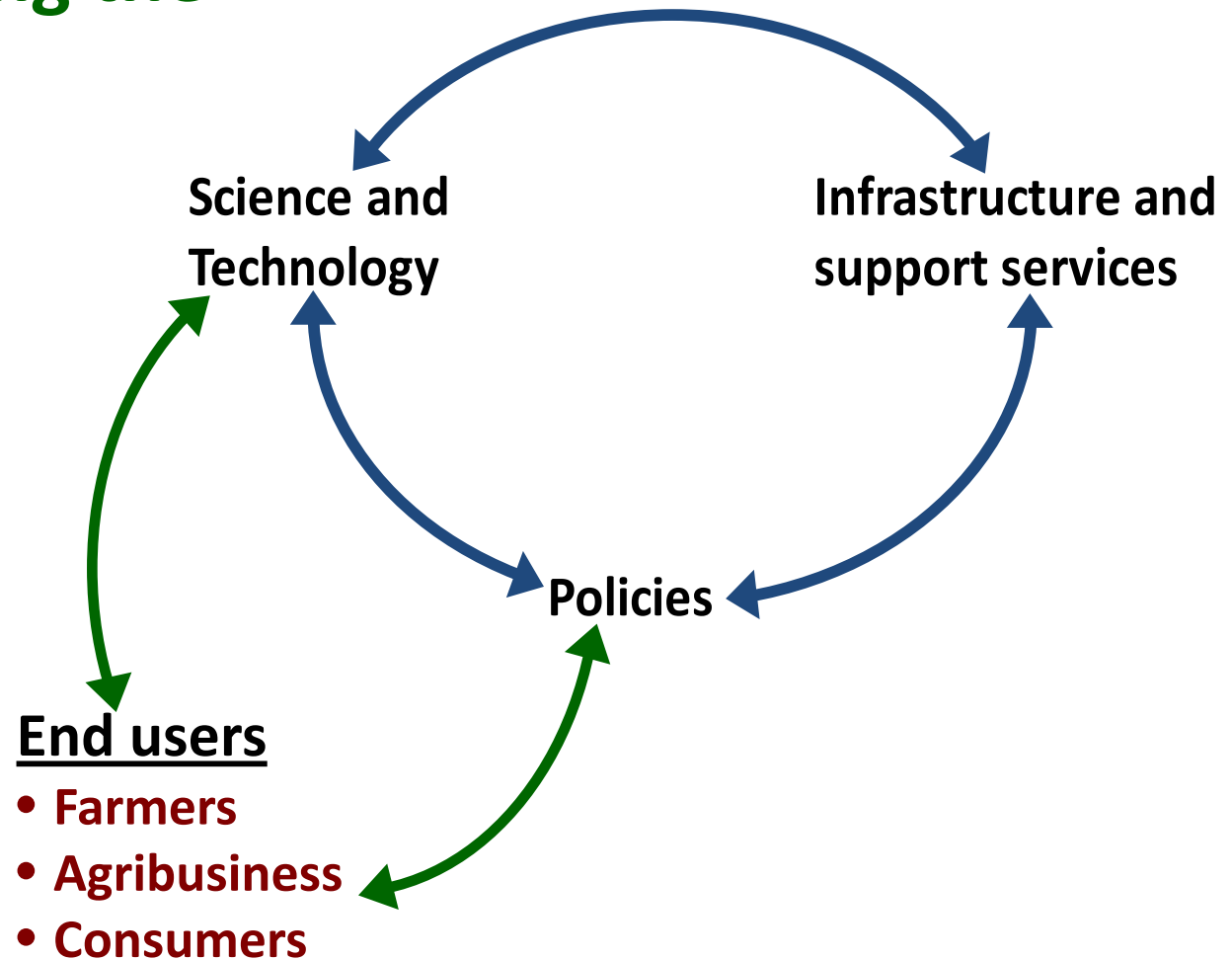
“In the past decade, there has been a narrowing of the gap between scientists and farmers, but a widening gap between scientists and policy makers (and policy shapers)”

James Moseley,

US Deputy Secretary

Department of Agriculture, June 2004

Enhancing our engagement with policy by harnessing the numbers





Farmers represent a significant number

I'm not a number. I'm not a line item on a budget. And I'm definitely not a pushover.

But I am a voter.

So Washington...before you even think about cutting my Medicare and Social Security benefits...

Here's a number you should remember.

50 million.

We are 50 million seniors who earned our benefits...

And you will be hearing from us...

Today and on election day.



Why the farmer Number matters now?

- **It matters in a context where political fortunes are based on issues**
- **Increased liberalization of politics, democracy taking root, elections**



How can we support this approach

- **Support strengthening of farmer organizations**
- **Join hands with them on advocacy**
- **Deepen engagement with consumers e.g. through the media**



Key Messages

- 1. Policy underpins measures to improve productivity and food security**
- 2. We need to harness the power in the numbers:**
 - By supporting end users to push for the policy changes necessary to increase agricultural productivity**

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Thank You



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