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para la
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y la
Alimentación



Issues in the collection of FAO data

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Outline

1. Introduction: challenges and issues
2. Data availability and data quality in the region (2005-2011)
3. Patterns and trends in declining response/quality
 - Questions for feed-back
4. Discussion on proposed recommendations

1. Challenges and issues

Increasing data requirements and decreasing data availability

1. Worldwide: need for evidence-based decision making on food security, agricultural growth and productivity, food security, poverty reduction and resilience, sustainable growth,
2. Africa: need for indicators to monitor progress in reducing extreme hunger and poverty, increasing government expenditures on agriculture, increasing productivity growth: MDG 1, *Maputo Declaration, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*
3. Challenge: falling data quality/response & increased imputation to compute regional/international indicators

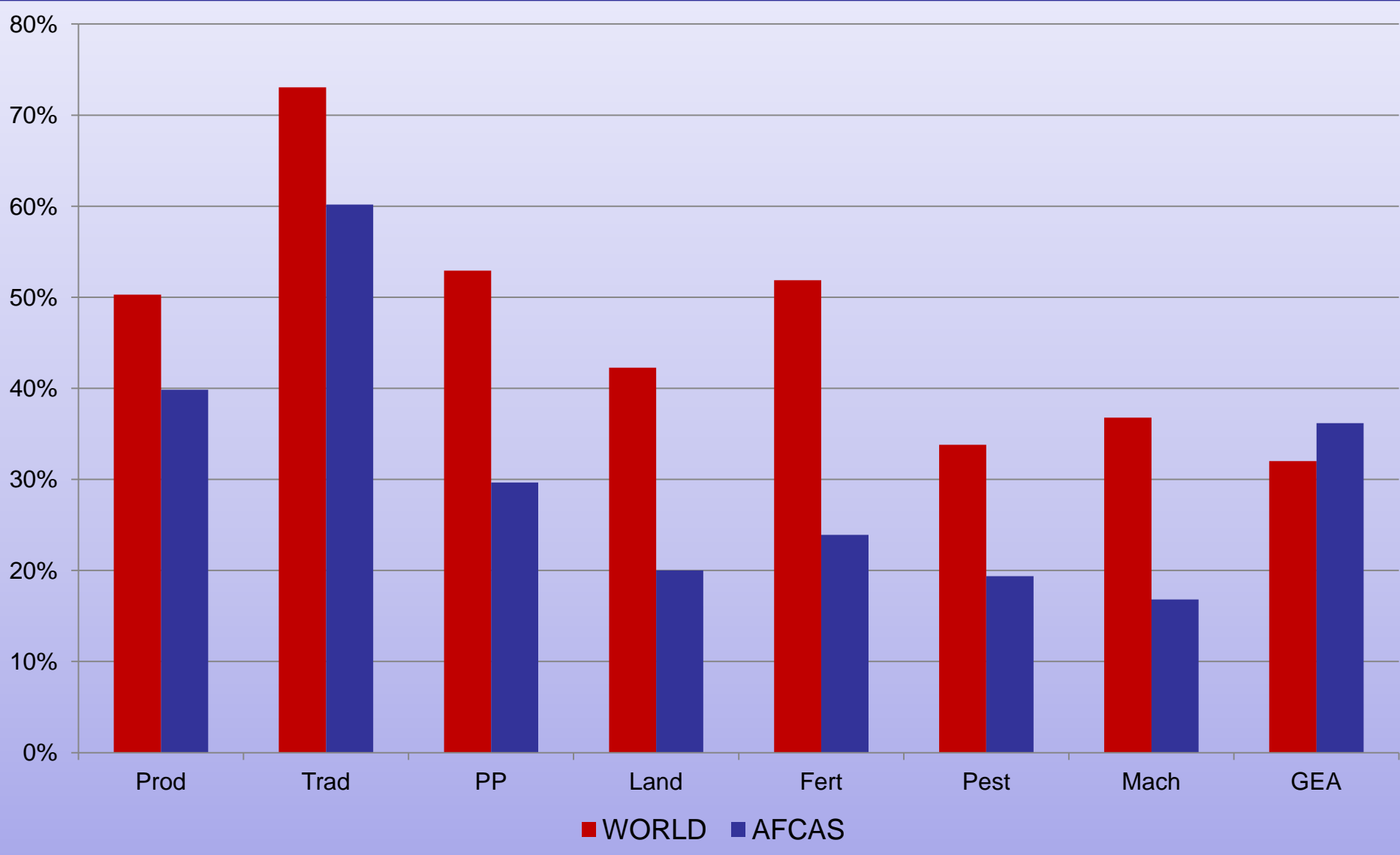
2. Data availability and quality in the region (2005-2011)

- FAO dispatches 7 annual questionnaires, collects Trade data through electronic trade data files

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Production •Producer Prices •Land Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pesticides •Fertilizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Machinery •Government Expenditure
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- Response rates of 60% for Trade and 40% for Production
- About 1 country in 3 reports on Government Expenditure (35%) and Producers Prices (30%), less than 1 in 4 in other domains
- For all but pesticides, response rate less than half the average world
- No sub-region performs systematically better than the world average, Southern Africa outperforms in Government Expenditures; Northern Africa in production, producer prices, and land.
- Middle Africa has the lowest response rates in all domains, except fertilizers, which nevertheless is below 15%.

2. AFCAS vs World response rates by questionnaire, 2005-2011 average



2. Data availability and quality in the region (2005-2011)

Countries divided in 3 groups:

1. **FREQUENTLY REPORTING:** reported 5+ times (3+ for machinery, pesticides)

- ✓ No country regularly responded to all FAO questionnaires in the period
- ✓ Mauritius a regular respondent in 7 out of 8 periods (with the exception of pesticides in which no country is a regular respondent);
- ✓ Egypt in 6 out of 8 (not in pesticides and machineries). Morocco and Madagascar responded 5 out of 8 periods.

2. **NEVER REPORTING:** never provided data to FAO.

- ✓ Djibouti and Libya;

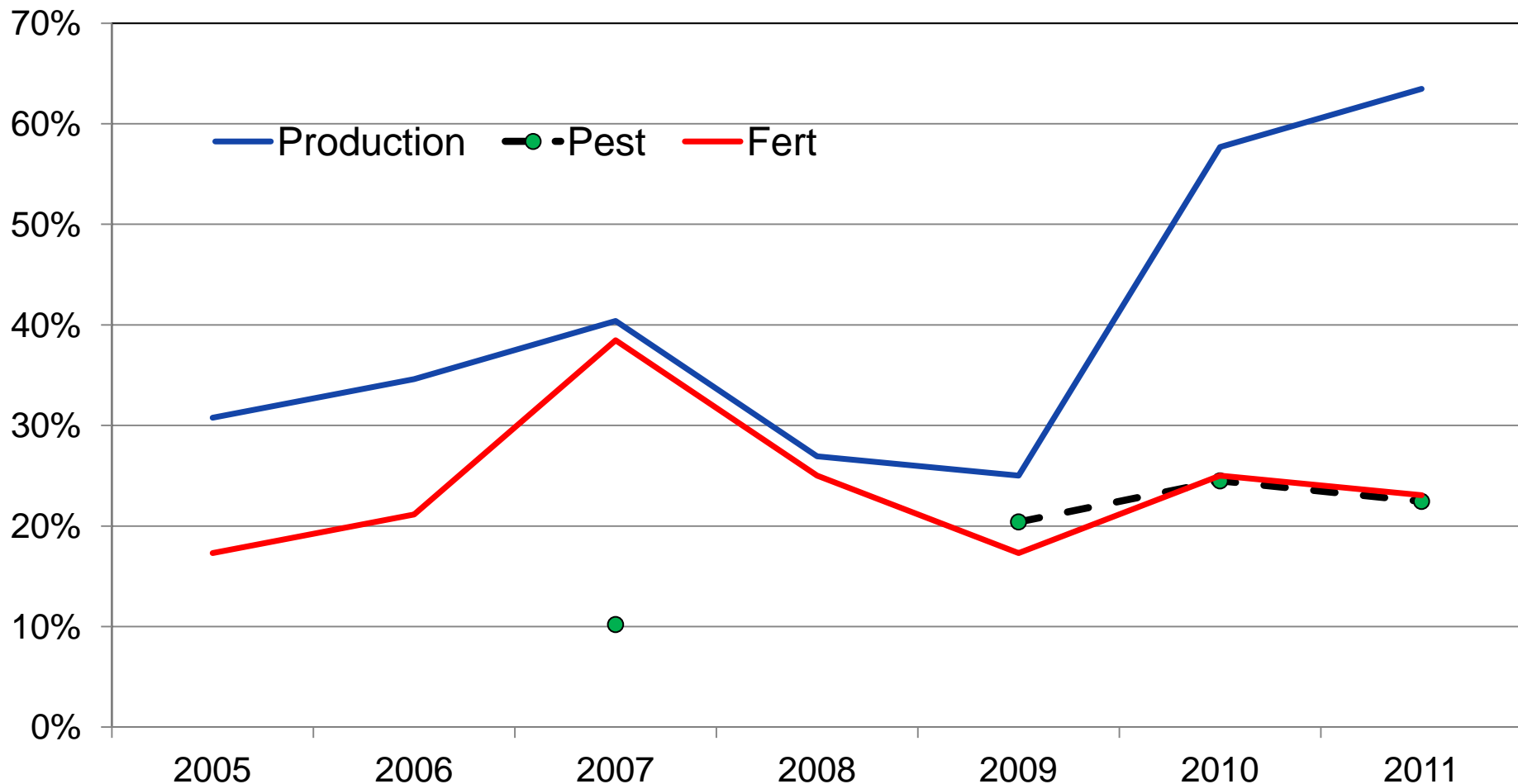
Situation/groups vary for each data domain.

2. Data availability and quality in the region (2005-2011)

3. **IRREGULAR REPORTING:** reported 1 to 4 times (1 or 2 for machinery, pesticides)

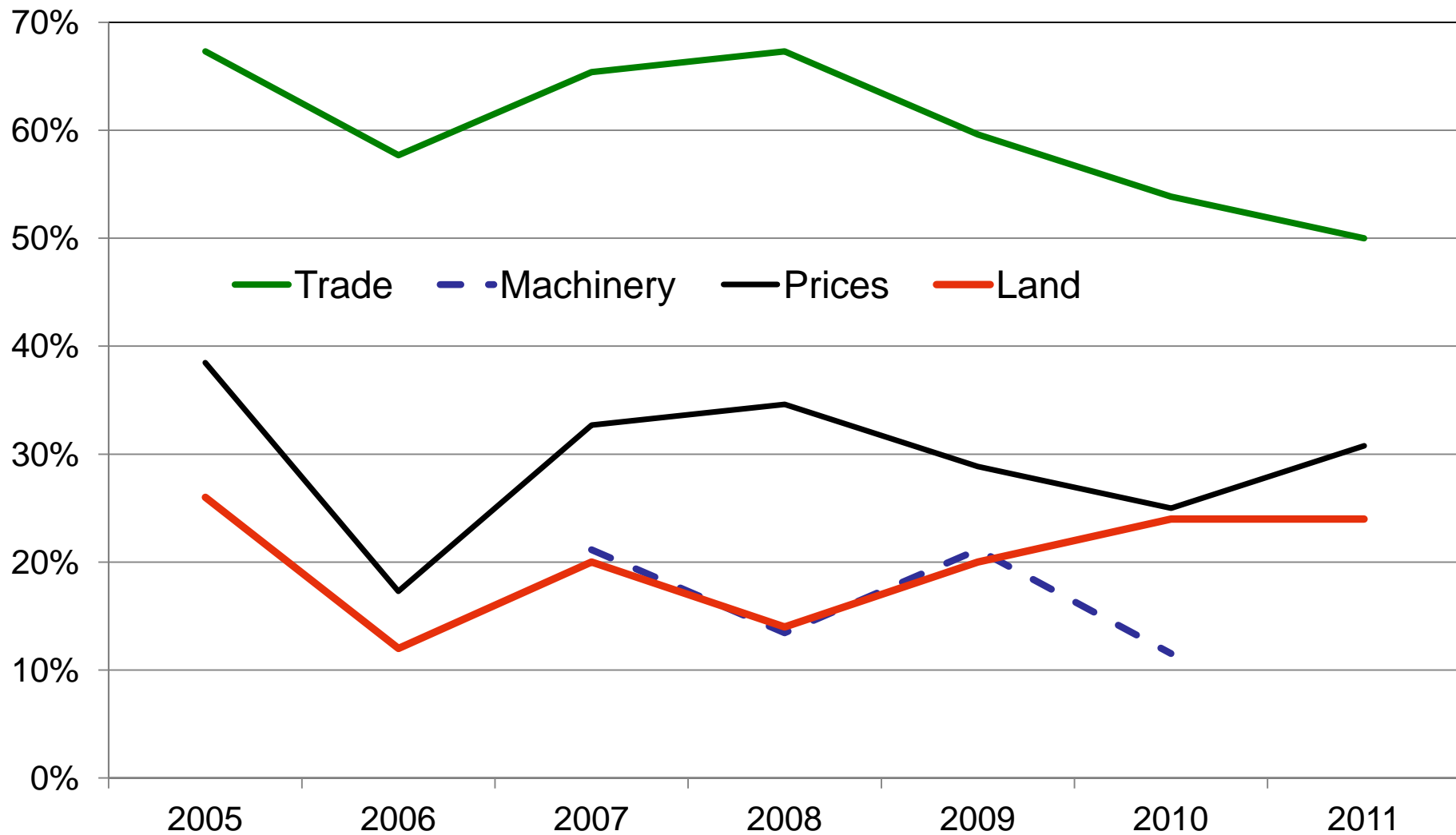
- ✓ All other AFCAS members irregularly report data, which makes it difficult for FAO to build consistent times series in each data domain.
- ✓ Largest challenges in this group faced by Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, and Liberia, who responded only once, for pesticides (2011), producer prices (2005), and government expenditures (2011).
- Irregular or incomplete reporting makes it difficult to build consistent time series for each data domain.
- Uses of data series increasing, to build System of Economic and Environmental Accounts for Agriculture, Economic Accounts for Agriculture, and Capital Stock

2. AFCAS response rate trends (2005-2011): Production, pesticides, fertilizers



Production questionnaire workshops in Tunisia, Mali and Kenya in 2010

2. Declining response rate trends (2005-2011): Trade, producer prices, machinery, land



3. Patterns & trends in declining response/quality

1. Possible explanations, for discussion:

- Increased burden: from FAO questionnaires (length, complexity, number, etc.); from all sources (regional/international organizations, NGOs, etc.)
- Resource issues: budget/HR constraints at country level
- Lack of country-level data: less than *annual* frequency, or no data collection, in some domains
- Training needs, confidentiality issues, other?

3. Patterns & trends in declining response/quality

Possible solutions, for discussion:

- Establish single country-level focal point (Annex 2, paper)
- Adopt international classification systems at country-level in lieu of national classification systems
- Provide on-line/virtual training and workshops
- Develop alternative data reporting/collection means: on-line/internet, CountrySTAT, APIs
- Improve metadata reporting at country-level (classifications, content, format, frequency, coverage, etc)
- Establish regional data peer-review process

4. Recommendations for Discussion

Short-Term:

1. Country level: single up-to-date contact registry; improved metadata reporting, higher priority to questionnaire completion
2. FAO: strengthen statistical capacity via questionnaire workshops on rationale, measures, classifications → imputation method, other topics required
3. Both: address confidentiality through MoU's on data provision and dissemination; establish AFCAS-FAO group to peer-review country data

Medium to Long-Term:

4. Country-level: adoption of international classification systems, development of platforms to support APIs, SDMX (statistical data and metadata exchange),
5. FAO: on-line/mobile data collection, APIs, CountrySTAT as Food Security hub
6. Both: formal mechanism of country consultation; Global Committee on Agricultural Statistics to: (a) better coordinate/ standardize recommendations / activities from regional bodies; (b) provide global forum for countries to review/endorse methodological and other normative work



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Thank you

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