

# Agricultural Development and Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

## Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

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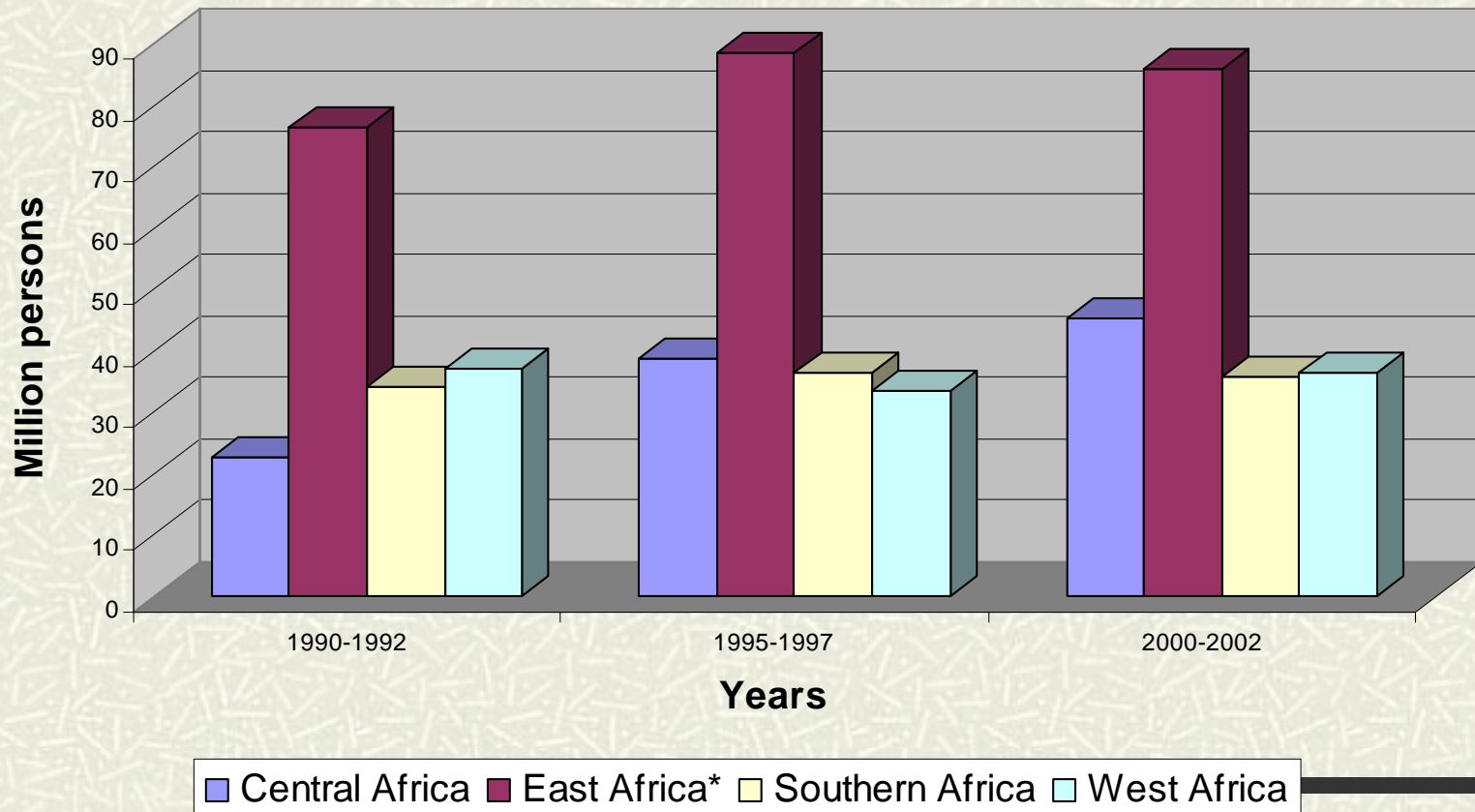
*Policy Assistance Division, FAO*

*Nairobi, 14-16 September 2005*



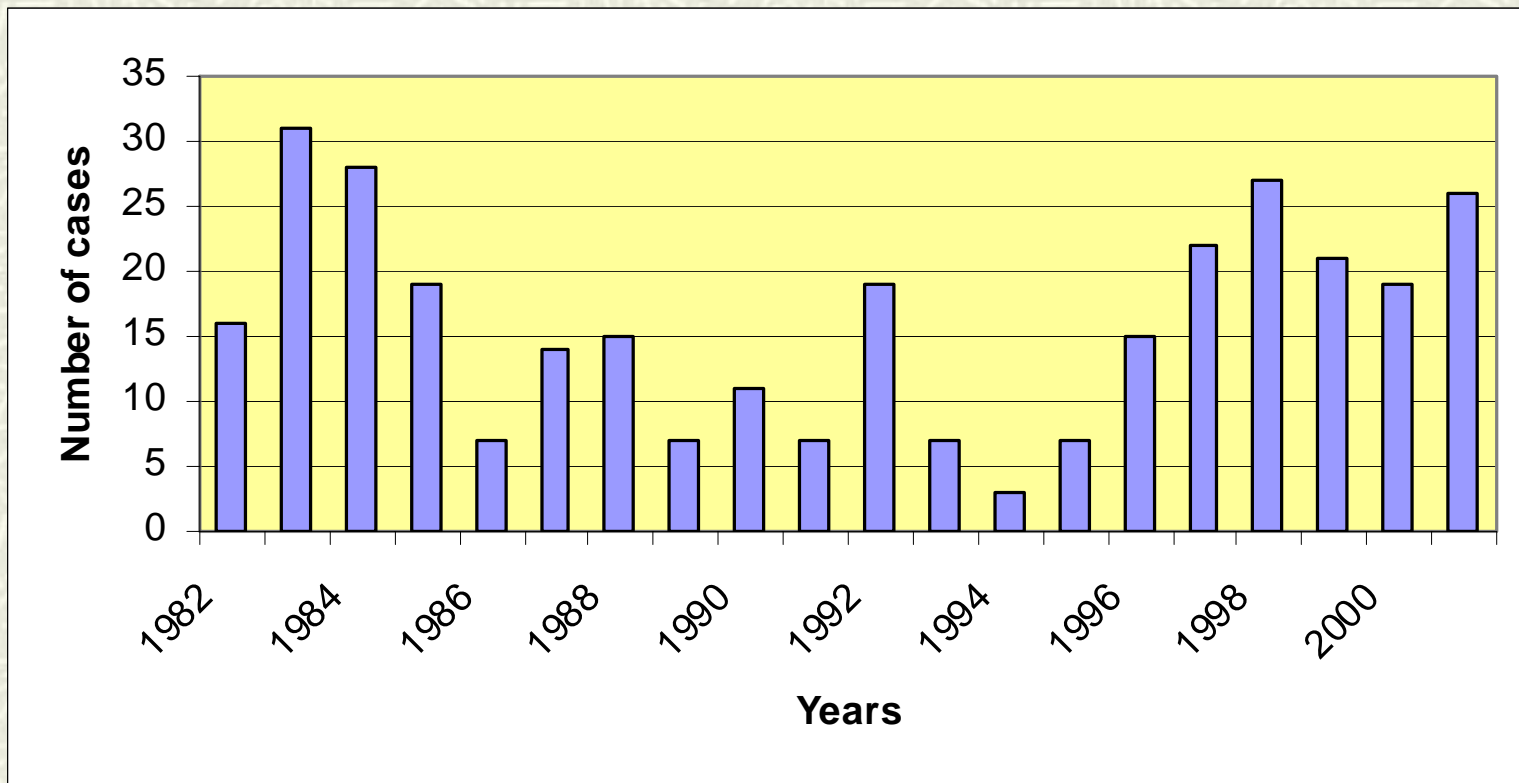
# Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

## Number of Undernourished



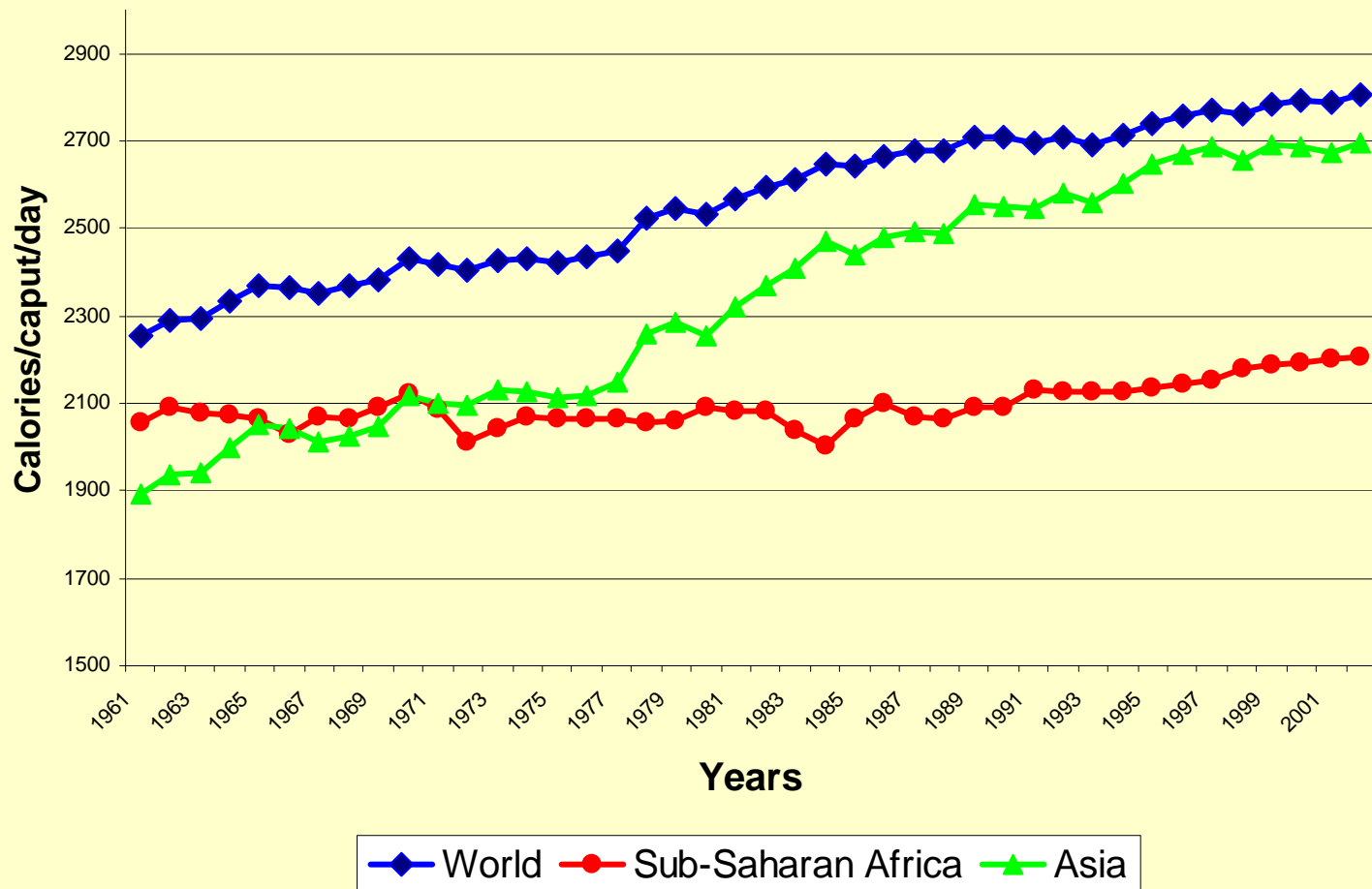
# Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

## Number of Food Emergency Cases in Africa



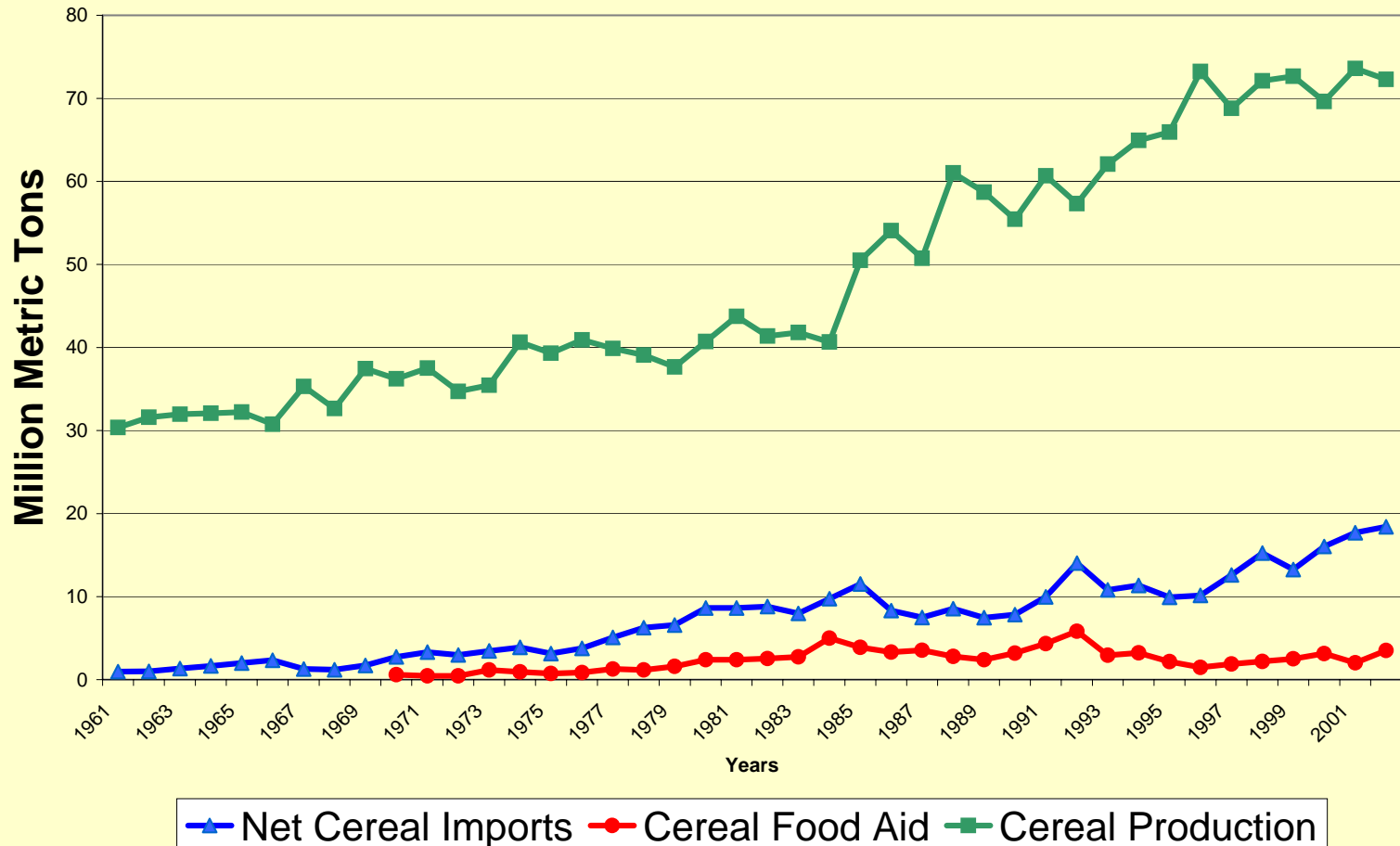
# Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

## Average Daily Level of Food Intake per Caput



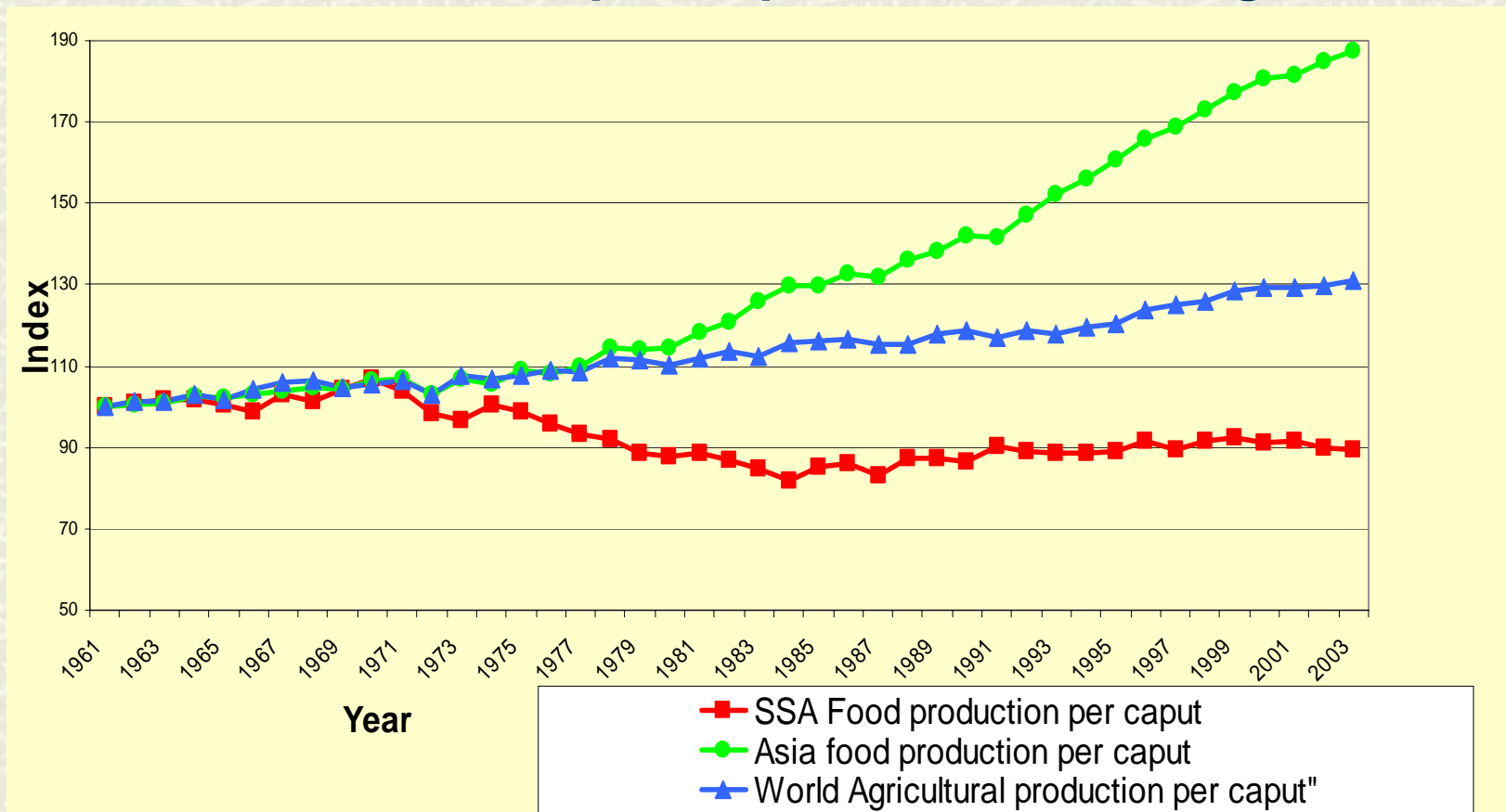
# Sources of Food Supply in sub-Saharan Africa

## Cereal Production, Imports and Food Aid in SSA



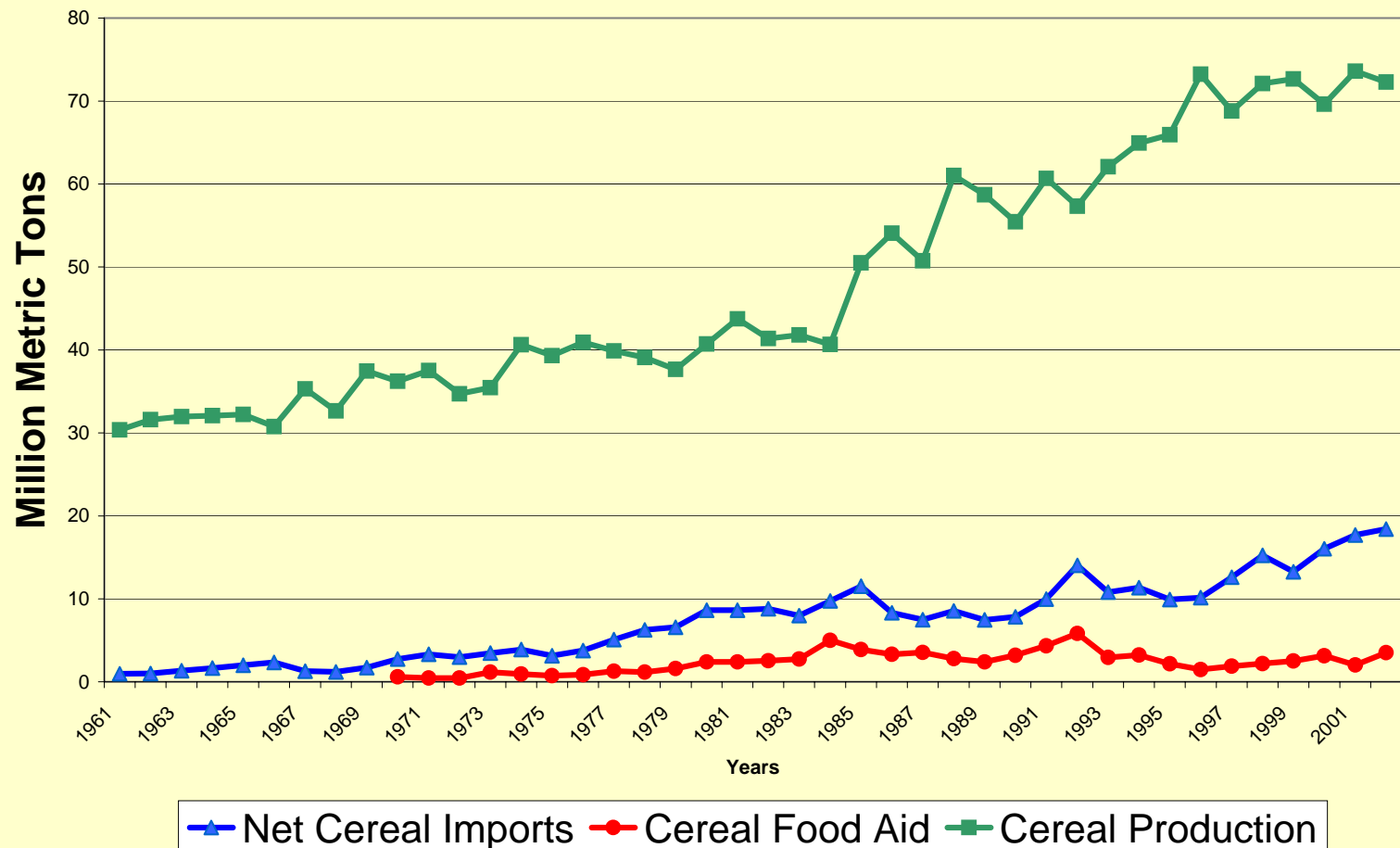
# Food Supply in sub-Saharan Africa

## Food Production per Caput in Selected Regions

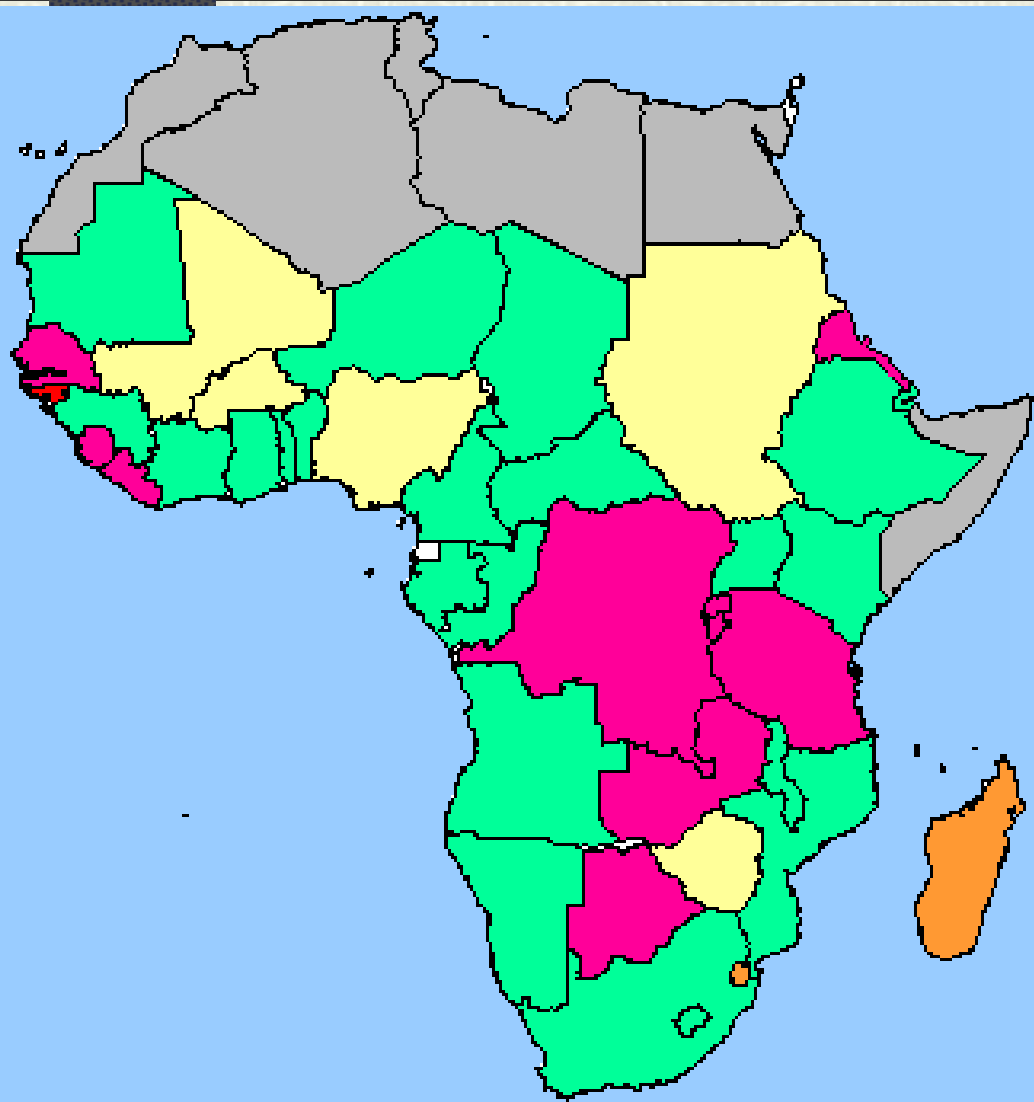


# Sources of Food Supply in sub-Saharan Africa

## Cereal Production, Imports and Food Aid in SSA



# Changes in Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa



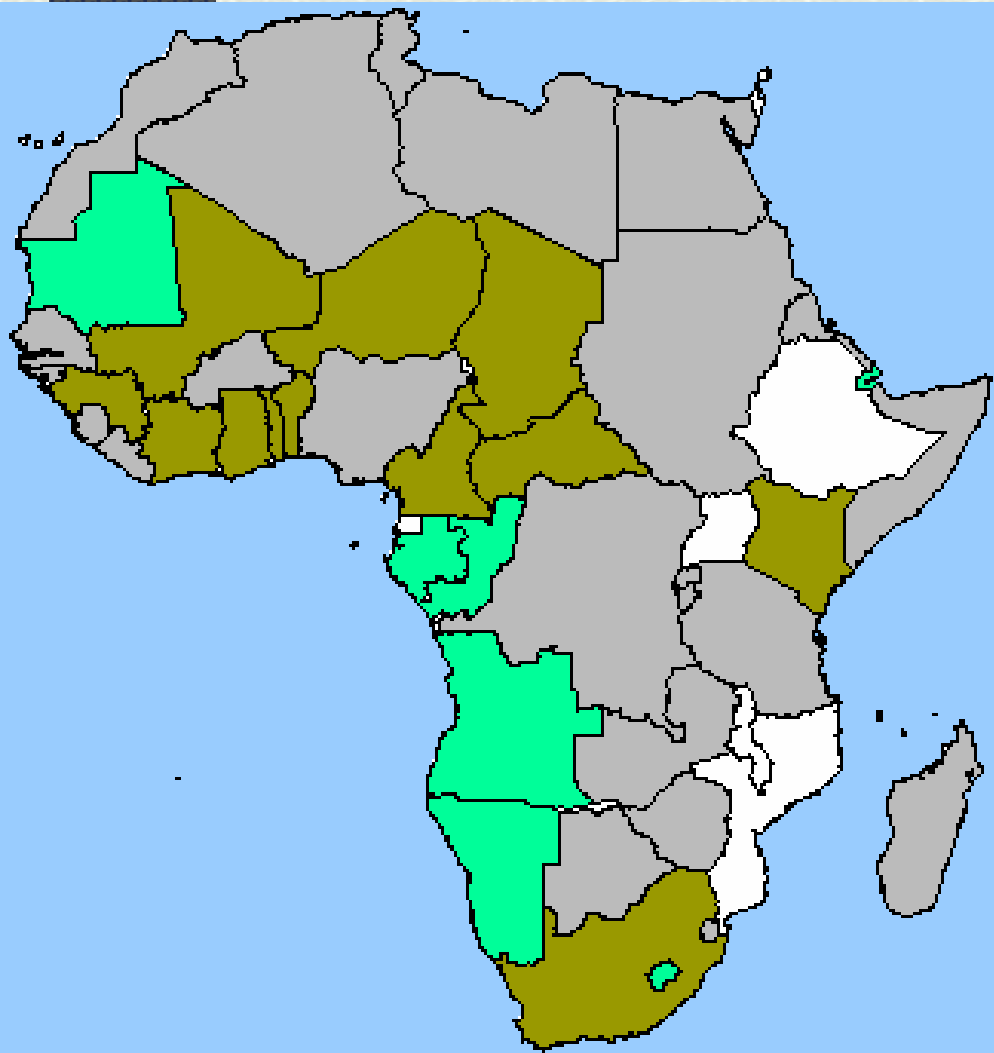
## Performance

Improving food security situation

Stagnating food security situation

Deteriorating food security situation

# Strategies for improvement



## Strategy

Rely more than 50% on imports

Rely on domestic supply complemented by imports

Rely on domestic supply complemented by food aid



# Access

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## # Economic access

- National level
- Household level

## # Physical access

- National level
- Household level

## # Political and socio cultural factors

# Economic Access - National

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- negative balance of trade and current account
- high debt
- food imports can represent more than 20% of import bill

⇒ **Reliance on imports not sustainable in most cases**

[Back](#)

# Economic Access – Household level

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- # Poverty: 46.9% in Africa (2001)  
31.3% in South Asia (2001)
- # Causes:
  - overdependence on subsistence farming
  - limited access to off-farm employment and income generating activities
- # But:
  - off-farm income is important share of total income for rural households
- # Price instability

[Back](#)

# Physical Access – National

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## # Transport costs

- landlocked countries (14)
- high freight costs (double from Asia)
- lack of internal infrastructure

[Back](#)

# Physical Access – Household level

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- # poor access to market and storage infrastructure

- # location of storage facilities

⇒ **coexistence of surplus and deficit areas**

[Back](#)

# Political and socio-cultural factors

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## Political

- # in 2001, 17 countries affected
- # food as a means of warfare (13 countries affected)
- # insecurity as a constraint to relief agency activities
- # donor policy, economic sanctions and food embargo

## Socio-cultural

- # intra-household food allocation (by age or gender)

[Back](#)

# Conclusion

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## *Food Security*

- # The key importance of conflict

## *Supply*

- # Better performing countries in agriculture are also better performers in food security
- # Food imports have grown tremendously
- # Food aid is relatively stable and increasingly linked to emergency

# Conclusion (cont'd)

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## *Access*

- # weak import capacity of countries
- # widespread poverty (half of SSA population)
- # high transport costs
- # political and socio-cultural factors



**Peace and Development**