



How indicators and scorecards can inform policy formulation and targeting

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ERS: data user and intermediary

- Stakeholders/users: policy makers, USDA program managers, interest groups, public
- Products:
 - Data
 - Indicators
 - Research outputs: general audience, technical
- Use data from wide range of public and private sources
 - NASS, Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics
 - Administrative data
 - Private sector (scanner data to assess food consumption)



Stakeholder demands for ERS

- High value of objective, trusted data, indicators, and research
- Want information on all parts of food, agriculture, environment, and rural sectors and policy
- Ability to answer questions about new issues
- Value geographic and demographic detail
- Several stakeholders require international perspective



Benefits of Well Designed Metrics

- Succinct and valuable feedback to policy makers regarding the performance of a sector
- Support public accountability
- Provide information to all stakeholders who may have an interest in the sector
- Value linked to relevance, clarity, timeliness, and transparency
- Input into research on behavior and causality

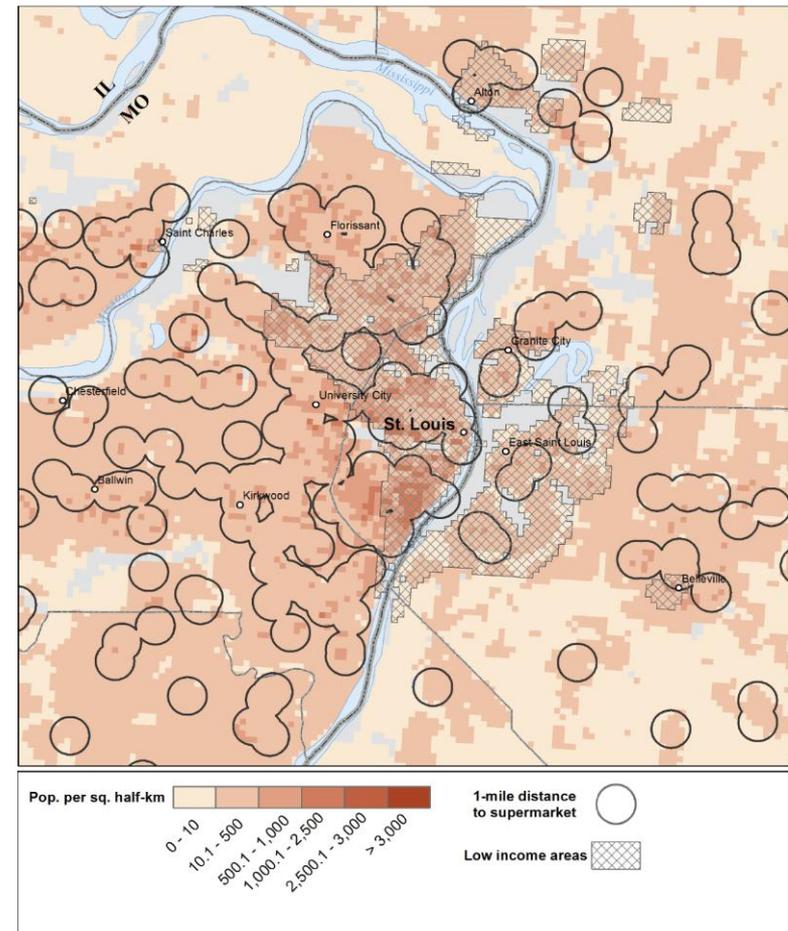
Examples



Improving dietary outcomes through improved access to foods – measuring “food deserts”

- Obama administration and legislative interest to measure “food deserts”
 - Data limitations led to creation of indicator based on distance to supermarkets
- Measured in 2009 and updated in 2012
 - Policies only started in 2011 and target more than supermarkets (can’t yet measure impacts)
 - Slight worsening of problem over time related to recession

Figure 4
Supermarket access in St. Louis, Missouri



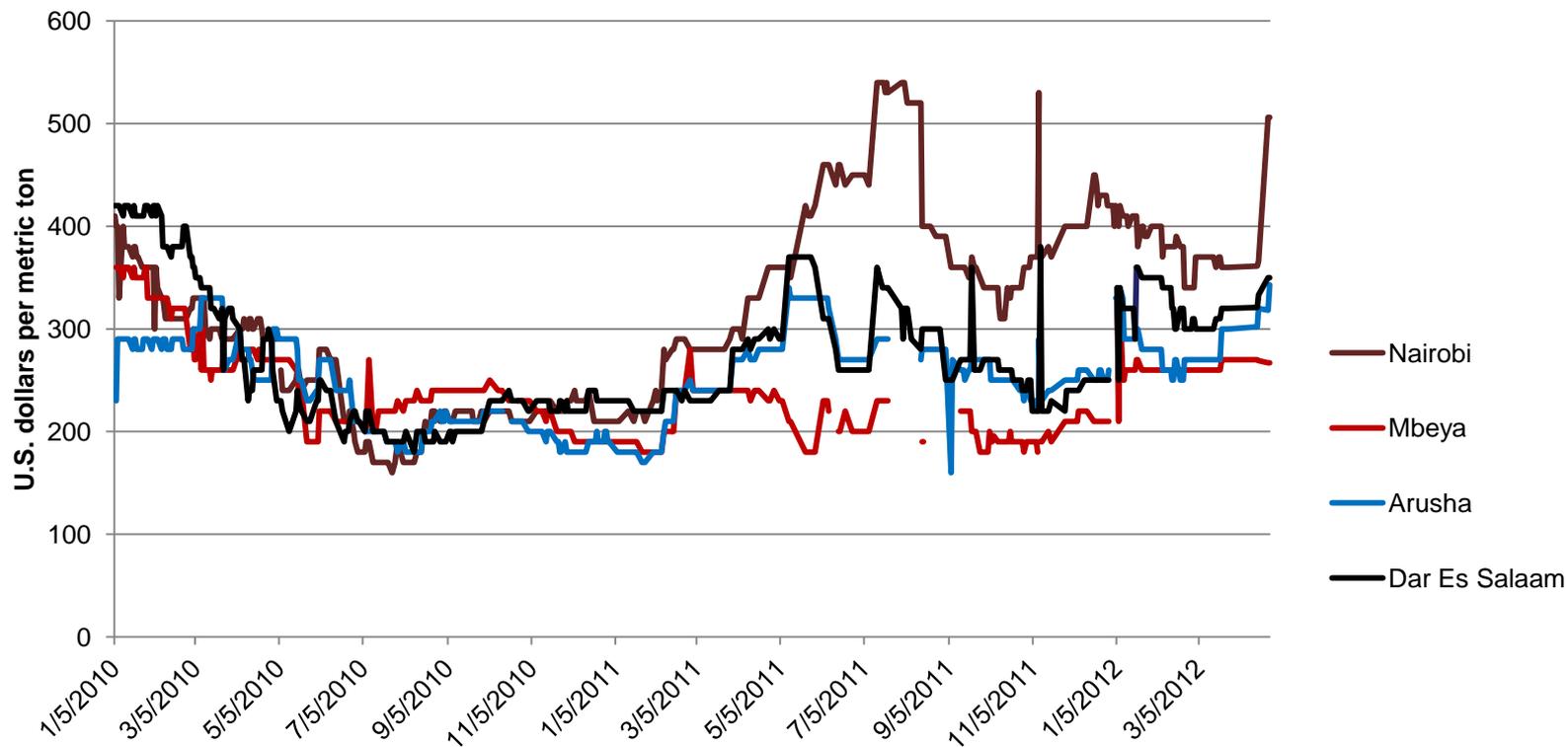
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.



Indicator tells part of story for policy development and targeting

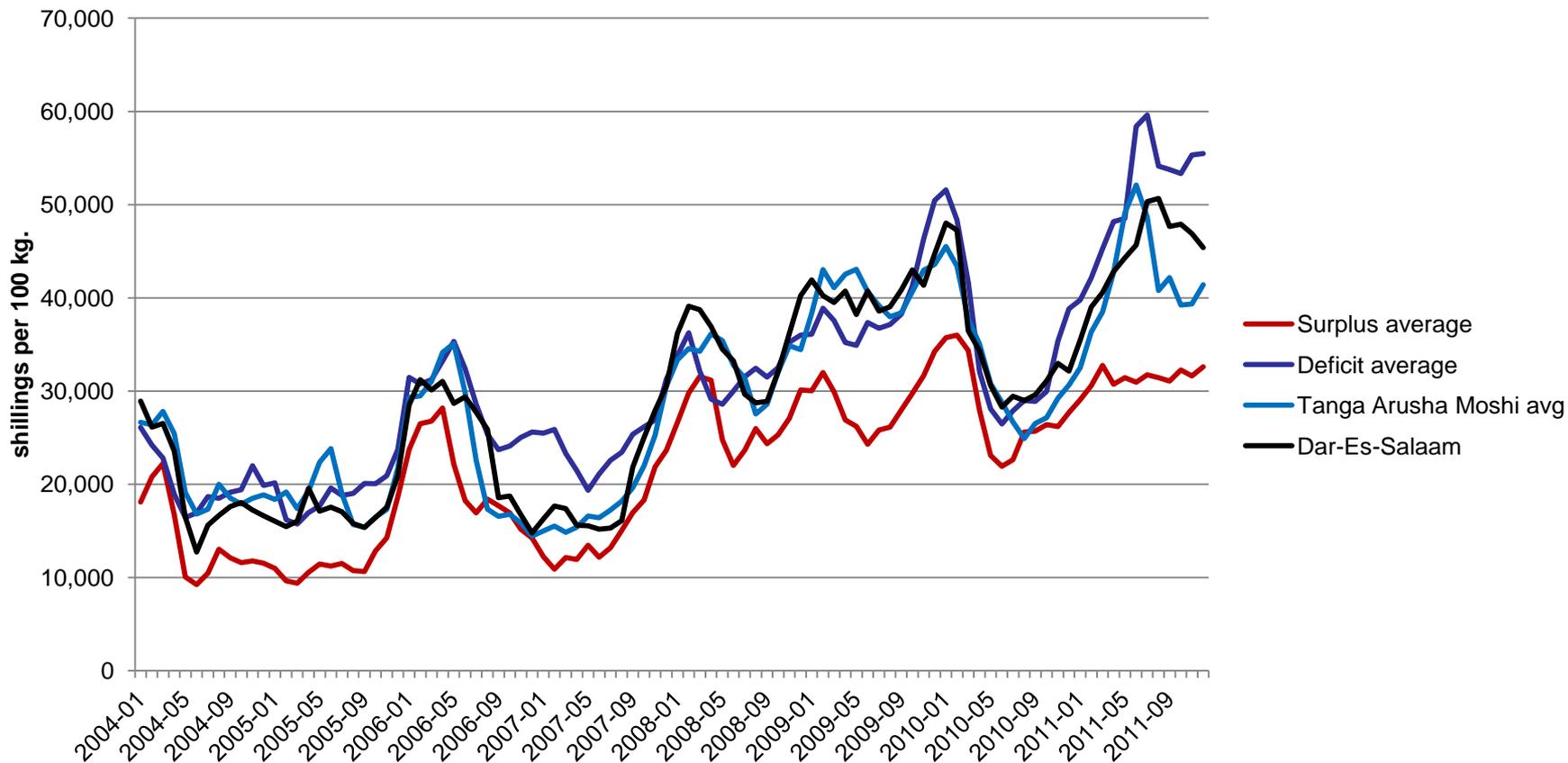
- Uncertain role of distance to healthy food in addressing food access
- Vehicle ownership increased and is important determinant of access
- Indicator spurred debate and further research
 - Mapping tool engaged policy makers and public
- New survey underway to link food purchases and food access

Tanzanian export ban in July 2011 appears to have increased maize price volatility

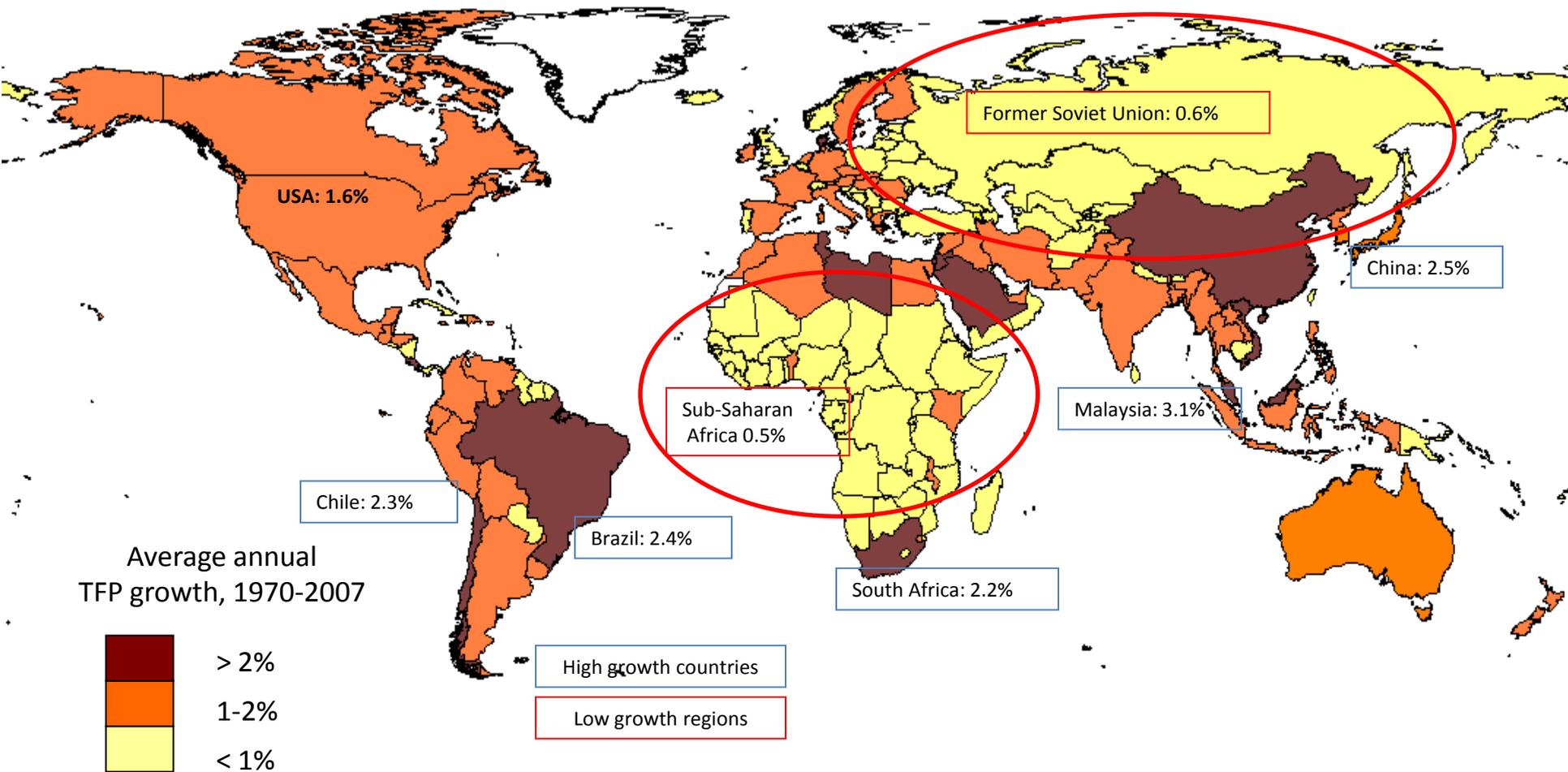


Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, using data from the East African Grain Council

And maize farmers in surplus producing regions were hurt the most

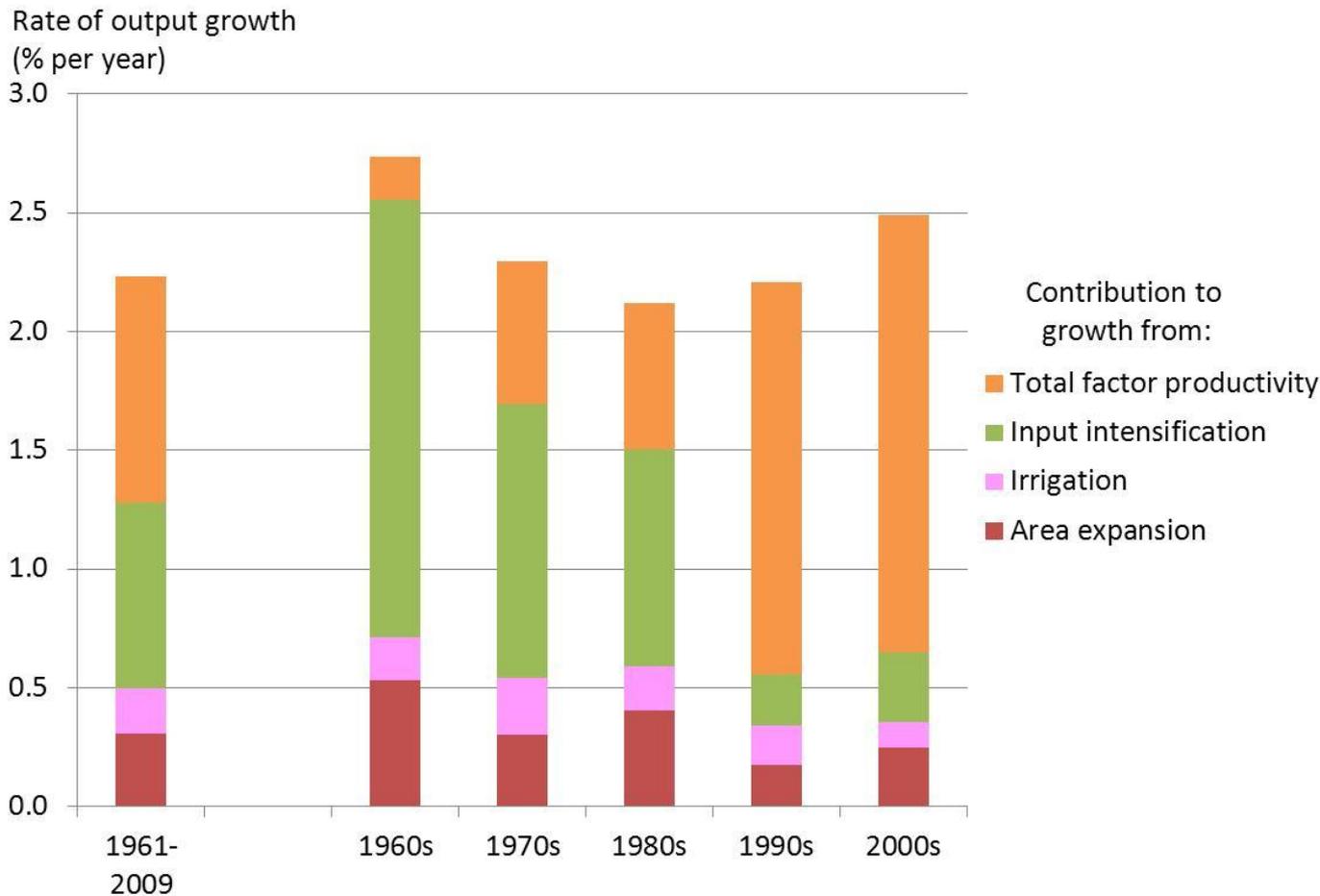


Global, agricultural productivity growth is highly variable

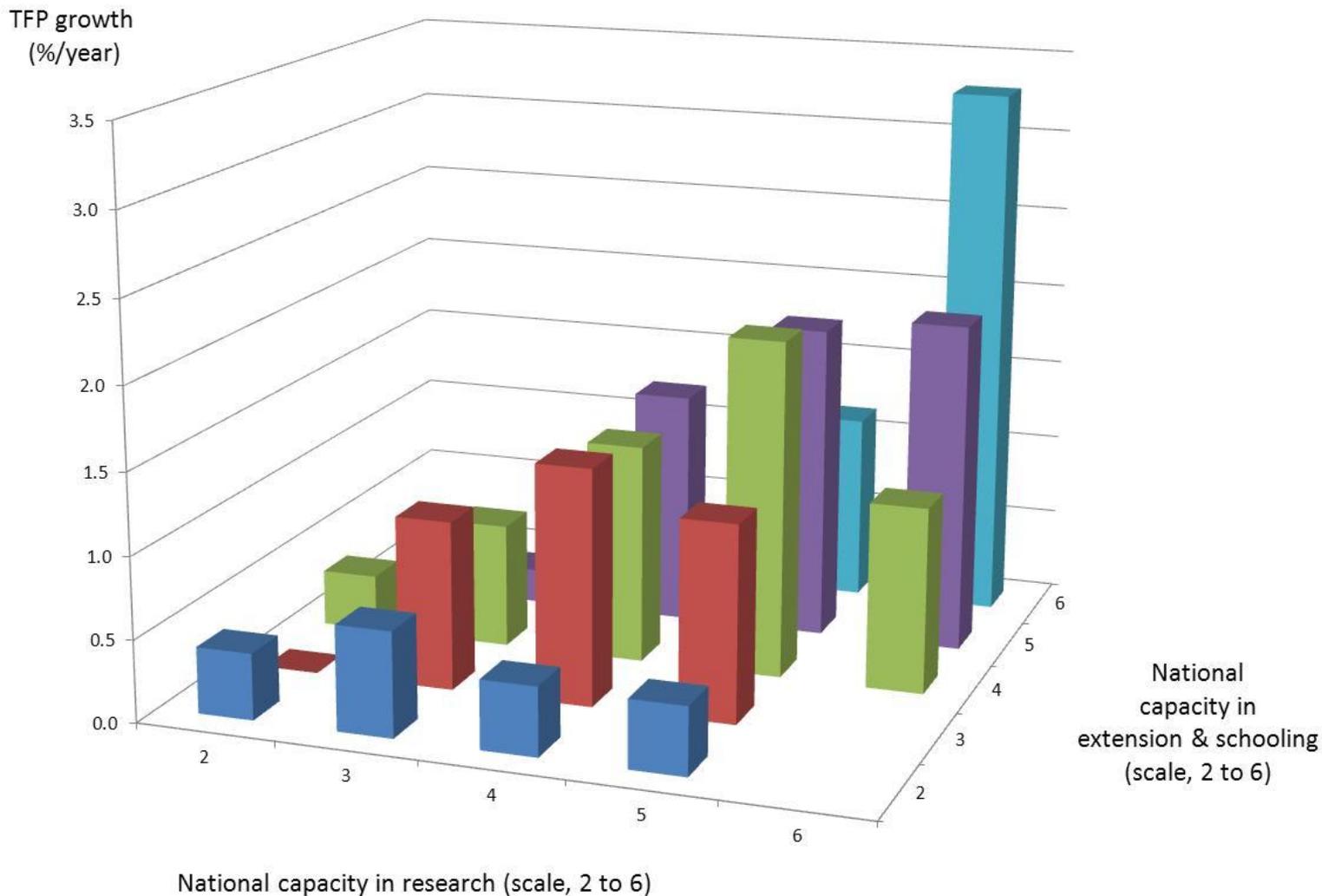


Agricultural growth decomposition shows declining input intensification and rising TFP

Annual growth rate by decade, global average



Long-run agricultural TFP growth strongly correlated with national “technology capital”

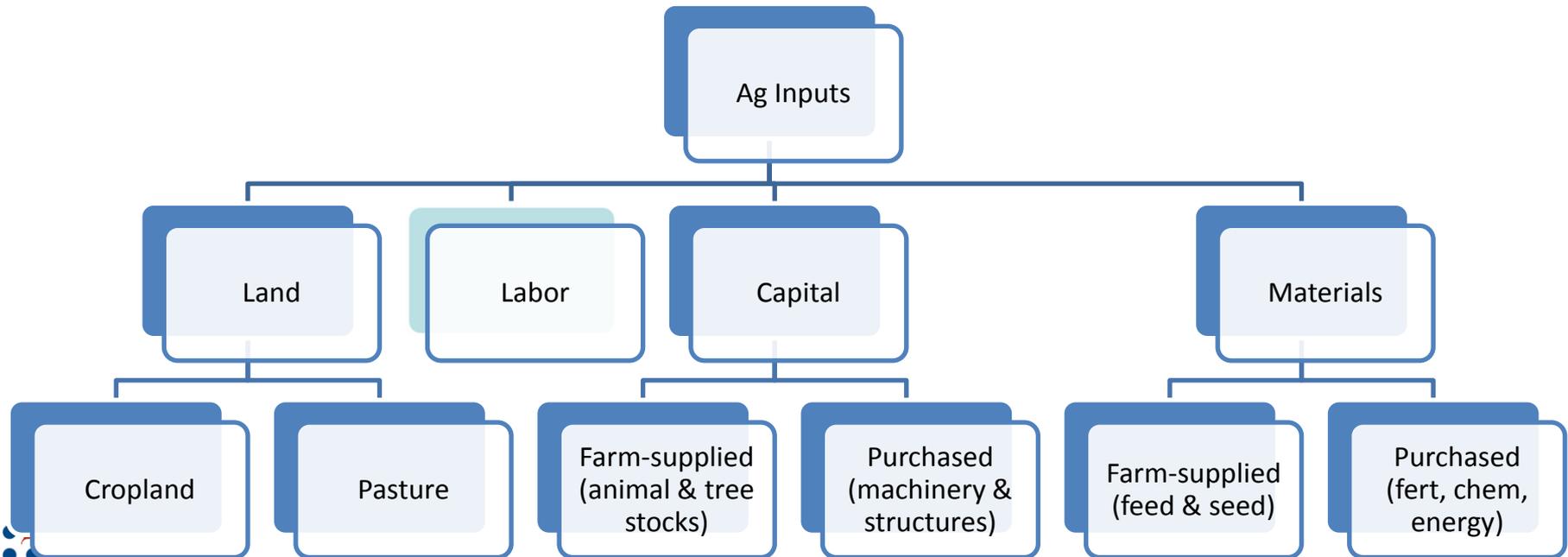
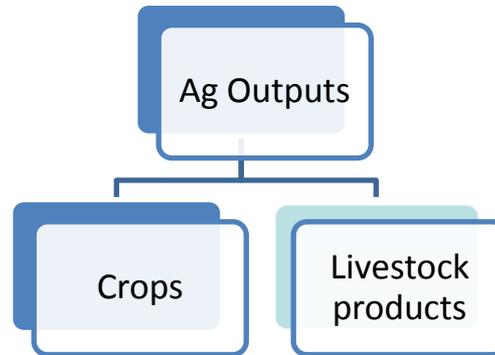




Careful Selection of Metrics and Coordinated Data Collection Essential

- Selection of metrics for donor investments in agricultural research and food security has implications for Global Strategy investments
- Benefits of coordinated data collection efforts and mutually agreed upon common metrics
 - ease the burden of data collection for national statistical agencies
 - provide common indicators for measuring progress.
- Common scorecard indicators by which all involved stakeholders are held accountable can enhance collaboration and cooperation, since the measure of success is influenced by all donors/participants.

Constructing productivity indexes requires detailed data on output and input quantities and prices





Potential synergy between providing for data for indicators and sustainable statistical system

- Statistical agencies meet high profile, valued need for information.
 - Create basis for further research and data needs
 - A dynamic process
- Policy makers and donors support measurement of short, medium, and long term trends.
- Identify role for project evaluation

Feed the Future scorecard/ indicator priorities





The “Learning Agenda”—the need for indicator coordination

- A group of donors (including USAID/Feed the Future, IFAD, the Gates Foundation, FAO, WFP, WB) began a process in March, 2012 to define a coordinated approach to M&E indicators.
- Subsequent meetings have included efforts to coordinate this discussion with the Global Strategy



Indicator needs

- More investment in statistical capacity building by the partner countries and development partners, coordinated with the Global Strategy
- Align and promote capacity building of countries to “own” and use data collected through the LSMS/LSMS-ISA
- Coordinate development partner requests for surveys/data collection
- Promotion of gender disaggregated data
- Build capacity to analyze data (develop the analytical bridge between data collection and analysis)
- Focus and demonstrate collective efforts in a short list of pilot countries



Focus on the Global Strategy

- USAID supports focusing on the Global Strategy and assisting countries to develop their master plans rather than spreading limited resources across multiple efforts.
- New analytic needs associated with planned Joint Sector Reviews for country programs require meaningful and productive, quality data to inform discussions.
- Countries should strive over the coming years, through the implementation of their master plans, to have available analysis of data – collected by multiple sources (NBS, Min of Finance, Min of Ag., Min of Health, etc) - as presented in the JSR Accountability framework.



Importance of multiple source data for indicators

| Indicator | Typical sources |
|--|---|
| Reduction in prevalence of poverty | Household budget surveys, LSMS |
| Growth in Agricultural value-added | National statistics offices, Ministries of Agriculture |
| Increase in crop productivity as measured by crop yields | National statistics offices, Ministries of Agriculture |
| Change in value of imports and exports | Customs service, country revenue authorities, often compiled and published by national statistics offices |
| Increased share of marketed output | Derived from agricultural surveys and household budget surveys |
| Reduction in prevalence of stunted or wasted children | DHS |
| Dietary diversity | Household budget surveys, LSMS |



Coordination opportunities

- Continued dialog on indicator coordination efforts among user groups
- Better coordination of investments by donors and countries in data collection and analysis initiatives (including new initiative by USAID for multi-institutional teams to do country assessments in East and Southern Africa to support joint sector reviews)
- New coordination mechanisms in food security and early warning data and capacity building (e.g. the new Global Food Security Information Network—FSIN)