



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The role of trade in achieving the SDGs

Trade and Markets Division, FAO
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FAO's work on trade

FAO supports member countries in:

- In-depth analysis on the possible consequences of trade policies;
- Capacity development to improve understanding of international trade rules and the linkages between trade and food security, which in turn supports trade negotiations (e.g. E-learning courses: "Trade, Food Security and Nutrition", and "Agriculture in Trade Agreements");
- Neutral fora for dialogue (e.g. Expert roundtable on "Best practices in export promotion: Experiences in Latin America, Europe and Central Asia"; dialogue between stakeholders from trade and agriculture in Africa);
- Support to trade development (e.g. Support to Kyrgyzstan in the implementation of the Export Development Plan for 2015-2017);

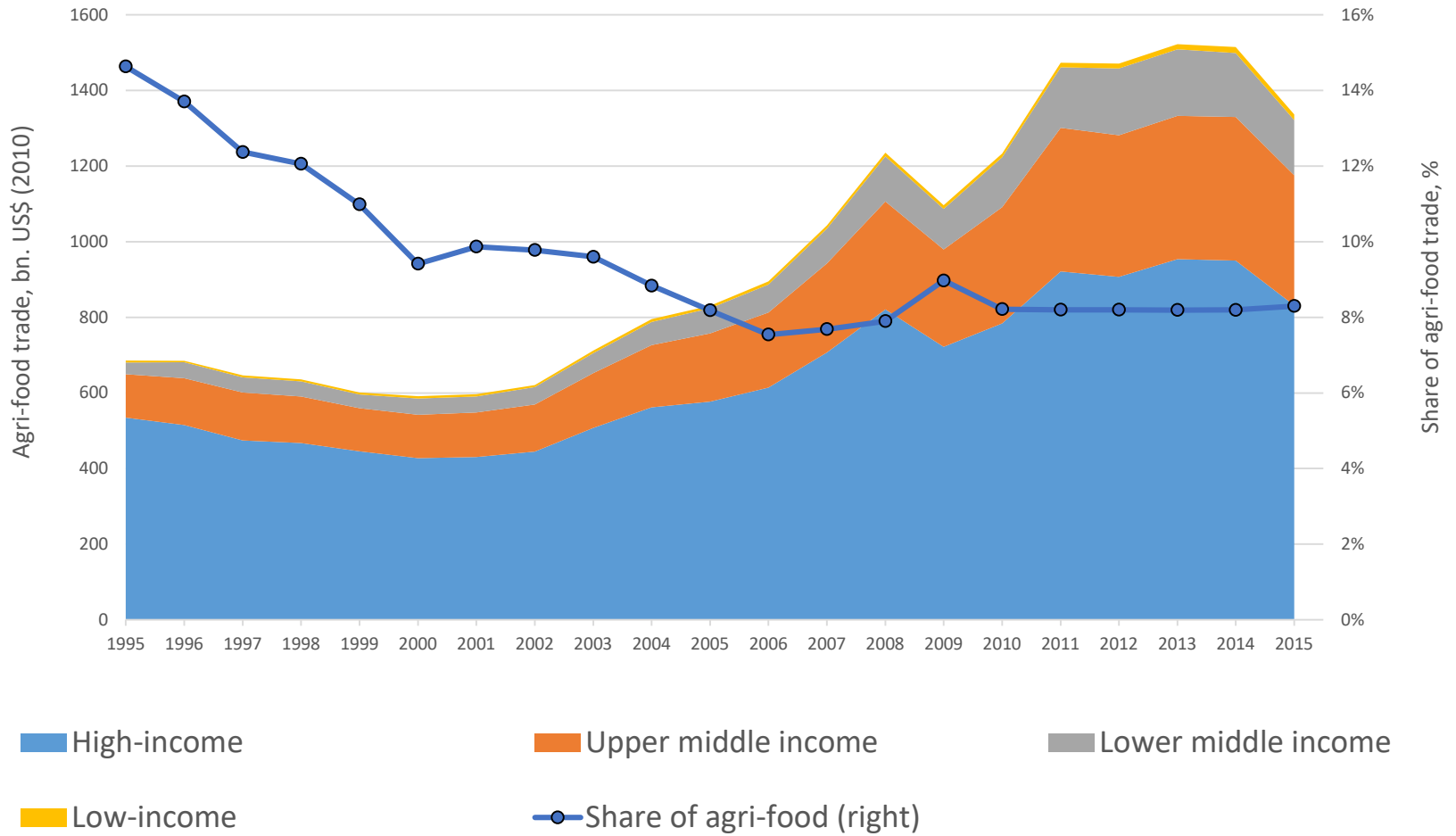
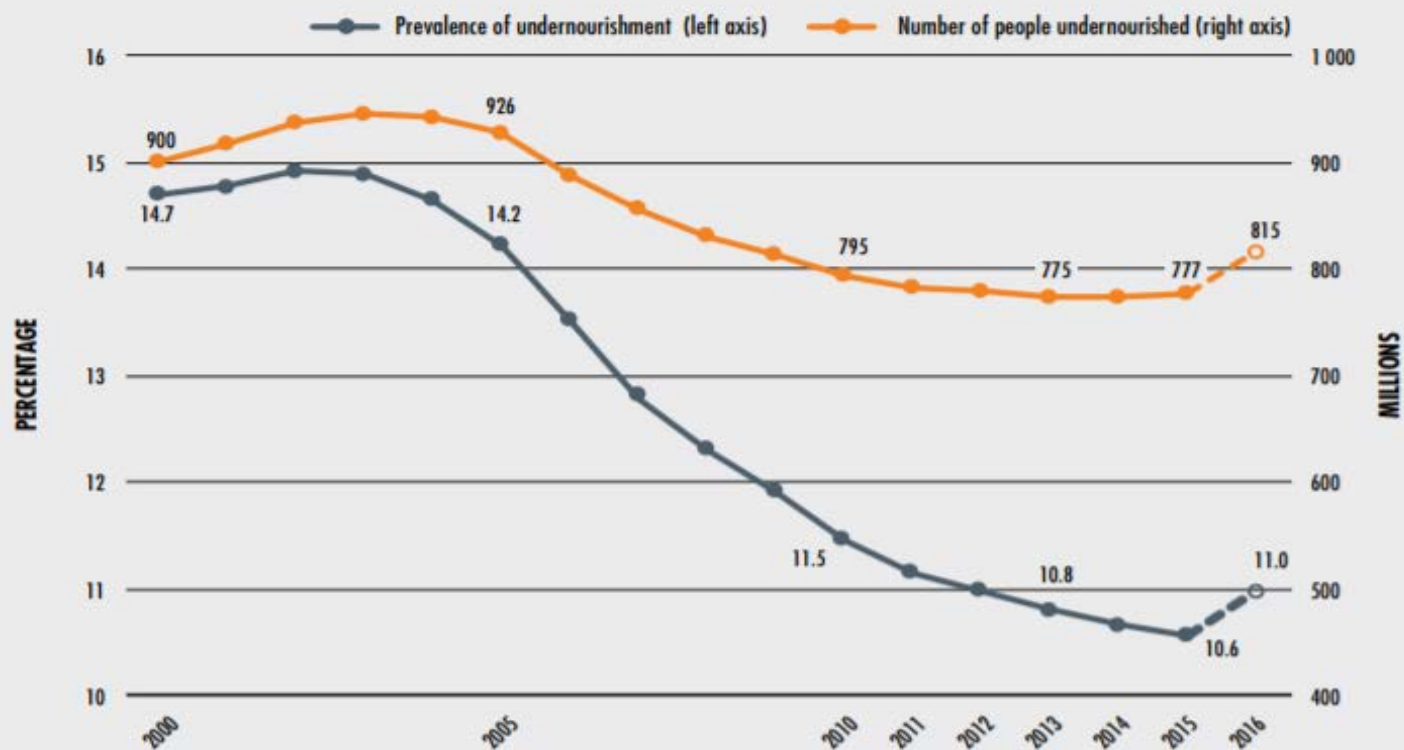


FIGURE 1
THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE HAS BEEN ON THE RISE SINCE 2014, REACHING AN ESTIMATED 815 MILLION IN 2016



NOTE: Prevalence and number of undernourished people in the world, 2000–2016.
 Figures for 2016 are projected estimates (see Box 1 on p. 4 and Methodological notes in Annex 1, p. 95).
 SOURCE: FAO.

Trade and the SDGs 1/3

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Agenda 2030 affirms a new vision of unprecedented scope and significance

- ✓ In the Agenda 2030, sustainable development is a universal concern that involves developed and developing countries alike
- ✓ All countries accepted the goals and are equally responsible for the implementation of the Agenda
- ✓ The Agenda takes into account different capacities, levels of development and national realities and also respects national policies and priorities



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Trade and the SDGs 2/3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

TARGET

2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

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Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by **ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple**, and contribute to **facilitating market access**

Trade and the SDGs 3/3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

TARGET

8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.a **Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries**, in particular least-developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

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Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.a **Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries**, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

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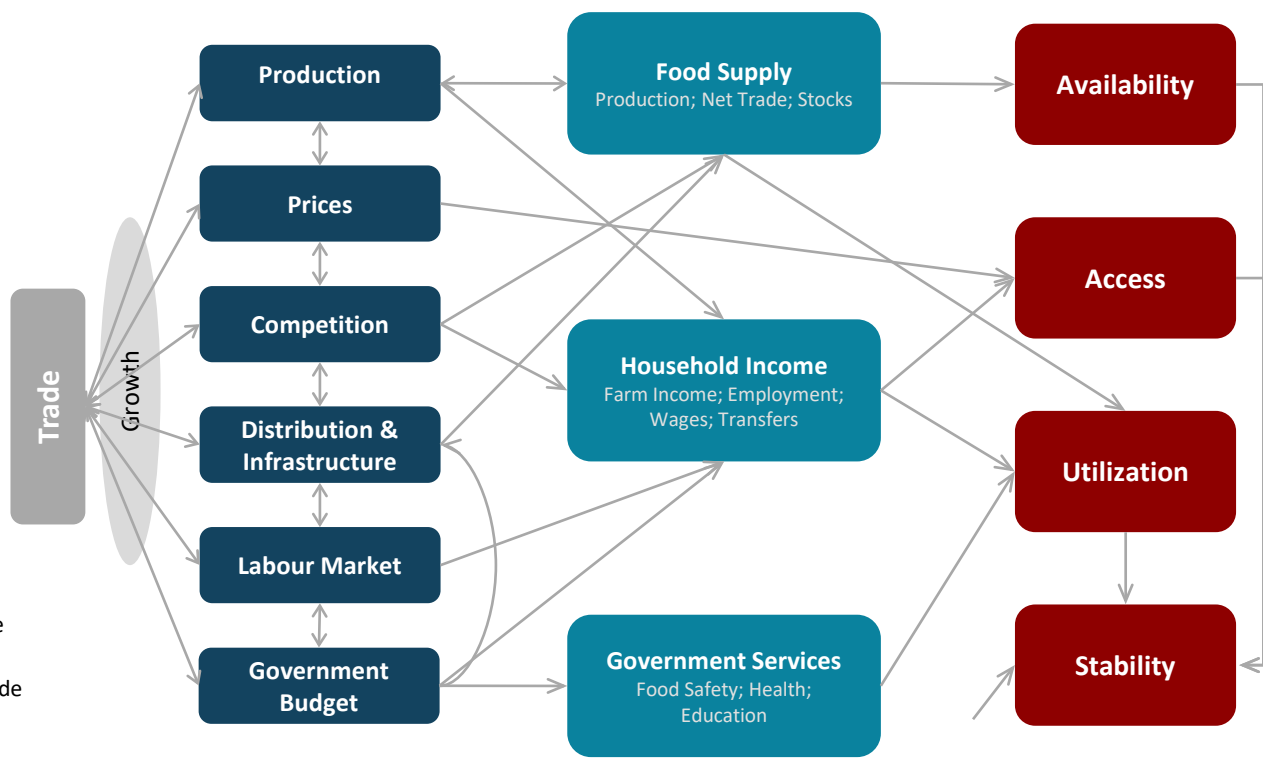
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.6 By 2020, **prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and refrain from introducing new such subsidies recognizing that appropriate ... and effective **special and differential treatment** for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Linkages between trade and food security

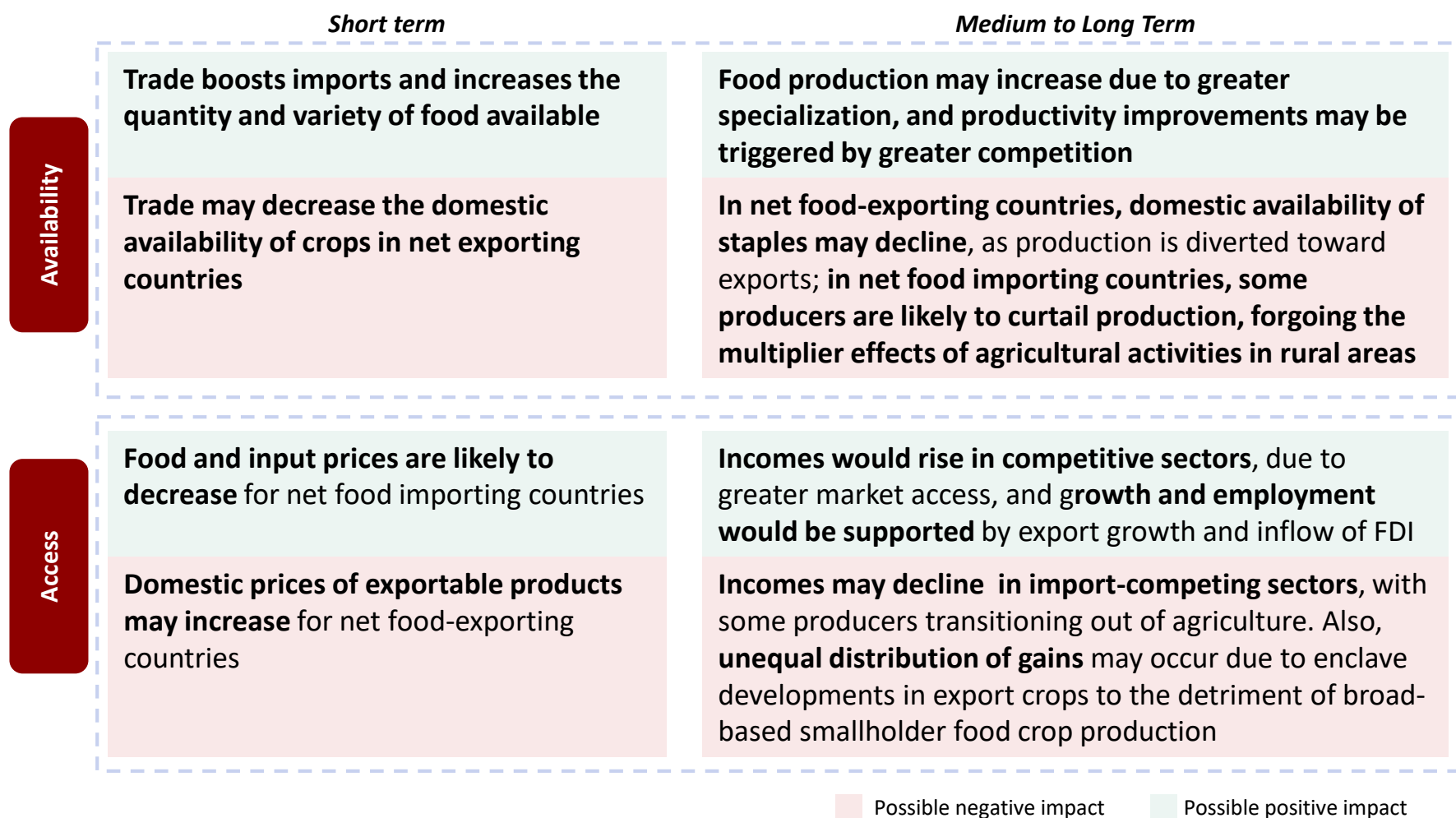
The links between trade and food security are inherently complex, with several channels of interaction affecting the different dimensions of food security simultaneously

- **Immediate effects on:** food production, total supply, prices, employment and government revenues
- **In the longer run, effects on:** competition, marketing, infrastructure, value chain development, investments.



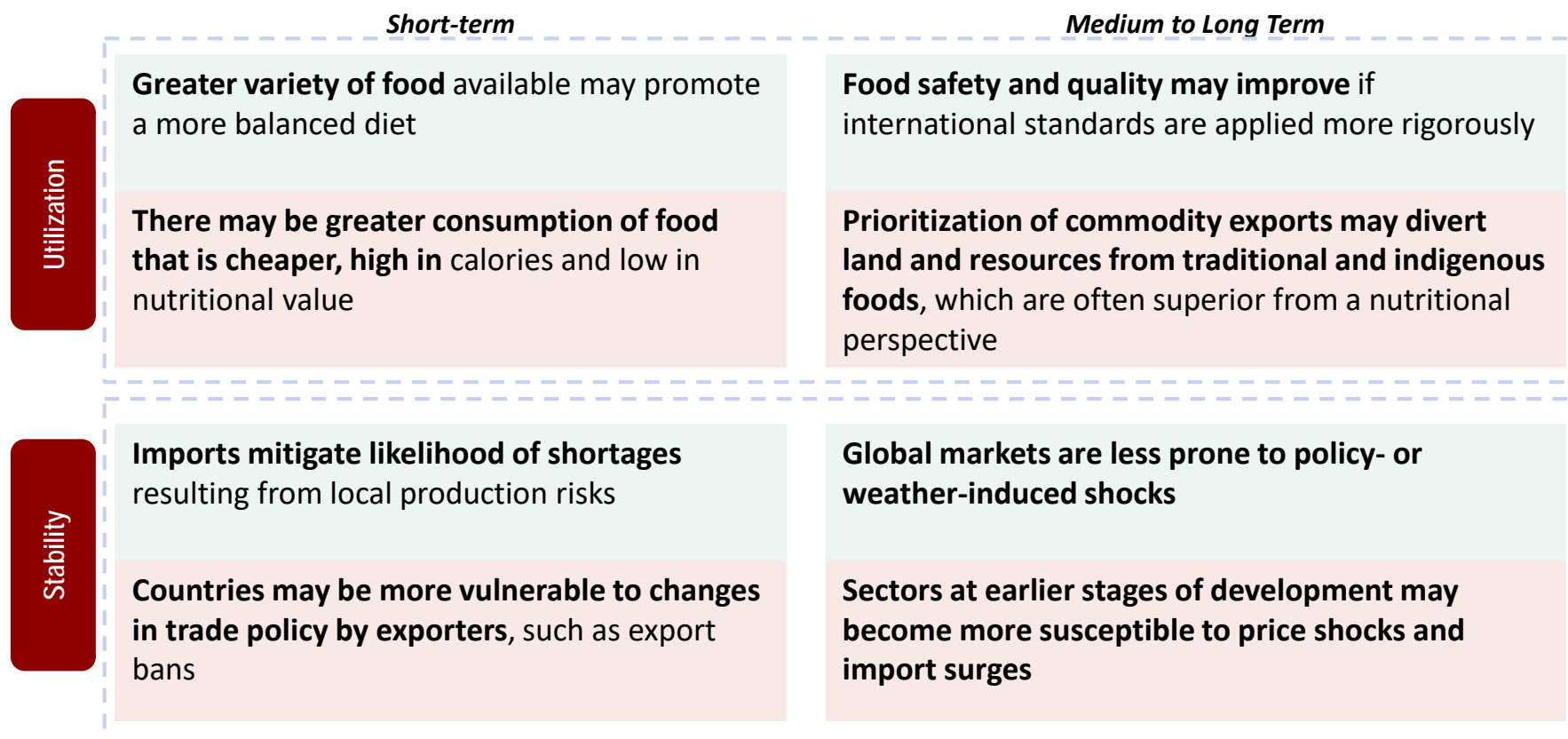
Impacts of trade on food security and nutrition

Trade can have both positive and negative effects on each of the four dimensions of food security. The short and long-term impacts potentially working in different directions can make it difficult to determine a generalizable relationship



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Possible negative impact

Possible positive impact

Impact of short-term trade policy interventions on food security



Key messages

- **The ambition of a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030 will be challenging** – achieving it will require renewed efforts through new ways of working;
- The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that **international trade contributes to the promotion of sustainable development**. Trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and eradication of global hunger;
- The challenge is how to ensure that the expansion of **agricultural trade works in favour of the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for all**;
- To assure that the potential of agricultural trade is realized to achieve the SDGs, it is important to **ensure that trade policies and strategies are coherent with other enabling national policies**;
- Trade and related policy must prioritize **long-term structural transformation objectives** over short term interests.

Thank you!