



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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# Geography Matters for Food Security and Nutrition

**Rob Vos**

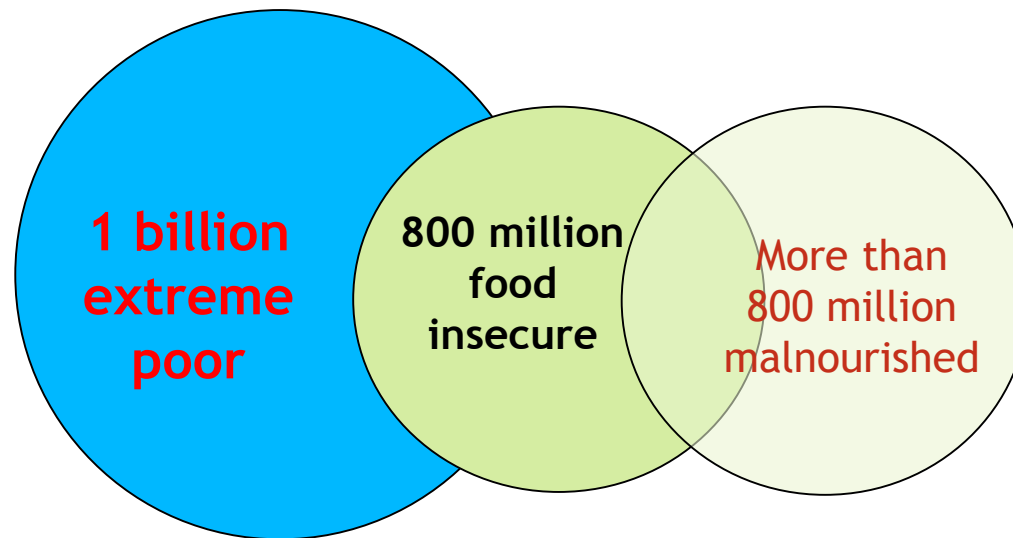
FAO

*Coordinator Strategic Programme on Rural Poverty Reduction  
Director Social Protection Division (ESP)*

*Regional Studies Association Conference  
Piacenza, 27 May 2015*

# Food Insecurity and Rural Poverty

- ❖ We produce enough food in the world to feed everyone..
- ❖ ... and the 2015 MDG 1 target of halving poverty and hunger has been met ....
- ❖ ... yet about 1 billion continue to live in extreme poverty and 800 million people are food insecure



# Food Insecurity and Rural Poverty

- ❖ Food insecurity has declined in most countries...
  - ❖ ...yet, progress has been very uneven:
    - ❖ 75% of poor and food insecure live in South Asia and Africa
    - ❖ More than 75% of poor and food insecure live in rural areas, most smallholders depending on agriculture and living in lagging regions and stuck in chronic poverty
- *Our food systems are highly inefficient and unequal*
- *To eradicate poverty and hunger will require new approaches*

# Transforming Agriculture and Rural Areas

- ❖ Developing small-scale agriculture is essential....
  - ❖ ...but not sufficient:
    - **Environmental challenges**: need to increase food production through sustainable intensification (new *green* revolution)
    - **Demographic challenges (P A U)**: need to invest in human capital and engage youth
    - **Employment challenges (B J & M)**: need broad-based rural development, value chain development and dynamic employment creation
    - **Connectivity challenges**: develop infrastructure and strengthen rural-urban linkages
    - **Institutional challenges**: develop rural institutions and empower drivers of change
- ➔ *All of these challenges have a territorial dimension*

# Multi-dimensional approach needed for FSN and rural poverty reduction

## ❖ Multi-objective:

- ❖ **economic** (supply and demand of food)
- ❖ **social** (access to food, decent employment, poverty reduction)
- ❖ **environmental** (long-term sustainability of food production and consumption)

## ❖ Multi-sectoral:

- ❖ Agriculture and agro-business
- ❖ Other non-farm enterprise development
- ❖ Environment and climate protection and NR management
- ❖ Transport and infrastructure
- ❖ Social protection and social services
- ❖ Labour market

## ❖ Multi-level governance:

- ❖ Central, local, communities, CSO's

# Territorial Approaches provide framework for policy coherence

- By using a systemic and network approach TA are able to capture the diversity of local socio-economic dynamics and understand opportunities that would be missed with **one-dimensional or one-size-fits-all policies**
- TA optimize output and development by encouraging all territories to realize their development potentials
- TA promote participation from all local stakeholders and empowerment of local communities while establishing a common the vision for development
- TA enhance coherence and synergies between social, economic , environmental and institutional policies, thus potentially enhancing impact and efficiency

# Oman Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2040



## VISION 2040

### Outcomes

- Agriculture and rural development
- Improved livelihoods
- Local economy development

### Mediating Factors

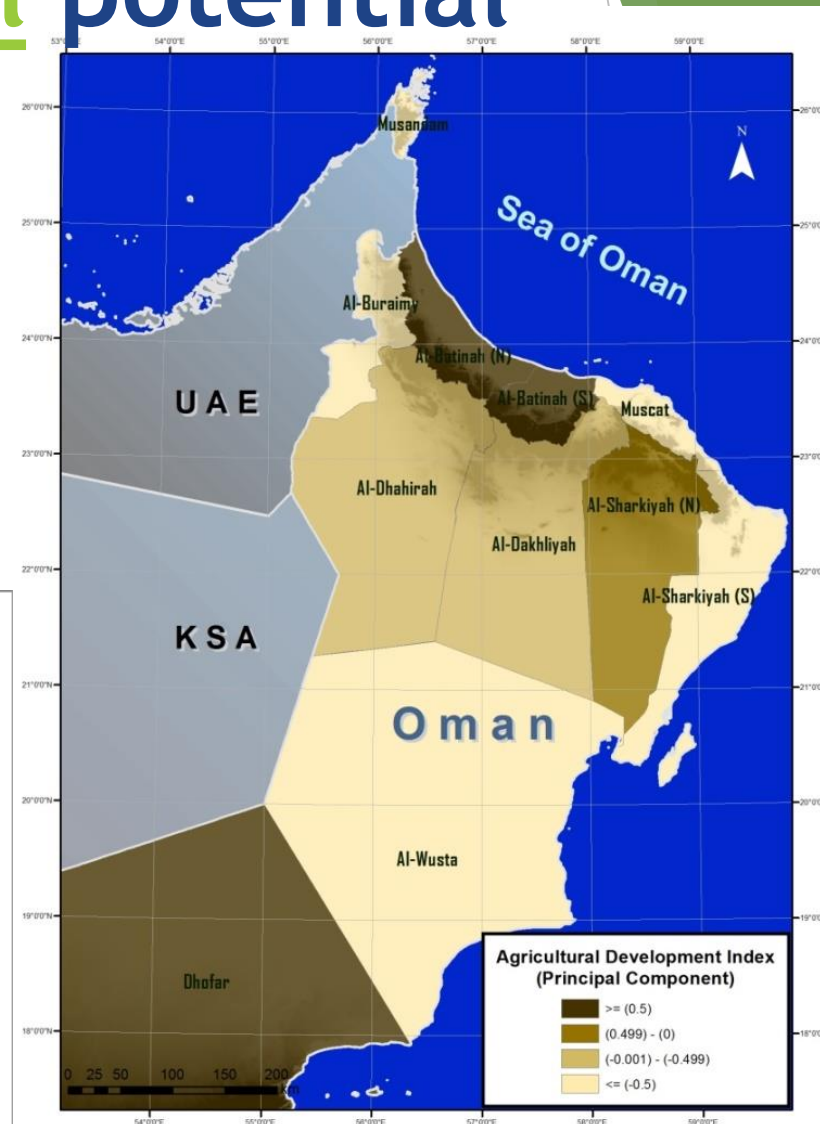
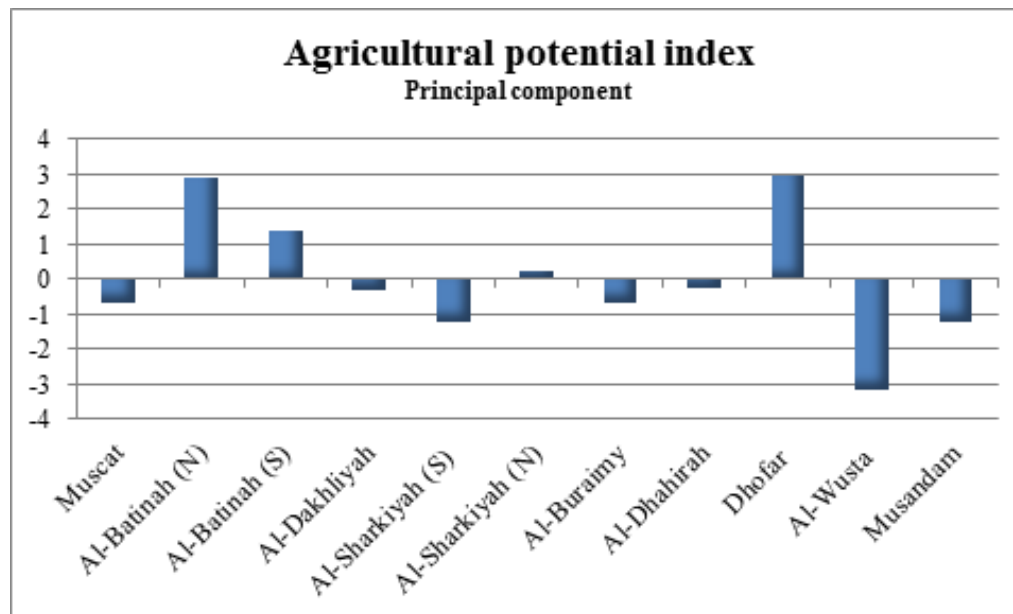
- Human capital, know-how and skills
- Natural and historical capital
- Productive capital
- Infrastructure
- Social/Institutional capital, cultural heritage
- Governance

### Means

- Policies (agricultural, social, institutional, environmental)
- Investments
- Technical assistance and capacity development
- Communication

# Oman's agricultural potential

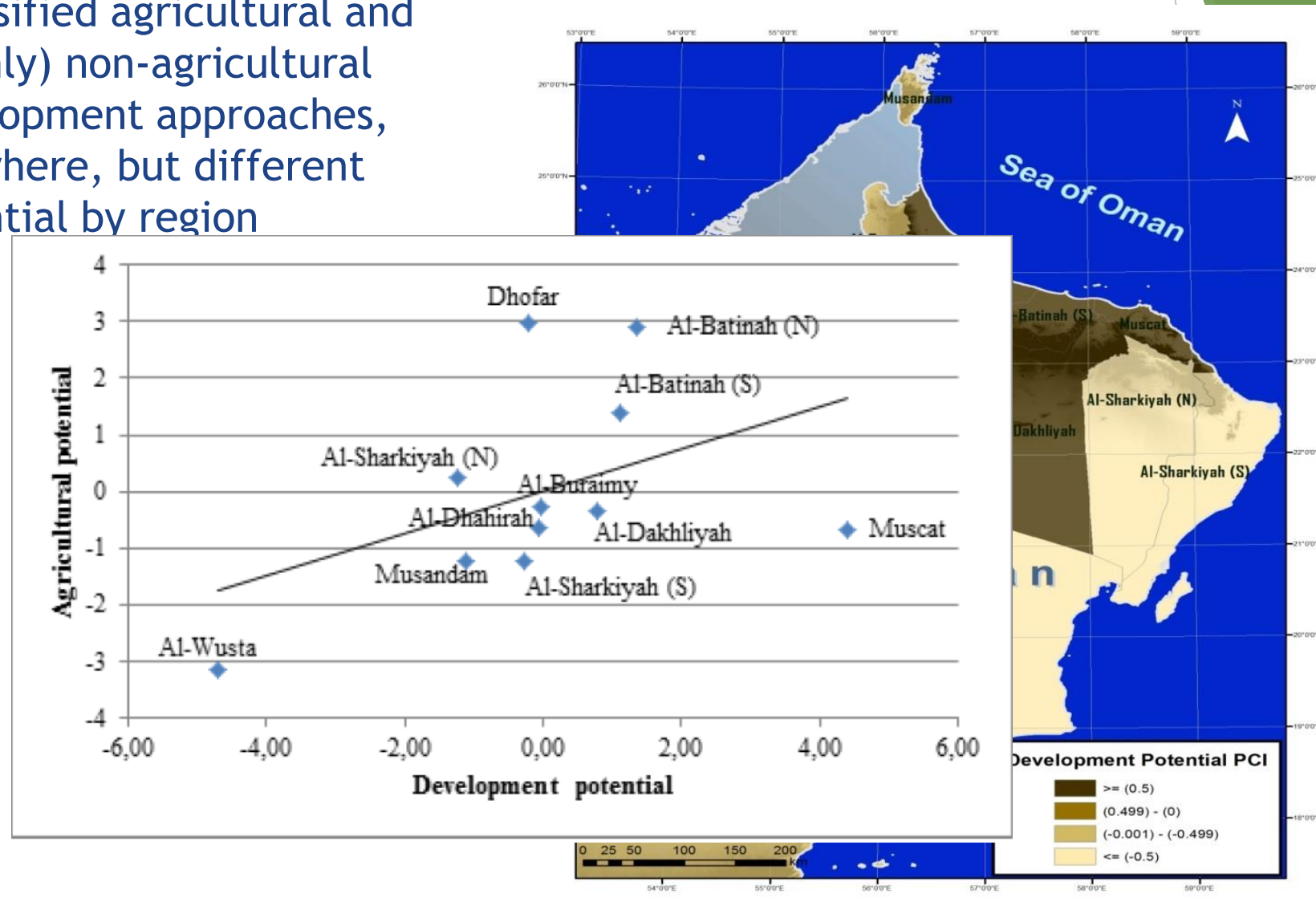
- ❖ Only in Dhofar and Al-Batinah agriculture has potential to dynamize other sectors
- ❖ All other regions need for alternative, integrated rural development strategies





# Oman's territorial potential

- Diversified agricultural and (mainly) non-agricultural development approaches, elsewhere, but different potential by region



# Other countries engaging in territorial approaches to FSN

- ▶ **Rwanda:** decentralized and multi-stakeholder approach to the first and second Reform for Food Security and Poverty Reduction (SPAT I and II)
- ▶ **Mozambique:** decentralization with a focus on local governance strengthening for FSN policies and civil society involvement
- ▶ **Morocco:** Plan Maroc Vert
- ▶ **Guatemala:** new Agrarian Policy and National Rural Poverty Reduction Strategy follows territorial approach and decentralized governance

# FAO Initiatives on Territorial Approach

## ❖ Joint FAO-OECD-UNCDF Initiative on the TA for FSN Policies:

- Country case studies
- Global Conference during Expo Milan (19-20 October)

## ❖ FSN and rural poverty reduction strategies:

- Guatemala, Ghana, Oman

## ❖ Family farming and territorial rural development in Latin America:

- Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Costa Rica, República Dominicana
- Northern Triangle initiative



# Conclusions

- ❖ **Traditional approaches to rural development focused on promotion of agriculture inadequate for addressing problems of food insecurity, poverty, and environmental degradation**
- ❖ **One-size-fits-all rural development approaches tend to be ineffective**
  - ❖ They may contribute to exacerbate the level of hardship of some of the most vulnerable territories and groups in the population
- ❖ **Adapting territorial approaches to a rural development context may be a more viable and sensible alternative to achieve inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural transformations**



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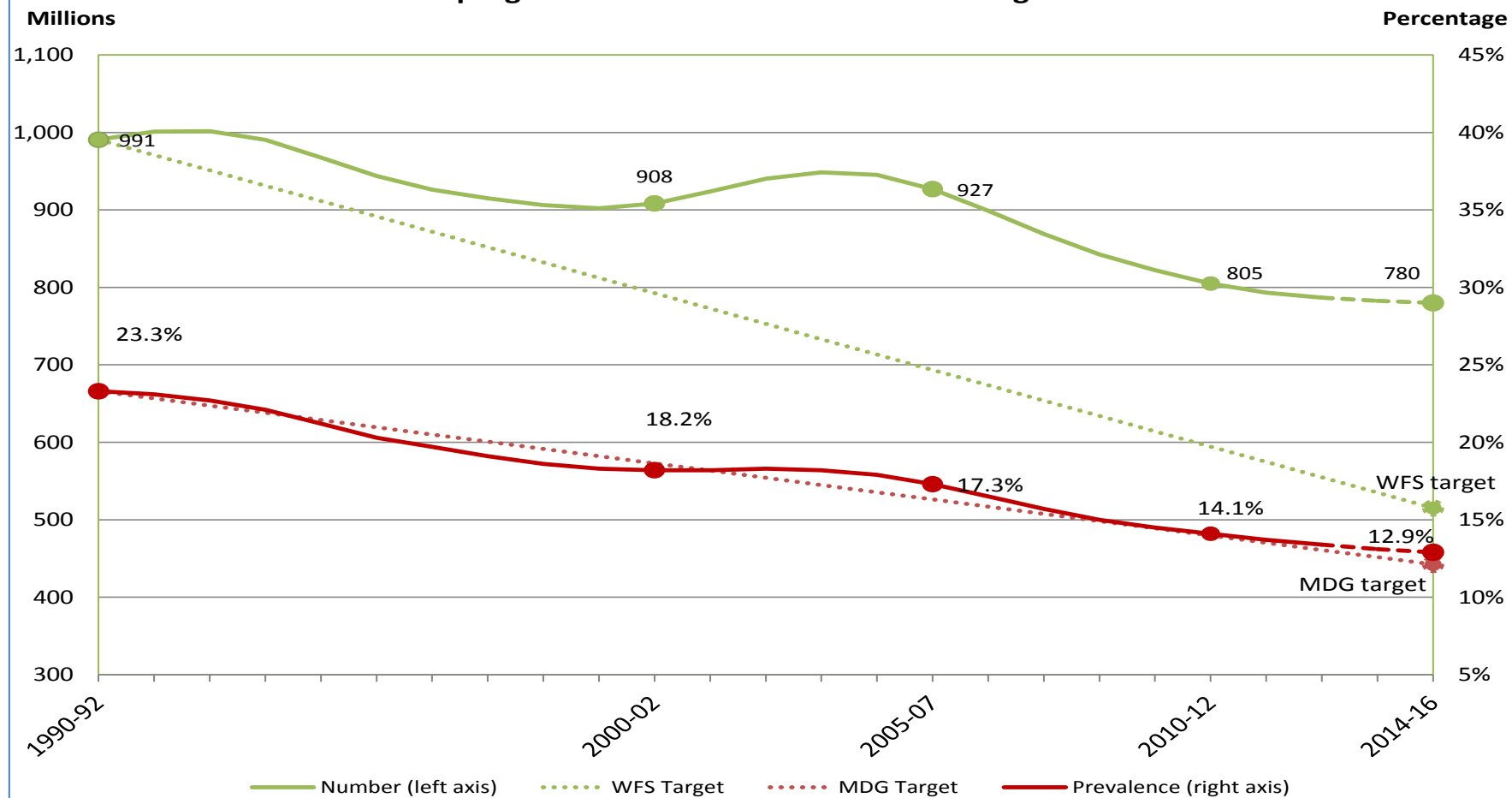
# Geography Matters for Food Security and Nutrition

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# Referenced graphs and tables

**FIGURE 1**  
**The trajectory of undernourishment in developing regions: actual and projected progress towards the MDG and WFS targets**

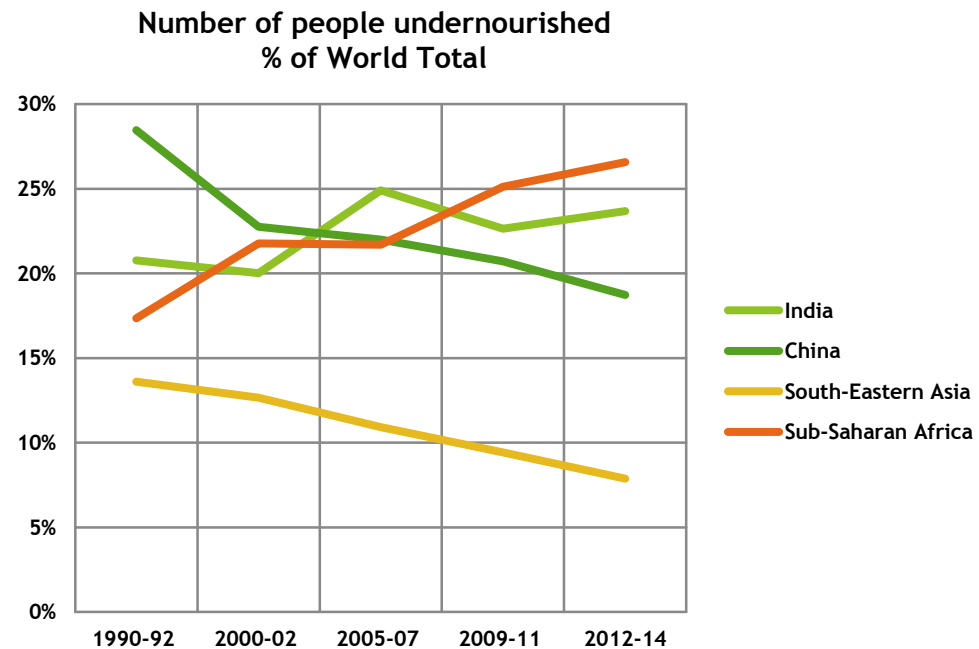


*Note:* Data for 2014–16 in all graphics refer to provisional estimates.  
*Source:* FAO

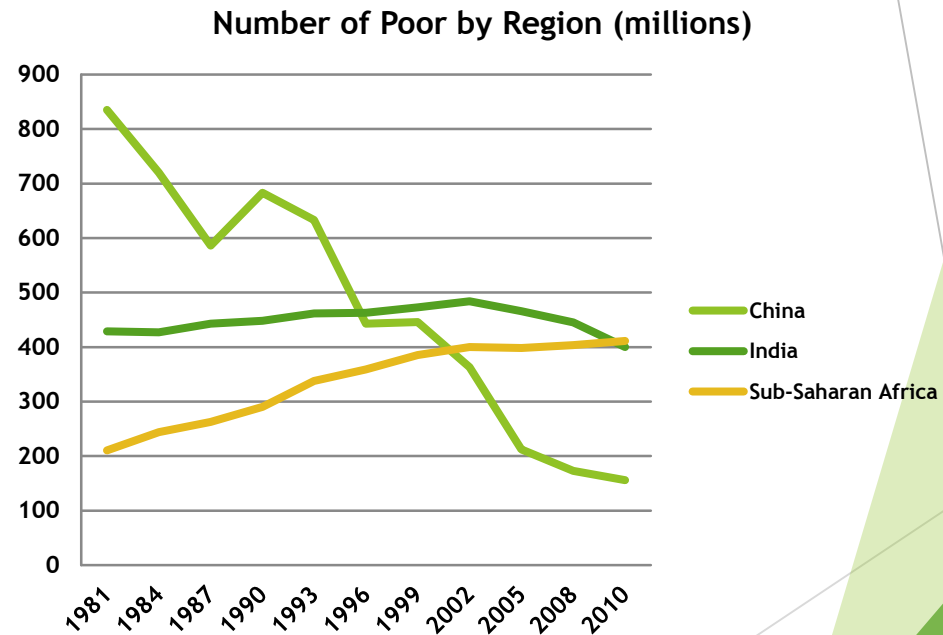


# Uneven progress

- Upward trend in the number of hungry in Africa



- Upward trend in absolute number of poor in Africa





# Oman agricultural potential indicators

- **dimension of agricultural holdings:** total area of holdings (feddans)/number of holdings at governorate level;
- the **level of education of agricultural landholders:** N. holdings by higher education status of male + female individual and partner holders (College or higher);
- **membership of cooperatives:** Number of holdings reporting one or more of its holders joining agricultural cooperative;
- **dependency on agricultural labourers:** Permanent agricultural workers From Household Members/ N. holdings;
- **dependency on wells:** Holdings reporting crops by source of irrigation (dub well + bore well)Total normalized;
- **dependency on local markets:** Site of selling of the production (Farm gate + Wilayat market (N. holdings));
- **family consumption:** Type of utilization of production: family consumption;
- **use of water saving technologies:** Water saving technologies as % of the cropped area;
- **agricultural land:** area of holdings/total area of the governorate;
- **water resources:** renewable water resources (by million cubic metres)/agric. Land



# Oman territorial assets (1)

TERRITORIAL ASSETS	VARIABLE	SOURCE AND YEAR
SOCIAL CONDITIONS	Poverty: less than 300 RO - HH Income	HEIS 2010-11
	Food Cash Expenditure (%)	HEIS 2010-11
	Economic Dependency Ratio (Av. per cons. unit)	HEIS 2010-11
	Recipients of social welfare/population	Dev. Book 2012
	Gini Index	HEIS 2010-11
INFRASTRUCTURE	Source of drinking water (con. network, public + private)	HEIS 2010-11
	Telephone lines/pop	Dev. Book 2012
	Road Lengths	Dev. Book 2012
	Main Source of Water Supply (Non - Drinking) Networks p+p	HEIS 2010-11
HUMAN CAPITAL	Gender ratio (male/female) for public school student	Ed. Indicators 2010-2011
	Teacher student ratio	Ed. Indicators 2010-2011
	Average study years per adults	HDR 2010
HEALTH	Low Birth Weight (% of Children registered )	Health Survey 2012

# Oman territorial assets (2)

	Anemia (at 9 months)	Health Survey 2012
	Diarrhea among Children below 5 Years (Rate/1000 children)	Health Survey 2012
	Malaria Case (% of Plasmodium)	Health Survey 2012
	MOH Hospital Death Rate (Infectious and Parasitic Diseases)	Health Survey 2012
	Life Expectancy at Birth (in Years)	HDR 2010
	Under-five Mortality Rate (for 1000 living births)	HDR 2010
WEALTH	GDP per capita	HDR 2010
	Average monthly Household income	HEIS 2010-11
	% of rural income in Gov.	HEIS 2010-11
LABOUR MARKET	Civil service employment	Statistical Indicators, 2012
	Private sector employment	Statistical Indicators, 2012
DEMOGRAPHY	Foreign pop. (%)	Dev. Book 2012
	Population density	Dev. Book 2012
	Average Household Size	Dev. Book 2012
PRODUCTIVE CAPITAL	N. Registered Bus. Ent. with Less Than 50 Empl/pop (*100000)	Public Authority SMEs, 2010
	N. of firms / Pop. Less than 50,000 RO (*100000)	Ministry of Industry, 2012
	N. of firms / Pop. More than 1000,000 RO (*100000)	Ministry of Industry, 2012
	Added value of firms/pop	Ministry of Industry, 2012
ENVIRONMENT	Exposure to environmental problems	HEIS 2010-11

