
Food Security and Nutrition Information Management in Cambodia

**FAO/MAFF Inception Workshop " Linking Information and
decision making to improve food security in selected
countries of the greater Mekong Subregion**

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Vong Sokha, Deputy Director FSN Health Department, CARD
Peter Kaufmann, Advisor on FSN and SSN in CARD

Content

- 1. CARD's mandate, role and achievements with regard to FSN / SSN in Cambodia**
 - 2. Key challenges for FSN and vulnerability related information management ?**
 - 3. Steps forward to enhance coordination for FSN and vulnerability information management**
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CARD's mandate and role with regard to A-RD / FSN /SSN

- CARD was established in 1998 by Royal Decree with the overall mandate to promote, coordinate and monitor agricultural and rural development in Cambodia
- CARD was specifically assigned to coordinate the cross cutting issue of FSN in Cambodia in 1999
- In 11/2008 CARD was entrusted with the task to coordinate the development of an integrated SSN system in Cambodia to mitigate the impact of high food prices and the upcoming global economic crisis

Functions of CARD:

- Coordination of stakeholder (harmonization/alignment)
- Policy guidance and strategy development
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Information- and knowledge management

CARD is not an implementing agency but a "think tank" to effectively provide policy guidance and coordination of RGC institutions, Development Partners and civil society organizations with regard to A-RD, FSN, SSN-development

Activities of CARD with regard to FSN

- CARD organized 3 high level national seminars on FSN under the chairmanship of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN** (->circulares 3 and 5)
- In 2003 CARD established the National Food Security Forum with took place on regular basis in the Council of Ministers (40 times)
- CARD is chairing the TWG on FSN and is hosting its secretariat since early 2004.
- CARD developed the Strategic Framework for FSN (SFFSN 2008-2012) as a policy reference document to mainstream FSN in NSDP, sector strategies and programs (GTZ, FAO/FNPP)

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- In 2008 CARD assisted in the development of the Food Security Support Program (FSSP) of the SAW (MAFF/MWORAM) and the National Nutrition Strategy of the Ministry of Health (GTZ, FAO/FNPP)
 - In 2009 CARD developed a concept note and inventory on SSN in Cambodia and is currently coordinating the development of an integrated SSN-strategy (→policy options with regard to targeted cash transfers and public works programs) (WB, WFP, UNICEF, ILO, ADB, GTZ..)
 - CARD is involved in the coordination and monitoring of various national programs on FSN (e.g. MDG-fund FSN)
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- CARD established a national trainer pool on FSN and organized numerous FSN training exercises (GTZ,FAO/FNPP)
 - CARD piloted the mainstreaming of FSN concerns in the decentralized planning process (Takeo province, extension planned for 2010) (FAO/FNPP)
 - CARD established the FSNIS (www.foodsecurity.gov.kh) a web based dissemination tool for FSN related data, information and knowledge (GTZ, FAO/FNPP)
 - CARD organized a high level forum on FSN related information management in 2006 and is preparing the establishment of a FSN information task force of the TWG/FSN
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2. Key challenges for FSN and related information management ?

→ *Specific Challenges to FSN (availability, access, use/utilization and stability) are addressed in the SFFSN*

- Lack of (conceptional) understanding of FSN (dimensions of FSN, linkages between chronic food insecurity, transitory food insecurity, crisis/emergencies)
 - Complex and fragmented responsibilities with regard to FSN and response to food crisis
 - Project based approaches from Development Partners ignoring sometimes existing structures resulting in doubling of efforts, high transaction costs for RGC and low sustainability
 - Low analytical capacities for FSN (with regard to data analysis and use → development of appropriate strategies and actions)
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- Existing vulnerabilities with regard to FSN in Cambodia get more pronounced by current global crises:
 - Volatile food prices (-> deterioration of purchasing power)
 - Economic crisis (-> unemployment and income losses)
 - Climate change (-> increased risk of natural disasters)

 - Transitory food insecurity (linked to these risks) may result in chronic food insecurity and affect long term human capital development

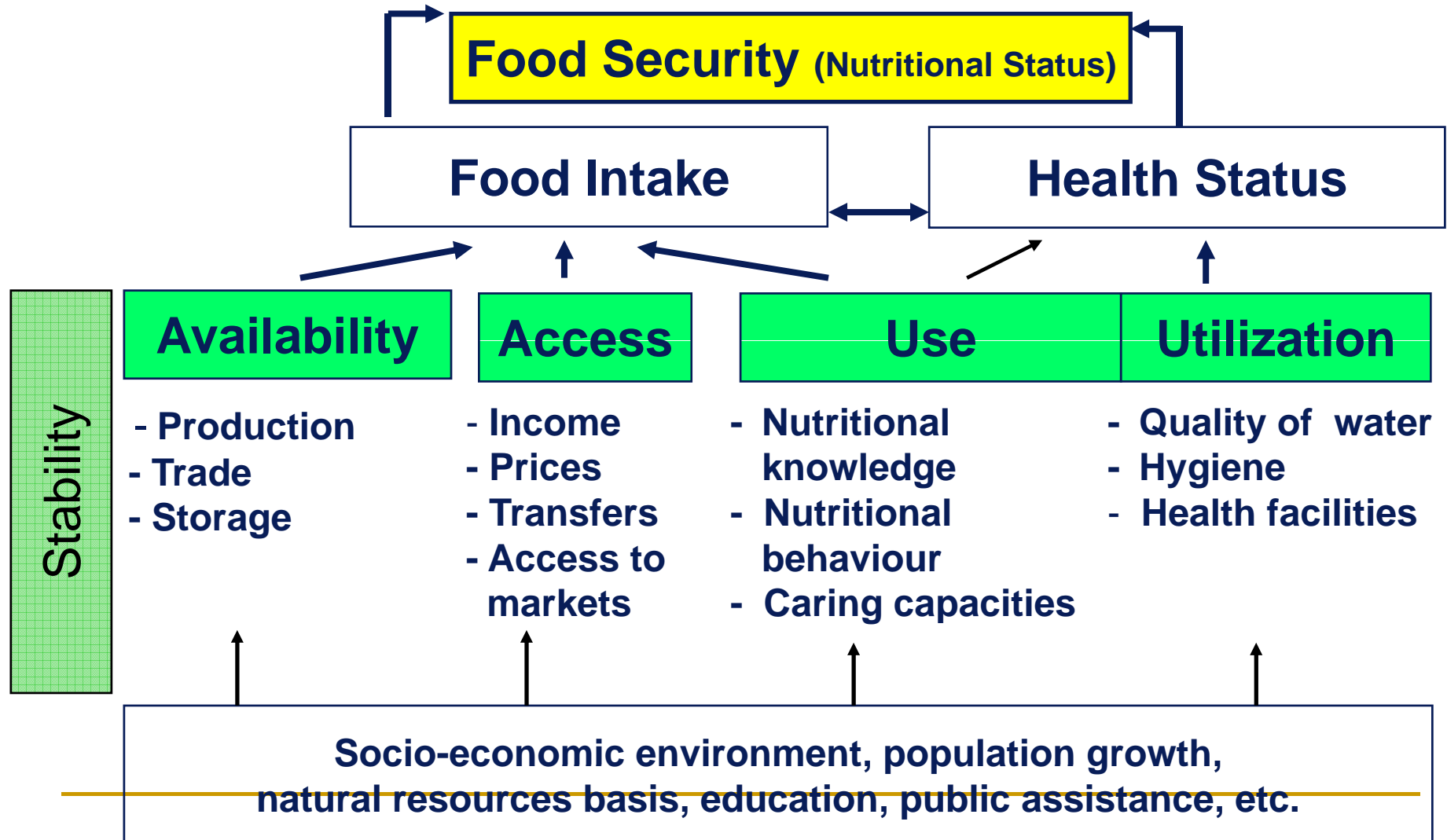
 - "Emergency response" needs to be linked to sustainable rural economic development and development of SSN

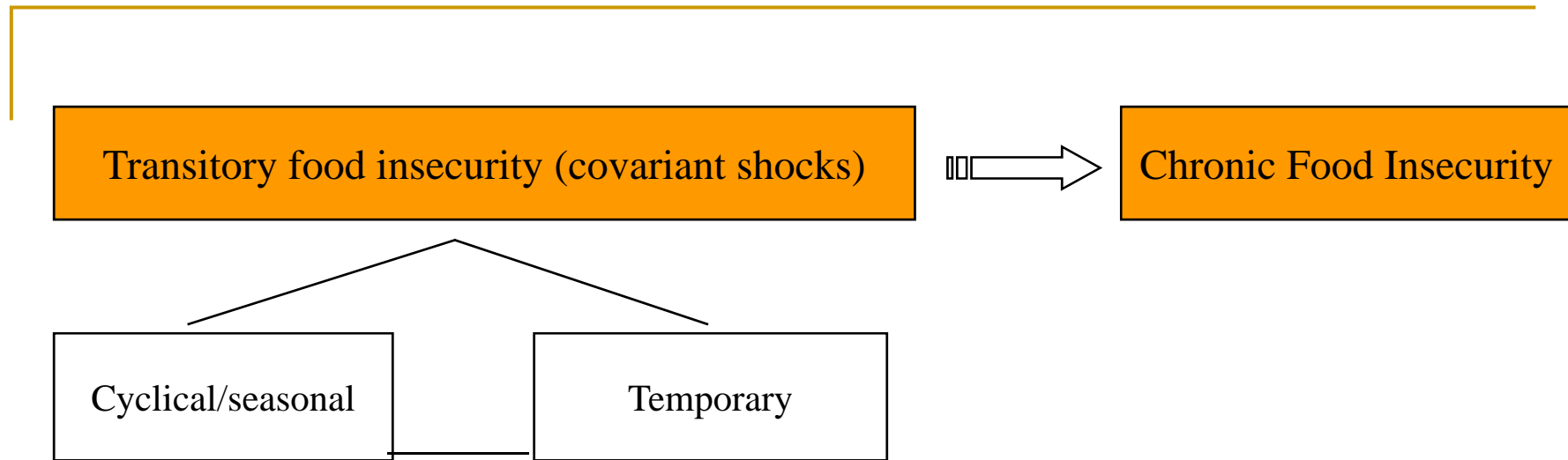
 - **Coordinated strategies and actions based on reliable and update information are essential** to reduce food insecurity and face new challenges
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FSN Situation in Cambodia

<i>Nutritional Status = Overall outcome Indicators for FSN</i>	2000 CDHS	2005 CDHS	2008 CAS	CMDG Target 2015
Chronic food insecurity – (H/A) Stunting	49,7	43,2	39,5	22
Underweight (W/A)	38,4	28,2	28,8	22
Acute food insecurity (W/H) Wasting	16,8	8,4	8,9	9

Determinants of Food Security





- **Transitory food insecurity** is either cyclical/seasonal (regular pattern of inadequate food access, e.g. rice gaps during “lean season”) or temporary (unpredictable "covariant" shocks like drought and floods or global economic crisis leading to loss of production and income, higher food prices and distortion of household entitlement).
 - Transitory food insecurity may lead to **chronic food insecurity**, where parts of the population (vulnerable groups) are permanently not in a position to ensure their food needs (this depends on how long / how frequently transitory food insecurity occurs and how severe it is → negative coping mechanism like ineptness ,depletion of productive assets, reduced/low quality food intake etc.).
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- **Idiosyncratic shocks** (like unexpected health expenditures, loss of a breadwinner) are further factors pushing households to chronic food insecurity

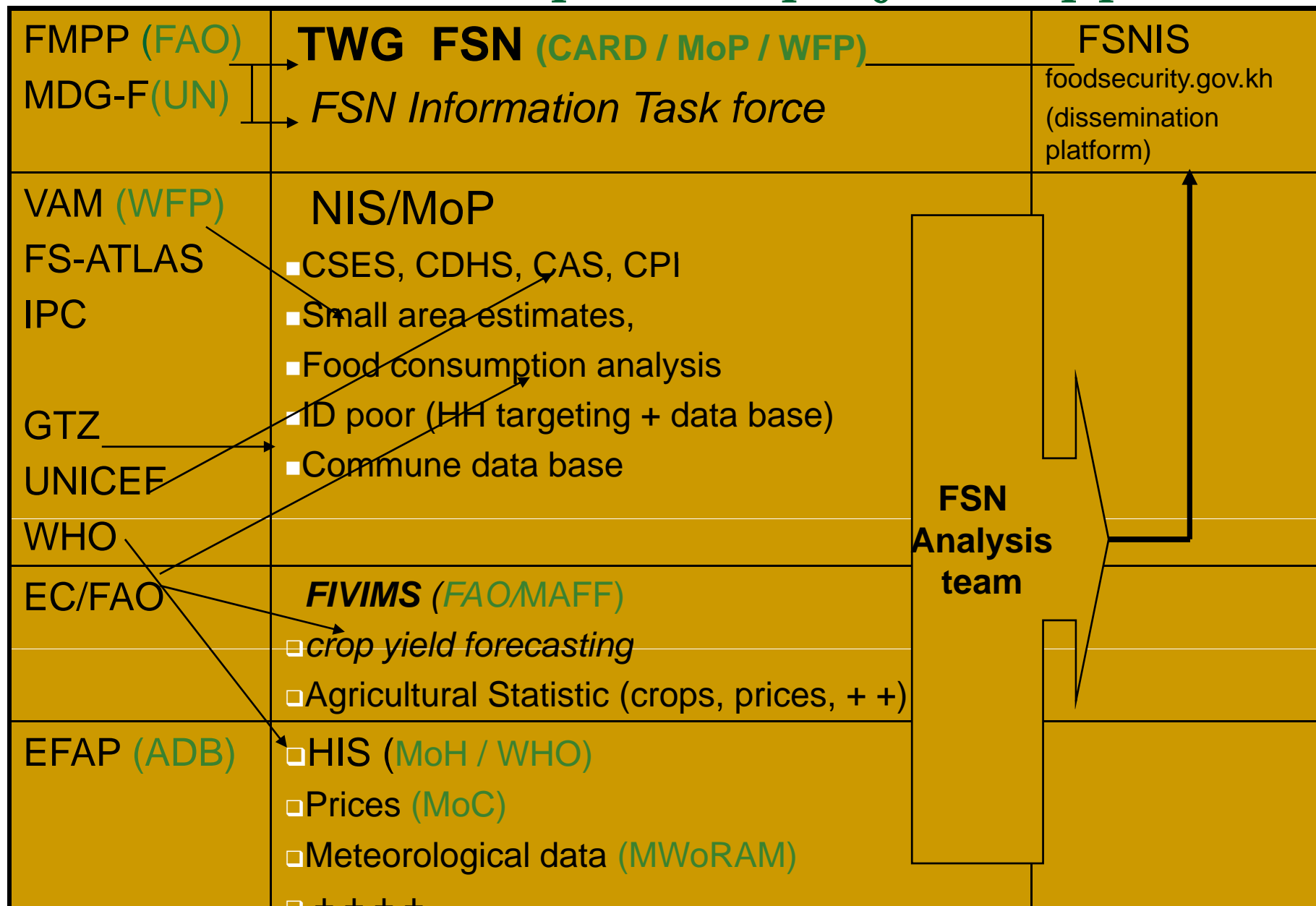
Recommendation with regard to FSN Information management (National WS 7/2006)

- Intensify **overall coordination** of FSN and vulnerability related information management in Cambodia (through TWG-FSN and other relevant TWGs)
 - **Coordinate/cooperate with primary data collectors** (NIS, MAFF, MoH.....) to better match data user needs and to fill in existing information gaps
 - Coordinate with regard to **data analysis, presentation and dissemination** and promote the use of FSN information for monitoring, program design and targeting
 - **Develop local capacities** for better understanding of FSN related information, data analysis and use of information for action
 - **Use existing** data-basis, analysis, presentation and dissemination tools (minimize doubling of efforts and reduce costs)
 - Design **new initiatives** (with regard to FSN data collection, analysis and dissemination) in the spirit to **add value** and to complement existing systems and tools
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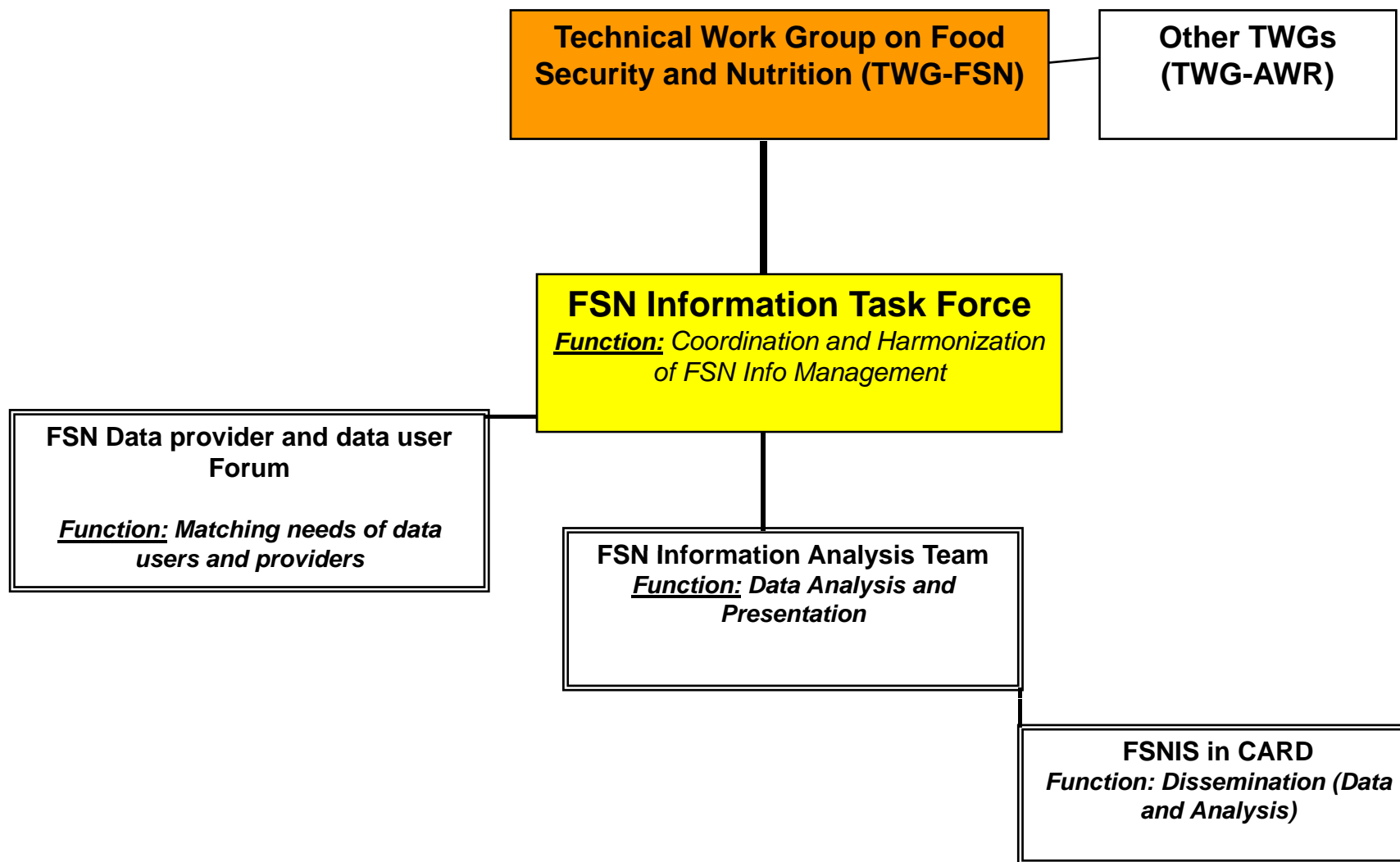
Recent Developments with regard to FSN-Info

- A working group on nutrition surveillance system was established and a national WS on NSS organized -> sentinel surveillance?
- An analysis of food expenditure data (conversion of expenditure into food consumption data) was carried out and crop yield forecasting was (temporarily) introduced through FAO/EC, the FS-Atlas was updated and IPC developed
- Several surveys relevant to FSN were carried out in 2008 in the context of high food prices (CDRI)
- Cambodian Anthropometric Survey (CAS) was carried out in 11/2009 (NIS/UNICEF) and capacities for nutrition related data collection (CDHS, CSES) in NIS were strengthened
- ID poor as a harmonized targeting mechanism of poor households was established in more than 7000 villages (will cover the whole of Cambodia soon, large data base which may be useful also beyond HH targeting)
- Recently FAO/EC "food security for action" has launched a new phase on focusing on market information, disaster preparedness and risk mitigation and chronic FS and vulnerability assessment
- Recently ADB is supporting the "strengthening of capacities for emergency response to food crisis and improving food security" in the framework of the food emergency assistance project

FSN Info Landscape (and project support)



Structure for FSN Information Management



Thank you for the Attention!

