



Navigating the Triple Burden: Bridging Agricultural Gaps for Enhanced Nutrition in Sri Lanka

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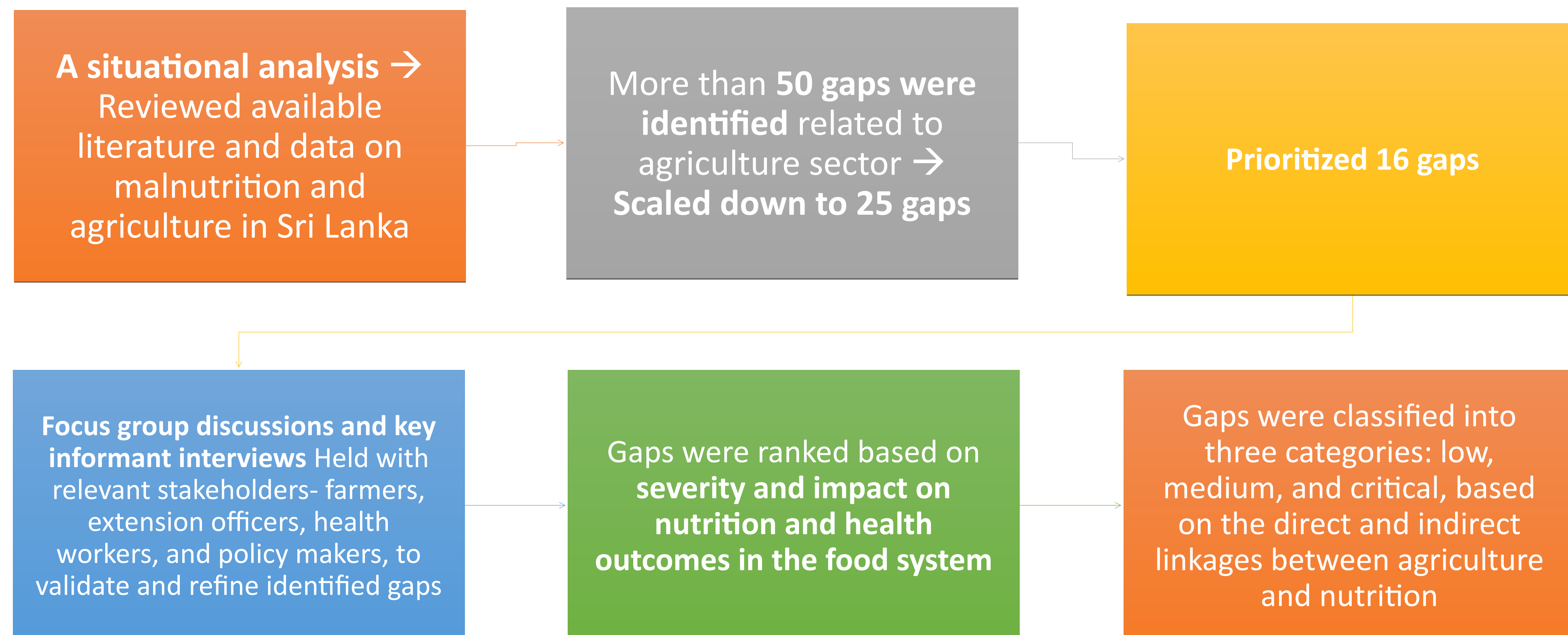
Rationale

Sri Lanka is undergoing significant transitions, encompassing demographics, epidemiology, nutrition, and economic growth towards an upper-middle-income status. Its economic foundation rests on agriculture, services, and light industry. However, the country grapples with the intricate challenge of the triple burden of malnutrition, marked by the coexistence of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity-linked diseases, despite overall improvements in social indicators.

Objective

This paper aims to present the main gaps identified in the agriculture sector that hinder effective nutritional outcomes and to highlight priorities for mainstreaming nutrition within this sector

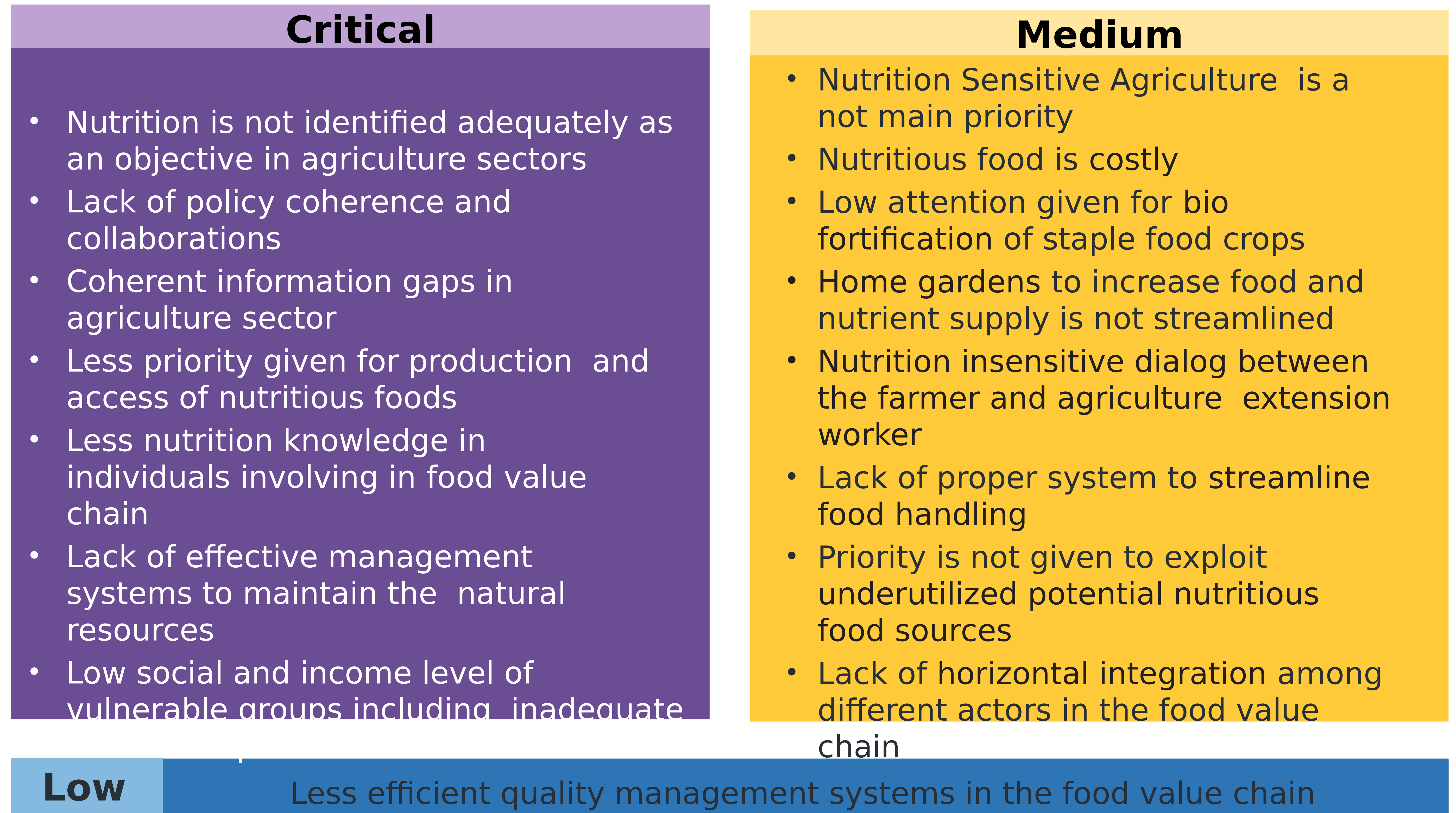
Methodology



Significance

This synthesis is firmly rooted in the UNICEF conceptual framework of undernutrition and a comprehensive food systems approach, providing a robust foundation for coordinated efforts aimed at enhancing nutritional outcomes on a national scale. As Sri Lanka navigates these challenges, embracing such strategies becomes essential for achieving sustainable improvements in its population's nutritional well-being.

Results



Discussion

Within the agriculture sector, seven critical gaps have been prioritized that impede optimal nutritional outcomes. To address these challenges, recommendations have been proposed, ranging from integrating nutrition objectives into agricultural policies to establishing multi-sectoral action plans, enhancing data sharing, promoting nutritious food production and access, improving nutrition education, and empowering marginalized groups.

Conclusion

The imperative of holistic, multi-sectoral strategies that seamlessly intertwine nutrition considerations with agriculture to combat the triple burden of malnutrition is warranted. Addressing the highlighted gaps and implementing the recommended measures has the potential to yield enduring, effective solutions for mitigating malnutrition challenges in Sri Lanka.