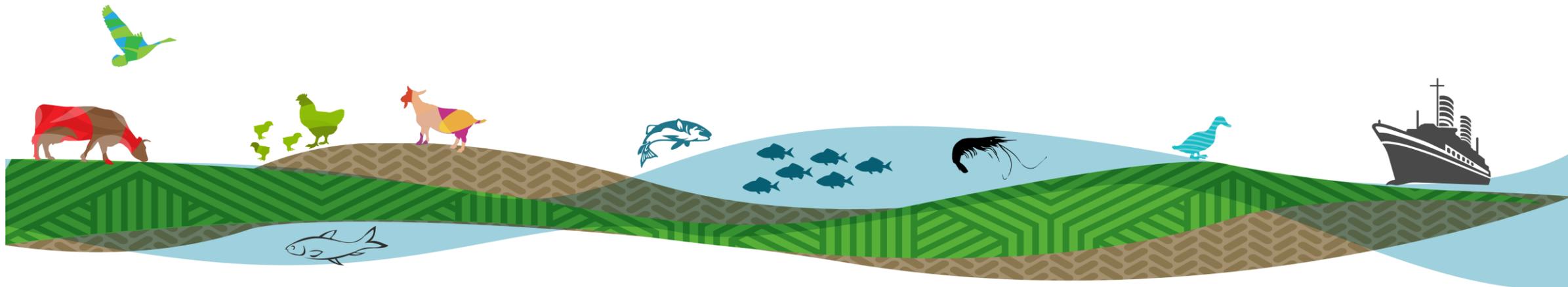




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Rapid Assessment of Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture in Bangladesh

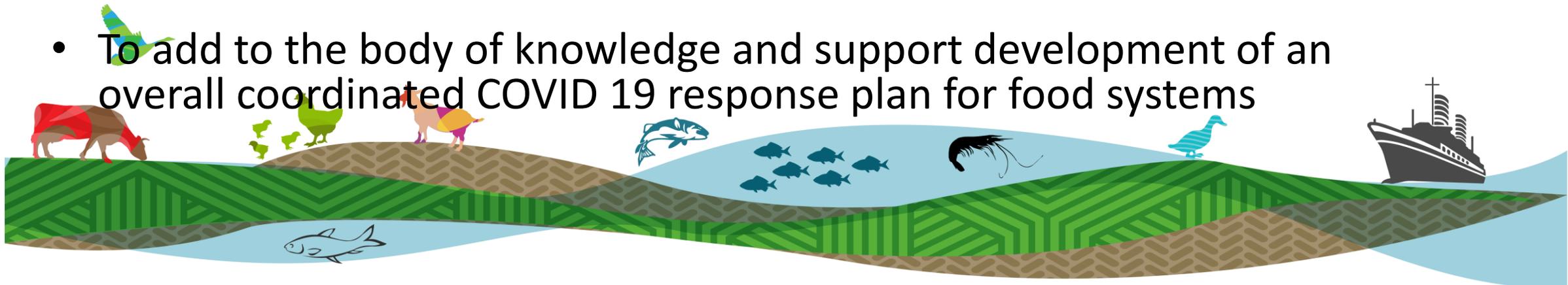
28 April 2020



Objectives of the Rapid Assessment

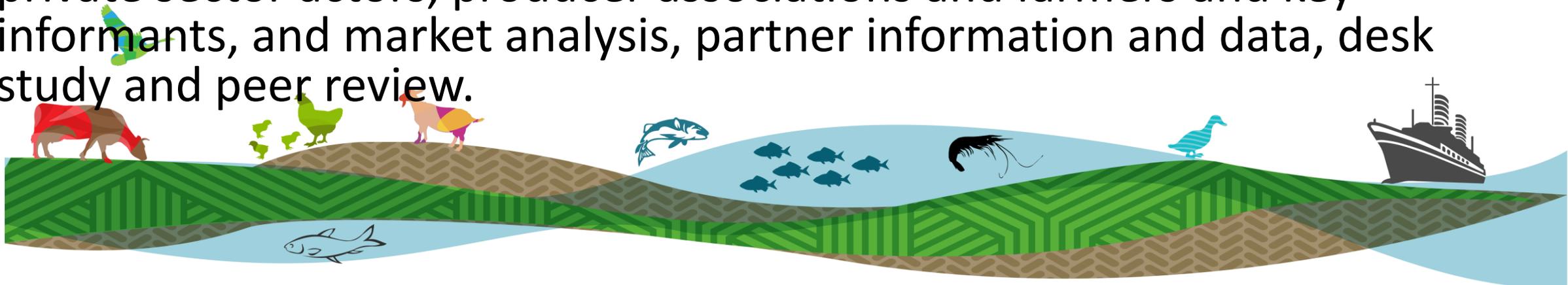
Overall objective:

- Identify and monitor risks to food and nutrition security stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and develop subsequent control measures
- Inform humanitarian and resilience programming, investments in the food system and policy interventions
 - Impacts on farmers
 - Price changes at farmgate and markets
 - Understand vulnerabilities in supply chains / food systems
 - Effects on consumers – impacts on farmers
- To add to the body of knowledge and support development of an overall coordinated COVID 19 response plan for food systems



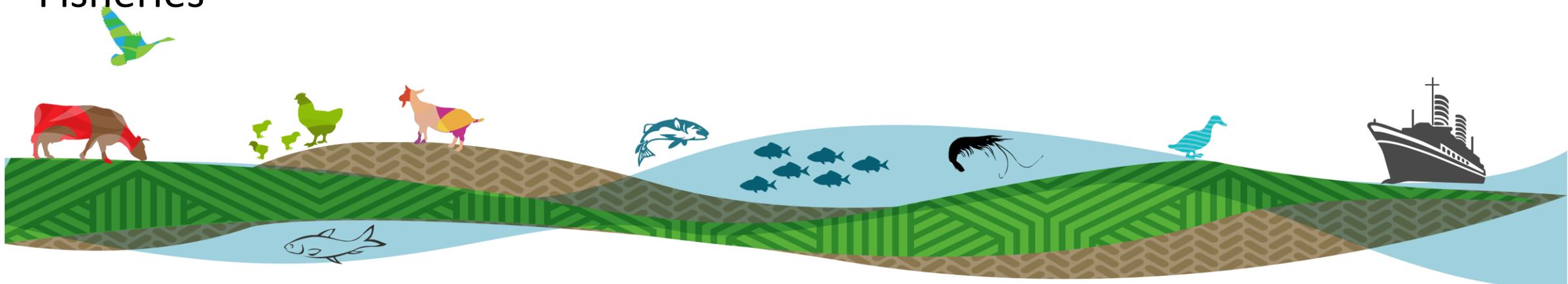
Information collection method

- **Methodology** developed with support from Regional and Headquarters offices – global understanding, based on national context (*Dialogue with WFP, IFAD, CGIAR group*)
- **Steps:** Including structured questionnaires, information collection, report drafting, peer review and final drafting
- **Data collection:** Telephone interviews with government counterparts, private sector actors, producer associations and farmers and key informants, and market analysis, partner information and data, desk study and peer review.



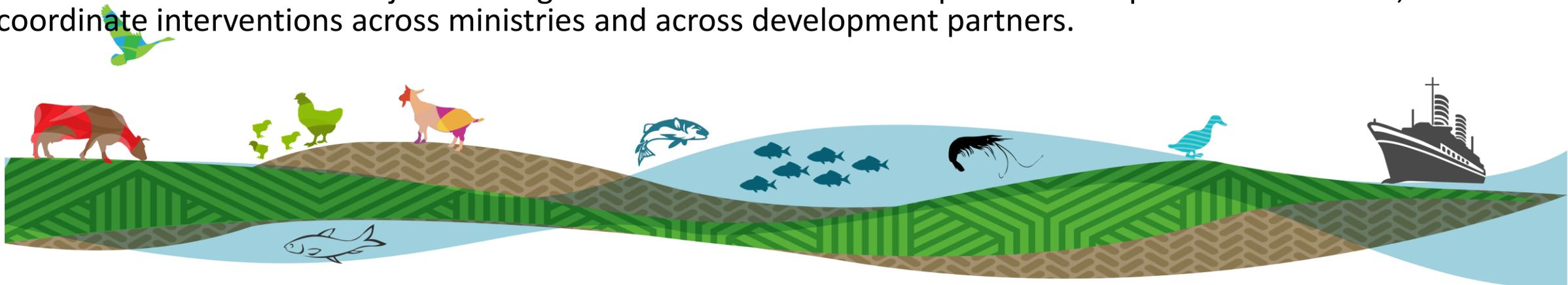
Information collection: 9 modules

1. Price monitoring
2. Food supply chain responses
3. Food process and food safety
4. Trade measures
5. Social inclusion, including social protection and food demand measures
6. Support to smallholders
7. Crop and horticulture production
8. Livestock
9. Fisheries



Main findings

- **Food/grain availability** in private and public stocks could be sufficient for up to one month of consumption – potentially another 6 months' worth of consumption ready to be harvested.
- **Wide spread challenges:** shortages of labour and machinery; food supply chains have been disrupted; resulting in poultry, dairy and fisheries under severe stress.
- **Price volatility is high.** The prices of rice, lentils, and beef increased, while that of wheat-flour, eggs and broiler chickens decreased.
- **Coverage of social protection** will expand greatly and should target the most vulnerable that are impacted by widespread reductions in economic access to food and nutrition (day labourers, etc...)
- **Coordination.** There is a major challenge to deliver the raft of new policies in response to COVID-19, and to coordinate interventions across ministries and across development partners.



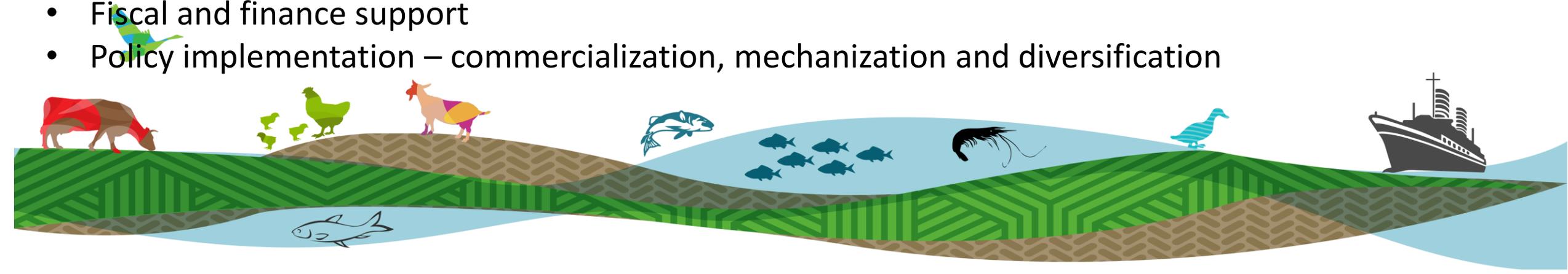
Recommendations

Immediate actions:

- Get the current crop in.
- Support opens supply chains – products to markets/inputs to farmers (communication)
- Agricultural stimulus package for hardest hit sectors – targeted at small holders
- Upscaling of social protection – understand targeting needs
- Response plan – Data, dialogue and coordinated actions

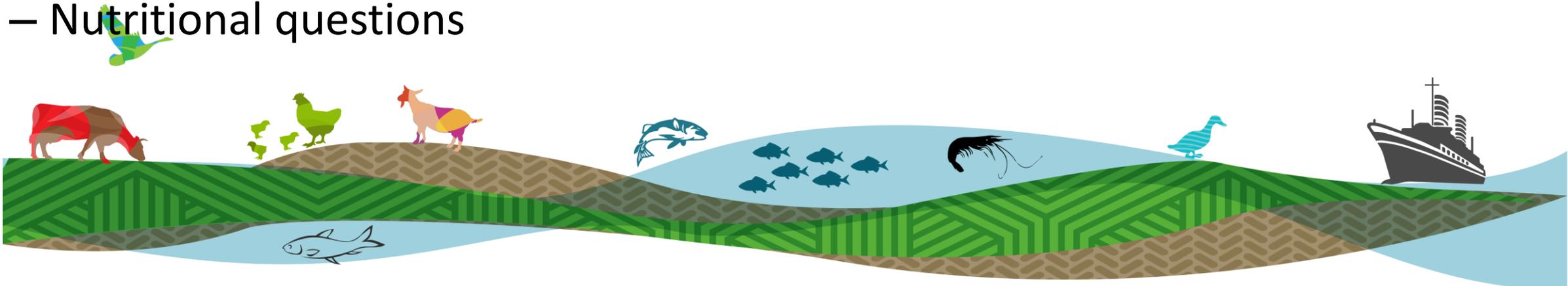
Longer term:

- Plan for September planting
- Understand forces behind volatile prices and input supplies
- Shorten supply chains – digital platforms, collection points, safe food handler behaviour.
- Fiscal and finance support
- Policy implementation – commercialization, mechanization and diversification



Limitations

- **Rapid survey** – limited primary data and geography – mostly phone interviews
 - Increase understanding of key issues – prices are volatile
 - Understanding/Gaps/incomplete key data - dive deeper into the why...
 - Supply chains disruptions – lack of demand, lack of transport, lack of labor
 - Price volatility – some products are up – others down
 - Increased household surveys
 - Nutritional questions



Next steps:

- Distribute draft of the report to LCG WG members
- Recommend a peer review
- Recommend small sub-committee to review methodology, gaps in data, method to expand primary data collection (FAO, WFP, IFAD and CGIAR organizations)
- Continued desk study
- Periodic update to the report for assessment and monitoring
- Development of a food security and agriculture response plan

Thank you

