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# **CURRENT STATE OF FOOD SECURITY – RESEARCH EDUCATION & OUTREACH IN KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

# PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

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- ✘ Background
- ✘ State of Food Security in Kenya
- ✘ The role of Kenyatta University in Food Security and Nutrition

# BACKGROUND

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- ✘ 1/3 of Kenya's population is considered food and nutrition insecure, a condition mainly associated with poverty.
- ✘ Falling food production in the Kenya implies that the country is **food insecure** in terms of staple cereal production.
- ✘ Over 10 million people suffer from **chronic food insecurity and poor nutrition** – 2-4 million people require emergency food assistance at any given time.
- ✘ Nearly 30% of Kenya's children are classified as undernourished, and micronutrient deficiencies are widespread.
- ✘ Food and nutrition insecurity in Kenya is linked to **agricultural production**, given that a large proportion of the population **reside** in the rural areas and directly depend on agriculture.



# BACKGROUND CTD

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- ✘ The government's past food policies have had limited success in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.
- ✘ (1) What gaps exist in the current food security and nutrition policy?
- ✘ (2) Given the adoption or establishment of food security and nutrition policy with various strategies and coordinating frameworks, what is the current status of food security and nutrition in Kenya?
- ✘ (3) What lessons can Kenya learn from other countries that have demonstrated success in attaining sustainable food security and nutrition?
- ✘ (4) What is the way forward for Kenya?

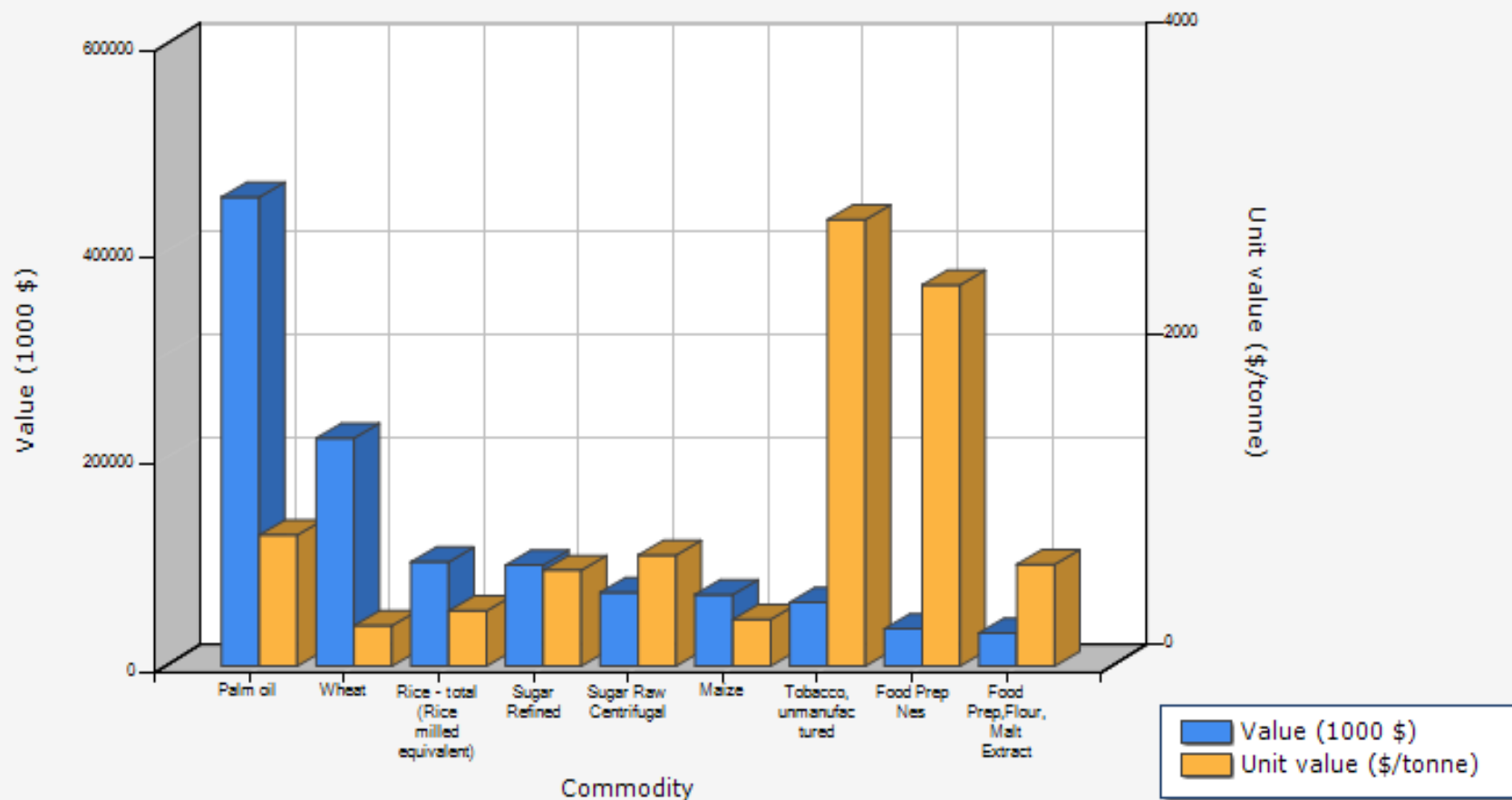
# DEFINITION OF TERMS

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- ✘ *Food security:* HH have adequate access to sufficient food to maintain an active and healthy life, without depending on humanitarian assistance. This implies adequate food available; that HH have adequate resources to obtain sufficient food; and that they are healthy enough to receive the nutritional value of the food.
- ✘ *Food availability:* Physical existence of food, either from own production or from the markets. At national level, food availability is a combination of domestic food production, domestic food stocks, commercial food imports and food aid.
- ✘ *Food access:* Guaranteed when all HH and individuals within HH have sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet, which depends on the level of HH resources – capital, labour and knowledge , as well as prices.
- ✘ *Nutritional value:* Deals with adequate food of sufficient diversity to meet nutrient needs.

# IMPORT TRENDS

Top imports - Kenya - 2010





# EMERGING ISSUES

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- ✘ Kenya is currently facing challenges arising from global phenomena, notably global warming (climate change), and global food and financial crises.
- ✘ The frequency of droughts and flash floods is expected to increase both in intensity and spread as a result of climate change.
- ✘ Disease and pests associated with high temperatures are also likely to increase. Adaptation interventions that enhance farming communities' resilience to climate change induced effects are critical for the realization of the principle objectives of FNSP.

# EMERGING ISSUES ..CTD..

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- ✖ Changing lifestyles and eating habits have resulted in non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular, cancers, diabetes, and obesity. These represent a significant development challenge.
- ✖ Health consequences of obesity related diseases range from premature death to disabilities that reduce the quality of life.



# KENYATTA UNIVERSITY IN THE POLICY DEBATE

- ✘ Kenyatta University teaches courses relevant to food security (MSc. Agribusiness. Crop Protection and Plant Breeding, etc)
- ✘ The University has partnerships with key regional organizations, for instance ASARECA supports research on biotechnology to develop crop varieties which support, on food security elements / goal of the food and nutrition policy (national) and regional (if possible)
- ✘ Kenyatta University plays an important role in engaging the community on pertinent agricultural issues – organizing farmer field days
- ✘ These issues are dealt with through research community based research projects – currently there are ongoing projects which highlight food challenges – SASACID

# KU'S RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- ✘ Kenyatta University holds a center of excellence with an accreditate biosafety lab in the country for agricultural research. This serves as a research hub in training leading scientists from the region on food security and nutrition
- ✘ Kenyatta University is a member of RUFORUM, supporting training and training - many postgraduate students have benefitted from scholarships

# RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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- ✘ Participates in VicRes initiative as a member of the InterUniversity Council for East Africa, KU staff have implemented nearly 50 projects targeting food security and natural resources management in the Lake Victoria basin with funding from SIDA through VicRes.
- ✘ Training programmes in partnership with AGRA hosting a regional programme for MSc. in Integrated soil fertility management.



# RESEARCH AFFILIATION ..CTD..

- ✖ Ku staff have been resource persons in issues on biosafety (National Biosafety Authority), sharing our experiences in research..
- ✖ KU is a major implementer of projects in food security funded by NCST, either through staff or through grants to postgraduate students.

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✕ THANK YOU