

Building **Food System** Resilience during **Extremes**: the Case of CAREC Countries

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**Resilience and Economic Growth
in Times of High Uncertainty in CAREC Region**

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Outline of the presentation:

- FOOD SECURITY, COVID-19, and climate change: Some queries for CAREC region
- Loss to Food System amid COVID-19 in CAREC Region
- Food System Preparedness amid COVID-19: the case of Pakistan
- Loss to Food System and agriculture: Key CLIMATE CHALLENGES in CAREC region
- Vulnerable Food system vs Resilient Food system
- Key Recommendations of the study



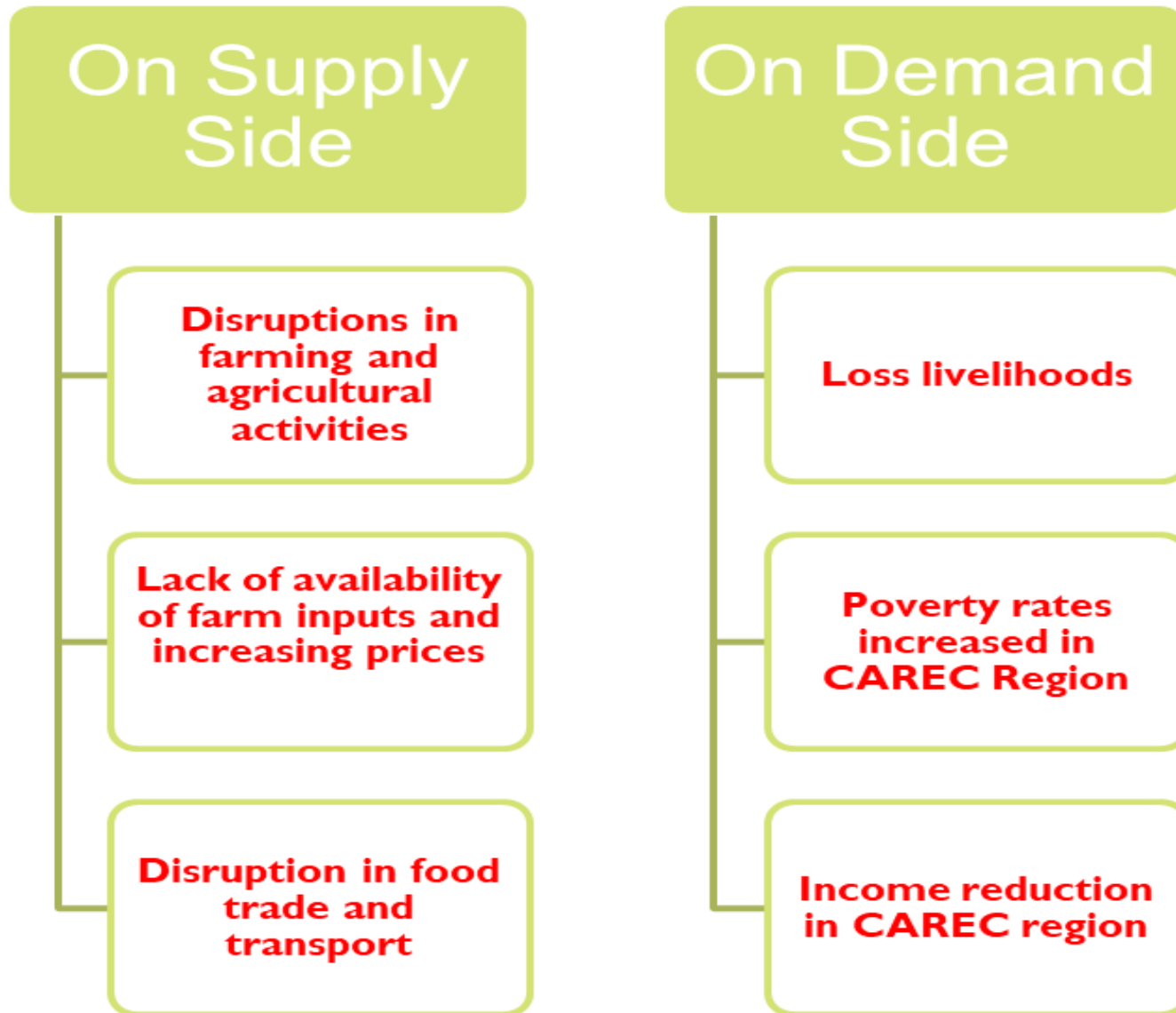
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FOOD SECURITY, COVID-19, and climate change: Some queries for CAREC region

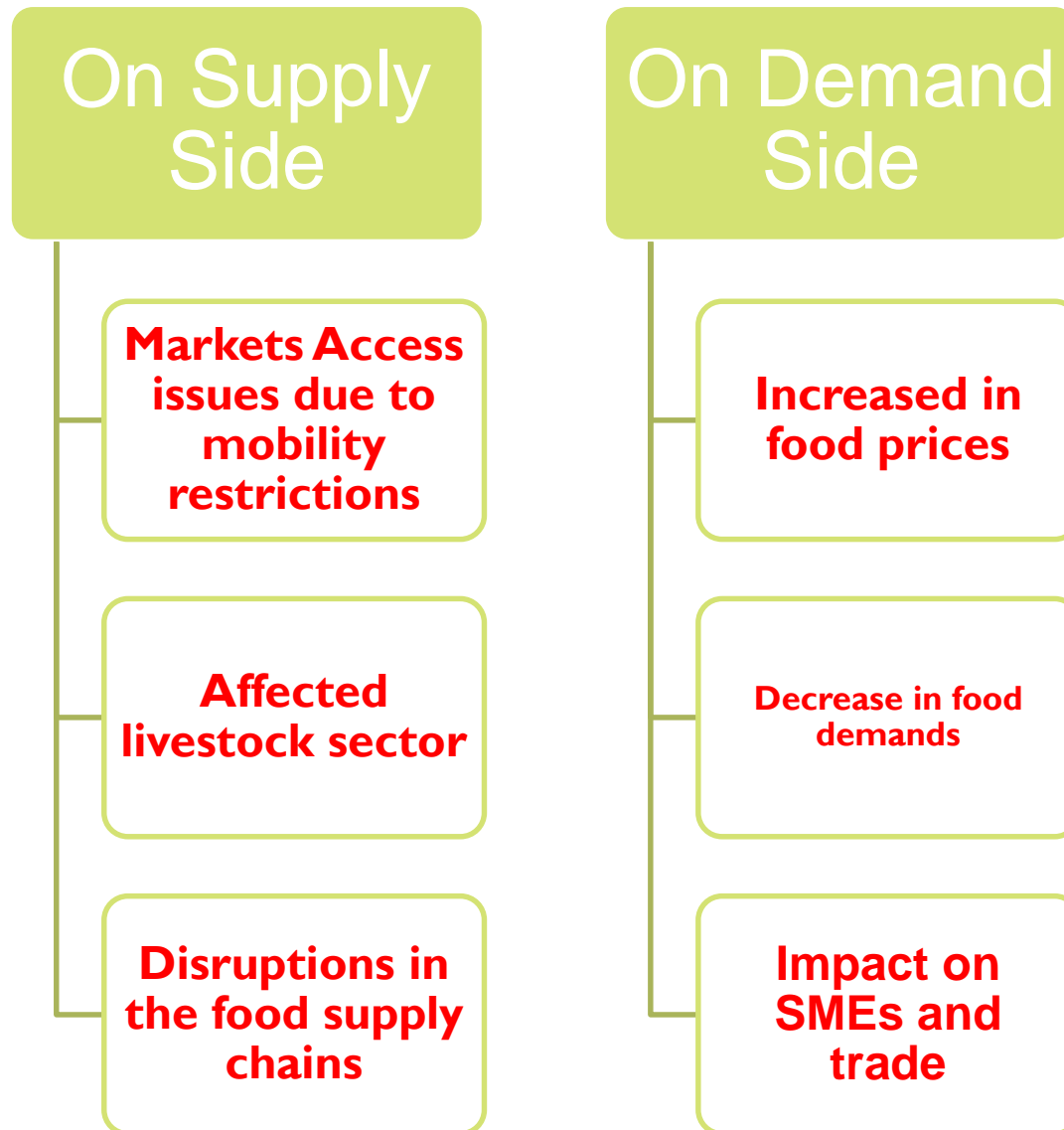
- What are the **key gaps** in the **current food system** problems faced within **CAREC region** countries during the pandemic?
- What are the major **disruptions in crop production and food supply chain** due to **mobility restrictions**?
- How climate change/COVID-19 impacts on **agriculture production and trade, labour market dynamics, and consumer behaviour**?
- What are the **potential needs of the agriculture sector in Pakistan** in terms of **policy gaps, challenges, and government support** in the times of **COVID-19**?



Loss to Food System amid COVID-19 in CAREC Region...1



Loss to Food System amid COVID-19 in CAREC Region...2



Food System Preparedness amid COVID-19: the case of Pakistan... I

The **qualitative data** was collected for rapid need assessment of **key policy gaps and challenges** to the **food system across Pakistan** in the times of **COVID-19**.

Government Initiatives:

- **CASH TRANSFER:** Ehsas programme cash transfer to 12 million households for poor and daily wage workers.
- **ANTI-HOARDING ACT:** Punjab imposed section 144 for three weeks across the province to check to hoard of food items
- **WHEAT PROCUREMENT:** doubled to 8.25 MMT from 4.25 MMT to stimulate the rural economy
- **FARM INPUT SUBSIDIES:** KP government-approved subsidy on certified seed and fertilizers; 1.5 billion for fertilizers and tractor; 6.8 billion for waving markup on agriculture loans for 12.5 ha landholders; MNFSR announced subsidy on the pesticide (PKR 300 per pack of pesticide for cotton pests).
- **SMART LOCKDOWNS**

IMPACT: During lockdown months (i.e., April, May, and June 2020), **poverty rate** raised to **53 per cent** (from **48.1 per cent pre-COVID**) in **rural** areas; Which later declined to **35.9 per cent**, when economic activities resumed, and the government launched interventions

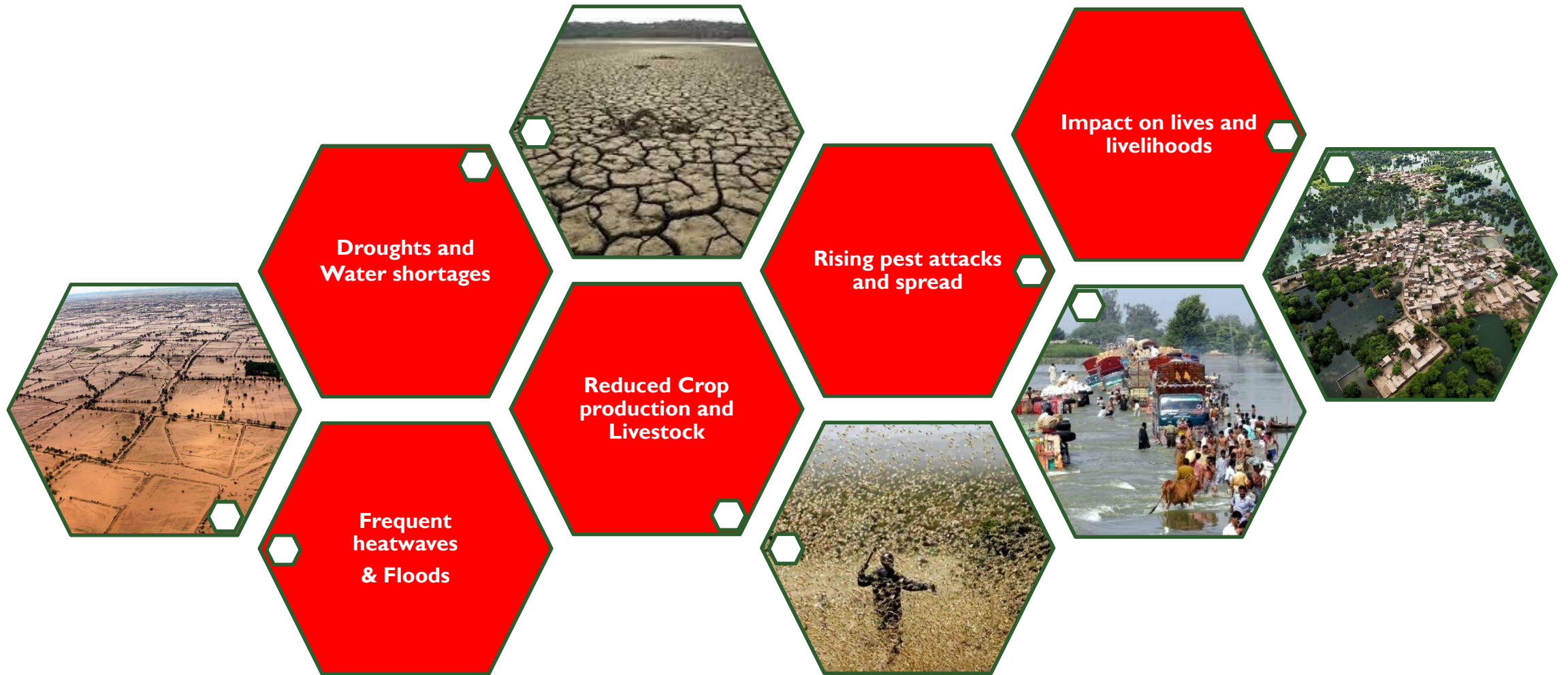
(Source: Moeed et al., 2021)

Food System Preparedness amid COVID-19: the case of Pakistan...2

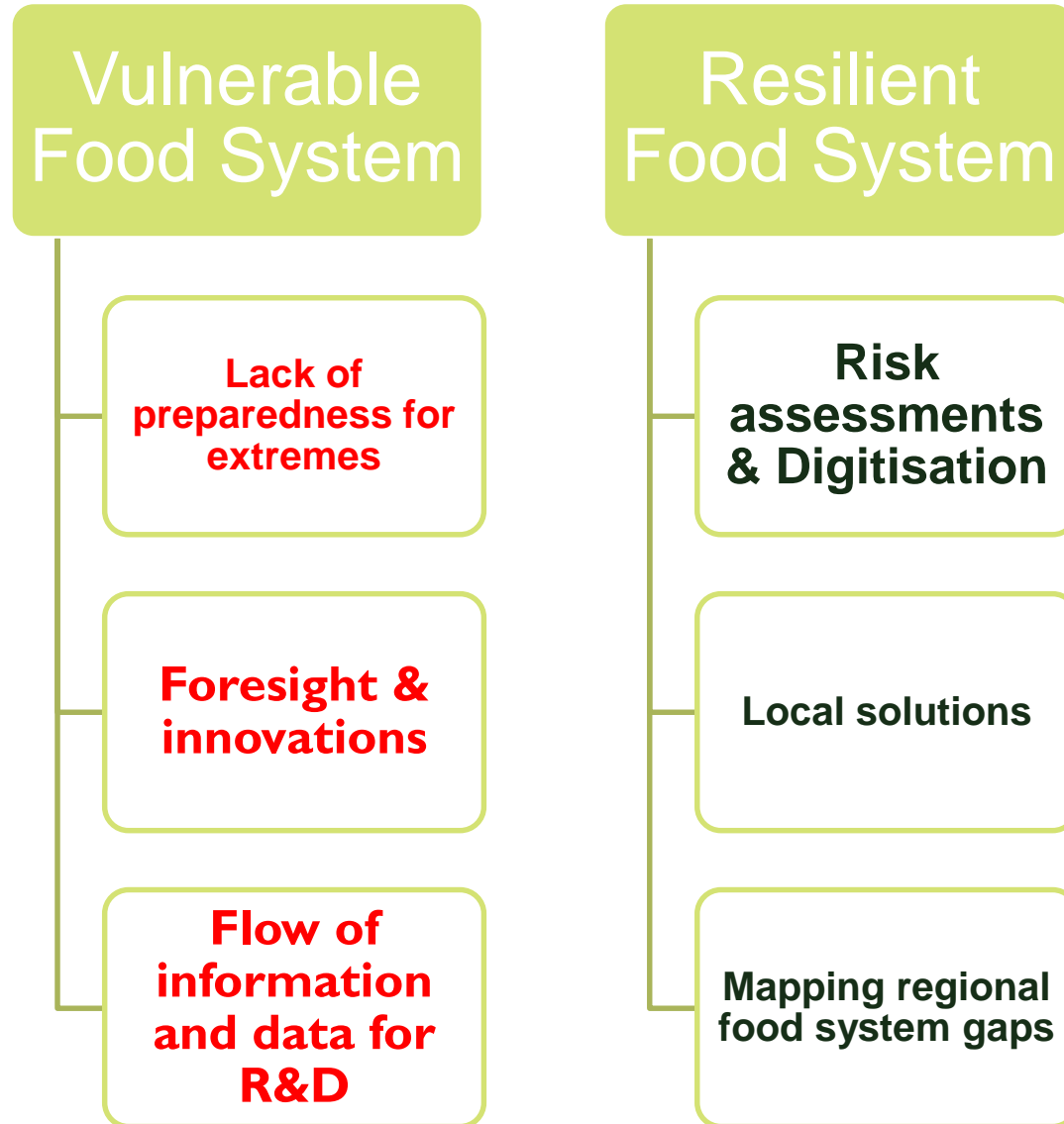
KEY FINDINGS: The ability of the public departments and institutions to secure food supply chains during the pandemic was particularly low.

- 1) The government departments lack data and information about how much food is produced, what are the consumption gaps, when and where food shortages may emerge, who are most vulnerable in the society and what are their specific food requirements to avoid hunger and malnutrition.
- 2) Most of the food-related data collected and managed by the departments concerned were based on the self-reported assessments of a few wholesaler and distributors based on their current level of food stocks.
- 3) A comprehensive food stock position assessment for the whole market and ability to track essential food items along the supply chain was lacking.
- 4) Furthermore, the collected data was scattered among the departments concerned that rarely collated for proper food supply management.

Loss to Food System and agriculture: Key CLIMATE CHALLENGES in CAREC region



Vulnerable Food system **vs** Resilient Food system



Key Recommendations of the study



Food System Portal

A web-based regional food system portal aimed to collate regional and country-level food systems data.



Capacity Building

Capacity to improve small-scale food processing and value addition



Risk Assessment

Risk assessment of food systems during extremes for better responses.



Private Sector Engagement

Improve the role of the private sector at regional scale