

# **Food Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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### ***Water Research Commission***

Symposium on Water and Nutrition –  
Indigenous and traditional crops in  
RSA

# We have always been hungry

- Human history is the narrative of the quest nutritional security.
- As mankind evolved to greater sophistication some had the end goal of the quest for food, while others rapidly developed access to food as a key tool for security, wealth and power.



- **But at no time in recorded history have we had the privilege of not having significant numbers of hungry people.**

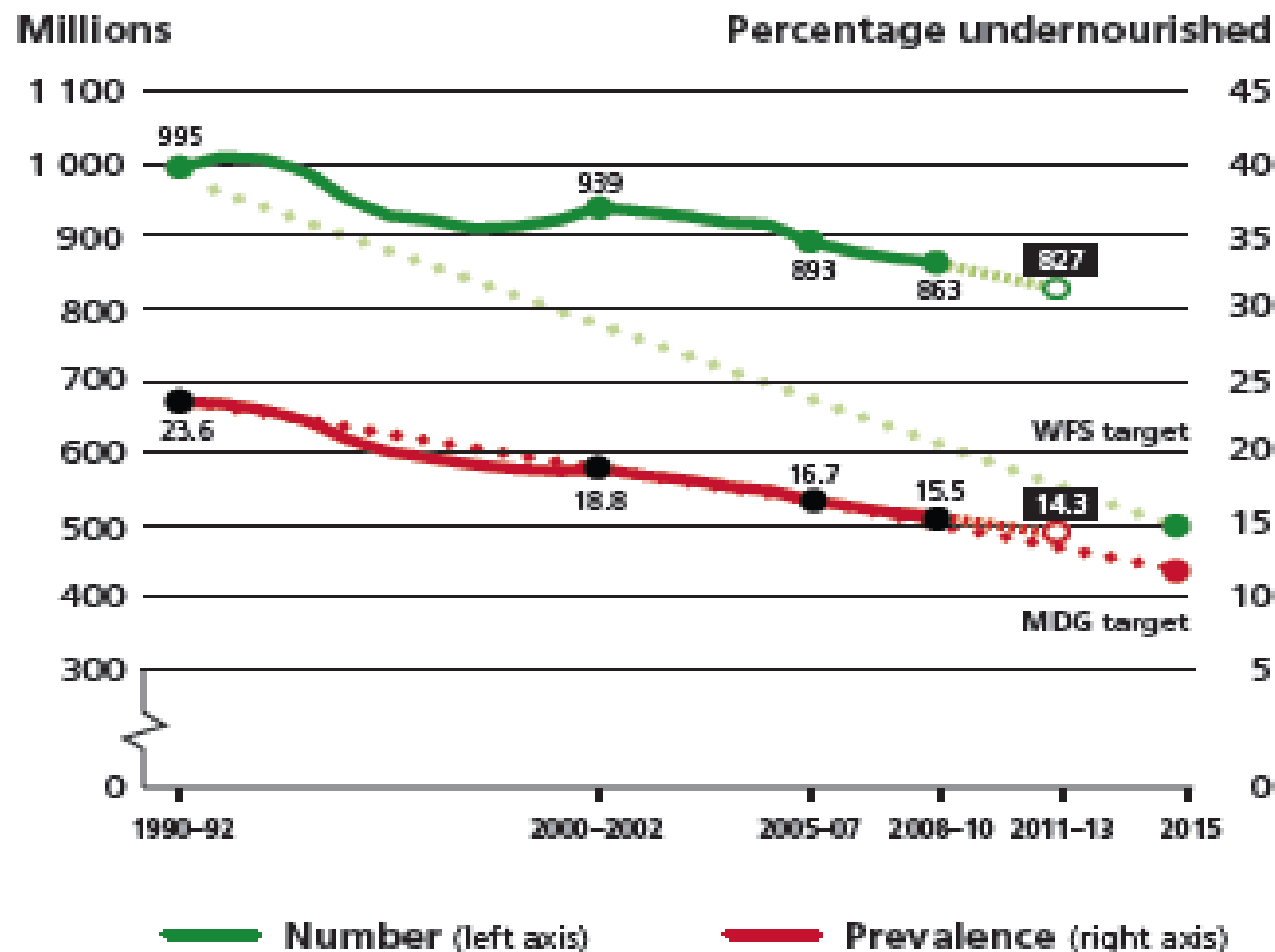
# Millennium Summit and the MDGs

*“Part of the naked truth is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium provides humanity with the capital, the Technology and Human Skills to end poverty and underdevelopment throughout the world”*

President Thabo Mbeki, Sept 2000

**Where are we today – 14 years  
later?**

## Undernourishment in the developing regions

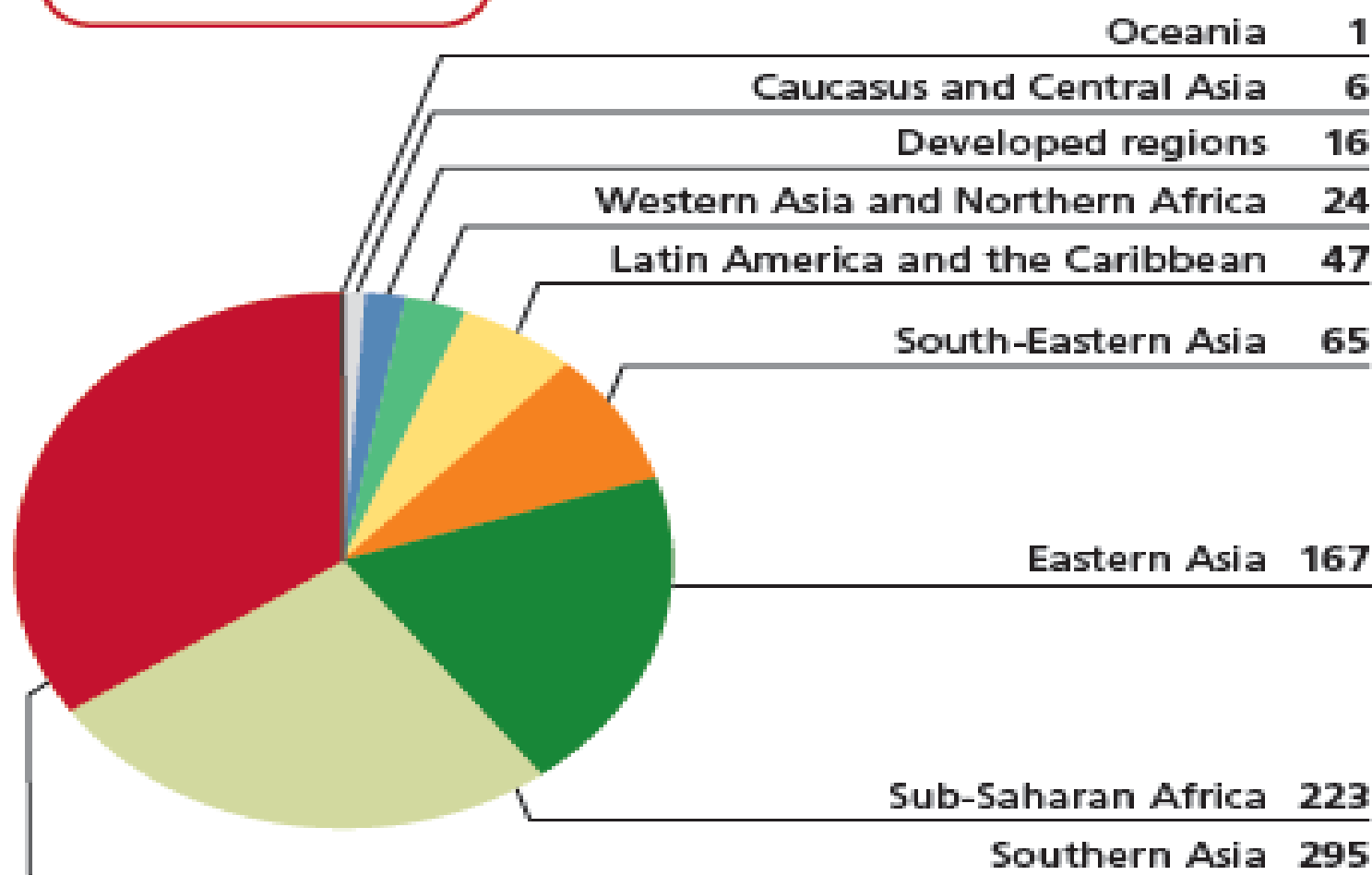


Note: Data for 2011-13 refer to provisional estimates.

Source: FAO.

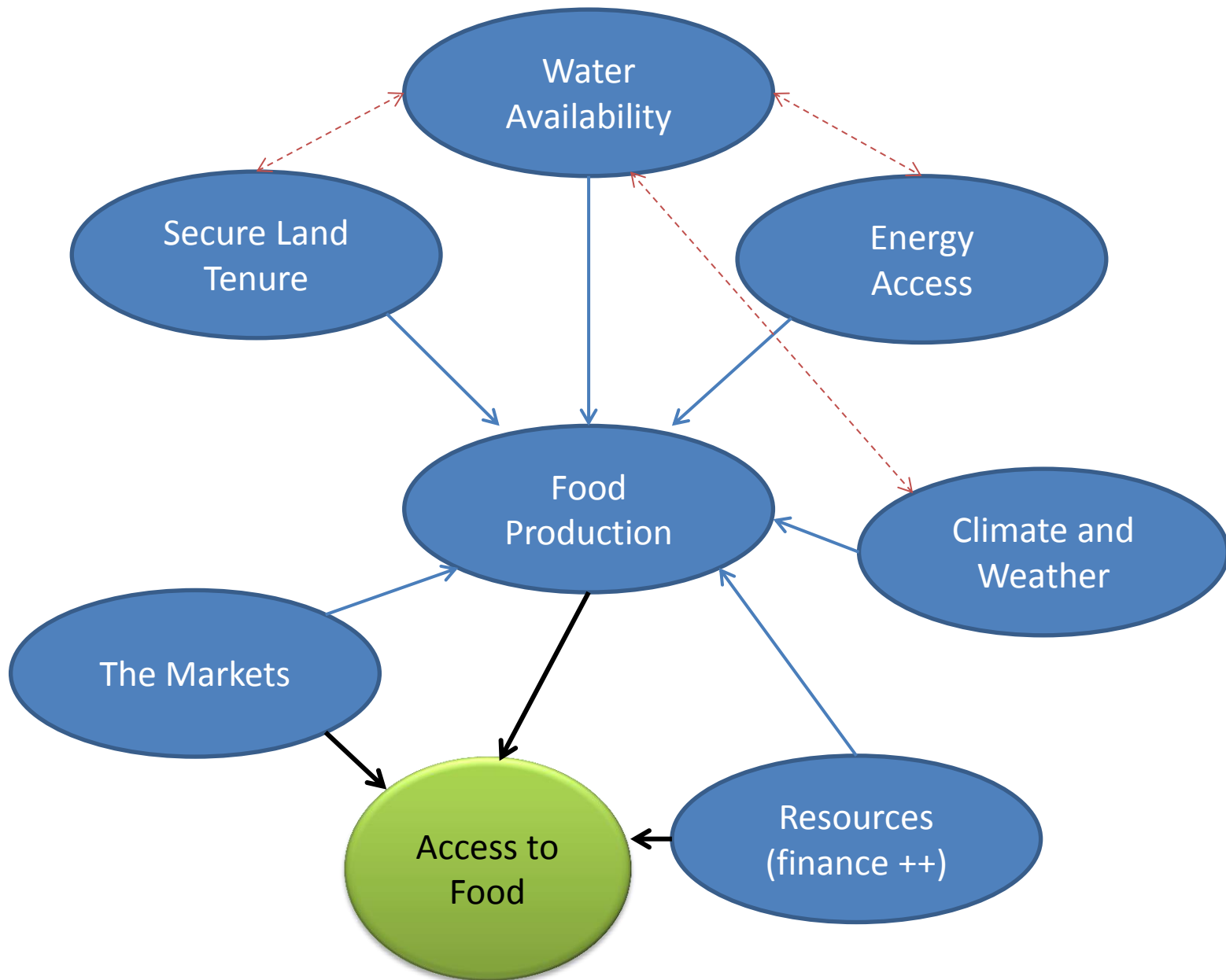
## Undernourishment in 2011–13, by region (millions)

**Total = 842 million**



Note: All figures are rounded.

Source: FAO.



# The attraction of indigenous and traditional crops

- Good prospects for both nutritional content and water budgets.
- General familiarity with very poor and marginalised.
- Strong cultural ties and harmony.
- Opportunity to develop completely new value chains





**Thank You**