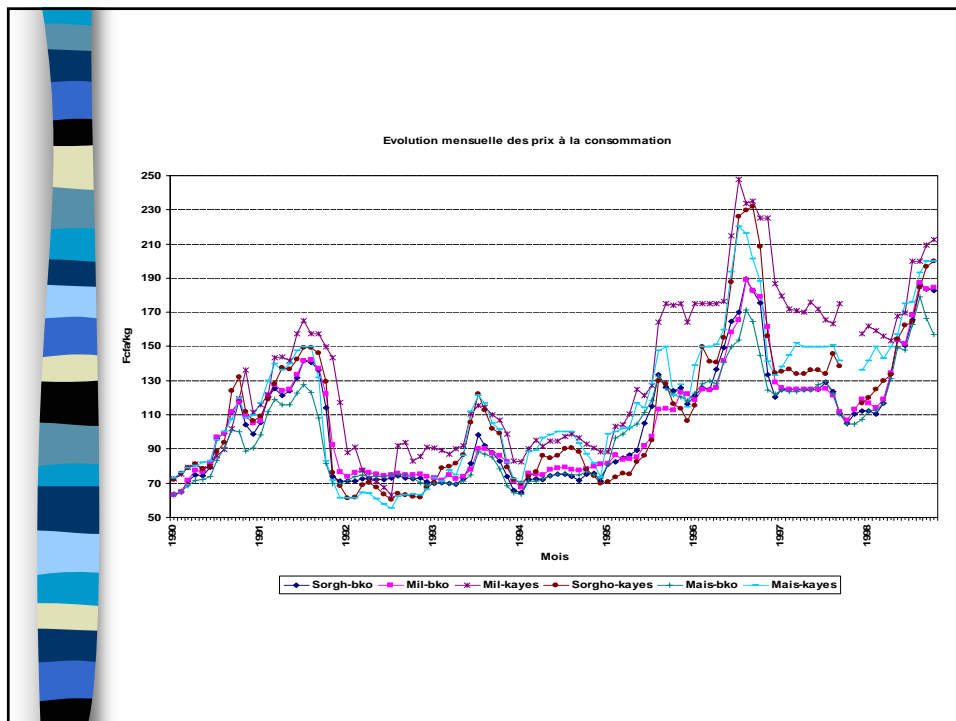


Common Features of Food Systems Around the World

- Spatial dispersion
- Differences in scale of production across vertical levels in the food system
- Sequential nature of production





Common Features of Food Systems Around the World

- Uncertainty of production
- Seasonality
- Perishability
- Increasing international integration
- Important public-sector roles



Common Food System Problems

- Price instability due to both supply and demand shocks (more at farm level than consumer level in industrialized economies)
- Chronic inadequate access to food by many low-income households



Common Food System Problems

- Importance of macro policies on food system
- Negative attitudes towards “intermediaries”
- High cost of direct gov’t. buying & selling activities → Perception that neither the market nor the state works well.



Structural Transformation

- Decrease in relative role of farming in the economy (% of GDP, employment)
- Movement away from household-level production to a more integrated economy
- Linking farmer and others in the food system to the information system of the wider world.



Development Approaches, 1960-Present

- Industrial Fundamentalism: 1950s and 1960s
- Planning & Parastatals: 1950s-1970s
- Expanding Farm-level Production—
Green Revolution: 1960s-1970s
- Integrated Rural Development--
Poorest of the Poor



Development Approaches, 1960-Present

- Current Emphases:
 - Liberalization, Structural Adjustment & Beyond
 - Globalization of the Food System
 - Food Security
 - NGOs
 - Information and Institutional Design