Assessing the need for integrated micronutrient data to support evidence-based decisions by Indian food system stakeholders

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Background and aim

- Access to micronutrient data is crucial for evidence-based decisions in nutritious food systems.
- Usage and interpretation of publicly available micronutrient data from heath, nutrition, agricultural and intervention sources is key for success of national programs.
- Priority needs and requirements of key Indian food systems stakeholders needs to be established

Qualitative Approach- Sampling Focus Group Discussion (FGD)- National Level (12 participants) In-depth Interviews (IDIs) – National & State level (10 participants)

Fig 1. Steps of data collection to assess priority needs

Sample comprised of stakeholders implementing micronutrient programs, or providing technical support to government in India at national and state level (Fig. 2)

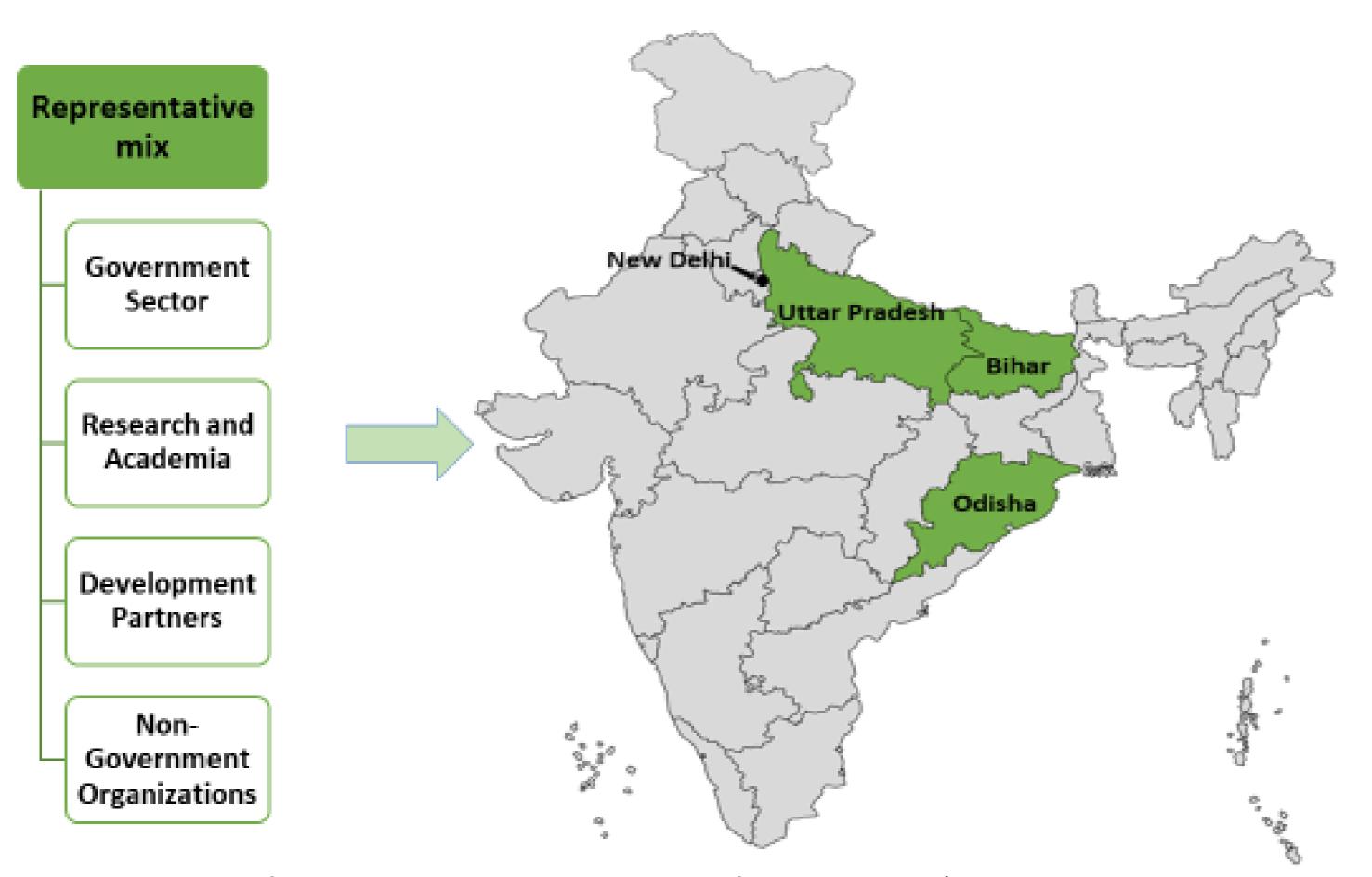


Fig 2. The identified stakeholders and their professional role/sector

Deductive approach - data captured on various themes (Fig. 3).

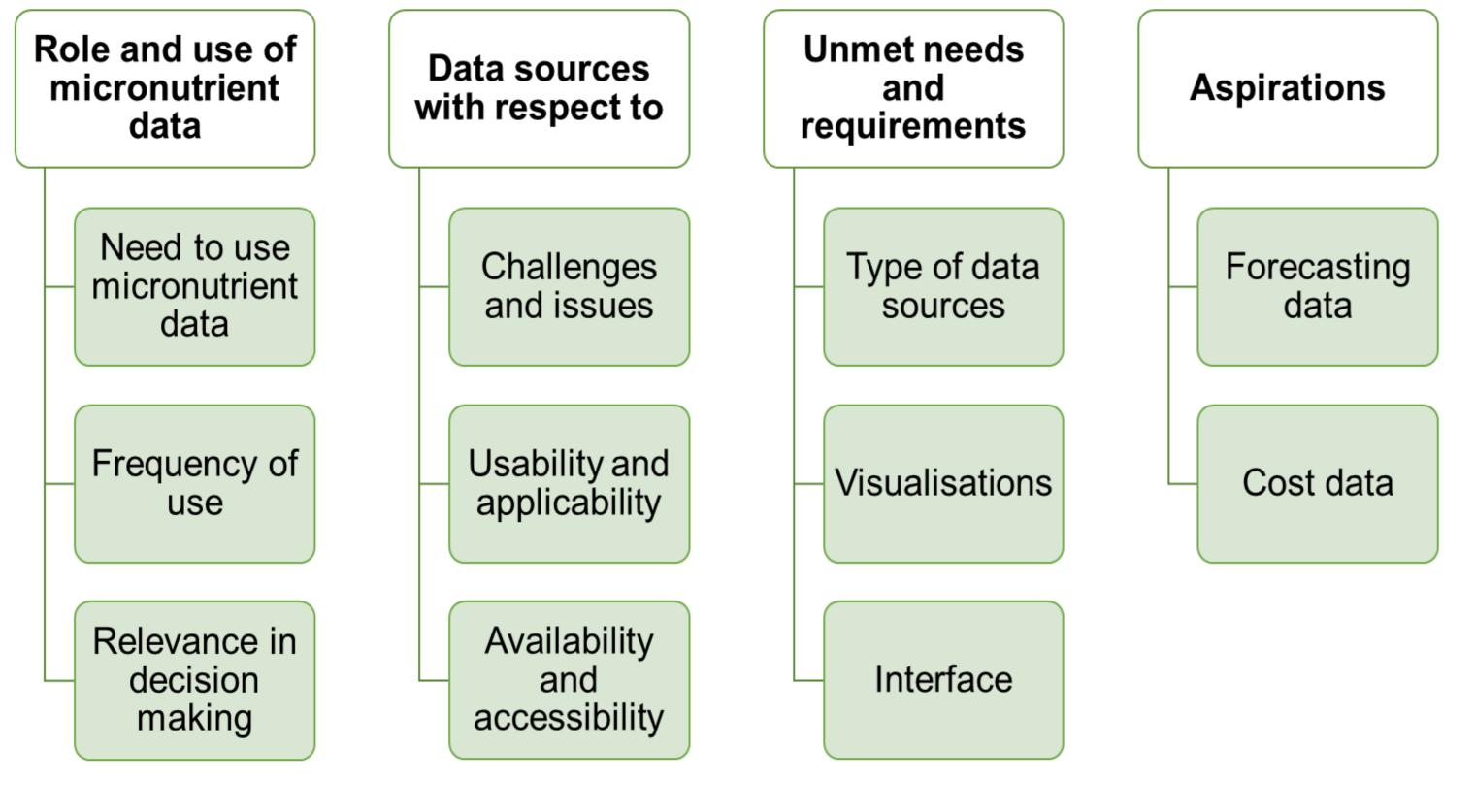


Fig 3. Domains of data collection

Framework analysis technique identified

Themes/sub-themes, concepts, issues and quotes

Results

Stakeholders reported the following uses of data:

- ✓ Scaling up fortification, supplementation and social safety nets
 - ✓ Estimating micronutrient deficiencies (Iron and vitamins)
 - ✓ Updating policies and plans

Stakeholders face multiple challenges to accessing and using data to inform their decisions.

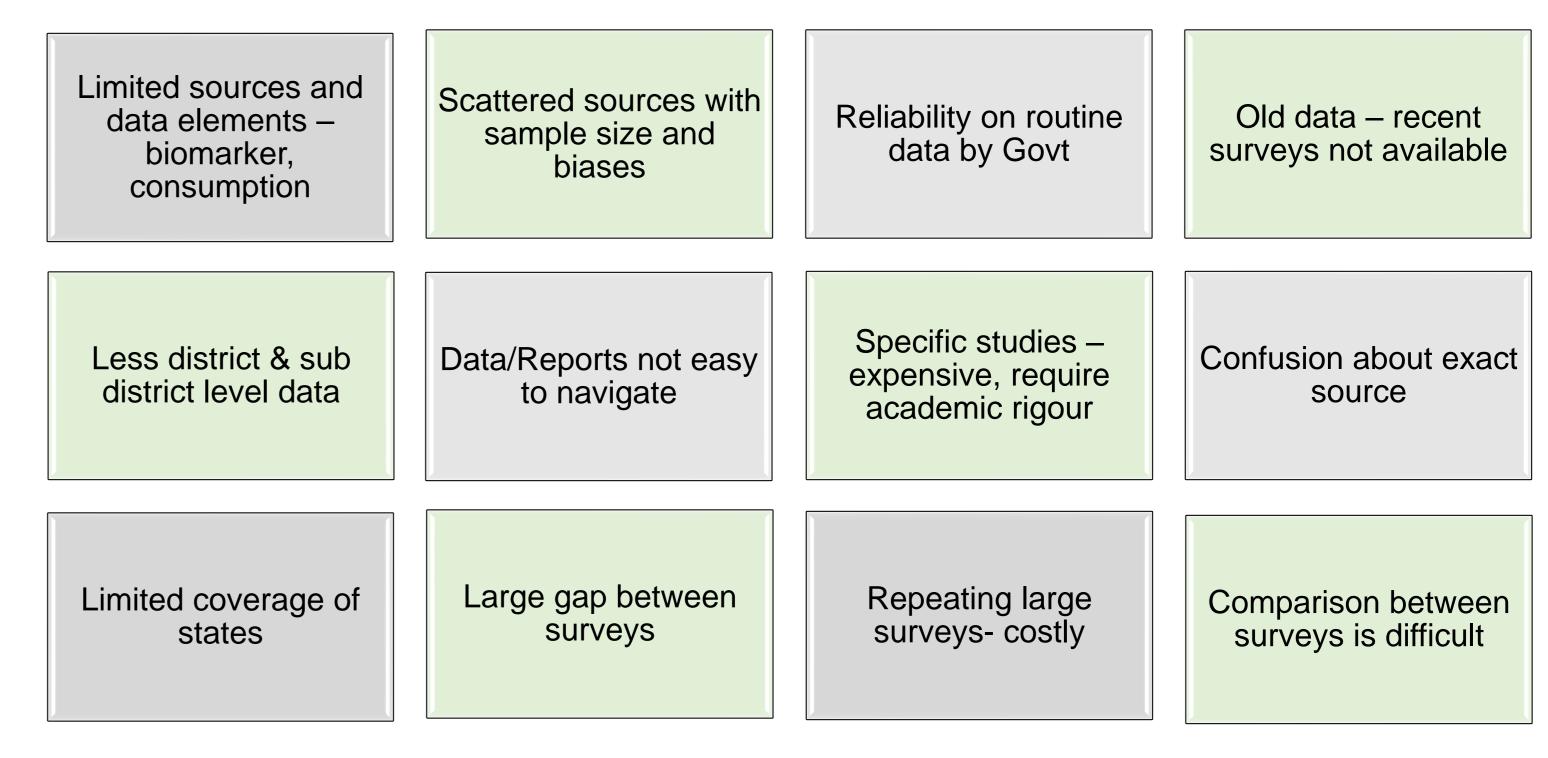
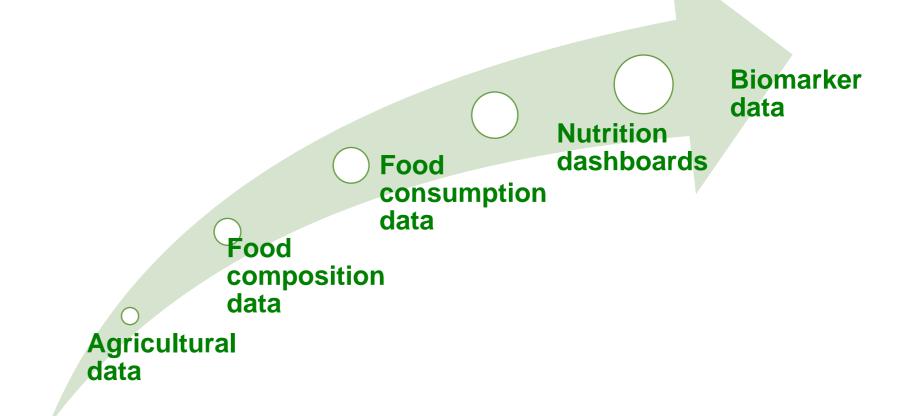


Fig 4. Challenges with existing data sources

There were different sources of data that were commonly used and there were opportunities that were stated.



Opportunities

- > Need for tools/platforms providing customisation and consolidation
- > Relevance of soil composition data, mineral nutrient data, food consumption and composition data together
- Requirement of comprehensive data covering all population groups
- Acceptability/advocacy with government data in public domain
- Need for cost and projection data.
- Shift toward disaggregated data geographically and temporally
- > Tailored need for raw as well as consolidated/analysed data
- > Requirement of district level data and recent data sources
- Adjustment of data from different surveys
- Ascertaining food consumption, composition and biomarkers together

"We need workable data" – Chorus at FGD

Fig 5 Opportunities with the existing micronutrient data

