

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 health, 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

Methods

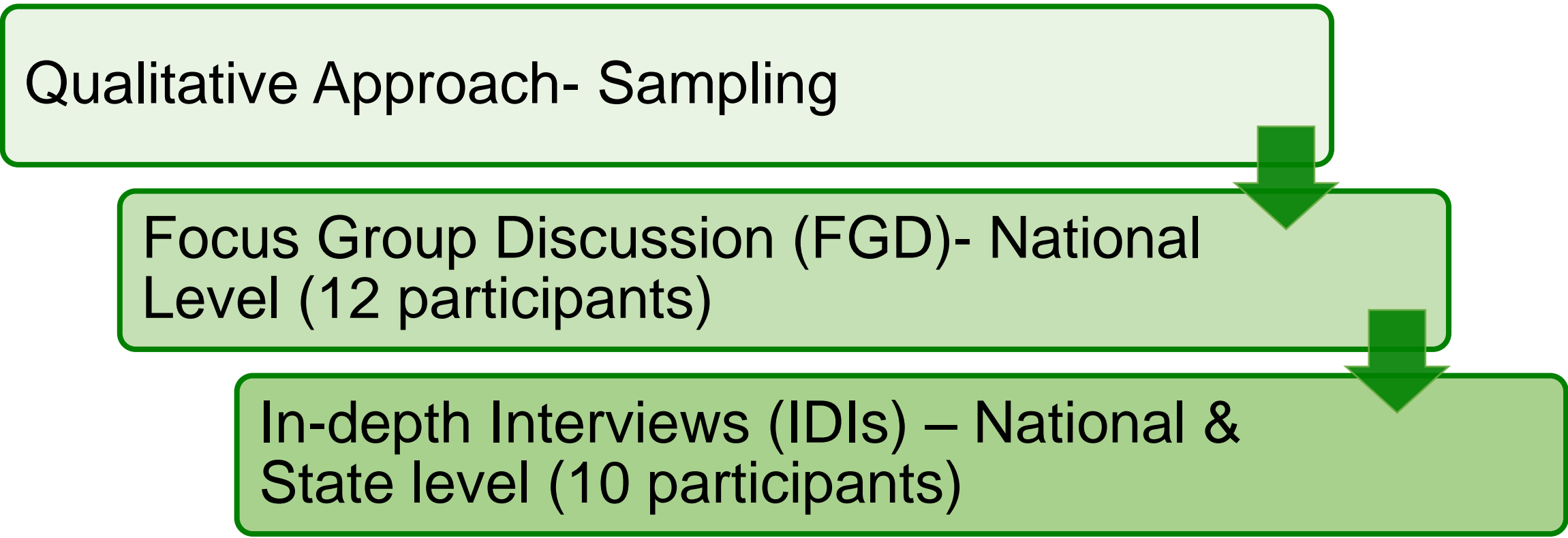


Fig 1. Steps of data collection to assess priority needs

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

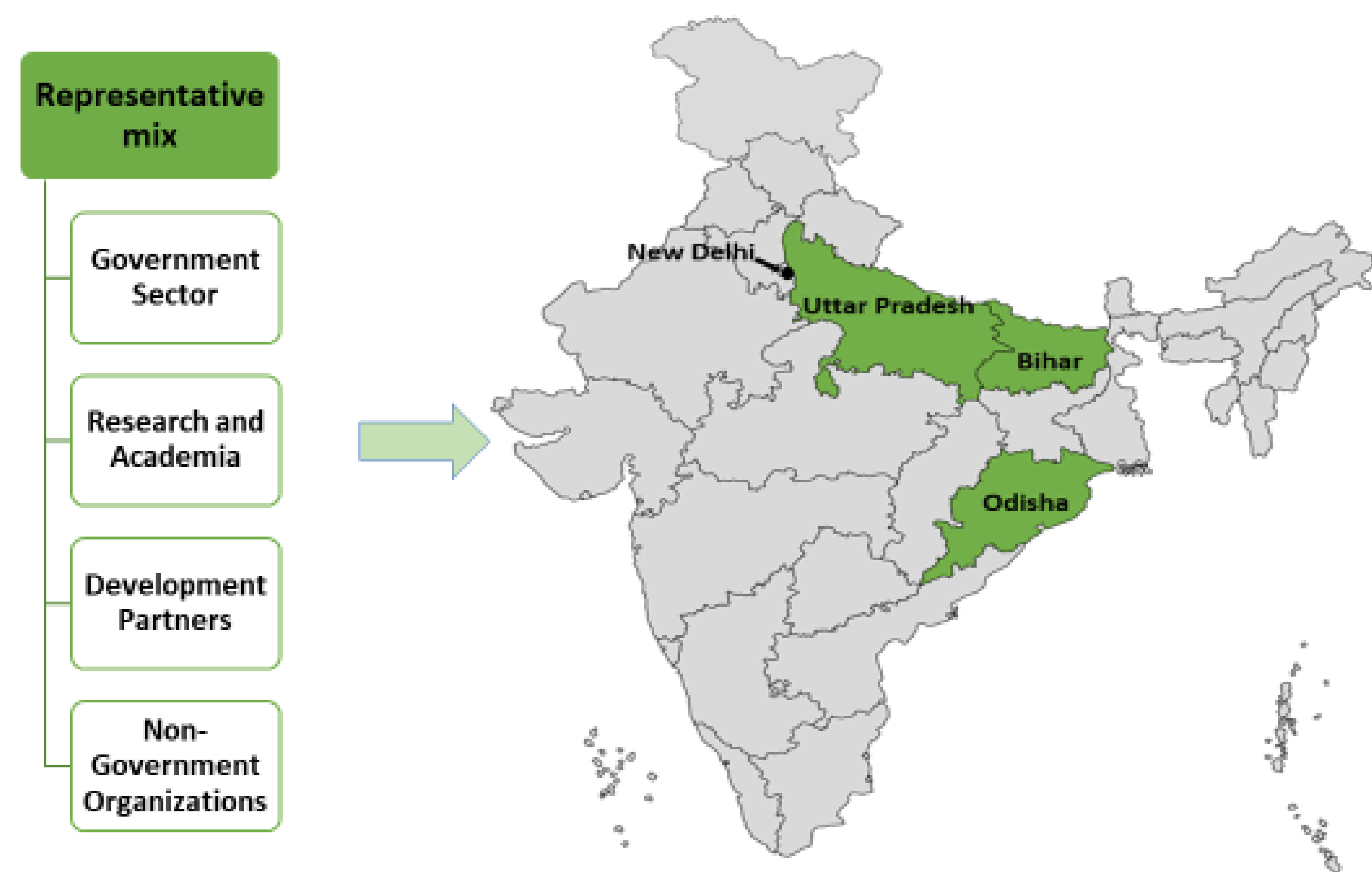


Fig 2. The identified stakeholders and their professional role/sector

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

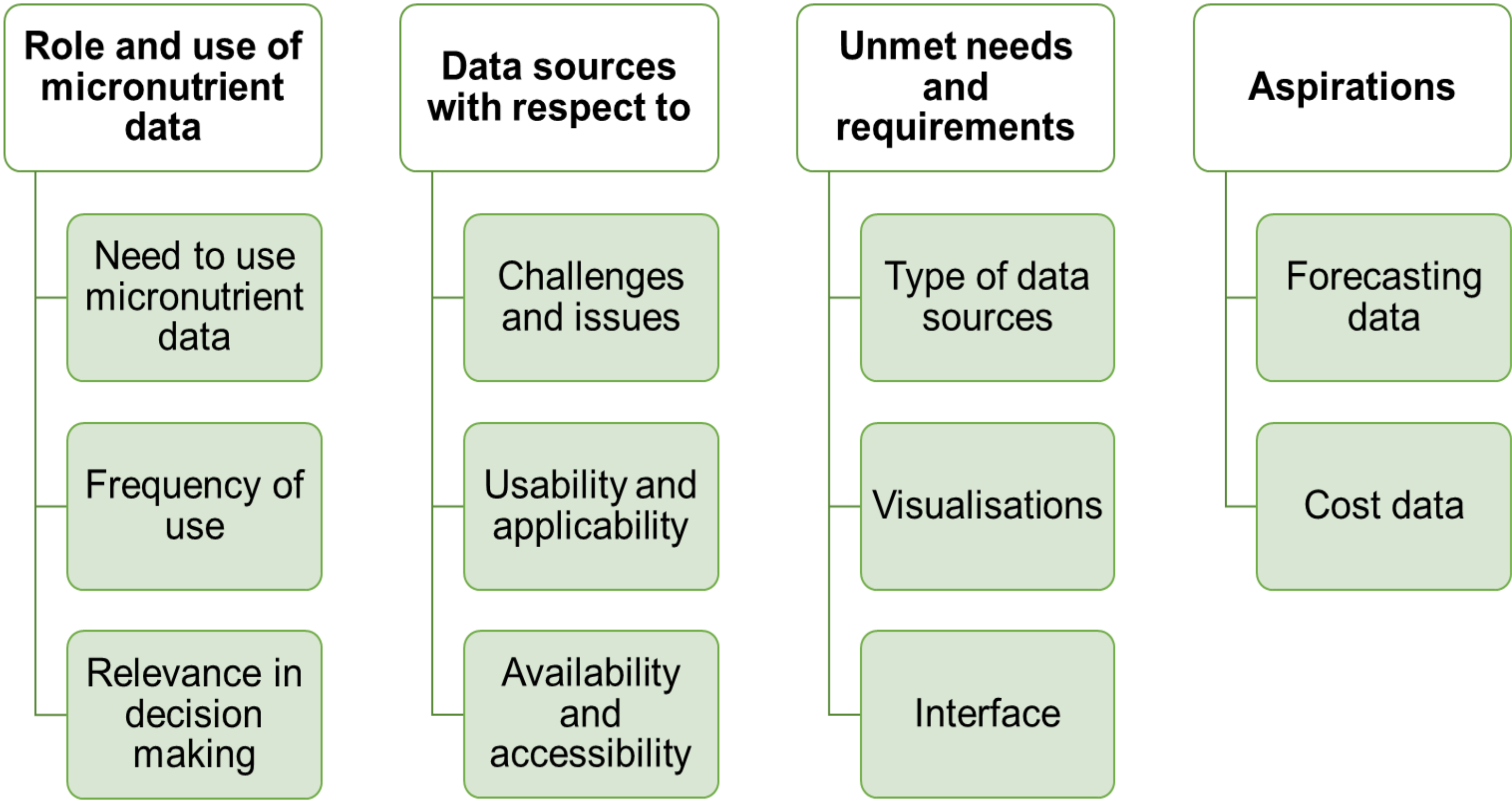


Fig 3. Domains of data collection

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.

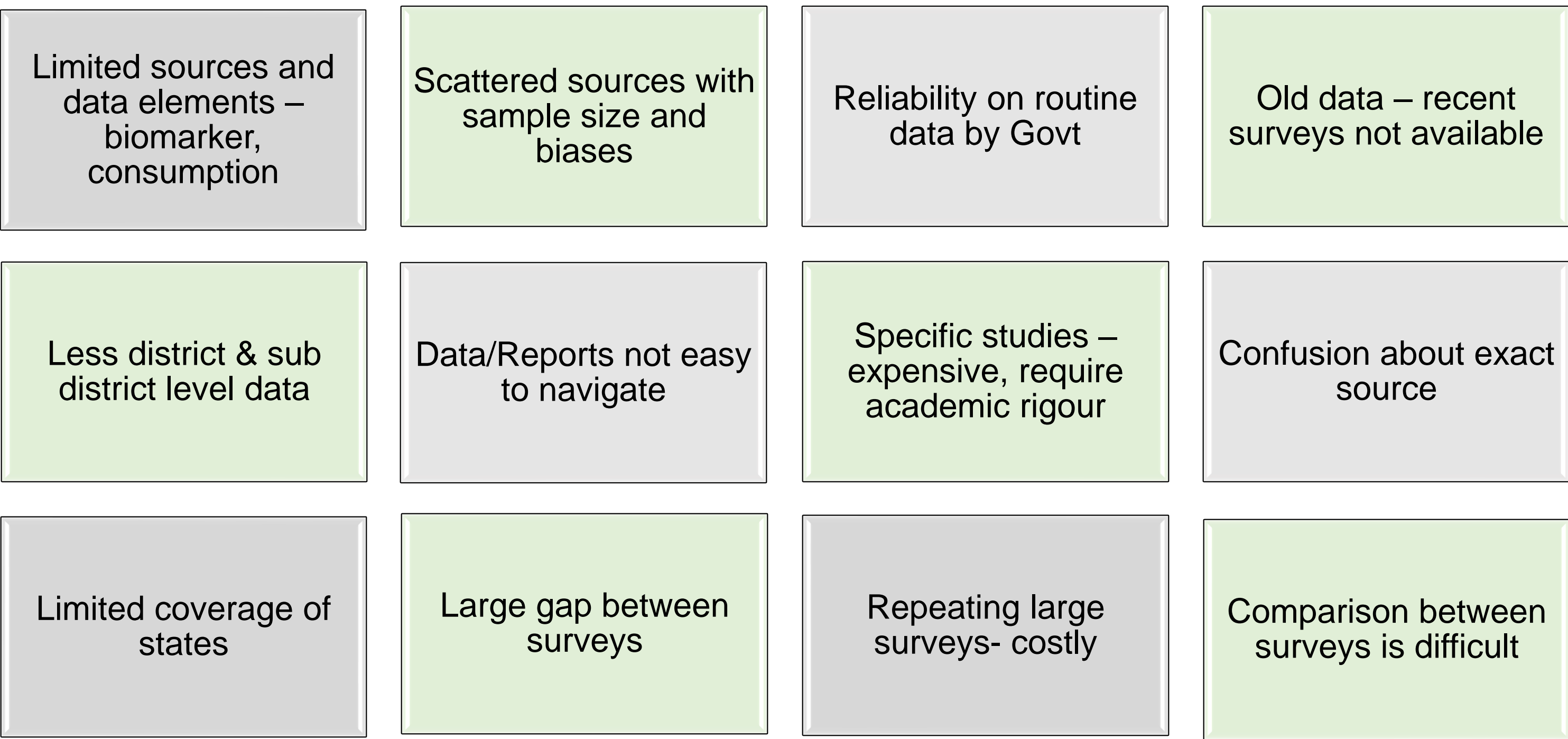


Fig 4. Challenges with existing data sources

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

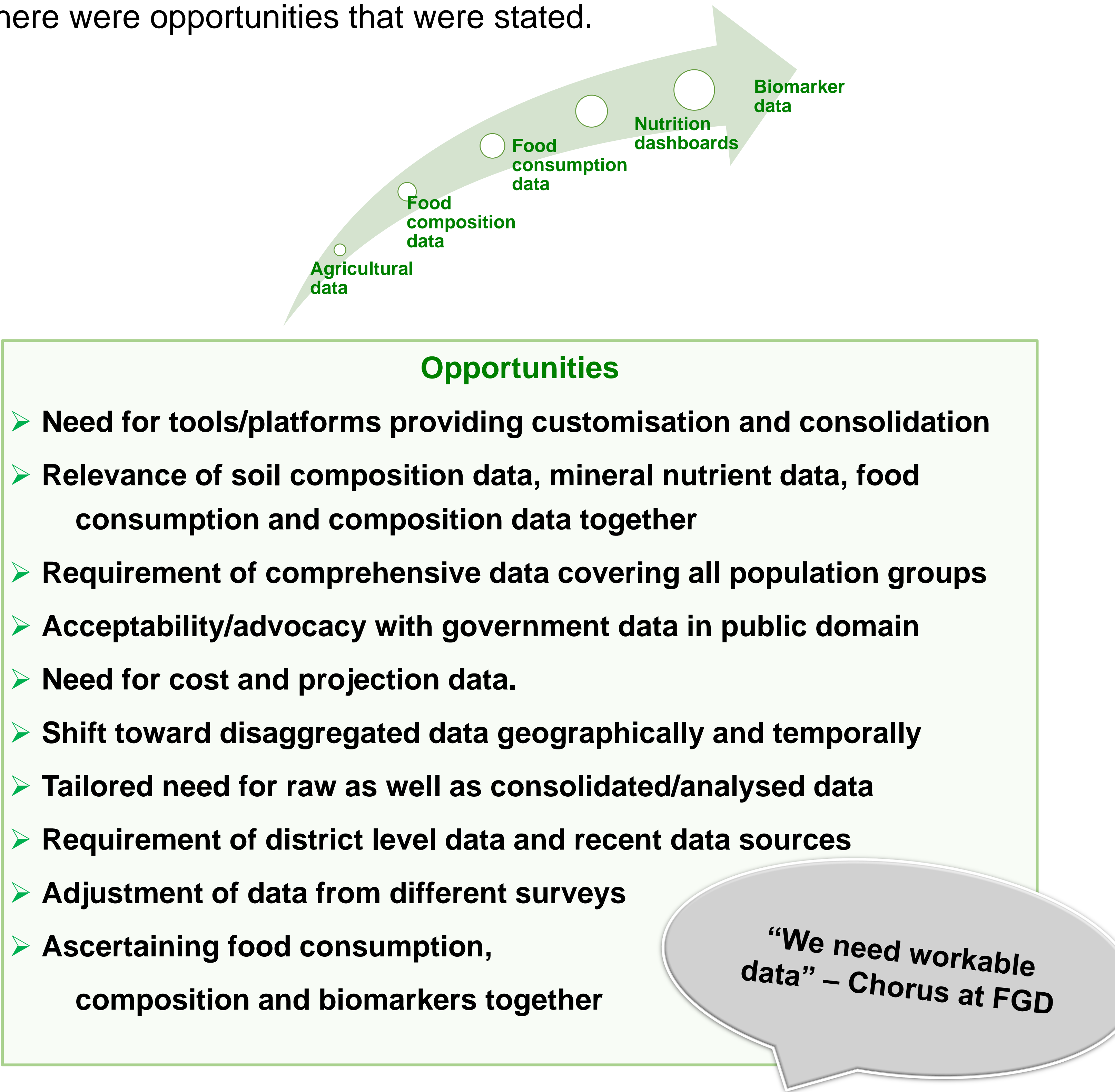


Fig 5 Opportunities with the existing micronutrient data

Conclusion

Easy-to-use, integrated micronutrient information at varying scales is required.

Receptiveness for dashboard and tools containing cleaned and harmonised data sets.

Readiness to share data