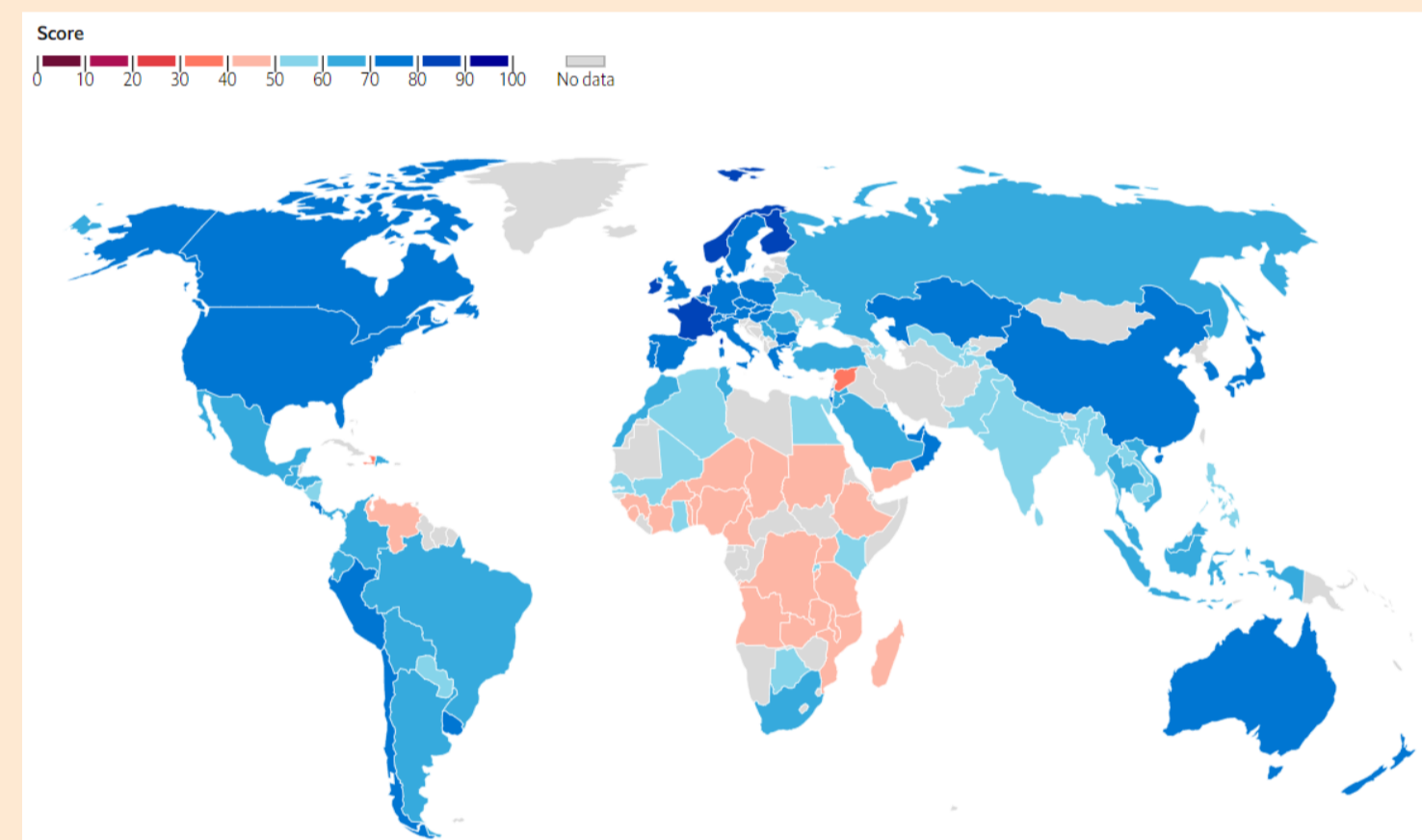


Food and Water Insecurity: Issues of Identification and Scale

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The Problem

Food and Water Insecurity manifest at the household and individual levels, but data tends to be aggregated to match politically-defined geographic boundaries. Often, these aggregated statistics mask the severity of food and water insecurity issues, particularly for marginalized communities in upper-middle- to high-income countries, like the U.S.

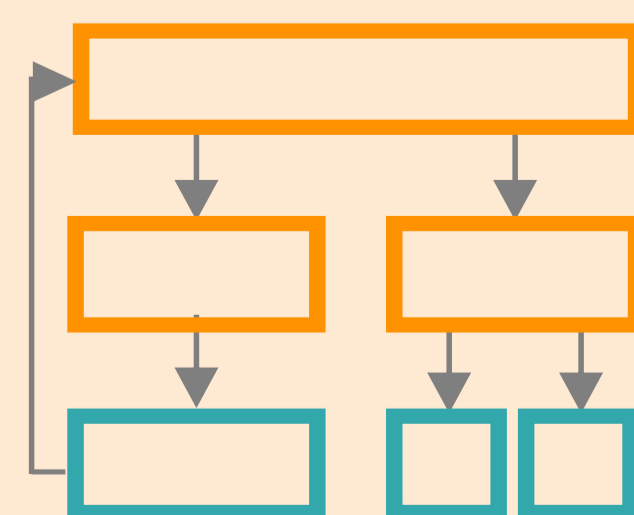


Objective

Identify tradeoffs between political relevance and accuracy in existing literature based on the chosen scale of analysis.

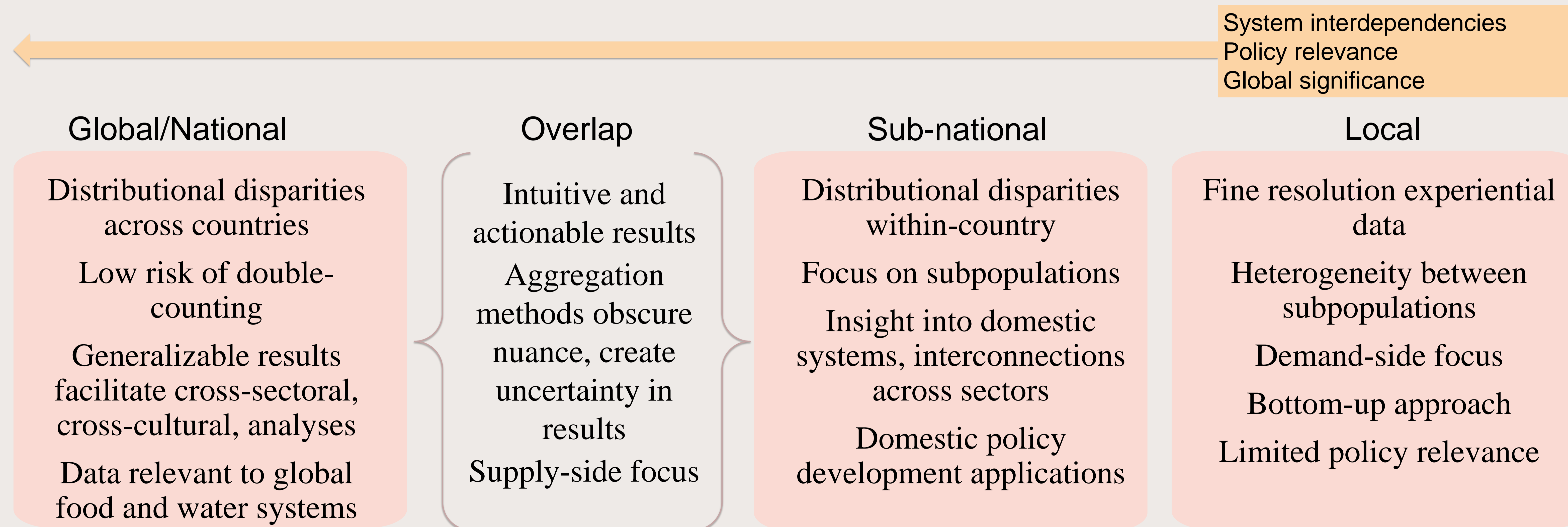
Methods

A snowballing approach was used to identify the most popularly cited and relevant papers in the food and water insecurity fields.

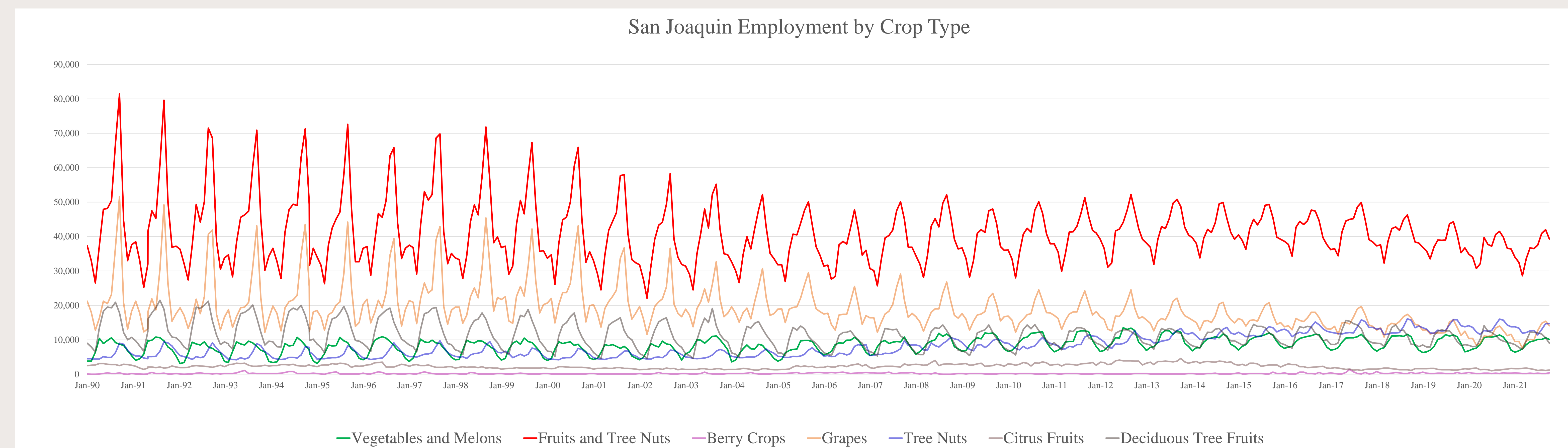


Results

Global- and national-scale studies provide broadly representative results, which aid in policymaking processes but often obscure nuance. Meanwhile, community- and individual-scale studies contribute localized knowledge and specificity, but lack the scope necessary to inform sweeping policy changes.



Data accuracy
 Distributional inequities
 Inclusion of local knowledge



Conclusions

- 1) A lack of fine resolution food and water insecurity data may explain the issues' persistence, particularly among historically marginalized populations.
- 2) Experiential data is essential for knowledge generation and equitable representation, but quantitative analyses aid in policy development.
- 3) Water insecurity literature is lacking generally, particularly for the developed world.

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