

# TENSIONS AND COALITIONS: TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE POLICY SPACE FOR NUTRITION IN VIETNAM

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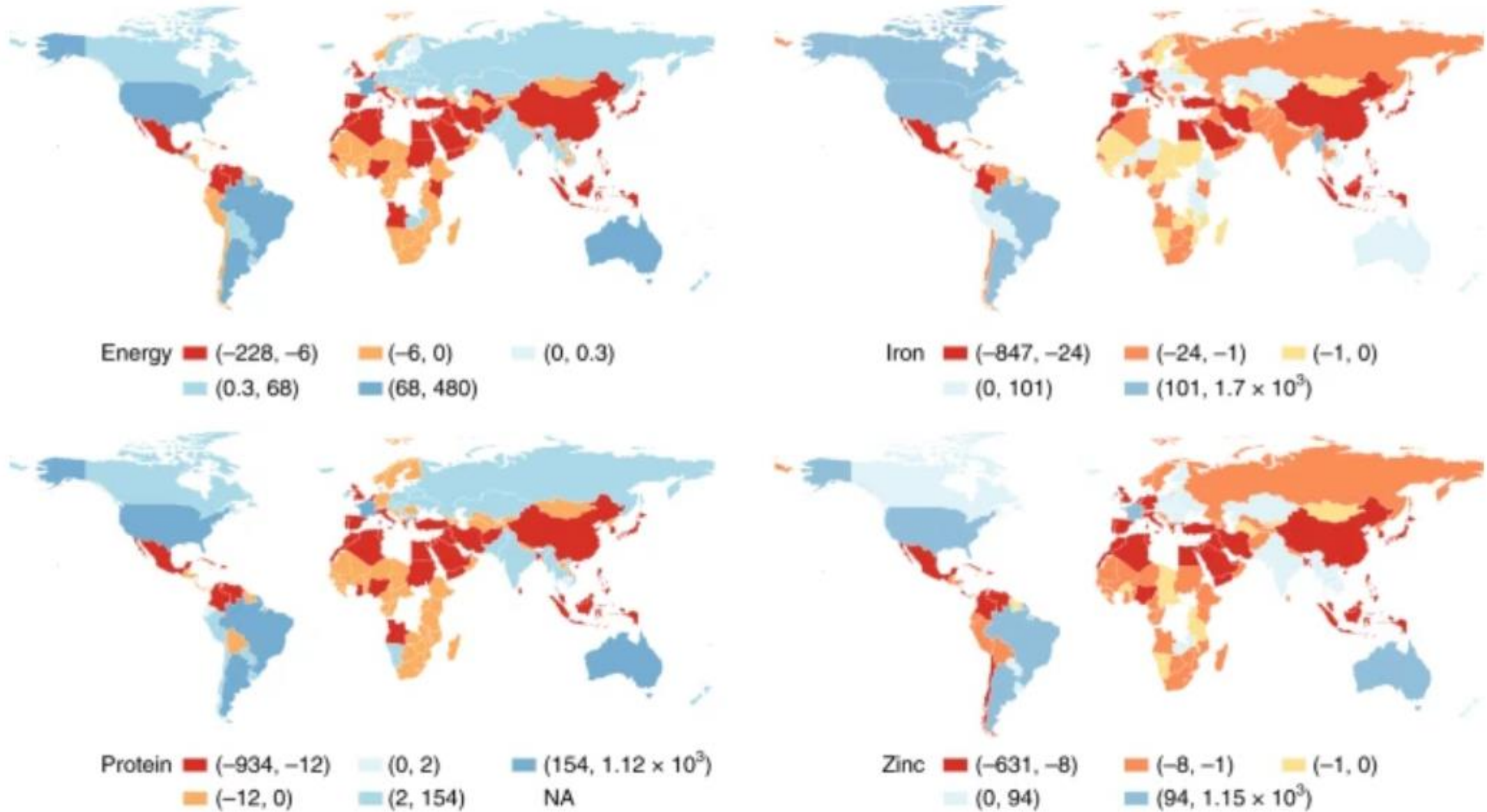
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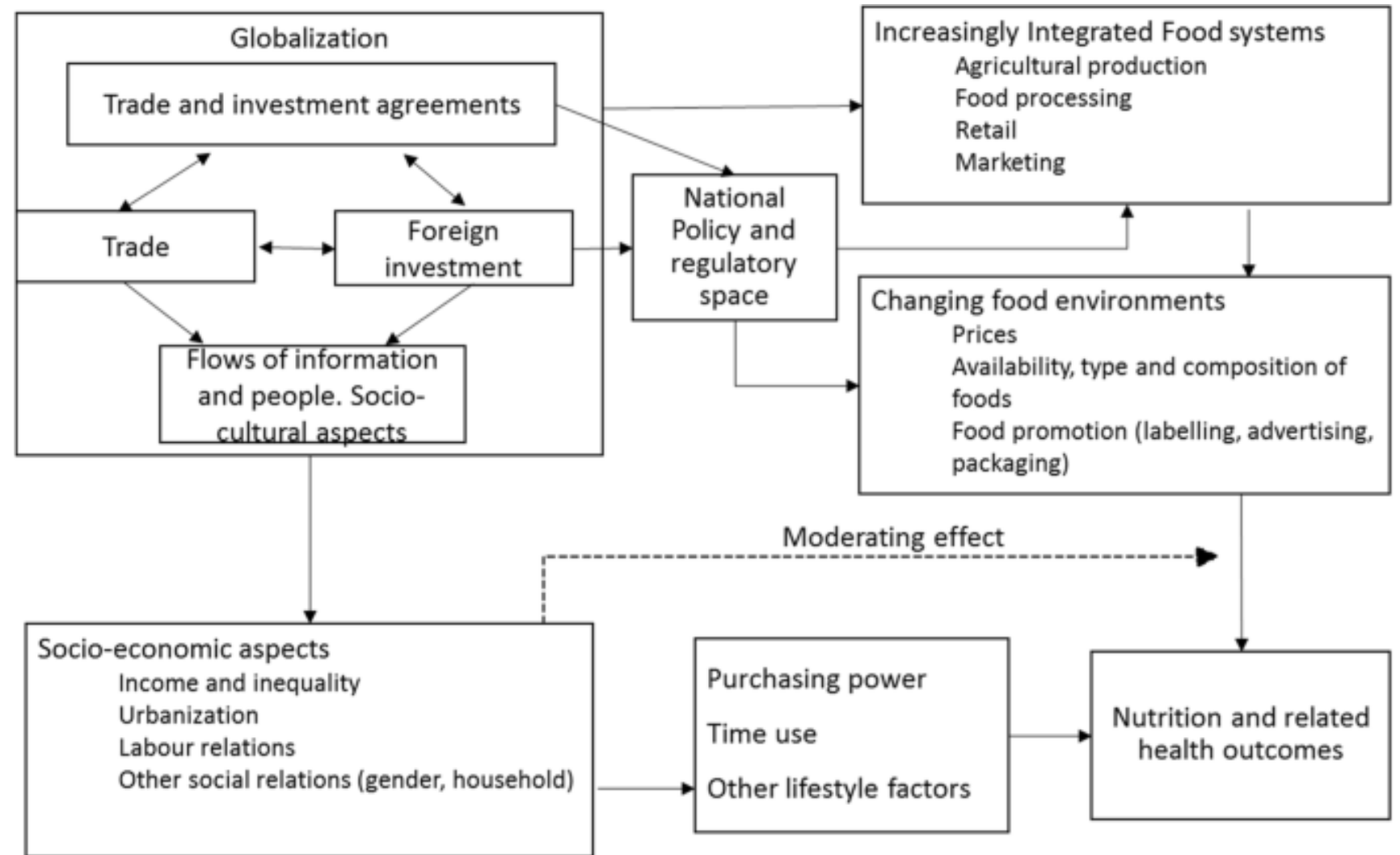
# ANH2021

Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week



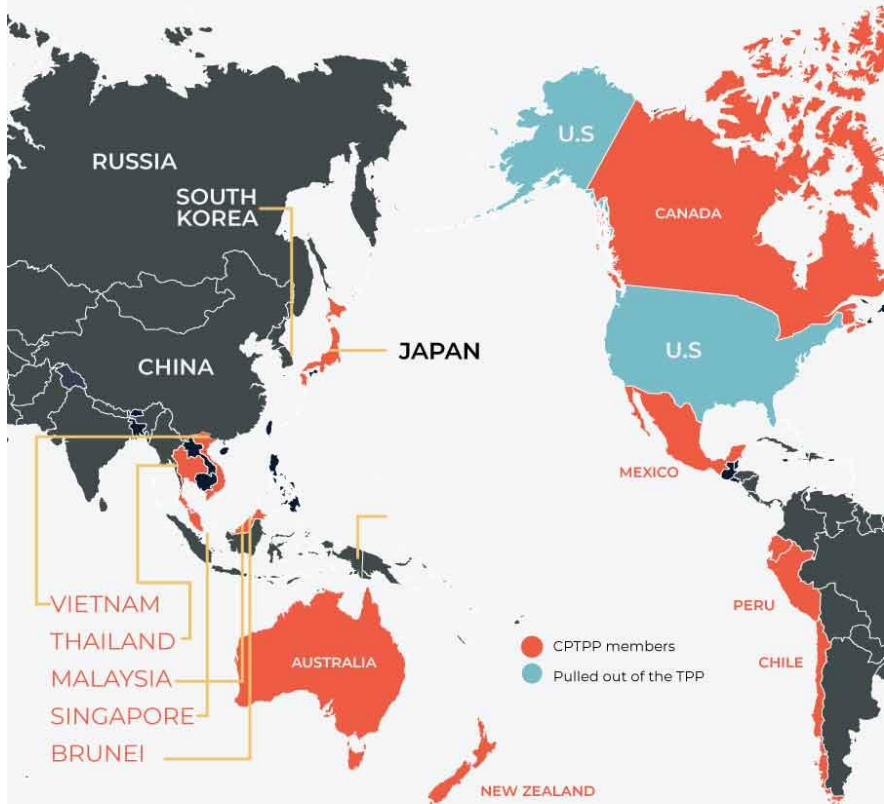
Wood *et al* 2018: Trade and the equitability of global food nutrient distribution

# Background



Cuevas García-Dorado *et al* 2019:  
**Economic globalization, nutrition and health: a review of quantitative evidence**

# COMPREHENSIVE & PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP) MEMBERS



## CPTPP Agreement Facts

**11** ratifying member states

Covers a combined GDP value of

**12.9%** of global GDP and **14.9%** of global trade volumes

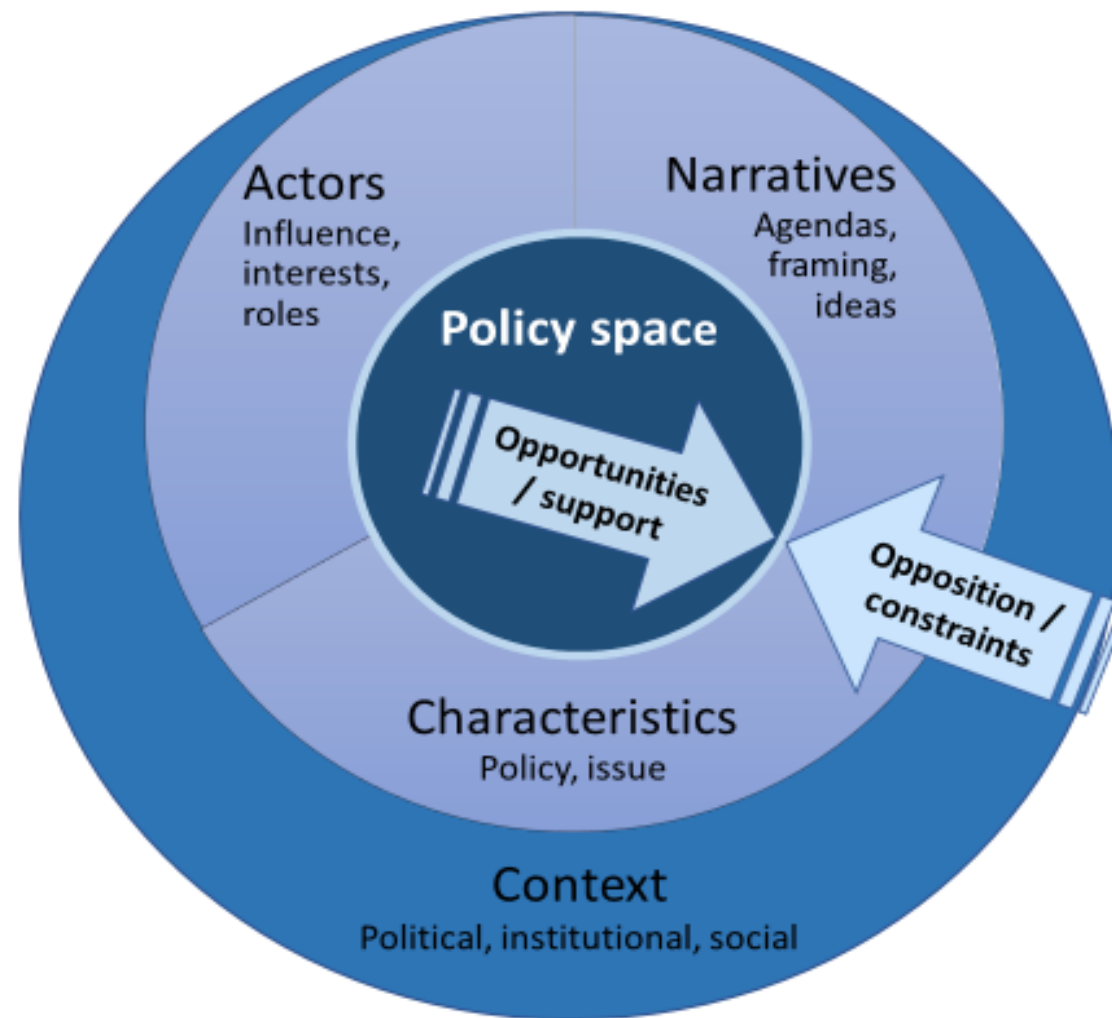
Removes tariffs on an estimated

**95%** of goods traded between

**CPTPP** countries

Will provide access

**500 million** people, with a combined GDP worth of **US\$10 trillion**

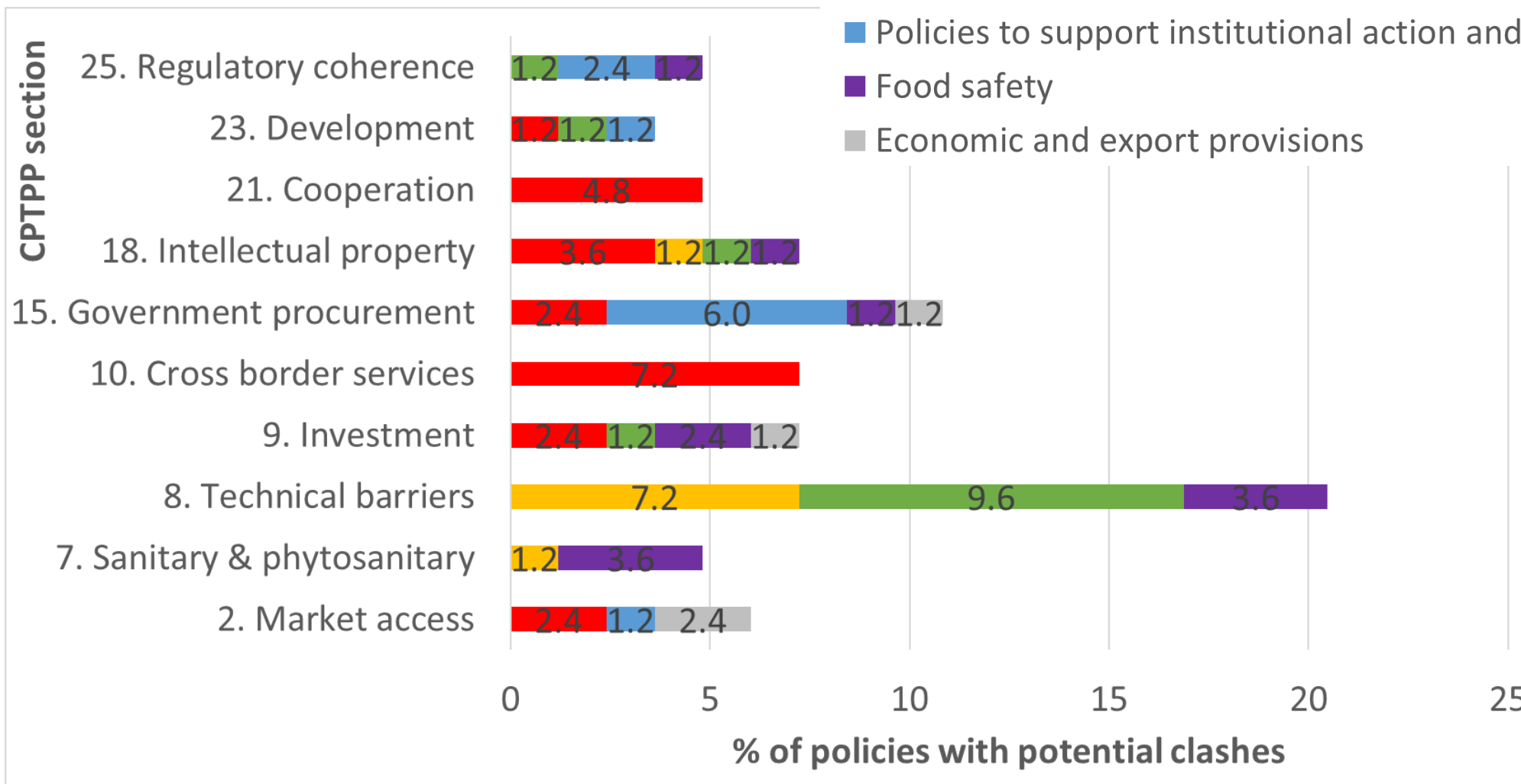


## Policy space framework.

Adapted from Grindle and Thomas 1991; Shiffman 2007; Keeley and Scoones 1999

# Policy tensions

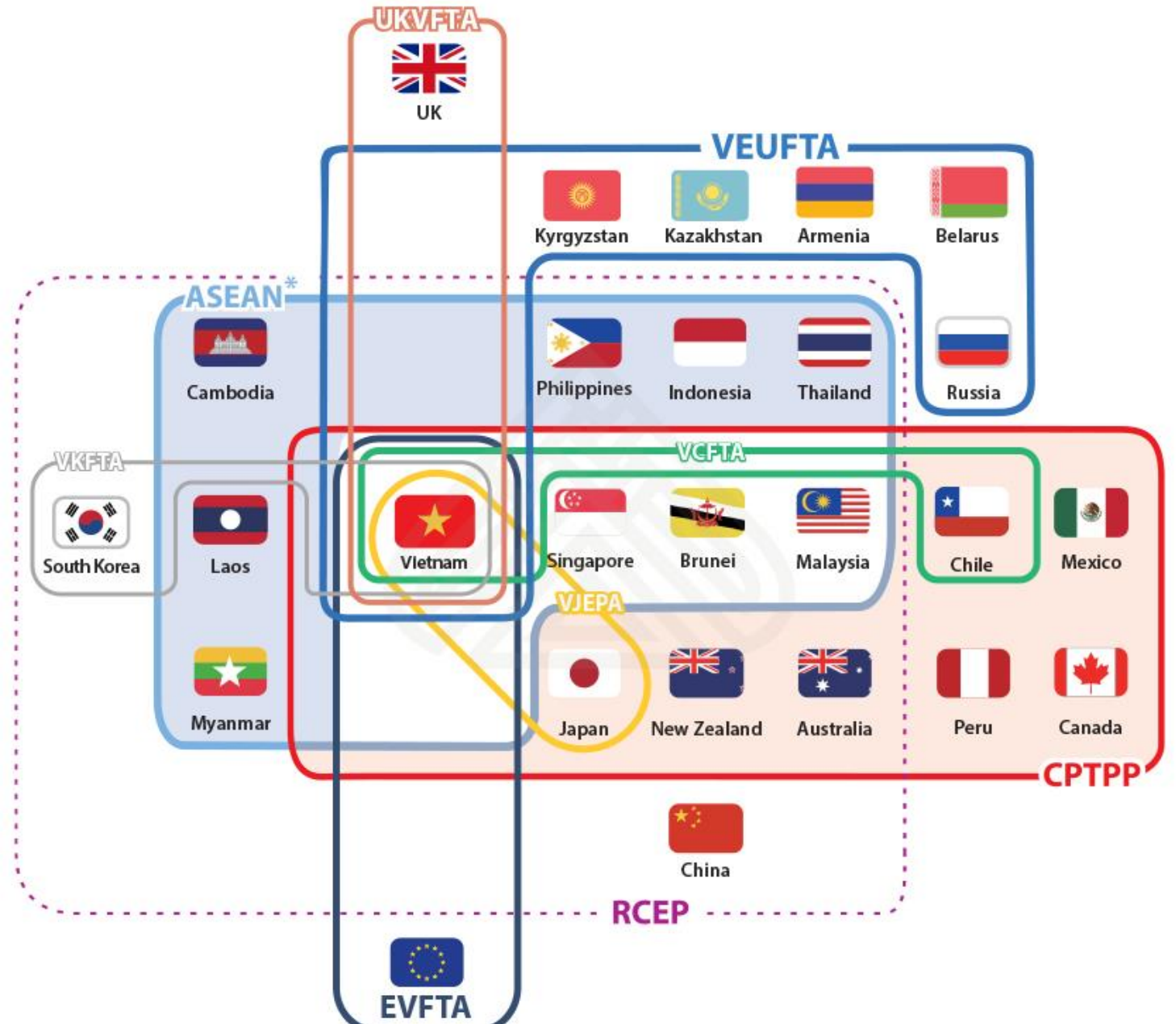
- Protecting policy making from vested interests
- Specific policy options to reduce less healthy food options
- Specific policy options to increase healthy food options
- Policies to support institutional action and consumer education
- Food safety
- Economic and export provisions



# Findings: Coalitions

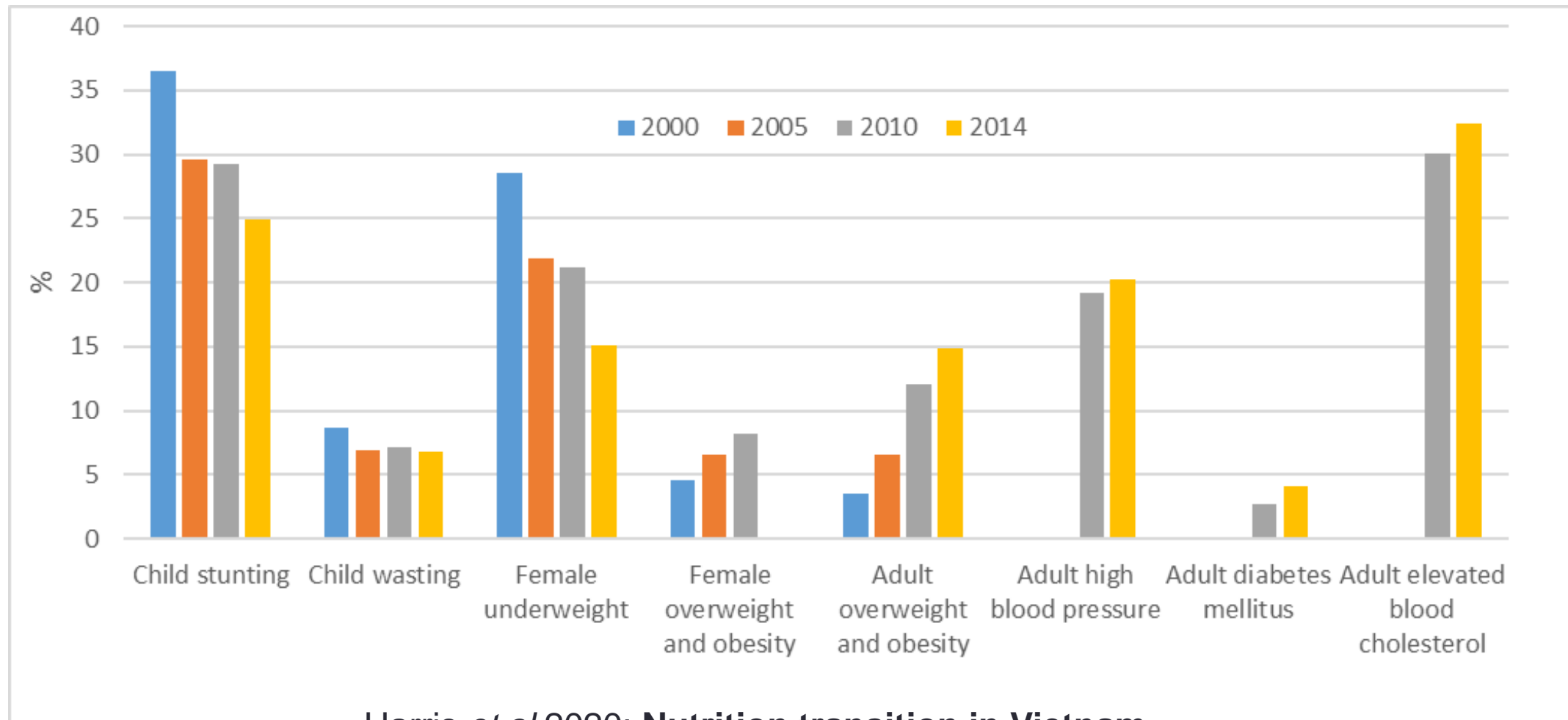
	Actors	Interests	Beliefs and ideologies	Narratives	Policy positions	Actions and engagement	Power and influence	
TRADE	<b>Trade coalition</b>	Government executive	Economic growth; population wellbeing	Opening up to trade; social cohesion	Need to balance economic and social objectives	Economic growth through free trade. Social policy for wellbeing.	Pushes both agendas, but unequally	Ultimate decision-making power
		MOIT	Economic growth; trade; funding	Nutrition is not a problem	Free trade improves nutrition by default; no acknowledgement of trade-offs or future issues	Free trade	Leading the process	Invited/consulted
		MOA	Expanding agriculture; link to markets; funding		Food safety	Poverty reduction	Business as usual	
		Business and lobby groups	Profit; sustainable business	Free trade is paramount	Food safety as key trade issue, priority; public health is fine	No structural intervention into food or nutrition specifically; rather social security and education	Highly engaged in process	Resource-rich (Business)
			Data and evidence is important	Social safety nets and education take care of nutrition		Significant funds	Historically dominant	
NUTRITION	<b>Nutrition coalition</b>	MOH	Healthy population; funding	Nutrition is a pressing problem	Concerning health data needs attention	Poverty reduction	Occasional input into trade debates.	Uninvited Resource-poor
		NIN (hardly mentioned)	Well-nourished population; funding					
		Policy research groups	Use of evidence; funding	No clear trade ideology; doesn't factor into their work, even if individuals take positions	Trade is a possible route to positive change	Consider nutrition and health explicitly in trade, alongside social policy	Engaged in some aspects but not overall engaged in trade negotiations	Advocates rather than power players
		UN	Population wellbeing; inclusion and engagement	Use of evidence important				
		Civil society (int)						
		Civil society (national)				No clear engagement		

# Discussion



Vietnam's free trade agreements

# Discussion



Harris *et al* 2020: Nutrition transition in Vietnam



Thank you

