

COARSE CEREALS IN INDIA: PAST, PRESENT AND THE WAY AHEAD

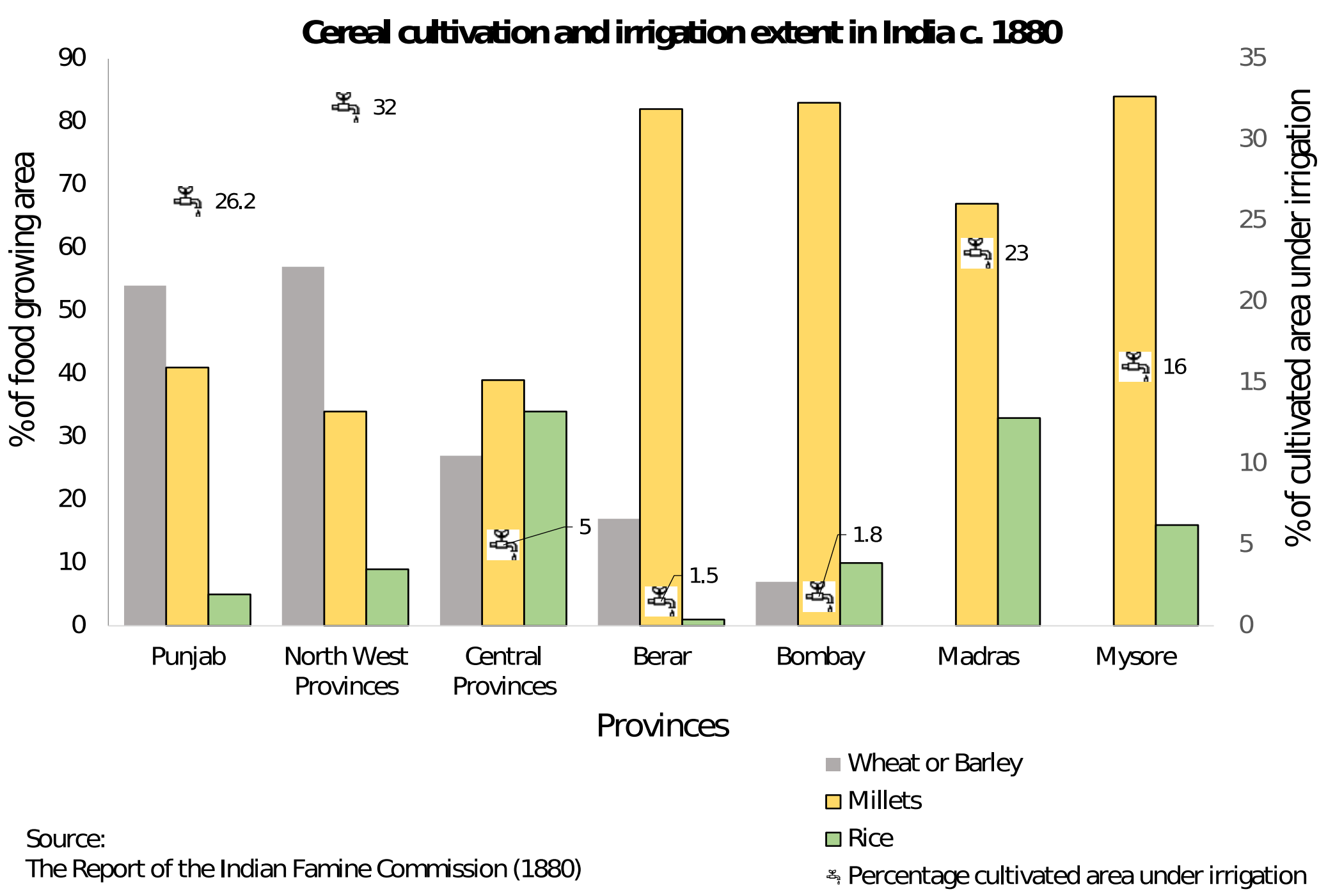
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PAST

When the British reign began in the Indian sub-continent in 1858, coarser cereals was reigning across its provinces, especially in rainfed areas



CANALS AND CROPPING PATTERN

“What is really necessary to the success of the canal systems is that that it should replace the cheapest and most easily-grown grains, and replace them by crops which, though more valuable, yet require more outlay of capital and labour,-neither of which the ryots have the means or inclination to apply” - The Indian Famine Commission of 1880



SCAN TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, IN THE 20TH CENTURY

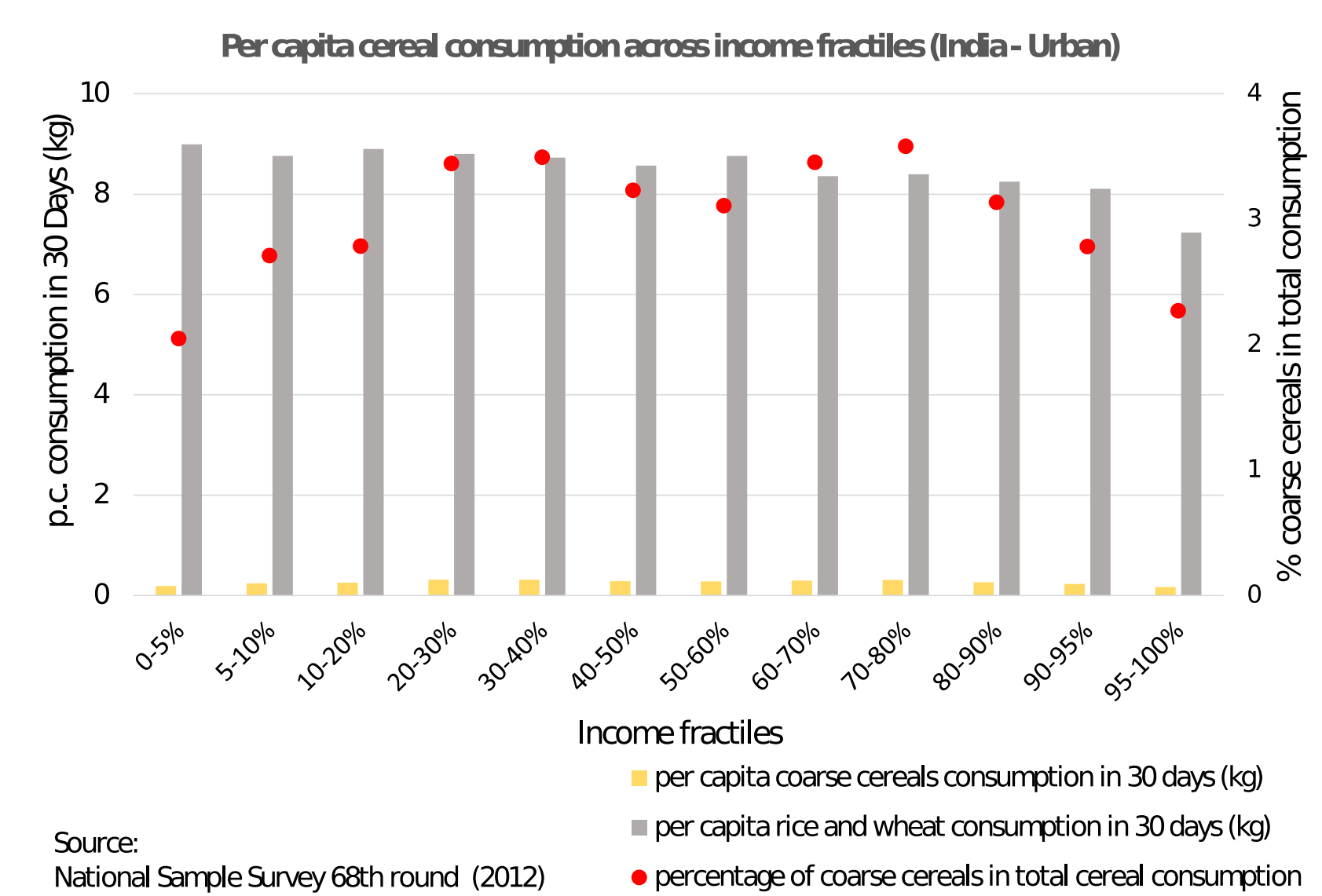
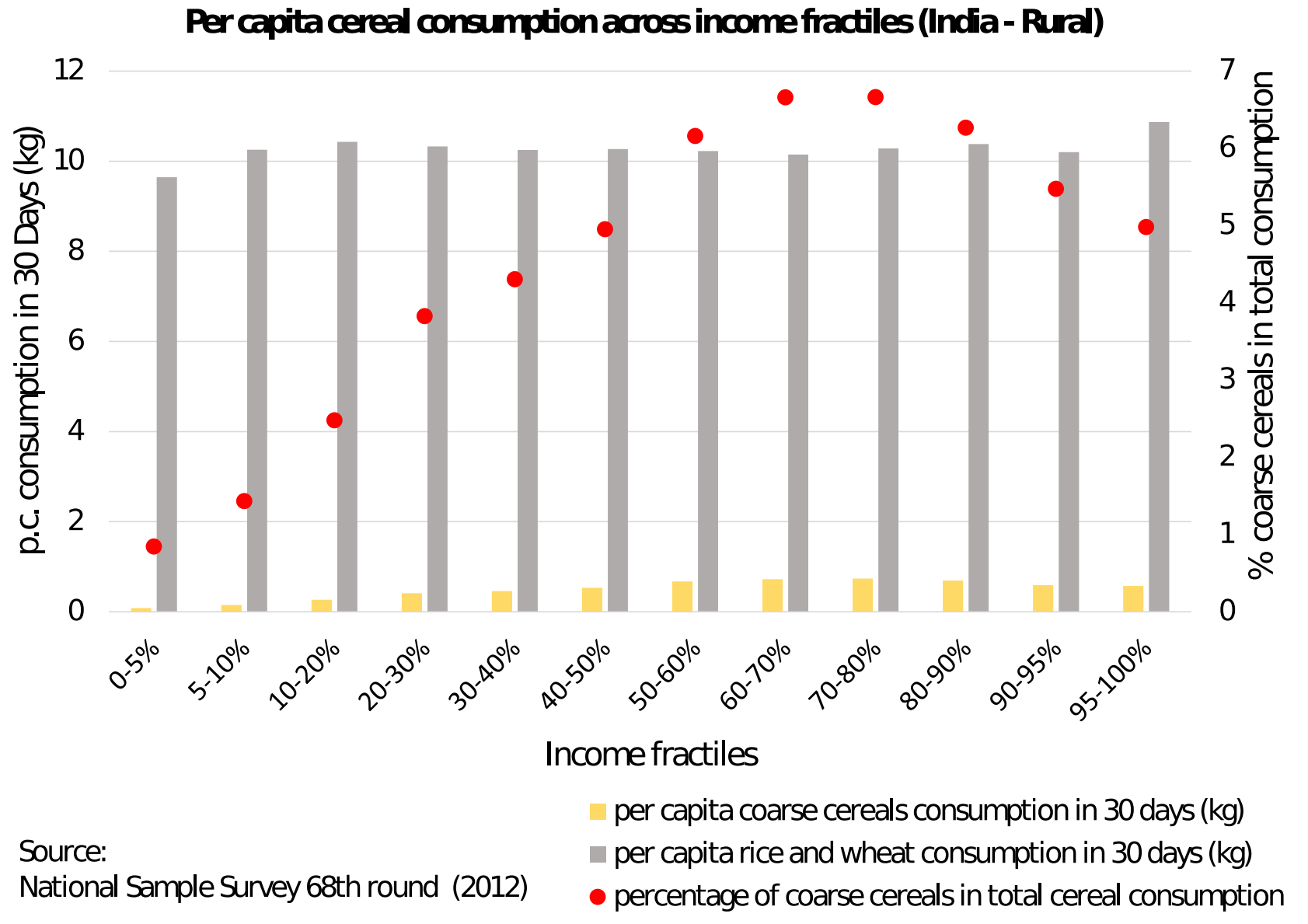
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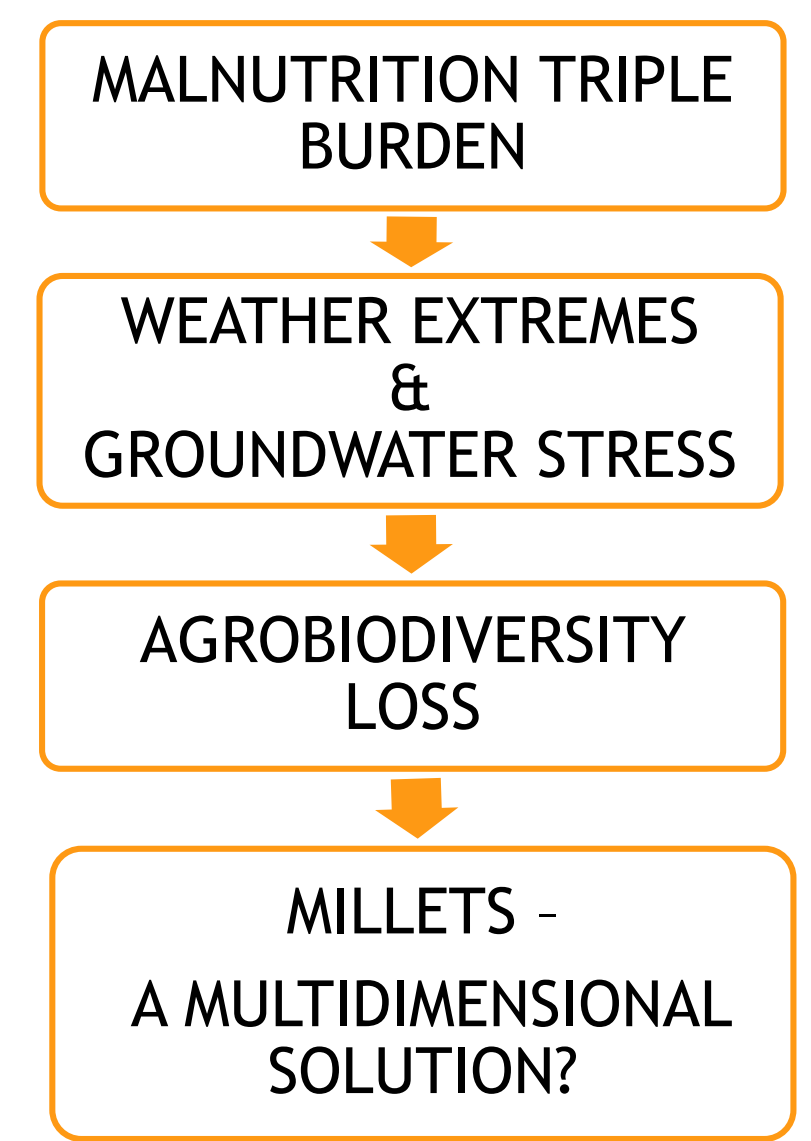
PRESENT



NOT QUITE THE RURAL POOR'S CEREAL?

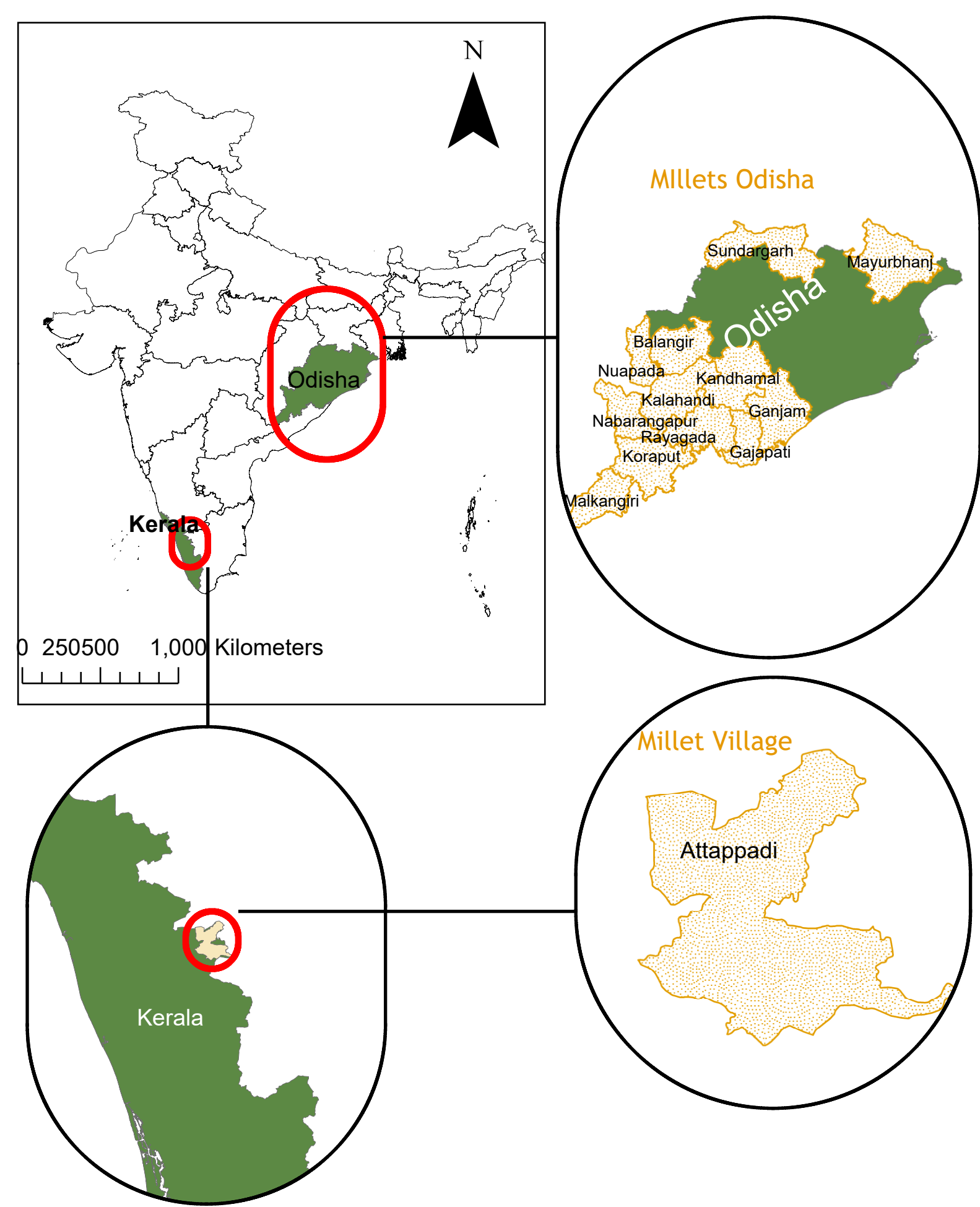


WAY AHEAD



- ### MILLETS ODISHA
- Collaboration between farmers groups, government, civil society organisations and academia
 - Across 62 blocks in 12 districts of the state of Odisha
 - Focus on scientific agronomic practices, revival of traditional cultivars, processing and consumption of millets

- ### MILLET VILLAGE
- By state government of Kerala, Dept. of Agriculture & Dept. of Tribal Welfare
 - Implementation in the malnutrition hotbed of Kerala, the tribal block of Attappadi
 - Traditional methods are employed. Focus not just on millets, but also reviving 'orphan' vegetables, pulses and oilseeds



- ### SOME CONCERNS
- Ramifications on ecosystem services by a Rice → Millets switch is yet to be studied
 - Support price hike by government could not curb sales to private markets at much lower price
 - Impetus on premium value added millet products may lead it becoming the rich man's cereal