

# Dietary diversity, global change, and human health

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McGill

A vibrant collage of various fruits and vegetables, including carrots, bell peppers, onions, and beans, arranged in a dense, overlapping pile.

**Dietary Diversity = Health**

# Dietary Diversity & Health -Mortality-

Variety Score  
(median)

Odds  
Ratio

7.0

1

10.0

0.82

12.0

0.71

15.0

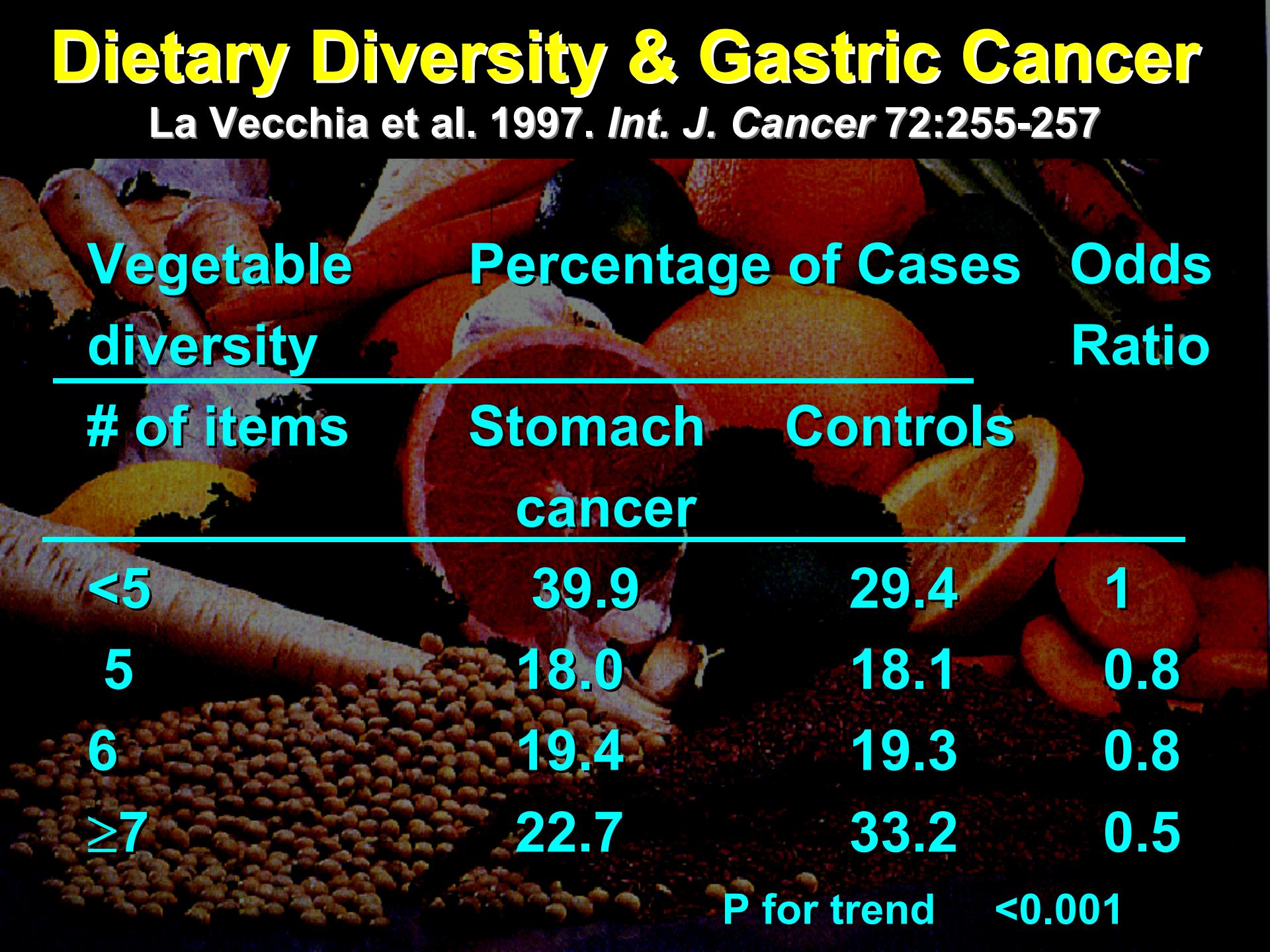
0.69

P for trend <0.001

Kant et al. 2000. JAMA 283:2109-2115

# Dietary Diversity & Gastric Cancer

La Vecchia et al. 1997. *Int. J. Cancer* 72:255-257



Vegetable diversity # of items	Percentage of Cases Stomach cancer	Controls	Odds Ratio
<5	39.9	29.4	1
5	18.0	18.1	0.8
6	19.4	19.3	0.8
≥7	22.7	33.2	0.5

P for trend <0.001



# FOSHU - Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare

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## Functional Foods

**“Processed foods containing ingredients that aid specific bodily functions in addition to being nutritious”.**

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION - USA

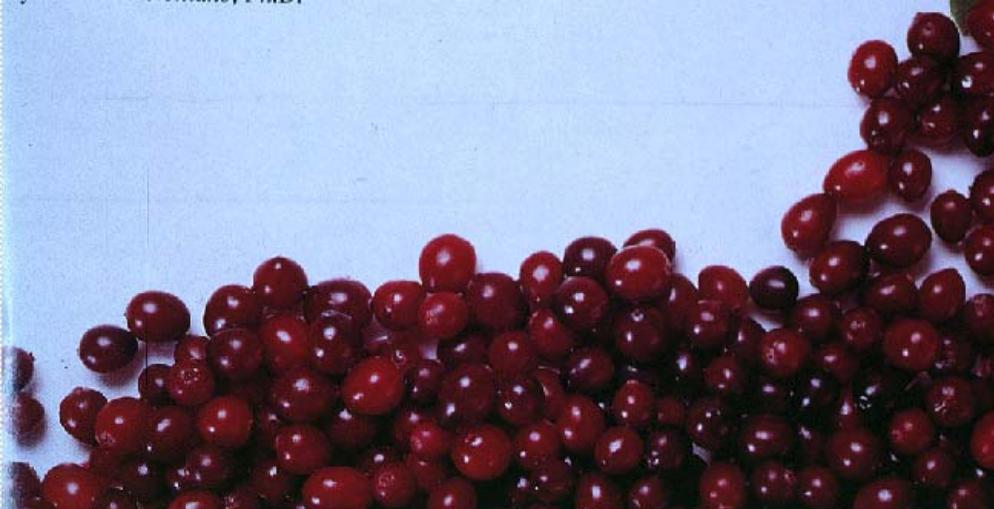
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**ACCEPTABLE HEALTH CLAIMS**  
- NLEA (1990)

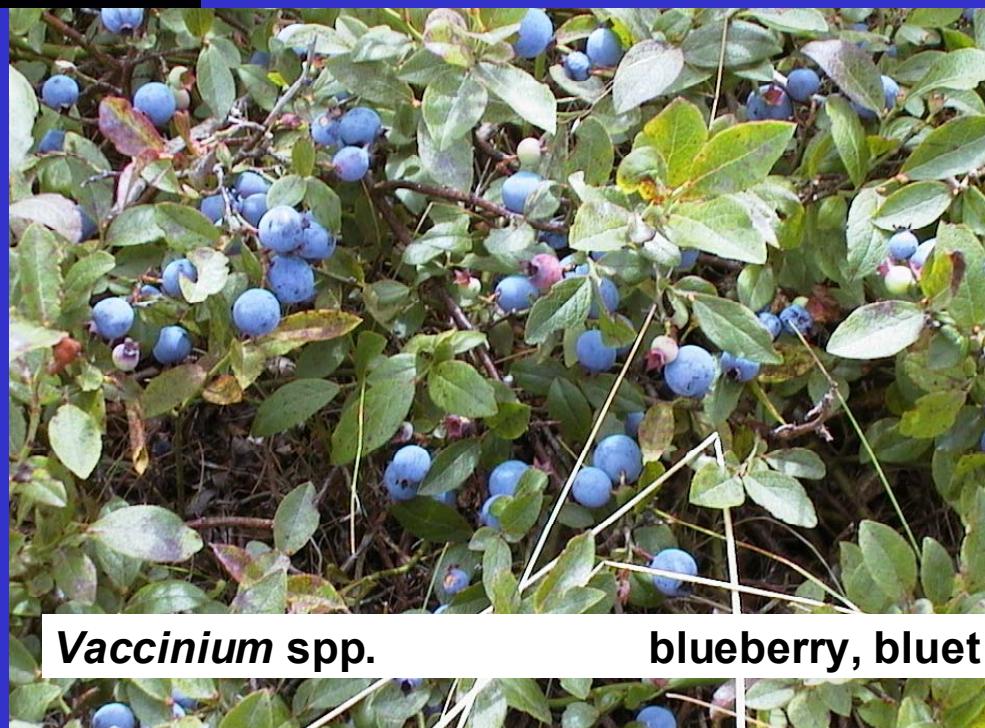
<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fdhclm.html>



# Urinary tract infections



*Vaccinium macrocarpon*  
cranberry; canneberge



*Vaccinium* spp.

blueberry, bluet



Johns 1981. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 1:208-212.

# *Lepidium meyenii* maca

Promoting the conservation and use of underutilized and neglected crops. 21.

## Andean roots and tubers: Ahipa, arracacha, **maca**, and yacon

M. Hermann and  
J. Heller, editors

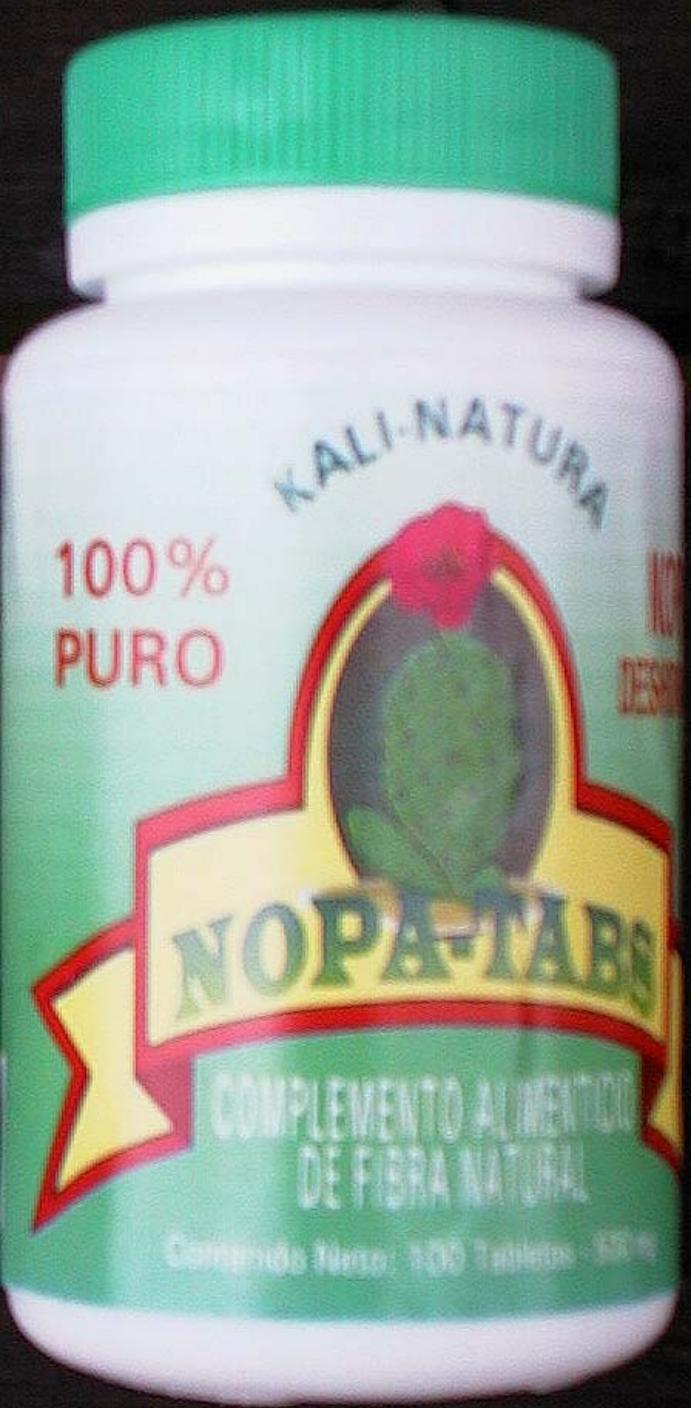




*Lepidium meyenii*  
maca  
("Peruvian ginseng")



Johns 1981. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 1:208-212.



*Opuntia ficus-indica*

# Food Functionality for Developing Areas

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## CONSIDERATIONS

- traditional ecology

# Food Functionality for Developing Areas

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## CONSIDERATIONS

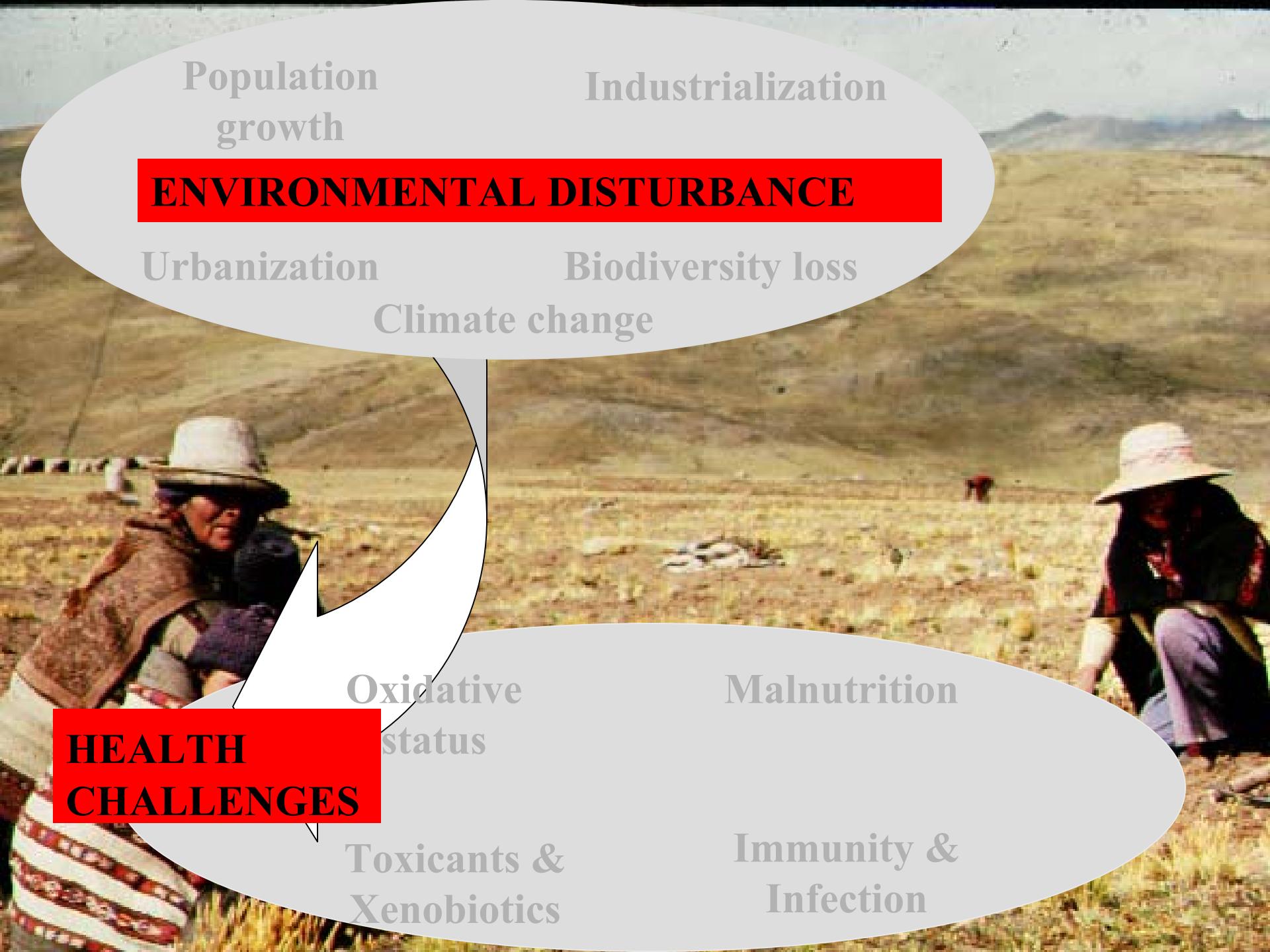
- traditional ecology
- urbanization

# Food Functionality for Developing Areas

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## CONSIDERATIONS

- traditional ecology
- **dietary transition**
- urbanization



Population  
growth

Industrialization

## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

Urbanization

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

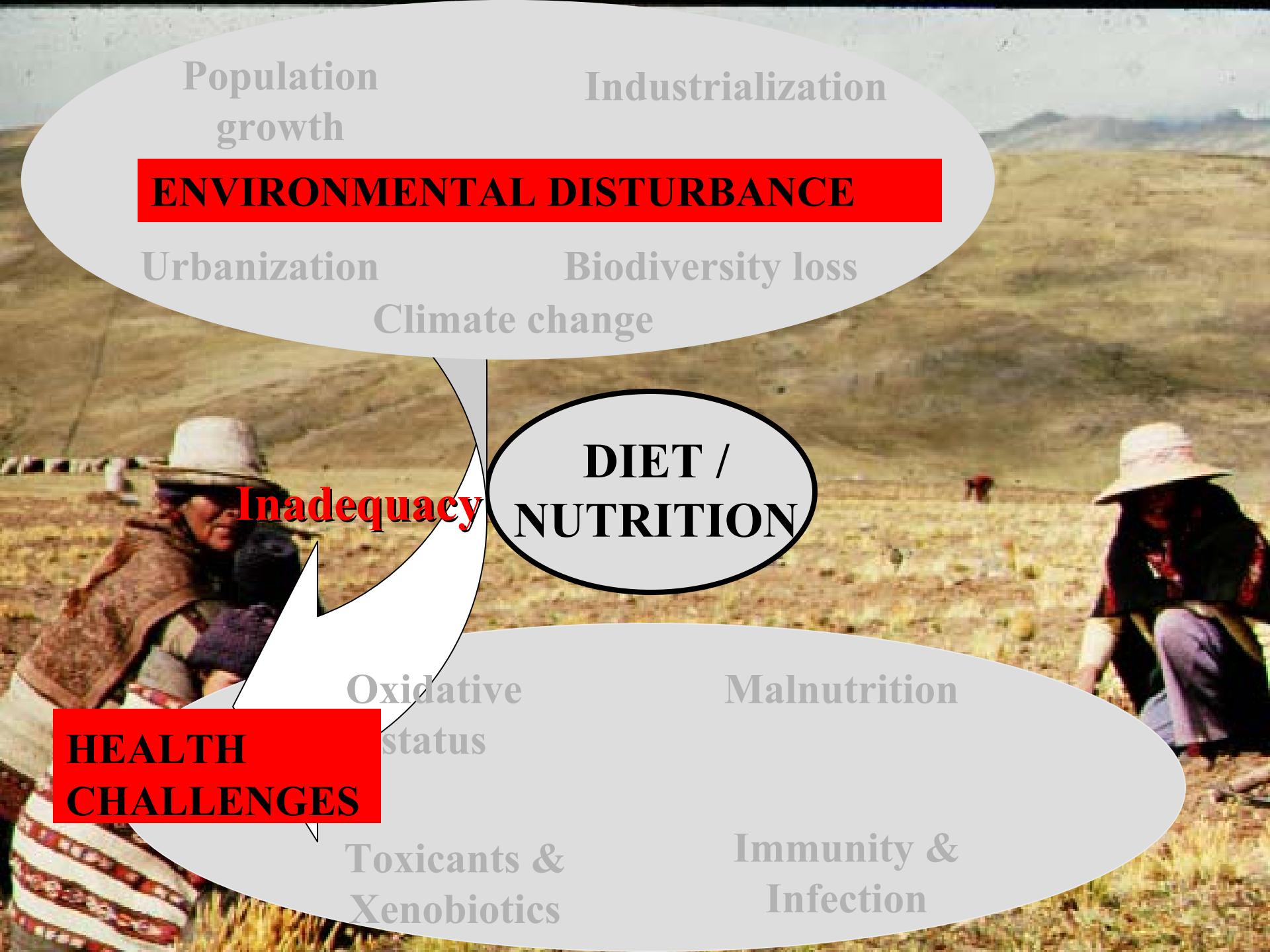
## HEALTH CHALLENGES

Oxidative  
status

Malnutrition

Toxicants &  
Xenobiotics

Immunity &  
Infection



Population  
growth

Industrialization

## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

Urbanization

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

Inadequacy

DIET /  
NUTRITION

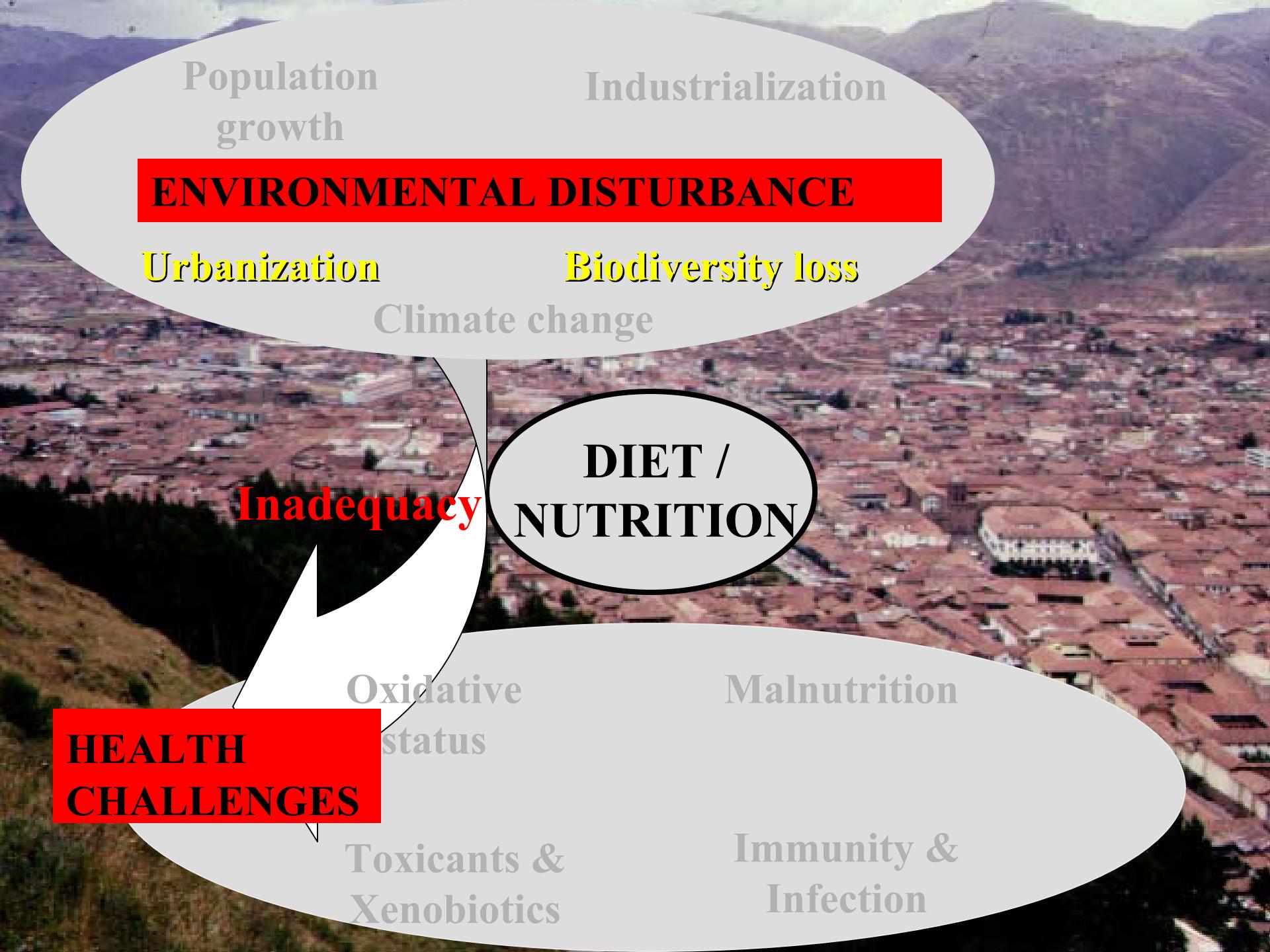
## HEALTH CHALLENGES

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The background of the diagram is a photograph of a city from an aerial perspective, showing numerous buildings with red roofs and some greenery. A large white oval shape covers the upper half of the image, containing several text elements.

Population  
growth

Industrialization

## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

Urbanization

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

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DIET /  
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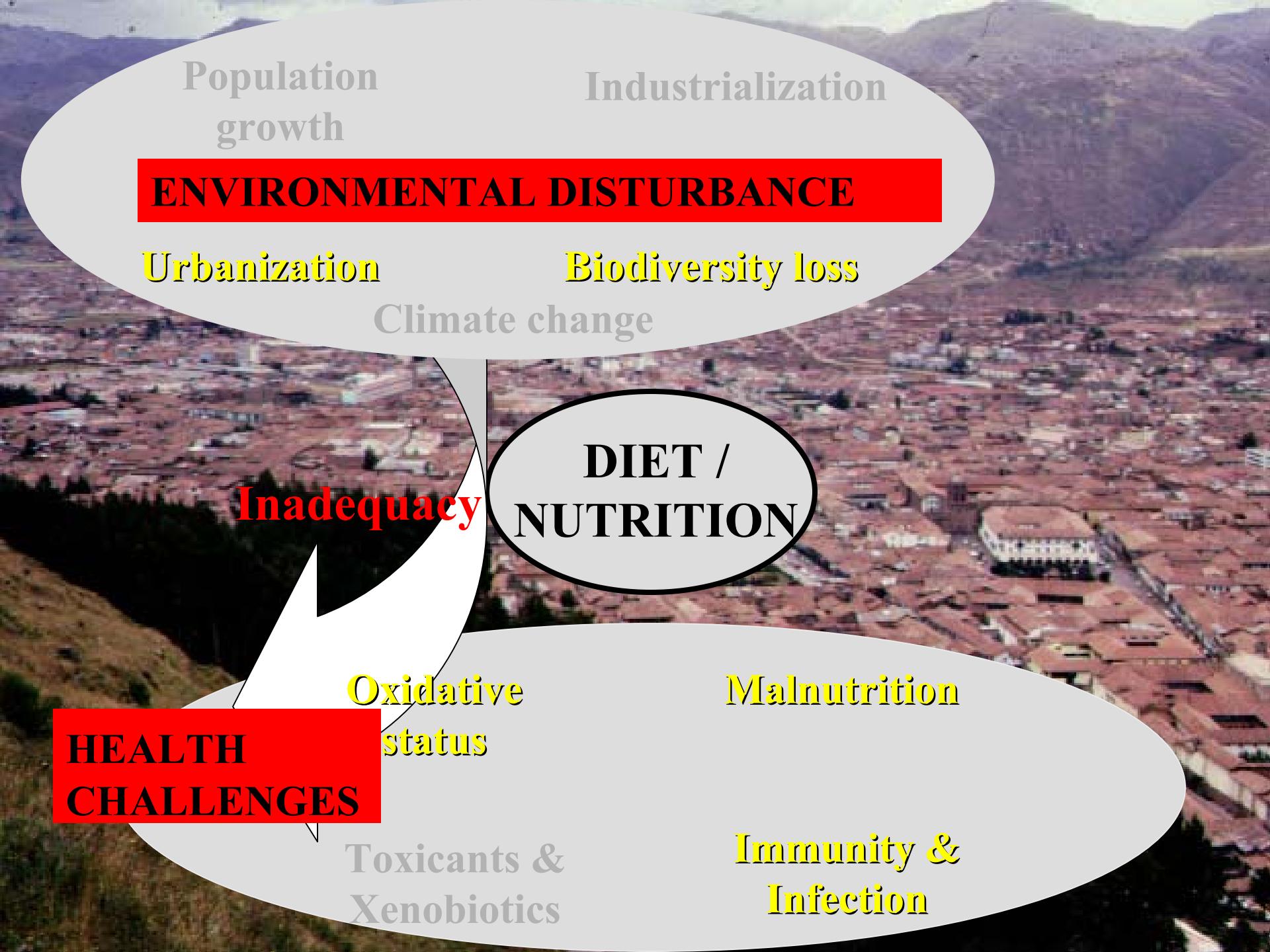
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Population  
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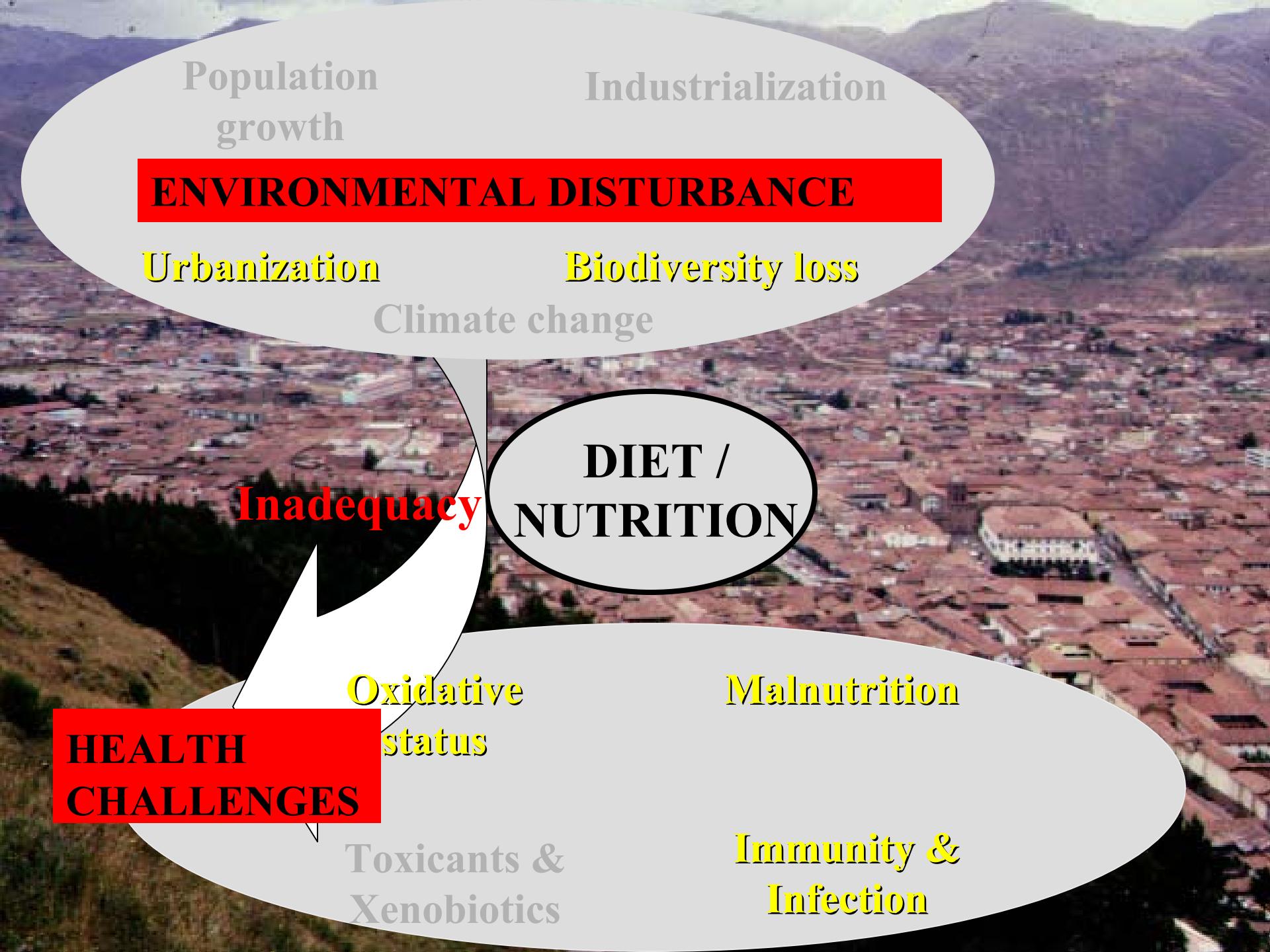
Toxicants &  
Xenobiotics

Immunity &  
Infection

# Premature Mortality Rates (45-64 years of age/1000)

## Ratios Relative to Canada

<u>Country</u>	CVD	Diabetes
Chile	2.9	1.5
Argentina	4.4	2.0
Mexico	1.9	8.2
Nicaragua	4.6	4.7

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Population  
growth

Industrialization

## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

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Inadequacy

DIET /  
NUTRITION

HEALTH  
CHALLENGES

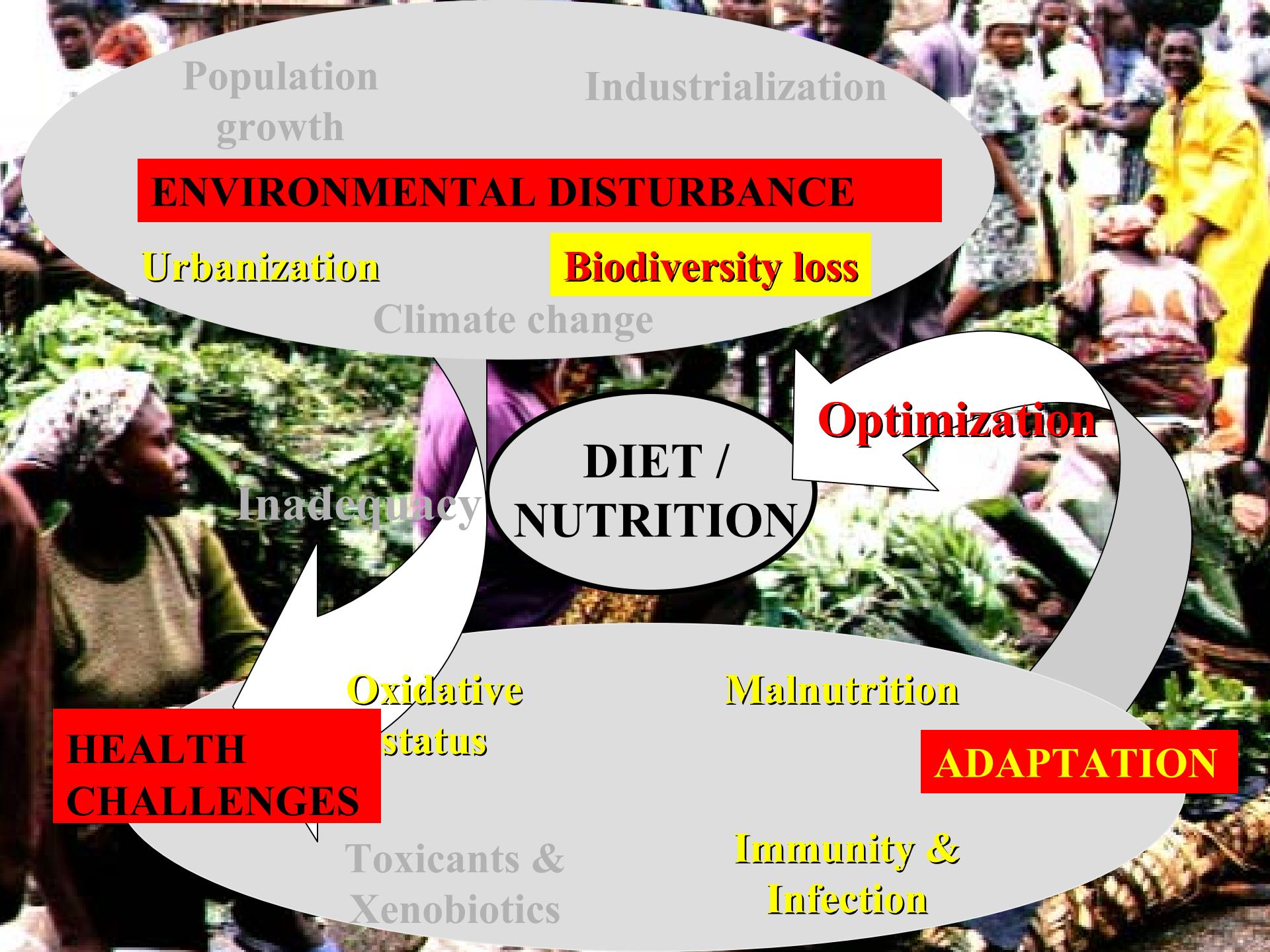
Oxidative  
status

Malnutrition

Toxicants &  
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ADAPTATION

Immunity &  
Infection



Population  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

Urbanization

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

Inadequacy

DIET /  
NUTRITION

Optimization

## HEALTH CHALLENGES

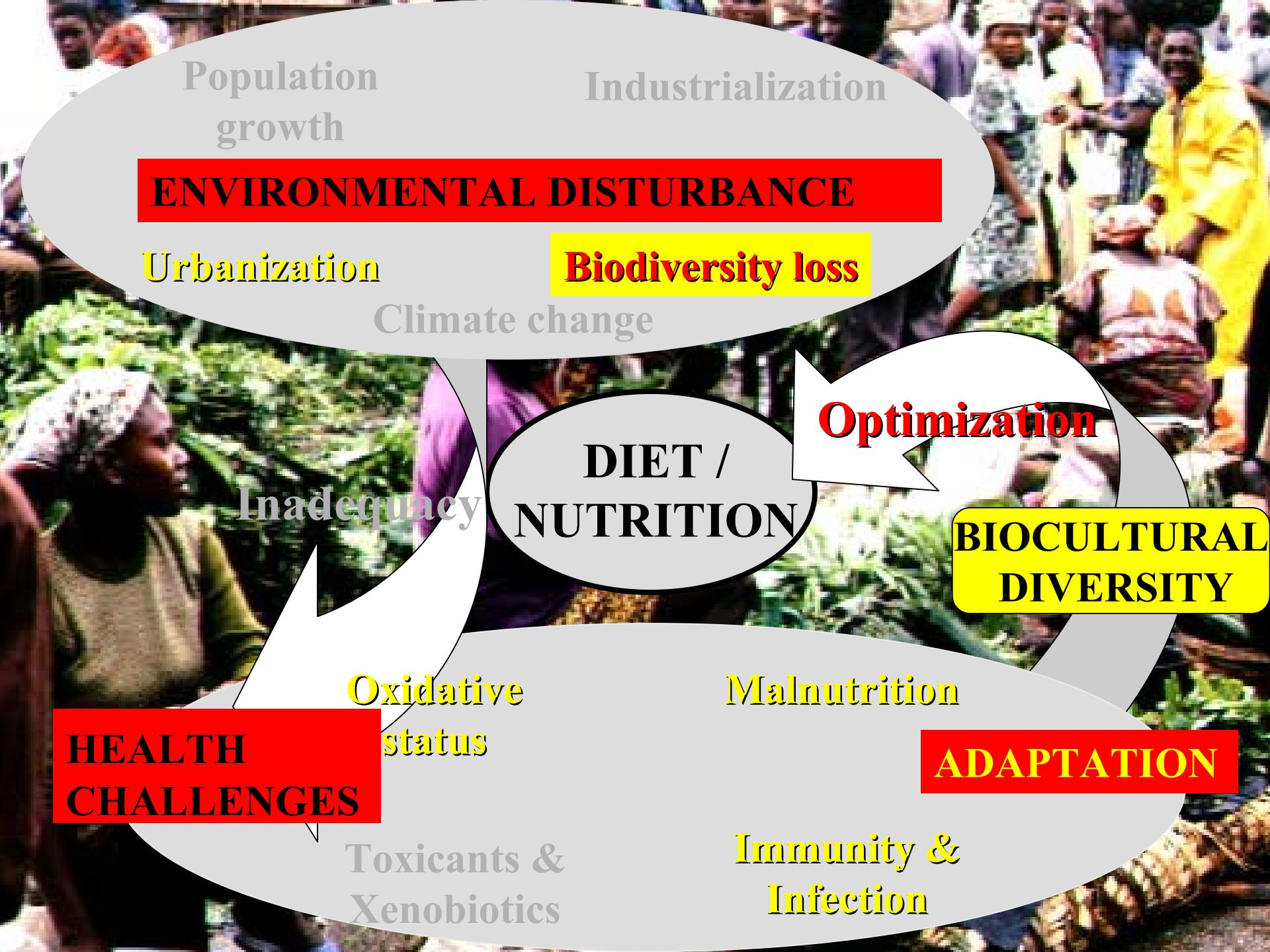
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Population  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE

Urbanization

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

Inadequacy

DIET /  
NUTRITION

Optimization

BIOCULTURAL  
DIVERSITY

HEALTH  
CHALLENGES

Oxidative  
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Immunity &  
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# **Functionality of Ingested Phytochemicals**

- Nutrition
- Gastrointestinal function
- Antioxidants
- Glycemic control
- Antibiotic
- Immunostimulant
- Nervous system
- Detoxification
- Anti-inflammatory / anti-gout

# Dietary Variety and Nutritional Adequacy in Mali

Hatløy et al. 1998. *European J. Clinical Nutrition* 52:891-898.

## Correlation Between Nutrient Adequacy Ratio (NAR) and Food Variety

NAR	Food Variety Score Correlation
Energy (MJ/d)	0.01
Fat Energy (%)	0.29*
iron (mg/d)	-0.15
vitamin C	0.38**
vitamin A	0.27*
Mean Adequacy Ratio (MAR)	0.33**

*Adansonia digitata*  
baobab



	Ca mg	Fe mg	β-car. ug	Vit C mg	kcal	Protein g
Per 100 g edible						
baobab, ripe, raw	285	7.4	63	270	280	2.2
orange, raw	28	0.1	730	46	44	0.6
cowpea leaves, raw	255	5.7	700	56	45	4.7
maize, white, dried	16	3.6	0	0	345	9.4
cassava, fresh	68	1.9	15	31	140	1.2
beans, dried	120	8.2	0	1	320	22.0

	Ca	Fe	β-car.	Vit C	kcal	Protein
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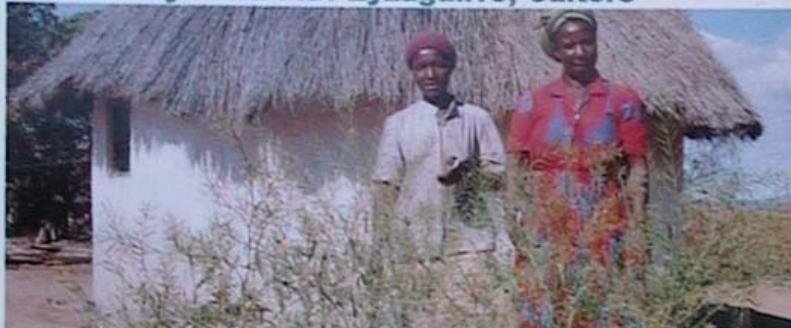


Netherlands Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Development  
Cooperation



# The biodiversity of traditional leafy vegetables

J.A. Chweya and P.B. Eyzaguirre, editors



A photograph of a woman in a field, wearing a red and white headwrap and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, kneeling and harvesting green plants from the ground. She is holding a large white plastic bag and a small tool. The field is filled with tall green plants.

$> 4900 \text{ } \mu\text{g} \beta\text{-carotene per } 100 \text{ g}$   
edible portion

Uiso and Johns, 1996. *Ecology of Food and Nutrition*, 35:59-69.

***Crotalaria brevidens***



***Crotalaria brevidens***



***Solanum nigrum***

*Solanum nigrum*

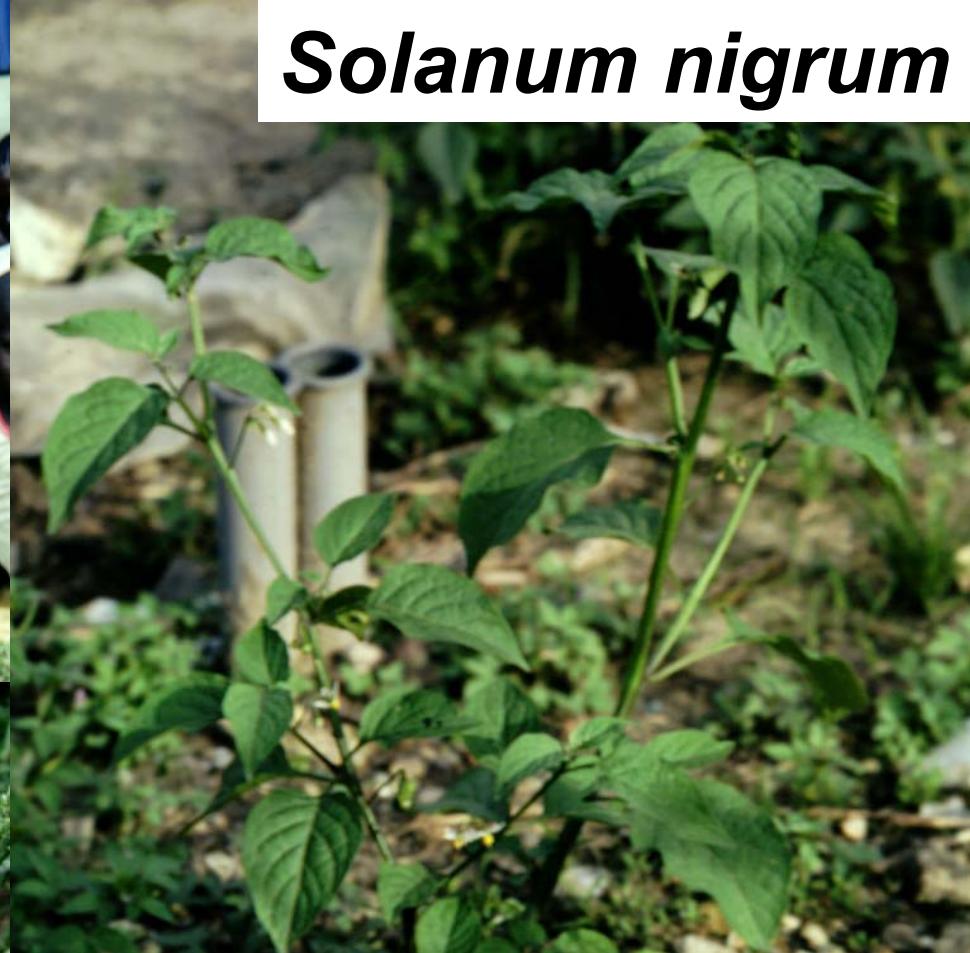


## *Gynandropsis gynandra*



**provitamin A, vitamin C, folate**

**iron, calcium, fibre, protein**



# **Functionality of Ingested Phytochemicals**

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- Antioxidants
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- Hypolipidemic
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- Immunostimulant
- Nervous system
- Detoxification
- Anti-inflammatory / anti-gout



*Solanum nigrum*

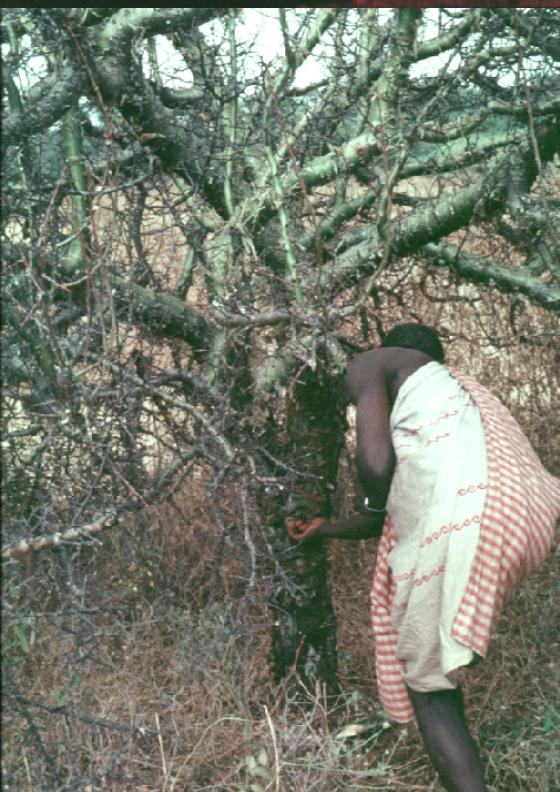
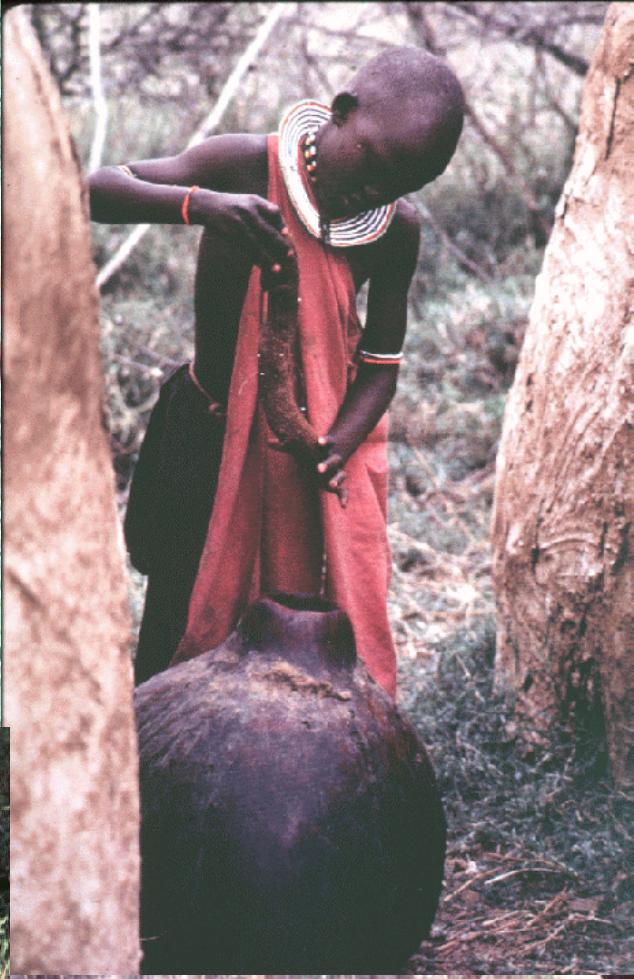
**Anti-giardial activity**

Johns et al 1995.

*Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 6:17-23.

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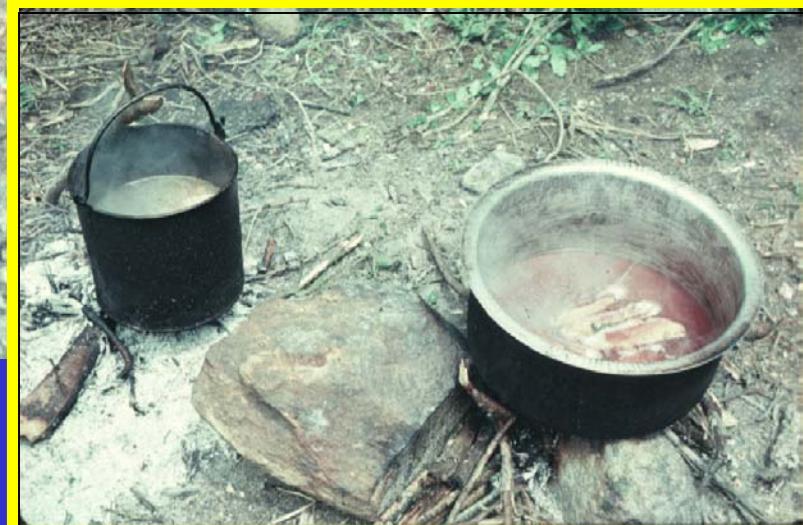
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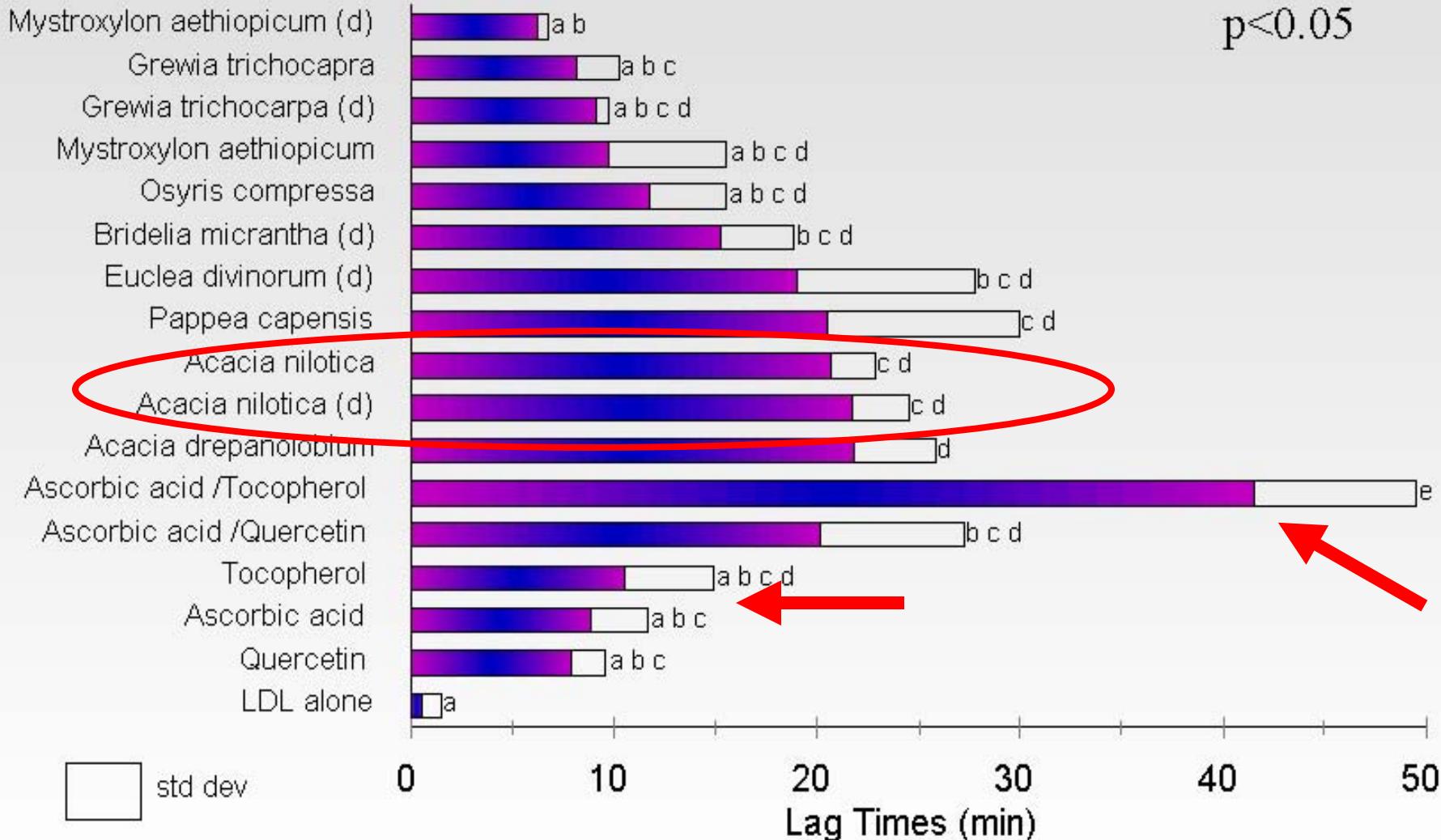
*Acacia nilotica*

“olkiloriti”



# Inhibition of LDL oxidation by Maasai soup additives

## Conjugated dienes



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*Commiphora mukul*

“guggul” Indian Bdellium



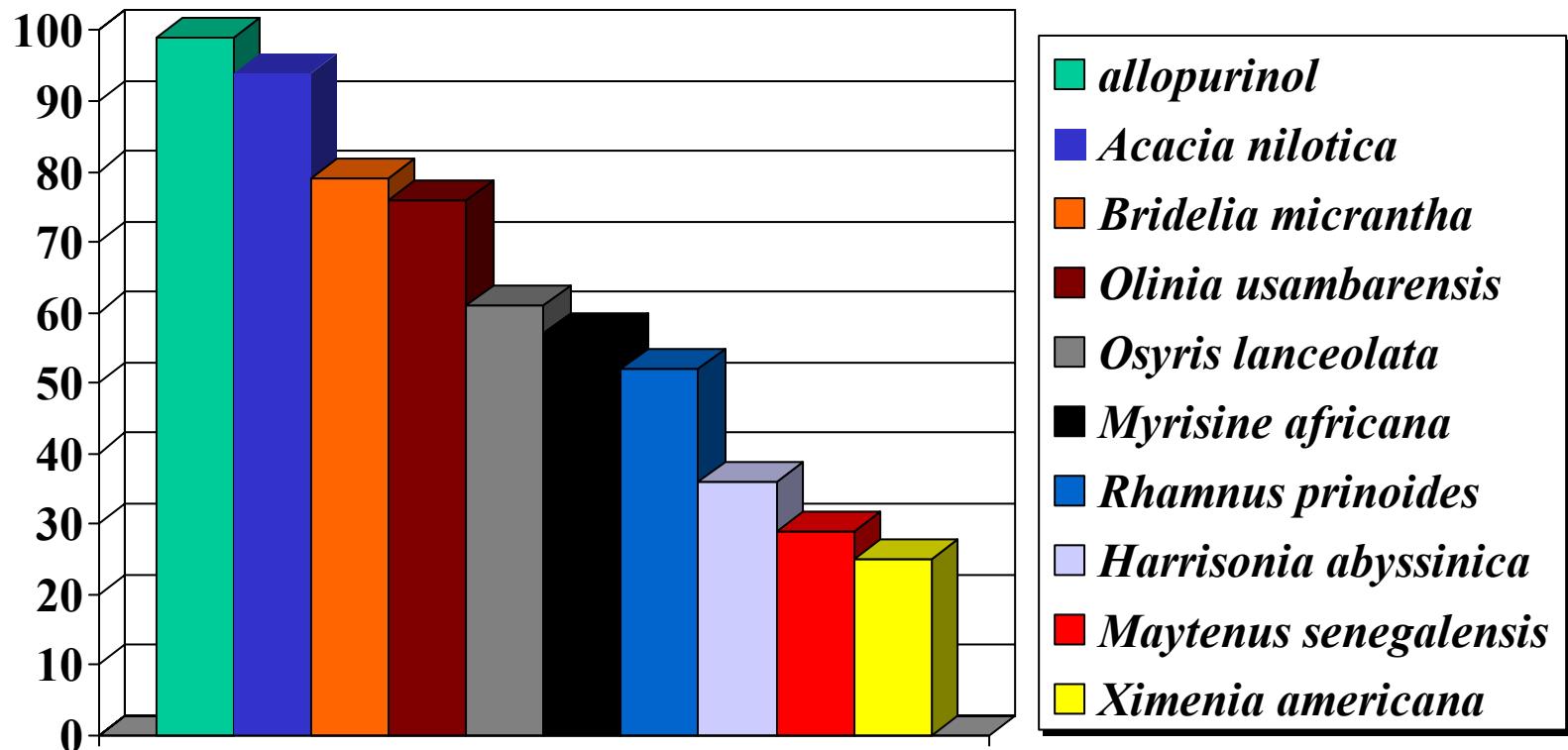
# RESIN OF *COMMIPHORA* *AFRICANA*

## E- Guggulsterone content

RESIN	0.03 %
CHEWED RESIN	0.006%
RELEASED BY MASTICATION:	80% 0.24mg/g

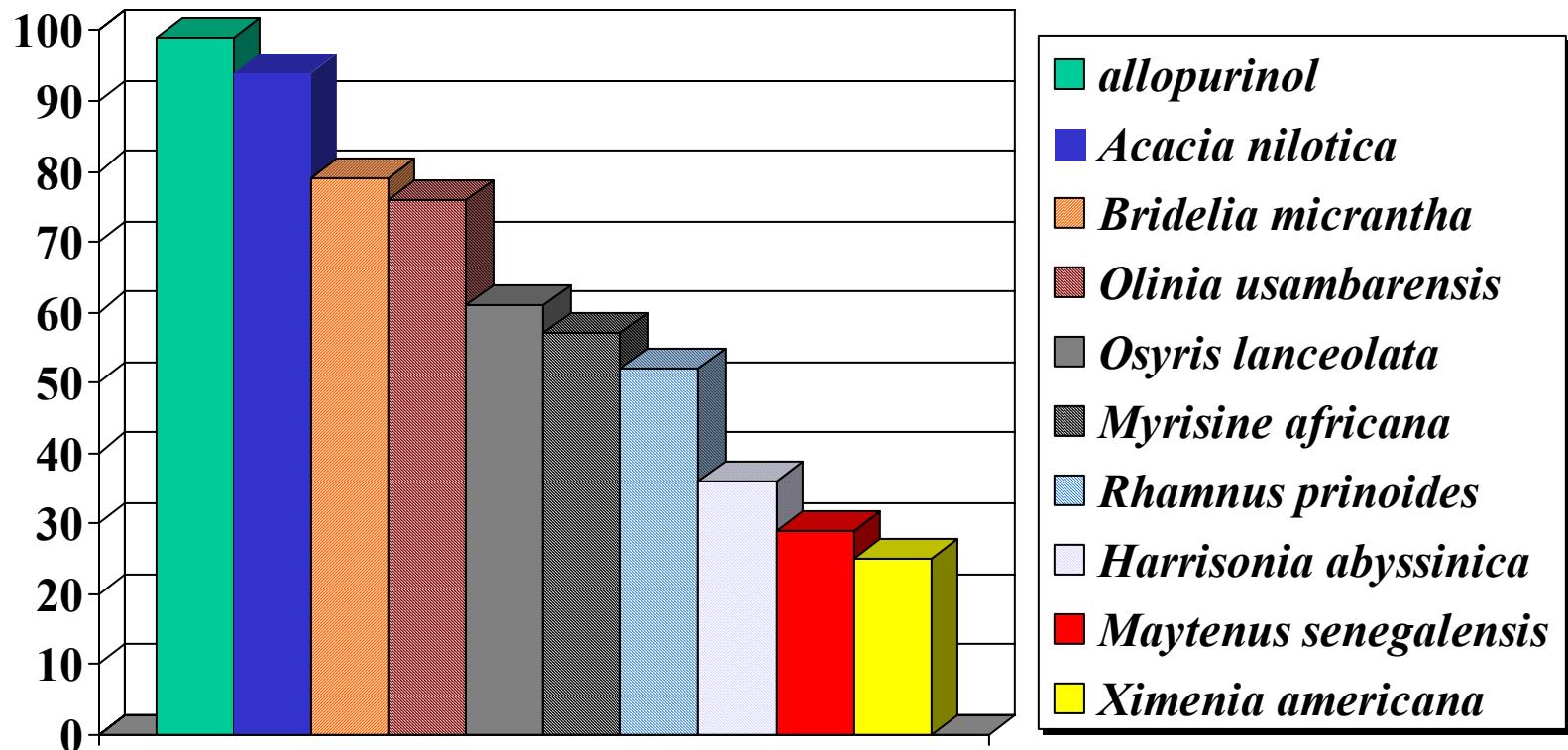
Johns et al. 2000. *Current Anthropology* 41:453-459.

# Xanthine oxidase inhibition- Maasai milk & soup additives



Guertin and Johns, 2001

# Xanthine oxidase inhibition- Maasai milk & soup additives



Guertin and Johns, 2001

# Xanthine oxidase inhibition- Maasai milk & soup additives

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Remedies for joint disease (n=5)	% Inhibition (S.D.)
	60.6 (13.6)

# Xanthine oxidase inhibition- Maasai milk & soup additives

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	% Inhibition (S.D.)
Remedies for joint disease (n=5)	60.6 (13.6)
Other indications (n=18)	38.2 (28.9)

Student's t-test p = 0.03

# **CONCLUSIONS**

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- **Biodiversity  $\Rightarrow$  Dietary Diversity  $\Rightarrow$  Health**
- **Global change impacts traditional ecology**
- **Health rationale for managing biodiversity**
- **Health not simply absence of disease**
- **Rural / Urban linkages are key**

