



“Nepal toward and Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems”

Understanding the Food System Issues in Nepal –National Pathways on Food Systems Transformation

Presented at the Consultations on Food Systems Innovations and Challenges in Nepal

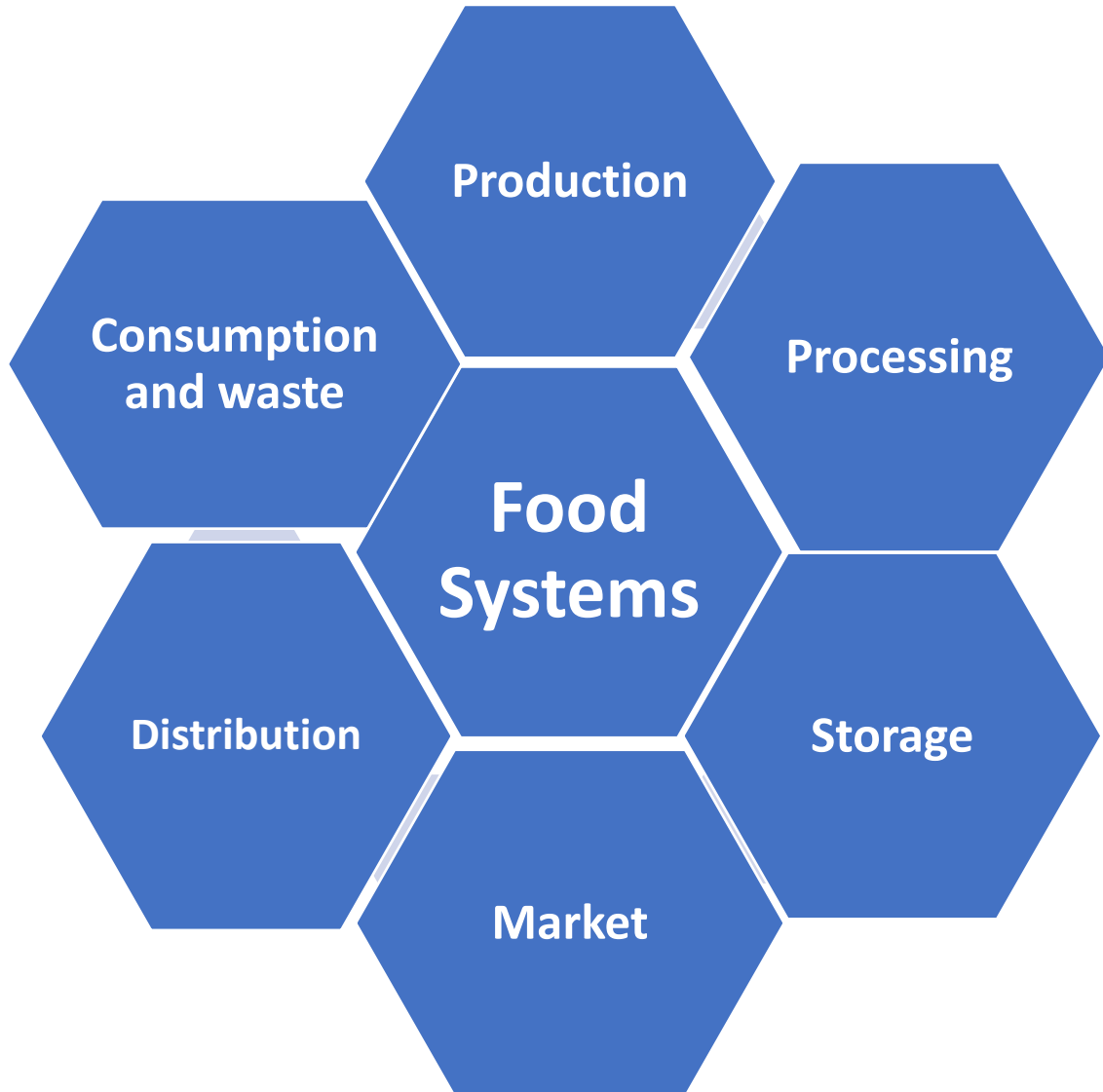
Kathmandu, Nepal

25 January 2023

Outline of presentation

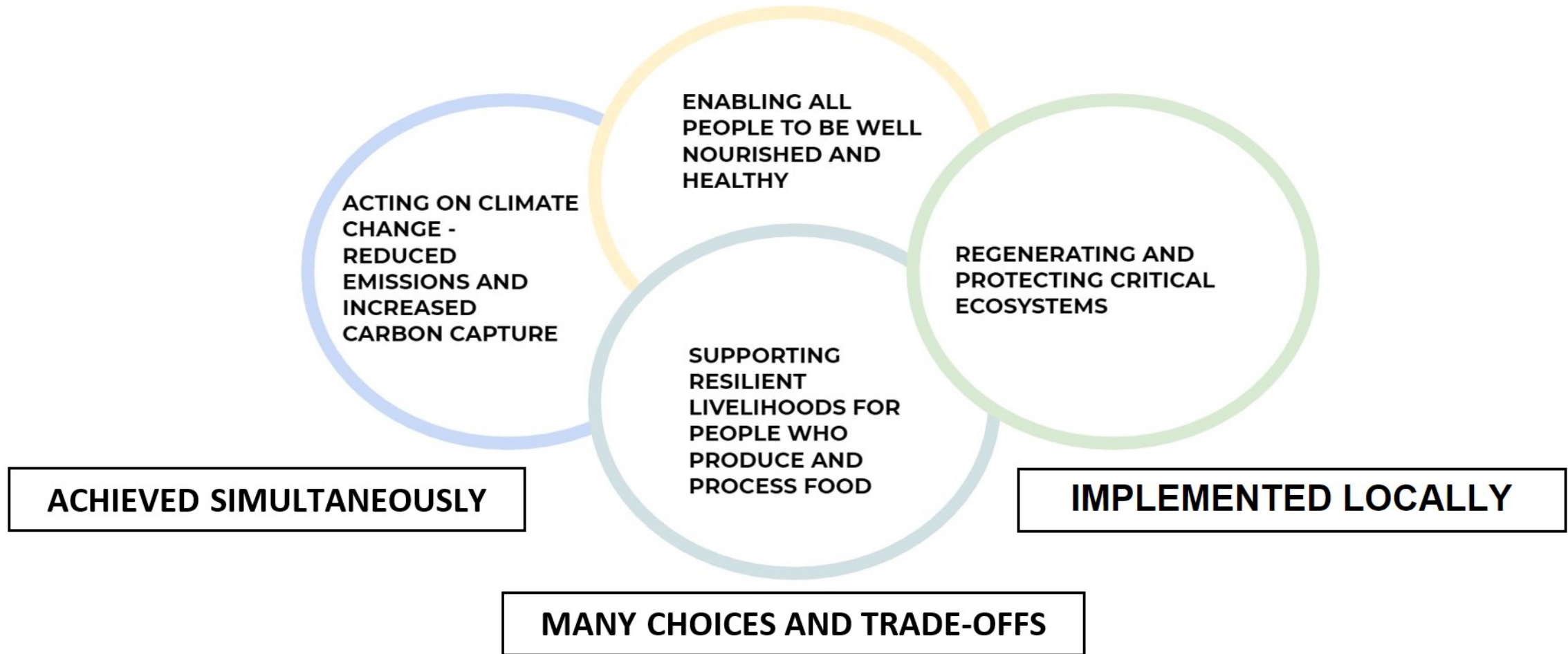
- Overview of Food Systems – Concept
- Food Systems Scenarios – National Context
- Food System Summit 2021
- Food Systems Dialogues in Nepal,
- National Pathways and key elements of pathway
- Achievements and Way Forward

Food Systems



- It includes the process of growing, harvesting, packing, processing, distributing, selling, storing, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food.
- Farm to fork...
- Multiple stakeholders, interconnections and feedback loops...
- Various perspectives...
- Touch every aspect of human existence and affect our health, environment, economies and culture.

Focus on Food Systems: Multiple Purposes



Healthy Food Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity

Caron Patrick, Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio Gabriel, Nabarro David, Hainzelin Etienne, Guillou Marion, Andersen Inger, Arnold Tom, Astralaga Margarita, Beukeboom Marcel, Bickersteth Sam, Bwalya Martin, Caballero Paula, Campbell Bruce M., Divine Ntiokam, Fan Shenggen, Frick Martin, Friis Anette, Gallagher Martin, Halkin Jean-Pierre, Hanson Craig, Lasbennes Florence, Ribera Teresa, Rockstrom Johan, Schuepbach Marlen, Steer Andrew, Tutwiler Ann, Verburg Gerda. 2018. **Food systems for sustainable development: Proposals for a profound four-part transformation.** *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*, 38 (4):41, 12 p.

Purpose of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

- Many of the world's systems are fragile, unexamined and vulnerable.
- A failed food system threatens education, health and economy as well as human rights, peace and security.
- Considering this, the Summit was organized to unleash **bold new actions, innovative solutions,** and **strategies** to transform our food systems.
- The Food Systems Summit is part of the Decade of Action to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030 and will be convened by the Secretary General in 2021.

“Transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals.”

António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General, 2019

The Summit Architecture: Elements

✓ **5 Action Tracks**



✓ **4 Cross-Cutting Levers of Change**



Food Systems Transformation: the Context

Context (population)

- Population residing abroad : 2.2 million (2021); 1.9 million (2011)
(Involvement of youth in agriculture is decreasing due to labour out-migration)
- Districts with declining annual population growth rate: 32 districts (2021); 27 districts (2011)
(Barren land is increasing in the districts, where the population growth rate has decreased)
- Share of Terai region in population distribution: 53.66%(2021) ; 50.27 % (2011)
(Population pressure is increasing in *Terai* - fertile land)
- Population growth: 154 percent in 50 years (from 1971 to 2021) - population growth from 11.5 million to 29.2 million.
(Compared to 1971 census, 11.6 million people have been added in 2021 census)

Context... (Climate)

- Due to climate change, loss in the agricultural sector is 10% to 30%.

(National Adaptation Plan (2021-2050), Ministry of Forest and Environment, 2022)

- The direct economic cost of climate risk in the agricultural sector in 2020 was equal to 1.5 percent to 2 percent of GDP.

(National Adaptation Plan (2021-2050), Ministry of Forest and Environment, 2022)

- Nepal is the 12th riskiest country in the world

(Global Climate Risk Index 2021 report)

Context... (Land use and Agriculture)

- Forest area of Nepal increased by 1.7 percent (5915,518 to 6166766 hec) and cropland shrunk by 2.1 percent (3891599 to 3581047 hec) from 2000 to 2019.

(National Land Cover Monitoring System of Nepal, 2022, MoFE)

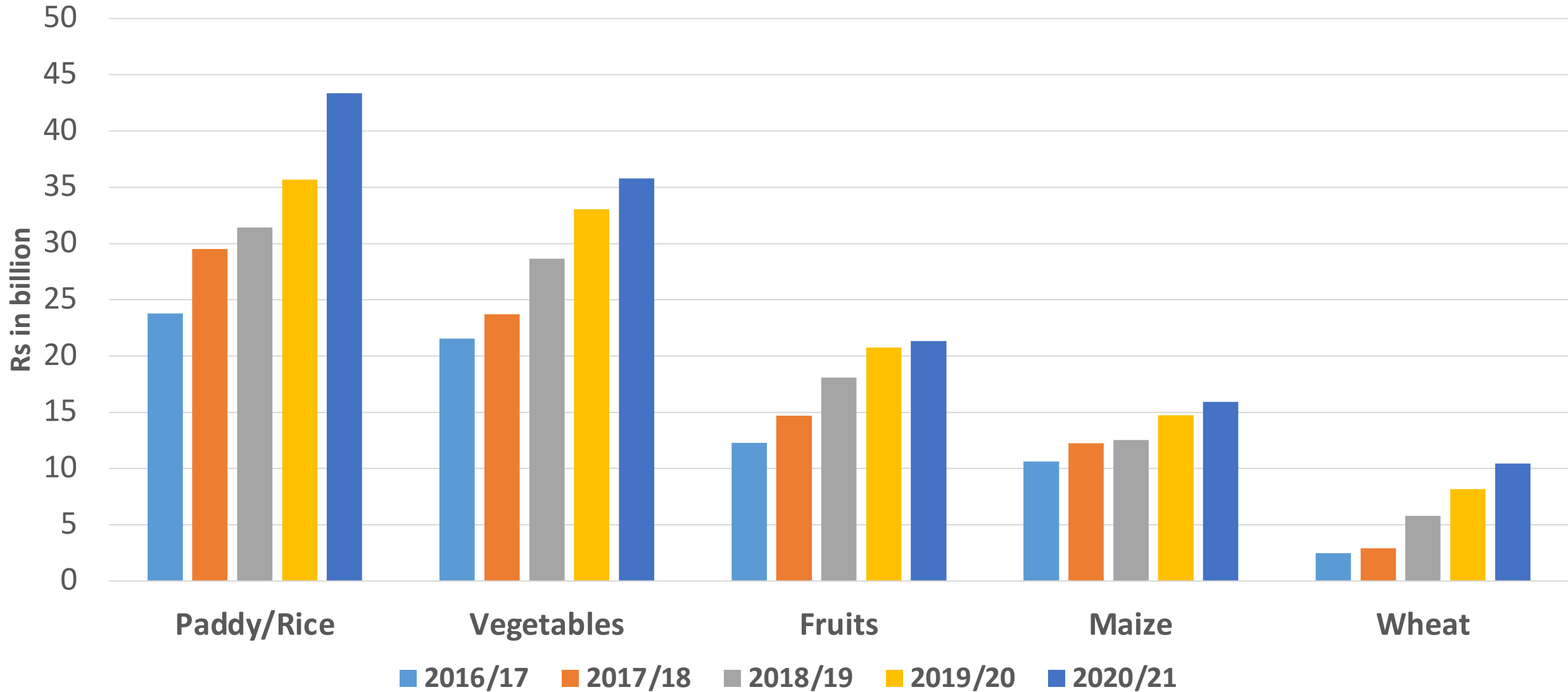
- Nepal is among the top ten fastest urbanizing countries of the world. Built up areas expanded by more than 200 percent (25487 to 78296 hec) from 2000 to 2019.

(National Land Cover Monitoring System of Nepal, 2022, MoFE)

- Currently, there are more than 40 million parcels of land in Nepal. In FY 2021/22, around 1.6 million parcels were created from 694 thousand parcels.

(Kantipur Daily, 2023 January 7)

Imports of Agricultural Commodity



Context... (Food security and nutrition)

- Out of the total expenditure of Nepalese, expenditure on food is (average) 53.82 percent. The bottom 20 percent of low income group, the total expenditure on food is 64.9 percent.

(Annual Household Survey 2016-017, Central Bureau of Statistics)

- Compared to 2021 December, the annual average inflation of food and food products in 2022 December is 9.39 percent.

(Current economic and financial situation of the country, Nepal Rashtra Bank, 13 January 2023)

- Still 12 percent of the population is in a state of severe food insecurity situation; 1.4 million people are in a state of under-nourishment. Similarly, only about 48 percent of the households are food secure.

(The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021, Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016)

Context... (Food security and nutrition)

- The prevalence stunting among under five children has decreased from 49 percent to 25 percent (from 2006 to 2022). During the same period, the rate of underweight decreased from 39 percent to 19 percent and wasting from 13 percent to 9 percent.

(Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2016 and National Multi-Indicator Sectoral Survey 2019, Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2022)

- Due to the negative impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the poverty and food insecurity has worsened further.

Context... (Policy environment)

- **The right to food in Nepal's constitution**

(Every citizen has the right to food; every citizen has the right to be protected from life-threatening situations due to the lack of food; every citizen has the right to food sovereignty according to the law.)

- **Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018**

(Ensuring citizens' access to food)

- **Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)**

Goal 2: Zero Hunger (End hunger by promoting sustainable agriculture and achieving food security, improved nutrition)

Context... (Policy environment-Action Track and relevant policy)

Action Track	Related major Act, Policy, Plan
1. Ensuring safe and nutritious food for all	Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, MSNP, ADS, National Food Safety Policy
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	The Consumer Protection Act, 2075 (2018), Food Act, 2023 (1967) Mother's Milk Substitutes (Control of Sale and Distribution) Act, 2049 (1992).
3. Boost nature-positive production at scale	Environment Conservation Act and Regulation, National Adaptation Plan, Nature Conservation National Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, National Climate Change Policy, National Agroforestry Policy,
4. Advancing equitable livelihoods	Right to Employment Act, 2075, Labor Act 2074
5. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and regulation, Provincial DRR Act, Local level operation act, Disaster Preparedness and response plan (federal, province and local), DRR National Policy
6. RtF Legal framework for sustainable food systems in Nepal (Food Governance)	Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act

UN Food Systems Summit and Initiatives in Nepal

Nepal organized 10 Food Systems Dialogues (3 national and 7 provincial), and 4th National Food Systems Dialogues in September 2022 under six Action Tracks in 2021.

1. **Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all** (enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy, progressive realization of the right to food).
2. **Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns** (promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets, reducing food loss and waste).
3. **Boosting nature-positive production** (acting on climate change, reducing emissions and increasing carbon capture, regenerating and protecting critical ecosystems and reducing food loss and energy usage, without undermining health or nutrition).



UN Food Systems Summit and Initiatives in Nepal

4. **Advancing equitable livelihoods** (raising incomes, distributing risk, expanding inclusion, and promoting full, ethical and productive employment for all).
5. **Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses** (ensuring the continued functionality of healthy and sustainable food systems).
6. **The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act as a legal framework to ensure food governance to contribute to transform Food Systems in Nepal.**



UN Food Systems Summit and Initiatives in Nepal

- As an outcome of these dialogues **National Food Systems Pathways and key strategic actions** were developed with **active engagement of 1,300 stakeholder** to guide the transformation of Food Systems.
- Some **28 stakeholders shared their commitments** to support /contribute to the transformation of food systems.
- The Nepal Delegation attended the Pre-summit and UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and shared the country statement during the summit.



National Pathways and strategic actions



National Pathways and key elements

1. Ensure **policy coherence** (especially, in the agriculture, food security and nutrition, education, and health) and **food governance**; encourage **farmers/youth to engage in agricultural sector** to intensify the **production of affordable, safe, healthy and nutritious food for all** people in a sustainable way.

Key elements:

- **Harmonizing existing relevant policies** for synergy and improved governance through the value chain.
- **Food governance** was identified as a key to ensure fair pricing of the products, strong supply chain and quality of food.



National Pathways and key elements...

2. Setting up of **regulatory mechanisms** to effectively monitor the quality of foods and **educating people to consume healthy and nutritious local food**, reduce **food losses/waste**, and **promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding practices**.

Key elements of Pathways:

- **Strong regulatory mechanism** for promoting healthy food products, regulating market and influence consumer behaviour.
- **Awareness raising** among the value chain actors is crucial to reduce food loss and waste.



National Pathways and strategic actions...

3. **Adopt agroecosystem-based resilient** planning and revitalization of indigenous food systems and conserving and utilizing biodiversity.

Key elements of Pathways:

- **Resilience development** priority right from the beginning of the planning.
- Nepal has a unique mountain food system, and it is crucial to revitalize this system to **increase biodiversity** and make it sustainable.



National Pathways and strategic actions...

4. **Invest in research and development** in the agricultural sector to diversify the food systems and promote value chains; developing entrepreneurship skills of farmers including SMEs to raise their income and improve their livelihoods.

Key elements of Pathways:

- **Increased investment on R&D and innovation** to diversify and **promote the productivity and income of all the stakeholders** engaged in the value chain.



National Pathways and strategic actions...

5. Ensure longer-term **investments on developing resilient food systems** and community to withstand shocks and stresses.

Key elements of Pathways:

- Resilience building requires **longer term engagement, investments and capacity strengthening.**
- Actions need to be focused towards **strengthening the capacity** of community and institutions to better adapt and make them resilient against the shocks and stresses.



National Pathways and strategic actions...

6. Role of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, to ensure accountable **food governance** at all levels for transforming the food systems in Nepal.

Key elements of Pathways:

- Implementation of Right to food and food sovereignty act provides a legal framework to improve and **strengthen the governance** and policy coherence.



Achievements and Way Forward



Achievements

- Food Systems **Steering Committee** set up at NPC to coordinate/steer the process to implement and monitor the strategic actions identified in 2021.
- 4th National Food Systems Dialogues (September 2022) identified **specific activities under each strategic actions**.
- Considering Nepal's initiatives, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (FSCH) has selected **Nepal as a model country** implementing the food systems and continued dialogues. Nepal's concept note received funding from FSCH, Rome to pilot localize the food systems transformation actions.



Achievements

- **Provincial Food Systems Review** and Planning workshops organized in seven provinces reviewed and integrated food systems actions in next years plan.
- NPC issued **directives to include food systems transformation** actions into the planning and budgeting guidelines for Fiscal Year 2078/79.
- NPC has prepared **Food Systems Transformation Strategic Plan (2023-2030)**, as a national policy, based on the food systems dialogues (2021/2022).



Way Forward

- Mainstream Food Systems Transformation activities in the national planning processes.
- Continue to integrate the National Pathways and Strategic Actions in the Provincial Plans.
- Facilitate and expedite the localization of national pathways and strategic actions at local levels.



Way Forward

- Finalize Food Systems M&E Framework.
- Implement provision of Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (e.g., National Food Plan, formation of National and provincial Food Councils, and Food Coordination Committees at local levels)
- Accelerate the implementation of process of Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act.



Conclusion

Food systems transformation initiatives in Nepal calls for;

- systems approach strongly backed up by legal framework.
- strong and accountable food governance in place.
- policy coherence (agriculture, food security, nutrition, education, and health and others).
- Innovative and bold actions.
- Active engagement and contribution of relevant stakeholders.
- Public-Private partnership

“Nepal toward and Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems”

Production

- Spring paddy (Bangladesh’s experience, minimize post harvest loss, mechanization)
- Local food (Odissa’s experience on millet-hilly area-less water-productivity-income of small farmers)

Process

- Market for perishable goods (vegetables, fruits and live fish)
- To enhance quality of ginger to export (to increase income of small farmers)

Consumption

- Capacity building for food safety activities (private producers and processors and regulatory body)



Thank you !!!