



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab

Supporting Innovations to Make Nutritious Food Safe and Accessible for All



*The goal of the Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab is to support the uptake of food system innovations or improved diet quality and nutrition in the initial focus countries of Nepal, Bangladesh, Malawi, and Mozambique. To learn more, scan the QR code here.*



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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## INTRODUCTION

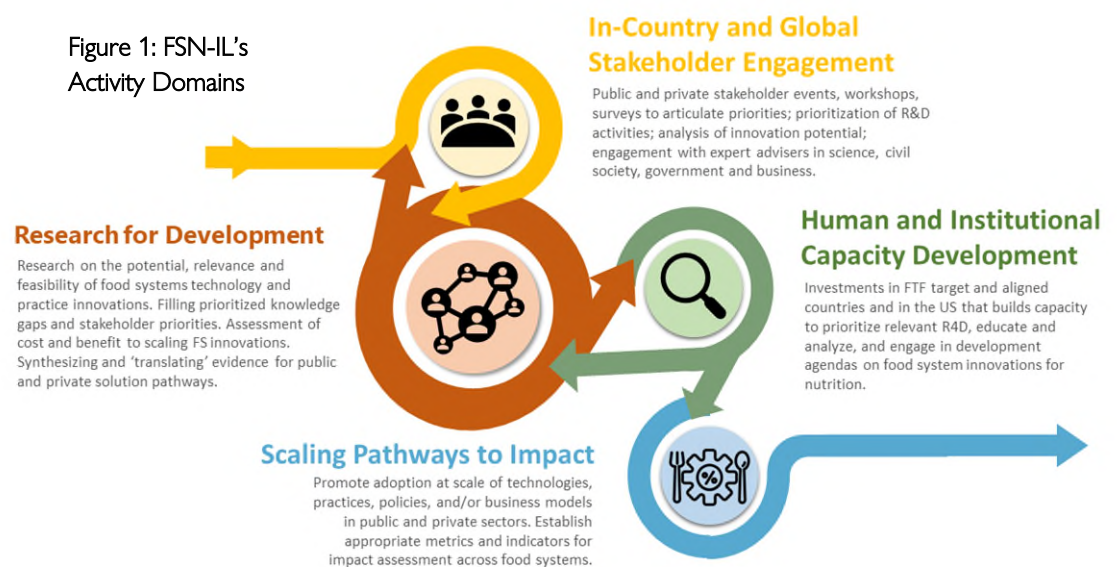
The Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab (FSN-IL) is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the Feed the Future Initiative and implemented by the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

The overall aim of FSN-IL is to support the uptake of food system innovations for improved diet quality and nutrition in the initial focus countries of Nepal, Bangladesh, Malawi, and Mozambique. FSN-IL supports USAID's Global Food Security Strategy objective of securing a "well—nourished population, especially among women and children" by generating evidence and translating existing evidence to harness novel technologies and innovations to:

- Reduce food loss and waste
- Enhance food safety
- Improve access to nutrient-rich foods

## STRATEGIC APPROACH

FSN-IL focuses its work across three main activity domains, as outlined in Figure 1. The figure below summarizes the interlocking nature of FSN-IL's principal activities and feedback loops, their cumulative effects, and the overall process by which the generation of novel results will support scaling of nutrition-sensitive food system solutions moving forward.



### Research for Development (R4D)

FSN-IL's R4D activities are focused on identifying, adapting, testing, and disseminating context-specific and proven technologies and practices across the value chain to enhance the nutrition sensitivity and resilience of food systems. Employing a multi-stage research approach, FSN-IL focuses on supporting research on innovations ranging from technologies to processes to practices and policies that are likely to touch different components of the value chain from production to consumption. FSN-IL also aims to support research that brings together social and technological innovations (i.e. socio-technical bundling) and generate rigorous evidence on effectiveness, cost effectiveness of implementing single or bundled innovations, assess potential adoption and scaling constraints of single or bundled innovations, and disseminate findings to a wide global audience to support nutrition-sensitive actions within the context of food systems transformation.

### Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)

The human and institutional capacity development activities that FSN-IL will undertake in its focus countries are aimed at addressing the needs of current and future researchers, policymakers, and private sector actors. With support from in-country experts, FSN-IL will identify and support appropriate regional and country-level activities, such as online learning modules/degree and non-degree courses, workshops on research methods or needs assessments, short- and long-term

training opportunities, travel fellowships supporting focus country nationals at research conferences, and food system leadership training for policymakers and parliamentarians.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

FSN-IL will work with a wide range of food system stakeholders to identify actions with potential to make real cost-effective impacts on nutrition. To support faster uptake and scaling of food systems innovations, FSN-IL will engage with private sector hubs and business associations that link suppliers, retail competitors, regulators, and other influential market stakeholders. Findings of our work will be distilled and packaged for non-research audiences, including businesses, development partners, public extensions systems, and other donors.

## **CONSORTIUM**

The FSN-IL consortium of partners includes U.S. universities, global non-profit organizations, and cooperative associations. FSN-IL builds upon ten years of leadership of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Nutrition at the Friedman School that developed a robust evidence base on systems-level approaches to inform food systems transformation for nutrition. FSN-IL consortium members are listed below:

- 1890 Universities Foundation
- Action for Enterprise
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- Arizona State University, Swette Center
- California State University, San Bernardino
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Helen Keller International
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Johns Hopkins University
- Michigan State University
- National Cooperative Business Association/CLUSA International
- Purdue University
- Texas A&M University (Borlaug Institute)
- Tuskegee University
- University of Colorado School of Medicine
- World Vegetable Center

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Management Entity is supported by a technical advisory committee, a group of world-class scientists from multiple disciplines that help provide oversight across all activity domains. FSN-IL advisory members are listed below:

**Richard Deckelbaum**, *Prof. & Director, Institute of Human Nutrition College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University*

**Rafael Flor**, *Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

**Isatou Jallow**, *Founder & Executive Director, AfriCAN*

**Ahmed Kablan**, *Sr. Science Officer, USAID/RFS*

**Ram Shrestha**, *Director, International Affairs & Research CAFODAT College*

**Shakuntala Thilsted**, *Director, Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR*

## **TUFTS FACULTY**

The Tufts faculty provide thought leadership across all activity domains as needed. These include:

**Patrick Webb, PhD**, *Professor*

**Shibani Ghosh, PhD**, *Research Associate Professor*

**Lynne Ausman, DSc**, *Professor*

**Erin Coughlan de Perez, PhD**, *Associate Professor*

**Eileen Kennedy, DSc**, *Professor*

**William Masters, PhD**, *Professor*

**Beatrice Rogers, PhD**, *Professor*

**Katie Stebbins**, *Exec. Director, Food and Nutrition Innovation Institute*



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The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University is the Management Entity of the Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab. Support for the Lab comes from the United States Agency for International Development as part of the Feed the Future Initiative – a global poverty reduction, hunger, and food security initiative of the United States Government. The FSN-IL Management Entity is listed below.



**Patrick Webb**  
Director



**Shibani Ghosh**  
Associate Director



**Elizabeth-Marino Costello**  
Sr. Program Manager



**Robin Shrestha**  
Program Manager



**Maha Sheikh**  
Communications Specialist



**Jennifer Stickland**  
Program Administrator



**Shaelin Cullen**  
Program Coordinator

## Country Presence



Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab

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