



Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY: SOUTH ASIA



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Stakeholder Engagement

FSN-IL engages with stakeholders and technical experts at the sub-national, national, and regional levels to prioritize knowledge and innovation gaps, identify needs and opportunities, and deepen the understanding of facilitators and barriers facing businesses, policymakers, and entrepreneurs across the food system from production (supply) to consumption (demand).

On the supply side, these gaps and opportunities could exist at the pre- and post-farm gate level, within post-harvest handling, processing to storage, processing, and packaging to market actions and infrastructure.

The objective of FSN-IL stakeholder engagement in South Asia in early FY23 was to gain local insights on FSN-IL identified innovations (technologies, products, policies, processes, behaviors, practices) that support reduction of food loss while maintaining food safety and increasing access and affordability of nutritious foods and identify needs and opportunities that may exist across the system. This ensures that FSNIL's priorities are aligned with the government priorities.

Fiscal Year 2023 Achievements



Day 1 of the Nepal Stakeholder Consultation from January 24-25th, 2023

In early 2023, FSN-IL successfully hosted a two-day consultation workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal and a virtual consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The aims of the consultations were to provide forums for identifying 1) current challenges to food systems transformation, particularly post-farmgate, and 2) opportunities to increase access to nutrient rich foods via innovations along the supply chain from farm to fork in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Nepal Consultation

87



attendees

Bangladesh Consultation

14



attendees

Stakeholders' demographics:

- Government: Secretaries, joint secretaries, and under-secretaries, division chiefs, office directors, officers, scientists representing the ministries of health, agriculture and livestock, nutrition, family welfare division, women and children, education, provinces, national research council, etc.
- Private sector: SMEs, SUN business network, Chamber of Commerce, Advisory groups
- Development partners (USAID, EU, FAO, World Bank)
- NGOs, Academic, Research, and Civil society groups

Key Takeaways

- FSN-IL consultations provided a platform for local and national government and private sector stakeholders to share priority needs, bottlenecks, facilitators, and opportunities in transforming food systems in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- These preliminary consultations are entry points for FSNIL to contribute food systems transformation process as mapped out by the Government of Nepal or the Government of Bangladesh and ensure that FSNIL's activities are aligned with government priorities.
- In Nepal, the consultation provided the opportunity to bring private sector and government stakeholders to the table, providing a platform to discuss how to encourage and incentivize private sector engagement in producing healthy foods and popularizing healthy dietary patterns.
- The consultations also highlighted the need to consider national and sub-national capacities in transforming food systems and the need to assess national and sub-national governance and enabling environments for supporting nutrition sensitive food systems transformation using a policy prioritization tool.
- Finally, it highlighted the need to consider the diversity of geography, climate, and culture within each country in understanding the drivers of consumer demand and in formulating interventions that seek to modify consumer behavior.

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