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Asia-Pacific Food System Challenges & Opportunities: A Risk Perspective

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Food systems face multiple threats:

- Conflicts
- Climate change
- Price shocks
- Poverty and inequality
- Trade network concentration
- Cost of living crisis
- Environmental stresses
- Epidemics, supply chain disruptions
- Infrastructure development gaps
Impactful national food system transformation pathways require **multidimensional perspectives on risks** to deliver for critical food system outcomes.
Assessing food System Risks

Hazard & exposure
- Economic
- Socio-political
- Natural

Vulnerability
- Poverty, inequality, critical populations, malnutrition, health
- Finance and markets
- Production, sustainability and trade

Lack of adaptive capacity
- Climate and disaster risk management
- Human capabilities
- Resources, infrastructure and institution
Provides insights on risk relating to availability, access, utilization, stability, agency, sustainability (6 dimensions of food security)

Adopts well-established concepts of risk assessment
Risk = HE*VU*LAC (INFORM and others)

Informing risk to 3 food system outcome areas: (1) human health and nutrition; (2) ecosystem health; and (3) shared prosperity.
Looking at the trends

- **Risks are increasing in most countries**

- **Some countries face high and increasing risk** (Ex. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, etc.)

- **Risks are declining in some high-risk countries over the last 5 years** (Ex. India, Nepal, etc.)

- **Risks are increasing in some low-risk countries** (Ex. Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea etc.)
Initial results

Where does risk come from?

- Vulnerability continues to **increase** since the 2007-2008 food price crisis
- Hazard & exposure and lack of adaptive capacity have **decreased** over the past decade - but has risen again in the last 3 years
How do sources of risk differ among income groups?

Low-income countries have relatively high risk in the physical and economical access to food and ensuring agency/shared prosperity.

High-income countries have relatively high risk regarding environmental footprints in food systems and ensuring food systems stability. On the other hand, these countries have relatively low risk in utilizing safe and nutritious food as well as ensuring agency.
Where does risk come from?

- Countries at the upper end of the scale may strengthen risk-informed measures to strengthen national food system transformation pathways.

Risk to sustainability is prominent to some low-risk/high-income countries.
Understanding risk is important for managing risk. Managing risk is critical for the successful implementation of food systems transformation pathways.

- Advance the understanding of multi-dimensional risk in food systems, in relation to human health, ecosystem health and shared prosperity.
- Understand food system trends and outlooks in Asia and the Pacific.
- Support decisions on the prioritization of interventions for humanitarian and other assistance.
- Support policymaking in developing transformation pathways for more healthy, resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems.
Thank you!

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