Assessing Risks in Food Systems

07 October 2022
The UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened the Summit as part of the UN Decade of Action to realize the SDGs – Agenda 2030

Focused on Solutions for People, Planet and Prosperity

At Main Summit, 23 September, 2021
Article 15 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh that was formulated under the visionary leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, states that it is a fundamental responsibility of the State to secure for its citizens through planned economic growth, the provision of basic necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care. Article 18 (1) states that raising the level of nutrition and improvement of public health are among the primary duties of the State.
We actively participated in the UNFSS process last year – process was led by FPMU, Ministry of Food – 3 national dialogues, 6 subnational dialogues and 23 independent dialogues. Following the consultative process, Pathway Document was prepared which shows ways to the sustainable, resilient and equitable food system in Bangladesh.
Her excellency Sheikh Hasina highlighted five asks from the global community, particularly the developed countries:

- Research, investment and advanced technology sharing for agricultural development;
- Increased funding for developing countries for achieving sustainable food systems;
- Developing regional and global coalitions and partnerships;
- Reducing food waste through collaboration among countries;
- Disbursing the committed fund to adapt to the climate-led extreme events, including sharing of technologies to achieve sustainable food security.
Pathway Commitments organized under the UNFSS FIVE Action Areas

Nourish all people

Boost Nature-based Solutions

Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work & Empowered Communities

Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses

Accelerating the Means of Implementation

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Concerned areas to Assess the Risks in Food Systems

• Are current approaches to food system risk assessment adequate? – what works? – what is missing? What risk information will best support Government efforts to mitigate and manage risk?

• What are the most important food system risks arising from the feed, fuel, fertilizer and finance crisis, and other threats?

• What new risk pathways are emerging in the context of climate and environmental change? – considering food and nutrition security, ecosystem health and shared prosperity as critical food system outcome
Supportive Policy Framework

- Food Safety Act (2013)
- National Nutrition Policy 2015
- 2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) 2016-2025 along with multiple strategies to combat Undernutrition and Micronutrient Malnutrition (country is working on plans for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs))
- 2nd Country Investment Plan (CIP2) 2016-2020: Nutrition Sensitive Food Systems (the 3rd Country Investment Plan in under development)
- National Agriculture Policy 2018 and Good Agriculture Practice Policy 2020
- National Agricultural Extension Policy (2020)
- National Agricultural Mechanization Policy (2020)
- Delta Plan 2100
- Ongoing 8th Five Year Plan (2020-2025)
- Perspective Plan (2021-2041)
Bangladesh’s Successes and Best Practices

- Nation-wide mandatory immunization and basic vitamin supplementation programs
- Social support system for food security: Social safety nets targeting vulnerable groups, Public Food Distribution System (PFDS), Food Friendly Program, Open Market Sale (OMS), Vulnerable Group Feeding/ Development, Food for Work, School feeding programs, Staple and food fortification
- Development and ongoing implementation of Strategic Framework for ONE Health (human, animal and planetary health)
- Since the onset of Pandemic (COVID-19), the Government of Bangladesh has invested around USD 8.56 billion in different stimulates packages for agriculture, food and nutrition security including social safety nets for the most vulnerable, and to activate CSMEs including the Ready-Made Garment Sectors
- Developed a National Pathway Document for UN Food Systems Summit 2021 for transformation to sustainable and resilient food system towards achieving the SDGs
Emerged Risks:

- COVID-19 pandemic challenge
- Russia-Ukraine crisis
- Climate Change and Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress, especially for the countries in Asia Pacific
- Lack of proper enforcement mechanism at national level
- Lack of coordination among govt. and non-govt. agencies
- Gaps in the link between food systems and health systems that affects the Means of Implementation
- Lack of availability of data on food systems
Potential Areas of Works for Improved Resilient Food Systems

- Develop Risk Assessment Framework for Food Systems Transformation
- Collective effective efforts to regulate use of goods that have negative health and environmental impacts (sugar, salt, chemical fertilizers/pesticides/preservatives, food additives)
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) and conservation across borders (water, bio-diversity, green energy)
- Create a common fund targeting the youth, women, smallholder, and marginalized farmers and agro-based CMSMEs
- Uptake unified ICT-integration and digitization projects into agriculture i.e. Internet of Things (IoT), precision agriculture, e-commerce platforms
- Research in and sharing of affordable climate smart technologies, mechanization and innovations for sustainable food production methods
- Develop shared cold chain, storage, and processing facilities including modernization to align with 4th Industrial Revolution including virtual food banking to reduce food price volatility
- Reduce Food Loss and Waste including developing multiple silos for climate vulnerabilities
- Regional and Global (south south) collaborations and initiatives
Potential Areas of Works for Improved Resilient Food Systems

- Join UNFSS Coalitions of Actions and collaborative strategies for implementation including resource mobilization
- Advocate for satellite-based free internet service across countries
- Uptake integrated optimized land-use strategy across regions
- Promote use and trade of safe agricultural inputs and green technologies
- Enhanced sharing of research outcomes, technologies, data, best practices, successful models, program and policy frameworks
- Leverage international private sector investment into agri-food systems and cross trades trade (stimulations, tax rebates, policies)
- Increased commitments for fundings
- Upcoming commitments for Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit, Japan on 7-8 December 2021
Bangladesh’s Commitments Towards:

**Nourish all people**
**Boost Nature-based Solutions**
**Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities**
**Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses**
**Accelerating the Means of Implementation**

**Health**
Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

**Food**
Transforming the food system, so it promotes safe, sustainable, and healthy foods to support people and planet.

**Resilience**
Effectively addressing malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, supporting resiliency.

**What are the goals at COP26?**
- Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilise finance
- Work together to deliver
Thank You