



Break out group discussion on convergence of food systems transformation and climate action

Reporting back from
SOUTH-EAST ASIA



1. How is your country working aligning food systems and climate agenda?

- South-East Asia countries are facing similar challenges from climate change such as heatwaves, floods, etc. (+ Uzbekistan in our group)
- Countries are at various stages of aligning food systems pathways and NDCs, and NAPs
- Important areas of focus
 - **Improving methodology, advancing research, and generating evidence for climate-smart agriculture**
 - Strengthening evaluation and monitoring, including improving and standardizing indicators and data collection to monitor food system transformation progress
 - GHG emission calculation in addition to rice but also other crops (making it user-friendly for farmers and other users)
 - GMO adaptation, climate-resilient seeds
 - Data-based planning is important (Ex. Indonesia is starting the modeling of methane reductions in paddy fields, and mapping rich biodiversity areas to inform planning)
 - Improve use of spatial data to identify areas at risk of climate disasters (ex. floods) to direct planning of infrastructure, ex irrigation (Lao)
 - **Promoting diversification of crops and biodiversity**
 - Promoting agroecology, agroforestry, and low-carbon footprint food products
 - Strengthening markets and ensuring consumer awareness to have buy in of climate-smart food products
 - Ensuring farmers' engagement and accessibility to climate-smart technology
 - **Addressing food loss and waste from the whole food value chains**
 - **Promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration**
 - Establishing cross-ministerial technical working group with clear lead to formulate climate-food policies
- Countries highlighted the **importance of ASEAN** to promote alignment across countries, while specific national action is still important
- Higher level coordination mechanisms, ex. **food systems transformation pathways** could help guide technical and financial support



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SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Asia-Pacific Food Systems Transformation Progress Review | 29 April 2024



1. How is your country working aligning food systems and climate agenda?

1. Is there a strategy for the inclusion of National Pathway to NDCs, NAPs?

➤ Pakistan

- National adaptation plans (2023) and National food security policy related to national food system transformation pathway
- National food security policy and NAPs < > National Food system transformation pathways
- Revision of curricula to incorporate food systems and climate change
- More work needed to integrate food system transformation and NDCs

➤ Sri Lanka

- NDCs – post harvest loss, increase crop productivity, increase renewable energy for farming and VA NDCs < Climate adaptation and mitigation > National Agricultural Policy
- Climate prosperity plan < land and water management practices >
- FS tech. (traditional and new) reviewed re: appropriateness
- Agromet advisories(one crop cycle ahead)

➤ Bhutan

- NAP < Risk info. for disaster resilience > National food systems transformation pathways

➤ Bangladesh

- Nutrition 4 Growth initiative

1. How is your country working aligning food systems and climate agenda?

2. What climate risks have you considered?

- Floods, high temperatures, changing temperature variability, droughts, changes in cropping seasons, numbers of cool nights and days are reducing (and being mapped) erratic and high-intensity rainfall (Sri Lanka)
- Higher temperatures (42.7 in Bangladesh) periods of longer duration, harvesting damage due to flood (Bangladesh)
- Erratic and high-intensity rainfall, hail storms and floods (South) - (Bhutan)
- Floods and droughts, prolonged high temperatures, delayed cropping season (Pakistan)

1. How is your country working aligning food systems and climate agenda?

1. Is there collaboration between the different Ministries? I.e. Working groups, ministerial desks?
2. Is there collaboration with other stakeholders? I.e. formal channels, platforms, working groups?

Other ministries

- Multi-hazard risk decision support system (Bhutan)
- Pre-season meeting to discuss agro-met advisory with stakeholders and other ministries to plan ahead (Sri Lanka)
- Pakistan Council for Climate Change (meets annually)
- Pakistan inter-ministerial Committee on food security and food system transformation (led by Ministry of food security along with the transformation pathway)

Other stakeholders

- Sharing on the pre-season shared with other stakeholders, including through social media (Sri Lanka)

2. How can the Hub Convergence initiative support country level efforts to link food systems and climate action agenda?

- Who should be involved in this process?
- How can national convenors be effectively supported access the evidence, knowledge, and skills necessary to address the interconnected and complex issues at hand?

Who should be involved in this process?

- Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Food Security, Ministry of Health and nutrition
- Ministry of Planning, Finance, Trade, Education, Water resources management, rural development, Local governments
- Private sector, Universities
- Statistics (NSOs, data platforms/dashboards)

Support needed

- To engage ministries on data
- Develop groupings of countries to work together on transformations
- Seed banking and plant and facilitation of sharing (at regional level)
- Understanding of food system transformation and the holistic approach