

# **Enhancing and implementing Nepal's RtF Regulatory Framework**

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# Presentation Outline

- Nepal food system: Overview, food system transformation pathway
- Government efforts to ensure food security
- RtF Act and Regulation
- Key features
- Governance
- Stakeholders
- Tasks (partnership opportunities with Development Partners)
- Challenges

# The National Food System: An overview

**74th Position**

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Global Food Security  
status 2022

- Agriculture contribute 26% GDP
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> pop<sup>n</sup> employed in agriculture, 70% of which are women.
- 28% Agricultural land, only 21% is cultivated.
- 0.68% land holding size (declining over the years).
- 53% are small holders (<0.5 ha).
- Land fragmentation and fallow land.
- Caste/ethnicity and culture are directly related with food system.

# The National Food System: An overview

**4.6 million**

People who are food-  
insecure

- Volatility of food production has increased due to climate shocks, disasters, resource conflicts, pandemics, disease/pest outbreaks.
- Cost equivalent to 1.5–2% of current GDP/year.
- Mountain: covers 35% land, 7% pop<sup>n</sup>, 204 kg/capita food availability, 38.4% HHs food insecure.
- Hill: covers 42% land, 43% pop<sup>n</sup>, 201 kg/capita food availability, 46.8% HHs food secure.
- Terai: covers 23% land, 50% pop<sup>n</sup>, 242 kg/capita food availability, 51% HHs food secure.

# The National Food System: An overview

## Key Drivers

### Environmental

- Land abandonment
- Climate Change

### Demographic

- Population growth
- rapid urbanization
- conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes
- land fragmentation

### Technological

- Small bundle of technologies available for diverse ecosystems
- cultivation/commercialization of limited crops/commodities

### Socio-economic

- Changes in eating habits-increasing consumption of processed food,
- increase income,
- outmigration of people for jobs

### Physical

- Inadequate physical infrastructures for value adding and connecting to markets

### Cultural

- Food traditions
- women's empowerment

# Food Security Status among SAARC countries (GFSI, 2022)

| Country     | GFSI Rank/Score | Category Rank/ Score |              |                    |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|             |                 | Affordability        | Availability | Quality and Safety |
| Afghanistan | NA              | NA                   | NA           | NA                 |
| Bangladesh  | 80/54           | 87/52.1              | 46/61.5      | 71/58.4            |
| Bhutan      | NA              | NA                   | NA           | NA                 |
| India       | 68/58.9         | 80/59.3              | 42/62.3      | 67/62.1            |
| Nepal       | 74/56.9         | 85/52.7              | 13/70.9      | 72/57.8            |
| Maldives    | NA              | NA                   | NA           | NA                 |
| Pakistan    | 84/52.2         | 75/59.9              | 61/58.3      | 97/49.4            |
| Sri Lanka   | 79/55.2         | 74/61                | 64/57.2      | 81/55              |

In the [2022 Global Hunger Index](#), Nepal ranks **81st** out of the [121 countries](#) 2022 GHI scores. With a score of **19.1**, Nepal has a level of hunger that is **moderate**.

# Nutritional outlook

| SN | Indicators   | WHA Target<br>By 2025 | SDGs Target<br>2030 | Nepal's Current Status |                 |             |
|----|--|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
|    |  |                       |                     | 2016 (NDHS)            | 2019<br>(NMICS) | 2022 (NDHS) |
| 1  | Achieve a 40% reduction in the number of <b>children under - 5 who are stunted</b>       | 24%                   | <15%                | 36%                    | 31.5%           | 25%         |
| 2  | (a) Achieve 50% reduction of <b>anemia among WRA</b>                                     | 18%                   | <10%                | 41%                    | NA              | 34%         |
|    | (b) Achieve 50% reduction of <b>anemia among Children &gt;5</b>                          | 23%                   | <10%                | 53%                    | NA              | 43%         |
| 3  | Achieve a 30% reduction in <b>low birth weight</b>                                       | 8%                    | <5%                 | 12%                    | NA              | NA          |
| 4  | Ensure that there is no increase in <b>childhood overweight</b>                          | ≤1.4%                 | <1%                 | 1.2%                   | 2.6%            | 1%          |
| 5  | Increase rate of <b>exclusive breastfeeding</b> in the first 6 months up to at least 50% | >50%                  | >90%                | 66%                    | 62.1%           | 56%         |

# Food system transformation pathway

1. Ensuring safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Boosting nature-positive food production
4. Advancing equitable livelihoods
5. Resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses
6. Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act



# **Government Efforts to ensure food security**

- Policies to promote agriculture
- Manpower, organization, priority budget to agriculture sector
- Efforts of all three tiers of the Government
- Chemical fertilizer procurement, subsidy on agriculture promotion, agriculture/livestock insurance scheme
- Minimum support price fixation
- Subsidy on food transportation, salt transportation
- Mega projects on agriculture promotion (PMAMP, NLSIP)

# RtF Act and Regulation

- Government of Nepal has approved the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Regulation on 21 March 2024 as a strong legal measure to implement the constitutional provision of the right to food of every citizen.
- This aligns well with the commitment of Nepal to contribute to achieve zero hunger by 2030 as envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2).
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) is the custodian of RtF Act.

# RtF Act and Regulation

## Foundation for food system governance

- Food systems can not operate and deliver effectively in absence of legal framework for the governance of actors and activities.
- A rights-based legal framework ensures predictability and certainty in shaping, developing and operationalizing the food system.
- A well-established legal framework empowers beneficiaries of the food systems to claim, and or demand for accountability.
- It provides a basis for good governance of food systems under a framework of the rule of law.

# **key features of the RtF Act (2018)**

- **Identification of food-insecure households (Section 5 and 6);**
- **distribution of food to priority households (Section 7);**
- **protection of farmers' rights (Section 12 to 19);**
- **requirement to develop a food plan (Section 20);**
- **creation of a public food supply and distribution system (Section 25 to 30);**
- **criminalization of certain elements impairing access to minimum essential foods (Section 39)**
- **creation of national and provincial food councils and local food committees (Section 32, 34 and 36).**

# Major provision in RtF Regulation

- Identification of food insecure households
- Distribution of food at free of cost or at the subsidized price
- Manage food and nutrition in natural calamities
- Minimum support price fixation
- Categorization of farmers
- Promotion of agri-food programs for food security and nutrition
- Food storage and distribution
- Information management system
- Compensation for farmers (insurance and other measures)
- Address climate change issues

# **RtF Governance**

- **National food council : Federal Minister**
- **Provincial food council: Provincial Minister**
- **Local coordination committee : Mayor**
- **Compensation committee (at district level under Chief District Officer)**
- **RtF (Food) inspectors and penalty provision**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development             | Representatives, Peasants Association (women)                     |
| Ministry of Agriculture (provincial ministries)               | Municipal Association   |
| Ministry of Finance   | Rural Municipality Association                                    |
| National Planning commission                                  | Federation of Chamber of Commerce                                 |
| Ministry of Land Reform, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation | External Development Partners (UN Agencies, WHH, FIAN and others) |
| Ministry of Forest and Environment                            |   |
| Ministry of Energy, Land Resources and Irrigation             |   |
| Ministry of Science and Technology                            |   |
| Ministry of Commerce and Supplies                             |   |
| Ministry of Health and Population                             |   |
| Nepal Agriculture Research Council                            |   |
| Nepal Food Management and Trading Company                     |   |
| Municipalities ,District Administration Office                |   |

## Key Stakeholders

# **Role of the Governments and Development Partners**

- **Federal Ministry :** Development of guidelines, tools, Coordination with other Governments, EDP Coordination, financial management
- **Provincial Ministry:** Good down construction management (food handling, farmers registration, promotion of agriculture)
- **Local Government :** Farmers registration, Identification of food insecure population, Food distribution through fair price shops,
- **Development Parters:** Resources mobilization, technical support, advocacy,



# Tasks ahead (partnership opportunities with Development Partners)

- Orientation of the role and responsibilities to the provincial and local government
- Survey form finalization (identification of food insecure population)
- Develop and implement software (food insecure population)
- Identification of criteria for the most vulnerable population
- Type and quantity of food for distribution (finalization)
- Minimum support price declaration
- Farmers registration
- Preparation of national food plan

# partnership ...

- Establish Food security information system (digital system)
- Food storage and handling (Identification of places, guidelines)
- Fair price shop establishment (guidelines)
- Establishment of food council
- Recruitment and training of RtF Inspectors

# Challenges

- Financial resources ( household identification, warehouse, procurement and distribution of food, listing of farmers)
- Technical manpower (food handling, software management)
- Fair price shops establishment
- Culture (general public expectations, political interest)
- MoALD capacity (human resources, expertise, coordination)
- Policy coherence of all three tiers of the government
- Interest of external development partner

**Thank you**