



The European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Global Food and Nutrition Security



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation - Mongolia

Introduction

There is a global consensus that most food systems are unsustainable: they generate food insecurity and hunger, malnutrition (from stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies to obesity), environmental degradations (natural resources depletion, climate change, and biodiversity loss), and inequalities and vulnerabilities among territories and food stakeholders. A transformation toward more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems is urgently needed, and the identification of ad hoc levers to implement this transformation strategic.

On the one hand, the [National Pathways](#) to sustainable food systems are one of the outcomes generated by the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). They have been informed by national dialogues organized during the preparation of the Summit. It should not be assumed that these pathway documents are final or endorsed by the respective government as [most countries](#) approach their pathway as 'living documents', but they still give a picture of the priorities.

On the other hand, under a partnership between the European Union, FAO, and CIRAD, and in cooperation with national and food systems stakeholders, country level [Food Systems Assessments](#) are being conducted, at different level of completion, in more than 50 developing countries.

Both National Pathways (NP) and Food Systems Assessments (FSA) profiles have identified country specific priority actions for the transformation of food systems.

The ambition of this synthesis report is to provide the comprehensive list of these priority actions in a condensed format that helps to gain an overview of the main results of both approaches and allows to some extent a comparison.

Methodological approach

This synthesis report is developed using a three steps approach:

- First, screening NP and FSA reports and extraction of the priority actions. In the National Pathways, the priority actions are called "game changers" and grouped around five "actions tracks" (i.e. thematic areas) defined in the frame of the UNFSS. In the FSA, the priority actions are called "systemic levers" and are grouped around four thematic areas. Notwithstanding these differences, it remains possible to extract from these documents "priority actions" and group them around the five "actions tracks";

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- Second, reformulation, simplification and grouping of NP and FSA priority actions and classification according to the UNFSS five action tracks (Tables 2 and 3). These tables are displayed below to keep trace in a systematic and transparent way of the modifications performed during this step;
- Third, overview in a single table of the NP and FSA priority actions per action track (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of Priority Actions for the Sustainable Transformation of Food Systems in Mongolia

UNFSS	FSA	UNFSS – National Pathway – Priority Actions	Food Systems Assessment – Priority Actions
AT1: Ensure safe and nutritious food for all	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve food safety (policies, legislation, laboratories, certification and traceability mechanisms, quality standards, capacity building) • Align agricultural subsidies with SDGs • Strengthening extension services • Develop vegetable production • Develop dairy production • Increase access to agricultural inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve national capacities on food safety (control, standards, infrastructure) • Improve veterinary and extension services (livestock) • Support the production of nutritious and quality food (e.g. fruits and vegetables)
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition public education campaigns (healthy diet, maternal and child health) and nutrition education in schools curriculum • Support school feeding programmes • Regulatory measures to promote healthy foods • Improve food labelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen nutrition and food safety information and education • Update dietary guidelines • Improve labelling of food products • Develop legislation to limit unhealthy processed food
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote integrated pest management • Promote genetic diversity of crops and livestock • Promote conservation agriculture • Promote payment for ecosystem services • Mainstream environmental education in school curriculum • Strengthen true-cost accounting and users pays principles into policy making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of degraded grazing areas and soils
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SMEs (access to technology and financial services) with a focus on women and young people • Strengthen farmer/herder organisations • Support agricultural exports (Export Promotion Board, "Mongol brand") • Prioritize domestic firms and producers in public procurement (e.g. vegetable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop infrastructure: transport, processing and storage • Improve access to finance • Develop food certification • Inclusive land use agreements • Support farmer collectives for small-scale herders and producers
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve food statistics • Support water recycling • Develop shock responsive social protection program • Develop insurance schemes • Develop weather and climate services for farmers & pastoralists • Capacity building of food producers on climate change and disaster risk reduction • Support climate smart agriculture and livestock production (financial incentives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data collection on food consumption

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

Table 2: Priority Actions - Food Systems Assessment (FSA)

Thematic areas	FSA - Priority Actions (Systemic Levers)		FSA -Reformulation of Priority Actions		Link to AT	Comment
Addressing unbalanced dietary patterns (obesity and diet related-health issues)	1	Reviewing the ‘strategic food’ concept to include nutritional concerns and outcomes, updating formal recommendations, and promoting new dietary guidelines along with nutrition information and education for consumers and stakeholders	1.1	Update dietary guidelines	2	
			1.2	Improve labelling of food products	2	
			1.3	Strengthen nutrition and food safety information and education	2	1.3, 3.2 grouped
			1.4	Develop legislation to limit unhealthy processed food	2	
			1.5	Improve data collection on food consumption	5	
	2	Improving domestic production of nutritious foods through state policies and initiatives.	2.1	Support production of nutritious food (fruits and vegetables)		grouped with 8
			2.2	Improve storage and transportation infrastructure		grouped with 6.1
Addressing food safety issues, especially in the livestock sector	3	Strengthen public health policy on food safety	3.1	Improve national capacities on food safety (control, standards, infrastructure)	1	3.1, 4.1, 5.1 grouped
			3.2	Improve consumer awareness of food safety		grouped with 1.3
	4	Strengthen implementation of food safety standards GASI’s approach to food safety with market-based mechanisms	4.1	Strengthen implementation of food safety standards		grouped with 3.1
			4.2	Introduce market-based incentives for improving quality		grouped with 7.2
	5	Strengthen infrastructure and support services	5.1	Food testing and diagnostics infrastructure		grouped with 3.1
			5.2	Improve veterinary and extension services (livestock)	1	
Develop agro-processing sector and its integration along the value chains	6	Policy focus and support services, especially finance, infrastructure and transport services	6.1	Develop infrastructure: transport, processing and storage	4	2.2, 6.1 grouped
			6.2	Improve access to finance	4	6.2, 7.1 grouped
	7	Value chain development initiatives for both exports and domestic consumption	7.1	Working capital for agri-business players		grouped with 3.2
			7.2	Develop food certification	4	4.2, 7.2 grouped
Addressing marginalization and vulnerability of small-scale herders and producers	8	Incentivize quality over quantity (shift from production-related subsidies to subsidies related to quality of agriculture products)		Support the production of nutritious and quality food (e.g. fruits and vegetables)	1	2.1, 8 grouped
	9	Revitalize and leverage communal institutions for managing common lands to regenerate degraded grazing areas and soils (regenerating pasturelands, more inclusive institutional management of pasturelands).	9.1	Restoration of degraded grazing areas and soils	3	
			9.2	Inclusive land use agreements	4	
	10	Strengthen farmer collectives for small-scale herders and producers (and creating partnership agreements between POs and processors)		Support farmer collectives for small-scale herders and producers	4	
Total	10				14	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic areas	National Pathway - Priority Actions (Game changers)		National Pathway-Reformulation of Priority Actions		Link to AT	Comment
Action area 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food	1	Support national authorities in developing nutrition plans and to strengthen public education campaigns about dietary diversity, diet-related diseases, role of healthy diets and minimizing food waste.		Nutrition public education campaigns (healthy diet, maternal and child health) and nutrition education in schools curriculum	2	1, 6, 10.1 grouped
	2	Strengthen food consumption, production, and food system statistics (including food loss and waste) to track progress, strengthen monitoring, support evidence-based policymaking, and to contribute to reduced food waste and improved utilisation of resources.		Improved food statistics	5	
	3	Accelerate the development and implementation of policies on food safety and promote comprehensive vocational training related to food systems.		Improve food safety (policies, legislation, laboratories, certification and traceability mechanisms, quality standards, capacity building)	1	3, 4, 5, 16, 27, 29 grouped
	4	Strengthen institutions and legislation of relevance to food safety, including legislation on pesticides and animal and plant health and increase knowledge about this legislation throughout the food value chain.				Grouped with 3
	5	Establish strong network of accredited food safety laboratories and invest in human resource development for building capacity to ensure the safety and quality of the food supply.				Grouped with 3
	6	Improve information and guidance on maternal and child health and implement measures to improve nutrition for schoolchildren, young people and adults. Efforts to improve nutrition will be more closely linked to food production, health and education including dissemination of information about maternal health and more diverse diets.				grouped with 1
	7	Further strengthening of school feeding programmes with an aim to provide more budget and giving priority to diverse locally produced food and mainstreaming nutrition/healthy diets education in school curriculum.		Support school feeding programmes	2	
	8	Discourage high consumption of sugar and salts through appropriate public education and regulatory measures including the prohibition of sale of candies and sugar sweetened beverages in and around educational institutions. Discourage procurement of candies in government offices and promotion of low sodium products. In partnership with private sector, develop recipes and guidelines for healthy convenience food and promote healthy food through convenience stores.		Regulatory measures to promote healthy foods	2	
	9	Provide nutrition information through easy to understand labelling and launch a massive public education campaign on label reading while making food purchase choices.		Improve food labelling	2	
	10	Mainstream nutrition and environmental education at all levels in school curriculum.	10.1	Mainstream nutrition education in school curriculum		grouped with 1
10.2			Mainstream environmental education in school curriculum	3		
Action area 2: Markets and value addition	11	Prioritize support for small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs in the areas of business development, access to commercial finance and help to put in place risk-mitigation instruments for start-up businesses.		Support SMEs (access to technology and financial services) with a focus on women and young people	4	11, 12, 14, 17, 21 grouped
	12	Ensure that more women are able to engage in the full range of business activities along food value chains, by providing start-up support to women entrepreneurs, supporting the establishment of women's groups, and promoting women's access to loans and credit.				Grouped with 11

	13	Promote farmer/herder organisations to build capacities, generate scale and enhance their bargaining power so as to facilitate a fairer sharing of value across the market chain		Strengthen farmer/herder organisations	4	
	14	Build competence in the field of food processing, packaging and marketing by making available appropriate technology and financing				Grouped with 11
	15	Develop a long-term vision, strategy and action plan for agriculture exports and provide coordinated support and leadership in exploring new markets and facilitating entry of Mongolian firms into those potential markets. For this purpose, an independent, autonomous Export Promotion Board may be set-up		Support agricultural exports (Export Promotion Board, "Mongol brand")	4	15, 18 grouped
	16	Establish credible certification and traceability mechanisms, harmonise food safety and quality standards for mitigating cross-border risks, and streamline internal processes to substantially reduce the time and costs for obtaining expert permits, licences and other necessary documents.				Grouped with 3
	17	Leverage/combine the power of youth and that of digital technologies to modernize food value chains, improve labour productivity in food and agriculture sector and enhance competitiveness.				Grouped with 11
	18	Develop and promote "Mongol brand" food products in the international and domestic markets. This would also include branding Mongolian food and agriculture products as natural, cruelty free (particularly for animal products), organic and more sustainable.				Grouped with 15
	19	Accelerate the process for obtaining FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) free zone certification for Western Mongolia. Prioritize domestic firms and producers in public procurement for school lunch, hospital meals and other government purchases.		Prioritize domestic firms and producers in public procurement (e.g. vegetable)	4	19; 25.2 grouped
	20	Comprehensively reassess the public expenditure and subsidies in food and agriculture and align the budgeting processes to SDGs.		Align agricultural subsidies with SDGs	1	
	21	Initiate comprehensive financial sector reforms aimed at reducing the overall cost of capital and preferential targeted access to capital by MSMEs.				Grouped with 11
Action area 3: Nature positive and resilient production systems	22	Develop and institutionalize a uniquely Mongolian measure/index that captures the value of Mongolian culture, psychological wellbeing of people, standard of living, good governance, health and nutrition, and ecological diversity and resilience.				Not selected - Not specific
	23	Strengthen economic valuation of natural resources and to better institutionalize the user pays principle into policy making.		Strengthen true-cost accounting and users pays principles into policy making	3	
	24	Strengthen the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable food production at local, national and global level. This will include improving extension services and vocational training in areas related to food systems, and strengthening knowledge in the fields of climate-resilient food production practices, increasing agricultural productivity in cooperation with herders, farmers and youth.	24.1	Support climate smart agriculture and livestock production (financial incentives)	5	24.1, 31.2, 32, 38 grouped
			24.2	Strengthening extension services	1	
	25	Mount a massive program on vegetable production and marketing to contribute to dietary diversity and reduce dependence on imported vegetables. Provide support for farmer markets for sale of local vegetables and encourage consumers to buy local vegetables through public campaigns	25.1	Develop vegetable production	1	
			25.2	Encourage the consumption of locally produced vegetables		grouped with 19
	26	Declare 'Dairy Production' as key priority sector and put in place appropriate institutional structure based on best global practices to foster long term development of dairy sector in a manner that contributes to nutrition, job creation (specially for women) and GHG mitigation.		Develop dairy production	1	

	27	Institute quality standards along the dairy value chain, including strict regulation of antibiotics and drugs, and incentivize quality based pricing.				Grouped with 3
	28	Increase access to the necessary inputs for food production and to information about the correct use of inputs. The government will also promote integrated pest management as an alternative to chemical pesticides.	28.1	Increase access to agricultural inputs	1	
			28.2	Promote integrated pest management	3	
	29	Institutionalize One Health approach and accelerate its implementation to protect human, animal and plant health and the fight against antimicrobial resistance.				Grouped with 3
	30	Strengthen the management of genetic diversity of crops and livestock at local, national and international level including investing in the knowledge of herders and farmers about plant varieties and animal breeds, and provide access to a greater variety of both.		Promote genetic diversity of crops and livestock	3	
	31	Promote use of conservation agriculture and climate smart livestock production practices to mitigate climate change and reduce releases of pollutants to air, soil and water	31.1	Promote conservation agriculture	3	
			31.2	Promote climate-smart livestock production		grouped with 24.1
	32	Reduce and regulate the number of livestock by 5 percent per year as committed in Mongolia's NDCs and align incentives (including recently approved pasture use tax) in support of that objective				grouped with 24.1
	33	Promote global good practices, policy measures and regulatory instruments to promote ecosystems conservation and regeneration and create legal environment for operationalizing payment for ecosystem services.		Promote payment for ecosystem services	3	
	34	Develop and implement a special program that encourages recycling of water from snow and rain into agriculture production.		Support water recycling	5	
	35	Support the development of shock responsive social protection systems, forecast-based financing for risk reduction measures and insurance schemes for vulnerable food producers and other vulnerable groups.	35.1	Develop insurance schemes	5	
			35.2	Develop shock responsive social protection program	5	
	36	Strengthen the development of weather and climate services for farmers and pastoralists to ensure increased access to and use of these services.		Develop weather and climate services for farmers and pastoralists	5	
	37	Increase knowledge about climate change, natural disasters, and disaster risk reduction among food producers.		Capacity building of food producers on climate changed and disaster risk reduction	5	
	38	Mainstream climate-resilient and sustainable food and agriculture interventions into 10 year-long Targeted Development Programs				Grouped with 24.1
Total		38			27	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022