



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



## Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation - Nepal

### 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";
- 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).

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Advancing knowledge towards zero hunger and sustainable food systems

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

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"> <li>Subsidize production of nutrient-dense local crops</li> <li>Promote integrated and diversified farming system to increase dietary diversity</li> <li>Promote local (indigenous) seed sector development</li> <li>Develop infrastructure (roads, storage, irrigation facilities, processing ...)</li> <li>Develop agri-food research and extension systems (including focus on digital services, local knowledge, sustainable agriculture)</li> <li>Support agri-input supply chain</li> <li>Improve pre/post-harvest technologies</li> <li>Improve food safety</li> <li>Adopt Quality Assurance and Quality Certification schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the production of local and nutritious food (promotion of local varieties, home gardens in urban areas, input subsidies, market access)</li> <li>Promote small-scale mechanization (women friendly technology)</li> <li>Support reallocation of fallow land (taxes, land bank, mapping)</li> <li>Implement land consolidation</li> <li>Develop scientific land classification</li> <li>Improving post-harvest technology (processing, packaging)</li> </ul>
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising on nutritious food (including on local crops)</li> <li>Promote breastfeeding (infant &amp; children nutrition)</li> <li>Taxes on unhealthy food and regulation of packaging and marketing</li> <li>Develop nutrition guidelines</li> <li>Support start-up agri-business for healthy food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness campaign on the benefits of local food</li> </ul>
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Sustainable Land Management</li> <li>Promote agro-ecological/organic farming</li> <li>Support conservation agriculture</li> <li>Support community forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote water quality and appropriate pesticide use</li> </ul>
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform land tenure system (inclusive and fair distribution)</li> <li>Issuance of farmers identification card</li> <li>Capacity building on digital technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to land and capital for women</li> <li>Strengthen land use management and legislation (secure access)</li> <li>Food trade protection measures (import barriers and controls)</li> <li>Investment in social infrastructure (schools, health facilities)</li> </ul>
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislation on right to food and food sovereignty</li> <li>Improve food system governance</li> <li>Support climate resilient agriculture</li> <li>Establish food banks</li> <li>Develop insurance services</li> <li>Develop food security information system</li> <li>Develop social protection systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislation on the right to food and food sovereignty</li> <li>Strengthen local food governance</li> <li>Improve market information system</li> <li>Implement livelihood support strategies for the poorest (social protection, cash transfer, employment schemes)</li> </ul>

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

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

Thematic areas	FSA – Priority Actions (Systemic Levers)	FSA – Reformulation Priority Actions	Link to AT	Comment	
Food security, nutrition and health	<b>1</b> <b>Improve the efficiency of value chains</b> - improve the public distribution and availability of good quality local food products in the market, encouraging their consumption and improving food security; - reduce the length of value chains and number of intermediaries to limit product losses during processing; - avoid spoiling products by using appropriate transport. This lever would need: - improving road conditions; - better dissemination of market information; - promote adoption of local varieties; - encourage processing and packaging; - consumer awareness of the benefits of local products.	1,1	Investment in social infrastructure (schools, health facilities)	4	1.1; 2.3 grouped
		1,2	Investment in productive infrastructure (roads, transport, irrigation systems, storage, processing facilities, local markets)		1.2; 3.1 grouped
		1,3	Improve market information system	5	
		1,4	Support the production of local and nutritious food (promotion of local varieties, home gardens in urban areas, input subsidies, market access)	1	1.4; 3.2; 3.4; 3.6; 4.2; 4.7; 5.2; 5.3; 7.5 grouped
		1,5	Improving post-harvest technology (processing, packaging)	1	1.5; 5.4 grouped
		1,6	Awareness campaign on the benefits of local food	2	1.6; 3.3 grouped
	<b>2</b> <b>Promote small-scale mechanization to avoid land being left fallow</b> This lever would need: - women-friendly technology to reduce drudgery; - improving women’s access to resources (land and capital); - developing better services and infrastructure (schools, health facilities, roads, and markets); - support reallocation of fallow land (taxes, land bank, mapping).	2,1	Promote small-scale mechanization (women friendly technology)	1	
		2,2	Improve access to land and capital for women	4	
		2,3	Develop infrastructure (schools, health facilities, roads, and markets)		grouped with 1.1 and 1.2
		2,4	support reallocation of fallow land (taxes, land bank, mapping)	1	2.4; 7.4 grouped
	<b>3</b> <b>Improve storage and processing capacity to increase competitiveness of local products compared to those from India:</b> - encourage farmers to focus on crops with high nutritive and cultural value and which also tolerate the effects of climate change; - persuading consumers to use local products; - investments in production and marketing infrastructure (irrigation systems, storage, processing facilities, local markets); - strengthening of value and marketing chains and connecting farmers with markets; - food import barriers; - input subsidies; - improved access to financial institutions; - stricter quality control on imports (e.g. regarding chemical residues)	3,1	Investments in production and marketing infrastructure (irrigation systems, storage, processing facilities, local markets)		grouped with 1.2
		3,2	Promote traditional and nutritious crops		grouped with 1.4
		3,3	Promote consumption of local food		grouped with 1.6
		3,4	Improve market access		grouped with 1.4
		3,5	Food trade protection measures (import barriers and controls)	4	3.5; 3.7 grouped
		3,6	Input subsidies		grouped with 1.4
		3,7	Stricter quality control on food import		grouped with 3.5
	<b>4</b> <b>Other levers:</b> - improve land use management (secure access) - promote local genetic material, local varieties, and agricultural diversification - improve infrastructure and technologies for transport and storage; - promote water quality and appropriate pesticide use - Legislation on the right to food and food	4,1	Improve land use management (secure access)		grouped with 7.3
		4,2	promote local genetic material, local varieties, and agricultural diversification		grouped with 1.4
		4,3	Improve infrastructure and technologies for transport and storage		grouped with 1.2

		sovereignty; - Improve coordination in policies and interventions; - Support and encourage farmers to invest in agricultural production.	4,4	Promote water quality and appropriate pesticide use	3	
			4,5	Legislation on the right to food and food sovereignty	5	
			4,6	Improve coordination in policies and interventions;		grouped with 5.1
			4,7	Support and encourage farmers to invest in agricultural production		grouped with 1.4
Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods	5	Implement livelihood support strategies for the poorest (social protection, cash transfer, employment schemes) to increase the availability of food intake and diversify the diet with nutritious food. Several conditions need to be fulfilled: - organizing food supply in remote and food-deficit areas; - supporting the production of nutritious food; - supporting small home gardens in urban areas; - improving post-harvest technology	5,1	Implement livelihood support strategies for the poorest (social protection, cash transfer, employment schemes)	5	
			5,2	Support the production of nutritious food		grouped with 1.4
			5,3	Support small home gardens in urban areas		grouped with 1.4
			5,4	Improving post-harvest technology		grouped with 1.5
Territorial equity and development	6	Reinforce the legal framework and capacities of local authorities (better policies, data generation, protection of indigenous crops)	6,1	Strengthen local food governance	5	4.6; 6.1 grouped
Sustainable natural resource use and environment	7	Improve land use planning to strengthen the supply chain and food security. This lever could be implemented through: - land consolidation projects; - establishment of scientific land classification; - strengthen land use legislation (to encourage leasing); - creation of a land bank; - timely supply of inputs.	7,1	Implement land consolidation	1	
			7,2	Develop scientific land classification	1	
			7,3	Strengthen land use management and legislation (secure access)	4	7.3; 4.1 grouped
			7,4	Creation of land bank		grouped with 2.4
			7,5	Ensure timely supply of inputs		grouped with 1.4
<b>Grand total</b>					<b>16</b>	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

**Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway**

Thematic areas	National Pathway – Priority Actions (Game Changers)		National Pathway – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
1: Ensuring safe and nutritious food for all	1	Harmonize agriculture, food and nutrition and health and other sectoral policies, and set up accountable food governance mechanism through the implementation of Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act to create an enabling environment for promoting local food production systems.	Legislation on right to food and food sovereignty	5	
	2	Increase investment in agricultural research, extension and education to develop and disseminate agricultural technologies as per the diverse climatic condition and need of the stakeholders.	Develop agri-food research and extension systems (including focus on digital services, local knowledge, sustainable agriculture)	1	2, 9, 12, 40, 43, 51, 63 grouped
	3	Operationalization of food banks, and conservation and utilization of local crops/commodities that have high nutrition.	Establish food banks	5	3, 11,70, 73 Grouped
			Promote consumption of local foods		Grouped with 8
	4	Set up a strong food security information management system at different levels to strengthen evidence-based agriculture, food security, and nutrition planning. Conserve and utilize local crops/commodities that have high nutrition.	Develop food security information system	5	4, 41, 66, 84 grouped
	5	Expand irrigation coverage, and develop infrastructures like roads, storage and processing.	Develop infrastructure (roads, storage, irrigation facilities, processing ...)	1	5, 26 grouped
	6	Develop gender friendly pre/post-harvest technology and improve quality agri-input supply and product marketing systems involving private sectors.	Improve pre/post-harvest technologies		Grouped with 27
			Support agri-input supply chain	1	
	7	Integrate crops-vegetables with aquaculture and Animal Husbandry for small-scale farmers and increase dietary diversity and value addition.	Promote integrated and diversified farming system to increase dietary diversity	1	7, 55 grouped
	8	Education and awareness raising programs for the consumption of nutrient rich foods.	Awareness raising on nutritious food (including on local crops)	2	3, 8, 19, 23, 24, 29, 31, 54, 71 grouped
	9	Restructuring research and extension system to address the needs of the farmers and value chain actors for nutrition and food security.			Grouped with 2
	10	Ensure infant and children nutrition by enhancing access to breast feeding through policy/programmes and enacting Breast Milk Substitutes Act, levying additional taxes for unhealthy foods and regulation for unhealthy food marketing.	Promote breastfeeding (infant & children nutrition)	2	10, 21 grouped
			Policy measures (levying taxes) and regulation of unhealthy foods marketing		Grouped with 16
	11	Ensure proper nutrition for Old-age generation including food bank for them at different levels; food safety, hygiene and nutrition, food fortification focusing more on biofortification to enrich nutrition, and food composition database preparation.			Not selected - not specific
12	Digitization of agriculture practices (digital agriculture extension, marketing etc), and capacity building in agriculture, nutrition, and food safety at all levels of governance.			Grouped with 2	
13	Recognize the role of private sectors in food production/value addition and engage/involve them.			Not selected - not specific	
14	Adopt Quality Assurance and Quality Certification system for the products through adopting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) etc.	Adopt Quality Assurance and Quality Certification schemes	1		
2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns	15	Develop nutrient profiling model and nutrient profiling-based taxation on food.			Not selected - not specific
	16	Marketing control - regulation of misleading advertisement of unhealthy packaged foods and other low grade ready to consume foods.	Taxes on unhealthy food & regulation of packaging and marketing	2	10, 16 grouped
	17	Update/develop the age specific Food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) considering the issues of environment, food waste, affordability, local foods etc.	Develop nutrition guidelines	2	17, 20 grouped

	18	Front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) also containing information on trans fatty acids-ecolabelling/traffic light labelling and mandatory labelling with on pack visuals.			Grouped with 16
	19	Raising awareness of improved choices and stimulating demand for nutrient-rich foods.			Grouped with 8
	20	Update national guideline of Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) to create maternal baby friendly environment at workplace, health system, public places and community setting.			Grouped with 17
	21	Monitor the implementation of Breastmilk Substitute Act; increase maternity and paternity protection to at least 6 months with full salary.			Grouped with 10
	22	Invest in lactation management skills and competencies for health care workers and establish human milk banks in Kathmandu and provincial hospitals.			Grouped with 10
	23	School nutrition program- Promote healthy diet, healthy eating behaviour and knowledge through school education.			Grouped with 8
	24	Promote local diverse foods in public gathering and as snack in official meetings.			Grouped with 8
	25	Subsidize and incentivize the farming of nutrient-dense local crop and landraces.	Subsidize production of nutrient-dense local crops	1	25, 37 grouped
	26	Infrastructure development and maintaining cold chain to reduce on-farm and post-harvest losses.			Grouped with 5
	27	Develop technologies and mandatory guidelines for post-harvest handling of foods to reduce food loss and waste and monitor food safety.	Improve pre/post-harvest technologies	1	6, 27 grouped
	28	Policy and interventions to minimize antibiotics and chemical pesticides residue in foods.	Improve food safety	1	
	29	Develop framework for the private sector engagement in producing healthy foods, popularizing healthy dietary pattern.			Grouped with 8 and 30
	30	Provisioning start-up funding for promising Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) producing and marketing healthy foods.	Support start-up agri-business for healthy food	2	29, 30, 58, 59 grouped
	31	Mobilize civil society and youth in promoting healthy food habits.			Grouped with 8
	32	Develop National food security and nutrition framework with clear delineation of roles of different government and enhance capacity of institutions for improving governance.	Improve food system governance	5	
3: Boosting nature-positive production	33	Development and adoption of Climate resilient agriculture and food system.	Support climate resilient agriculture	5	
	34	Integrated Sustainable Land Management by enforcement of Land use Act (2019) and Land Use Policy (2015) at Agroecosystem and Landscape based planning.	Integrated Sustainable Land Management	3	34, 44 grouped
	35	Revitalization of local indigenous food system and social system through agroecological /organic farming.	Promote agroecological/organic farming	3	35, 39 grouped
	36	Improvement of soil health through legume rotation, conservation agriculture.	Support conservation agriculture	3	
	37	Value chain development of local crops /commodities based on green technologies or regenerative agriculture practices in partnership with private sector.			Grouped with 25
	38	Integrated Management of Crops - livestock-forestry/ pastureland with focus on agroforestry /integrated farming systems through revitalization of indigenous regenerative production system.			Grouped with 35
	39	Investment on food-water-energy-biodiversity-health nexus for improved and healthy agroecosystems.			Not selected - not specific
	40	Empowering and build the capacity of farmers and institutions by bringing private sector investment in research and development, including indigenous and local knowledge and good practices.			Grouped with 2
	41	Establish and communicate a comprehensive agricultural information, knowledge, database and services systems through effective community based and private sector driven extension system.			Grouped with 4



	42	Reorient and apply community forestry concept to Forests based food production & restoration of degradation ecosystems.	Support community forestry	3	
	43	Research investment in green, climate smart, resilient, and regenerative technologies, and innovations.			Grouped with 2
	44	Conservation & sustainable use of agrobiodiversity by promoting site specific crops, commodities & NUS (neglected and underutilized species).			Grouped with 34
4: Advancing equitable livelihoods	45	Categorize farmers, producers, issuance of farmers ID and provision of categorized services and incentives.	Issuance of farmers identification card	4	45, 79 grouped
	46	Implement land use policy to ensure to inclusive tenure and user rights for women, small holders and poor.	Reform land tenure system (inclusive and fair distribution)	4	46, 62 grouped
	47	Implement policies, guidelines, procedures for equitable access to water, employability within food systems, and targeted provisions.			Not selected - not specific
	48	Formalization of agriculture sector jobs to ensure regular employments, fix wage rates without gender discrimination, assurance of decent work.			Not selected - not specific
	49	Partnership with private sector in promoting agriculture-based production, enterprising, marketing and reaching services to marginalized.			Not selected - not specific
	50	Capacity strengthening of all actors in use of IT, infrastructure development in both on farm and off farm employment sectors to diversify economic opportunities for women, youth, poor.	Capacity building on digital technology	4	
	51	Research and evidence-based planning based on needs, priorities and demands of consumer and market.			Grouped with 2
	52	Improvement conservation, promotion and registration of indigenous seeds.	Promote local (indigenous) seed sector development	1	
	53	Robust monitoring and evaluation of program, grant and any other support that are entitled to women, youth and small holders.			Not selected - not specific
	54	Prepare inclusive communication strategy to raise awareness on local and nutritious foods.			Grouped with 8
	55	Diversify food system, innovate culinary arts and promote processing industries for high value industrial crops.			Grouped with 7
	56	Strengthen producers, vendors, market actors and consumers in the decision-making of rural food system transformation.			Not selected - not specific
	57	Define inter-connected initiatives linking with income generation, safety net, health e.g., breastfeeding, school meal programs, tourism etc.			Not selected - not specific
	58	Capacity building and skill enhancement, easy access to production inputs for SME's growth and market explorations as well crisis responsive actions.			Grouped with 30
	59	Support youths to engage in profitable niche-based competitive local produce for both domestic and export markets.			Grouped with 30
	60	Promote inclusive governance in food system in both production resource management as well as market governance to benefit by all specially of women, poor and vulnerable communities			Grouped with 32
61	Execute programs to ensure right to employment, work-place safety, equal pay for equal work, better health, and choice of livelihoods options especially for women, youth, poor, and marginalized groups.			Not selected - not specific	
5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses	62	Effective implementation of land use policy and legal framework, agro-met services/advisory.			Grouped with 46
	63	R&D on resilient technology (including local crops and soil management), proper water management and irrigation technologies.			Grouped with 2
	64	Strengthen supply chain system, multi-sectoral approach to enhance resilience.			Not selected - not specific

	65	Proper coordination mechanism between the 3 spheres of government and stakeholders.			Not selected - not specific
	66	Food security monitoring system (NeKSAP) in place for vulnerability and mapping of affected people.			Grouped with 4
	67	Provision of vulnerability card to the vulnerable community, evidence-based decision-making.			Not selected - not specific
	68	Preparedness, response and recovery mechanism in place, expansion of insurance coverage.	Develop insurance services	5	
	69	Mainstreaming resilience into sectoral programming; develop risk informed programme, building resilience for food system, agroforestry.			Not selected - not specific
	70	Fair price shops in food insecure areas, food storage and stocking of food including supplementary/ therapeutic food for emergency, strengthen food distribution system.			Grouped with 3
	71	Prevention and management of malnutrition.			Grouped with 8
	72	Link Prime Minister (PM)/ Chief Minister (CM) employment programmes to Food Systems, Social protection system in place, re-settlement of people living in vulnerable areas to safe area.	Develop social protection systems	5	
	73	Maintain food storage and food bank for emergency situation (Local govt to take responsibly).			Grouped with 3
6: Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act- a legal framework for sustainable food systems in Nepal	74	Set up and strengthen institutional architecture at 3 spheres of govt. (based on Act, policy, strategies, etc).			Not selected - not specific
	75	Develop Bylaws on Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act and implement them for advancing food system and food governance.			Grouped with 1
	76	Orientation to people's representative and farmers about the law, policies and programmes.			Not selected - not specific
	77	Coordination mechanism to regulate the law and guidelines, strengthen governance and accountability.			Not selected - not specific
	78	Formulation of provincial Act and regulations.			Not selected - not specific
	79	Implement farmers' identification card.			Grouped with 45
	80	Strong legal coordination mechanism between local, provincial, and federal government.			Not selected - not specific
	81	Ensuring policy /programme coherence in agriculture, food security and nutrition; build synergies.			Not selected - not specific
	82	Adequate financing to the Province and Local levels based on their performance on the implementation of Act, and relevant policies.			Not selected - not specific
	83	Implementation of 15 <sup>th</sup> Plan, Periodic Plans, and localization of SDGs with priority.			Not selected - not specific
	84	Invest on setting up a mechanism for systematic data collection, analysis, and management for strengthening the evidence-based policy making.			Grouped with 4
<b>Sub-total</b>					
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>84</b>		<b>28</b>	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022