

“सबके लिए स्वास्थ्यप्रद भोजन सुनिश्चित कराने के लिए सतत कृषि और किसानों की आमदनी दुगनी करना” विषय पर हितधारकों की कार्यशाला
सतत विकास लक्ष्य 2 दिग्दर्शन का प्रारूप
८ मई २०१८
जूनिपर हॉल, इंडिया हैबिटॉट सेंटर, नई दिल्ली



Stakeholder Workshop on
“Sustainable Agriculture and Doubling Farmers’ Income to Ensure Healthy Food for All”
SDG 2 Roadmap Framework

8 May 2018
Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



AGENDA NOTE

Background

The 70th UN Summit in September 2015 adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 goals and 169 related targets at its core called as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development for implementation over the fifteen year period starting January 2016. The SDGs have an overarching agenda, seeking to eliminate rather than reduce poverty and hunger and include more demanding targets on multi-dimensional poverty, health, education, gender equality, clean energy and climate change etc. supported by peace, justice and strong institutions and global partnerships etc.

The SDG framework builds upon ethos of ‘no one is left behind’ and ‘dignity for all’. A unique feature of the SDGs is their deep interconnectedness. SDG 2 on Food and Nutrition Security is linked to all SDGs. Access to food is contingent upon elements like ending poverty (SDG 1), better health (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), access for urban vulnerable (SDG 11), peace (SDG 16), and supporting elements like drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7), environmental dimension (SDG 13, 14 and 15), growth (SDG 8) and innovation (SDG 9). Further, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production is a crucial SDG and has strong bearing on all SDGs, besides of course, SDG 17 on means of implementation being the critical lynchpin to achieve all SDGs.

In India there are a large number of policies and programmes in place to address various components of hunger and malnutrition. Several government agencies including Central and State/UT governments are involved in operationalization and implementation of these policies and programmes. To name a few, we have National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), and Mid-day Meal (MDM) Programme etc. Among various related interventions TPDS, ICDS and MDM together have a Central budget support of around Rs. 2 lakh crore for 2018-19.

There was a decline in proportion of underweight children (among less than five years being below – 2 SDs i.e. Standard Deviations) from 42.5 per cent as per NFHS 3 (2005-06) to 35.7 per cent as per NFHS 4 (2015-16), showing some success of various interventions to address the issue of malnutrition. However, NFHS 4 revealed that, the undernourishment among Indian children is still alarming, as 38.4 per cent of children below 5 years were stunted (low height-for-age), 21.0 per cent were wasted (low weight-for-height), among them 7.5 per cent were severely wasted (below – 3 SDs), 2.0 per cent were overweight (above normal weight-for-height), and 58.5 per cent of children aged between 6 and 59 months were anaemic. Within the adult population of age 15-49 years, a high 53.0 per cent of women and 22.7 per cent of men were found to be anaemic. Further, among adults, the Body Mass Index (BMI) of 22.9 per cent women and 20.2 per cent men was below the normal; whereas, 20.7 per cent of women and 18.6 per cent of men were either overweight or obese being more prone to lifestyle diseases like high BP, diabetes etc. Beside this, wide variations were observed in malnutrition profile of population across different states/UTs.

In order to address the present scenario and to bring nutrition to the centre-stage of the National Development Agenda, NITI Aayog has evolved National Nutrition Strategy in December 2017, envisaging a ‘*Kuposhan Mukh Bharat*’. Further, in December 2017 Government of India approved a ‘National Nutrition Mission (NNM)’ as an apex body to monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions etc. across the Ministries with a three-year budget of over Rs. 9,000 crore commencing from 2017-18. NNM was formally launched by the Prime Minister in March 2018, naming it as ‘Poshan Mission’.

In the light of criticality of malnutrition in India, all stakeholders need to be involved in a holistic manner to fastrack all efforts and attain concrete results. All the more there is need to build resilience to climate related shocks to evolve supporting sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production.

Context of the Workshop

The World Food Programme (WFP) India, a UN organization, entrusted RIS to prepare draft of ‘National Roadmap Framework for SDG 2’, to be also an input material for their Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023). The RIS draft report covers current situation, challenges, policies and programmes of the government, gaps to address and various suggestions and recommendations to accelerate actions for timely achievement of SDG 2.

In this endeavor, a Stakeholder Workshop on SDG 2 titled “Agriculture and Doubling Farmers’ Income to Ensure Healthy Food for All” is being organized on **8th May 2018** at Juniper Hall, **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi** with the following objectives:

- To facilitate deliberations on key thematic areas and issues related to agriculture, food and nutrition security in India;
- To analyze critical gaps and important strategies to achieve the targets and to ensure sustainable outreach towards sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security;
- To harness interconnectedness among various goals as a positive externality; and
- To involve various stakeholders to build lasting partnerships towards achieving SDG 2 and all other SDGs.

Sessions and Themes

The Workshop will consist of four technical sessions covering key aspects of sustainable agriculture harnessing genetic diversity, doubling farmers' income, food security, and agriculture and food market reforms to ensure healthy food for all to achieve SDG 2. The Workshop would have an inaugural and valedictory session besides four technical sessions are briefly outlined below:

Technical Session 1: Brief Presentation on Salient Features of an RIS Study

The session will provide an overview of the draft report on 'National Roadmap Framework for SDG 2'. The presentation will touch upon an analysis of the current situation in the country; evaluation of the existing policy and programmatic responses, identification of the gaps in order to accelerate progress towards SDG 2 and largely focus on various suggestions and recommendations enjoining action by all stakeholders.

Technical Session 2: Sustainable Agriculture with Higher Productivity and Incomes

Recognizing the importance of sustainable agriculture, Government of India has launched National Sustainable Agriculture Mission (NSAM, 2010) to encourage the States to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and produce crop commodities by sustaining the quality and quantity of natural resources. Resilient ecosystems, sustained resources in terms of water conservation, well-maintained soil-cover and soil-health, optimum mix of organic manures supplemented with chemical fertilizers wherever required, crop diversification and crop rotation, conservation of genetic diversity are some of the pre-requisites to have sustainable agriculture.

However, the agricultural production ecosystems faces certain short-term profit-fueled aberrations like MSP regime favouring paddy and wheat; next to nil *per se* price of water, highly subsidized or free electric power, highly subsidized chemical fertilizers and over-use of pesticides which are required to be looked upon. A comprehensive sustainable agriculture framework can provide push to farmers' aspiration of having a field that can give increasing yield, production and profit year after year without getting adversely affected by short-term vagaries of nature and medium- to long-term climate changes. Hence, there is a need to promote sustainable agriculture through technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading, and socially acceptable use of country's natural resources – land, water and genetic endowment. Moreover, concerted efforts should be made to pool, distil and evaluate traditional practices, knowledge and wisdom, which should be harnessed for sustainable agricultural growth. Sustainable agriculture is the *sine qua non* to ensure adequate and healthy food for all. In the light of above, this session will focus on deliberations over resilient ecosystems, sustained resources and conservation of genetic diversity; required agricultural market reforms at sub-national, national and international level; to ensure better implementation and achievement of doubling farmers' income strategies in a sustainable manner. It would also focus on evolving a measurement and monitoring framework for SDG 2 and other SDGs.

Technical Session 3: Food Security

Food security is multidimensional in nature with food availability, access, utilization and its stability as vital components. The aspects of food security and nutrition security are inseparable. For example, under SDG 2, the target 2.1 covering safety and sufficiency of food all year round rightly adds to it the nutritional aspects. The food security can be achieved through consistent and sustained production of

food commodities through various interventions that enable farmers to cultivate crops using appropriate farming technologies and ensuring its access especially to the vulnerable sections of the society. The main challenges in achieving food security are access, climate change, land degradation and not internalizing impact of urbanization etc. One can overcome such challenges by say, introducing pulses and enhancing share of millets in foodgrain distribution under TPDS, spreading community kitchens to provide hot nutritious and hygienic meals. Adopting a comprehensive approach involving dietary diversification, public health measures and horticulture interventions for achieving nutrition security, strengthening value chains and cold chains for improving price stability, and year-round availability etc. are equally critical.

In the light of above, this session will deliberate on the issues related to efficient procurement and distribution systems to address hunger, highlight the significance of promoting diversification in food basket, while keeping food safety and security in mind and avoiding food wastage.

Technical Session 4: Ensuring Healthy Food for All: Building on National Nutrition Framework

This session will focus on the means and ways to ensure healthy food for all to build on National Nutrition Framework. Its coverage would go beyond calorific needs through sustainability to provide healthy food for the current and next generations. Essence would be on not to leave anyone behind especially such sections of the society which are vulnerable. It would promote awareness to access healthier choices to move towards health-centric approach to attain universal health coverage. To facilitate nutrition, Government of India among many programmes implements Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme. ICDS, being one of the world's largest and unique programmes, envisage comprehensive early childhood care and development by focusing on children in age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls; while MDM aims at enhanced enrolment, retention and attendance besides improvement of nutritional levels among children. However, these programmes suffer from some gaps in terms of implementation, coverage of beneficiaries etc. There is a need to establish synergy and convergence under the ICDS/MDM and other nutrition and education related programmes starting right from village and school levels up to Union Government level.

Notably, the migrating population is the most vulnerable section as they suffer a lot in terms of getting better nutrition. In order to provide better nutritional access to this section, many states have come up with the idea of providing nutritious and hygienic meals meeting local food habits through Community Kitchens. In order to ensure that Community Canteens / Kitchens are financially viable and sustained the price charged need not be excessively low.

Way Forward and Valedictory Session

This session aims to crystallize various views, suggestions and recommendations from the stakeholders as a way forward to fast track achievement of SDG 2.