



FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY OF BHUTAN 2023



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu, Bhutan



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1. Background

The Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Policy 2014 has been the basis for steering the development of the agriculture and livestock sector thus far. Nevertheless, the implementation of the 2014 policy has revealed certain inadequacies in holistically capturing critical aspects of food safety, health and nutrition, and livestock development amongst others. The conventional challenges faced by the sector such as human-wildlife conflict, increasing fallow land, farm workforce shortages, and subsistence farming have been further compounded by increasing incidences of climate related challenges such as floods, landslides, pests and diseases. The revised FNS Policy shall provide policy directives to overcome these challenges.

In addition, the transformation and renewed emphasis on accelerated development of our economy, and following the insights from the COVID-19 pandemic which has unveiled the deep fractures in the agri-food system, necessitated the review and revision of FNS Policy 2014. The urgency to review and revise the Policy was also drawn from the Royal Audience granted to the Ministry on 31st August, 2021. Thus, the revised policy is geared towards revamping the food system which is not only resilient to shock and stressors, and delivers in the face of uncertainties, but also be able to maximize performance and contribution to the nation's economy. The revised FNS Policy will be the basis for the formulation of the agri-food sector strategy, 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) and the long-term perspective plan.

The revised FNS Policy will be the basis for formulation of the RNR Strategy. (MoAL's long-term plan) and the 13th plan.

The preliminary draft long-term plan (2024-34) foresees Bhutan to be a high-income country with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 10 billion in 2034 from USD 2.3 billion in 2021 and GDP per capita of more than USD 12,000 in 2034 from USD 3,358 in 2021. Therefore, this FNS policy is framed to enable the agriculture and livestock sector to accelerate performance, innovation and development in achieving this ambitious growth target.

2. Introduction

The primary sector (agriculture, livestock and forestry) continues to be the backbone of the rural economy in Bhutan. In 2021, the primary sector contributed 19.19% of the GDP, up from 14% in 2012 (National Account Statistics, 2022), and directly employed 49% of the employed persons in Bhutan (Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan, 2022). The primary sector provides income generating opportunities through many backward and forward linkages between rural sectors. The primary sector is also important for ensuring food security not only for the farming communities themselves, but also to satisfy the demand from the growing population in urban centers.

By 2034, the agriculture and livestock sector will have to feed about 837,288 people. Considering the current per capita consumption, this would require 289,748 MT (from 162,931 MT in 2021) of cereals, 140,160 MT (from 124,116 MT in 2021) of vegetables, pulses, fruits, roots and tubers, mustard and spices, 82,202 MT of milk (from 54,654 MT in 2021), 5003 MT of meat (from 2,759 in 2021), and 198 million eggs (from 133 million eggs in 2021) annually by 2034. This calls for a significant increase in the production of agriculture and livestock commodities to keep pace with the increasing demand for food and enhancing incomes of our farmers to be able to afford food.

Together with increasing food production, it is also critical to ensure our population has access to safe, healthy and nutritious food. Consuming healthy food ensures health and well-being of the population. Yet, consumption is concentrated on cereals (mostly rice) and meat while the consumption of vegetables, fruits and milk is low. Bhutan continues to experience the triple burden of malnutrition (under-weight, overweight and micro-nutrient deficiency) with 21.2% of the children under five years of age reported to be stunted. The prevalence of anemia among children aged between 6 and 59 months was reported at 43.8% indicating a severe public health concern among the population. The steps survey of Bhutan 2019 found that 86.4% of the surveyed individuals do not consume the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables compounded with high mean salt consumption of 8.3 grams per person per day. The survey also reported that 33% of the population aged between 15 and 69 years were overweight and 11.4% were obese.

3. Key Challenges

Some of the key challenges towards the production and consumption of safe, healthy and nutritious food are:

- 1. Labour shortage:** The percentage of population employed in agriculture has decreased from 65% in 2009 to 49.2% in 2021 (Labour Force Survey, 2021), accounting for an approximate reduction of the labour force by 1.4% annually. The labour shortages are mainly attributed to hardships associated with farm work, seasonal nature of employment, low or unpaid family worker, and better off-farm opportunities.
- 2. Feminization of agriculture and ageing farming population:** The share of female labour force in agriculture has increased from 52.5% in 2005 to 59.3 % in 2017 (Population and Housing Census Report, 2017) primarily due to out-migration of mainly young male individuals leading to the phenomenon of agriculture feminization (Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood Project, 2016) and ageing farm labour force. The RNR Census Report (2019) shows an overrepresentation of women in the farming sector. Similarly, the Labour Force Survey (2021) shows that between 2020 and 2021, the working-age population in rural areas decreased by 0.7% while in urban areas the population increased by 2.2%. Between 2021 and 2022, the working-age population in rural areas decreased by 6.7% while in urban areas, it increased by 10.1% (Labour Force Survey, 2022).
- 3. Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Crop and livestock depredation by wild animals is one of the major reasons for low agriculture and livestock production in spite of productivity being on the rise, and increase in the fallow land. The National Impact Assessment Report on Electric Fencing, 2021 reports that farmers suffer crop loss between 19% to 43% annually due to wildlife damage despite guarding their fields for 3-4 months.
- 4. Fallow land and land fragmentation:** The fallow land has increased from 61,000 acres in 2009 to 66,120 acres in 2019. Over the same period, the overall agricultural land was reduced from 234,509 acres to 172,086 acres (RNR Census, 2019).
- 5. Low usage of modern agriculture and livestock inputs and technologies:** About 24% of the agricultural area is under farm mechanization while the remaining 76 % remains under traditional practices. Only about 29% of the agricultural area is under assured irrigation and 3,600 MT of synthetic fertilizers and seeds are applied (Strategy on rice self-sufficiency and incentivization of rice production in Bhutan for its perpetuity, 2022).

6. **Predominantly subsistence farming:** Agriculture in Bhutan is still predominantly subsistence with only about 9 % of farmers producing for sale (RNR Census, 2019).
7. **Weak value chain and marketing logistics:** The marketing of agriculture and livestock commodities is constrained by small land holdings, scattered settlements, low volume, seasonal production, high transportation costs, post-harvest losses, inefficient domestic market linkages and limited export market diversification. Inadequate aggregation centers, sorting, grading, storage and processing facilities, lack of proper pack-house at entry and exit points, weak quality control and certification and insufficient market facilities among others continue to be major constraints in the marketing logistics. The majority of the food processing businesses are cottage and small scale. Minimal product development from primary raw materials leads to a huge import of basic products. For instance, the import value of agriculture and livestock commodities in 2021 stood at Nu. 10.4 billion, which was more than thrice the export value of Nu. 3.1 billion (Bhutan Trade Statistics, 2021).
8. **Poor private sector engagement:** Investment in agriculture is largely state-led with very limited participation from the private sectors and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Investment in agriculture is seen as a risky avenue with a high degree of uncertainty. In addition, weak value chain and logistics facilities, lack of markets, limited credit access and cumbersome bureaucratic process to access land among others continue to discourage private sector participation in the sector (Bhutan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 2021). Similarly, majority of the FDI projects in Bhutan are concentrated in the service and manufacturing sectors (FDI Report 2022).
9. **Climate Change and other emerging issues:** The sector is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and other natural calamities including the emergence of pests and diseases. For instance, the incessant rainfall from October 16-21 in 2021 has affected more than 2,500 acres and caused crop loss of about 2,400 MT in 17 dzongkhags. Between 1996 and 2021, outbreaks of 13 different notifiable animal diseases were reported across the country (National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan, 2020). Climate change induced pests such as Fall Armyworm incidence was first reported in 2019 and it is prevalent in most of the maize-growing dzongkhags. Bhutan ranks the 32nd most vulnerable in the Global Climate Change Adaptation Index. Besides, the lack of reliable climate services, information systems including data on damage and loss continues to constrain building effective climate rationale.

10. **Weak biosecurity and food safety:** Annually, crops and livestock are lost to pests and diseases due to limited knowledge and compliance to biosecurity requirements. The efforts to address food safety issues are largely reactive rather than proactive with emphasis on end-product analysis rather than preventive activities. A single outbreak of African Swine Fever at Sampheling Gewog under Chhukha Dzongkhag in April 2022 incurred the government over Nu. 21 million and led to the culling of more than 1,000 pigs
11. **Loss of valuable traditional crops and native animal genetic resources:** The traditional crop varieties and breeds are threatened with the introduction of modern high-yielding crop varieties and animal breeds. The introduction of new crop varieties and animal breeds could result in the extinction of traditional varieties and native breeds of valuable resources altogether, unless efforts to conserve these valuable resources are undertaken. For instance, about 20% of the maize genetic diversity present in the gene bank is already eroded on-farm (A.M. Tamang, 2022). Similarly, as per the Livestock Statistics of Bhutan, between 2010 and 2020, the indigenous livestock population has reduced by 89%, native poultry population by 17%, native sheep population by 24% and Nublang population by 34%.

Addressing these key challenges through innovative policy and project interventions, smart technology, targeted investments and a clear division of responsibility framework among key stakeholders will be critical.

The key strategic focus to address the current challenges in the agriculture and livestock sector will be to focus on enhancing its contribution to GDP and ensuring sustainable level of food self-sufficiency of selected essential food items. Enhancing contribution to GDP will be addressed by focusing on high-value agriculture and livestock products (fruit and nuts, asparagus, mushrooms, honey, rainbow trout, caviar, yak cheese, yak fiber) which will not only result in higher incomes for the farmers but will also open up new export markets for agriculture and livestock products. Efforts will be made to enhance food self-sufficiency levels of selected essential food items (rice, grains, vegetables, meat, dairy products, eggs) by incentivizing farmers to produce either through cost-sharing mechanisms or direct subsidies on selected essential commodities.

Besides enhancing production, emphasis will be on value chain, marketing, certification and exports to ensure farmers get good returns for their products. New export markets will be explored and essential infrastructure facilities will be established.

DEFINITION

Food and Nutrition Security exists when all people have, at all times, physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (*World Food Summit, 2009*).

All people living in Bhutan have the means at all times to have physical, economic and social access to diverse, safe and adequate nutritious food for a healthy, active and productive life.

VISION

GOAL

The FNS policy aspires to achieve the following:

- All Bhutanese households are food secured either by producing their own food or having means to buy their food.
- Reduce all forms of malnutrition to achieve optimum health, nutrition and wellbeing.
- Enhance the agricultural sector's annual contribution to GDP growth rate by focusing on high value agriculture and livestock production.
- Enhance export value of agriculture and livestock products.

4. Strategic Policy Intervention and Measures

Strategic policy interventions and measures will focus on enhancing the production of high-value agriculture and livestock products; enhancing the sufficiency of selected essential food items; strengthening the value chain, marketing, certification and exports.

The Theory of Change identifies the critical structural constraints in the agriculture and food sector and proposes a set of policy actions to address these constraints. The Theory of Change will provide a guiding framework for the FNS policy and clarify the logical steps from action to objective.

Challenges		Strategic Interventions	FNS Goals	High-level Objectives
Low on-farm productivity and scale of operation	Fallow land fragmentation	Wetland utilization relaxation, fallow land revitalization Agri-tech commercial farming, innovation, mechanization, clustered production	Enhance the sector's annual contribution to GDP growth rate	All Bhutanese households are food secured
	Labor shortage, feminization of agriculture and ageing farming population Low usage of modern technologies			
Limited value addition	Predominantly subsistence farming	High value agriculture and livestock farming, high-end export markets, niche commodities, digitalization, product diversification, ease of doing business	Enhance export value of agriculture and livestock products	
	Weak value chain logistics and marketing Weak private sector engagement			
Weak resilience	Human wildlife conflict, climate change and other emerging issues	Innovative interventions, commodity-based landscape commercial organic farming, standardization and certification, bioprospecting,	Enhance export value of agriculture and livestock products	Prevalence of malnutrition reduced
	Weak biosecurity and food safety Loss of valuable traditional crops and native animal genetic resources			

Partnership, collaboration and mainstreaming

By refocusing interventions, strengthening existing foundations, and empowering farmers and the private sector, the sector has the potential to transform into a high-performing sector that provides for abundance with better accessibility, and affordability, and maximizes contribution to the economic development

of the nation. Taking a commercial approach with strong emphasis on high-value agriculture and livestock commodities, leveraging the opportunities of digitalization, technological advancements, research and artificial intelligence, the aggregate impacts from raising production and productivity in the agriculture and livestock sector can be a significant driver of economic growth and inclusive development.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 1:

Sustainable and efficient agriculture and livestock input system

- 4.1.1. Put together efficient modalities and mechanisms to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate and quality agriculture and livestock inputs for sustainable food production. Further, maintain a minimum level of seed stock as per the provisions of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Seed Bank.
- 4.1.2. Support privatization of agriculture and livestock inputs production and supply services for those commodities that are feasible as commercial enterprises.
- 4.1.3. Support the supply of agriculture and livestock inputs that are not viable for private, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and business entities and those that require compliance with quality standards.
- 4.1.4. Develop standards, strategies, and guidelines for easy access to quality agriculture and livestock inputs across the country.
- 4.1.5. Ensure access to agriculture and livestock inputs managed by the government at a uniform price across the country.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 2:

Sustainable development and productive use of agricultural land

- 4.2.1. Promote and upscale sustainable soil and land management best practices to enhance land productivity and mechanization for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
- 4.2.2. Consolidate production across fragmented farm plots through clustered production hubs and undertake intensive large-scale market-led production of prioritized commodities.
- 4.2.3. Rehabilitate and revitalize all potential fallow land and put it to productive use through appropriate support packages.
- 4.2.4. Undertake land capability assessment for crop suitability to guide appropriate production systems.
- 4.2.5. Bring feasible agriculture land under farm mechanization to address labour shortage, reduce the cost of production and encourage farming.

- 4.2.6. Identify and protect prime chhuzhing (irrigated land for rice cultivation) for maintaining required rice self-sufficiency and preservation of farm-scape with appropriate incentives.
- 4.2.7. Allow farming of agriculture commodities and livestock in chhuzhing which fall outside protected prime chhuzhing.
- 4.2.8. Promote and upscale cultivation of other cereals to maintain a desired level of grain self-sufficiency.
- 4.2.9. Restore and rehabilitate rangelands and institute payment for environmental services to sustain the livelihood of highland farming communities..

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 3:

Disaster resilient, risk management and climate smart farming

- 4.3.1. Streamline institutional mandates and mainstream human-wildlife management into regular planning and implementation programs.
- 4.3.2. Establish, support and operationalize innovative crop and livestock insurance schemes and other safety nets, as an integral part of farm risk management and resilience building.
- 4.3.3. Establish, operationalize and strengthen multi-sectoral data-sharing agro-meteorology program and analytics including crop and livestock loss and damage database system to ensure the provision of climate-related services for enhanced, efficient and informed farm decision making.
- 4.3.4. Introduce, develop and upscale innovative, climate smart, effective and affordable agricultural technologies and solutions.
- 4.3.5. Support establishment of biogas plants in livestock farms and centers, promoting the 3R (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse) concept of livestock waste and cater to the basic household energy requirement of farmers.
- 4.3.6. Assess national food loss and waste status across the food production value chain and develop appropriate mitigation measures. Institute appropriate mechanisms to prevent food loss and wastage to encourage responsible consumption.
- 4.3.7. Invest in innovative, climate smart and disaster resilient irrigation infrastructure development and increase the area under assured irrigation from 29% to 57%.
- 4.3.8. Invest in on-farm water saving, appropriate conveyance technologies, high efficiency irrigation systems, and management techniques to improve water use efficiency and reduce water loss.
- 4.3.9. Introduce appropriate mechanisms for sustainable utilization of agricultural infrastructures and services.

- 4.3.10. Repurpose agriculture and livestock subsidies from input-focused assistance to output-based support with special emphasis on prioritized and high-value agriculture and livestock commodities.
- 4.3.11. Devise appropriate mechanisms for quality-based pricing systems for selected agriculture and livestock commodities.
- 4.3.12. Strengthen comprehensive disease control mechanisms, support emerging and transboundary animal diseases surveillance, biosecurity preparedness and response; veterinary medicines and vaccines, non-drug items, and compensation for the farming communities.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 4:

Dynamic agriculture and livestock research, innovation and technology

- 4.4.1. Strengthen and sustain basic, adaptive, applied and policy research for demand-driven, cutting-edge innovation, policy coherence, and sustained agriculture and livestock development.
- 4.4.2. Sustain a vibrant, targeted and institutionalized cost-effective agriculture research system for enhanced innovation and production. Allocate a research budget of 1% of agricultural GDP annually to agriculture and livestock research.
- 4.4.3. Promote market research and information, digitization and technological innovation off-the-farm to empower value chain actors.
- 4.4.4. Promote and adopt innovative and labour-saving food production approaches such as vertical, horizontal, climate smart, precision farming, crop water management technologies, etc., to produce food in challenging environments.
- 4.4.5. Support the sustainable intensification of livestock production through breed improvements and feed management.
- 4.4.6. Adopt and promote algae farmed aquaculture as a substitute for feedstock and fishmeal.
- 4.4.7. Strengthen advanced reproductive technologies to enhance productivity and adaptive capacity to adverse environmental and climatic conditions.
- 4.4.8. Introduce and utilize big data, machine learning, Internet of Things, drone technology, blockchain and digitalization in agriculture and livestock farming system for enhanced production covering traceability, insurance, certification and e-transactions in the food supply chain.
- 4.4.9. Reinforce and strengthen appropriate mechanisms to adapt, apply and upscale technologies and innovations to enhance productivity.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 5:**Sustainable agriculture, progressive commercialization and enhanced food and nutrition security**

- 4.5.1. Enhance self-sufficiency of essential agriculture and livestock commodities, including rice for food security, resilience and sustainability.
- 4.5.2. Maintain adequate food reserves as National Food Security Reserve at strategic locations.
- 4.5.3. Channelize the import of selected essential food items through identified entities.
- 4.5.4. Promote and support livestock processing plants to ensure humane, clean livestock products and reduce unhealthy and unhygienic imports.
- 4.5.5. Strengthen agriculture and livestock extension services for effective delivery of food production, technology transfer, and in response to emerging issues and challenges.
- 4.5.6. Explore and establish new export markets for Bhutanese agriculture and livestock products, including trial marketing of potential export commodities.
- 4.5.7. Institutionalize incentive schemes for market-led production of prioritized agriculture and livestock commodities.
- 4.5.8. Establish a fully operational and recognized inspection, testing and certification system including organic products for selected agriculture and livestock commodities. .
- 4.5.9. Strengthen Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to improve safety and quality standards for domestic consumption and potential export markets.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 6:**Agriculture and livestock value chain and marketing logistics**

- 4.6.1. Establish critical marketing infrastructure and logistics at strategic locations and link with transportation chains, businesses and market-places.
- 4.6.2. Develop and promote critical post-harvest management facilities, infrastructures and innovative value addition (processing) technologies focused on priority commodities.
- 4.6.3. Plan and establish Agricultural/Agri-Economic Hubs (Agri-EHs) having inter-dependent agri-food facilities and services at strategic locations.
- 4.6.4. Establish and strengthen an internal market distribution system to ensure access to domestic markets.

- 4.6.5. Strengthen climate proof farm road networks for enhanced accessibility to inputs services and markets.
- 4.6.6. Strengthen Farmer Groups and Cooperatives for economies of scale, optimum utilization of resources and enhanced marketing.
- 4.6.7. Strengthen and formalize value chain for priority agriculture and livestock commodities.
- 4.6.8. Initiate and develop premium Bhutanese agriculture and livestock commodities targeting product and brand exclusivity with international recognition based on the grand challenge concept.
- 4.6.9. Promote enterprises for value addition and product development wherever feasible with technical support and investments.
- 4.6.10. Promote commercial production of premium livestock and agriculture products under Brand Bhutan for niche and high-end domestic and international markets.
- 4.6.11. Strengthen branding, standard and certification of agriculture and livestock products in line with the requirements of targeted international markets.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 7:

Promotion of organic farming

- 4.7.1. Pursue commodity-based landscape commercial organic agriculture and livestock for niche and high-end markets for priority commodities.
- 4.7.2. Develop and strengthen value chain and product development for sustainable and certified organic products.
- 4.7.3. Strengthen organic regulations and certification systems, and pursue international recognition including mutual recognition to facilitate organic trade with other countries.
- 4.7.4. Incentivize organic and bio-inputs production and use, and gradually reduce the application of synthetic fertilizers and agrochemicals.
- 4.7.5. Promote regenerative agriculture for enhanced adaptive and restorative capacity for soil and biodiversity.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 8:

Safe and nutritious food consumption and healthy practices

- 4.8.1. Ensure nutritionally balanced and safe food baskets for healthy diet systems for all including schools, hospitals, religious and other institutions in collaboration with relevant agencies.

- 4.8.2. Promote and prioritize consumption of locally sourced nutritious food with a focus on healthy growth of children through the School and Hospital Feeding and School Agriculture Programs. .
- 4.8.3. Strengthen micronutrient supplementation program including food fortification initiatives guided by national standards and quality control and assurance systems.
- 4.8.4. Enable exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life to achieve optimal growth, development and health while complementing with nutritionally adequate and safe complementary foods up to at least 2 years.
- 4.8.5. Implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions, to limit marketing of formula milk.
- 4.8.6. Identify children with acute malnutrition and provide appropriate care and management.
- 4.8.7. Adopt and maintain healthy dietary practices including food systems that promote a safe, diversified, balanced and healthy diet.
- 4.8.1. Promote food safety culture among food producers, food business operators and consumers by encouraging self-regulation including awareness, enforcement of food safety and biosecurity requirements.
- 4.8.8. Ensure appropriate nutrition interventions for people with specific conditions such as people living with HIV, persons with active tuberculosis, and other diseases.
- 4.8.9. Ensure an adequate supply of livestock based nutritious food through provision of 250 grams of milk and 1 egg for all school going children.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 9:

Adaptive and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and non-wood forest products

- 4.9.1. Promote conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity including Crop Wild Relatives (CWRs), and associated traditional knowledge as a tool for building sustainable and resilient farming systems.
- 4.9.2. Promote production and consumption of native crop diversity and Neglected and Under-utilized Crop Species (NUCS).
- 4.9.3. Enhance sustainable management of native crops, animal genetic resources, and non-wood forest products for livelihood improvement.
- 4.9.4. Strengthen access and benefit sharing initiatives to enhance the economic benefits.

- 4.9.5. Promote and strengthen in-situ and ex-situ conservation of threatened native and endemic biodiversity.
- 4.9.6. Promote domestication and utilization of high-value non-wood forest products including aromatic and medicinal plants to diversify income and reduce pressure on forest resources.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 10:

Gender equality and social inclusion

- 4.10.1. Establish comprehensive information on gender roles in food systems and other dimensions of livelihood.
- 4.10.2. Ensure/institute appropriate mechanisms to engage, integrate and empower women and vulnerable groups across the agriculture and livestock production value chain.
- 4.10.3. Introduce, develop and promote, and enhance access to gender-sensitive and labour-saving agriculture and livestock technologies.
- 4.10.4. Enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers through capacity development, mainstreaming climate-innovative production systems as risk management intervention.
- 4.10.5. Promote participation of women and socially disadvantaged in the management of groups and cooperatives.
- 4.10.6. Develop entrepreneurial skills, capacity and promote agribusiness enterprise targeting women and youth entrepreneurs.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTION 11:

Collaboration and partnership

- 4.11.1. Leverage partnership, collaboration and multisectoral approach in building a resilient and robust agri-food system.
- 4.11.2. Develop broad frameworks to foster collaboration and partnerships across agencies and actors in the implementation of the policy.
- 4.11.3. Strengthen collaboration with existing and new development partners, donor agencies, and international and domestic financial institutions including alternative financing mechanisms in securing adequate financial and technical resources.
- 4.11.4. Review and harmonize policies and legal instruments to facilitate the transformation of the food systems including agricultural trade flows.

- 4.11.5. Strengthen and complement the role of the SOEs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and private sectors, in agriculture and livestock value chain development to bring synergy and competitiveness for the farming communities.
- 4.11.6. Promote FDI and private sector participation in the sector by creating an enabling environment for investment.
- 4.11.7. Revisit the national professional capacity development framework and strengthen human resource capacity to drive agriculture and livestock sector development.

5. Policy Implementation Arrangement

Achieving food and nutrition security requires a multi-sectoral and multi-dimension approach that fosters coordination and collaboration between line ministries, international and local authorities, development partners, and other stakeholders. Therefore, the responsibility for the implementation of the FNS policy 2023 will be shared among all stakeholders. The implementation of the FNS policy will be in close coordination with all relevant sectors and in harmony with other policies and strategies.

The Policy and Planning Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) will be responsible for coordination and management at the national level. The policy implementation strategy and the 13th Plan shall be the action plan for FNS Policy 2023. Further, the Division of Responsibility Framework, to be formulated by MoAL in consultation with all stakeholders, shall be the basis for defining the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders, including centres, dzongkhags, gewogs, thromdes, CSOs, private sectors and the SOEs.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

A robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework will be developed to monitor the implementation of the policy measures as identified in the FNS policy. The M&E Framework will include a Theory of Change and results framework which will allow to identify a set of required activities and programs. The FNS M&E framework and implementation arrangements will be harmonized with the existing M&E systems in relevant Ministries.

The Policy and Planning Divisions of the relevant ministries will monitor and evaluate the implementation status of the policy measures periodically and report to the government. The action plan with timebound deliverables and milestones will be developed and assigned to relevant agencies and departments which will be regularly monitored. M&E activities will be designed and implemented to measure the results and impacts of the FNS policy in line with the goals.

Task Team Members

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