

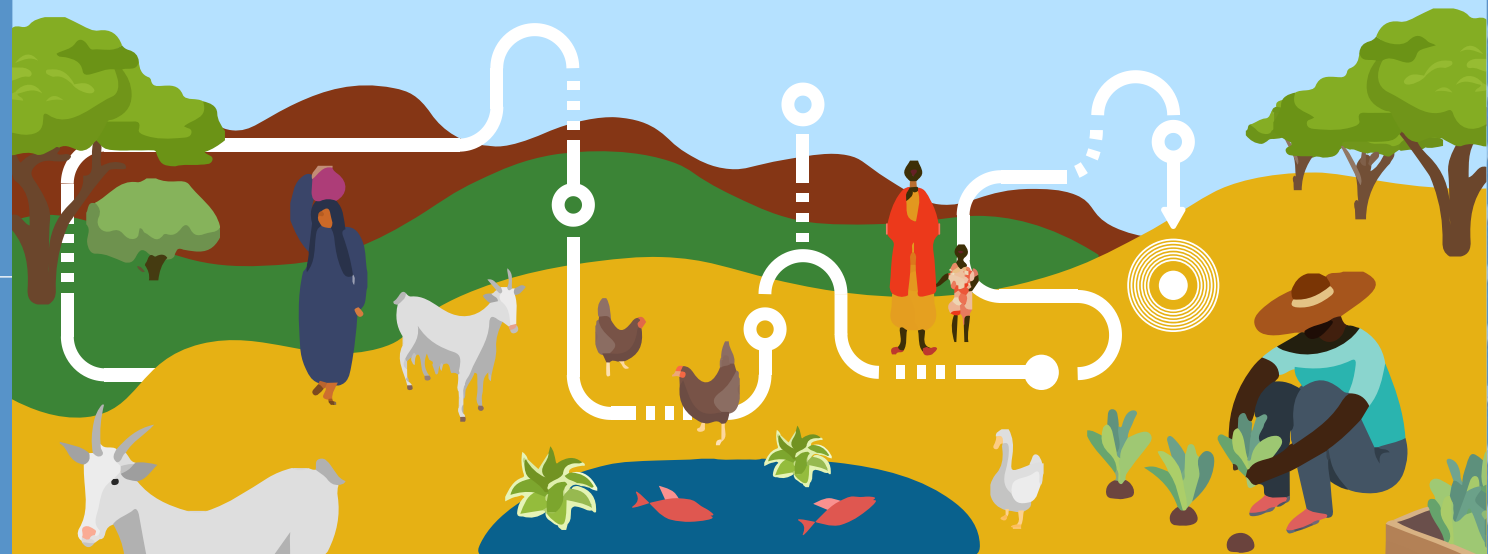


Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

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Capacity Development Action in Bangladesh



The Issue

- Traditionally, in Bangladesh, focus of agricultural development and food security programs has been on increasing production and productivity of agricultural commodities.
- Policy papers
 - Nutrition Policy (2015)
 - NPAN 2 (2016-2025)
 - NFSNP (2020)
 - Plan of Action (2021)
 - Other relevant study reports
- People's rights to adequate foods and resource mobilization for nutrition sensitive agriculture have been prioritized. However, malnutrition is still among the highest in the World, millions of children, adolescents and mothers in Bangladesh are malnourished.

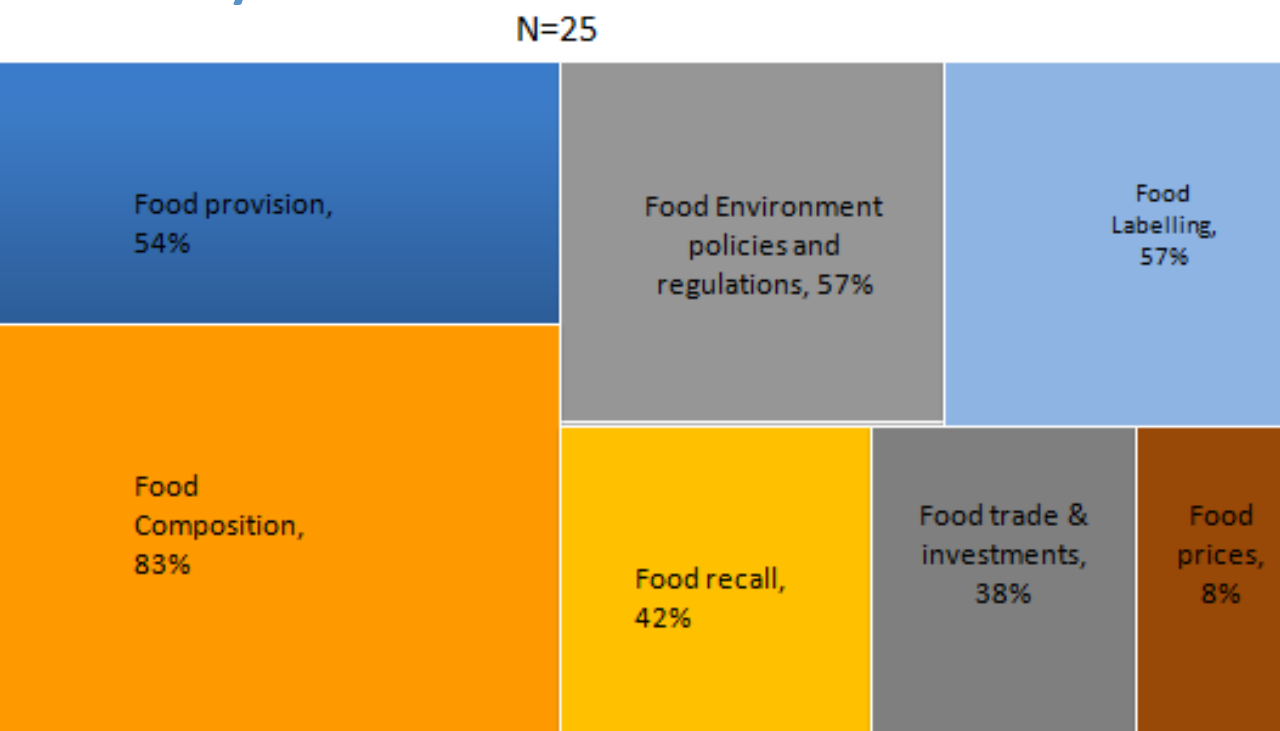
The Action

To improve knowledge and skills on nutrition sensitive agrifood systems and support the use of an agrifood system approach to enable healthy diets, following actions were taken by FAO Bangladesh in collaboration with the FAO HQ team and Department of Food Technology and Rural Industries (DFTRI) of BAU:

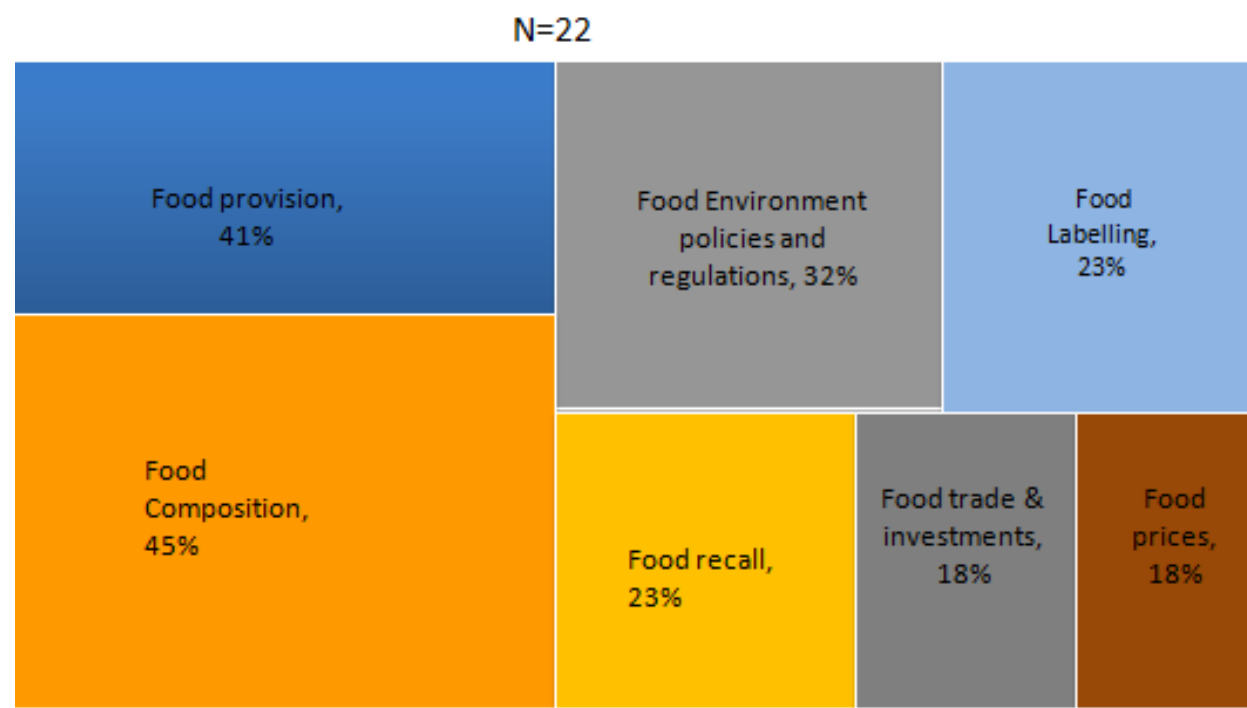
1. An inception workshop with 31 key national and subnational actors from relevant administrative, academic and research institutions INGOs, and International Development Organizations.
2. Capacity assessments to understand existing capacity gaps and needs of target stakeholders at national (25) and subnational levels (22)
3. Tailored blended learning materials and training specific to Bangladesh by adapting existing FAO resources on nutrition and agrifood systems, including a flyer

Some capacity gaps identified at at national and subnational levels

Policy domains

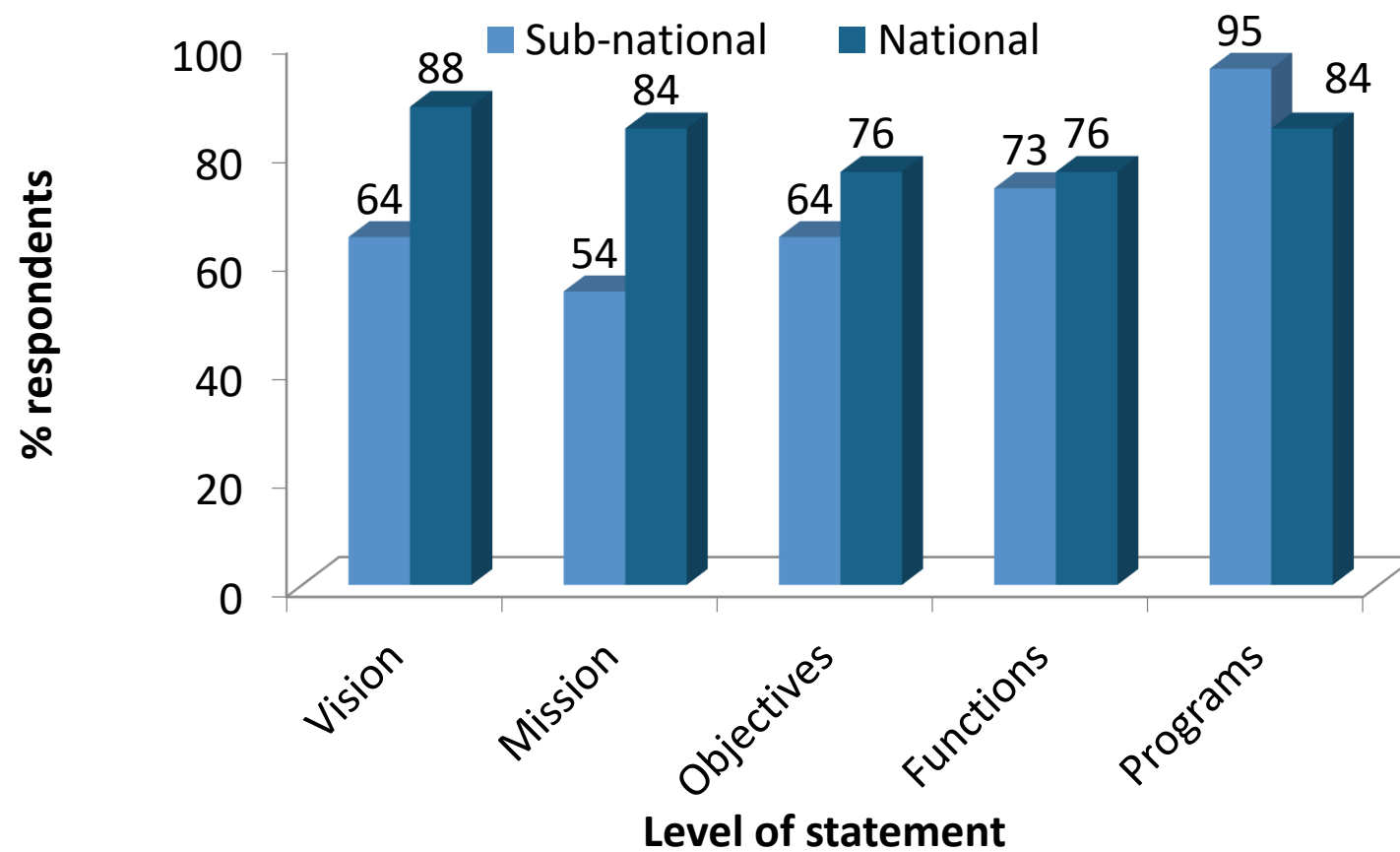


NATIONAL



SUB-NATIONAL

Nutrition Focus



Nutrition is part of the core mandate of most of the organizations

Takeaways

- Community services like training on nutrition and diets have poor coverage of dietary diversity.
- There is scope for larger range of awareness building in community level in collaboration with the local government.
- Parliamentarians give less priority to influence parliamentary action on nutrition and healthy diets despite the favourable political environment
- Parliamentarians emphasized on the need for adequate training on capacity building and mitigating malnutrition with available resources.
- Resource allocation and less prioritization to allocate resources for nutrition are the most important barriers to influencing and engaging parliamentarian actions.

Tailored training packages and workshops on Nutrition Sensitive Agrifood systems

- A self-paced e-learning course from FAO's eLearning Academy
- Country Assessment Presentations delivered by technical experts from SP (National & Nus-National Level)
- 1-day in person training with the group work on the following:
 - Presentations and training sessions on:
 - Agrifood system pathways to healthy diets to improve nutrition
 - Food environment entry points in the agrifood system
 - Identifying and linking indicators to the outputs, outcomes, intermediates states and Impacts
 - Identifying key stakeholders and partners
- Supporting materials
 - A Bangladesh-specific case study for group work
 - Glossary of terms on nutrition and agrifood systems

FAO's E-learning courses were introduced to all stakeholders

Workshops

1) National workshop conducted with 38 participants in Dhaka



2. Sub-national workshop conducted with 31 participants at Sunamgonj



Stakeholders of CD Assessments and training

Departments of Agricultural Extension, Department of Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, National Nutrition Services, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council, Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Bangladesh Institute of Research Training in Applied Nutrition, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (MoFood), International Food Policy Research Institute, World Vision-Bangladesh, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition.



Lessons Learned

- Engaging the stakeholders during training sessions
- Longer training sessions and ensuring their engagement
- More space for discussion
- Awareness of participants about FAO resources
- Feedback from the users

Identified gaps, potential interventions and validation

SI No.	GAPs/Issues	Possible intervention/ Suggestion for improvement	Validation
1	Limited evidence is available on selected topics to support advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with national and international organizations for capacity development and knowledge management • Training on collection, analysis and interpretation of data related to nutrition sensitive agrifood system • Budget allocation 	Government and Development partners may undertake project and programs on Nutrition sensitive agrifood system strengthening.
2	Under-addressed policy domains regarding the food environment	More budget for operational activities	Updating the existing policy documents through meetings, workshops and seminars.

Identified gaps, potential interventions and validation

SI No.	GAPs/Issues	Possible intervention/ Suggestion for improvement	Validation
3	Insufficient coverage of nutrition promotion activities (sub-national)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit relevant staff Budget for training including infrastructure and programmes Increase ToT programmes 	Adequate staff engagement in nutrition sensitive programs and allocation of additional budget on skill development training.
4	Insufficient operational capacity (transportation and IT, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More budget for operational activities 	Transport and IT support might be extended
5	Insufficient number of staff and staff training facilities including resource persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit relevant staff Budget for training including infrastructure and programmes Increase ToT programmes 	Additional budget for ToT on capacity building training required.

Recommendations for next steps

- Capacity of the sub-national stakeholders regarding nutrition needs to be strengthened by increasing nutrition promotion and advocacy related programs.
- A comprehensive sensitive nutrition gap analysis is necessary covering more [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) areas.
- Reliable nutrition information available in the digital platforms and to disseminate among people.
- Bangladesh could be a host for next Global Parliamentary summit against Malnutrition and Hunger that will raise awareness among our parliamentarians.
- More nutrition sensitive programmes need to be designed for social safety net programmes, school feeding programmes and farmers field schools.
- Nutrition sensitive agriculture (NSA) programmes may be undertaken with women and tribal peoples who need special nutrition attention.
- Technical and financial support for adequate nutrition education at Primary and Secondary School levels may be strengthened.

THANK YOU!

