

# Regional Cooperation Agenda for Food Security in South Asia

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# Regional Food Security Indicators

- Global food security index -2013

Country	Country rank *
Bangladesh	87
India	70
Nepal	84
Pakistan	75
Sri Lanka	60

Source : Global food security index, available at; <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>

# Current Situation

- Overall hunger in South Asia at “alarming” level (not “extremely alarming” and not “serious”)
- Achieving food security is a multidimensional task - involves – input availability, environmentally sustainable farming, new technology, R&D, international trade, supply management, distribution, etc.
- South Asia has NFIC (net food importing countries) and NFEC (net food exporting countries)
- Intra-regional agricultural imports as a percentage of total agricultural imports in South Asia 8.5%
- Low productivity ? Lack of surplus ? Market structure in regard to price, quality and volume not being attractive ?

# Regional Mechanisms

## **Existing**

- Regional trading – SAFTA (2006)
- SAARC Food Bank (2008)
- SAARC Seed Bank (2011)

## **Potential**

- Collaborative Research
- Early Warning Systems
- River Water Utilization

# Regional Trade

## High Agriculture Tariffs

Indicators (2012)	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Agriculture import tariffs (%)	74.3	52.8	78.4	74.6	60.5

## SAFTA

- In SAFTA most agricultural items are in the negative list
- During 2006-2009 agriculture MFN average applied tariffs was 29% compared to 10% in ASEAN
- Agriculture surplus countries use export restrictions from time to time

# Non-Tariff Barriers

## **SPS/TBT**

- Lab testing
- Delays/ demurrages (e.g.; process food exports from Sri Lanka to India; ginger and honey exports from Nepal to India)
- Since harmonization of standards is difficult there is a need for more Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA)

## **SASO (SA Standards Organization)**

- Black tea
- Sugar
- Vanaspathi
- Milk powder
- Biscuits
- Jute
- etv

# Food Bank

- Food Reserve became the Food Bank in 2008 with IND (62%), PAK (17%), BGD (17%), NP (2%), SL (2%), AFG (0.6%), BTN (0.1%), and MDV (0.1%) contribution
- Details of Food Stock, replenishment of stocks, procedure for releasing stocks, determination of prices, etc., still far from clear
- Need a physical reserve for Emergency Relief (SDF can assist) and Virtual reserve to ward off speculative attacks
- Only a few success stories – ASEAN Emergency Food Reserve is documented as successful – political commitment and exploiting complementarities

# Seed Bank

- Established for the easy movement of seeds and planting material across South Asia – to improve agricultural productivity when land area for cultivation is increasingly diminishing
- Regulatory framework important to ensure that beneficiaries are not lop sided
- Only for improved varieties or for existing varieties also ?

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_6074](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6074)

