

TOWARDS ZERO HUNGER IN NEPAL

A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION **2018**







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A Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition 2018

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GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL Ministry of Health and Population KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Message

Malnutrition is a major public health problem in developing countries. The impact of malnutrition on women, children and adolescent brings long-term and irrevocable physical and intellectual weaknesses, and impaired growth and development. Nepal too, has one of the highest prevalence of stunting among children less than five years of age. In our efforts to combat both chronic and acute malnutrition, the Government of Nepal has put in considerable efforts at both national and international levels, particularly in working together under the framework of the Multi Sectoral Nutrition Plan as one of the countries within the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

The Strategic Review is a timely study to understand the current status and idea of way forward to address the food insecurity and under-nutrition in Nepal. The recommendation of the report emphasises on improved coordination in the planning, policy and its implementation among the stakeholders in agriculture and nutrition sector. This is in line with our recognition of the strong link between poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. In order to address these issues to achieve the outcomes of Sustainable Development Goal 2, government, development partners and stakeholders should work together, ensuring the agricultural food production, availability of diverse food, and its proper utilisation.

The fundamental right to food for all is now enshrined in our Constitution, and recently endorsed Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act has given clear mandate for the decentralization of governance to all spheres of government. It gives us an opportunity to systematically work in improving hygienic nutrition situation in Nepal. While agricultural-led growth and driving down undernutrition are key targets for us, going forward, we must, of course, recognize the many varied causes of food insecurity and undernutrition in our country. This responsibility falls on different sectors, particularly; health, agriculture, education, water sanitation and hygiene, and local development.

This Strategic Review of SDG2 is vital for developing programme, policy and strategies in reducing hunger and to promote access and availability to safe, nutritious and affordable food which we strive to have locally produced. We are committed to eliminating hunger, and this study which draws on a comprehensive task force of work conducted over many years by the food security and nutrition community, will serve to further illuminate the way to a nation without hunger having hygienic food for all.

UPENDRA YADAV

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Health and Population



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Message

I am pleased to launch this strategic review of food security and nutrition in Nepal undertaken by the National Planning Commission. The Government of Nepal is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 with SDG2 as one of our key priorities.

In recent years, Nepal has made significant improvements in food security, as demonstrated by global indicators and testament to the strong commitment from the Government of Nepal for ending hunger and improving nutrition for all people. Importantly, the Constitution of Nepal enshrines the right to food and food sovereignty, which is broadly elaborated in the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Related Act. As we have entered into new era with a federal system, we have oppurtinity to implement this in all levels of society. Historically, Nepal is known for its diversity in climate and in resources which gives significance for promoting a variety of foods and access to a healthy diet. The socio-economic and environmental changes in recent years have contributed to eroding this associated knowledge, production and consumption patterns. However, with such

potentiality, Nepal can revive these traditional, locally produced nutritious foods by improving awareness of their nutritional value, by promoting indigenous knowledge and improved dietary habits and by creating prime conditions for farmers to produce them

By ensuring a holistic approach to increase local production that combines traditional food varieties with modern agricultural technologies, we now have the opportunity to improve the way we work together, so that every citizen has access to locally available, affordable and nutritious food and we achieve a nation free of hunger.

CHAKRAPANI KHANAL 'Baldev'

Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Jan Wanted.



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL National Planning Commission KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Foreword

On behalf of the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, I am pleased to share with you, "Towards Zero Hunger in Nepal: A Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition".

In 2017, under the stewardship of the National Planning Commission, the Zero Hunger Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Nepal (ZHSR), was chosen as the mechanism to guide us on achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) in Nepal. SDG2 aims to *end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture* by 2030.

This study was conducted as an independent, analytical and consultative exercise. It provides us with an up-to-date 'picture' of food security in our country, including agricultural development and the challenges we are facing with nutrition. This process serves to support transformative sustainable development in Nepal by providing best practices and an achievable action plan to achieve SDG2. Importantly, it provides a platform for all stakeholders to anchor our plans together, fostering improved dialogue and collaboration as we move forward into a promising new era for our country.

The research conducted over the past 12 months ensured representation at all levels, across the entire country. Fruitful consultations were held at national, subnational, and community levels, with careful inclusion of all ethnic groups and women. This has provided us with a wealth of information on the current needs and concerns across all members of our society.

I strongly believe that the recommendations from the ZHSR will complement and further strengthen the use of our other national initiatives on food security and nutrition, including the National Zero Hunger Challenge, the Agriculture Development Strategy, the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan II and the study on Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Undernutrition, among others. I therefore encourage all stakeholders to adopt these recommendations, to guide your policies and programme initiatives and to use this as a 'roadmap' to a country free of hunger.

I would like to thank our partners the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who worked together with the Government of Nepal on this initiative. I extend my appreciation to the technical team of NARMA Consultancy Private Limited for their collaboration in this project. Furthermore, the inputs from key stakeholders such as the District Coordination Committees, local municipal bodies, farmers' groups and women's organisations were invaluable for the study and I thank them all for their contributions.

PROF. DR. PUSPA RAJ KADEL, Ph.D

Vice-Chairman National Planning Commission



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL National Planning Commission KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Message



Government of Nepal is highly committed to ensure Food Sovereignty as one of the fundamental rights of its citizens and this review is an effort to contribute towards this. We are pleased to express few words in this important document.

Nepal is still emerging on the long path towards economic development in which food security and nutrition play a critical role. If children have the right food and nutrition at an early age, they will grow to their full potential. As adults, they will be able to provide for their own children, and thus escape the inter-generational effects of hunger. To achieve this, robust investments are needed in enhancing productive and sustainable food systems and ensuring that people are able to reap the benefits.

An integrated approach ensuring that all Nepalese, especially pregnant, nursing mothers and young children have access to adequate, nutritious food throughout the year, is a vital strategy to achieve zero hunger for Nepal. This should be achieved as much as possible through the promotion of local solutions.

The report of the strategic review of food security and nutrition emphasizes this need and provides a way forward for all stakeholders. We strongly believe that the integrated path recommended by this review, will contribute to achieving the set targets of SDG2 and set Nepal on a sustainable path to freedom from hunger.

In this effort, we highly appreciate the contribution made by the team of experts and stakeholders to bring this document in this shape. We wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, former Chair of the SDG2 Advisory Group and former member of National Planning Commission, who initiated and led the process at the beginning. Similarly, team of officials at the National Planning Commission (NPC) put their dedicated efforts to complete this exercise successfully, hence special thanks are due to Joint Secretaries Mr. Tulasi Prasad Gautam and Mr. Biju Kumar Shrestha, Under Secretary Mr. Mahesh Kharel, and Planning Officers Mr. Dhananjay Shah and Mr. Tilak Prasad Rijal.

USHA JHA, Ph.D

Member National Planning Commission _____

DIL BAHADUR GURUNG, Ph.D

Member National Planning Commission Nepal has the means to face challenges in food security and this is the opportune time to act. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by 193 countries in 2015, offer a tremendous opportunity for Nepal. The SDGs aim to "transform our world" by achieving 17 goals for people, the planet, and prosperity. The SDGs are an agenda for the world, and for Nepal, to leave no one behind and transform the way the world ends hunger, ensures food security, and tackles malnutrition in all its forms, through an integrated approach.

▼ Village women waiting to receive goverment services.

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