



Building a resilient food system in Bhutan

National priorities for the agriculture sector

The Royal Government of Bhutan in its 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023) has provided strategies to promote commercialization, and agribusiness development and diversification while ensuring food self-sufficiency. The 2030 Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Strategy 2030 prioritises food self-sufficiency through transformation of the RNR sector while ensuring sustainable natural resource management.

The food system

A food system consists of everyone and everything involved in producing, distributing, or consuming food. High-performing food systems provide adequate incentives and returns to food producers, processors and distributors, and deliver sufficient, safe and nutritious food to well-informed consumers, with minimum delay and spoilage. However, the food system is disrupted by a range of shocks, including those linked to climate change and economic globalization, and a significant number are broken due to strife and conflict, sometimes for long periods.

In Bhutan, while 60 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture, it still imports over 50 percent of its total food requirements. There are several challenges within the food system, which became more

The country is also highly vulnerable to natural hazards and increased climate variabilities. Investments made in research, innovation and technology in the sector is also limited.

Some of the key challenges identified in Bhutan's food system are rural to urban migration; human-wildlife conflict; poor water management; limited agro-enterprises; inadequate marketing system; and limited access to credit and subsidies.

Employment in agriculture is mainly for small-scale subsistence farming with low productivity, often with limited processing and value addition.

COVID-19 response

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