

Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2024 Conference

Approaches to connecting the dots around food systems and nutrition

Evidence to policy and action – Bangladesh Experience



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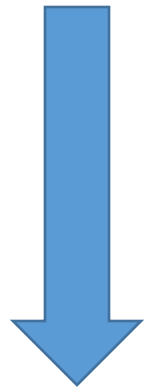
Colombo, December 5, 2024

Approaches to connecting the dots around food systems and nutrition-FST Pathway document

Across themes

Across geography

Across beneficiaries/lifecycle



41 Actions prioritized

Whole of society/government
Collaboration & Coordination
Prioritizing investments & finance



Nourish all people



Boost Nature-based Solutions



Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work & Empowered Communities



Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses



Accelerating the Means of Implementation

Evolution of Food System Policies in Bangladesh – contribution of research evidence

Evolution of FS policies	Major policy research initiatives, among others
Bangladesh as a New Nation, 1971– 1979: HYV Seeds, irrigation; Mechanization initiated - subsistence agriculture	IRRI & newly emerged research institutions in Bangladesh
Bangladesh Under the Surge of Privatization after 1979. Structural Adjustment Programs and Market Liberalization in Agriculture – 1988 & 1998 flood- NFP 1988, NFNP 1997, NPAN-1	Research under Food policy projects and FMRSP (by IFPRI)
Agrifood Systems (1999-2015)-Market liberalization continues; Comprehensive food security ; NFP 2006 , CIP-1, NNP 2015, NSSS 2015	Research under FMRSP-IFPRI, NFPCSP-FAO, Food security investment forum 2010, FSNSP, ICDDR'B, NIPORT
Agrifood Systems (2016-2020)-NAP 2018, SDGs, SSIP 2016, CIP-2, NPAN- 2, Ground Water Management Act 2018	Policy Research and Strategy Support Program (PRSSP)-IFPRI, MUCH-FAO, BIHS-IFPRI, FSNSP
Agrifood Systems (2020-today)- NAP 2022 (GAP, mechanization, marketing, extension), FNSP2020, National Delta Plan 2100, CIP-3, Nutrition Sensitive Agricultural Strategy)draft)	-Do-+ Research by CEGIS-IWM

Connecting the dots - evolve policies and institutions at the national level

Prior to 2021

Food policy project early 80s- supported by IFPRI, USAID and WB- emergence of FPMU at the MoFood

FMRSP supported by IFPRI – expansion of FPMU

NFPCSP supported by FAO – revitalized interagency platforms-FPMC, FPWG, TTs

Breast Milk Substitute Act 2013/ Rules 2017 (IPHN-BFF)

Emergence of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, BFSA - 2015; National dietary Guidelines 2014/2020

BNNC revitalized - supported by DPs-subnational coordination started; Iodised Salt Act 2020

[IFPRI's Bangladesh Policy Research and Strategy Support Program – emergence of APSU](#)
[HPNSDP \(IV\)-MOHFW, PER \(Health\), PER \(Nutrition\)](#)

2021 and onwards

FST pathway document and its PoA - ongoing
GAP policies, Ag-Mechanization & Ag-marketing policies
Nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy

Emergence of National Agri-council and other interagency mechanism at MoA

Foresight4food initiative for better analytics

SHiFT initiative by CGIAR and partners – 5 WPs

IFPRIs new research on ag-mechanization, access to finance, TAFSAA, SPIA, Rethinking markets and others
Edible oil fortification initiative/workforce nutrition supported by GAIN

FST dashboard launched-FPMU-GAIN

Affordability of healthy diets research –supported by GAIN (environmental dimension incorporated)

Connecting the urban FST dots—MUNS supported by NI (ongoing)

Specific examples of use of research evidence

1998 flood response –IFPRI's analytical support – private import thwarted crisis

TRANSFER MODALITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (TMRI)
Contributed in shaping social safety net policies- NSSS 2015

IFPRI had at least four acknowledged influences on the FFE program: (1) Lead the WGTFI and in the conception of the program; (2) in the evaluation of the program, leading to its expansion; (3) in improving the targeting effectiveness; and (4) in training and capacity strengthening in survey techniques and policy analysis.



RESEARCH REPORT 122

DECEMBER 2001

THE 1998 FLOODS IN BANGLADESH DISASTER IMPACTS, HOUSEHOLD COPING STRATEGIES, AND RESPONSE

CARLO DEL NINNO, PAUL A. DOROSH, LISA C. SMITH,
AND DILIP K. ROY

<https://bangladesh.ifpri.info/transfer-modality-research-initiative-tmri/>

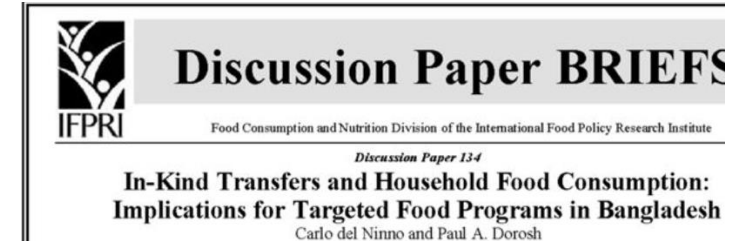
IMPACT ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION PAPER NO. 22

The Contribution of IFPRI Research and the Impact of the Food for Education Program in Bangladesh on Schooling Outcomes and Earnings

James G. Ryan and Xin Meng

Specific examples of use of research evidence

Supported the govt in the debate of cash vs kind transfer



Served in the development of 1st Dietary guidelines for Bangladesh 2014

Desirable Dietary Pattern for Bangladesh

The study conducted by:



Estimation of the Parameters Needed for Integrated and Effective PFDS Planning in Bangladesh by BIDS

<https://www.bids.org.bd/page/researches?rid=33>

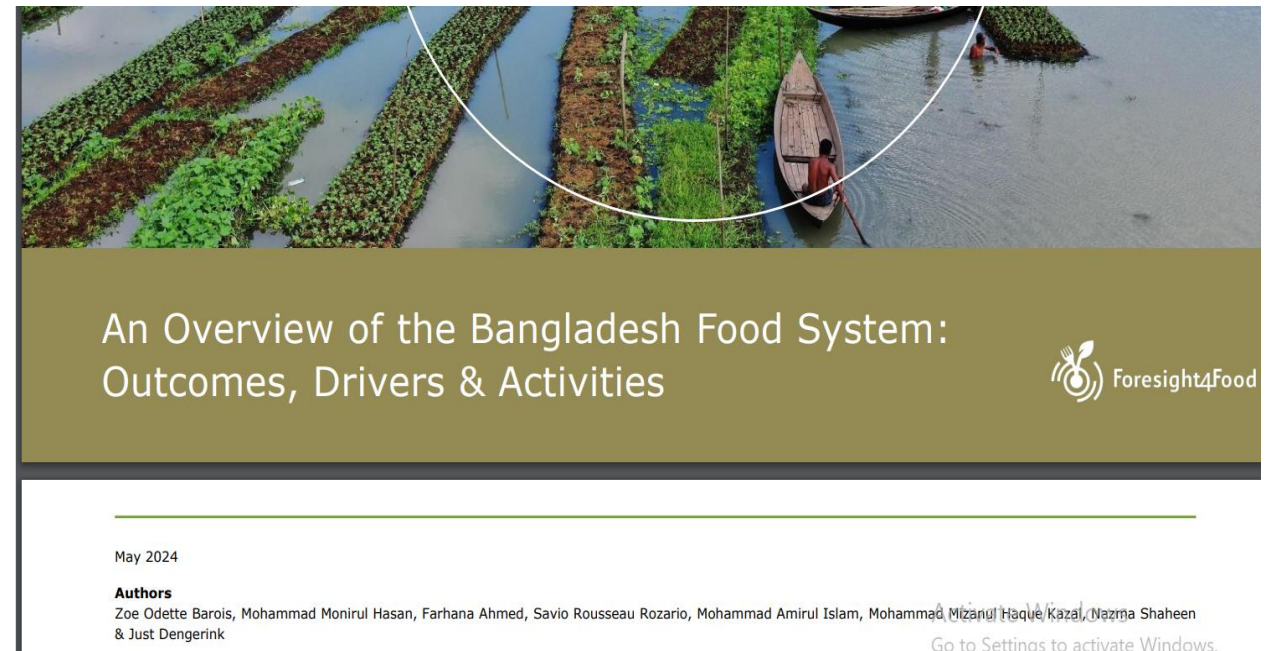
Input-output study –rice crops by IFPRI – served MoFood in setting procurement price of rice

INPUT-OUTPUT COEFFICIENTS FOR ESTIMATING RICE PRODUCTION COSTS AND RETURNS IN BANGLADESH

Specific examples of use of research evidence



Submitted to the new govt.



Invoking discussions around FST-PoA formulation

While research can shape a policy/program to evolve, it can cause the same to cease- the case for Palli rationing and FFE program in Bangladesh

Closure of Palli rationing in 1992: Foodgrain leakages to the nonpoor, estimated by IFPRI at 70% in the ***palli rationing scheme***, reinforce prior political and donor concerns about distributional consequences and leads the GOB to abolish this food subsidy scheme

Introduction of Food for Education in 1993: Outcome IFPRI's research upon request of the government

Closure of FFE in 2002: The World Bank's 1998 Poverty Assessment found that the FFE did raise enrollment and attendance rates, but that it suffered from high levels of leakage (it cost 1.59 taka to transfer 1 taka in benefits) and was poorly targeted. In 2001, World Bank estimates leakages under the FFE program at >75%. This together with increased resources requirements, teachers' time for the program, etc, caused the program to close in 2002.

IFPRI FMRSP in 2003 provides new estimates of leakages from the FFE. These are in the range of 14-17%.

Lessons – Translating research evidence into actions -----contd..

Research to complement country led initiatives-CIPs

Demand led- based on research need digest

Reliable data /unbiased research

MoU with national institutions

Onboarding the national institutions – building ownership

- TAC-TMRI, TAC-Ag-mechanization, APSU-ANGeL

- TAC for repurposing input subsidy by WB

- TWG for AFST-PoA

- Country coordination unit for SHiFT

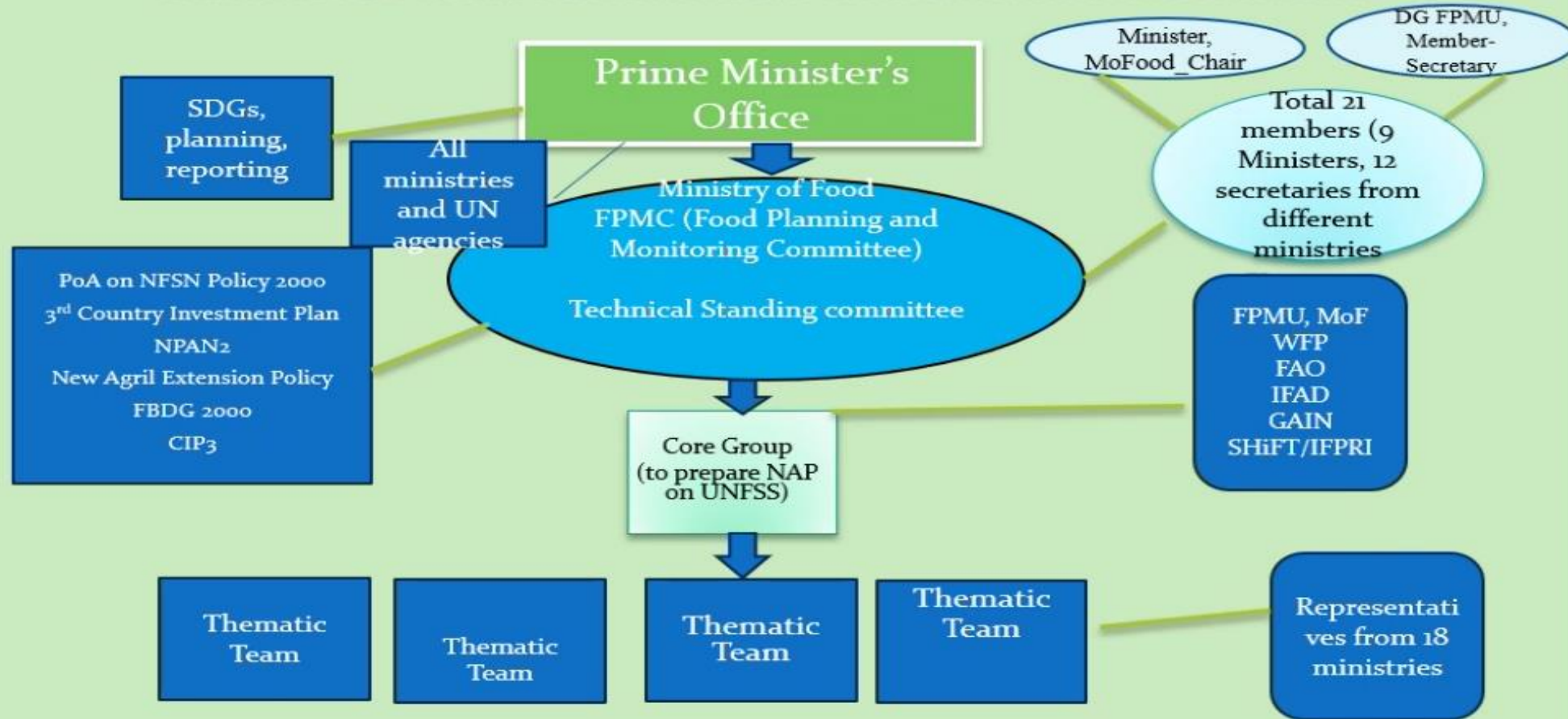
Piloting actions-research – seeing is believing- help shaping policies and programs

Analytics—convincing, in-house capacity required for understanding

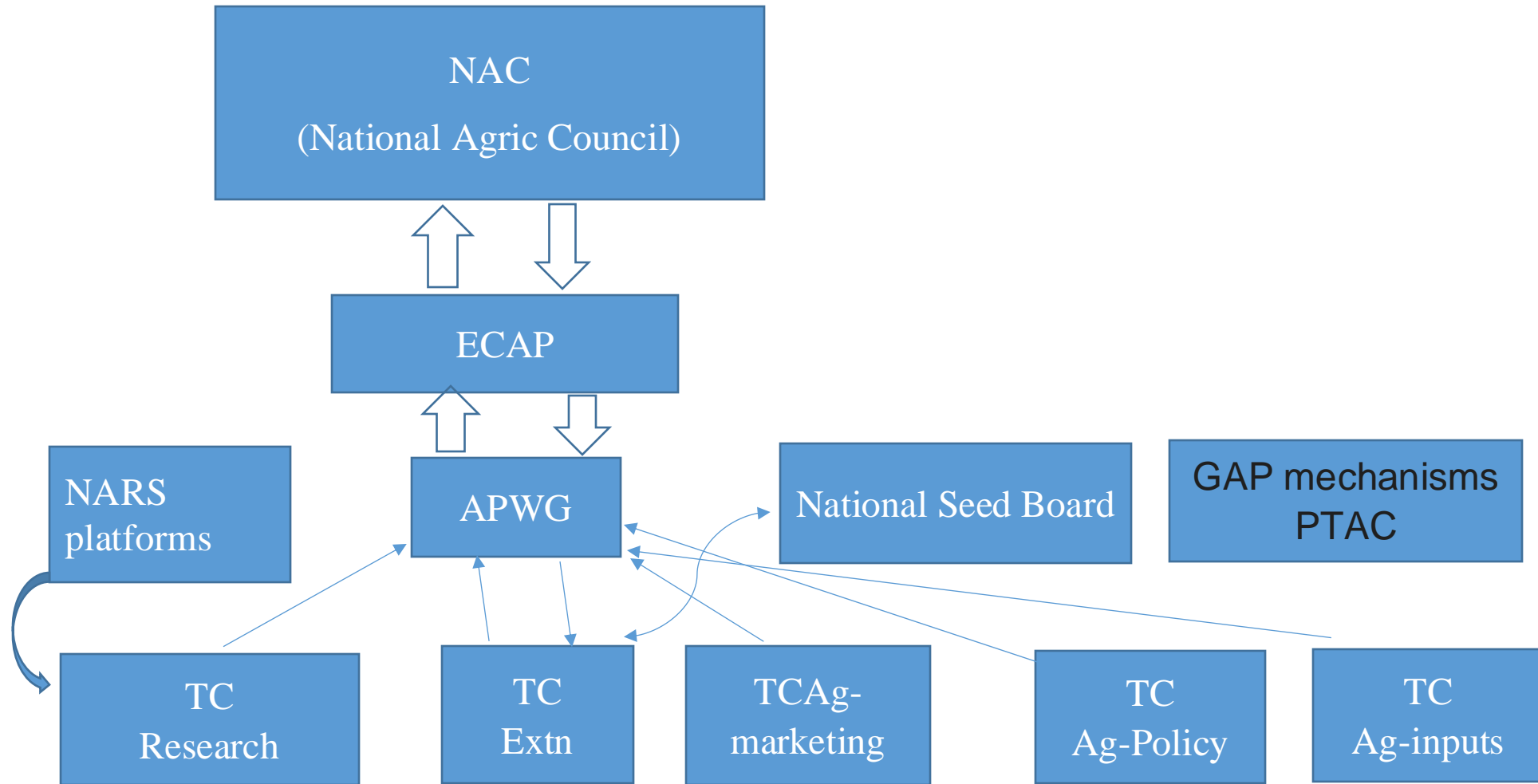
Coordination mechanisms at different level – national to sub-national

- within and across sectors [see examples in next slide]

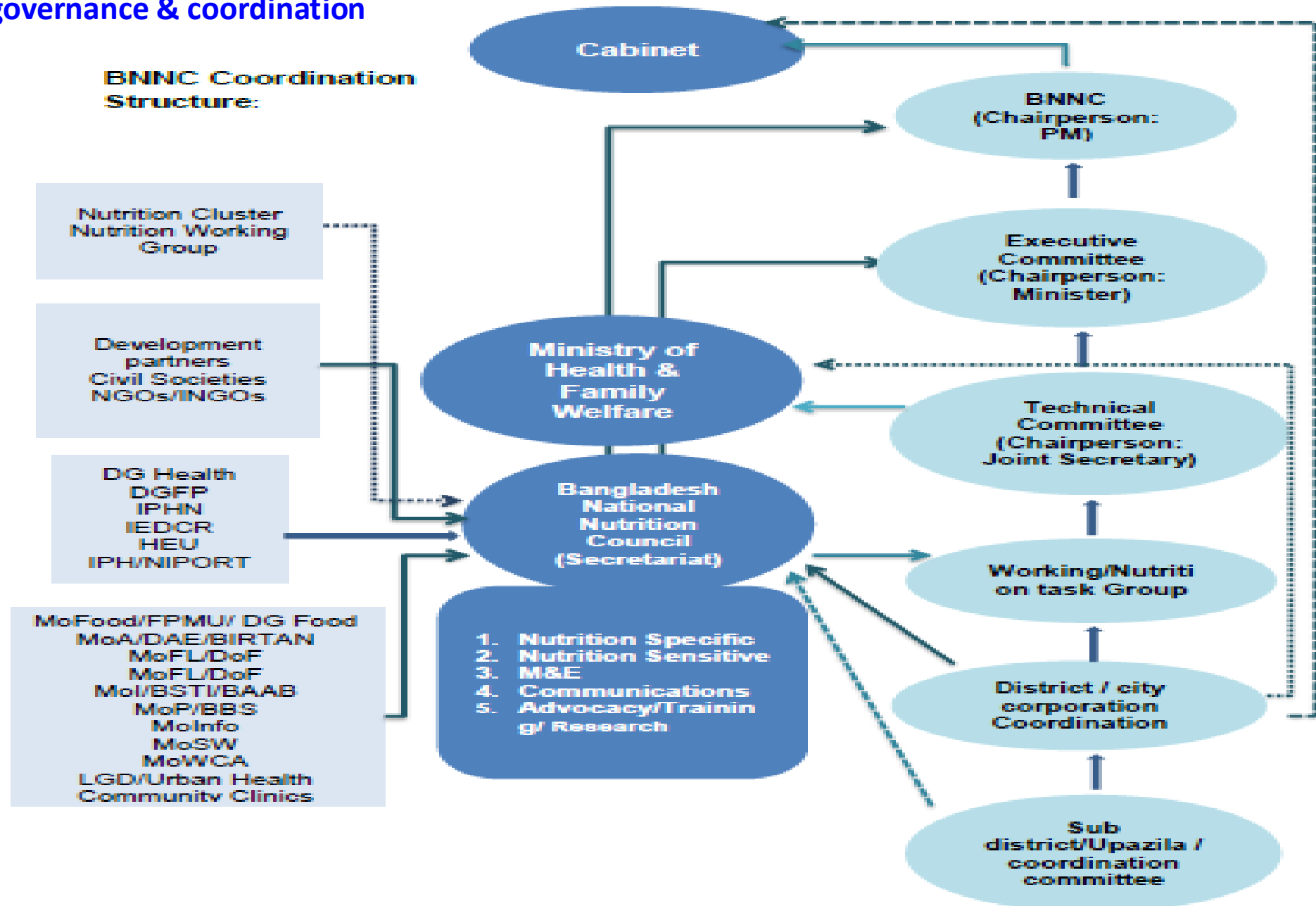
Current FST Mult stakeholders Coordination Mechanism



Ministry of Agriculture – policy coordination



Nutrition governance & coordination



Lessons – Translating research evidence into actions

- Consultations at every stage: prioritization of research, methods, implementation & technical oversights, reports/briefs
- Data validation by NSO-BBS- enhance the acceptability of the research outcomes
- Dissemination of reports, summary & Policy briefs—NFPCSP, IFPRI, MUCH, SHiFT etc. – reaching the people
- Advocacies—at different levels – national to subnational or vice-versa; development partners
- Research and evidence having potentials for investment mobilization and enhancing growth and employments etc.- return on investment in research
 - short term exercises supporting short-medium term policies
 - investment priorities if focused
- Policy research is not enough-management/implementation/action research are also instrumental to connect the dots
 - Actions Beyond research – how the recommendations will be implemented? What investments to be undertaken? how a specific institution will work at the subnational level – DNCC, UNCC, UPNCC

Thank you