

2025
GLOBAL
FOOD POLICY
REPORT

50 YEARS OF
IFPRI
LOOKING TOWARD 2050

FOOD POLICY
LESSONS *and* PRIORITIES
for a CHANGING WORLD

**SOUTH ASIA
LAUNCH EVENT**

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Food Systems Transformation

James Thurlow

Director, Foresight and Policy Modeling
IFPRI

Green Revolution

- **Agricultural growth** as a driver of structural change and development
 - Movement of workers from low- to high-productivity sectors
 - Forward linkages to non-agriculture
- **South Asia's experience** provided supporting evidence
 - Wide-spread adoption labor-intensive agricultural technologies and practices
 - Rapid technological progress in major staple crops (esp. rice and wheat)
- Emphasis on **supply-side agricultural policies**

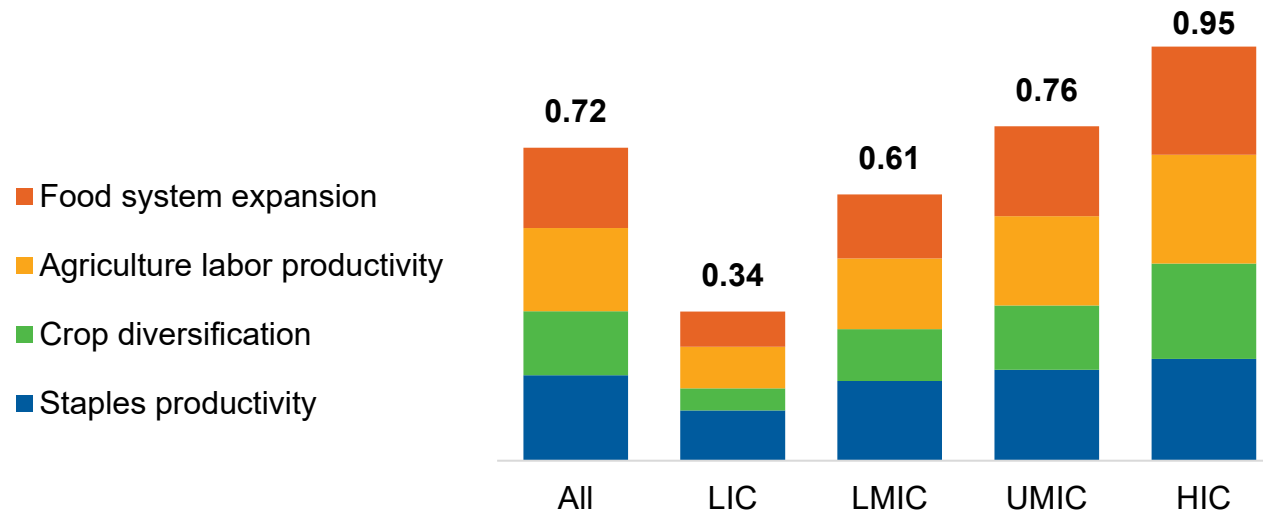
Towards Agrifood Systems

- **Broader perspective is imperative**
 - Agriculture remains crucial, but cannot be the only focus
 - Policies need to go “beyond the farm”
- **Evidence supports this shift**
 - Downstream value chain investments can transfer knowledge back to farmers
 - Food processing (import substitution) may be a viable path to manufacturing
 - Many workers often prefer off-farm employment
 - Sustainability and resilience are key concerns

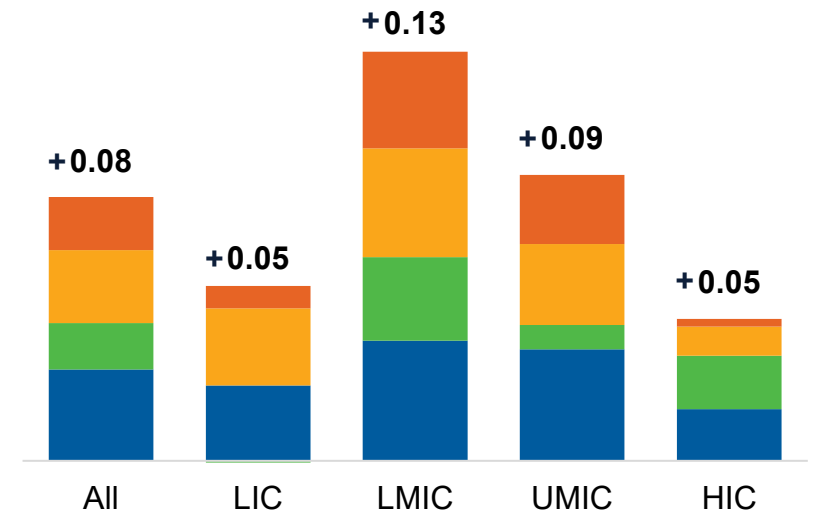
Measuring Transformation

- We need **better data and tools**
 - To anticipate emerging challenges and evaluate system-wide policies
 - To track agrifood system transformation

Agricultural Transformation Index, 2021
(1 = countries with most transformed agrifood systems)



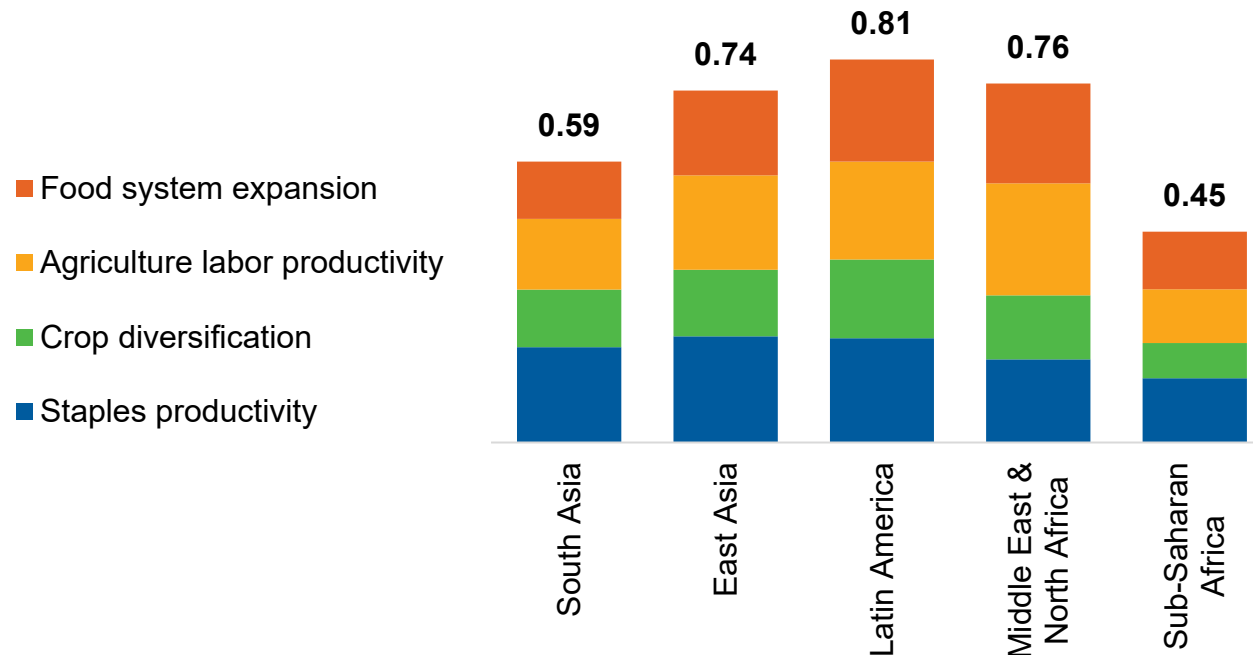
ATI point change, 2000-2021
(bigger is better)



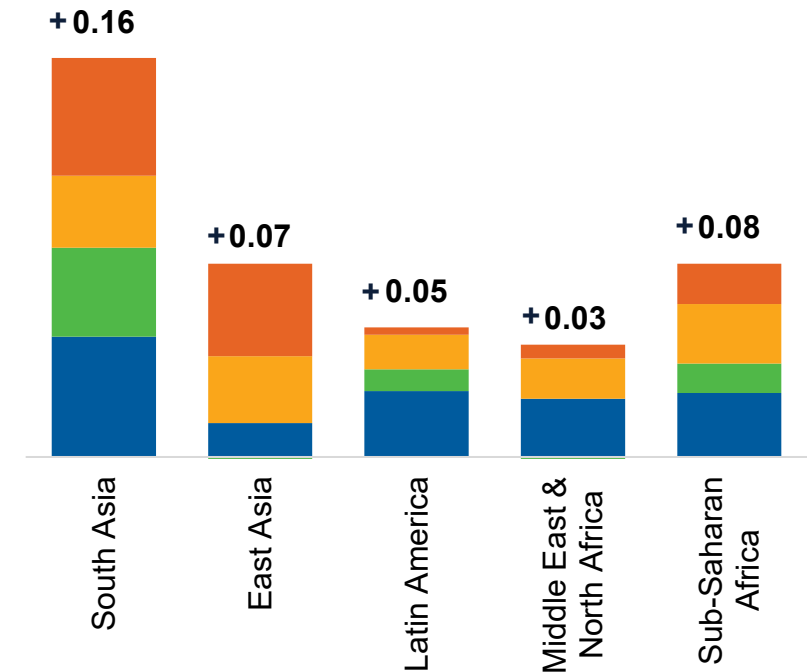
Transformation in South Asia

- Fastest transforming region in the world
 - Main drivers = Staples productivity + Food system expansion

Agricultural Transformation Index, 2021
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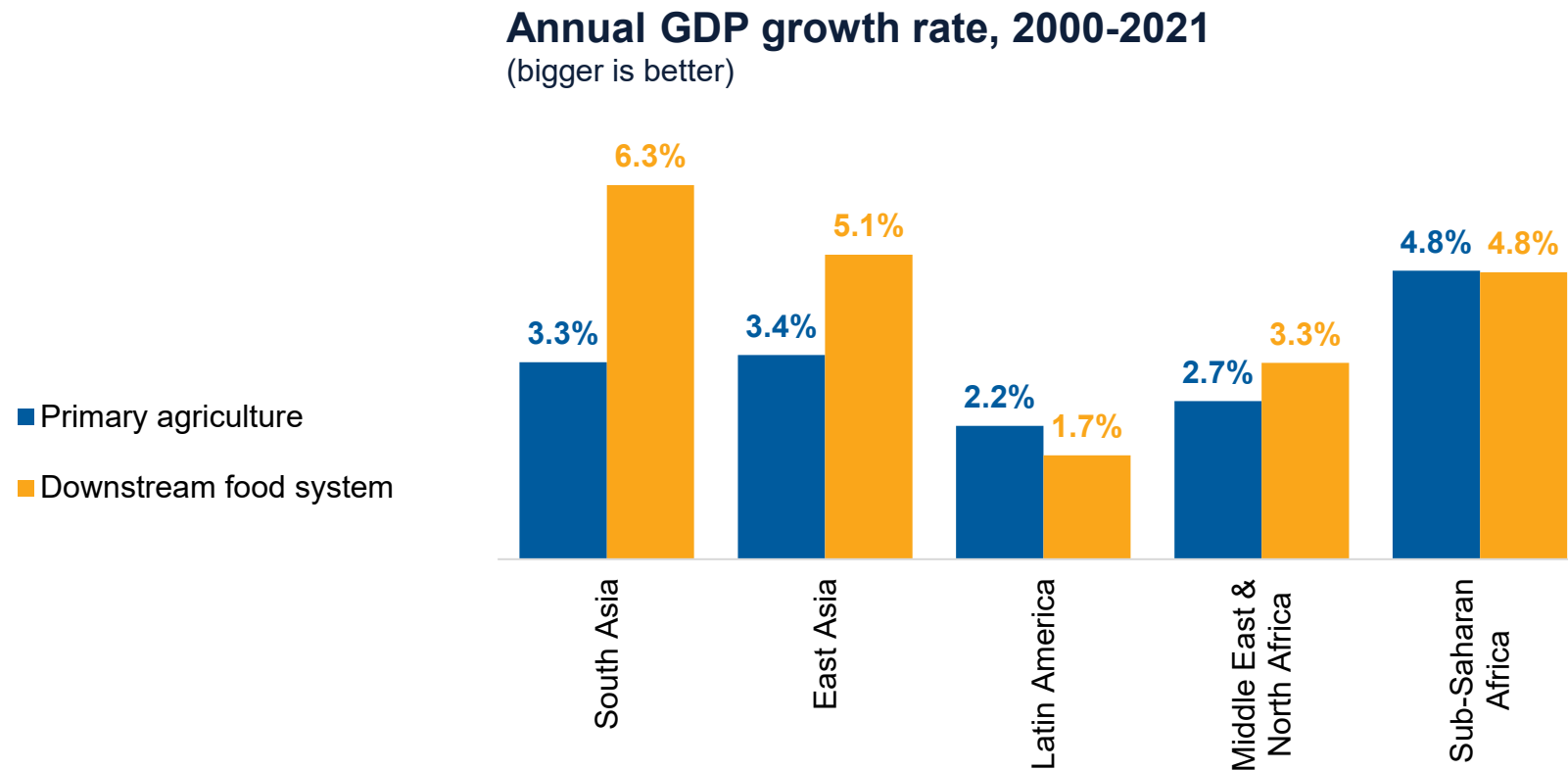


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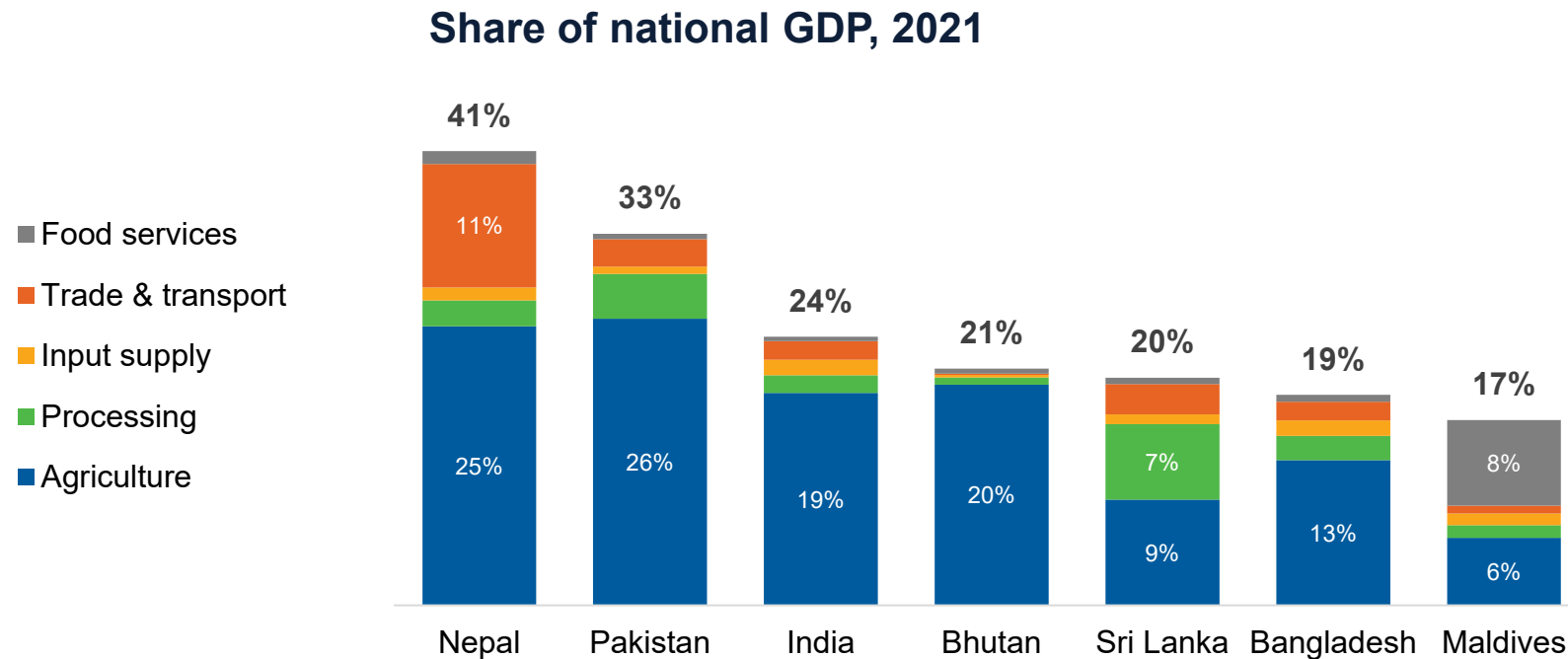
Food System Expansion

- South Asia's downstream food system is growing fast
 - Downstream = Food processing, trading, transport, restaurants, etc.



South Asia's Food Systems Today

- Downstream food systems are quite diverse
 - Trade, processing and food services play different roles



Research Gaps

■ Labor-saving technologies

- Labor shortages are a reality for agriculture today
- **Research** can identify and adapt these technologies

■ Market incentives

- Private sector dominates the “downstream” with more diverse actors and incentives
- **Research** can inform how policies shape incentives and ensure equitable outcomes

■ Resilience

- World market and climate risks are unavoidable
- **Research** can help identify and navigate the most important risks