

2025
GLOBAL
FOOD POLICY
REPORT

50 YEARS OF
IFPRI
LOOKING TOWARD 2050



SOUTH ASIA LAUNCH EVENT

FOOD POLICY *for a* **CHANGING WORLD** LESSONS *and* PRIORITIES *for* SOUTH ASIA

16 SEPT 2025
14:30 - 18:15 IST

HOTEL JAYPEE SIDDHARTH
NEW DELHI

CONCEPT

Food systems lie at the heart of sustainable development. They influence how people produce, access, and consume food and are intricately tied to livelihoods, public health, natural ecosystems, and economic growth. In South Asia, where a large share of the population remains dependent on agriculture and food-related services, strengthening food systems is both a developmental and strategic priority.

Over the past five decades, the region has seen transformative policy shifts, from the Green Revolution to large-scale nutrition and social protection programs, helping reduce hunger and lift millions out of poverty. Yet, the current moment presents new and interlocking challenges: inflationary shocks, climate extremes, resource degradation, demographic transitions, and rising diet-related diseases. These disruptions, many global in nature, call for renewed leadership, bold vision, and evidence-informed action to shape the next generation of food policy in South Asia.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in partnership with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is convening a high-level regional policy dialogue, “**Food Policy for a Changing World: Lessons and Priorities for South Asia**,” to be held in Hotel Jaypee Siddharth, New Delhi on **September 16, 2025**, in conjunction with the South Asia **launch of the 2025 Global Food Policy Report (GFPR)**. The dialogue will provide a platform to reflect on the evolving landscape of food systems in the region and identify forward-looking strategies for resilience, equity, and sustainability.

Objectives

- Launch and contextualize the **2025 Global Food Policy Report (GFPR)** with a regional focus on South Asia.
- Facilitate high-level dialogue on emerging policy priorities, drawing on recent evidence and regional experiences.
- Foster strategic collaboration among government institutions, regional bodies, and the research community to tackle common challenges and move beyond siloed approaches.

Thematic Priorities

The dialogue will convene senior government officials, researchers, civil society, and development partners to deliberate on three interconnected policy themes:

1. Food Systems Transformation: The region’s food systems must evolve to be more inclusive, productive, and resilient. This theme will explore structural transformation across agri-food value chains, innovation in rural economies, and policy reforms needed to unlock growth while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.

2. Environment and Climate Change: South Asia is highly vulnerable to climate-related risks, including extreme weather events, water scarcity, and land degradation. The dialogue will assess pathways to mainstream climate adaptation and mitigation into food system policies, including reforms to input subsidies and promotion of climate-smart investments.

3. Diets and Health: The region faces a complex double burden of undernutrition and rising obesity, particularly among women and children. This session will address how policy, regulation, and innovation can support healthy diets and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, while also tackling the challenges posed by ultra-processed foods and diet-related diseases.

Why Now?

As countries in South Asia work toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and set their sights on resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems by 2050, the urgency for coordinated and evidence-informed policy action has never been greater. The region's progress will not only shape its own future but will have global implications for food security, climate adaptation, and equitable development.

The upcoming dialogue seeks to catalyze a shared regional vision—anchored in evidence, enriched by experience, and committed to transformative change. IFPRI's platform will promote cross-country learning and elevate South Asia's leadership in addressing some of the most critical food systems challenges of our time.

AGENDA

14:00 –14:30	Registration
14:30 –15:30	INAUGURAL SESSION Chief Guest: Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairperson: Dr. M L Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
14:30 – 14:45	Welcome and Overview Dr. Shahidur Rashid <i>Director-South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</i>
14:45 – 14:55	Global Food Policy Report 2025 Launch
14:55 – 15:05	Remarks by Special Guest Dr. Angela Lusigi <i>Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India</i> Smt. Anu Garg <i>Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha</i>
15:05 – 15:15	Remarks by Guest of Honor Dr. Vinod K. Paul <i>Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India</i>
15:15 – 15:25	Remarks by Chief Guest Prof. S. Mahendra Dev <i>Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)</i>
15:25 – 15:30	Chairperson's Remarks Dr. M L Jat <i>Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Group Photo & High Tea

16:00 – 18:15	FOOD POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD: FOCUS ON SOUTH ASIA Chairpersons: Smt. Arti Ahuja, Former Secretary, Government of India and Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha
16:00 – 16:25	Theme 1 – Environment and Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (10 min): Dr. Claudia Ringler, <i>Unit Director, Natural Resources and Resilience, IFPRI</i> and Dr. Muzna Alvi, <i>Research Fellow, Natural Resources and Resilience Unit, IFPRI</i> • Discussants (15 min): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Pratap Borthal, <i>Director, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP)</i> ○ Prof. Aparna Sawhney, <i>Professor, Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University</i>
16:25 – 16:50	Theme 2 – Diets and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (10 min): Dr. Purnima Menon, <i>Senior Director for Food and Nutrition Policy & Acting Senior Director, Transformation Strategies, IFPRI</i> • Discussants (15 min): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Shariqua Yunus, <i>Head of Unit, Nutrition and School Feeding, United Nations World Food Programme</i> ○ Ms. Marie-Claude Desilets, <i>Chief of Nutrition, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), India</i>
16:50 – 17:15	Theme 3 – Food Systems Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (10 min): Dr. James Thurlow, <i>Unit Director, Foresight Policy and Modeling, IFPRI</i> • Discussants (15 min): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. A. Ganesh Kumar, <i>Member, National Statistical Commission and Professor & Dean of Academic Affairs, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)</i> ○ Dr. Prachi Mishra, <i>Professor, Department of Economics & Director and Head, Ashoka Isaac Center for Public Policy, Ashoka University</i>
17:15 – 17:25	Bio Break (10 min)
17:25 – 17:55	Open Floor Discussion (30 min)
17:55 – 18:05	Remarks by the Chairperson (10 min)
18:05 – 18:15	Vote of Thanks Dr. Mamata Pradhan <i>Research Coordinator, IFPRI</i>
18:15 onwards	Felicitation of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister & Networking Dinner



Read the report

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