

Evidence-Led Food Systems Transformation Policies in the Context of Viksit Bharat

7 April 2026 | 09:00 – 15:35 IST
Parijat Lecture Hall, Ground Floor, NASC Complex, New Delhi

AGENDA

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:15	INAUGURAL SESSION Chief Guest: Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome and Overview Dr. Shahidur Rashid <i>Director-South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</i>
09:35 – 09:45	Context Setting Dr. Clemens Breisinger <i>Director, CGIAR Policy Innovations Science Program</i>
09:45 – 10:05	Remarks by Special Guests Dr. Madhura Swaminathan <i>Professor and Head, Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute-Bangalore</i> Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta <i>Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</i> Dr. Himanshu Pathak <i>Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</i>
10:05 – 10:15	Remarks by Guest of Honor Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS <i>Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Odisha</i>
10:15 – 10:25	Remarks by Chief Guest Prof. Ramesh Chand <i>Member, NITI Aayog</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Group Photo & Tea Break

10:45 – 12:00	<p>SESSION 1: Food System Prioritization in Viksit Bharat</p> <p>Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) • Dr. Susama Sudhishri, Technical Expert (WD), National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India
10:45 – 11:00	<p>Theme 1 – Broad Overview of Price Policies, Climate Change and Trade Dr. Ashok Gulati <i>Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:30	<p>Theme 2 – State Roadmaps: Goals and Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Shubhranshu Mishra, OAS <i>Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DA&FE), Government of Odisha</i> • Dr. Sangram Keshari Pattanaik <i>Joint Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DA&FE), Government of Odisha</i> • Shri Anil Kumar Jha, IAS <i>Cane Commissioner, Sugarcane Industries Department, Government of Bihar</i>
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
11:45 – 11:55	<p>Remarks by the Chairpersons</p>
11:55 – 12:00	<p>Bio Break</p>

<p>12:00 – 13:15</p>	<p>SESSION II: Commodity Focus and Evidence-based Policy Contributions to Viksit Bharat</p> <p>Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Anuradha Agrawal, Project Director, Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) • Dr. P.K. Joshi, President, Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), India
<p>12:00 – 12:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry Points for Crop Diversification and Advancing Millets and Pulses for Human and Environmental Well-being Dr. Shalander Kumar <i>Deputy Global Research Program Director, Enabling Systems Transformation Program and Cluster Leader, Markets, Institutions and Policies, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</i> • Rice Production: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Nutrition Dr. Swati Naik <i>Scientist II and South Asia Lead - Seed Systems and Product Management, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)</i> • Maize and Wheat: Balancing Food Security, Sustainability and Bioenergy Dr. Mahesh Kumar Gathala <i>Country Representative – India, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)</i>
<p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: Evidence to Inform Policy - Insights from Science</p> <p>Round 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. I. Sekar <i>Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP)</i> • Dr. Jai Rana <i>Senior Scientist and Country Representative-India, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)</i> • Dr. Arun Padiyar <i>Country Representative, India, WorldFish</i> • Dr. Neeraj Sharma <i>Country Manager for India, International Potato Center (CIP)</i> <p>Round 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ram Pratim Deka <i>Senior Research Management Coordinator and Country Representative-India, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Smita Kaul, <i>Associate Scientist, Genetic Resources, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)</i> • Shri Tejpal Singh <i>Senior Advisor, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)</i> • Dr. Gopal Kumar <i>Interim Country Representative - India and Bangladesh, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Discussion and Q&A
13:45 – 13:55	Remarks by the Chairpersons
13:55 – 14:45	Lunch
14:45 – 15:00	Launch of India Policy Innovation Hub – Co-creation Platform for Informing Policies
15:00 – 15:30	WAY FORWARD
15:00 – 15:15	<p>Key Takeaways</p> <p>Dr. Mamata Pradhan <i>Research Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</i></p> <p>Way Forward</p> <p>Dr. Shalander Kumar <i>Deputy Global Research Program Director of the Enabling Systems Transformation Program and Cluster Leader, Markets, Institutions and Policies, ICRISAT</i></p>
15:15 – 15:20	<p>Remarks by Special Guest</p> <p>Dr. Raka Saxena <i>Senior Adviser (Agriculture Policy), NITI Aayog</i></p>
15:20 – 15:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Dr. Clemens Breisinger <i>Director, CGIAR Policy Innovations Science Program</i></p> <p>Shri Sanjay Agrawal <i>Assistant Director General, ICRISAT</i></p>
15:30 – 15:35	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Smt. Rajalakshmi Nirmal <i>Global Communications & MELIA Lead, CGIAR Policy Innovations Science Program</i></p>
15:35 onwards	Tea/Coffee