



India Policy Innovation Hub

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

7 April 2026 | Parijat Lecture Hall, NASC Complex, New Delhi

India's aspiration to become a developed nation under the vision of *Viksit Bharat* requires a fundamental transformation of its agri-food systems to ensure nutrition security, climate resilience, farmer prosperity, and sustainable economic growth. The policy dialogue titled "Evidence-Led Food Systems Transformation Policies for Viksit Bharat," jointly convened by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the aegis of CGIAR Science Program on Policy Innovations, aims to create a high-level platform for evidence-based deliberations to inform national and state-level agricultural and food policies.

India's food systems are at a critical juncture. While agricultural production has achieved notable gains, emerging challenges, including climate variability, natural resource degradation, dietary transitions, price volatility, and trade uncertainties, necessitate an integrated policy response. The programme brings together senior policymakers, leading economists, research institutions, and state representatives to align evidence with actionable policy pathways.

The first session focuses on food system prioritization within the Viksit Bharat framework. It will examine macro-level drivers including price policies, climate change impacts, and trade dynamics both domestically and internationally. Additionally, this framework, spearheaded by NITI Aayog, encourages states to create their own long-term, time-bound development roadmaps that leverage local strengths while contributing to national goals. Examples from Bihar, Maharashtra, and Odisha in terms of how they are will provide insights for cross learning into policy innovations and implementation challenges will also be explored. This multi-level analysis will help identify coherent policy levers that balance growth, equity, and sustainability.

The second session adopts a commodity-focused lens, drawing on contributions from various CGIAR research institutes from across the country. These discussions will explore how strategic evidence can inform policies to create incentives and drive investments towards diversification, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems contributing to productivity enhancement, climate adaptation, nutrition-sensitive regenerative agriculture, and inclusive value chain.

A key highlight of the event is the launch of the India Policy Innovation Hub – a co-creation platform designed to strengthen collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and development partners at central and state levels. The Hub aims to accelerate translation of data, analytics, and field evidence into timely and context-specific policy solutions.

The dialogue will conclude with a forward-looking session to synthesize key takeaways and outlining a roadmap for coordinated action. The program seeks to support India's transition toward resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and economically vibrant agrifood systems aligned with the goals of Viksit Bharat through strengthened cross-institutional collaboration and evidence-based policy decision-making. As per the policy innovation hub, the approach is collaborative, partner centric. It aims to lay out plan for evidence-based policy for sustainable development through co-created solutions based on test of innovations via pilots invoking digital and data driven AI techniques.