



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable
Healthy Diets



CGIAR Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT 2022



CGIAR Technical Reporting 2022

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with the [CGIAR Technical Reporting Arrangement](#).

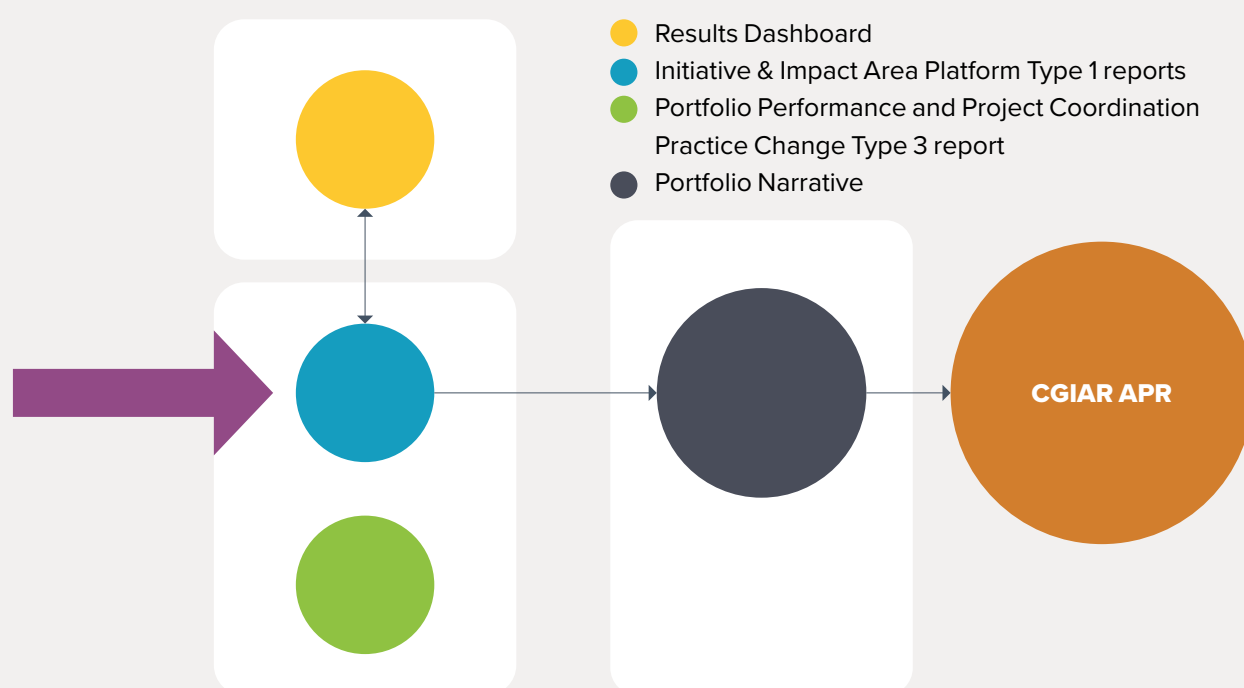
This Initiative report is a Type 1 report and constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Initiative submits an annual Type 1 report, which provides assurance on Initiative-level progress towards End of Initiative outcomes.

The CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- Type 1 Initiative and Impact Area Platform reports, with quality assured results reported by Initiatives and Platforms available on the CGIAR Results Dashboard.

- The Type 3 Portfolio Performance and Project Coordination Practice Change report, which focuses on internal practice change.
- The Portfolio Narrative, which draws on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, and the CGIAR Results Dashboard, to provide a broader view on portfolio coherence, including results, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and synergies among the portfolio's constituent parts.

The CGIAR Technical Report constitutes a key component of the CGIAR Annual Performance Report (APR).



US\$	2022	2023	2024
Proposal Budget from initial submission	US\$10,219,112	US\$11,878,790	US\$12,902,098
Approved 2022 Budget	US\$6,371,913		

2022 Disbursement Target based on Approved FinPlan

Section 1 Fact sheet

Initiative name	Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation
Initiative short name	Sustainable Healthy Diets
Action Area	Systems Transformation
Geographic scope	Countries targeted in the proposal: Bangladesh; Benin; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Senegal; The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Start date	Jan. 1, 2022
End date	Dec. 31, 2024
Initiative Lead	In 2022: Marie Ruel – M.Ruel@cgiar.org Current: Inge Brouwer – I.Brouwer@cgiar.org
Initiative Deputy	Mark Lundy – M.Lundy@cgiar.org
Measurable three-year End of Initiative outcomes (EOI-Os)	EOI-O 1: Stakeholders initiate implementation of at least two solutions (innovations or policies) to increase the demand for sustainable healthy diets and/or improve the ability of MSMEs and the informal sector to deliver sustainable nutritious foods in three target countries.
	EOI-O 2: Stakeholders initiate implementation of at least two solutions (innovations or policies) to tackle gender and youth equality and social inclusion in food systems in three target countries.
	EOI-O 3: Stakeholders show a significant increase in their ability to engage in governance and political economy issues and/or to navigate tradeoffs in food systems transformation in three target countries.
	EOI-O 4: Stakeholders improve the design and implementation of the national roadmap towards food systems transformation for sustainable healthy diets in three target countries.

OECD DAC Climate marker adaptation score*	Score 1: Significant: The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives — namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.
OECD DAC Climate marker mitigation score*	Score 1: Significant: The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives — namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.
OECD DAC Gender equity marker score*	Score 1B: Gender responsive: On the top of the minimum requirements for 1A, the Initiative/project includes at least one explicit gender equality outcome and the Initiative/project team has resident gender expertise or capacity. The Initiative/project includes gender equality indicators and monitors the participation of and differential benefits for diverse men and women.
Website link	https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/sustainable-healthy-diets/
*The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) markers refer to the OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate and the gender equality policy marker. For climate adaptation and mitigation, scores are: 0 = Not targeted; 1 = Significant; and 2 = Principal. The CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform has adapted the OECD gender marker, splitting the 1 score into 1A and 1B. For gender equality, scores are: 0 = Not targeted; 1A = Gender accommodative/aware; 1B = Gender responsive; and 2 = Principal. These scores are derived from Initiative proposals, and refer to the score given to the Initiative overall based on their proposal.	



Local fish market at
Satkhira, Bangladesh.
Photo credit: Noor Alam

Section 2 Initiative progress on science and towards End of Initiative outcomes



Overall summary of progress against the theory of change

Sustainable Healthy Diets combines high-quality nutritional and social science research capacity with development and policy partnerships to generate innovative food systems solutions that contribute to healthier, more sustainable dietary food choices and consumption of sustainable healthy diets. We work closely with national partners that are involved in the implementation of their country's food systems transformation agenda and are formally engaged in cooperative activities to strengthen stakeholder engagement in food systems transformation (see **Section 5**).

This Initiative is co-led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), in close collaboration with Wageningen University and Research (WUR) and with contributions from the International Potato

Center (CIP). The Program Committee consists of the Initiative Lead, Deputy Lead, and the Leads and Co-Leads of all five Work Packages.

We build on CGIAR's unparalleled track record of agricultural research for development, including 10 years of work on food systems and nutrition under the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). A significant proportion of the results included in this reporting year is the culmination of A4NH research. Sustainable Healthy Diets intends to continue A4NH's legacy of facilitating in-country stakeholder networks, delivering knowledge products, and engaging in capacity sharing and innovation co-development to foster sustainable healthy diets for all in three target countries — Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Viet Nam.

Sustainable Healthy Diets expects to contribute to development outcomes by influencing changes in policy and practice of key stakeholder groups as defined in our theory of change through activities that enhance policy exchange and deliver high-

Local food market
in Addis Ababa.
Photo credit: Geraldine
Klarenberg/ILRI



quality research. Our progress in Year 1 towards these short-term outcomes, called End of Initiative (EOI) outcomes, is summarized in the table below.

Relying on its strong in-country network, the Initiative has established partnerships with key national actors responsible for implementing the follow-up actions to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) process, a group we call Strategic Partners. Following the UNFSS process, countries committed to developing their own national strategy, also known as an action plan or roadmap. The strategy is developed through a non-linear process that is influenced by and reflects sectoral and multi-sectoral interests linked to policy reform, implementation, and stocktaking.

Keeping in step with this multi-sectoral process is a high priority and is how we intend to support *stakeholders to improve the design and implementation of their national roadmap* (see table below). For example, in Ethiopia, the government worked on defining a new high-level food systems and nutrition coordination framework, a follow-up action from the UNFSS. Members of the Ethiopian Food Systems core group identified opportunities where the Initiative can contribute to technical core teams and working groups. This will provide greater opportunities for us to work alongside Strategic Partners, like the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), to integrate promising solutions in national food, agriculture, and health and nutrition policies and programs. For example, the government recently published its first **Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs)**,¹ a collaborative effort led and coordinated by EPHI and supported by researchers from A4NH and this Initiative. The FBDGs were identified as a game-changing solution in Ethiopia's national roadmap. Looking ahead, we will work with stakeholders to accelerate the implementation and evaluation of the FBDGs and other solutions identified in the national roadmap.

In Year 1, Sustainable Healthy Diets worked with Strategic Partners to raise awareness of the many

complex issues in the food systems transformation process. Through collaborative activities, we expect *stakeholders to enhance their ability to engage in governance and political economy issues and navigate tradeoffs* (see table below). For example, in Viet Nam, where the process is moving quickly, the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) invited the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, on behalf of the Initiative, to explain new food systems concepts that were presented in the country's recently published national strategy for sustainable agriculture and rural development. Organized in a "frequently asked questions (FAQ)" format, the **FAQ**² will help government staff gain a common understanding of key terminology, which can foster the successful implementation of the new strategy. Another strategy to enhance stakeholders' ability to engage in food systems transformation is an **e-course on food systems governance**,³ which we launched in November 2022. More than 250 participants from government ministries in the three countries, identified with the help of Strategic Partners, signed up. In Year 2, we will explore ways to expand the course to reach more people and to align with the country's capacity-building priorities.

Building on partnerships and activities carried out in A4NH, the Initiative launched research

1 <https://www.fao.org/nutrition/education/food-dietary-guidelines/regions/countries/ethiopia/en/>

2 <https://ipsard.gov.vn/Strategy-Guidelines/index.html>

3 <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/launch-of-the-food-systems-governance-e-course/>

activities in Viet Nam in Year 1 (see **Section 3**). While major research activities are ongoing in Viet Nam for Work Package 1, Work Package 2, and Work Package 3, research will start in Ethiopia in Year 2, then in Bangladesh in Year 3. New CGIAR research staff were recruited for Work Package 1 and Work Package 3, which will accelerate the work. Concurrently, Work Package 4 activities started in Bangladesh and will expand in Year 2 to Viet Nam and Ethiopia. Informed by this evidence-based research and in consultation with Strategic Partners and other stakeholders, we will begin identifying and/or developing scalable solutions in Year 2. By 2024, the Initiative expects to see *stakeholders initiate implementation of at least two solutions (policies or innovations)* that address one or more of our goals for food systems transformation (see table below).

For instance, most of the Initiative's 50 **knowledge products** (62% are peer-reviewed journal articles) provided evidence on (a) the consumption patterns of marginalized groups and their individual and food environment drivers (30% of the total) and (b) promising solutions to improve consumption of sustainable healthy diets and/or overcome barriers limiting the provision of sustainable nutritious foods (22% of the total). These knowledge products and the new evidence generated through research will contribute to building the body of research needed to design and test *solutions to increase the demand for sustainable healthy diets and/or improve the ability of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the informal sector to deliver sustainable nutritious foods* (see table below).

This Initiative views food systems transformation as an opportunity to understand and address the inequalities that are both a cause and an outcome of unsustainable and unjust food systems. In Year 1, we drafted a Gender Research Strategy, which describes how our research is oriented to have maximum impact *on gender equality, opportunities for youth, and social inclusion in food systems* (see table below). The inclusion of aspirational gender research questions will allow us to quickly target resources, if they become available, to further strengthen priority areas of gender research.

Lastly, to facilitate engagement and support to national agendas, the Initiative established a Country Coordination Unit (CCU) in Viet Nam. CCUs in Ethiopia and Bangladesh will be formalized in Year 2. The CCUs include in-country researchers from all Work Packages and a representative from each Strategic Partner. The CCUs help bring research users into research development and implementation processes, which is intended to improve the relevance and quality of research and accelerate progress towards all four short-term outcomes (see table below).

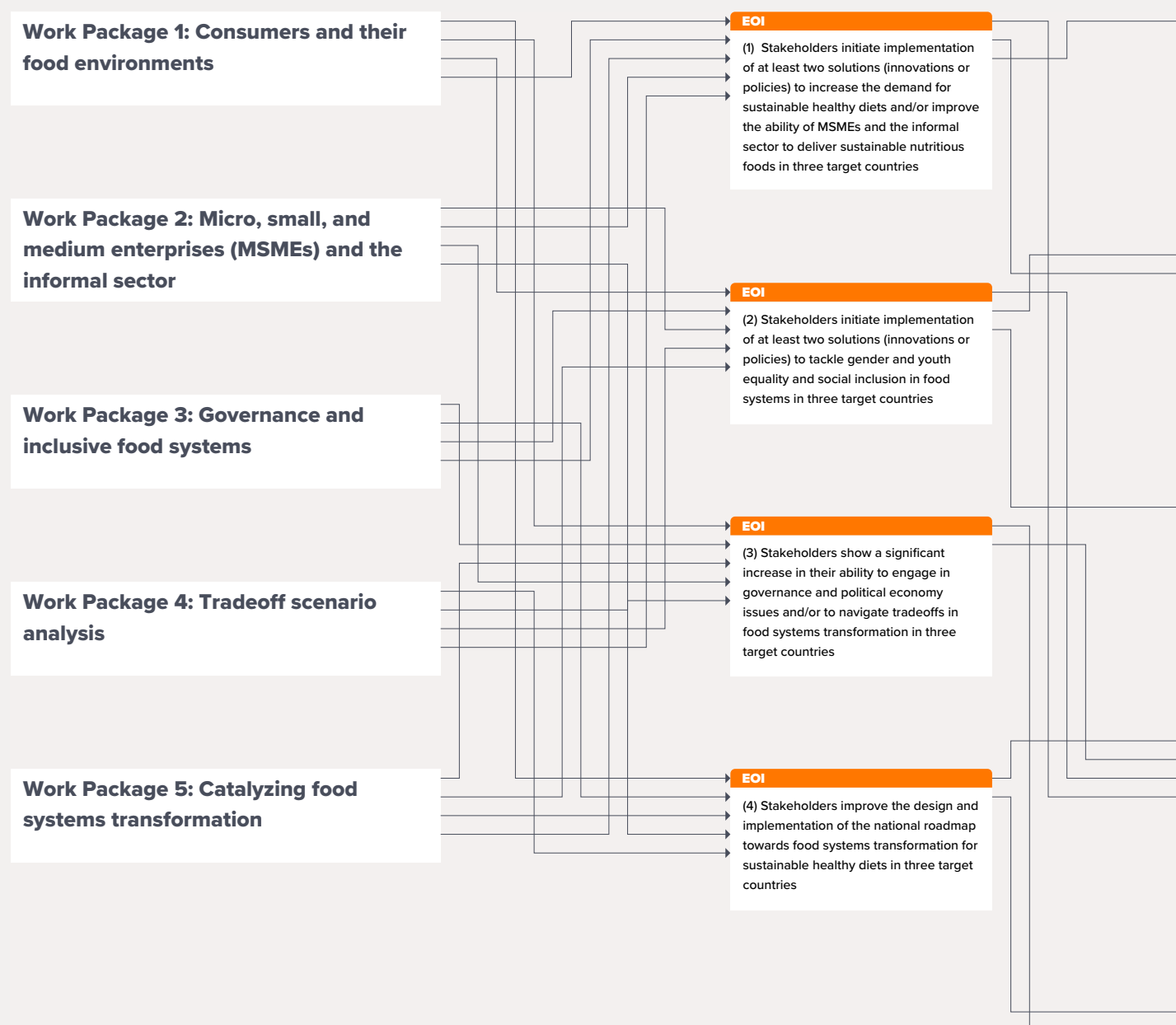
We conducted the Reflect exercise in three parts (**Section 7**). From September–November 2022, the Work Package Leads reexamined the individual Work Packages and overall theory of change. The Program Committee held an extended virtual meeting in December 2022 as a retrospective review of Year 1. The Program Committee and Country Coordinators met at IFPRI headquarters in February 2023 for the annual planning meeting, where they continued discussing reflections.

A Crowded Market in
Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Photo credit: IFPRI



Initiative-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, non-linear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this Initiative and other Initiatives' theories of change are excluded for clarity.



EOI — End of Initiative outcome

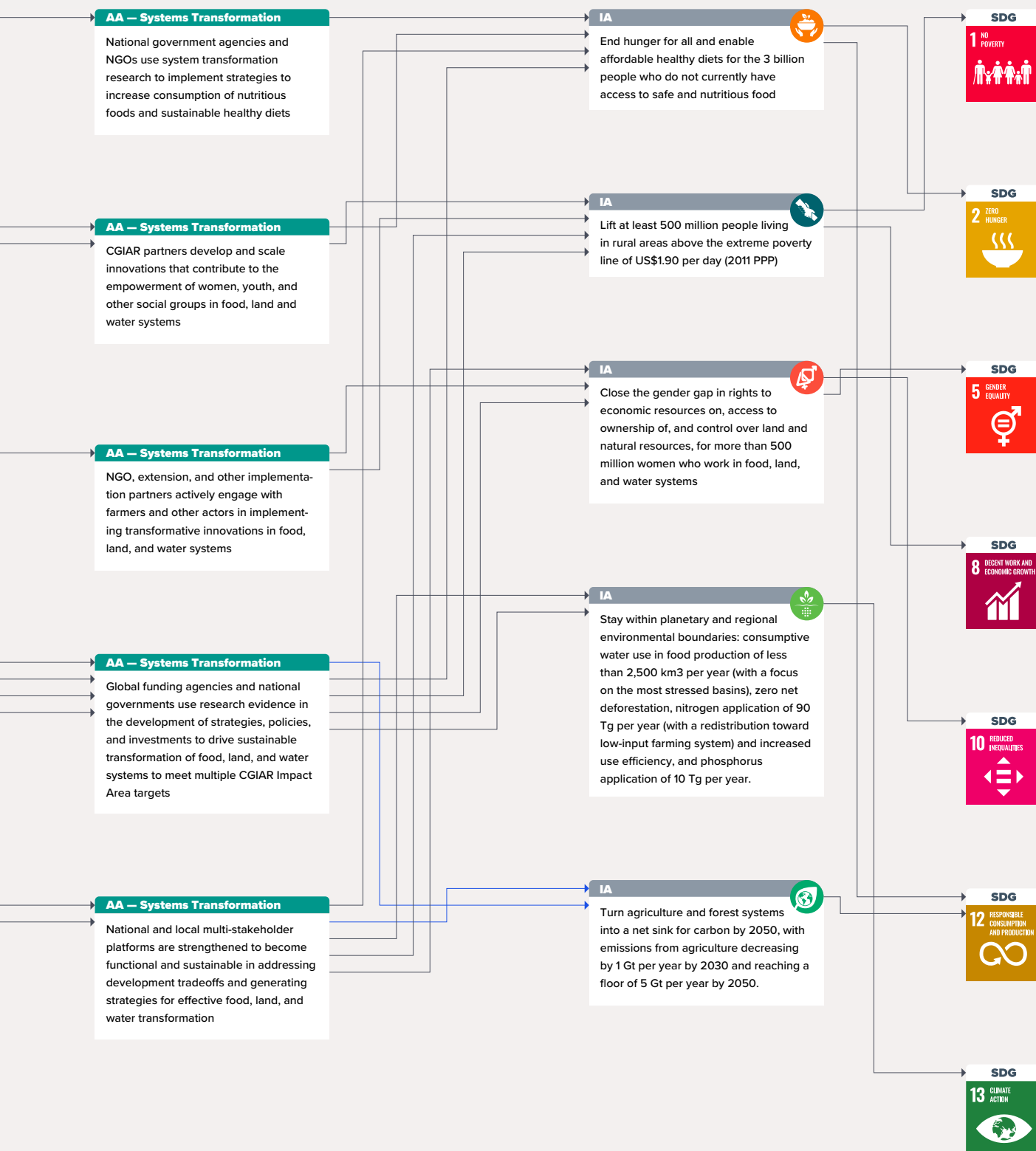
AA — Action Area

IA — Impact Area

SDG — Sustainable Development Goal

-  Nutrition, Health, and Food Security
-  Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods, and Jobs
-  Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion
-  Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
-  Environmental Health and Biodiversity

Teams from CGIAR's three Action Areas — System Transformation, Resilient Agrifood Systems and Genetic Innovation — worked to develop an improved set of Action Area outcomes in October 2022. Since this was near the end of the reporting cycle for 2022, it was decided not to update the theories of change based on these new Action Area outcomes. The exception to this is Genetic Innovation — for this Action Area, as the new outcomes had already been widely discussed among the relevant Initiatives, and with its advisory group of funders and other stakeholders, the decision was made to update their outcomes in time for the 2022 reporting cycle.



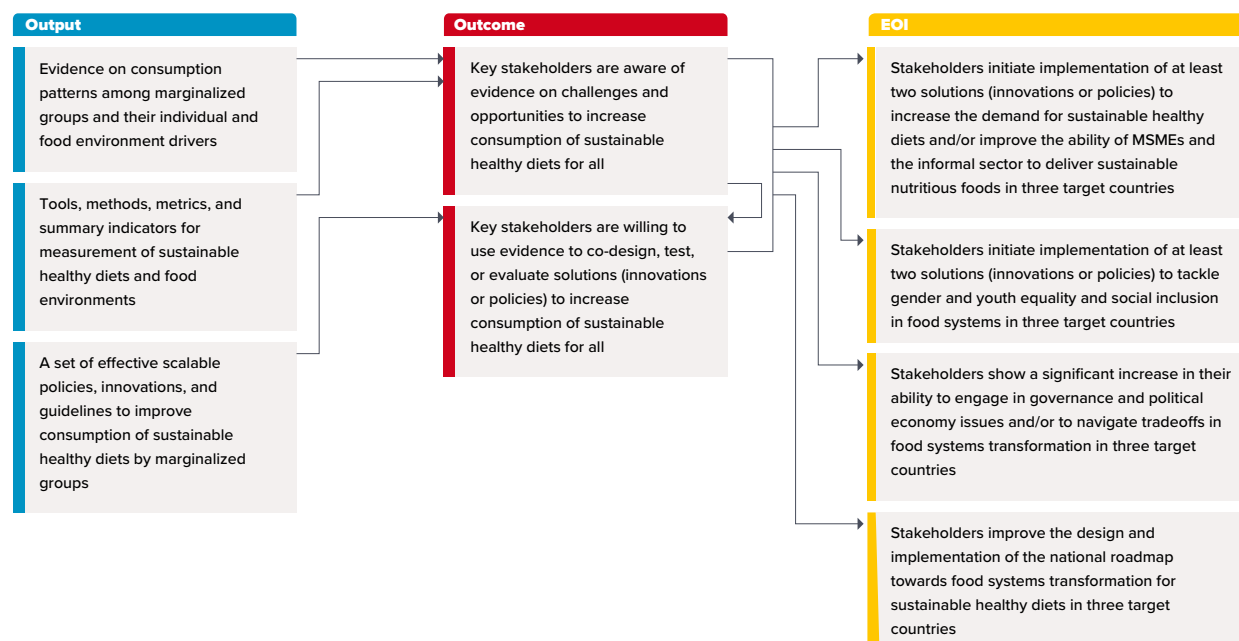
Progress by End of Initiative outcome

EOI-O 1: Stakeholders initiate implementation of at least two solutions (innovations or policies) to increase the demand for sustainable healthy diets and/or improve the ability of MSMEs and the informal sector to deliver sustainable nutritious foods in three target countries.	• Generating evidence: Initiated mixed methods data collection in urban, peri-urban, and rural sites in Viet Nam, which will be completed in 2023. • Framing approaches: Published an MSME typology, which will be refined in 2023 based on survey data and case studies. • Identifying potential solutions: A landscape analysis of policies and innovations for all three countries was postponed to 2023.
EOI-O 2: Stakeholders initiate implementation of at least two solutions (innovations or policies) to tackle gender and youth equality and social inclusion in food systems in three target countries.	• Generating evidence and identifying potential solutions: Adolescents and their caregivers are the target population of the Viet Nam survey; gender-disaggregated analyses will inform on challenges and potential solutions for promoting sustainable healthy diets among this population group. • Framing approaches: Drafted the Gender Research Strategy, which will be published in early 2023.
EOI-O 3: Stakeholders show a significant increase in their ability to engage in governance and political economy issues and/or to navigate tradeoffs in food systems transformation in three target countries.	• Characterizing current understanding: Conducted policy baseline in Viet Nam to understand in-country stakeholder views and assumptions on food systems transformation; modelers developed simulation approaches to understand tradeoffs in the short- and long-term process of dietary change in Bangladesh. • Raising awareness: Launched an e-course on food systems governance in all three countries; supported the development of FAQs with IPSARD and MARD in Viet Nam; conducted workshop on tradeoff analysis with stakeholders in Bangladesh.
EOI-O 4: Stakeholders improve the design and implementation of the national roadmap towards food systems transformation for sustainable healthy diets in three target countries.	• Country engagement: On track in Viet Nam and Ethiopia, but slightly delayed in Bangladesh. • Assessing readiness: Started the process to analyze roadmaps in the three countries and identify action areas where the Initiative can contribute; this will continue in 2023.

Section 3 Work Package-specific progress

Work Package 1:

Consumers and their food environments



Work Package 1 progress against the theory of change

Work Package 1 aims to characterize food consumption and dietary patterns among marginalized populations to identify key drivers and inequalities and inform solutions — innovations/policies — to increase the demand for sustainable healthy diets.

Work Package 1 uses mixed methods approaches in multiple sites in three target countries to generate evidence on the lives, diets, health, and nutritional status of adolescents and their caregivers in low- and middle-income neighborhoods. The study will also inform on food environment solutions to increase consumption of sustainable healthy diets and tackle gender and youth inequality. The outputs are sequential — 1.1 and 1.2 will inform 1.3 (to be delivered in 2023–2024).

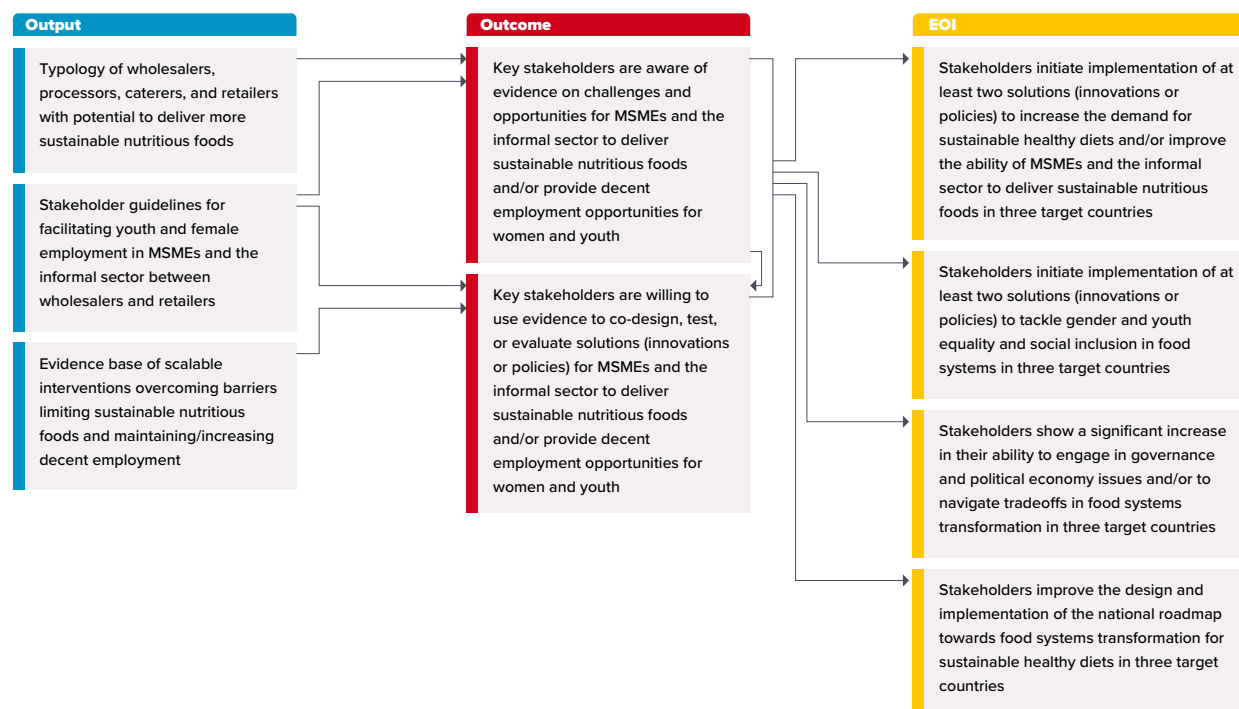
In Year 1, Work Package 1 piloted quantitative survey instruments, contracted implementing

partners including the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), and partially completed a survey in one site in Viet Nam (**output 1.1**). Researchers also compiled datasets from Viet Nam and Ethiopia that will be used to identify optimized dietary patterns for the poorest consumer groups and the effect on sustainability, and data from Ghana that will be used to develop analytical tools (**output 1.2**).

Most results build on the legacy of A4NH. Work Package 1 reported 20 **knowledge products** (75% peer-reviewed publications) describing consumption patterns and food environment drivers and tools, methods, metrics, and indicators for measuring sustainable healthy diets and food environments, which may be adapted for use in the target countries. Virtual learning labs through the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health (ANH) Academy Week conference provided a platform for making stakeholders aware of tools and how to use them (contributing to **outcome 1.1**).

Work Package 2:

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the informal sector



Work Package 2 progress against the theory of change

Work Package 2 focuses on characterizing MSMEs and other informal actors in the food sector, including wholesale, processing, catering, and retail, and generating knowledge about the decisions they make about what food and beverages to sell to consumers. Work Package 2 also aims to characterize employment conditions for marginalized populations, women, and youth in these enterprises and generate knowledge to implement solutions to increase the supply of sustainable nutritious foods and tackle inequalities in employment opportunities. In the theory of change, the outputs are sequential — 2.1 and 2.2 will inform 2.3 (to be delivered in 2023–2024).

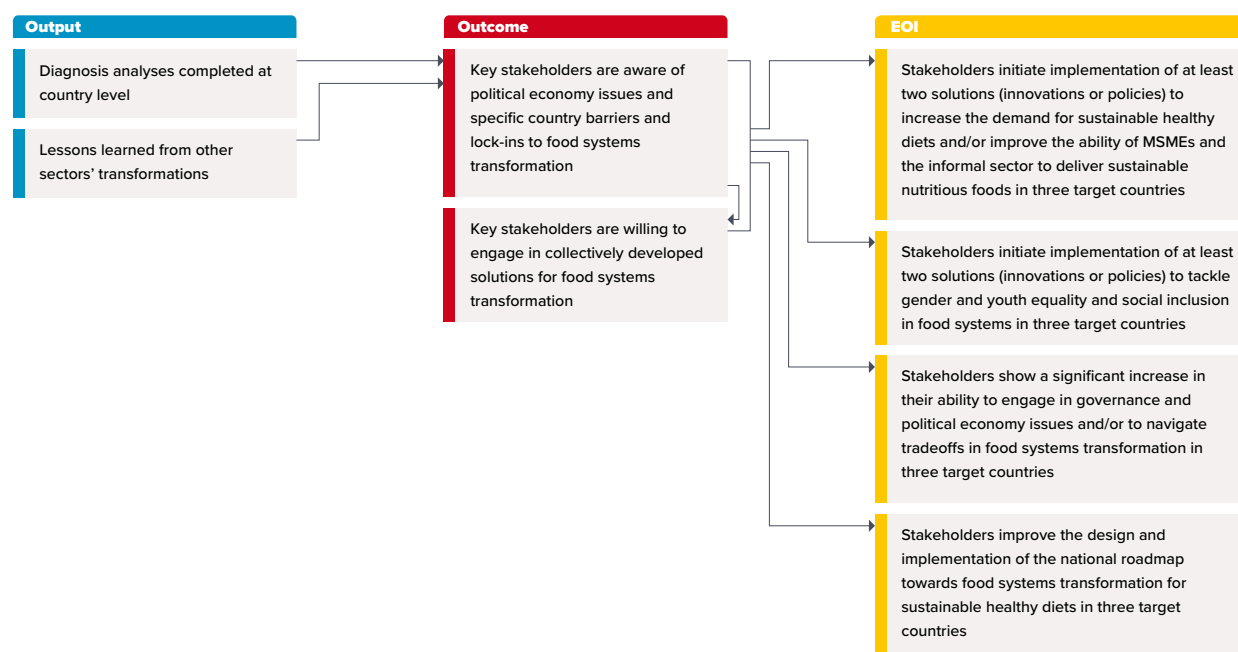
In Year 1, Work Package 2 published a **generic typology of MSMEs**¹ and potential entry points for interventions to increase the availability of

sustainable nutritious foods (**output 2.1**). The next step will be to tailor the typology and potential intervention points to pilot interventions in the target countries. Case studies of MSMEs selling fruits and vegetables were initiated in Viet Nam and Ethiopia, plus one in Kenya to explore options that could be applied in the target countries (**output 2.1**). Work Package 2 uses mixed methods approaches in the same Work Package 1 sites in Viet Nam, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh. The Work Package 2 module of the larger Work Package 1 survey was launched in February 2023.

Most results from Year 1 build on the legacy of A4NH. Work Package 2 reported seven **knowledge products** presenting approaches for characterizing MSMEs and results from pilots of solutions (innovations/policies) that will inform the identification and design of the solutions that will be used by stakeholders (contributing to **outcome 2.2**).

¹ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/125077>

Work Package 3: Governance and inclusive food systems



Work Package 3 progress against the theory of change

Work Package 3 recognizes that food systems innovations may have limited effect if they ignore key political and institutional dynamics where interactions among people are central. Processes that systematically exclude competing technologies, views, and practices create internal resistance towards sustainability transitions, or policy “lock-ins”. Work Package 3 aims to identify policy “lock-ins” and barriers that hinder food system contributions to healthy diets, fair livelihoods, and sustainable environments, proposing evidence-based solutions through consultation with partners. The outputs in the theory of change are sequential — 3.1 will inform 3.2 (to be delivered in 2023–2024).

Like Work Package 1 and Work Package 2, Work Package 3 began data collection in Viet Nam to understand stakeholder perspectives on food

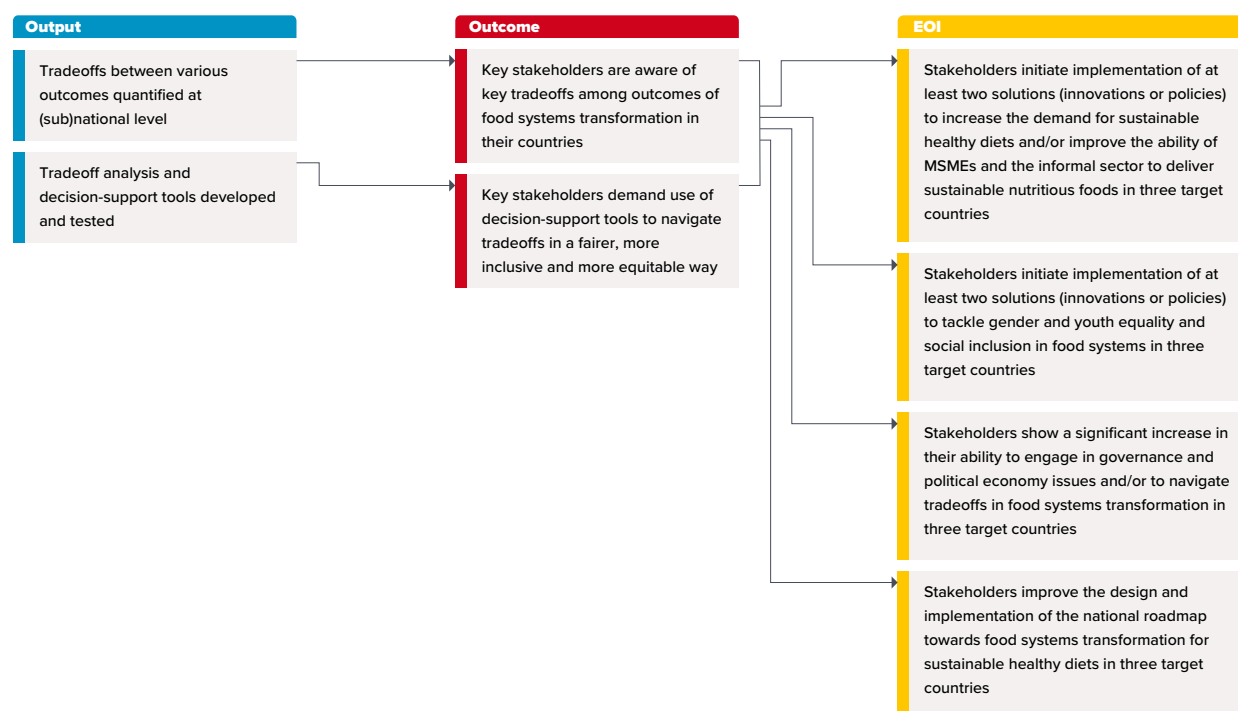
systems transformation issues. Work Package 3 will finalize this baseline in 2023 (**output 3.1**). In parallel, IPSARD, a Strategic Partner in Viet Nam, invited Work Package 3 to conduct a food environment policy landscape to understand how the landscape contributes (or not) to the adoption of sustainable healthy diets for all. It will be completed in 2023 (**output 3.1**, contributing to **outcome 3.1**).

Work Package 3 has also developed a conceptual framework (to be published in 2023) and two literature reviews (unpublished) to guide the application of conceptual and analytical tools for understanding the political economy and creating opportunities to support actors in actively transitioning to a healthier and more sustainable food system.

In Year 1, Work Package 3 published an extended version of the **Global Food System Sustainability Index**,¹ a tool that helps decision-makers design more effective policies (**innovation**).

¹ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/120171>

Work Package 4: Tradeoff scenario analysis



Work Package 4 progress against the theory of change

The integrated research teams in Work Package 4 aim to develop simulation models and decision-support tools to analyze tradeoffs associated with increasing consumption of sustainable healthy diets. These tools will also raise stakeholder awareness and capacity to understand and navigate potential tensions resulting from food system innovations and policies. In the theory of change, the outputs are sequential — 4.1 will inform 4.2 (to be delivered in 2023–2024).

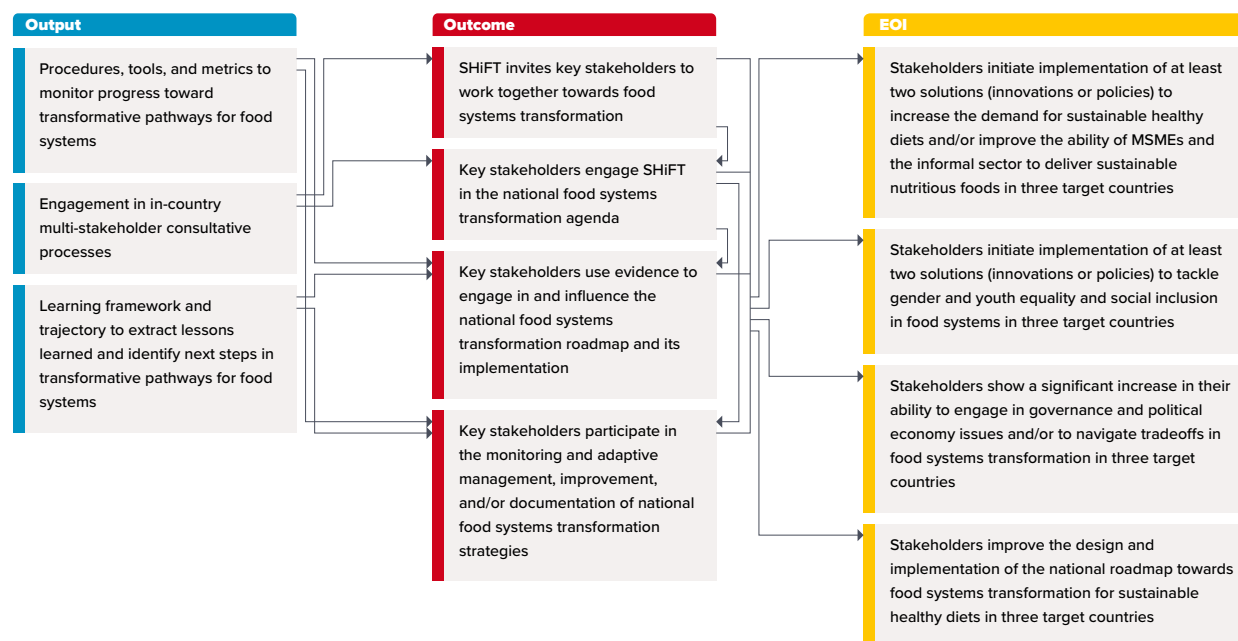
In Year 1, the team focused on Bangladesh, where global macroeconomic and microsimulation models were being developed and extended to analyze tradeoffs in the short/medium and long term. The models were used to answer questions related to socioeconomic, dietary, and environmental tradeoffs and to examine the potential tradeoffs if the population adopts an

unhealthy diet in 2050 (**output 4.1**). A scenario and modeling workshop was held to present the objectives of Work Package 4, discuss major uncertainties and potential tradeoffs in Bangladesh’s food system, and introduce the modeling framework (contribution to **both outcomes**).

In Year 2, Work Package 4 will engage with several targeted international academic partners on static and dynamic long-run multi-country food systems modeling. The national macroeconomic modeling work will expand to Viet Nam.

Most of the Year 1 results build on the legacy of other projects and illustrate the approaches and tools that will be produced by Sustainable Healthy Diets. Overall, Work Package 4 aims to inform stakeholders about potential tradeoffs and help them navigate the complexities of food system innovations and policies towards sustainable healthy diets.

Work Package 5: Catalyzing food systems transformation



Work Package 5 progress against the theory of change

Work Package 5 supports the Initiative's engagement in national food systems transformation processes and identifies, co-designs, supports, and learns from context-specific pathways for food systems transformation towards sustainable healthy diets. Structurally, the CCUs are located in Work Package 5, but operationally, their work supports the entire Initiative (which is why most of Work Package 5's results are presented in Section 2).

In Year 1, Work Package 5 conducted a stakeholder mapping exercise in all three countries (**output 5.1**). The “living database” for each country will be used as an input in monitoring and documenting in-country food systems transformation processes (contributing to outcome 5.4). Work Package 5 and Strategic Partners will use the database to develop a set of criteria for

identifying multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) to engage in jointly defined capacity-sharing activities (**output 5.2**). As a driving principle, the Initiative believes that MSPs could be more relevant for food systems transformation if their **governance capacity**¹ were strengthened. Work Package 5 launched an **e-course on food systems governance**² (**output 5.2**), which was mentioned in Section 2.

In the theory of change, the outputs are sequential — 5.1 and 5.2 will inform 5.3. Progress on the learning framework will accelerate in 2023 (**output 5.3**). It will include a plan for systematic documentation, analysis, and synthesis of the key findings that will emerge from different research activities and from the target countries.

Sustainable Healthy Diets was the first CGIAR Initiative to launch its **microsite**.³ An online food systems resource center and blog series are in development to support the pathway to outcomes around awareness raising.

1 <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/126277>

2 <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/launch-of-the-food-systems-governance-e-course/>

3 <https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/sustainable-healthy-diets/>

Work Package progress rating

WORK PACKAGE	TRAFFIC LIGHT / RATIONALE
1	 Activities were largely on track.
2	 Activities were largely on track.
3	 Activities were largely on track.
4	 Due to delays in signing the contract with WUR, collaboration between the partners only started in mid-2022, which set back activities in Bangladesh.
5	 Activities were on track in Viet Nam and Ethiopia and are ramping up in Bangladesh.

KEY

On track		• Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change • Can include small deviations/issues/ delays/risks that do not jeopardise success of Work Package
Delayed		• Annual progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in key areas • Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardise success of Work Package if not managed appropriately
Off track		• Annual progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in most/all areas • Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardise success of Work Package

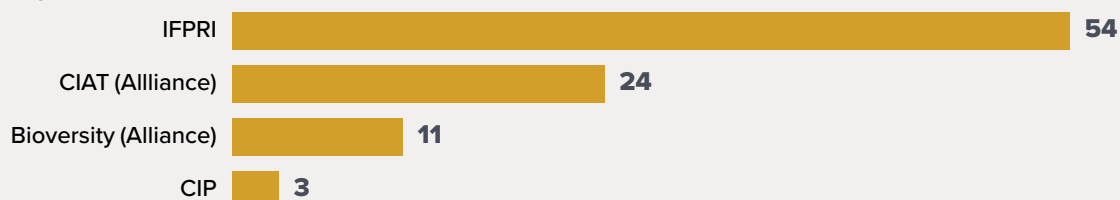
Section 4 Initiative key results

This section provides an overview of 2022 results reported by Sustainable Healthy Diets. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and Sustainable Healthy Diets' theory of change. Further information on these results is available through the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#).

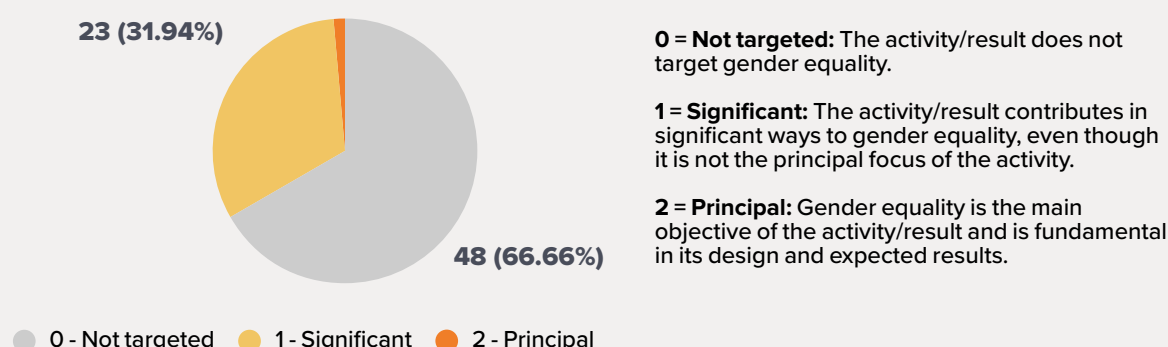
Overview



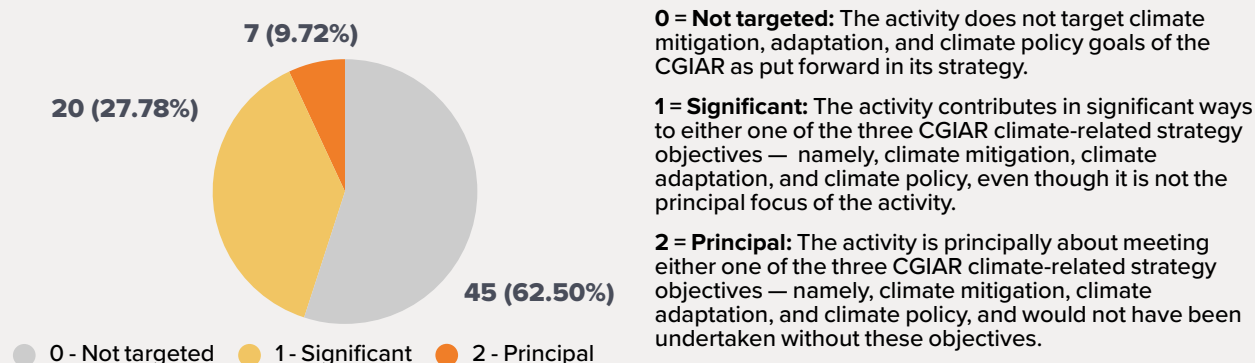
Contributing CGIAR Centres



Results by gender tag



Results by climate change tag



Innovations by readiness level

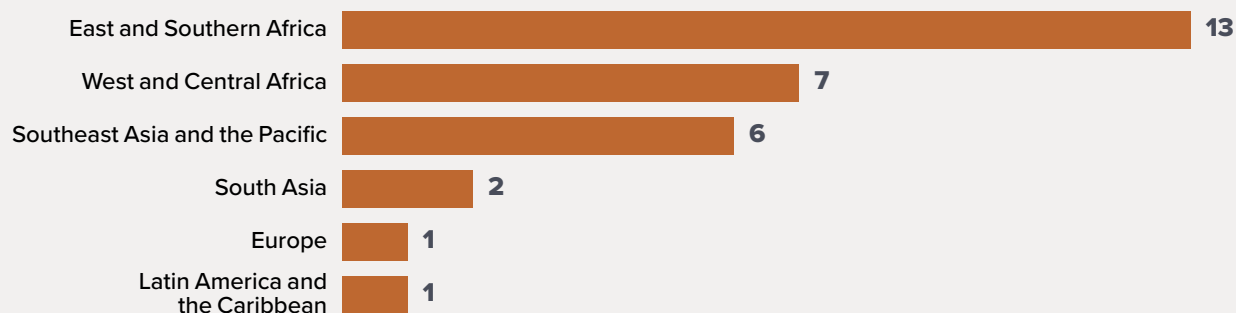
Pipeline overview
Number of innovations

		Number of innovation
9	PROVEN INNOVATION – The innovation is validated for its ability to achieve a specific impact under uncontrolled conditions	2
8	UNCONTROLLED TESTING – The innovation is being tested for its ability to achieve a specific impact under uncontrolled conditions	1
7	PROTOTYPE – The innovation is validated for its ability to achieve a specific impact under semi-controlled conditions	3
6	SEMI-CONTROLLED TESTING – The innovation is being tested for its ability to achieve a specific impact under semi-controlled conditions	0
5	MODEL/EARLY PROTOTYPE – The innovation is validated for its ability to achieve a specific impact under fully-controlled conditions	3
4	CONTROLLED TESTING – The innovation is being tested for its ability to achieve a specific impact under fully-controlled conditions	0
3	PROOF OF CONCEPT – The innovation's key concepts have been validated for their ability to achieve a specific impact	1
2	FORMULATION – The innovation's key concepts are being formulated or designed	0
1	BASIC RESEARCH – The innovation's basic principles are being researched for their ability to achieve a specific impact	0
0	IDEA – The innovation is at idea stage	0

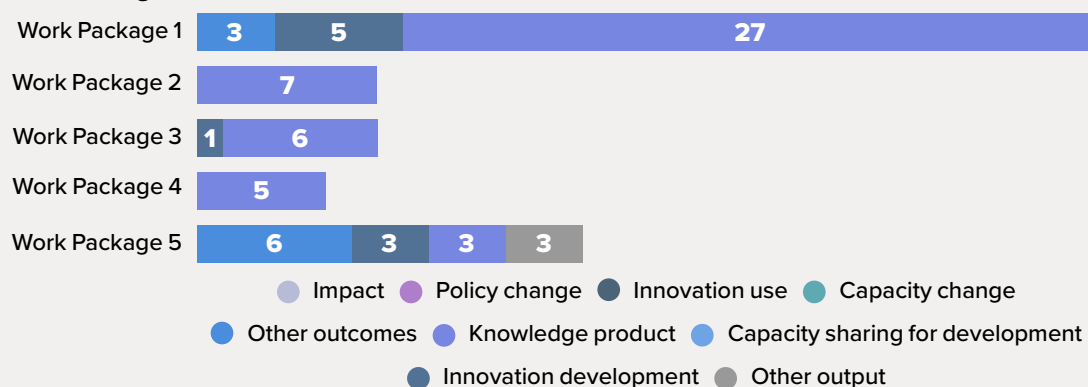
Results by country



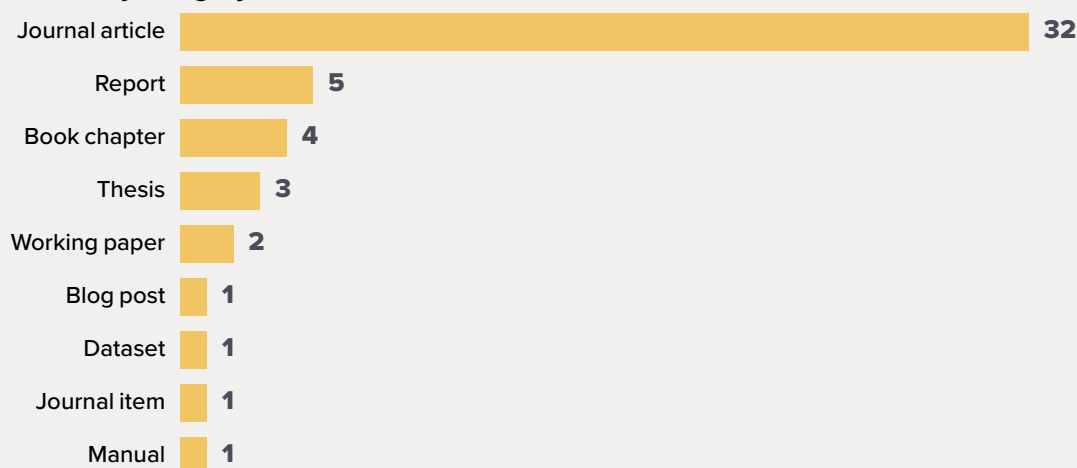
Results by region



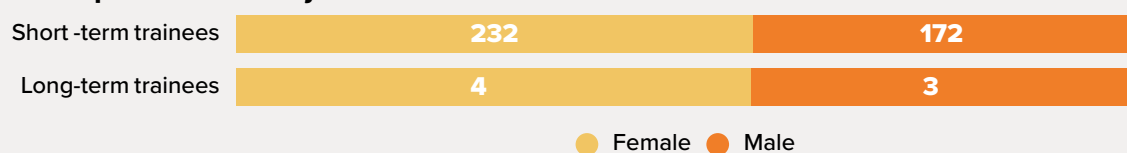
Results by Work Package



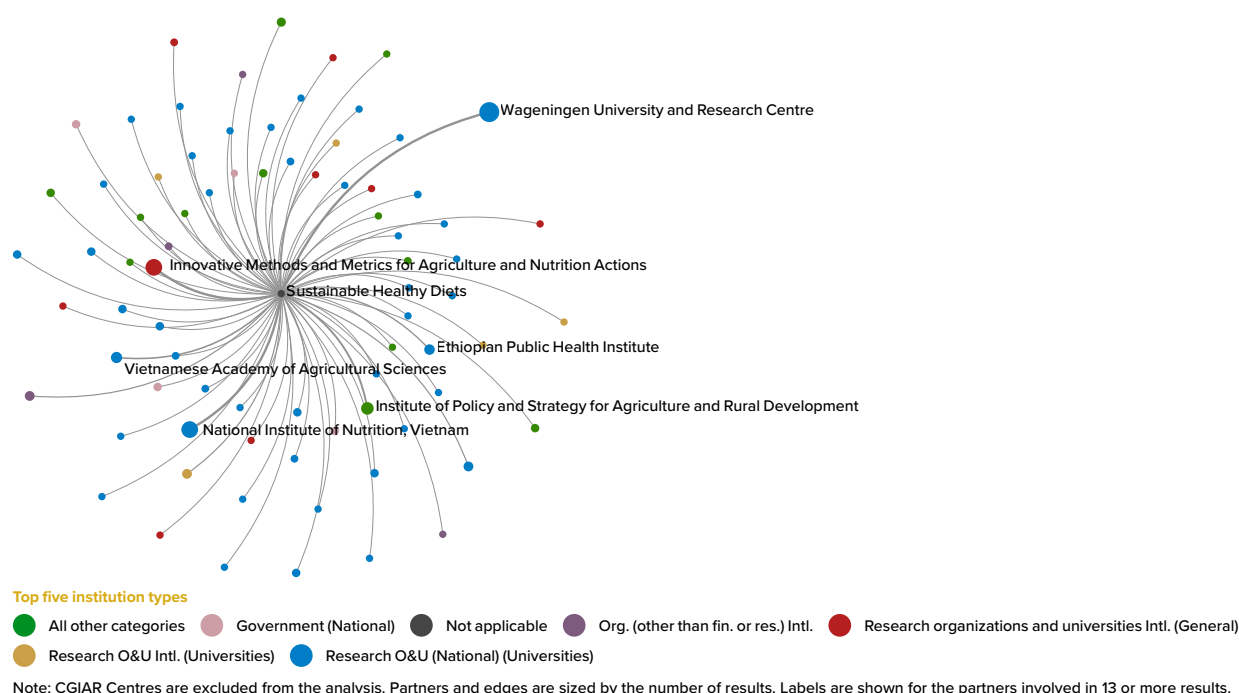
Knowledge products by category



Capacity development trainees by term



Section 5 Impact pathway integration – External partners



Partnerships and Sustainable Healthy Diets' impact pathways

National partners from Viet Nam, including NIN, IPSARD, and the Viet Nam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), and from Ethiopia, including EPHI, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, are collaborating with Sustainable Healthy Diets on several activities described in this report. The above graph illustrates only results.

Several individuals from WUR, which includes the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, continue to be part of the Program Committee and have contributed to many activities and results described in this report. On the global scale, our partnership with the Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions research program (responsible for producing the annual ANH Academy Week) provided opportunities to raise awareness and promote the use of tools for measuring sustainable healthy diets and food environments and approaches for engaging in multi-stakeholder processes. These

partnerships are consistent with what was described in the proposal.

It is too early to show results from other activities that the Initiative started with many partners external to CGIAR. For example, the Initiative and the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), on behalf of joint research units from the French government, are working together on several activities in Viet Nam related to Work Package 1, Work Package 2, and Work Package 5, including the study on adolescents and their food environment, characterization of MSMEs and their labor structures, and potential linkages with MSPs.

In Year 1, we also completed stakeholder-mapping and network analysis for all three countries and launched an e-course on food systems governance. The next step will be to develop a set of criteria for identifying MSPs to engage with for capacity-sharing activities. These activities will help answer several research questions from Work Package 5 around stakeholder capacity and governance issues in food systems transformation.

Section 6 Impact pathway integration – CGIAR portfolio linkages

Portfolio linkages and Sustainable Healthy Diets' impact pathways

This Initiative focuses on consumers and the food environment in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas, a marked difference from CGIAR's traditional focus on production and smallholder farmers in rural areas. Within the food environment, we also have a unique focus on MSMEs as potential distributors and vendors of sustainable nutritious foods. We collaborate with the CGIAR Initiatives that focus on consumers, the food environment, nutritious foods, and nutrition and health outcomes in the countries where we work.

During Year 1, we had numerous information-sharing conversations with the CGIAR Initiatives on Fruits and Vegetables, Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia, and Resilient Cities to understand and standardize methods and metrics for diet quality and food environment assessments, and to identify geographic overlap for potential joint research and testing of solutions. In 2023, we expect to consolidate collaborations with other Initiatives and with the new CGIAR platform on

Nutrition, Health, and Food Security. We plan to collaborate more to raise awareness about food environment concepts and measurement through joint virtual seminars and side events at major conferences including the ANH Academy Week. As we — and these other Initiatives — reach the point of identifying innovations for testing or piloting, it is possible that joint innovations could be designed to achieve complementary aims.

On the governance and political economy side of food systems, we also had information-sharing conversations and internal seminars with Resilient Cities to understand the different approaches being used. In 2023, public-facing virtual seminars may be planned.

In Viet Nam, our Initiative and the CGIAR Initiative on Asian Mega-Deltas will support participation in the [Sustainable Food Systems Programme's global conference](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-food-systems/4thconference),¹ to be held in Hanoi in April 2023. Both Initiatives started engaging with the office of the Zero Hunger National Action Program, a process which is likely to accelerate in Year 2.

1 <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-food-systems/4thconference>

Section 7 Adaptive management

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
Adjust leadership positions in the Program Committee.	Marie Ruel served as the Initiative Lead for the first year. We welcomed Inge Brouwer as the new Lead in 2023. New members have joined the Program Committee to lead (or co-lead) Work Packages, expanding the group from six to eight. Fewer people now hold multiple leadership positions in the Initiative. Leadership responsibilities remain divided nearly equally across the two lead CGIAR Institutions plus WUR.
Maintain diversity within Sustainable Healthy Diets throughout Phase 1.	In June 2022, our People Plan was approved. The overall gender distribution for assigned staff in the Initiative was above the 40% female target (62%). The regional distribution is almost equally distributed across the Global South and Global North. Our intention is to keep this gender and geographical diversity. As we expand on ways to communicate our progress and results in 2023, we will make sure to show a representative picture of the diverse team working on Sustainable Healthy Diets.
Implement strategies to circumvent inherent asymmetries in partnerships.	• The short timeframe in which the Initiative is expected to deliver in Phase 1 represents a significant barrier to equitable partnerships. We are taking different approaches to overcome this barrier. We recognize the importance of explicitly discussing expectations — the outputs and outcomes and how these support country transformation needs — in our ongoing partner engagement. • Our partners in-country are under pressure to deliver on the UNFSS commitments. We dedicated significant time in our annual planning meeting to build clarity on the national agendas and the expressed and anticipated needs. The idea is that the Initiative can be responsive to country demands, but to do so, we need systems for setting priorities. This will be a high priority for 2023. • Per our theory of change, the Initiative will begin supporting in-country MSPs as one way to ensure that the Initiative's benefits are not limited to one institution or one type of institution. • Our Country Coordinators have emphasized that we need to translate materials about food systems transformation into different languages and for different audiences. With more communications support, we will be able to do this in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
Revise the End of Initiative outcomes.	In the Reflect exercise, we recognized that the End of Initiative outcomes would result from the Initiative's collective efforts and not the individual Work Packages. We also discussed how the Work Package activities would be implemented, and adjusted the wording to clarify which changes we expect our research to trigger by 2024. We consolidated the original six outcomes into four, which presents a clearer and more realistic vision of the changes we expect to see.
Pursue collaborations with other Initiatives working on 1) characterizing/measuring the food environment and 2) governance and political economy issues in food systems transformation.	Relevant CGIAR Initiatives were invited to our launch events in Viet Nam and Bangladesh. We expect collaborations to be defined in 2023. However, leadership is missing from other levels of the CGIAR system to support collaboration. We look to CGIAR Country Convenors in our three countries to facilitate information sharing and help make strategic connections. The same would be appreciated across our Science Group.
Deliver high-quality research.	We are planning to continue efforts to collaboratively design innovations with local partners and continue to build the publication pipeline.

Section 8 Key result story



Research and collaboration lay the foundation for food systems transformation in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has committed to developing a *National Action Plan for Transparent, Responsible, and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (2022–2030)*. To support the country's efforts to adopt a food systems approach, researchers from the CGIAR Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through food systems transformation contributed to the development of two technical reports that clarify key food systems concepts, examine the current state of Viet Nam's food systems, and explain the government's need for a new National Action Plan.

Food systems transformation plays a central role in Viet Nam's efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Over the past 30 years, Viet Nam has made great progress in reducing poverty, ensuring food security, and promoting economic growth as well as socioeconomic development.

Yet the country faces many challenges in its path to transformation. Healthy diets remain unaffordable for more than one-quarter of Viet Nam's population,¹ and poor-quality diets are a major driver of malnutrition. The agricultural sector's

Fruits being sold in an outdoor stall in Hanoi.
Photo credit: Georgina Smith/CIAT

continuous growth and strategy of high intensification has had negative environmental impacts in recent decades. Viet Nam's agricultural industry is mainly small-scale, and producers face limited labor productivity, with few opportunities to access markets and information and to participate in value chains. Inadequate technological innovations and institutional administration mean that agricultural products do not meet standards for quality and food safety. Consumer knowledge and behaviors on nutrition and environmental sustainability also remain limited.

Viet Nam needs to take strong action to ensure that its food systems adapt to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change: use natural resources efficiently and sustainably; reduce environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; strengthen national capacity in an unpredictable commercial environment; and significantly improve and diversify livelihoods and income sources for farmers.

To achieve these goals, Viet Nam has been active in learning and exchanging ideas for agricultural development at global policy platforms, as well as building an innovative new agriculture development policy in recent years. At the 2021

UNFSS, the President of Viet Nam committed to transform and develop its food system to be more transparent, responsible, and sustainable, meeting food security and nutrition requirements for both domestic and export markets. Recently, the Prime Minister approved the *Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Period 2021–2030 and Vision to 2050*, which aims to fundamentally change thinking about agricultural development and shift the country towards production systems that are high quality, efficient, and environmentally sustainable.

After the Initiative launched its activities in Viet Nam in June 2022, Viet Nam's Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) invited some of the Initiative's researchers to contribute to developing guidelines to support the Strategy's implementation.² This publication, which was developed in partnership with various departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), aims to clarify and define key concepts and terms related to agriculture and rural development. Previously, views on food security, agriculture, and diets had diverged between different organizations and ministries, with a strong focus on stimulating production quantity (rather than quality) to achieve food security. Sustainable Healthy Diets supported

IPSARD to adopt the concept of sustainable healthy diets (which focuses on the quality of diets) define key food systems terms.

The development of the *National Action Plan for Transparent, Responsible, and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (2022–2030)* (NAP) is critical to the Strategy's implementation. MARD, which is responsible for developing the NAP, has convened several technical meetings to prepare the plan, based on input from different departments and Ministries. Other stakeholders, including UN agencies, funders, and NGOs, also participated in consultations. The Initiative's Country Coordinator has been a key member of the MARD-led technical working group to draft the NAP. The Initiative has also contributed to MARD's technical report that explains the government's need for a new plan. The technical report is under review by governmental ministries, but will be submitted to the Prime Minister, along with the NAP, when both are finalized in 2023.

The Initiative's involvement builds on the legacy of research partnership and policy engagement achieved in Viet Nam by A4NH. Sustainable Healthy Diets continues these close collaborations with Vietnamese partners to develop innovative, research-based solutions that address the complex challenges facing the country's food systems.

“Integrating sustainable healthy diets and food systems into the Strategy's guidelines is crucial to creating a common understanding among all stakeholders and to linking multiple sectors and values to advance an enabling environment for food systems transformation in Viet Nam, including improving diets to contribute to nutrition and health for all.”

Dr. Tran Cong Than, Director General, IPSARD, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

References

1. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. 2020. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming Food Systems for Affordable Healthy Diets*. Rome: FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>
2. Viet Nam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. 2022. *Guidelines for the Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Period 2021–2030 and Vision to 2050*. Hanoi. <https://ipsard.gov.vn/Strategy-Guidelines/index.html>



We would like to thank all funders who supported this research through their contributions to the **CGIAR Trust Fund**.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Country/ies: The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Contributing Initiative(s): Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation

Contributing Center(s): Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT — CIAT Regional Hub

Contributing external partner(s):

- IPSARD: Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
- MARD: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Viet Nam)
- VAAS: Vietnamese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- WUR: Wageningen University and Research Centre

COVER PHOTO: Ly Thi Nguyen, a market vendor, with her wares in a fresh food market in Hanoi, Vietnam. Photo credit: C. de Bode.