

Key Stakeholders, Platforms, and Networks in Bangladesh's Food Systems Transformation Process, 2022–2024

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The CGIAR Research Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation (SHiFT) combines high-quality nutritional and social science research capacity with development partnerships to generate innovative, robust solutions that contribute to healthier, more sustainable dietary choices and consumption of sustainable healthy diets. We build on CGIAR’s unparalleled track record of agricultural research for development, including ten years of work on food systems and nutrition under the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), particularly under the research flagship Food Systems for Healthier Diets.

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Photo credit: Meeting participants in a stakeholder workshop discussing results of trade-off scenario analyses on sustainable healthy diets with the Director General of FPMU and team in Dhaka, Bangladesh on June 9, 2024. Photo by Ms. Alima Nusrat Jahan/FPMU.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BIRTAN	Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Advanced Nutrition
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BNNC	Bangladesh National Nutrition Council
CIP	International Potato Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPMC	Food Planning and Monitoring Committee
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NARS	National agricultural research system
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NPAN-2	Second National Plan of Action on Nutrition, 2016–2025
PoA	Plan of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHiFT	Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation
UN	United Nations
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme

1. Introduction

In 2022, the CGIAR Research Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation (SHiFT) conducted a stakeholder identification and analysis activity to develop its strategy for stakeholder engagement. As part of SHiFT's Work Package 5, Catalyzing Food Systems Transformation, this analysis was used to prepare a stakeholder engagement strategy for Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Viet Nam, SHiFT's three countries of work. The stakeholder identification and mapping, as well as a report on the country's food system transformation process and issues, constitute a database that enables rapid selection of potential stakeholders for engagement, capacity sharing, and collaboration, among other purposes. The stakeholder identification process is repeated, typically on a quarterly basis, to update the database.

This summary report is based on information first collected in 2022 and updated as of December 2024. Building understanding, engagement, and capacity with diverse food system stakeholders will help to foster collaboration and coordination across varied perspectives, and to drive transformative actions across the food system for positive outcomes on the environment, food security and nutrition, and livelihoods and inclusion.

SHiFT's approach is to engage with and provide technical support to relevant stakeholders, networks, and platforms whose objectives are aligned with the Initiative's goals. This approach aims to contribute to local and national food systems transformation for sustainable healthy diets, rather than facilitating the formation of new networks or platforms that would require more time to build engagement and capacity, and might not be sustainable. The Initiative's efforts are also meant to avoid overlapping with those of the country's government and other development partners. Instead, SHiFT aims to create synergies through coordinated actions to achieve national food systems transformation and sustainable healthy diets, as well as broader national goals on food systems.

2. Methods

To update the database of relevant stakeholders for Bangladesh, data were collected from the following sources:

- A 2022 report on key stakeholders, platforms, and networks in food systems transformation in Bangladesh¹
- Internet searches, the findings of which were confirmed through phone calls to respective stakeholders or platforms

For ministries and for divisions and directorates/departments within them, we also validated their mandate or role by cross-checking that information with the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action (PoA) (2021–2030) of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU).²

For all other stakeholders, networks, and platforms, findings were validated through consultation with SHiFT's Strategic Partners, FPMU and the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), which are key to the national food systems transformation process in Bangladesh.

¹ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/items/c95fd445-2557-4d2f-9f6e-43255eef4305>

²

[https://mofood.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mofood.portal.gov.bd/page/1f722343_5fdb_494d_8b62_31fc14abc1da/nothi_81_2022_12_22_91671701102%20\(2\).pdf](https://mofood.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mofood.portal.gov.bd/page/1f722343_5fdb_494d_8b62_31fc14abc1da/nothi_81_2022_12_22_91671701102%20(2).pdf)

3. Key stakeholders in Bangladesh’s food systems transformation process, 2022–2024

As of December 2024, we identified more than 151 stakeholders across eight distinct groups (Table 1).

Table 1: Identified stakeholders by group, December 2024

Stakeholder group	Number, as of 2022	Number, as of 2024
International institutions and donor institutions	4	15
United Nations organizations	5	9
Governmental institutions (ministries, subministries, and agencies)	21	47
Research institutions (including 6 CGIAR Centers)	13	19
Academic institutions	4	7
Nongovernmental organizations	6	24
Civil society organizations	6	8
Private sector	9	22
Total	68	151

3.1. International and donor institutions

This category includes organizations that provide funding, policy, and capacity development support to various governmental ministries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, academia, and the private sector to achieve poverty reduction, sectoral development, and other development goals aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.³ We identified 15 organizations: the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; Asian Development Bank; International Monetary Fund; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); World Bank; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF); Japan International Cooperation Agency; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; CIDA; the Embassy of the Netherlands; the Embassy of Denmark; and the Embassy of Ireland. These institutions provide grants to promote good governance and to strengthen economies, nutrition, public health, water and sanitation, education, research, infrastructure development, and food safety. Among them, IFAD, USAID, KOICA, the Embassy of the Netherlands, BMGF, World Bank, and the Danish International Development Agency prioritize funding to support food systems transformation in Bangladesh. Their focus areas include technologies for climate change resilience, safety net programs, food storage capacity, and environmental management.

3.2. United Nations organizations

United Nations (UN) agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, IFAD, and the United Nations Development Programme are currently working with FPMU to prepare the country’s PoA for its United Nations

Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) National Pathway.⁴ Other UN agencies such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization For Migration, UN Population Fund, and UN Women are also present in Bangladesh. Along with WFP, these agencies support the government in emergency contexts such as in Cox’s Bazar, where Rohingya refugees are in need of food and livelihoods, among other needs. These organizations focus on strengthening institutional capacity building, and policy development and reforms, as well as supporting social protection, health, education, nutrition, agriculture, infrastructure, information technology, and employment opportunities. They also provide funding and technical assistance to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and other international commitments such as Nutrition for Growth (N4G).

3.3. Governmental institutions

National government ministries and agencies

Approximately 22 ministries and 47 agencies and institutions within these ministries are involved in food systems transformation in Bangladesh. FPMU acts as the national convening and coordinating body to advance Bangladesh’s UNFSS National Pathway, National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and PoA. The ministries working with FPMU and their key mandates are listed below:

- **Office of the Chief Adviser** (cabinet division): Leads SDG and social safety net programs, as well as many other policies across several ministries
- **Ministry of Food**: Develops food-related policies and plans (to support food safety), conducts research, and leads public procurement and supply of staple foods
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**: Develops policies, strategies, and plans for public health and education on health and nutrition
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**: Develops policies on national adaptation plans and environmental protection
- **Ministry of Agriculture**: Provides policy and technical regulatory support for crop-based food production and availability
- **Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock**: Provides policy and technical regulatory support for animal-based food production and availability
- **Ministry of Commerce**: Oversees imports, exports, and trade within domestic markets
- **Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives**: Develops policies for managing fresh food markets in both urban and rural areas, as well as food quality
- **Ministry of Youth and Sports**: Develops policies and plans for youth in food systems

Several agencies within Bangladesh’s ministries are involved in food system activities. Here, we list only agencies that have strong linkages to the country’s UNFSS National Pathway and/or broader food systems transformation. These agencies work at the national, subnational, and, in some cases, community levels:

- **FPMU**: Analyzes and monitors Bangladesh’s food security situation and provides support to policymakers. FPMU also develops and monitors the implementation of the country’s National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, PoA, and investment plan, as well as

developing strategies and conducting research. FPMU is the main agency responsible for implementing the UNFSS National Pathway.

- **BNNC:** Develops and coordinates the development of policy, strategy, and planning, as well as implementation and monitoring for the national nutrition agenda
- **Bangladesh Food Safety Authority:** Coordinates the implementation of Bangladesh's 2013 Food Safety Act and works with relevant stakeholders to ensure food safety
- **Directorate of Food:** Leads public procurement and distribution of food grains
- **Institute of Public Health and Nutrition:** Supports healthcare activities by testing food products for contaminants and pathogens, and providing training, education, research, and publications related to public health
- **Department of Agricultural Extension:** Develops, regulates, and implements strategy and planning, and provides technical support for crop production
- **Department of Agricultural Marketing:** Monitors market prices of essential agricultural products and connects farmers with markets
- **Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Advanced Nutrition (BIRTAN):** Advances applied nutrition through trainings and research
- **Department of Livestock Services:** Develops, regulates, and implements strategy and planning, and provides technical support for the livestock sector
- **Department of Fisheries:** Develops, regulates, and implements strategy and planning, and provides technical support to the aquaculture sector
- **Local government institutes:** Regulate and manage the governance, infrastructure, and revenue of fresh markets

Food system governance: FPMU and Ministry of Food

FPMU is an agency within the Ministry of Food whose key mandates include leading and coordinating the country's policy, strategy, and plan on food and nutrition security; preparing the country's food and nutrition security investment plan and acting as the national convening body of UNFSS National Pathway; designing and conducting research to generate policy recommendations; and organizing meetings of all governance structures and platforms, including the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) and thematic teams.

FPMC is the highest-level coordination and strategic decision-making body related to food and nutrition security in Bangladesh. FPMU is the secretariat of the FPMC, the advisor to the Ministry of Food chairs the FPMC, and the Committee's members include six advisors and secretaries from nine ministries. Policy decisions such as public food procurement, actions to achieve the UNFSS National Pathway, and actions related to broader food systems transformation are approved by the FPMC.

Below the FPMC is a national committee that can approve some policy-related decisions. This committee is headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Food, with members of UN agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD, and UNICEF), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the private sector, academia, and relevant ministries. The PoA can be approved by FPMC or the national committee, and it will be implemented by several ministries. A working group is responsible for reviewing the draft PoA; this group is headed by the Director General of FPMU, with members from FAO, IFAD, WFP, GAIN, SHiFT and IFPRI, FPMU, and other ministries. Five multi-ministerial and other stakeholder-based thematic groups also work

on the PoA and are preparing an annual monitoring report on the country's progress on food and nutrition security.

Food and nutrition systems governance: BNNC and MoHFW

The BNNC is a high-level governance structure focused on the country's national nutrition agenda. BNNC is made up of 35 members from relevant ministries and government agencies; the honorable chief advisor is BNNC's chair, and the advisor of the MoHFW acts as its vice chair. In addition to BNNC, there are two other multistakeholder committees at the ministry level: the executive committee, chaired by an advisor, and the technical standing committee, chaired by an additional/joint secretary of that ministry. At BNNC, there are six thematic groups, as well as multistakeholder nutrition coordination committees at the district and subdistrict levels.⁵ BNNC leads under the MoHFW and coordinates the National Nutrition Agenda through the Second National PoA on Nutrition, 2016–2025 (NPAN-2). Under the stewardship of the MoHFW, BNNC also leads select global movements and agenda activities, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Global Movement, N4G, and Nutrition Agenda in the World Health Assembly, and contributes to the UNFSS National Pathway. BNNC carries out its responsibilities despite significant challenges, such as inadequate budget allocation and limited staffing.

BNNC is currently working to prepare a progress report and new country commitments for improving nutrition, which will be presented to the N4G Summit in March 2025 in France. Many of the Summit's themes, especially the second and third pillars, share similarities with the priorities of the UNFSS National Pathway. To do this, BNNC has been working with six thematic multistakeholder technical working groups. BNNC also guides the activities of the food systems transformation process for healthy and nutritious diets. BNNC works on urban nutrition, a timely, much-needed issue given the significant health and nutrition challenges facing women, adolescents, and children in urban areas. Notable initiatives undertaken by BNNC include interministerial meetings, a workshop on and review of BNNC's 2024 annual work plan, and the establishment of a budget tracking system for nutrition.

Connections between FPMU and BNNC to achieve national food systems transformation

The FPMU-led areas of the PoA on the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2021–2030) are complementary to the BNNC-led nutrition-sensitive activities of NPAN-2. BNNC and FPMU are also collaborating on the national food and nutrition systems transformation process: FPMU is a member of thematic groups led by BNNC, and BNNC is a member of working groups led by FPMU to develop policies, strategies, and plans and prepare monitoring reports on food and nutrition security and the country's nutrition agenda. This collaboration reinforces national efforts to achieve food systems transformation. Both agencies also provide reports and information to the cabinet for SDGs, as well as for the preparation of other national and international reports.

Agriculture and food systems transformation efforts: Ministry of Agriculture

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in mid-2023, IFAD, FAO, GAIN, and WFP formed an investment forum with MoA for agricultural transformation to align with Bangladesh's National Agriculture Policy.⁶ In August 2023, the forum was renamed the Bangladesh Agriculture Investment Forum and expanded to include nine members: MoA, GAIN, FAO, WFP, CGIAR, IFAD, World Bank, the Embassy of Denmark, and Dutch Embassy. The Dutch Embassy later discontinued its membership as its priorities shifted from agriculture to trade. Six organizations have since invested funds in the agricultural sector (only in crops). The Forum has selected four

priorities areas for investment: agroprocessing, postharvest losses, climate-smart agriculture, and irrigation and water management.

3.4. Research institutions

Bangladesh's research institutes conduct scientific research across a range of sectors. These stakeholders evaluate and provide recommendations on policies, strategies, planning, programs, projects, and scientific publications.

National governmental research organizations

The national agricultural research system (NARS) is composed of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and 13 agricultural research institutes. As the apex body of NARS, BARC is responsible for strengthening national agricultural research capability through research planning, coordination, integration, and resource allocation. This subcategory of governmental research organizations includes the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute, Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Bangladesh Medical Research Council, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and National Institute of Population Research and Training.

National nongovernmental research organizations

This subcategory includes organizations such as the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Policy Research Institute, Power and Participation Research Centre, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, and Center for Policy and Economic Research. These organizations conduct research across economic, social, environmental, governance, education, and agricultural sectors and disseminate evidence to influence policy. Some of these groups also provide consultancy services to evaluate development projects and develop new program strategies.

International research organizations

CGIAR Research Centers working in Bangladesh include IFPRI, the International Rice Research Institute, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, HarvestPlus, WorldFish, International Water Management Institute, and International Potato Centre (CIP). These organizations work closely with their partners, including ministries (such as the MoA, Ministry of Food, and MoHFW), national governmental departments (such as BARC, PMU, and BNNC), and academia, to generate evidence that informs policy and the food systems transformation process to reduce hunger and malnutrition, support climate-smart technologies, and improve food security. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and icddr, b also conduct research in their member countries, including Bangladesh.

3.5. Academic institutions

There are 53 public universities (7 of which are agricultural), 107 private universities, and 3 international universities in Bangladesh. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, students conduct research on various themes and subjects related to their studies. Some teachers

also conduct applied and operational research related to food production (plants, aquaculture, and livestock, among others), healthy diets, energy, food safety, nutrition, technology development, environment, climate adaptation, and gender, and disseminate their research outputs through national or international events and social media.

Institutions related to food systems, nutrition, and health include Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh; Shere Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka; Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Dhaka; James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Postgraduate Medical Institution, Dhaka; National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine; and Water Resources Planning Organization, Dhaka.

3.6. Nongovernmental organizations

International NGOs

This category includes international NGOs with a presence in multiple countries, such as CARE International, Nutrition International, GAIN, VSO International, Oxfam, SNV, GIZ, Concern Worldwide, World Vision International, FHI 360, and Action Aid. These organizations collaborate with national NGOs and government partners to support agricultural production, strengthen connections to markets, reduce poverty, build capacity, and improve livelihoods, food and nutrition security, climate resilience, water and sanitation, education, primary healthcare, and quality of life for poor, vulnerable, and otherwise disadvantaged groups. Some of these NGOs engage with the national government to provide policy and strategy development and capacity strengthening support.

Local NGOs

More than 2,000 local NGOs work with the government in Bangladesh to reduce poverty by providing services such as skills training, credits for agricultural activities, health services, access to land for landless farmers, capacity building, and policy advocacy. NGOs that work on food issues include Proshika, Association for Social Advancement, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, SKS Foundation, Gram Unnayan Karma, Shakti Foundation, and Association of Land Reform and Development. These NGOs operate at the single subdistrict, division, and national levels, depending on their institutional capacity. The NGO Affairs Bureau and the microfinance regulatory body of the government regulate their policies and work. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation is an apex body that provides funding and capacity-building support to NGOs operating microfinance programs.

3.7. Civil society organizations

Civil society organizations work to raise awareness of issues related to social concerns, environmental protection, food safety, and climate change in Bangladesh's food system. These organizations engage in advocacy for policy changes such as reductions in food prices, delivery of safe foods, and lower prices for farm inputs on behalf of farmers and the country's general population. Examples of these organizations include Bangladesh Paribesh/Environment Andolon/Movement, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Biddananda, and Jago Foundation.

3.8. Private sector

Input and skill suppliers

These organizations provide inputs to farmers such as seeds, livestock, fertilizers, stills, and technical trainings. Organizations in this subcategory include Paragon Poultry Limited, Kazi Farm Ltd, Aftal Farms Ltd, Index Agro Ltd, Diamond Egg Ltd, Pran Agro Ltd, Rupashi Feed Ltd, and Alo Plat Nurseries. Laltir, Dhamraji, BRAC Seeds, Ispahani seeds, and technical training centers operate at the district level. Local micro and small businesses (called dealers) affiliated with the MoA sell fertilizers, seeds, and insecticides to farmers in rural and peri-urban areas.

Farmers' groups and associations

These stakeholders include representative groups such as farmers' groups, associations, and cooperatives connected with specific companies and NGOs. These groups represent farmers who produce fruits, vegetables, and other food products such as eggs through good agricultural and hygiene practices, and sell their products through domestic markets, export markets, and/or to affiliated companies. For example, CODEX supports farmers' groups in Gazipur district by helping them to adopt good agricultural practices and export their vegetables to European markets.

Buyers and traders

Supermarket chains, including Agora, Prince, and Unimart, are the main buyers of fresh food produced by affiliated farmers. These foods include fresh vegetables, fruits, red meat, eggs, and fish. The farmers who produce these foods use good agricultural practices and sell directly to consumers through retail outlets or supermarkets. However, this direct service from farmer to consumer is only available in Dhaka and a few other large urban centers.

Small- and medium-size buyers and traders buy food products at preset prices from select farmers and small traders or suppliers. In this kind of interaction, buyers provide money in advance to farmers to invest in food production-related activities and to small traders (aggregators) to buy food from rural or peri-urban markets. These small traders also buy fresh foods, such as mango, shrimp, and lichi fruits, from farmers, which they then supply to large companies for processing or wholesale.

In addition to these buyers and traders, consulting firms are also active in Bangladesh's food system. These firms provide data collection services using tools and methodologies that align with national research, as well as providing datasets to lead research organizations. Examples include Data Analysis and Technical Assistance, ARCED Foundation, ECONS, and Development Research Initiative, among others.

Processers

This subcategory consists of micro, small, medium, and large companies that produce and process foods for the domestic and export markets. These companies also buy from supply chains. Examples include Pran Agro Ltd, BD Food Ltd, ACI Food Ltd, Bengal Meat Ltd, Bombay Sweets Ltd, SQUARE Food Ltd, Bashundhara Food Ltd, and Akij Food and Beverage Ltd. Large processors often develop networks with numerous farmers and cooperatives, as well as micro,

small, and medium enterprises, to maintain the functionality of their connections throughout the supply chain.

Vendors and retail (including informal actors)

This subcategory includes supermarkets, retail markets, major distributors, and associations representing informal actors (such as associations of market traders). These actors mainly buy fresh foods including vegetables, fruits, fish, chicken, and eggs from wholesale markets in nearby cities and sell these products to end users or consumers through small shops, mobile vans, or temporary markets (such as farmers' markets). Through established supply chain networks, wholesale traders buy from rural or subnational aggregating centers and support urban wholesale markets. Large companies that produce processed and packed foods, such as mustard oil, biscuits, wheat flour, and others, supply these products to retail shops, where consumers purchase them.

³ <https://plandiv.gov.bd/site/files/e295dab0-145f-48bf-bd9a-8738c3947953/Bangladesh-Delta-Plan-2100>

⁴ https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UNFSSPathwayDocument_Bangladesh.pdf

⁵ https://bnnc.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bnnc.portal.gov.bd/download/ddabde0d_3bfc_4e05_92fe_8ef33a73a235/2019-12-15-13-55-3e877e2d46e08834d7e1353cd4b86ffb.pdf

⁶ <https://bangladeshbiosafety.org/bangladesh-doc/national-agriculture-policy-2018-english/>

4. Overview of technical and thematic working groups, networks, and platforms

Technical working groups, networks, and platforms have the power and interest to shape food systems discussions and decisions at various levels, as well as building connections between food system stakeholders. This section is divided into two groups (Table 2): active platforms with an operational agenda (Table 3) and active platforms tied to specific projects or programs. Platforms that are no longer active are excluded.

Table 2: Technical working groups, networks, and platforms, by group

Stakeholder groups	Number, as of 2022	Number, as of 2024
Active platforms and networks	10	25
Platforms and technical groups linked to specific projects or programs	6	12

4.1. Active platforms and networks

These platforms and networks organize meetings to analyze, assess, and support tools, innovations, and transformation in relevant sectors. They serve as effective networks for members to share experiences and update information.

Table 3: Active platforms and networks, as of December 2024

Platforms and networks	Start date
Technical Working Group on Nutrition in Bangladesh	2015
Local Consultative Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development	2007
Local Consultative Group on Governance and Social Protection	2009
Thematic Working Groups at FPMU for PoA on UNFSS and Monitoring	2008
Thematic Groups at BNNC and MoHFW for PoA on N4G	2024
Food Security Cluster, Bangladesh	2012
Bangladesh Poultry Farmers' Association	2010
Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association	2006
Bangladesh Aquaculture Alliance	2012
Bangladesh Frozen Fish Exporters' Association	1984
Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables & Allied Products Exporters' Association	2015
Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Bangladesh	2012
SUN Youth Network in Bangladesh	2024
SUN Civil Society Alliance in Bangladesh	2012
SUN Donor Network in Bangladesh	2013
SUN Business Network in Bangladesh	2013
Consumers' Association of Bangladesh	1978
Bangladesh Food Security Network—KHANI	2015
Bangladesh Food Safety Network	2010
Citizens' Platform for SDGs in Bangladesh	2016
Bangladesh Supermarkets Owners' Association	2005
Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association	1998
Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries	1995
School Meals Coalition	2021
Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association	2010

The activities of networks and technical groups span research, policy advocacy, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. These groups also organize meetings and training sessions to share knowledge and learning outcomes, and they conduct studies on food- and nutrition-related issues, market dynamics, sustainable practices, and the SDGs. Some networks are organized under

government agencies (MoA, FPMU, and BNCC), while others are civil society and business agencies.

4.2. Platforms tied to specific projects or programs

These platforms are dedicated to specific projects and programs, with goals that are centered on planning, multisectoral and intersectoral approaches, and resource mobilization for implementation. They include thematic working groups formed by FPMU and engaged in preparing the PoA for the UNFSS National Pathway; thematic groups formed by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning in association with BNCC and engaged in preparing an operational plan on N4G; city working groups on urban food systems in Dhaka's four cities, formed by FAO's Dhaka Food System project (CIP is currently supporting the working group in Dhaka North City); and the stakeholder advisory group of the Bangladesh Food System Dashboard, which is jointly managed by FPMU and GAIN.

5. Conclusion

This report captures significant changes in the number of diverse stakeholder organizations representing research, academia, and NGOs, among others, as well as networks and platforms, working from the local to national level as part of Bangladesh's food systems transformation process. The number of active organizations rose from 68 in 2022 to 151 in December 2024. In early 2024, FPMU began preparing a PoA to accelerate the implementation of the government's commitments outlined in the UNFSS National Pathway of Bangladesh and the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 2 on Zero Hunger. Existing multistakeholder governance structures, which were originally formed in 2008, were changed in 2021 during the preparation of the PoA (2021–2023) on the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy. FPMU organized several meetings of thematic, working, and core groups, with technical support from GAIN. As part of this process, SHiFT and IFPRI joined all three groups and contributed to writing the draft PoA, along with WFP, FAO, GAIN, IFAD, and FPMU. The PoA on UNFSS is expected to be ready to upload to the UN Food System Coordination Hub and for use by relevant ministries to begin implementing PoA activities, with support from development partners, by March 2025.

Since mid-November 2024, the MoHFW has been leading preparations to represent Bangladesh at the N4G Summit in March 2025. Bangladesh's government has committed to N4G, a global movement to improve nutrition across a wide range of themes such as health, agriculture, climate, and gender equality.⁷ IFPRI is mainly involved in the policy process through two thematic groups: one, led by FPMU, focuses on nutrition, climate and sustainable food systems, while the other, led by BNNC, focuses on nutrition and health and social protection. Each group has 10 to 13 members, including FAO, BNNC, FPMU, IFPRI, WFP, FAO, Department of Agriculture, World Bank, Dhaka University, Institute of Public Health and Nutrition, CARE International, and GAIN. IFPRI is collaborating with other members of the thematic groups to prepare a progress report and identify new commitments aligned with N4G's four areas of health, food systems, resilience, and accountability and finance, which the government of Bangladesh will present at the N4G Summit.

⁷ https://bnnc.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bnnc.portal.gov.bd/page/1f1d0f32_ab6f_49f3_8b9c_b52ccefd63c4/2024-07-16-04-45-e9707497cc771a02b2514c28145a5f7a.pdf

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