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Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food Systems

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Discussion Paper: Pests, Pandemics, Preparedness and Bio-Security

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Abstract: Pandemics continue to affect the edifice of India's bio-security threatening food, nutrition, health, livelihood, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Rapid, largescale movement of people and material in a globalised world, climate change and inadequate surveillance will exacerbate pandemics in the years to come. Despite vaccines, synthetic drugs, agrochemicals playing a key role in mitigation, cascading problems of resistance, resurgence, food safety, biodiversity, and ecosystem services is a stark reality. For India to be a part of preparedness, transformational changes in transboundary pest surveillance, strict quarantine, rapid molecular diagnosis, anticipatory research, and training are essential. Transparency, political commitment, investment in research and development, analysis and interpretation of bigdata, meta-analysis, multi-lateral institutional/international cooperation is the way forward for preparedness and bio-security. Pandemics need a united regional and global approach rather than mere national focus.

Keywords: bio-security, climate change, food and nutrition security, pandemic, quarantine, zoonotic

The full text of the paper is available on the NITI Aayog website or you may contact FAO at fao-in@fao.org for a soft copy. Your feedback is welcome; you may send your comments on the discussion paper to FAO at the above email id.