



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

National Dialogue: Indian Agriculture Towards 2030

A photo essay documenting the dialogue process through 2019-2021.

This photo essay documents the entire process of planning, preparation and execution of the national dialogue process in chronological order of events.



Background

- NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), and FAO initiated a National Dialogue on '**Indian Agriculture Towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food Systems**'.
- Steering committee was formed with experts in the field of food and agriculture. FAO functions as the working secretariat. Six meetings were held from September 2019 to January 2021, wherein members identified priority themes for the National Dialogue. Papers were commissioned from eminent authors on these themes.
- National Conference was held virtually from 19-22 January 2021, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Steering Committee Members

1. Prof Ramesh Chand, NITI Aayog
2. Dr Ashok Dalwai, NRAA
3. Dr Alka Bhargava, MoA&FW
4. Dr P K Joshi, ex IFPRI
5. Mr Siraj Hussain, ICRIER
6. Dr Praveen Malik, Animal Husbandry Commissioner
7. Dr A K Singh, DDG, Horticultural Science, ICAR
8. Dr R B Singh, NAAS
9. Dr R S Paroda, TAAS
10. Mr Pravesh Sharma, Kamatan
11. Dr Mihir Shah, SPS
12. Dr K C Naik retired from CGWB
13. Mr Tomio Shichiri, FAOR India
14. Mr Shyam Khadka, Ex-FAOR India
15. Dr Konda Chavva, AFAOR, FAO India
16. Ms Shalini Bhutani, Legal Researcher and Policy Analyst, FAO India
17. Dr Jesim Pais, SSER

The cover image features a blue and white wavy background at the top. Below this, the logos of NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and the FAO are displayed. The text 'NATIONAL DIALOGUE' is in orange, 'INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS 2030' is in green, and the subtitle 'Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food Systems' is in orange. The dates '19 - 22 January 2021' are in blue. The bottom of the image has a green and orange wavy background.

   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS 2030

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

19 - 22 January 2021



Steering Committee Meetings at UN House, New Delhi



Individuals from L-R: Dr R B Singh; Mr Ashok Dalwai; Dr P Sharma; Dr P K Joshi; Prof Ramesh Chand; Mr Shyam Khadka; Mr Tomio Shichiri; Ms Shalini Bhutani; Dr Konda Chavva; Ms Limasangla Jamir; Ms Lalnunthari



Steering Committee Meetings at UN House, New Delhi



Individuals from L-R: Prof R B Singh; Dr P Malik; Mr Ashok Dalwai; Dr P K Joshi; Mr Shyam Khadka; Prof Ramesh Chand; Mr Tomio Shichiri; Dr Jesim Pais; Ms Shalini Bhutani; Dr Siraj Hussain; Dr Konda Chavva



Preconference Interview



15 January 2021: Mr Harvir Singh interviewing Mr Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in India for the curtain raiser video.



National Conference: Inaugural Session

Key Messages:

- Need to establish strong lab-to-farm links and farmer-to-industry interaction to turn farmers into 'agripreneurs'.
- Establish 'Business Incubation Centres' for aspiring farmers.
- Reduce input costs and move away from chemical farming.
- Need to switch focus from food security to nutrition security.
- Increased focus on technologies that enhance water-use efficiency.
- Policymakers need to pay special attention to welfare of women farmers.



Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu's inaugural address



National Conference| Session: Transformational Change: Re-mandating Indian Agriculture

Key Messages:

- Agricultural systems face many challenges on the social, ecological and economic front.
- There are second generation problems associated with the Green Revolution that need to be overcome in areas like sustainability, technology and policy.
- India needs a post-Green Revolution pathway for its food and farm systems.



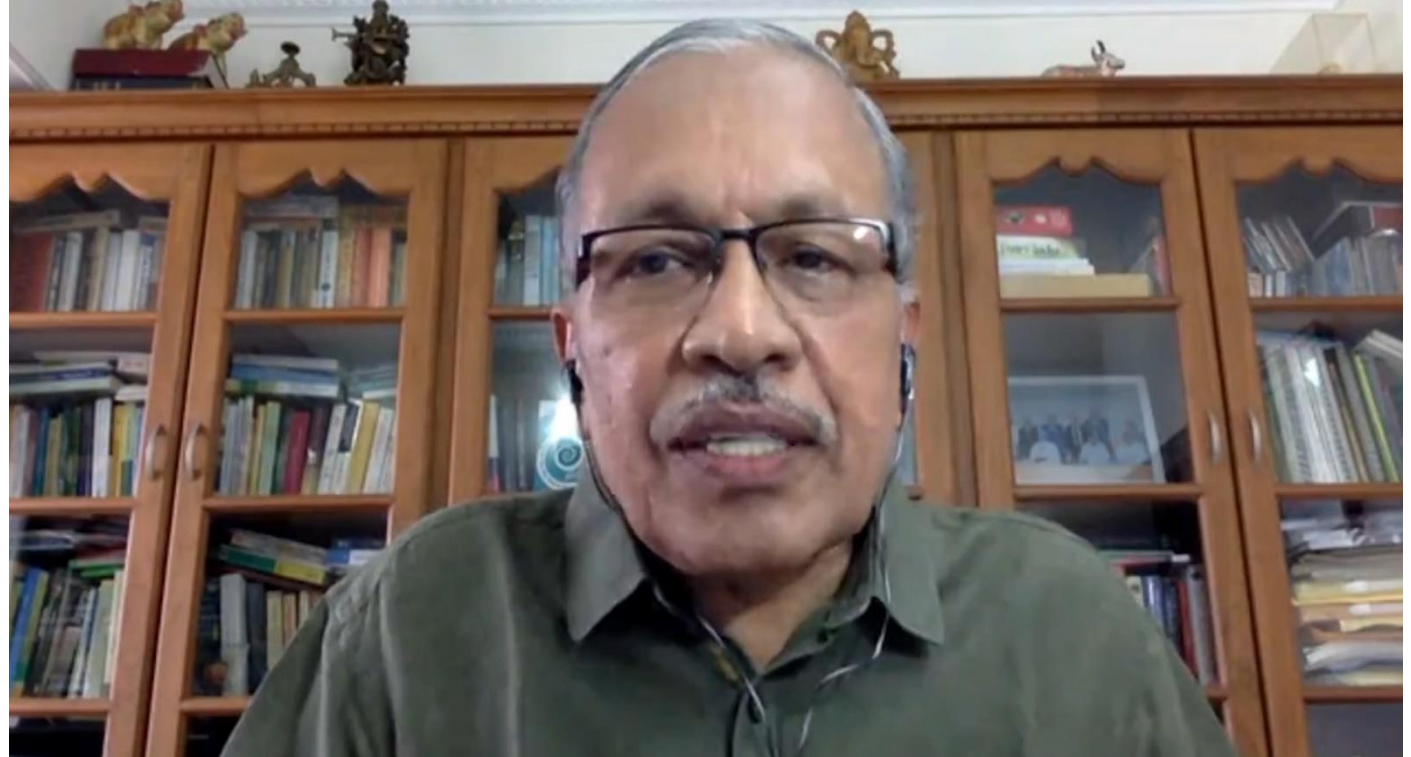
Individuals from L-R: Dr P K Joshi; Prof Ramesh Chand; Mr Tomio Shichiri



National Conference| Session: Transforming Indian Agriculture

Key Messages:

- India produces sufficient food, feed and fibre to sustain 18% (1.38 billion) of the world's population as of 2020.
- Indian agriculture has structurally transformed over the long run enabled by technology, investment and institutions. With emerging innovations and right policies, India can remain self-reliant in food.



Dr T Nandakumar chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Pests, Pandemics, Preparedness and Bio Security

Key Messages:

- Pests and pandemics continue to impact India's biosecurity threatening food, nutrition, health, livelihood, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
- 'One Health' approach recognises interconnectedness of humans - animals - environment.
- Transparency, political commitment, investment in research and capacity building, analysis of big data, meta-analysis, multilateral cooperation is the way forward for India's preparedness and biosecurity



Dr BN Tripathi chaired the session



National Conference: Session Natural Farming, Agro Ecological and Biodiverse Futures

Key messages:

- Investment in evidence collection is necessary to establish the comparison between productivity, profitability and nutritional values of non-synthetic chemical farming.
- Govt. research institutions to conduct comparative research on agroecological practices nationally .
- Natural farming practitioners need to be incentivized for ecological services to promote and strengthen the sustainable practices
- Govt. investment needs to focus on building capacity on research and application of tools and technologies relevant to scaling-up agroecological practices.
- Minimum support price and procurement by Food Corporation of India should be extended to region specific crops produced under Natural Farming Systems through differentiated schemes.



Mr. Satya Tripathi chaired the session

National Conference| Session: Structural Reforms And Governance

Key Messages:

- Structural reforms and governance are key to transforming the agriculture sector and building sustainable, resilient food systems.
- Smallholders are unorganised and have to be securely linked with both back-end service providers and front-end agri-processors.
- India needs location-specific, differentiated programmes for smallholders and clear responsibilities for the public and private sectors in order to make farming viable.



Dr S Rashid chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Climate Change And Risk Management

Key Messages:

- Climate-smart agriculture (CSA), which includes technological, institutional and policy interventions can help increase production with significant GHG mitigation co-benefits.
- Climate-Smart Village approach using digital and genetic technologies is one such strategy to improve understanding of adoption of CSA interventions, their linkages with demand and supply of food, and appropriate 'business models' to upscale them.



Dr. Ashok Dalwai chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Water in Agriculture

Key Messages:

- Better water management is key to solving India's agricultural crisis.
- This can be achieved by shifting cropping patterns towards crops suited to each agro-ecological region, moving to poly-cultural crop bio-diversity, adoption of water-saving seeds and technologies, and natural farming.



Dr Himanshu Kulkarni chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Dietary Diversity For Nutritive And Safe Food

Key Messages:

- India is faced with triple burden of under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and over-nutrition.
- Need to diversify production towards nutrient-dense foods to improve dietary diversity and nutritional status.
- Kitchen garden diversity has positive and significant association with household dietary diversity



Dr VK Paul chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Science, Technology and Innovation

Key Messages:

- Science, technology and innovation (STI), can transform sustenance-based, low return livelihoods to a profitable occupation for smallholder farmers, attracting and empowering youth and women in agriculture.
- STI can help in increasing incomes, achieving nutritional security, addressing challenges of climate change, and facilitating adoption of sustainable practices.
- Grassroot innovation and people's knowledge is critical for sustainability of food and farm systems.



Dr V K Saraswat chaired the session



National Conference| Session: Closing Plenary

Key messages:

- Need to look at the performance of agriculture beyond its growth rate in output/GDP and focus on centralizing the incomes and aspirations of farmers.
- Need to redefine the mandate of the government ministries which sometimes work with conflicting interests.
- Policy formulation needs to be more nuanced and not based on national averages.
- Production must be attuned to consumers' demand.
- India must export a fourth of its incremental agricultural production.



Prof. Ramesh Chand's closing address



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FAO India web site.

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