

Nepal's Agricultural Development Policies and Strategies

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Key plan, policies and strategies for agriculture development

Constitution of Nepal (2015)

Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (2018)

National Agriculture Policy (2004)

Fifteenth Periodic Plan (2019-2023)

Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995-2015)

Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035)

Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)

Land Use Policy 2015

Initiative-Pathways and action for Food Systems transformation -
UN Food System Summit 2021

Constitution of Nepal

Article 36. Right relating to food:	(1) Every citizen shall have the right relating to food.
	(2) Every citizen shall have the right to be safe from the state of being in danger of life from the scarcity of food.
	(3) Every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty in accordance with law.
Article 42 Rights to Social Justice	(4) Every farmer shall have the right to have access to lands for agro activities, select and protect local seeds and agro species which have been used and pursued traditionally, in accordance with law.

Constitution of Nepal ...

<p>Article 42 Rights to Social Justice</p>	<p>(4) Every farmer shall have the right to have access to lands for agro activities, select and protect local seeds and agro species which have been used and pursued traditionally, in accordance with law.</p>
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Constitution of Nepal ...

Article 51.
Policies of the State: The State shall pursue the following policies:
(e) Policies relating to agriculture and land reforms:

(1) to make **scientific land reforms** having regard to the interests of the farmers, while ending the dual ownership existing in the lands,

(2) to **enhance product and productivity** by carrying out land pooling, while discouraging absentee land ownership,

(3) to **make land management and commercialization, industrialization, diversification and modernization of agriculture**, by pursuing land-use policies to enhance agriculture product and productivity, while protecting and promoting the rights and interests of the farmers,

Constitution of Nepal ...

Article 51. Policies of the State: The State shall pursue the following policies:

(e) Policies relating to agriculture and land reforms

(4) to make **proper use of lands**, while regulating and managing lands on the basis of, inter alia, productivity, nature of lands and ecological balance,

(5) to **provide for the farmers' access to agricultural inputs**, agro-products at fair price and market.

Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty Act

This act made policy provisions to ensure food security and farmers food sovereignty.

Following points specifically provides policy guide for agriculture development under Chapter 3 of the Act

- Recognition, protection and fulfilment of the right to food sovereignty (12)
- Protection of agricultural occupation and promotion of living standard of farmers (13)
- Identification and recognition of farmer (14)
- Sustainable use of Agricultural land (15)

Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018

This act made **policy provisions to ensure food security and farmers food sovereignty. Following points specifically provides policy guide for agriculture development under Chapter 3 ...**

- Promotion of local agriculture farming and animal products (16)
- Responsibility of sustainable management of agricultural land (17)
- Implementing the targeted agriculture development program (18)
- Mitigation of the likely impact of Climate Change (19)
- Compensation to be paid (20)
- Development of research and scientific technology (25)

National Agriculture Policy 2004

This policy is under review to contextualize based on the current federal structure and needs.

This policy mentioned its vision as "the agricultural sector shall be to **bring about an improvement in the standard of living through a sustainable agricultural development** to be achieved by **transforming the current subsistence-oriented farming system** into a commercial and competitive farming system."

I has key **objectives** i) **increase agricultural production and productivity** ii) **make the agriculture competitive in the regional and world markets** and iii) **conserve, promote and utilize the environment and bio-diversity.**

Fifteenth Periodic Plan

Vision: A sustainable, competitive, and prosperous agricultural economy with food and nutrition security and food sovereignty.

Goal: To achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth through the transformation of the agriculture sector into a competitive, climate-resilient, self-reliant, and export-oriented industry.

Objectives

1. To **ensure food and nutrition security** by increasing the production and productivity of the agriculture sector.
2. To **increase employment opportunities and income** by developing agriculture-based industries.
3. To **achieve trade balance in the agriculture sector** by building capacities for commercialization and competitiveness.

Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995-2015)

The APP had **five inter-related objectives** to develop the agriculture sector, that included :

1. To **accelerate the growth rate** in agriculture through increased factor productivity;
2. To **alleviate poverty and achieve significant improvement in the standard of living** through accelerated growth and expanded employment opportunities;
3. To **transform subsistence-based farming to commercial agriculture** through diversification and widespread realization of comparative advantage;
4. To **expand opportunities for overall economic transformation** by fulfilling the precondition of agricultural development; and
5. To **identify immediate, short-term and long-term strategies** for implementation and provide clear guidelines for preparing periodic plans and future programmes.

Agriculture Development Strategy

Vision:

“A self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agriculture sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security leading to food sovereignty.”

Strategy includes 10-year Action Plan and Roadmap based on the assessment of the current and past performance of the agriculture sector.

Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 is directly related to agriculture and food security: The goal is to “**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**”.

It has five targets:

The **first** is to **end hunger and ensure food access for all**, especially the most vulnerable.

The **second** is to **end malnutrition**, including stunting and wasting in children under five as well as provide sufficient nutrition to adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older people.

Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 is directly related to agriculture and food security: ...

The **third** is to **double agriculture productivity and incomes** for smallholders, especially indigenous people and women. This should be achieved by increasing access to land and other natural resources as well as to technology and inputs, capital, and markets.

The **fourth** is for the **food system to be sustainable and resilient** to climate change and weather-related disasters.

The **fifth** is to **maintain genetic diversity** in both farmed and wild plants and animals. It also subscribes that this be equitably distributed.

Land Use Policy

Vision:

The vision of this Policy is to make optimum use of available Land and Land Resources (LLRs) in pursuit of sustainable social, economic and ecological developments and prosperity of the country as well.

Objectives

1. To categorize/classify entire lands of the country into various Land Use Zones (LUZs);
2. To devise of level wise (Federal, Provincial and Local) Land Use Plans (LUPs);

Land Use Policy

Objectives ...

3. To ensure of the use of Land and Land Resources(LLRs) on the basis of land use plans (LUPs) for protection of agricultural land, hygienic, beautiful, well-facilitated sett and for forests areas including natural heritages, biodiversities and historical, cultural and religious, archaeological and areas of strategic importance;
4. To mitigate natural and human created-disastrous hazards;
5. To assess and apply minimum property valuation and progressive tax system on lands on the basis of specific use after getting prepared of plot based records.

Pathways and action for Food Systems transformation

Government of Nepal implemented Food Systems Dialogues at the national and provincial as a part of **UN Food System Summit 2021**.

Three national and seven provincial food systems dialogues **examined current food systems in-terms of its purpose, vulnerabilities and meeting expectations.**

These dialogues were organized under six action tracks /areas:

- 1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all**
- 2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns**

Pathways and action for Food Systems transformation

Action Tracks ...

3. Boost **nature-positive production**

4. Advance **equitable livelihoods**

5. Build **resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress**

6. Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act as a means to achieve food governance and support transformation of food systems

These dialogues identified **pathways and strategic actions to transform current food systems** towards more resilient, equitable and sustainable by 2030.

Implementation status

- Right to food and food sovereignty **regulation formulation** is on process at the federal level;
- Gandaki Province formed **Food Council Formed** and
- Karnali Province approved Right to Food and Sovereignty **Regulation**
- **Agriculture Development Strategy - overarching strategic document for agriculture development**
- **Formulation of provincial ADS is in the process** to contextualize federal structure.
- Policies, plan and **projects are developed and implemented** focusing on agricultural development and food and nutritional security based upon the provisions made in the Agriculture Development Strategy.

Implementation status

- **Mixed performance in the sector- improved production and productivity of the crops, livestock and fisheries;**
- Achieving almost self-reliance in some of the sub sectors (poultry, meat and milk and promoting commercialization of agriculture.
- **Preparation of Land use map is almost completed in Municipalities and Rural Municipalities.**
- Hand over to all Municipalities by next year
- **Included Food System Strategic actions** in the planning and budgeting guidelines for coming fiscal year
- A national dialogues is planned to detail out commitment to actions.

Achievements

Not fully achieved targeted growth in the sector in most of the periodic plans except in **sixth and seventh periodic plans**.

Agriculture Perspective Plan - mix results

- APP had a mixed performance, due to ineffective coordination, low budget and low implementation capacity
- Increased AGDP in post APP Assessment than pre-AAP
- No national acceptance (irrigation/ forestry/ road and investment

Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS)

- Contributed to address gaps of APP and enhance efficiency
- Less relevancy in federal context and needs provincial and local level ADS

Achievements

- **Improve food security and nutrition (existing situation not unacceptable).**
 - **Prevalence of undernourishment reduced** from 23.5 (2000) to 4.8% (2021).
 - **Global hunger status** improved from alarming hunger status (score 37.5 in 2000) to moderate hunger status (score 19.1 in 2021)
 - **Child stunting reduced** from 57% to 31.5% (MICS 2020) since 2000,

Issues and challenges

- Coverage of extension service and outreach from **outreach is limited**
- **Import of agriculture product** –huge (NRs 323 billion in 2020/21 from Nrs 130 billion in 2013/14) and high trade **deficit.**
- Achieving Agricultural growth and high AGD through transformation of the sector.

Issues and challenges

Investment in agriculture sector

- Low investment in agricultural science and technology
- Local governments (Palikas), **the backbone of agriculture development, common program** for 3 tiers of Government
- **Manpower** – in-sufficient manpower in all municipalities (80% Palikas have limited manpower)
- **No effective disseminating system** or/mechanism of technologies from research to local level / farmers
- **Weak relationship between research system and farmers in terms** technology transfer
- Require **Suitable model** of 3 tier of Governments for extension service

Issues and challenges

- . Gap in Agricultural institutional advisory services
- . **Food crises-** export ban in wheat and sugar in India.
- . More dependency in imported food stuff
- . **Priority on domestic production**
- . **Climate change effects-unpredictable –climate resilient technologies and its wide uses**
- . **Inadequate infrastructures** (irrigation, warehouse, road network, post-harvest support and processing),

Issues and challenges

- Crucial inputs for **agricultural growth and transformation** has **always been a concern**, both regarding the availability and affordability.
- Not been able to extend the **outreach and extension services** to the farmers in effective way.
- Low capacity in implementation of programmes (**lack of human resource, low investment** and effective accountability mechanism).

<https://www.himalkhabar.com/news/125548>

Issues and challenges

- Customizing advance technologies in our context
- Collaborative research and collaborative partnership
- Limited manpower in local level
- Collaborative research and partnership product branding – market for organic product
- Feasibility study of consumer of markets in the USA and support in promotional marketing
- Research and technology in agriculture is major

Issues and challenges

- **Covid 19 has unprecedented impact on livelihood and wellbeing** (formal and informal Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)).
- **Estimated loss in agriculture sector during Lock-down was significant (NRs 12.13 billion)**, in addition to such economic loss, Covid-19 has negative impact on the nutrition and food security.
- Out migration, leading to **shortage of labour force** in the sector and **feminization** of agriculture.
- Despite progress in food security and nutrition situation, issues of malnutrition and food insecurity is still a great concern. **22 percent of households aren't able to access lowest cost nutritious diet** (nutritious diet is more than two-fold expensive than the normal energy only diet).
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Issues and challenges

Fallow lands and urbanization

- . Fallow lands in Hills - (estimated approx.. 35-40% fallow)
- . **High conversion rate of agricultural land – Valleys, in Terai and road heads (plotting and housing)**
- . Focus on production of imported commodities (least 10 most imported commodities)

Mega Food security Nation Pride Program / project -
common food security (crops and livestock) program of three tier governments

Issues and Challenges

- Potential commodities - production plan, value addition and marketing plan
- Analysis of comparative and competitive advantages commodities
- Max. use of domestic resources for production
- Increase competitiveness and reduce imports
- Not easy to increase export volume
- Federal system- opportunity and needs right manpower in right place
- Human resource assessment is urgent

Opportunity

- Federal system is our opportunity (right manpower in right place)
- Human resource assessment – urgent
- Limited trained manpower in public and private sector (cooperatives and other private sector)
- Potential of everything – **comparative and competitive and niche products**
- Demographic dividend to be utilized
- Domestic Market demand - huge (import scenario)

Opportunity

- Diversity in terms of topography and climatic condition
- Yield gap - potential to increase yield
- Favorable policy environment
- **Rapid** expansion of high value crops and commodities

Way forward

Packages of Technologies – Technology and financial packages

- Retention of youth in Agriculture and youth centric programs
- Scale up Skill, knowledge and learning to local levels
- Priority on input supply and delivery (seeds/ breed, loan)
- Focus on selected products and selected markets for import substitution.
- Guarantee Quality assurance service- stakeholders hire the service (Vet service)

Way forward

- Technological innovation demand based- high animal (Boer goat)
- **Institutional reform of NARC (technology in the center)**
- Technology suitable for diverse ecologies (climate resilient/Weather forecasting and related apps)
- **Provincial ADS in all provinces and local levels (ADS in Lumbini and Sudur pachhim Pradesh)**
- **Capacity building in value chain nodes** (pre-production, production value chain, market and marketing, transportation, cold chain and packaging materials)
- Seed to market ecosystem approach – functional in all nodes

Way forward

Strictly follow of Land use policy and land use Act

- Discourage conversion of agricultural lands into non-agricultural uses
- Formulate Land use Act regulations
- Improve land use governance
- Link with agro tourism with home stay and branding of products
- Link with agroforestry

Way forward

- Manpower in cooperative and private sector
- Priority on Input support and output support in marketing
- Development of cold chain for fruit and vegetable and milk
- **Transform NARC and AFU through modernization**
- NARC- Higher level technology development, climate resilient technologies
- **Collaboration and partnership with CGIARs** and Other research and development intuitions for technology transfer and collaborative research

Way forward

- Think holistically - **food system perspective** (food value chain, production to consumption)
- Enhance **coordination and collaboration among three tier governments;**
- Improve **intra and inter-ministerial coordination,** collaboration and support (infrastructure, irrigation roads, market, industry);
- Build **strong linkages with research, education and extension** and private sector (access of technology to the farmers field)
- Ensure **timely and affordable supply of inputs** (seed/breed feed, fertilizer, machineries/equipment and other technologies required);.

Way forward

- Ensure **subsidy and support services to the needy farmers and users** ;
- Establish strong and **effective monitoring system to measure results of** plan, program and activities
- Coordinate and facilitate to **implement food systems pathways and strategic actions** to transform food systems into a more equitable, accessible ,resilient and sustainable.
- Regulate and ensure **improved food chain governance**.

Way forward

- **Transformation in agriculture – not only possible for MoALD efforts only needs effective multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination**
- **Reform in production – vital**
- **Implementation of existing policies – not as expected, concern, adopt and implement stringent monitoring, accountability and learning framework for key policies**
- **Review and analysis of agricultural policies is must – NPC, PRI, Universities and NAPA can take lead**

Possible Areas of support from NAPA

- Research and Technology – collaborative research and technology
- Customize the technology in our context
- Technology Transfer (Skills and knowledge transfer)
 - Capacity development
 - Academic courses
 - Short term training (AFU. NARC and agri and livestock departments)
 - Series of internal trainings (physical or virtual)
 - Facilitate for official collaboration with the diaspora affiliated institutions

Possible Areas of support and collaboration NAPA

- Establish labs in collaboration – High tech / molecular / genetic and advance breeding for quality assurance services
- Niche Product branding and marketing (organic tea, coffee, ginger cardamom, SPS)
- Ginger technology- Breeding and product diversification
- Partnership and collaboration of USDA with MoALD – official Germplasm exchange
- Apple / Berries/ Grape berries / Grafted walnut / olive / citrus and citrus technology citrus and sweet orange (Florida and California)

Possible Areas of support from NAPA

- Review and Analysis of Agri-policy –entry point
- Review and analysis of all policies related to agriculture and develop/ formulate a consolidated forward looking and growth-oriented agriculture policy (with strong accountability framework)
- No value chain development in Nepal and our value chain addition is very weak compared to strong value chain of China and India

Thank you all for your kind attention.

Issues and Challenges

- Fallow /absentee lands and enterprise diversification
- Product diversification
- Create Farm employment
- Value addition – cardamom
- Small farm mechanization
- Good governance and institutional capacity building
- Capacity building of stakeholder institutions
- Retention of youth and labor
- Import substitution oriented production

Issues and Challenges

- Potential commodities - production plan, value addition and marketing plan
- Analysis of comparative and competitive advantages commodities
- Max. use of domestic resources for production
- Increase competitiveness and reduce imports
- Not easy to increase export volume

Issues and challenges

High trade deficit

- Import dependency – high
- Limited trained manpower in public and private sector (cooperatives and other private sector)

Current situation of Agriculture in Nepal

Green revolution effects in South Asia (India and Pakistan)

Nepal – benefitted

Transformation in agriculture in Nepal – in the process

Slow in growth rate and AGDP growth

Slow in Knowledge and technological technical intensive farming

Priority on major activities (genetic gain (breed/variety/agronomic management , value chain and nutrition)