# tadjikistanUN logo

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Draft National Food Systems Pathway for Tajikistan

*Version: Aug 27, 2021*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# Mountain illustrationApple tree illustrationfruit bowl illustration

# 1. Introduction

There is an intricate relationship between food systems and human wellbeing. Food Systems encompass the entire range of activities, goods and services involved in the production, trading, processing, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, including the inputs needed and the outputs generated at each of these steps.[[1]](#footnote-2) A sustainable food system should generate positive value along three dimensions: economic, social and environmental (Figure 1). The UN Secretary-General is convening a Food Systems Summit in September 2021 as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Food Systems Summit aims to unleash game-changing innovations to promote sustainable transformation of the food systems. The summit will raise global awareness and shape global commitments to resolve hunger, reduce diet-related diseases and restore the planetary health. There is a need for collective action to radically change the way we produce, process, transport, market and consume food. As part of the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit, several countries have carried out national food systems dialogues.

**Sustainable Food Systems**

Source: FAO

**Economic Impact**

Profits, jobs/income, tax Revenue, food supply

**Green Growth**

**Inclusive Growth**

**SFS**

**Environment Impact**

Carbon footprint, water footprint, water & soil health, animal and plant health, food loss and waste, biodiversity, and toxicity

**Social Impact**

Added value distribution (gender, youth, indigenous people), cultural traditions, nutrition & health, workers rights and safety, animal welfare, and institutions

**Eco-social progress**

**Figure 1. Sustainability in Food Systems**

Source: FAO, 2014

The national dialogues in Tajikistan involved a diverse range of stakeholders including government agencies, private sector, civil society, community leaders, farmers, and the academia. Tajikistan recognizes the importance of transforming food systems as a vehicle for achieving the SDGs and national development aspirations. In Tajikistan, these consultations were held at the subnational and national level to solicit inputs from a range of stakeholders. Participants strongly expressed their support for and commitment to strengthening food systems in Tajikistan. They noted that the focus in Tajikistan should be on food security, nutrition, livelihoods, food safety, while preserve biodiversity and enabling the country to meet its environmental and climate goals.

The dialogues underlined that the Government of Tajikistan has embarked on several reforms in the agriculture sector, private sector development, land tenure, food safety system, developing relevant legal framework, and implementing a number of institutional changes. However, there are still several challenges that Tajikistan faces to transform the food systems that are sustainable, contribute more to the wellbeing of the people, and protect the natural environment. The dialogues also stressed that the challenges of reforming food systems can be tackled only through a holistic approach, renewed urgency of action, greater resource mobilization, capacity building, and by raising awareness among policymakers, producers and consumers. A whole scale structural transformation of the agriculture and the entire food systems is needed in Tajikistan. Transformation should focus on reorienting the entire food systems value-chain to eco-friendly agriculture investments and practices, improving distribution and trade of food, encouraging healthy food consumption, reducing food waste, enhancing green livelihoods, and promoting safe diets based on the “One Health approach.

# 2. National Food Systems Pathway for Tajikistan

To address existing gaps and challenges to sustainable food systems in the country it is necessary that the National Food Systems Pathway (NFSP) cuts across all the key dimensions across food production, processing, distribution, safety, sale, consumption, and nutrition. Strategic interventions under each objective will be further expounded in an action plan with clear indication of the timeframe, measurable indicators with a logical framework, responsible parties, and finance resources.

In developing the action plan, private and public sector actors and the Donor Coordination Council (DCC) will be consulted to ensure that there are synergies and coordinated actions. The NFSP is closely interlinked to the goals and activities that have been articulated in the National Development Strategy and SDG for 2030. A multistakeholder NFSP Coordination Council under the Committee for Food Security (CFS) will be established to coordinate activities.

The objectives and activities of the NFSP will embody best approaches and focus on but not limited to: access to safe and nutritious food for all, sustainable use of natural resources, environment-friendly production, food consumption behavior, wellbeing and equity, sustainability (rehabilitation/regeneration).

**Goal:** Effective and sustainable national food systems by 2030.

**Objectives:**

1. Harmonize policies, legislations, and regulatory framework related to food production, standards, distribution and trade, quality and safety, and environmental safeguards

2. Reinforce food systems infrastructure, management, organization and multi-sectoral institutional capacity

3. Increase food security and nutritional needs of different population groups, especially those who are food insecure and vulnerable

4. Eliminate gender and social inequality in food systems

5. Improve information and knowledge sharing to support sustainable production and consumption

6. Ensure environment-friendly practices in the whole food system consistent with agreed climate change measures and strategies to preserve and promote biodiversity

## 2.1 Harmonizing policy and regulatory framework

Although there are improvements, a number of policy and regulatory challenges still impede the development of food systems in Tajikistan. Despite passing laws, presidential decrees, and regulations promoting private property and land reforms, land use and ownership is still restrictive. Several polices, strategies, and plans exist but roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined. Public sector capacity to implement is also weak which is further compounded by the fact that not adequate resources are being allocated for implementation.

A number of line ministries are responsible for formulating and implementing food system policies. These include the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT – policy, planning and management), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA – policy, planning, supply, delivery and development), the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MINT production/ supply, planning and development), the Committee on Investment and State Property under Government of Tajikistan (CISP – development of the investment climate), the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR - responsible for water resources management), and the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI - management of the land and water resources).

Besides them, there are several key actors responsible for ensuring food safety along the entire food chain including the Agency Tajikstandart, the Committee for Food Security under the Government of Tajikistan (CFS), the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP), and the Food Safety Coordination Council. Considering the number of agencies involved, the role and responsibilities in the implementation of the NFSP should be agreed and agency plans have to be carefully calibrated.

An effective implementation of the NFSP also requires harmonizing key elements related to food systems in existing policies and programmes. These include the National Development Strategy (2016–2030); Strategy for Sustainable Development of School Meals for 2017-2027; Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy (2015–2024); National Health Strategy (2010–2020) and new strategy is being developed, Program on Agricultural Reform (2012–2020); Food Security Program (2015–2020); National action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance in the Republic of Tajikistan; Land Code (1996); International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, Laws on Food Safety (2012); on Protection of Breastfeeding for Children (2006); on Salt Iodization (2002) on veterinary (2010), on Technical Regulating (2009), on Conformity Assessment (2011), on Inspection of Business Entities 2006, on Protection of Consumer Rights (200) Health Code (2017) Tax Code (2013) on Gender Equality Law (2005), and the Law Against Domestic Violence (2013).

Tajikistan is a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO), but there are still gaps in adoption and harmonization of international food production and safety standards such as Codex Alimentarius, GAP, GHP, IHPT, IPM, ISO - 22000, FSS, HACCP, MRLs for food contaminants.

**Strategic Interventions**

* Review and harmonize the regulatory framework to better serve the needs of the population, promote food security, better land, livestock, and pasture management, nutrition and food safety and better enforcement;
* Adopt a holistic approach in the development and implementation of the strategic plans and programmes which directly or indirectly relate to food systems and their effective functioning;
* Fully implement the Agriculture Reform Programme with a focus on participatory management of pastures and forestry, restoration and protection of natural resources, as well as recycling; promoting sustainable land management and fertilizers usage; promoting methods and technologies for water management and storage; cultivation of local, and drought-tolerant;
* Improve investment environment to ensure access to financing for food producers including small and medium enterprises, individual farmers, and food processing businesses to promote production of nutritional food;
* Develop legal mechanism for unification of *dehkan[[2]](#footnote-3)* farms under cooperatives and promote incentives and other measures for increasing women’s access to and benefit from cooperative membership;
* Finalize and approve Food Safety Strategy for 2021-2030 to address food safety system/control needs to ensure safety of food imports, exports, as well as the diversification of export market;
* Strengthen the national Codex Programme including participation in the global food standards setting process and adoption of Codex Standards in the national policy and legislation;
* Ensure timely policy response during abnormal changes in the food market build resilience of vulnerable households and marginalized population, especially those living in remote areas.

## 2.2 Reinforcing food systems infrastructure, management, and institutional capacity

In 2019, imports of wheat grain amounted to around 1 million tons and the volume of wheat flour to 85,800 tons. Imports of wheat flour amounted to 40 percent of the total domestic demand. The main export commodities are cotton, vegetables and fruits, exported volumes of which in 2019 amounted to USD 180 million[[3]](#footnote-4). The export income covers about 72 percent the cost of imported wheat, flour and mineral fertilizers.[[4]](#footnote-5)

Agriculture industry remains important for Tajikistan which is mainly represented by crop farming (68%) comprising raw cotton, grain, sweet corn, feed corn, rice, potatoes, vegetables, fruits including grapes, nuts and hay and livestock (32%). More than 50% of the labour force is involved in the agricultural sector which accounts for around 20% of the GDP.[[5]](#footnote-6) More than 2/3 of the population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. In 2017 Tajikistan’s food processing industry was valued at over $488.2 million, 21.5 percent of Tajikistan’s $2.27 billion total industrial output. The food industry is one of the largest contributors to gross industrial output, processing domestically harvested fruit, wheat, tobacco, and other agricultural products.

Along with poor investment environment and the volatility of the demand, limited storage facilities are one of the main constrains in the regions in the food supply chain.[[6]](#footnote-7) This challenge is acute in remote areas such as districts of the Rasht valley (DDR), Khatlon region and GBAO. The existing cold storage capacity does not meet the needs. For instance, cold storage capacity in comparison with neighboring countries is low (Uzbekistan, maximum storage - 55,050 tons, Kyrgyzstan - 5,100 tons but Tajikistan – 3,240 tons). Tajikistan has made improvements in the modernization of its land transport infrastructure. However, considering that Tajikistan is a mountainous and a land locked country, roads and land transport play a significant role in the food supply chain. Improving connectivity and promotion of the transportation corridors within the Central Asian region should be high on the policy agenda.

There are inadequate data on food waste in Tajikistan. According to UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021, household food waste for Tajikistan is estimated to be 97 kg per capita/year which corresponds to 906,209 tons/year. Improper use of pesticides, antimicrobials in livestock and their inadequate control pose a risk to public health. There is also insufficient information available on food waste and animal feed in Tajikistan, though it is known that it can be the source of hazards, which occur naturally or as contaminants that cause diseases and intoxications in animals and poultry as well as lead to different human illnesses. The official control over the obtaining of primary production of animal origin in Tajikistan is also very weak. The problem of the food safety reflects not only in human diseases but also in trade of agricultural products particularly in export of food commodities.

**Strategic Interventions**

* Mainstream an environmentally-friendly industrialization of agriculture and support the growth of local food industry through the introduction of domestically produced crops, feeds, animals and oilseed to minimize total dependence on imports;
* Support efforts aimed at increasing productivity of resources, including in agriculture accompanied by infrastructure development, organization and functioning of food markets;
* Promote an integrated water resources management system and scale up accessibility to safe water and sanitation, especially for population living in the rural areas;
* Mobilize resources for reinforcing a strategic reserve and food stocks to mitigate sharp rises in prices for food commodities that make up major part of household spending in the country;
* Ensure sustained food and nutrition security through capacity building programs throughout the food systems to address factors contributing to ineffectiveness in the food systems, inter alia: complete agriculture reforms and rebuilding infrastructure needed for a modern agriculture system;
* Establish demand-based technological/scientific and service stations, land roads, farm machinery depots, rehabilitation of irrigation facilities/infrastructure, effective system of material procurement, storage facilities and logistic centers, transportation and marketing of agricultural products, transition to water-saving technologies;
* Strengthen capacity of government and private finance institutions to ensure necessary investments, proper use of subsidies and incentives for farms and entrepreneurs to increase productivity, yields, and the production and import of “strategically important” food items;
* Improve access of rural inhabitants to food markets by rebuilding road arteries and monitoring of fuel prices; establish link between farmers, food processors, producers and consumers to ensure demand, quality, and safe production;
* Strengthen capacity of animal feed producing public and private entities to improve and increase livestock and poultry nutrition and productivity; enhance the quality of seeds and adapt it to local needs in the country’s regions and ensure accessibility of agricultural inputs;
* Assess and reduce food losses and waste at farm level (pre harvest and post-harvest), supply chain and storage level, and household level to prevent food losses and increase profitability by improved infrastructure, technology, and following sustainable agricultural practices;

## 2.3 Promoting food security and nutrition

Every third household in Tajikistan is either moderately or severely food insecure. According to the 2018 “Fill the Nutrient Gap” analysis,[[7]](#footnote-8) depending on the region, between 30 and 56 percent[[8]](#footnote-9) of households cannot afford a nutritious diet.[[9]](#footnote-10) Individuals who have a greater nutrient requirement, e.g. pregnant and lactating women and girls as well as adolescent girls, are among the most affected.[[10]](#footnote-11) The “Listening to Tajikistan” surveys underlines that many households are vulnerable to food insecurity as a result of shocks.[[11]](#footnote-12) According to the Global Hunger Index, Tajikistan has the highest rate of malnutrition among the former Soviet republics.[[12]](#footnote-13)

More than 8 percent of children are underweight. Nearly 1 in 5 children (17 percent) under-five are stunted (low height for age) rising to 32 percent in under-served areas such as GBAO. Although the rate of malnutrition has decreased in the last decade, the number of those undernourished has remained stagnant.[[13]](#footnote-14) Wasting affects about 6 percent of children,[[14]](#footnote-15) it is more prevalent in children under two, with infants under 6 months being the most affected.[[15]](#footnote-16) Micronutrient deficiency affects children and women. Only 1 in 3 children are exclusively breastfed and the law and programmes for breastfeeding promotion lack effective monitoring and enforcement.[[16]](#footnote-17) Obesity is also on the rise. An estimated 16.7% and 11.6% of adult women and men respectively are obese.[[17]](#footnote-18)

The pattern of food consumption diversity and household spending on food (with the exception of meat products) in Tajikistan is typical of low-income countries. According to Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia, households in Tajikistan in 2017 allocated a higher proportion of their expenditure on food consumption than its neighbours in Central Asia (56% in 2017). Average household spending on bread was almost 40 % of the total. Meat products, oil and fat, and sugar are the next highest contributors to total family spending. Spending on eggs, dairy products and fish is insignificant. There is a positive correlation between household spending on meat and dairy products with income and well-being of the population.

Nutrition status of the population closely associates with the accessibility of staple food in the domestic market. The cost of key food commodities, such as wheat flour, vegetable oil, meat, and potatoes, increased more in 2020 compared to 2019. High volatility of the prices was observed for onions, carrots, potatoes and meat products. Prices of meat products increased in the range of 20-30% during the first quarter of 2020 and declined over the next two quarters. In general, price of chicken, beef and mutton during 2020 remained high compared to 2019. Part of the reason for abnormal fluctuation in food prices was the COVID 19 pandemic which has affected supply chains in the region.

**Strategic Interventions**

* Transform the current food control system by applying the ‘farm to fork’ approach and ensure its statutory basis (mostly by secondary regulations) and through involvement of all the stakeholders e.g. competent agencies, farmers, industry and consumers;
* Improve safety procedures for food imports and exports; ensure diversification of food exports by adhering to strict required safety standards as required in new markets;
* Establish effective and integrated national surveillance system of antimicrobial resistance covering all sectors within the One Health triad (people, animals and the environment), including the private sector (professional associations and dehkan farms) and address challenges by specific programmes;
* Implement international quality management and food safety standards and best practices, particularly those developed by CAC and OIE and recommended by WTO Agreement on Application Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, such as ISO, HACCP, GAP, GHP, HPT, IPM to facilitate quality and safety production;
* Introduce “One Health” strategy to enable integration of efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally for optimal health of people, animals, and the environment;
* Strengthen monitoring tools of relevant authorities to assess the impact of COVID 19 and other hazards, affordability of food baskets and evolution of the market prices;
* Update food dietary guidelines linked to food consumption; eliminate undernourishment and halve the diet-related, waterborne, foodborne diseases; mitigate and halve the public impact of zoonotic diseases by decreasing their prevalence.

## 2.4 Eliminating gender and social inequality in food systems

Due to rising labour migration (mostly males) in Tajikistan, women are increasingly engaged in the management of dehkan farms both de jure and (more commonly) de facto. According to FAO (2018) most of the dehkan farms in Tajikistan are represented by small farms (88%) including 15.5% that are managed by women. Persisting gender inequalities mean that women have limited access to knowledge, resources, decision-making and networks. Women are also paid significantly less. Inequities experienced by women also impact the productivity of farms, food security, and development of food systems. According to AgtTCA USAID (2014) more women are managers of family dehkan farms than they are of collective or individual farms. In large dehkan farms, women hold a larger proportion of shares, estimated at 53% of shares, which is considered to be a more accurate reflection of their participation in the sector. The low level of leadership suggests that women face gender barriers to assuming the responsibility of dehkan farms. Although few women are legal heads of dekhan farms, women are assuming the de facto leadership of some dehkan farms because of migration of male family members. Evidence suggests that a slightly higher proportion of dekhan farms led by women relative to those led by men are able to support their families through income and production, suggesting women-led farms are at least as productive men-led farms.

Women also need to have a strong voice in the implementation of the national health and nutrition policies because they have special needs related to their reproductive role, which makes them more vulnerable to malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Maternal health is extremely important for the survival and development of children. Women’s education is a factor directly related to the adequate nutrition and health of the child. Therefore, girls' access to education is one of the key foundations of food security and nutrition. A number of assessments and reviews suggest that there is need to improve women’s access to financing for investing so that they can increase their farm holdings and enterprises. The financing instruments should consider the seasonality of agriculture and agricultural-related businesses owned by women.

**Strategic Interventions**

* Promote gender equality in access to factors of food production such as water resources, equal right to ownership of land, farms, and food processing and food distribution enterprises;
* Enhance women’s leadership role through pro-gender affirmative measures, support education programmes targeting women to ensure sufficient number of qualified women take on senior technical and leadership roles in food related sectors;
* Ensure greater involvement of women in decision-making processes at all levels in policies and at the community level; increase public awareness campaigns encouraging greater role of women in social life, and decision-making process in agricultural activities;
* Empower women’s economic and social role and status to address gender gap in dehkan farm and private subsidiary farm management;
* Ensure guaranteed access to financial services as well as business development support for farms and businesses run by females;
* Raise awareness about nutrition of women, importance of diverse diets, food safety, breastfeeding practice, family planning, good hygiene and sanitation practices.

## 2.5 Improving information and knowledge sharing

Despite some improvements in general education, there are few technical courses in Tajikistan that provide a holistic academic training in food systems. There is no database that contain a list of education and training courses available for stakeholders and participants in the food systems. Curricula in educational institutions should include basic understanding of food security and safety, food hygiene, international and national standards to ensure that future specialists are aware of modern practice related to food production, factors contributing to food insecurity and safety.

At present, training on various aspects of food security and safety is conducted on an ad hoc basis. Private food producers should receive information and training on food production, safety, processing, storage, transportation, and application of internationally recognized standards. Participation in international fora is limited and awareness of stakeholders about obtaining information on food production, food safety measures, preventing diet related diseases, and sustainable consumption is also limited.

Consumer awareness plays an important role in addressing food security and safety challenges. Better access to information can help consumers make better food choices and differentiate between healthy and unhealthy food. Informed consumers are in a position to exert pressure on the government, manufacturers, and suppliers of food products to provide good quality food at affordable prices. Consumer pressure is very effective and if combined with enforcement of regulations and inspection services can influence change.

Crucially, the food systems in Tajikistan need scientific support. Limited numbers of studies have been conducted to assess food security and safety risks to the health of consumers, dietary practices, modern agricultural production, and food waste management. There has also been little research on pest management, harvest and postharvest technologies, and consumption behavior. Microbial and chemical hazards and the critical role of biodiversity in food security is another area for further research. Besides that, very little data are available on chemical contaminants, mycotoxins, veterinary drugs, adulterants, additives and emerging contaminants. There is not sufficient collaboration between the academia and the government agencies responsible for the management of food systems in the country. The national capabilities should be strengthened in generating scientific data for science-based approach to food security. Tajikistan should also be more active in international standard-setting meetings and fora. There is no system for regular postgraduate training, standardized tools and techniques to strengthen the technical skills of competent authorities (from health, agriculture, food security, standard setting agencies) and private sector (farmers, processors) and other relevant sectors. Many executive bodies do not have adequate expertise to guide food producers or properly conduct inspections.

* Disseminate knowledge and encourage farmers to apply “smart” farm technologies and practices to increase yield and protect environment. Among others, promote rotation of cultivated plants, pasture management, animal, poultry and bee breeding and feeding, manure and agrichemicals management, and use of digital technology in raising animals;
* Review and update the curricula of academic institutions to include modules on food security, safety, water sanitation and hygiene. Align the curricula with requirements under the international standards;
* Enhance awareness of food producers and consumers on key aspects of sustainable consumption and nature-based solutions; increase awareness of farmers to use better quality and nature-friendly seeds, fertilizers and pesticides through demonstration agro-sites in research institutes and in the field;
* Improve knowledge and skills of farmers and processors using customized curricula and short demand-based courses on specific topics; also enhance capability of the relevant organizations to conduct awareness and short-term training programmes on hygiene, nutrition, food safety, and food processing enterprises;
* Create a publicly available advisory and information web platform that provides information on modern approaches and knowledge to improve the skills of local experts and students in food production;
* Improve communication between producers and consumers by strengthening the interface between wholesalers, retail markets, manufacturers, and consumer bodies; upgrade awareness and knowledge of authorities and business operators in modern food safety techniques and importance of national food traceability, withdrawal and recall systems;
* Build the capacity of food control agencies on various topics related to food hygiene and safety such as hygiene, HACCP, risk analysis, traceability, risk-based inspection, sampling and testing methods, and accreditation of laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025);
* Carry out further research to assess food waste management; this should provide the basis for setting up a monitoring system and programmes to raise awareness among food producers and consumers on ways to effectively manage food waste.
* Promote involvement of academic and scientific institutions in providing scientific evidence for decision making and monitoring food security and nutrition; support the participation of local experts in regional and international food systems forums.

## 2.6 Ensuring environment and climate friendly food systems

[Tajikistan is highly vulnerable](https://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/127181468024643244/Adapting-to-climate-change-in-Europe-and-Central-Asia) to climate change and natural disasters. Between 1992 and 2016, [about $1.8 billion in GDP was lost](https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/372481493891899347/disaster-risk-profiles-tajikistan) due to climate-related calamities. Tajikistan’s food insecurity will be exacerbated by its limited capacity to respond to climate-induced shocks. Environmental contamination and chemical pollutants from the use of agrochemicals represent risk to animal, plant and human health and safety. A majority of farmers use chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides) and veterinary drugs (antibiotics and hormones etc.) in crop cultivation and livestock husbandry, but the use and level of chemical residues in many types of agricultural food and safety risks are not properly monitored.

Due to climate change the total yield of agriculture may drop to 30% by 2100 in some parts of the country, potentially affecting about 2 million people who are food insecure including 800,000 who are directly at risk of hunger. The threat of food security caused by climate change will increase unless measures are taken because more people will live in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events.

By 2050, the population living in climate-sensitive areas will increase by 77.2% (National Climate Adaptation Strategy). While the country has signed and agreed a number of conventions to address challenges in pesticide management, there is still no approved list of authorized pesticides in Tajikistan. The main risk factors that could seriously undermined food security are degradation, depletion and overexploitation of natural resources along with the increase in the number of natural disasters.

**Strategic Interventions**

* Address food safety risks through a proactive and multi-partner approach which will be also cost-effective and can be implemented under the “One Health” strategy.
* Coordinate efforts of public and private sector as well as development partners to address degradation, depletion and overexploitation of natural resources along with prevention and mitigation of natural disasters;
* Mainstream targets and actions of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in food production, processing, trade, consumption of food as well as the management of food loss and waste in the country;
* Promote environmentally responsible food production and food consumption and sustainable management of the natural resources including land and water resources;
* Ensure biodiversity safeguard throughout the country, focusing on the most vulnerable areas (Badakshan and Khatlon regions);
* Immediately end over-exploitation of mountain ecosystem and biodiversity flora and fauna and natural resources;
* Collect and conserve plant and animal genetic resources, local/native breeds of animals and varieties of plants.
1. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Technical%20Note%20on%20Sustainable%20Food%20Systems%202021FINAL.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Midsize peasant farms distinct from household plots [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. AoS/Statistical Yearbook, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. In 2019 wheat grain and flour imports amounted to USD 145 million). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Agency of Statistics GDP and employment 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp291506.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. WFP, MOHSP, 2018, Fill the Nutrient Gap Tajikistan, Summary Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Depending on the region in Tajikistan. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Monthly cost of nutritious diet is estimated to be 1,047 TJS per household while for diet that provides minimum energy costs 343 TJS/month per household. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. MoHSPP and WFP, 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. World Bank Group, 2020, Economic and Social Impacts of COVID-19: Updates from the Listening to Tajikistan Survey. [https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/07/13/economic-and-social-impacts-of-covid-19-update-from-listening-to-tajikistan] [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Global Hunger Index. [<https://www.globalhungerindex.org/tajikistan.html>] [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. According to the 2017 Demographic and Health Survey, stunting among children under 5 years of age fell from 27 percent in 2012 to 17 percent in 2017. With an annual population growth rate of 2.5 percent, however, the current decline rate is insufficient to meet the 2025 target of a 40 percent reduction in the number of stunted children under five years of age. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. UNICEF & MoHSPP, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Tajikistan Agency on Statistics, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, and ICF, 2018, Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, and Rockville, Maryland, USA. [<https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr341-dhs-final-reports.cfm>] (Accessed: 10/10/20). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. UNICEF, Drexel University & Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2016, Formative Research on Infant and Young Child Feeding and Maternal Nutrition in Tajikistan, Dushanbe: Polygraph. [<https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/resources.html>] (Accessed: 10/10/20). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/asia/central-asia/tajikistan/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)