

# 4<sup>TH</sup> ASIA PACIFIC FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION MEETING REPORT<sup>1</sup>



## 1. Background

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, aimed to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach. Since then, countries showcased over 130 national food systems pathways and have appointed 159 National Food Systems Convenors.

By leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems with global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality, the Summit stressed the power of food systems transformation to unlock multiple wins across the sustainable development agenda.

Other outcomes complemented the Summit, including the launch of over 20 Coalitions of Action, a scientific group, and announcements of hundreds of commitments from a wide range of actors.

To keep political momentum, a biannual follow-up process has been established with two global Stocktakes convened: the first in Rome, Italy (2023), and the second in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2025). These Stocktakes brought together national delegations and non-state actors to review progress on country-level food systems transformation and to identify needs and priorities for advancing transformation and achieving the SDGs, culminating in the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action. In addition, annual regional meetings have been convened alongside the Regional

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This meeting report summarizes the discussions, perspectives, and key messages emerging from the meeting. The views reflected herein are intended to capture the richness of the dialogue and do not necessarily represent the official positions of participating countries, organizations, or partners.



Sustainable Development Forums, to keep providing platforms for countries and regional actors to exchange best practices and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Against this backdrop, March 2026 marked a significant milestone for the Asia-Pacific region. With the 4th Asia-Pacific Food Systems Transformation Meeting – co-organized by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, UNESCAP and FAO, in partnership with the SUN Movement, NDC Partnership, UNFCCC Secretariat and the Asia Farmer Association – brought together a record 25 countries and more than 20 partners from across the region's diverse institutional landscape. The two-day meeting reflected not only the breadth of engagement, but the depth of political commitment: countries arrived not to re-state ambitions, but to advance implementation.

## 2. Regional and sub-regional progress in food systems transformation

Countries across the region operate in diverse food systems contexts, but are increasingly aligning around delivery. Across all 25 participating countries, a clear signal emerged: the phase of pathway design has shifted decisively to implementation. National Convenors emphasized the need to convert commitments into funded programmes, enacted policies, and measurable results. Delivery is now the central priority.

Persistent constraints to implementation include fragmented governance and inter-ministerial coordination gaps; limited subnational implementation capacity; insufficient access to technical expertise for pathway operationalization and monitoring; financial constraints limiting long-term, multi-year programming; and complex access to international financing instruments.

Messages varied across subregions and can be summarized below as per the National Convenors' statements.

### Southeast Asia

Participants from Southeast Asia highlighted a strong need for integrated food systems coordination and action across all levels. Emphasis was placed on inclusive and applicable innovation – particularly digital solutions accessible to small-scale farmers – to strengthen value chains and enhance resilience, alongside more productive and coherent supply chains. There is a clear demand for practical guidance on blended and innovative finance and the establishment of regional coordination mechanisms.

These priorities translate into several areas for action:

- Strengthen integrated food systems coordination and action across all levels, including national and local governments, private sector, academia and research institutions.
- Promote inclusive and applicable innovation, particularly digital solutions accessible to small-scale farmers, to enhance resilience and strengthen value chains.
- Improve the productivity and coherence of supply chains to support efficiency and market access.
- Enhance capacity development pathways at all levels, including food systems profiling and assessments, training-of-trainers, and peer learning and exchange.

- Provide practical guidance and concrete examples on blended and innovative finance for systemic implementation, including engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) and regional development banks.
- Establish a regional mechanism to inform, coordinate and accelerate food systems transformation efforts, including through a dedicated regional Food Systems Transformation platform.
- Strengthen capacity development and peer-to-peer learning to build a common vision for food systems transformation across stakeholders.

### Central and South Asia

Participants from Central and South Asia underscored the importance of robust data systems, inclusive economic participation, and accelerated investment in agricultural modernization and climate resilience as foundational to food systems transformation in the sub-region.

Key priorities include:

- Strengthen data systems and food systems dashboards by improving the availability, accessibility and use of data at both national and subnational levels to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Promote the engagement of youth and women in agrifood value chains and entrepreneurship, including through improved access to finance, to support innovation, employment and the transition towards more nutritious diets.
- Accelerate mechanization to enhance productivity, address labour shortages and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Increase investments in climate resilience to support sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

### The Pacific

Participants from the Pacific emphasized the distinct vulnerabilities and opportunities shaping food systems transformation in small island developing states (SIDS), where import dependency, climate exposure and geographic fragmentation demand tailored and context-sensitive approaches.

This highlights a need to:

- Reduce dependence on food imports by investing in domestic production capacity, including through the promotion of locally adapted, nutritious food crops and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- Strengthen climate and disaster resilience in food systems, including through early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture and the integration of traditional and Indigenous knowledge into adaptation strategies.

- Mobilize dedicated and accessible financing for Pacific SIDS, including simplified access to climate funds and concessional instruments that reflect the unique vulnerabilities and limited absorptive capacities of small island economies.
- Promote regional solidarity and knowledge exchange among Pacific countries to share practical solutions, tools and approaches for food systems transformation.
- Integrate ocean and blue food systems into national food systems pathways, recognizing the centrality of marine resources to food security, livelihoods and cultural identity across the Pacific.
- Strengthen supply chain connectivity and logistics, including cold chain infrastructure and inter-island transport, to reduce food loss and improve market access for smallholder farmers and fishing communities.

### 3. Key messages from National Convenors

The following key messages were identified by National Convenors and participating country representatives during the meeting. They are organized into two complementary parts: an assessment of regional progress and a set of calls to action addressed to the United Nations system and the broader Ecosystem of Support.

#### Progress, advances, and challenges in the region

##### 1. Food systems transformation has entered an implementation phase

- The regional focus has shifted from pathway design to delivery through concrete programmes, policy action, and investment. National food systems pathways are no longer seen as static vision documents, but as living frameworks guiding implementation and resource mobilization. Across Asia and the Pacific, the central priority is now to translate commitments into measurable results on the ground.
- This shift is visible across a wide range of countries. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam are advancing national action plans and subnational implementation mechanisms, supported by multi-stakeholder platforms and investment planning processes.
- Tonga developed strong multi-sectoral cooperation mechanisms, demonstrating that such structures can work effectively even though securing sufficient funding remains an ongoing challenge.
- In parallel, Malaysia and Pakistan have moved into delivery through policy instruments, institutional mechanisms, and programme implementation frameworks.
- Countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Fiji, and Lao PDR are advancing implementation through convergence approaches, including Convergence Action Blueprints (CABs), Joint SDG Fund programmes, and nationally defined investment pipelines.

## 2. Progress is advancing but remains uneven

- Some countries are integrating pathways into national planning and financing frameworks.
- SIDS and least developed countries (LDCs) continue to face structural constraints: climate exposure, limited fiscal space, and capacity gaps.
- Countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam are embedding pathways into national development planning, sector strategies, and financing frameworks, with increasing alignment across ministries and partners.
- At the same time, Bhutan and Nepal demonstrate steady, community-driven implementation models linking resilience, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- However, SIDS and LDCs, including Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, and several Pacific Island countries, continue to face structural constraints – particularly limited fiscal space, high climate vulnerability, and institutional capacity gaps – which slow implementation despite strong political commitment.

## 3. Climate and systemic risks are intensifying

- Climate shocks, biodiversity loss, water stress and watershed degradation, land degradation, and economic volatility – further exacerbated by global crises and conflict – are placing increasing pressure on food systems and undermining food security across the region.
- Countries are prioritizing resilience through climate-smart and nature-positive approaches, early warning systems, and localized value chains.
- Countries such as Pakistan are integrating climate risk directly into financial instruments, including agriculture index insurance and parametric insurance models to manage shocks and incentivize resilience.
- Similarly, Malaysia is investing in climate-resilient production systems, including drought-resistant crops, smart irrigation, and low-carbon agricultural practices.
- At the same time, Uzbekistan highlights systemic risks linked to water scarcity, embedding water security and climate resilience into national adaptation planning and cross-sectoral policies.

## 4. Governance fragmentation constrains implementation

- Fragmented institutional arrangements and limited cross-sectoral coordination remain major barriers.

- Strengthening whole-of-government and whole of society approaches and subnational capacity are critical priorities.
- Countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and Pakistan have established multi-stakeholder platforms, technical working groups, and national coordination mechanisms, though implementation challenges persist.
- Cambodia, Indonesia and Fiji are advancing convergence approaches that link ministries and sectors under unified frameworks such as CABs.
- Across countries, subnational coordination remains a critical bottleneck, as highlighted in Vietnam and Pakistan, alongside regional discussions.

#### **5. Financing gaps are the most significant constraint**

- Increasing debt burdens, constrained fiscal space, and fragmented access to financing affect all countries.
- Many priority interventions and proven solutions remain underfunded despite being implementation-ready, reflecting not only financing constraints but also gaps in prioritization, sequencing, and integration within national policy and budget processes.
- Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh are advancing efforts to align public finance and investment planning with food systems priorities, including SME financing and programme-based approaches.
- Cambodia and Timor-Leste are developing structured investment platforms to mobilize public, private, and partner financing.
- Lao PDR illustrates how Joint SDG Fund catalytic funding can leverage larger IFI investments.

#### **6. Policy convergence is progressing but incomplete**

- Efforts to align food systems with climate, biodiversity, health and nutrition, and development agendas are advancing.
- Policy silos continue to limit coherence and efficiency in implementation.
- Countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan are embedding food systems within national planning, climate strategies, and development agendas.
- Fiji and Cambodia demonstrate more advanced convergence through integration into NDCs and national strategies supported by CABs.

- However, across countries – including Pakistan and Malaysia – policy silos persist, particularly between agriculture, climate, nutrition, and finance systems.

## **7. Innovation, science, and digitalization are key enablers**

- Growing demand for data systems, digital tools, and science-based innovations to support decision-making.
- Concerns remain regarding unequal access and risks of digital exclusion for smallholders and vulnerable groups.
- Indonesia, Vietnam, and Pakistan are advancing digital platforms, dashboards, and data systems to support decision-making and monitoring.
- Bhutan and Pacific Island countries are leveraging digital tools to connect farmers and improve market access.
- At the same time, countries emphasized that access to advanced technologies – including artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and precision agriculture – remains uneven, particularly for smallholders.

## **8. Evidence-informed governance is gaining importance**

- Stronger integrated data systems, inclusive science-policy interfaces, and monitoring frameworks are recognized as essential for adaptive, accountable implementation.
- Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam are strengthening monitoring systems through dashboards, M&E frameworks, and reporting aligned with UNFSS commitments.
- Uzbekistan and Timor-Leste are investing in data generation and analytical tools to guide investment and policy decisions.
- Flagship initiatives such as the Food Systems Countdown Initiative and FAO analytical tools are supporting this transition, but countries emphasized the need for sustained national system

## **9. Inclusive and intergenerational governance is expanding but not yet institutionalized**

- Countries acknowledged the importance of engaging youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, and farmers' organizations.

- Formal mechanisms for sustained and meaningful participation remain limited and must be strengthened, together with leadership capacity building.
- Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are advancing youth engagement through training, education systems, and national programmes.
- Cambodia and Bhutan are integrating inclusion, gender equality, and community participation into national transformation strategies.
- Ecosystem of Support actors – including SUN, farmer organizations, and civil society networks – are supporting participation, but institutionalization remains limited.

#### **10. Partnerships are expanding but require stronger alignment**

- The Ecosystem of Support has played a catalytic role in advancing dialogue and technical support.
- Countries emphasized the need to reduce fragmentation and better align support with national priorities.
- Across the region, countries – including Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan – are engaging a broad range of partners, including UN agencies, IFIs, research institutions, and private sector actors.
- Flagship mechanisms such as the Joint SDG Fund, the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative, and regional partnerships are supporting alignment, financing, and implementation.
- However, countries consistently emphasized that support remains fragmented and called for a more coordinated, country-driven Ecosystem of Support to translate global commitments into delivery at scale.

### Key messages to the United Nations and the Ecosystem of Support

#### **1. Prioritize support for implementation and delivery**

- Shift from planning-focused support to sustained assistance for implementation, operationalizing national pathways, and delivering at scale.
- Countries call on the UN system and partners to shift from short-term, project-based support toward long-term, programmatic engagement anchored in national delivery systems.

## 2. Strengthen country-owned financing strategies

- Support the development of costed investment plans, bankable project pipelines, and access to blended finance, climate finance, and private investment aligned with national priorities.
- Only a limited number of countries in the region currently have costed pathways or financing frameworks, constraining implementation and engagement with ministries of finance and investors.
- Experiences from Bangladesh and Lao PDR demonstrate the importance of country-owned, structured financing approaches.
- Countries call on the Ecosystem of Support to move beyond fragmented funding toward aligned financing architectures that crowd in public, private, and climate finance.

## 3. Enhance coordination and reduce fragmentation

- Strengthen alignment across UN agencies, IFIs, and partners to ensure coherent, efficient, and country-driven support.
- Enhance partnerships to avoid duplication and translate global commitments into country-level delivery.
- Fragmentation across institutions, funding streams, and sectoral mandates remains a systemic constraint.
- As highlighted in both regional dialogues and global analyses, a significant share of investments already contributes to multiple objectives (food, climate, and biodiversity), yet remains uncoordinated and untracked across systems.
- Countries call for the UN system and partners to act as a “convergence platform”, aligning support around national priorities rather than parallel initiatives.

## 4. Provide tailored technical and methodological support

- Countries require practical tools, guidance, and methodologies to translate pathways into integrated policies, programmes, and monitoring systems.
- While analytical tools and diagnostics are widely available, countries emphasized the need for operational, context-specific methodologies to support implementation.
- Experiences from Vietnam (subnational rollout), Bangladesh (dashboards), and Pakistan (data systems) highlight the value of applied tools that link analysis to decision-making.

- Countries call for Ecosystem of Support partners to prioritize “how-to” support – including implementation toolkits, convergence methodologies, and integrated M&E systems – over additional high-level frameworks.

### **5. Invest in national and subnational capacity development**

- Strengthen institutional, technical, and operational capacities – particularly at subnational levels – to enable effective implementation.
- Capacity gaps – particularly beyond central government – remain a major constraint to delivery.
- Regional evidence shows that while national coordination mechanisms are improving, subnational systems often lack the resources, mandates, and technical capacity to implement pathways effectively.
- Countries call for sustained investment in institutional strengthening, leadership development, and decentralized delivery systems, including through long-term partnerships.

### **6. Facilitate access to data, science, and digital technologies**

- Support the development of integrated data systems, digital solutions, and science-based tools, while strengthening science-policy efforts.
- Include safeguards to ensure equitable access for smallholders and vulnerable populations.
- All national pathways identify science, data, and innovation as critical enablers of transformation.
- Countries are increasingly investing in digital platforms, early warning systems, and data integration, yet access remains uneven and fragmented.
- Countries call on the Ecosystem of Support to support integrated national data systems, interoperable platforms, and science-policy interfaces, while ensuring equity, affordability, and inclusion.

## 7. Support inclusive and rights-based approaches

- The UN system is called upon to support the institutionalization of inclusive governance, including meaningful participation of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.
- Rights-based approaches should be integrated into national food systems governance.
- The region demonstrates strong recognition of Indigenous knowledge and traditional food systems as assets for resilience, biodiversity, and nutrition.
- Countries call for Ecosystem of Support assistance to move from participation to institutionalized inclusion, anchored in the right to food and equitable governance systems.

## 8. Strengthen regional cooperation and peer learning

- Regional platforms should be strengthened to facilitate knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, and the scaling of proven solutions across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Regional processes have proven effective in facilitating exchange on implementation, financing, and governance.
- Countries emphasized the value of peer learning between frontrunners and countries in earlier stages, particularly through platforms such as the Asia-Pacific regional meetings and technical exchanges.
- Countries call for more structured, continuous regional cooperation mechanisms to accelerate scaling of solutions.

## 9. Improve alignment with global frameworks and processes

- Support the alignment of food systems transformation with climate, biodiversity, health and nutrition agendas, and translate global frameworks into national implementation.
- Countries are simultaneously advancing multiple global commitments (national pathways, NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs), yet these processes often remain siloed across institutions.
- As highlighted in regional discussions, the challenge is not the absence of frameworks, but the lack of alignment and joint implementation across them.
- Countries call on the Ecosystem of Support to help facilitate policy coherence, joint planning, and integrated investment frameworks across global agendas.

## 10. Sustain global advocacy and political momentum

- Countries encouraged continued global advocacy to elevate food systems transformation within international agendas.
- Participants explored opportunities to strengthen political commitment, including through a potential UN resolution on food systems transformation.
- Building on the UNFSS and subsequent Stocktakes, countries emphasized the importance of maintaining high-level political attention to ensure sustained investment and accountability.
- Countries call on the UN system and partners to continue positioning food systems as a central pillar of SDG acceleration, climate action, and biodiversity protection, including through strengthened global and regional advocacy.

## 4. Way forward

As countries move from commitment to delivery, the focus must shift toward scaling implementation through integrated, country-led approaches.

Participants emphasized that accelerating food systems transformation will depend on strengthening convergence across climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and development agendas, ensuring that national pathways are embedded within broader policy and investment frameworks.

At the same time, countries highlighted the need to reinforce the enabling environment for delivery, including governance, financing, capacity, and innovation systems, while accelerating peer exchange and cross-country learning at regional and subregional levels.

Sustained progress will require translating priorities into coherent policies, investable programmes, and coordinated partnerships, supported by more aligned and responsive contributions from the Ecosystem of Support.

The strategic areas outlined below reflect the key priorities identified by countries to guide the next phase of implementation.

Strategic area	Way forward — next steps
<b>Implementation of national pathways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support countries to develop operational roadmaps with action and investment plans that translate food systems pathway commitments into concrete, time-bound programmes with defined milestones.</li> <li>• Establish monitoring frameworks to track progress from commitments to funded programmes, enacted policies, and measurable results.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Governance &amp; coordination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support countries to establish or strengthen whole-of-government and whole-of-society coordination mechanisms, including multi-stakeholder platforms.</li> <li>• Formalize the participation of youth, Indigenous Peoples, women, and farmers’ organizations in food systems decision-making processes at national and subnational levels.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resilience building &amp; complex contexts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream climate-smart and nature-positive approaches across food systems to strengthen resilience to climate shocks and environmental degradation.</li> <li>• Strengthen early warning systems, risk management, and preparedness mechanisms, including linkages between humanitarian, development, and climate responses.</li> <li>• Promote localized and diversified food systems to reduce vulnerability to external shocks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adaptive national pathways</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support countries to regularly update national food systems pathways as living frameworks aligned with evolving national priorities and global commitments (e.g. climate, biodiversity, One Health).</li> <li>• Strengthen institutional mechanisms to ensure continuous learning, feedback, and adaptive implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy convergence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the integration of food systems across climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and development agendas to enhance policy coherence.</li> <li>• Align national planning and budgeting processes to support integrated implementation and unlock financing opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financing &amp; investment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support countries to develop costed investment plans and bankable project pipelines aligned with national pathways.</li> <li>• Facilitate access to climate and development finance, including through blended finance mechanisms and stronger public-private investment alignment.</li> <li>• Promote the repurposing of public expenditure toward sustainable, resilient, and nutrition-sensitive food systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science, data &amp; technology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen national data systems, digital tools, and AI-enabled solutions to support monitoring, forecasting, and evidence-based decision-making.</li> <li>• Enhance science-policy interfaces to ensure the integration of evidence into planning and implementation.</li> <li>• Ensure equitable access to innovation, particularly for smallholders and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>

<b>Inclusive knowledge systems and rights-based approaches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize Indigenous knowledge systems and local practices as integral to governance frameworks and decision-making processes.</li> <li>• Integrate rights-based approaches, including the right to adequate food, into policy and programme design and implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships &amp; Ecosystem of Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen alignment among UN agencies, international financial institutions, coalitions, and regional organizations to reduce fragmentation.</li> </ul>

## ANNEX

### Breakout Group Insights: Support needs, offers, and partnership opportunities

This annex synthesizes inputs from breakout discussions, highlighting country-driven requests, available offers, partnership models, and systemic barriers to inform the strengthening of the Ecosystem of Support.

Table 1. Priority support requests from countries

Thematic area	Country / region	Type of support requested	Implications for Ecosystem of Support
Science, technology & innovation	Pacific SIDS	Assessment of IT capacity for data systems and digital applications	Need for baseline diagnostics and tailored digital readiness support
	Bhutan	Development of food systems dashboards and digital platforms	Demand for integrated national data systems and monitoring tools
	Micronesia, Pakistan	Curriculum development for food systems transformation	Integration of food systems into education and capacity-building systems
	Pacific / Lao PDR	Farmer-facing digital applications (e.g. LEMS suitability tools)	Scaling user-friendly technologies for smallholders
	Regional (Vietnam)	Regional tools for suitability and planning	Demand for harmonized regional methodologies
	Pacific (AI focus)	Application of AI in food systems	Need for practical AI use cases and capacity development
	Palau	Technologies for water reuse (grey water systems)	Integration of innovation for resource efficiency and resilience
	Regional	Access to FAOSTAT and global datasets	Strengthening data accessibility and interoperability

	Pacific (gender focus)	User-friendly technologies for women and youth farmers	Inclusive digital innovation
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Table 2. Offers of support from countries and partners

Country / organization	Type of offer	Potential role within Ecosystem of Support
Pakistan	Food systems dashboards, curriculum development	South-South cooperation on digital systems and education
Bhutan	Collaboration on curriculum development	Regional knowledge sharing and co-development
Japan	API tools for GHG monitoring and visualization	Advanced technology transfer and innovation
Vietnam	Capacity building for institutional innovation and investment planning	Scaling subnational implementation models
Science advisory networks	Science-policy convergence support	Strengthening science-policy interfaces
SEWA / Farmer organizations	Engagement of women and farmer groups	Advancing inclusive and grassroots implementation

Table 3. Existing models, partnerships, and platforms

Model / partnership	Description	Strategic value for scaling
University-based extension systems	Academic institutions supporting advisory services	Strengthening local capacity and knowledge transfer
BESOS Alternative Protein Center	Innovation hub for sustainable protein	Diversification of food systems and climate mitigation
JISCA (Pacific-Japan)	Regional cooperation initiative	South-South and triangular cooperation
MIDORI Cooperation Plan (Japan)	Science and technology partnership	Scaling sustainable agriculture technologies
ALISEA	Agroecology network in Southeast Asia	Nature-positive and regenerative practices
CGIAR, CIRAD, ACIAR, IDRC	Global research partnerships	Science, innovation, and evidence generation
MFAT (New Zealand)	Development partner support	Financing and technical assistance
APAR, APAFRI, SERCA	Regional research networks	Knowledge exchange and regional integration
AFA / SEWA	Farmer organization networks	Inclusive governance and community engagement

Table 4. Key systemic barriers identified

Barrier category	Description	Implications
Governance fragmentation	Siloed systems across ministries and sectors	Weak policy coherence and duplication of efforts
Policy-finance disconnect	Limited alignment between planning and budgeting processes	Reduced implementation and investment readiness
Political economy constraints	Limited high-level political alignment	Challenges in driving systemic reforms
Capacity gaps	Limited technical and operational capacity, especially at subnational level	Bottlenecks in delivery
National-subnational misalignment	Weak coordination across levels of governance	Inefficient resource allocation and implementation delays

Table 5. Priority needs and suggested Ecosystem of Support responses

Priority need (country ask)	Suggested Ecosystem of Support response	Potential lead actors
Methodologies for policy coherence (including indicators)	Develop integrated convergence toolkits and M&E frameworks	FAO, UN Food Systems Hub, UNDP, World Bank
Practical guidelines for food systems transformation	Operational guidance linked to national systems and CABs	FAO, WFP, IFAD
Pilots for implementation (e.g. decent work, gender in food systems)	Support country-level pilot programmes and scale-up	FAO, ILO, WFP, national ministries
Strengthened global advocacy (including UN resolution)	Facilitate coordinated advocacy through UN platforms	UN Member States, UNESCAP, UN agencies
Capacity development (national & subnational)	Long-term institutional strengthening programmes	UN agencies, development partners
Digital and data systems	Support interoperable platforms and inclusive digital tools	FAO, CGIAR, regional partners