

## Background Note

Over the past 50 years, globalisation has increased the degree of interdependency between the actors and processes responsible for the entire spectrum of activities, from production to consumption. At the same time, governance mechanisms for these actors and processes have tended to take place in silos, resulting in the fragmentation of food systems. These systems have also failed to achieve nutrition security and livelihood security for small and marginal farmers.

The need to transform food systems is clear. As agriculture is the key element of all food systems, one of the primary approaches to transforming the system is to reinvent agriculture production (Kennedy et al. 2022). To overcome challenges associated with this and to develop adaptive policies, the science-policy interface, needs to be enhanced, which can also serve as a repository of evidence-based data and case studies across food systems. This can help to build institutional capacity and combine scientific evidence and insights from relevant stakeholders.

Changing consumer behavior towards healthy diets can be another feasible option to transform food systems. This calls for prioritizing national public goals and identifying methods for linking these with commercial interests with due consideration to factors like affordability and accessibility to ensure that people are not excluded because of poverty, isolated geography, gender, and other inequalities. As another approach, both community markets and private sector engagement can help strengthen supply and value chains from farms to markets, thereby benefiting producers by providing them with livelihood benefits.

In November 2019, the United Nations held the first Food System Summit to initiate global thinking on food system transformation. The discussions and criticisms around the Summit helped to mainstream the concept in the general discourse on sustainable development. The 2022 Food Systems Dialogue (FSD 2022) was organised by Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS) to give this global discourse a national context. In India, BKS is organizing the Food System Dialogue for the last 5 years. Over time, the event evolved into an annual brainstorming session on different aspects of food system transformation. FSD 2022 was a three-day conference, which facilitated discussions on food systems in India among different stakeholders, including research and academia. With 10 partner organisations, FSD 2022 organised a series of deep-dive consultations covering a wide spectrum of themes, from production to consumption along with focus on key issues such as governance, equity and data.

During this period, due to multiple efforts of national and global organizations, India has started thinking about sustainable food system transformation much more discerningly. BKS and FOLU recognize the need of leveraging the richness of ideas generated at last year's summit and to take the deliberations forward towards shaping the national pathways for the transformation. The 2023 FSD edition will aim to identify the policy scenarios with an enabling potential and the immediate accelerators and entry points for initiating a sustainable food system transformation. It is also looking forward to delineating the scenarios and elements that may impede the transformation process.

The three-day conclave will witness - high-level plenaries; focussed dialogues on key topics such as financing the transition, creating effective data support for catalysing the transition, future of the markets, production systems, support systems for farmers, and health and nutrition with an informed group of stakeholders; talks by special guests on cross-cutting or emerging issues; and several side events by external partners. True to its inclusive approach, FSD 2023 will be collaborating

once again with a wide group of stakeholders, which will comprise entities from research, public policy, private sector and academia.

**Day 1** will begin with the Inaugural session with addresses by BKS Chairperson and FOLU India and global senior management. Prof. Prabhu Pingali, Director, Tata-Cornell Institute will deliver the Guest of Honour address. This will be followed by a discussion dedicated to 'Unlocking finance for sustainable food system transformation' led by Shakti Foundation. Leading national philanthropies are expected to share their views on funding opportunities and challenges for food systems in a panel discussion with the full house audience. The day will conclude with two parallel Thematic sessions – 'Data and food system transformation' and 'Water, temperature, climate change and food systems-bridging science to action'.

**Day 2** will have the following sessions:

- Reimagining agriculture as an engine for future growth - Paper Presentation by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog
- Consultation on India-Food System Transformation Hub - way forward and open discussion
- Special talks on cross-cutting themes

**Day 3** sessions will be based on standalone topics by external partners. Four parallel sessions will be conducted in two groups. These are as follows:

- **Consultation and Report release session**

- Led by Food System Economic Commission

- **True Cost of Food session**

- Led by Tata Cornell Institute

- **Consultation session**

- Led by The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy (FABLE) Consortium

- **Consultation session**

- Led by EAT

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