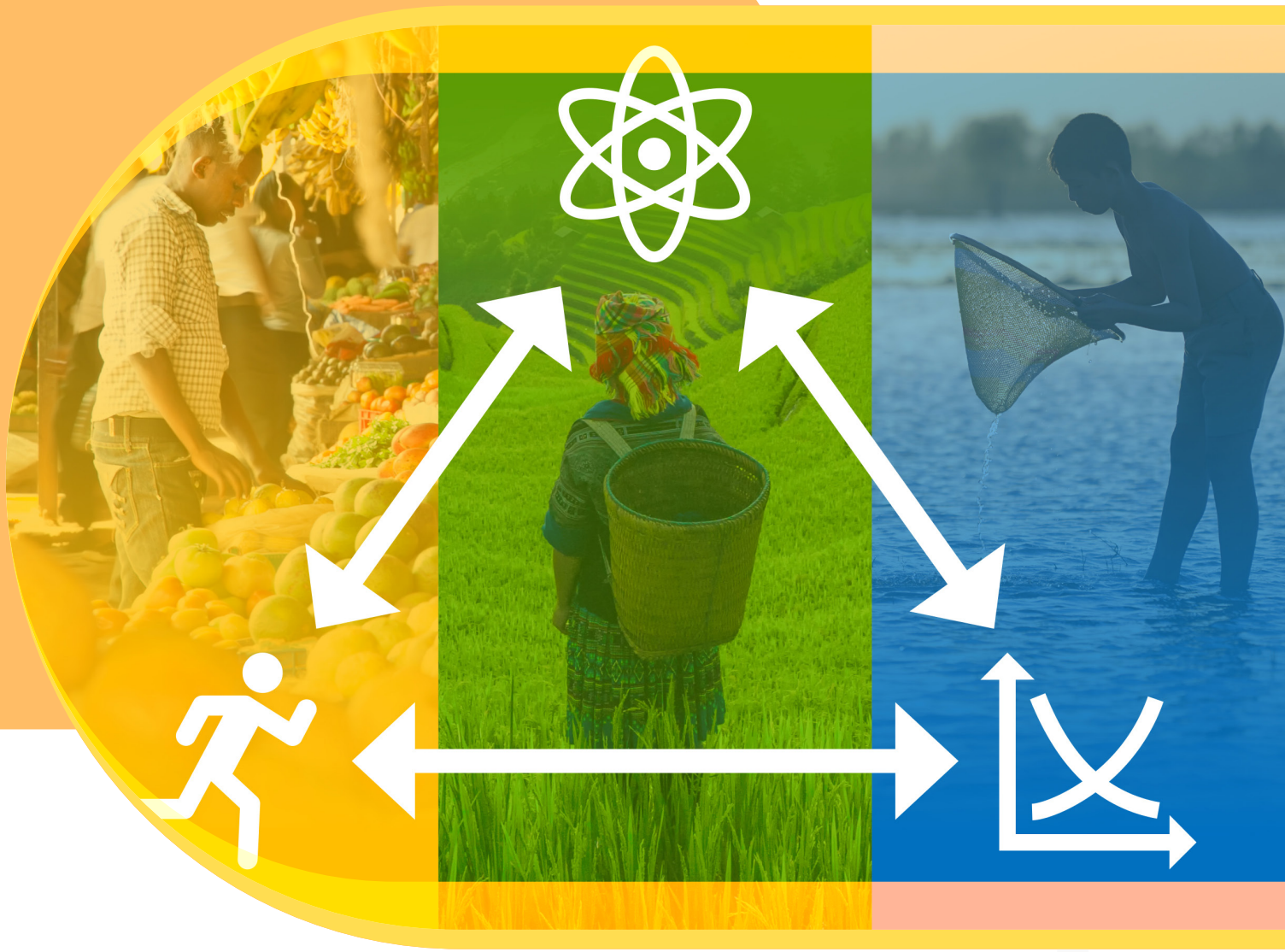
CGIAR

INITIATIVE ON
National Policies and Strategies



CGIAR Research Initiative on

National Policies and Strategies

Annual Technical Report 2023

Author: CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies

Title: Annual Technical Report 2023: CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies

Suggested citation: CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. 2024. Annual Technical Report 2023: CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. Montpellier, France: CGIAR System Organization. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/141670

© 2024 CGIAR System Organization. This publication is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). To view this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0.

Disclaimers

This publication has been prepared as an output of the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. Any views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by the CGIAR System Organization.

CGIAR Centers participating in NPS are the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Potato Center (CIP), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and WorldFish.

Acknowledgements

This work is part of the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. We would like to thank all funders who supported this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: https://www.cgiar.org/funders.

Table of contents

CGIAR Technical Reporting 2023 **1**

Section 1: **Fact sheet and budget** **2**

Section 2: **Progress on science and towards End of Initiative outcomes** **4**

Section 3: **Work Package progress** **9**

Section 4: **Key results** **15**

Section 5: **Partnerships** **18**

Section 6: **CGIAR Portfolio linkages** **20**

Section 7: **Adaptive management** **23**

Section 8: **Key result story** **24**

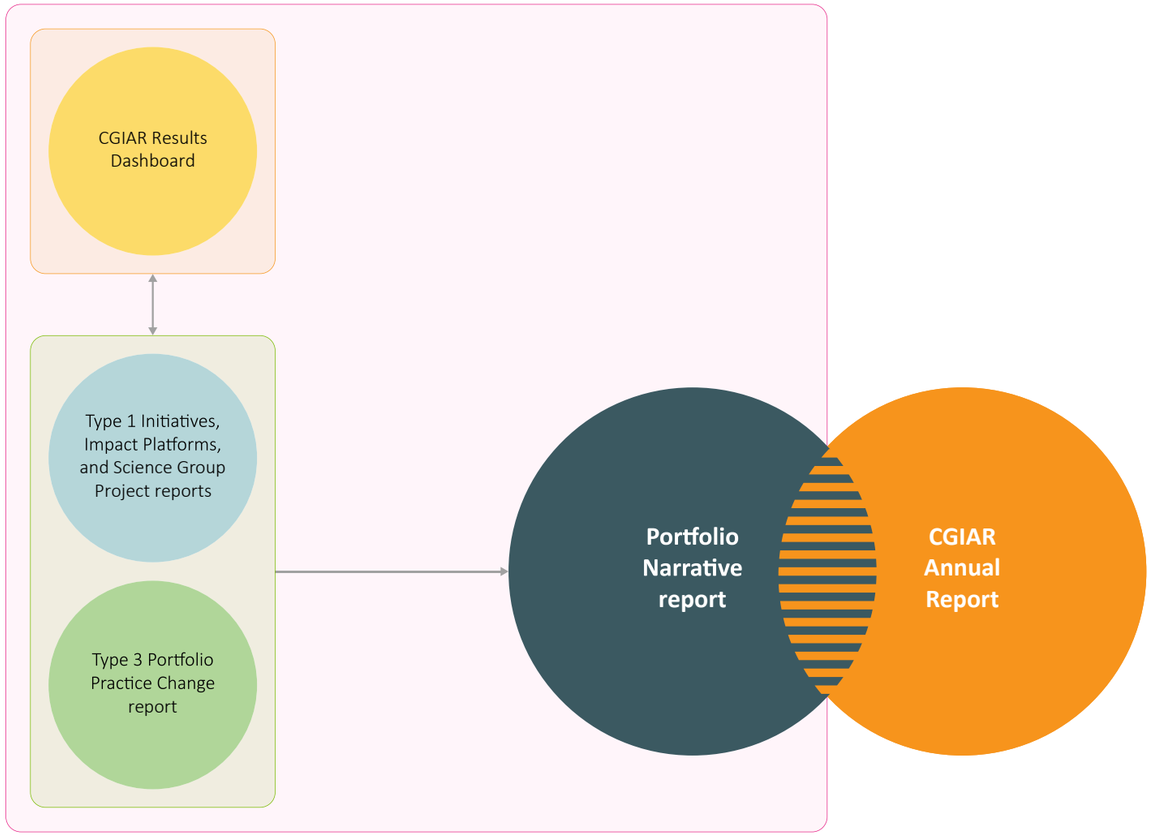
CGIAR Technical Reporting 2023

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with the CGIAR Technical Reporting Arrangement. This Initiative report ("Type 1" report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative submits an annual "Type 1" report, which provides assurance on Initiative-level progress towards End of Initiative outcomes.

The CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and Science Group Project (SGP) reports, with quality assured results reported by Initiatives, Platforms and SGPs available on the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- The Type 3 Portfolio Performance and Project Coordination Practice Change report, which focuses on internal practice change.
- The Portfolio Narrative, which draws on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, and the CGIAR Results Dashboard, to provide a broader view on Portfolio coherence, including results, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and synergies among the Portfolio's constituent parts.

The CGIAR Annual Report is a comprehensive overview of CGIAR's collective achievements, impact and strategic outlook, which draws significantly from the Technical Report products above. For 2023, the Annual Report and Technical Report will be presented online as an integrated product.



Section 1: **Fact sheet and budget**

Initiative name	National Policies and Strategies for Food, Land and Water Systems Transformation
Initiative short name	National Policies and Strategies
Initiative Lead	Clemens Breisinger- c.breisinger@cgiar.org
Initiative Co-lead	Alan Nicol- a.nicol@cgiar.org
Science Group	Systems Transformation
Start – end date	01/01/2022 – 31/12/2024
Geographic scope	**Countries** Colombia · Egypt · Ethiopia[1] · India/Odisha[2] · Kenya · Lao People's Democratic Republic · Nigeria · Rwanda[1]
OECD DAC Climate marker adaptation score[1]	**Score 1: Significant** The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives – namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.
OECD DAC Climate marker mitigation score[1]	**Score 1: Significant** The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives – namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.
OECD DAC Gender equity marker score[2]	**Score 1A: Gender accommodative/aware** Gender equality is an objective, but not the main one. The Initiative/project includes at least two explicit gender specific outputs and (adequate) funding and resources are available. Data and indicators are disaggregated by gender and analyzed to explain potential gender variations and inequalities.
Website link	https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/national-policies-and-strategies/

[1] The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) markers refer to the OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate and the gender equality policy marker. For climate adaptation and mitigation, scores are: 0 = Not targeted; 1 = Significant; and 2 = Principal.

[2] The CGIAR Gender Impact Platform has adapted the OECD gender marker, splitting the 1 score into 1A and 1B. For gender equality, scores are: 0 = Not targeted; 1A = Gender accommodative/aware; 1B = Gender responsive; and 2 = Principal.

These scores are derived from Initiative proposals, and refer to the score given to the Initiative overall based on their proposal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) informs policymaking in focus countries by building strong decision-analysis infrastructure based on progressively improving information/analytical bases. NPS leverages CGIAR's existing presence and collaborations in these countries, particularly through IFPRI's Country Strategy Support Programs (CSSPs). These CSSPs, built over years, are crucial for strengthening and maintaining relationships with key institutions and individuals. NPS also utilizes analytical frameworks developed across CGIAR, with an important relationship built with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight. Foresight's public goods allow NPS to provide timely, high-quality analysis for various government requests and facilitate cross-country comparisons and global trends. Additionally, Foresight offers training materials that NPS can adapt and deliver in-person, often through training-of-trainers approaches.

NPS research falls into two broad categories: demand-driven and strategic policy analysis.

Demand-driven policy research addresses government priorities where advanced analytics can be valuable. Examples include analyzing the impact of the Ukraine war on food prices, evaluating Kenya's economic plan, and assessing fuel subsidy reforms in Nigeria. These projects are typically quick and contribute directly to policy decisions. Due to demand and facilitated by CSSPs, NPS expanded to Ethiopia and Rwanda to partner with Ethiopia's Ministry of Planning and Development and Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. NPS, together with these partners, will conduct surveys and evaluations to support development of a Recovery and Reconstruction Plan in Ethiopia and will focus on livestock to support the Rwandan government with the development of a Sector Strategic Plan for Agriculture. In both countries, an NPS Seminar Series was established. Following additional demand from the Odisha government's Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, the Initiative also intensified its focus in Odisha, India in 2023. Collaborating with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, two stakeholder consultations were held, and a set of policy briefs were produced upon demand by the Principal Secretary of the Department.

This demand-driven work is an entry point and informs NPS's longer-term strategic work, such as NPS's 2023 cross-country focus on soil fertility and fertilizer policies, development of national plans, and evaluation of large programs. The 2023 cross-country focus, in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy, includes Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria, and examines the impact of global challenges on fertilizer and soil health policies. As part of this effort, NPS researchers are guest-editing a special journal issue on this topic in the Food Policy journal. Results from these studies are informing national partner governments and will inform the African Union's Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May 2024. NPS also launched two key innovations in 2023, including the Food Security Simulator (FSS) – co-created with partners in Kenya and Nigeria – and the Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) Sourcebook. These innovations are contributing to advancing NPS goals of integrating tools in partner organizations and to build policy coherence.

In 2023, NPS advanced significantly and is well-positioned to achieve its End of Initiative outcomes by 2024, with 83 completed contributions already made.

	2022	**2023**	2024
PROPOSAL BUDGET	$9.69M	**$9.75M**	$10.56M
APPROVED BUDGET [1]	$6.94M	**$8.20M [2]**	$5.29M [3]

[1] The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the Financing dashboard.
[2] This amount includes carry-over and commitments.
[3] This amount is an estimation of the 2024 annual budget allocation, as of the end of March 2024.

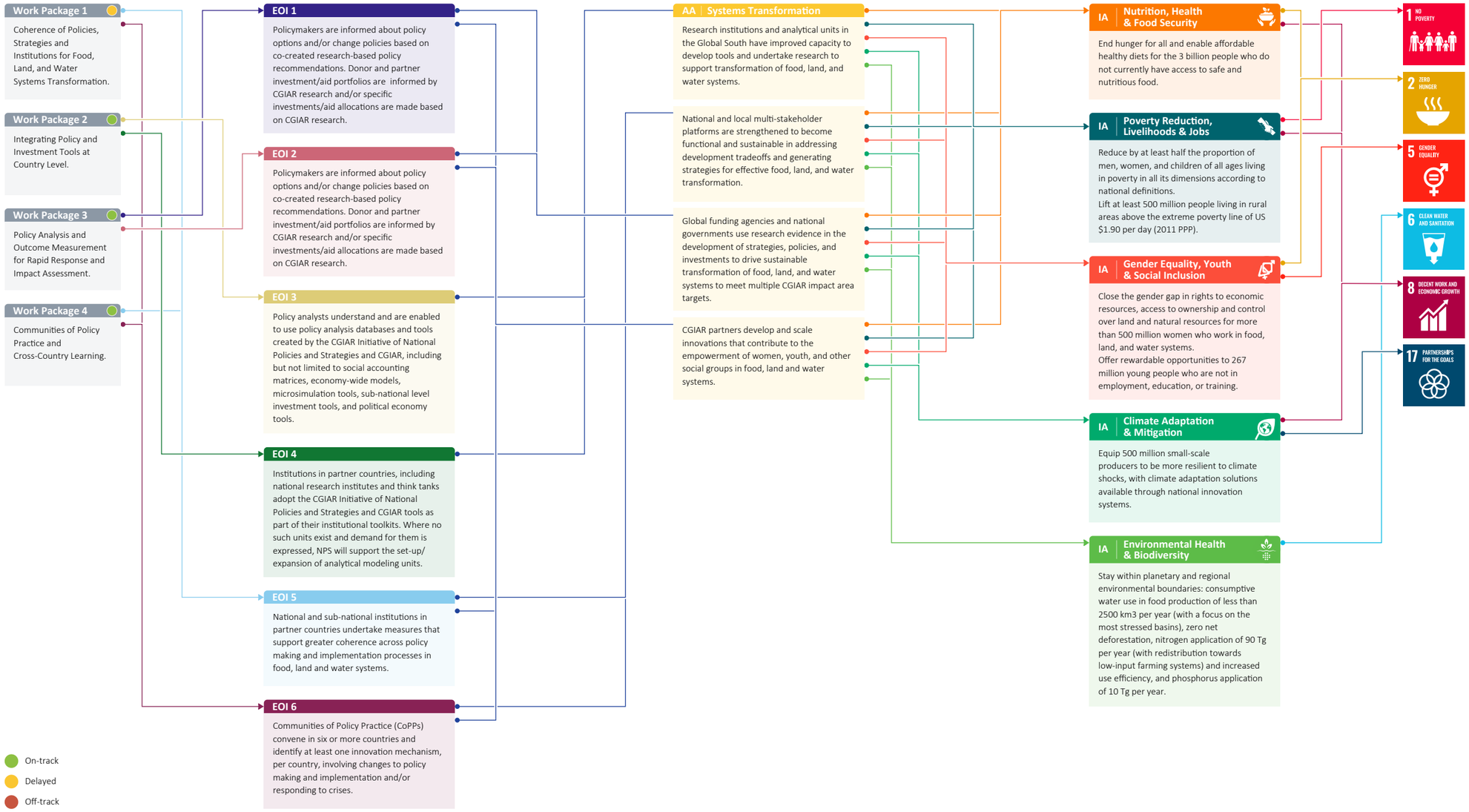
A market for freshly harvested bananas in a suburb of Kigali. There is an urban-rural divide in eating habits. Credit: IMF Photo/Kim Haughton

1 Ethiopia and Rwanda were added to the Initiative following the 2022 reflect process.
2 Odisha is a focus state of work in India.

Section 2: **Progress on science and towards End of Initiative outcomes**

Initiative-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, non-linear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this Initiative and other Initiatives' theories of change are excluded for clarity.



EOI	End of Initiative outcome
AA	Action Area
IA	Impact Area
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Note: A summary of Work Package progress ratings is provided in Section 3.

Trainees from the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Young Professional Programme gather around the Food Security Simulator.
Credit: IFPRI Kenya

Summary of progress against the theory of change

The CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) informs policymaking in focus countries by building a strong decision-analysis infrastructure based on a progressively improving information and analytical base. NPS leverages CGIAR's existing presence and established network in focus countries, largely via partnering with the IFPRI's existing Country Strategy Support Programs (CSSPs), to connect with key individuals and institutions and utilize analytical frameworks developed across CGIAR. One important collaboration is where the CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight's public goods allow NPS to provide timely, high-quality analysis for various government requests and facilitate cross-country comparisons and global trends. Additionally, Foresight offers training materials that NPS adapts and delivers in-person, often through training-of-trainers programs. In 2023, the NPS Capacity Sharing Workshops Series continued with over 300 participants trained across the year on various topics.

NPS research falls into two broad categories: demand-driven and strategic policy analysis.

Demand-driven policy research addresses government priorities where advanced analytics can be valuable. Examples include analyzing the impact of the Ukraine war on food prices and evaluating Kenya's economic plan. These projects are typically completed quickly and contribute directly to policy decisions. In 2023, NPS addressed specific policy requests from governments in Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, and Nigeria on topics including social protection, input subsidies, and livestock policies in collaboration with the Ministries of Planning, Social Solidarity and Agriculture. Due to additional demand and facilitated by IFPRI's CSSPs, NPS expanded to Ethiopia and Rwanda to partner with Ethiopia's Ministry of Planning and Development and Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. Together with these partners, NPS will conduct surveys and evaluations to support the development of a Recovery and Reconstruction Plan in Ethiopia and will focus on livestock to support the Rwandan government with the development of a Sector Strategic Plan for Agriculture. In both countries, an NPS Seminar Series was established. Following additional demand from the Odisha government's Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, the Initiative also intensified its focus in Odisha, India in 2023. Collaborating with the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, two stakeholder consultations were held, and a set of policy briefs were produced upon demand from the Odisha Principal Secretary of the Odisha Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment. NPS further strengthened its collaboration within India by working with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Gender Equality and the CGIAR Gender Platform. This joint effort produced an inspirational video and other resources aimed at empowering women within the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

This demand-driven work is an entry point and informs NPS's longer-term strategic work, such as NPS 2023 cross-country focus on soil fertility and fertilizer use, development of national plans, and evaluation of large programs. The 2023 cross-country focus, in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy, includes Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria, and examines the impact of global challenges on fertilizer and soil health policies. As part of this effort, NPS researchers are guest-editing a special journal issue on fertilizer and soil health policies in the Food Policy journal. Results from these studies are informing national partner governments and will inform the African Union's Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May 2024.

NPS also launched two key innovations in 2023, including the Food Security Simulator (FSS), an easy-to-use Excel tool designed to assess the impact of food prices or income shocks on people's diets and food security. NPS co-created the FSS with partners in Kenya and Nigeria. A blog competition for FSS-Kenya took place in summer 2023. The competition invited researchers, policy analysts and other interested individuals to utilize the FSS to analyze a food policy-related question or problem – either actual or hypothetical – after receiving online training. The winner was eligible for a short-term internship with the IFPRI Kenya office. The winning blog was entitled, Short-Term Effects of Food Price Shocks Ensuing Expiration of the Black Sea Grain Deal: A Food Security Simulation. Following the positive uptake and feedback from partners, NPS is responding to new demand for an FSS tool for Ethiopia.

Another innovation is the Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) Sourcebook. This resource aims to improve food system transformation by providing a comprehensive toolbox of frameworks, case studies, and step-by-step guidance for conducting political economy analysis. The PEPA Sourcebook helps users understand the complex interplay between policies, economics, and power dynamics that influence the success or failure of development interventions. NPS plans to further develop the PEPA Sourcebook in 2024 and offer training to institutions, encouraging the integration of political economy considerations into policymaking.

By combining established programs, strategic expansion, and innovative tools, NPS is making significant strides in supporting decision-making in its focus countries. The Initiative is well-positioned to achieve its End of Initiative outcomes by 2024.

Progress by End of Initiative outcome

EOIO 1: Six countries have co-created policy research with the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies and are informed about/adopted and/or refined policies and strategies to foster food, land, and water systems transformation. (Responding to policy demand and crises).

Eight countries have co-created policy research and informed decision making across 2022-2023, with 16 contributions. This includes informing social, wheat and labor policies and food subsidy policies in Egypt, land policy in Colombia, while the fertilizer subsidy policy in Ethiopia was evaluated along with progress towards contributing to the Livestock and the Potato strategies. Collaborative research in India focused on investment, Odisha's agricultural strategy, gender policy (in collaboration with the Gender Equality Initiative) and policy response to crises. Kenya strengthened the science-policy interface to inform agricultural policymakers and evaluated the Kenya Bottom-up Economic Transformation Plan with the Kenya Institute of Public Policy and Analysis (KIPPRA). In Nigeria, fertilizer policy research was conducted, as well as research on two national strategies, the National Fishery and Aquaculture Plan and the National Agriculture Innovation and Technology Policy. Research in Rwanda also progressed towards providing recommendations towards the Livestock Strategy (PSTA-5) and the Investment Policy, whereas in Laos, the Initiative enhanced institutional cooperation between policy researchers and policy makers for more effective policy formulation.

From left to right: Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Prem Chandra Chaudhary; NPS India Lead, Archisman Mitra; NPS Odisha Lead, Barun Deb Pal; Principal Secretary of Odisha's Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Arbinda Padhee; and NPS Lead, Clemens Breisinger at the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Agrifood Value Chains in Odisha, 29 November, 2023.
Credit: Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology

EOIO 2: Six countries have co-created crisis response research and recommendations and are informed about/adopt and/or refine crisis responses. (Responding to policy demand and crises).

Seven countries co-developed crisis response research under NPS, across 2022-2023, with 14 contributions. Work was conducted in Colombia on Food and Gender Policy, while the Egypt NPS team collaborated with the Institute of National Planning on research on food price inflation, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity on the evaluation of Forsa, a graduation program from Egypt on the Takaful cash transfer program. In India NPS explored the benefits of home gardens for food security and incomes. Additionally, NPS assessed the impact of the Ukraine crises on poverty and food security in Nigeria, India and Kenya. Kenya's NPS team also participated in a Special Technical Working Group on Food Security and Food Prices Data Analysis for Policy Advice with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. They also conducted a rapid assessment of the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program in the context of the broader economic landscape affecting agricultural productivity and food prices.

EOIO 3: Six countries have built capacity for and familiarity with using at least one CGIAR tool or other innovation (including those of partners). (Integrating policy tools).

Across 2022-2023, seven countries built capacity for and familiarity with using at least one CGIAR tool or other innovation via 18 outputs, completed in collaboration with the Foresight Initiative. These include capacity sharing workshops delivered to policy analysts in economic modeling (e.g., Computable General Equilibrium models and Social Accounting Matrices) in Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda. A lecture on impact evaluations was also delivered, and resources made available, to researchers in Kenya for a second consecutive year. These capacity sharing events of 2023 directly benefited 380 people, 205 of whom were female.

Additionally, several innovations were launched, including the Food Security Simulator for Kenya and Nigeria, and the Political Economy and Policy Analysis Sourcebook.

EOIO 4: In six countries, at least one CGIAR tool is integrated in a local institution's analytical unit and/or a new analytical unit has been created. (Integrating policy tools).

Across seven countries, in 2022-2023, in 14 instances, at least one CGIAR tool was integrated in a local institution's analytical unit and/or a new analytical unit had been created. Close collaboration continues with KIPPRA, the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, and both countries' bureaus of statistics, as well as the Egypt Institute of National Planning and Colombia's Universidad de Los Andes.

EOIO 5: Six countries recognize the importance of coherence in policymaking and have taken steps to implement coherence-building measures in the policymaking process. (Building policy coherence).

Eight countries recognize the importance of coherence building measures in the policymaking process, with four outputs completed so far. The flagship reports for policy coherence of food, land and water systems are progressing in all focus countries, written with the support of national think tanks and other key stakeholders and reports for India and Colombia have been published. A set of tools, complementary to the flagship reports, were tested in NPS countries including policy hackathons, a consolidated Policy and Institutional Landscape Analysis framework, and a set of strong partnerships from global to national and local levels. Work Package 1 also took the lead in innovating policy research dissemination by establishing a Policy Pathways podcast series, with episodes featuring the report findings from each of the six initial countries.

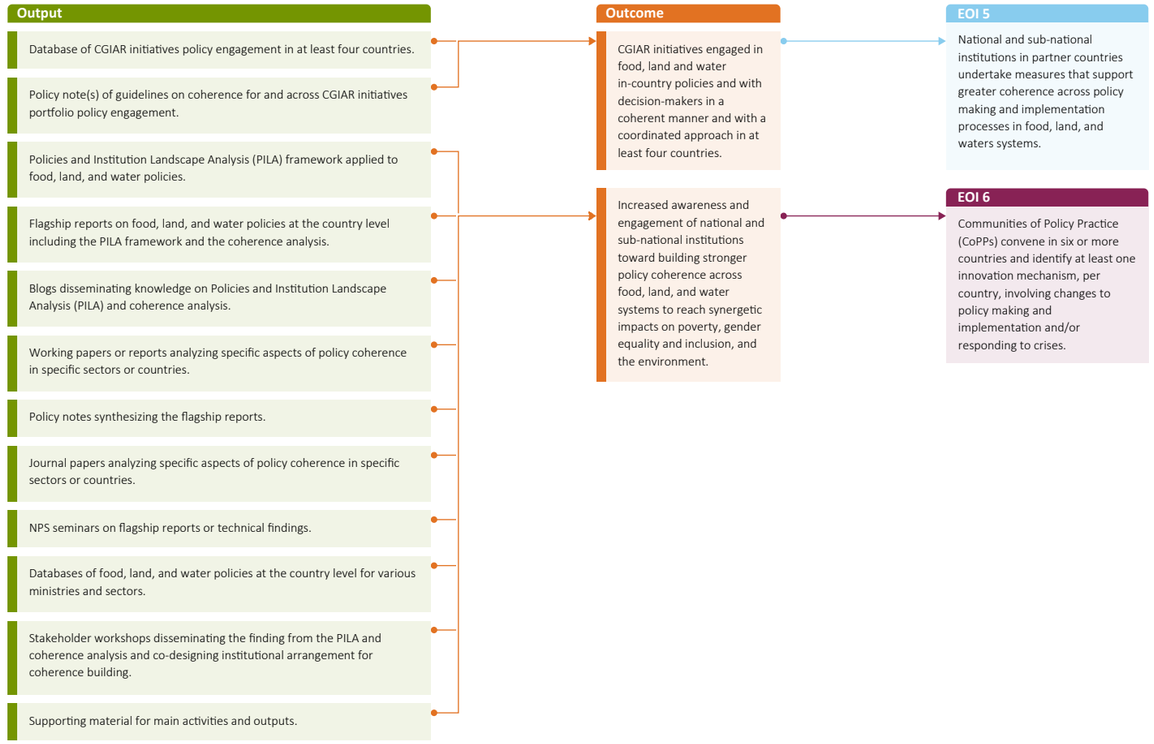
EOIO 6: Six countries hold multistakeholder policy dialogues/seminars and/or multilevel Communities of Policy Practice for Food, Land, and Water Systems are established. (Building policy coherence).

In all eight focus countries, with 17 contributions, multistakeholder policy dialogues/seminars were held and/or multilevel Communities of Policy Practice for Food, Land, and Water Systems were established.

Section 3: **Work Package progress**

WP1: Coherence of policies, strategies and institutions for food, land, and water systems transformation

Delayed



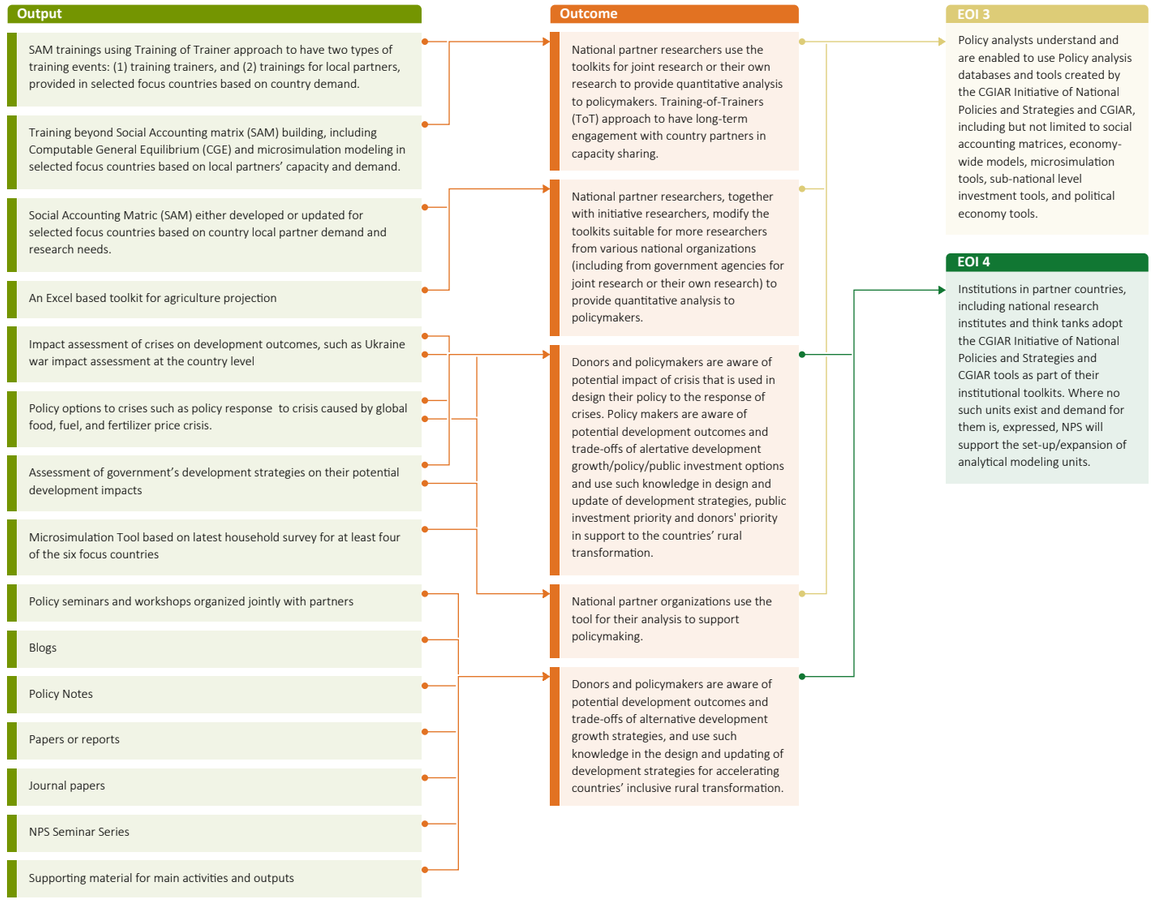
Work Package 1 progress against the theory of change

In Work Package (WP) 1, the NPS country teams advanced significantly on the flagship reports for policy coherence of food, land and water systems. These reports were written with the support of national think tanks and other key stakeholders. This is important, as the narratives of each report were tailored to the needs of the uptake partners in each geography. WP1 developed a series of tools and methods that were tested in NPS countries, and that are complementary to the flagship reports. These tools include policy hackathons, a consolidated Policy and Institutional Landscape Analysis framework, and a set of strong partnerships from global to national and local levels. WP1 also took the lead in innovating policy research dissemination by establishing a Policy Pathways podcast series, with episodes featuring the report findings from each of the six initial countries.

In terms of CGIAR policy coherence, WP 1 co-convened a series of meetings to support the development of a community of practice, dealing with governance and political economy within the CGIAR System. The dialogue was supported by over 10 CGIAR Centers and 20 Initiatives and has produced the first CGIAR Policy Inventory of methods for policy up-scaling. In addition, the network will also operate as a sounding board for recommendations to the CGIAR System on how to improve reporting and results related to policy advocacy and change. As a spin-off from NPS's WP1, demand has been created to work in Uganda. IWMI, on behalf of CGIAR, signed an Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen governance capacity research from 2024 onwards. The demand is likely to spill over cross-border landscapes where policy coherence is a major issue due to co-existing jurisdictions. Another area of growing demand derives from WP1's relationship with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Water Governance Initiative to support evidence of policy coherence.

WP2: Integrating policy and investment tools at country level

On track



Work Package 2 progress against the theory of change

WP2 emphasizes timely responses to policy demands through research support and capacity sharing. A multipronged approach is employed to ensure modeling tools are accessible and readily available to respond to research demands; develop easy-to-use analytical tools for rapid-response analysis; and expand capacity to use models to generate credible and policy-relevant research results. For capacity strengthening, a training-of-trainers approach was piloted in 2022 to train local CGIAR staff. These trainees were supported by senior CGIAR experts to pass on knowledge and engage directly with national partner research institutions.

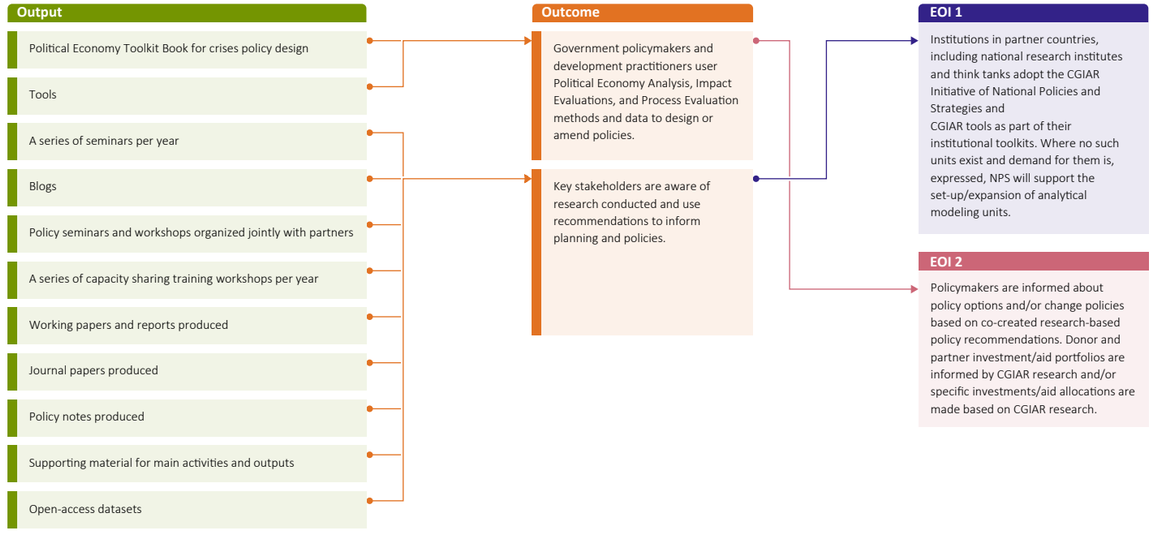
In 2023, efforts continued to develop the capacity of local researchers at KIPPRA and the Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research to use economywide data and modeling tools at national and subnational levels to drive broader impact, encourage inclusive development strategy design, and establish more effective responses to urgent research and information needs. The NPS Capacity Sharing Workshops Series also expanded to India and Colombia, with Computable General Equilibrium models and Social Accounting Matrices training taking place with the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in Bihar, the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology in Odisha, and the University of the Andes in Colombia.

The Food Security Simulator (FSS) was developed and launched utilizing Kenyan and Nigerian household-survey data in collaboration with KIPPRA, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria, and the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics. FSS is an easy-to-use MS-Excel-based tool for assessing potential short-term impacts of food price or household income shocks on food security and diets.

In Egypt, for National Wheat Day and in response to an official assignment directed from the Presidential Office to the Academy of Science, Research and Technology, a collaborative workshop that brought together national and international experts to discuss the prospects of the wheat value chain in Egypt and provide a scope for way forward was organized. The rapid policy response spearheaded by WP2 often leads to follow-up demand on longer-term issues and political economy questions addressed by WP3.mpus.

WP3: Policy analysis and outcome measurement for rapid response and impact assessment

On track



Work Package 3 progress against the theory of change

WP3 builds on the rapid response-type research of WP2 to provide survey-based evaluations and political economy analyses. Substantial progress along the theory of change has continued. Research that countries had requested has now either been generated or is close to complete; tools that were in process are now complete and have been disseminated; and capacity has been further developed. WP3 has generated 16 peer-reviewed journal articles across 5 countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Nigeria) and two relating to global issues, contributing to the first End of Initiative outcome (EOIO 1).

WP3 also developed three tools – one on understanding food systems in Colombia and aggregating data from many sources (PlaSA Colombia), a second that provides guidance to policymakers on how to use political economy and process evaluation in thinking about and evaluating their programs and policies (Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) Sourcebook), and a third is an inspirational video for women that aims to enhance women's voice and agency in Odisha, India within the national workfare program, NREGA. These tools contribute to EOIOs 1 and 2.

Several training and capacity building activities, including a workshop on agro-climactic indicators in Colombia, training on impact evaluation and political economy in Kenya, targeting of development projects in Egypt, and training of over 6,000 women in India on improving aspirations and involvement in national programs, were held. These also pertain to EOIOs 1 and 2.

Strong demand from key stakeholders highlights ongoing interest in receiving rigorous evidence on the impacts of policies and supports the assumptions regarding demand, incentives, and politics that underpin the design of NPS.

WP4: Communities of policy practice and cross-country learning

On track

Output

- NPS engagement seminars/dialogues with CGIAR, national policymakers, UN, private sector and other stakeholders focusing on priority policy issues at country level.
- Blog articles and Knowledge products from NPS events and work packages made easily accessible as public goods to relevant stakeholders and strengthen policy processes.
- Papers and reports from NPS events made easily accessible as public goods to relevant stakeholders and strengthen policy processes.
- Supporting material for main activities and outputs.
- Draft and disseminate policy papers on priority policy FLW systems issues.
- Draft and disseminate journal papers on understanding, planning and responding to emerging FLW policy issues.
- Communities of Policy Practice established at national level and/or existing ones strengthened for CGIAR Initiatives to help translate coherence building analysis into practice.
- Designing and Facilitating dialogues with National and Regional partners about crisis response strategies, tools, and policy development.
- Designing and Facilitating Learning and Capacity Building Support Events for Key Policy Makers and stakeholders at country level on priority topics, policy tools and innovations.

Outcome

- Key stakeholders are aware of research conducted and use recommendations to inform planning and policies.
- Communities of Policy Practice (CoPP) focusing on Food, Land and Water Systems established and/or existing ones strengthened at country and regional levels for CGIAR Initiatives to help translate coherence building analysis into practice.

EOI 5

National and sub-national institutions in partner countries undertake measures that support greater coherence across policy making and implementation processes in food, land and water systems.

EOI 6

Communities of Policy Practice (CoPPs) convene in six or more countries and identify at least one innovation mechanism, per country, involving changes to policy making and implementation and/or responding to crises.

Work Package 4 progress against the theory of change

WP4 is spearheading NPS cross-country work in close collaboration with WPs 2 and 3. Building on 2022's groundwork, WP4 launched significant research activities across several countries in 2023. Focusing on fertilizer and soil health policies amidst global challenges, WP4 initiated research projects in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria. These studies explored diverse aspects of fertilizer use and policy in this complex environment. Some examined the changing demand and profitability of inorganic fertilizers due to surging global prices. Others evaluated the effectiveness and sustainability of fertilizer subsidies in the face of compounding crises.

Beyond research, WP4 actively fostered collaboration. A key example was the first Kenya Food Systems Conference, co-organized with the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture. This event aimed to generate recommendations for future food system transformation policies and strengthen scientist-policymaker dialogue.

WP4 further demonstrated its commitment to national policy process initiatives. Responding to policy needs in Nigeria, the WP supported the launch of a comprehensive potato strategy, emphasizing stakeholder collaboration in transforming the country's potato agrifood system. Furthermore, WP4 actively supported the establishment of the Irish Potato Research and Development Association (IPRaDA) in Ethiopia, providing a platform for stakeholders to address challenges in the Ethiopian potato sector. Additionally, WP4 conducted a study comparing policy responses to shocks across different regional economic communities, assessing their impact on food systems. This research will provide valuable insights for policymakers in designing effective food security strategies. Through these diverse activities, WP4 laid a strong foundation for further cross-country research and learning and related impact in 2024.

Panel discussion at national launch of the Food Systems Platform – PlaSA Colombia, held on April 27, 2023, at the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota.
Credit: Daniela Salas Betancourt / Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT

Work Package progress rating summary

WORK PACKAGE	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1	**Progress rating** All country teams concluded their respective policy inventories and datasets for deep analysis. All country teams have significantly advanced their reports on food, land, and water policies and institutions. As part of the development process they have carried out consultations with key stakeholders for increased ownership and acknowledgement of the final product. In the case of India, the success of the flagship report has opened the opportunity to carry out similar analyses in 2 different states, examining specific challenges around the implementation of two specific policy areas. Significant advancement has been made in CGIAR's policy coherence analysis. The analysis has revealed areas of reporting that can be improved for capturing data relevant to policy coherence at the Initiative level.
2	**Progress rating** WP progress aligns with the theory of change and has produced key timely outputs on responding to policy demand.
3	**Progress rating** Five demand-driven impact evaluations of policies and programs have been completed. Rigorous research tools, including a political economy analysis toolkit with extensive training in focus countries, has now been completed. Examination of gender has occurred across almost all research, with, at minimum, key gender disaggregated results. One large government social protection program's impact evaluation in India has trained more than 6,000 women in their empowerment and voice.
4	**Progress rating** Several seminars have been successfully completed, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration within Communities of Policy Practice. Policy needs from target countries have been responded to efficiently, demonstrating commitment to their specific challenges. Most cross-country learning studies and events have been completed timely, facilitating knowledge sharing.

Definitions

On track

- Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change.
- Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize success of Work Package.

Delayed

- Annual progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in key areas.
- Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize success of Work Package if not managed appropriately.

Off track

- Annual progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in most/all areas.
- Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize success of Work Package.

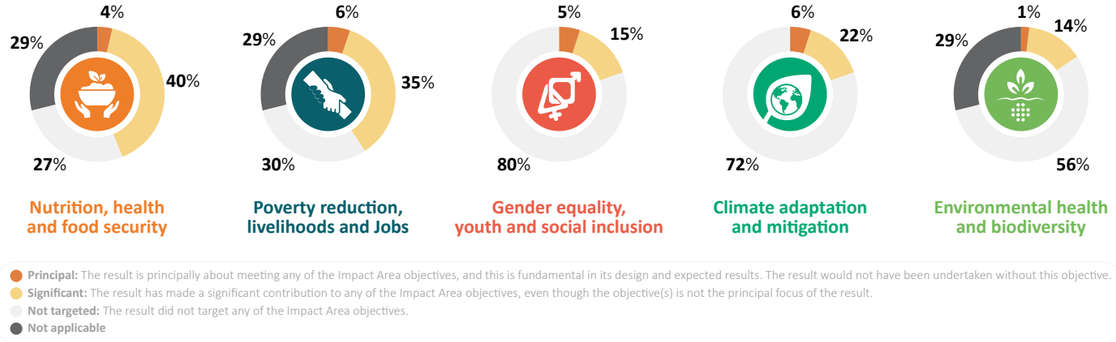
Section 4: **Key results**

This section provides an overview of results reported by the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and National Policies and Strategies' theory of change. Source: *Data extracted from the* CGIAR Results Dashboard *on 29 March 2024*.

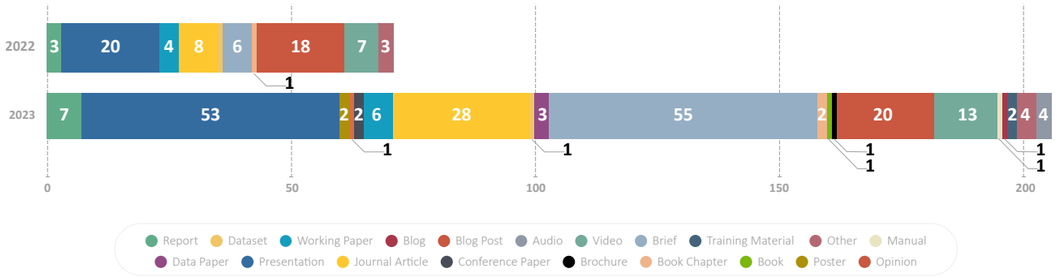
Overall contribution to the CGIAR Results Framework

Number of results reported in 2022 and in 2023, by type

Percentage of reported results tagged to CGIAR Impact Areas

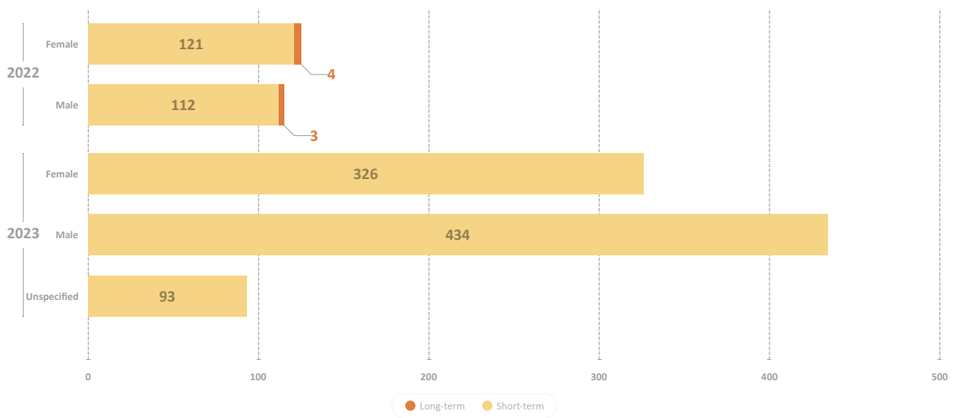


Number of knowledge products reported in 2022 and in 2023, by type

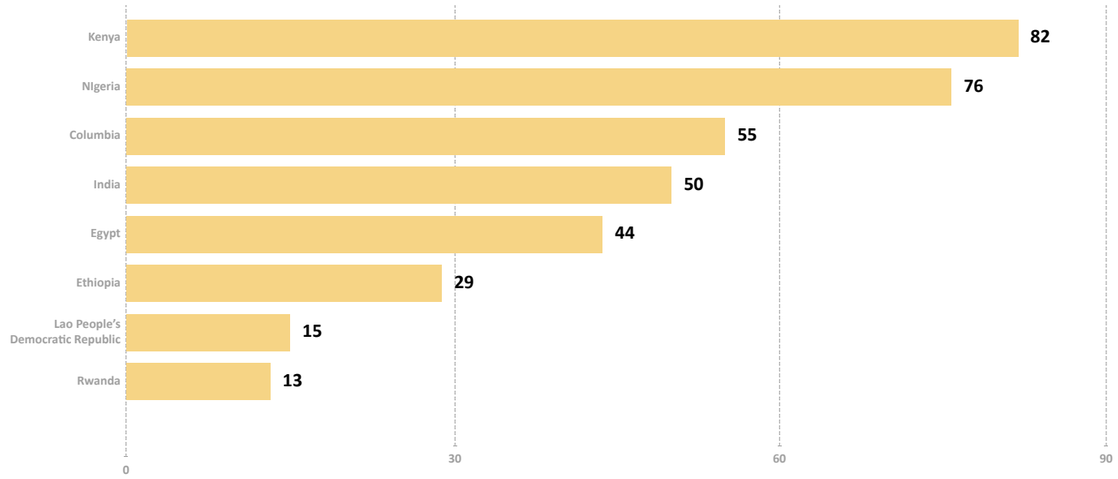


Number of innovations reported in 2022 and in 2023, by readiness level

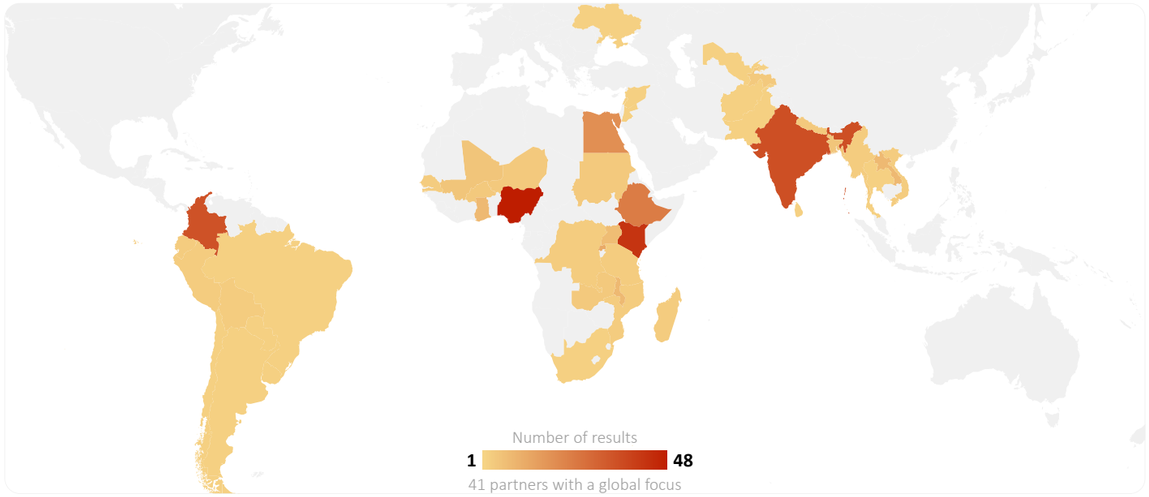
Number of individuals trained by National Policies and Strategies, in 2022 and 2023



Number of results by country, cumulative overview 2022-2023



Data here represents an overview of reported results in 2022 and 2023. One result can impact multiple countries and can therefore be represented multiple times.



Panelists at the Egypt NPS Seminar Series: Food Prices, Poverty and Household Diets, hosted by IFPRI Egypt and the Institute of National Planning.
Credit: Ali Abdelhadi, IFPRI

Partnerships and National Policies and Strategies' impact pathways

Trusted partnerships with national governments and institutions are the foundation on which NPS is built. Across NPS countries, there are multiple strong partnerships with national and subnational institutions such as Colombia's Banco de la República; Universidad de Los Andes (UAndes); Egypt's Institute of National Planning (INP); the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED Egypt); the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS); the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI); the Egyptian Food Bank (EFB); the Academy of Science, Research and Technology (ASRT); Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD); Ethiopia's Ministry of Planning and Development (MPED Ethiopia); the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); India's Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW); the Government of Odisha (GoOdisha); the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT); Kenya's National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); KIPPRA; the University of Nairobi (UNairobi); the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF); Laos' National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI); Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS); the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER); Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MinAgri); and other partners in the public and private sectors.

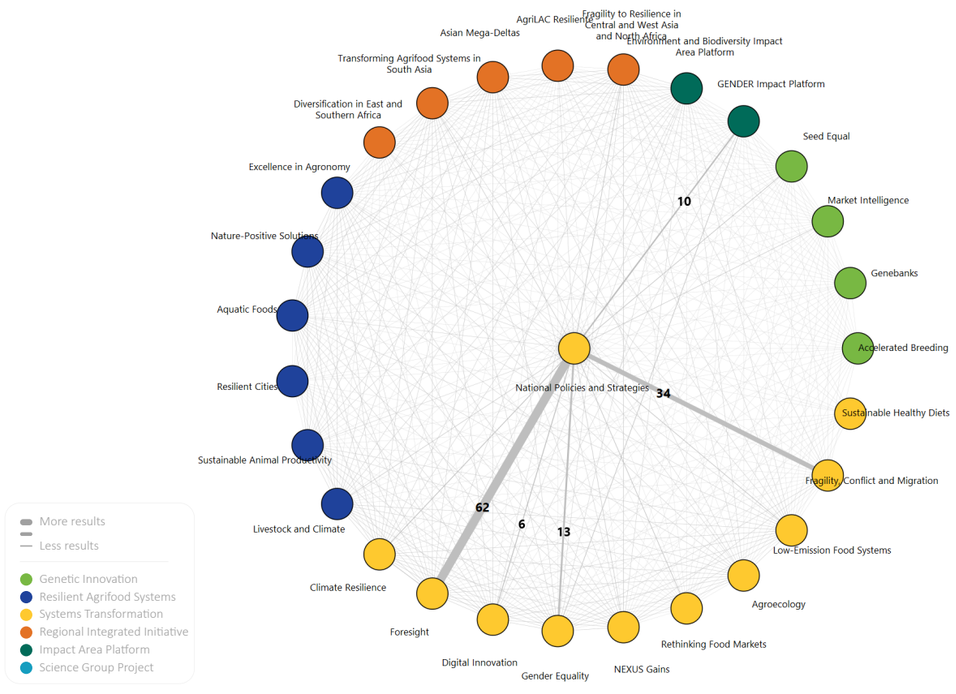
Partnerships with national institutions are at the core of NPS to effectively build coherence, integrate tools and respond to policy demand and crises. A key partnership example in Nigeria includes NPS research and policy support with government ministries, agencies, and relevant stakeholder organizations to strengthen Nigeria's agricultural sector performance. The partners include the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), as well as international organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

Examples include the following:

- NPS supported the training of key personnel from FMAFS, including its agencies such as ARCN and NASC on monitoring and evaluation, and data management and analysis using STATA to drive evidence-based collaborative research to support both federal and state government agricultural policy formulation and improve food security in Nigeria. ARCN is a Nigerian government agency coordinating and monitoring agricultural research to increase agricultural productivity for economic development, while NASC is an agency of the government charged with the overall development and regulation of the National Seed Industry.
- NPS organized capacity strengthening activities through the introduction of the Food Security Simulator for Nigeria (FSSN) to its stakeholders, including representatives from FMAFS, WFP, IRC, FewsNet, and FMHAPA, for analysts and policymakers to forecast the impacts of income and price shocks on food security and dietary quality, thereby paving the way for more targeted interventions.
- NPS worked with NBS, NISER and NGF to develop the Nigerian Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for Nigeria. NBS is the leading Nigerian government agency that is tasked with the responsibility of development and management of official statistics and the authoritative source and custodian of official statistics in Nigeria. NISER is a development policy research institute and Nigeria's premier think tank, while NGF is a credible non-partisan body respected both nationally and internationally, for sub-national governance and development.

Source: 2023 NPS Output Monitoring Tool

NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES' INTERNAL PORTFOLIO NETWORK



Connections are sized by the number of reported results. Collaborations where only one result was reported with a linkage between two Initiatives are excluded.

Portfolio linkages and National Policies and Strategies' impact pathways

Achieving NPS's End of Initiative outcomes requires strong partnerships with other CGIAR Initiatives. The response to policy demand and the integration of CGIAR tools in national institutions furthers partners' ability to provide policy-relevant analysis as policy debates. NPS draws upon analytical frameworks developed throughout CGIAR and the relationship with Foresight is particularly important. The public goods created by Foresight enable NPS to respond with timely and high-quality analysis to a very wide array of requests from governments and facilitates the ability of NPS to make available relevant cross-country comparisons as well as comment on global trends. They also include training materials and curricula that NPS can rapidly adapt to particular circumstances and deliver in person, often using a training-of-trainers approach. For example, 2023 saw the development of toolkits for SAM construction and computable general equilibrium models, such as the completion of the 2021 SAM for Kenya. With its country-based structure, NPS works together with Foresight to adapt SAMs and computable general equilibrium models to the national context and to co-create these databases and models together with national institutions.

At the CGIAR and regional levels, NPS has also continued partnerships with the CGIAR Research Initiatives on Gender Equality, Rethinking Food Markets, and Digital Innovation, and established new partnerships with the Fragility, Conflict and Migration, and Excellence in Agronomy, as well as the Gender Impact Platform. NPS also maintains collaboration on outputs with the regional CGIAR Research Initiatives, Diversification in East and Southern Africa and Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia. These partnerships ensure that our messages are more unified and that our research is more widely understood within the CGIAR community. These partnerships, especially with the regional Initiatives, are expected to expand and deepen in 2024 and beyond.

Workshop: Introduction to Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) and Multiplier Analysis

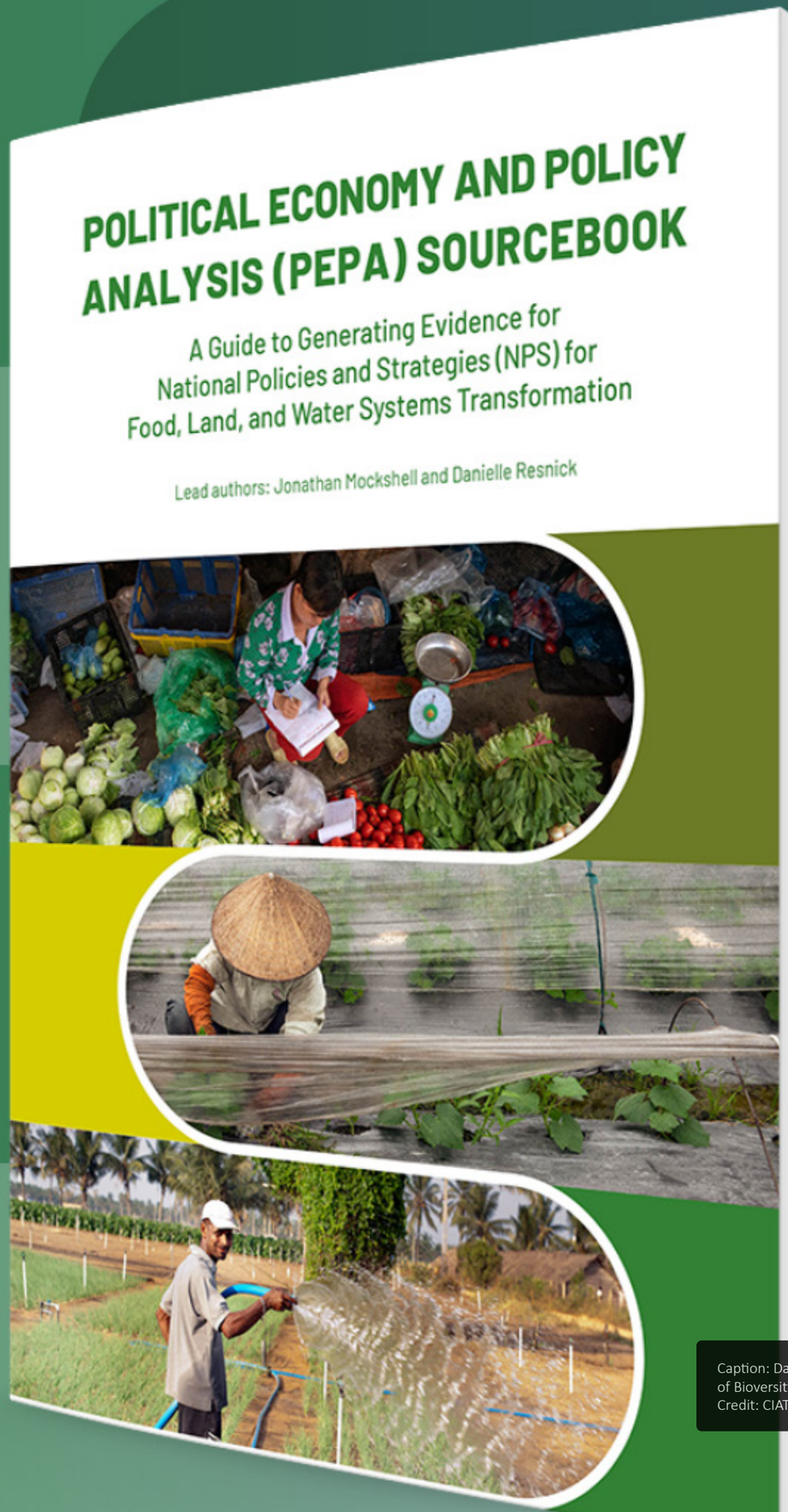
Emerta A. Aragie

November 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The SAM training workshop in Ethiopia, conducted with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight.
Credit: Emerta Aragie/IFPRI

Participants of the joint NPS seminar with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Fragility, Conflict and Migration in Nigeria.
Credit: Omobolanle Onilogbo/IFPRI



Caption: Daniela Salas Betancourt/Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT
Credit: CIAT

Section 7: **Adaptive management**

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
Increased focus on working towards EOIOs.	NPS emphasized the team's need to work backwards from the EOIOs to plan for 2024 activities and enhance the matrix of WPs and countries working together, to ensure the outcomes are achieved. Looking ahead to the next business cycle, the NPS team considered country selection for new or continued focus, and to discontinue work in countries with a lack of demand and clear impact pathways.
Increased cross-country research and finding a mechanism to select focus countries for subsequent studies.	The experience with the fertilizer and soil health cross-country study was very positive, as it combined rigorous research (special journal issue), country-level impact, and regional/global impact (Africa Soil Health Summit). Such cross-country work also elevates NPS visibility beyond the country level and is appreciated by policymakers who like to learn from other countries.
Enhanced linkages to regional Initiatives and link NPS policy work more to the technology scaling work of CGIAR.	The design phase for Initiatives was very short and there was only limited scope for adjustments during the implementation period. Going forward, stronger links to the regional Initiatives, where NPS focuses on national policies, and the regional Initiatives on regional policies, can create synergies and stronger impact. It is also clear that CGIAR's technology and innovation scaling work is likely to be more successful in conducive policy and business environments.
Expand the response to policy demand and crises focus of NPS.	The NPS team discussed furthering the Initiative's focus on response to policy demand and crisis work. Such type of work is most appreciated by governments and donors alike, and a clear comparative advantage of NPS. The strong presence of NPS in country and its strong links to other Initiatives such as Foresight provides a strong basis for expanding the rapid response focus.
Continue focus on strengthening national institutions for sustainable capacity development.	Building institutional capacity is a key aspect of empowering country-led development. NPS has managed to expand on IFPRI's and other Centers strong in-country partnerships. Such partnerships are critical for informing policies and to sustainably share capacity. In the next phase, NPS should continue its successful capacity sharing activities and expand these efforts to new countries with clear demand and buy in.
Quality targets for outputs.	NPS encouraged the team to produce more higher-tier, science-based and peer-reviewed outputs, rather than non-peer reviewed "flagship reports". It was also discussed how a more institutionalized approach to quality control can be established for the next phase.
Intensify NPS social media outreach.	The NPS communications lead encouraged the team to intensify social media outreach to promote outputs and highlight key events or results.
Enhance MELIA reporting and planning processes.	NPS also held a mini-reflect session with its MELIA team, to enhance information-gathering processes to ensure that timely and full information is available for reporting and planning. Challenges were discussed and the annual data collection templates were enhanced based on these discussions. Close collaboration between the MELIA team and the communications team was also further encouraged.

Section 8: **Key result story**

How NPS helps governments navigate the cost-of-living challenge

A women applies fertilizer in Kenya.
Credit: Das/CIMMYT

Primary Impact Area

Other relevant Impact Areas targeted

Contributing Initiatives

Foresight · Gender Equality

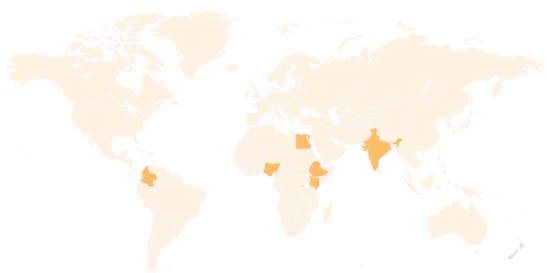
Contributing Centers

IFPRI · CIAT · ILR · CIP · IWMI · WorldFish · IITA

Contributing external partners

See Section 5

Geographic scope



Countries: Colombia · Egypt · Ethiopia · Odisha (India) · Kenya · Nigeria · Rwanda

In 2023, NPS made a significant impact, supporting governments in Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Odisha (India), Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda by providing critical policy advice to address the high-cost-of-living crisis. Building on the impact assessment of the Ukraine-Russia war conducted in collaboration with the Foresight Initiative in 2022, partner governments requested further policy support from NPS specifically related to agricultural, economic, and social policy areas. NPS responded swiftly to these requests, fostering a collaborative approach by co-creating 16 new policy outcomes with its national partners..

A confluence of crises, both global and local, in the past few years has led to a rise in poverty, malnutrition, and a significant strain on national economies. From increasing food and energy prices to the depreciation of local currencies and reduced fiscal space, these challenges have had a significant impact on the most vulnerable populations in particular. To address these challenges, and recognizing that effective solutions require a deep understanding of local contexts and stakeholder needs, NPS continued to expand its collaborative approach in 2023. This entailed working closely with government officials, agricultural experts, national think tanks, and the private sector in each partner country. This collaborative spirit ensured policy recommendations were not only technically sound but also trusted by partners. Examples of this targeted support include:

Fertilizer policy reforms: Research by NPS revealed the negative impact of high fertilizer prices on poverty, informing the launch of a national fertilizer subsidy program in Kenya, with follow-on research recommending to improve program targeting and increase private sector involvement in the subsidy program. NPS research also informed recommendations on fertilizer sector deregulation to attract private investment in local production and distribution in Nigeria, aiming to improve access and affordability for farmers. Similarly, research in Ethiopia highlighted affordability as a key constraint for fertilizer adoption and provided critical data to guide reforms.

Social safety nets and gender policy: To combat the cost-of-living crisis, NPS actively aided partner governments in strengthening social safety nets and gender policies. In Egypt, findings from the evaluation of the Takaful and Karama cash transfer programs and the related graduation program, Forsa, supported the government's decision to expand the programs from 2.2 to 3.8 million households and adjust programs' designs. In India, NPS supported an inspirational information campaign that empowers women and builds resilience, and is informing the design of the Vulnerable Tribal Group Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Program.

Economic policy and agricultural investments: Research in Nigeria and Egypt updated policymakers on the impacts of high inflation and removing fuel subsidies. NPS research is also helping to shape:

- The Livestock Strategy (PSTA-5) and Investment Policy in Rwanda.
- The agricultural investment plans in Kenya.
- The National Fishery and Aquaculture Plan and the National Potato Strategy in Nigeria.
- Food system transformation in Odisha/India.
- Land policies in Colombia.

In Kenya, NPS further strengthened the science-policy interface to inform food system transformation in the context of the national development strategy, the Kenya Bottom-up Economic Transformation Plan.

NPS work continues to be a testament to the power of collaborative research to inform policymaking. Looking ahead, NPS stands ready to partner with a renewed sense of urgency to address emerging challenges and ensure inclusive, sustainable transformation of food, land, and water systems.

> We look forward to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development's continued collaboration with IFPRI, CGIAR and other partners in creating research-based policy recommendations that will lead to a brighter, healthier future for all Kenyans.
>
> Honorable, Mithika Linturi, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya

Front cover photo

NPS priority areas.
Credit: Jason Chow/IFPRI

Back cover photo

Climate-smart farms in Western Kenya.
Credit: Cecilia Schubert

CGIAR

INITIATIVE ON
National Policies and Strategies