

Building policy coherence



Responding to policy demand and crises



Integrating policy tools

Credit: Aleksandar Todorovic/Shutterstock

CGIAR Research Initiative on **National Policies and Strategies**

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The Artificial Intelligence (AI) software ChatGPT was used to support the editing of parts of this report, specifically to improve clarity, grammar, and style. ChatGPT was not used to generate the content of the report. All edits made with AI assistance were reviewed and validated by the authors to ensure accuracy, coherence, and alignment with the original intent.

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CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with [CGIAR’s Technical Reporting Arrangement](#). This annual report (“Type 1” Report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative/Impact Platform/Science Group Project (SGP) submits an annual “Type 1” Report, which provides assurance on progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes.

As 2024 marks the final year of this CGIAR Portfolio and the 2022-24 business cycle, this Type 1 Report takes a dual approach to its analysis and reporting. Alongside highlighting key achievements for 2024, the report also provides a cumulative overview of the 2022-24 business cycle, where relevant. This perspective captures the evolution of efforts over the three-year period. By presenting both annual and multi-year insights, the report underscores the cumulative impact of CGIAR’s work and sets the stage for the transition to the 2025-30 Portfolio.

The 2024 CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- **Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and SGP Reports:** These annual reports present progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes and provide quality-assured results accessible via the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#).
- **Type 3 CGIAR Portfolio Practice Change Report:** This report provides insights into CGIAR’s progress in Performance Management and Project Coordination.
- **Portfolio Narrative:** Drawing on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, as well as data from the CGIAR Results Dashboard, the Portfolio Narrative synthesizes insights to provide an overall view of Portfolio coherence. It highlights synergies, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and collective progress.
- **Type 2 CGIAR Contributions to Impact in Agrifood Systems: evidence and learnings from 2022 to 2024:** This report offers a high-level summary of CGIAR’s contributions to its impact targets and Science Group outcomes, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for the three-year business cycle.

The Portfolio Narrative informs the 2024 CGIAR Annual Report – a comprehensive summary of the organization’s collective achievements, impacts, and strategic outlook.

Elements of the Type 2 report are integrated into the [CGIAR Flagship Report](#), released in April 2025 at [CGIAR Science Week](#). The Flagship Report synthesizes CGIAR research in an accessible format designed specifically to provide policy- and decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels with the evidence they require to formulate, develop, and negotiate evidence-based policies and investments.

The diagram below illustrates these relationships.

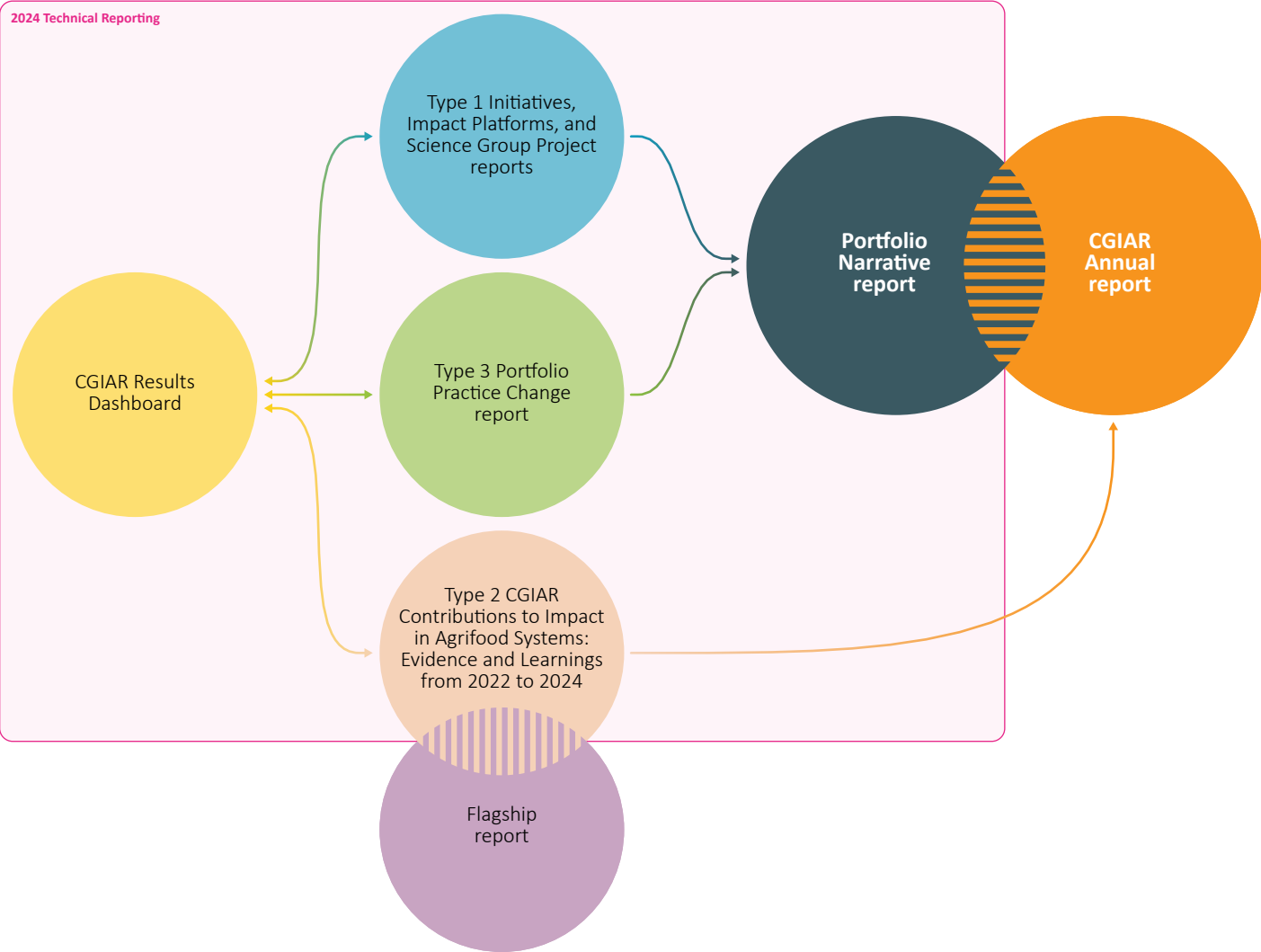


Figure 1. CGIAR’s 2024 Technical Reporting components and their integration with other CGIAR reporting products.

Section 1: Fact sheet, executive summary 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 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Geographic scope	Countries Colombia · Egypt · India · Kenya · Lao People’s Democratic Republic · Nigeria
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/

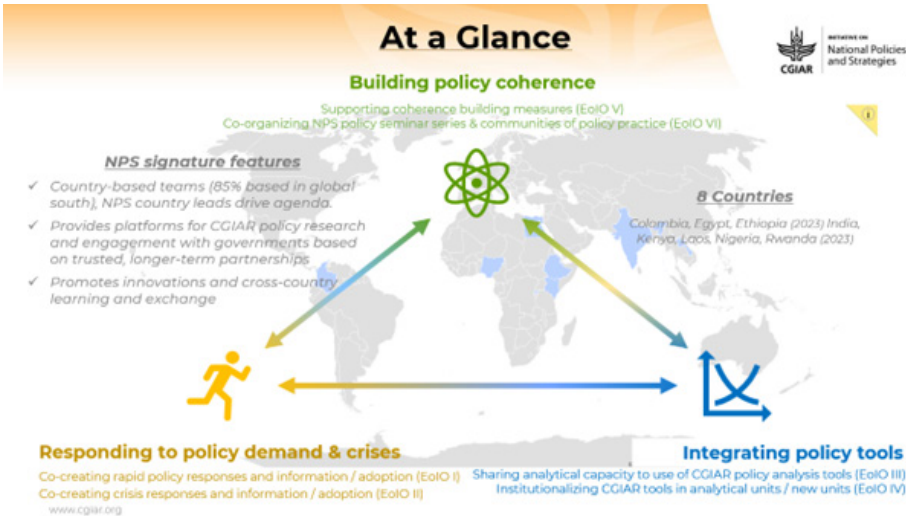
¹ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) markers refer to the OECD DAC [Rio Markers for Climate](#) and the [gender equality policy marker](#). For climate adaptation and mitigation, scores are: 0 = Not targeted; 1 = Significant; and 2 = 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) successfully advanced evidence-based policymaking across eight focus countries from 2022 to 2024. By building policy coherence, responding to policy demand and crises, and integrating policy tools with government agencies, research institutions, and other national and international partners, NPS significantly contributed to informing policy priorities, enabling coherence and sharing capacity that, collectively, contributed to positively affecting populations living in countries of the global South.



Key achievements of the Initiative include:

Responding to policy demand and crisis:

In Egypt, NPS informed the expansion of the [national cash transfer program](#) and identified targeting challenges in the graduation program, which led to a redesign of livelihood programming by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. It also revealed the nutrient distortions caused by staple-heavy in-kind food transfers, informing policy discussions on transitioning Egypt’s [food subsidy system](#) – serving 64 million beneficiaries – to cash transfers.

In Ethiopia, CGIAR policy research guided policy [priorities for rebuilding communities](#) impacted by conflict and other crises, emphasizing women’s empowerment and the strategic use of social safety nets to drive post-conflict recovery. The Initiative also supported the design and adoption of the [National Potato and Sweet Potato Strategy](#) to boost production and the livelihoods of farmers, rural communities, and the overall economy. In Kenya, CGIAR policy research guided the inclusion of the private sector in the distribution of [subsidized fertilizer](#) starting with the 2025 agricultural season and guided the decision NOT to introduce an agricultural [withholding tax](#) on cooperatives. In Nigeria, CGIAR policy research co-designed a National Fisheries and [aquaculture strategy](#), dubbed by the Minister as a “a transformative roadmap aimed at sustainable development of Nigeria’s fisheries and aquaculture sector”. It also informed the declaration of a state of emergency in [food security](#) and the subsequent establishment of a Presidential Food Systems Coordinating Unit (PFSCU). In India, NPS informed interventions that enhanced the participation of thousands of women in the governance of the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act](#) (MNREGA), improving their aspirations and increasing inclusion. In Rwanda, NPS research and engagement supported the development of the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA 5) with a focus on value chain prioritization and livestock sector development.

Integrating policy tools: NPS co-developed and deployed advanced tools, including the Food Security Simulator (FSS) for Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria, the Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) sourcebook and Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs), to enhance national institutions’ capacity for policy analysis. Over 1,000 policymakers, researchers, and analysts participated in NPS-led training workshops and seminars. The 2024 Capacity Sharing Workshop Series expanded its reach, strengthening expertise in economic modeling, food security simulations, and policy evaluation methodologies. In Kenya, NPS supported the establishment of a modeling unit with the main national economic think tank, the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Analysis (KIPPPA). Using these tools and in collaboration with partner institutions, NPS led comparative policy studies, including a major cross-country initiative on soil fertility and fertilizer use in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy. Findings from this work contributed to global policy discussions, notably informing the African Union’s Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in 2024. These collaborations also forged new strategic partnerships with other CGIAR Initiatives: NPS leveraged strong collaborations with the CGIAR Research Initiatives on Foresight, Gender Equality, Rethinking Food Markets, and Digital Innovation. In 2024, new linkages with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Low-Emission Food Systems reinforced climate-resilient policy research efforts.

Building policy coherence : Policy coherence remained a cornerstone of NPS’s work. In Laos, NPS established a high-level community of practice, fostering [interministerial policy dialogue on agroecology and food systems transformation](#), building on [work in support of the Lao PDR Policy Think Tank](#). The eight episodes of the [Policy Pathways](#) podcast series, based on NPS research, underscored how policy coherence enhances climate resilience and development outcomes across countries. At an international level, NPS policy coherence work also informed support to the [OECD Water Governance Initiative](#), reinforcing OECD Water Governance Principle 3 on policy coherence; and with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, NPS supported further enhancing policy coherence to achieve Global Environmental Benefits under the GEF 9 preparation process. In Egypt, NPS work on policy coherence supported a national dialogue on [climate-adaptive water productivity](#) at Cairo Water Week, and in India work with partners using the Policy and Institutional Landscape Analysis (PILA) framework helped further develop [training modules](#) to support policy interventions at local levels under the country’s key Atal Bhujal Yojana ([ABY](#)) policy. In Nigeria, NPS launched its [flagship report](#) on policy coherence for food, land and water systems, helping identify key trends and providing recommendations in support of enhanced policy coherence and institutional integration at a national level.

The [PEPA sourcebook](#) guided country-level analyses and policy dialogues in Colombia, Egypt, India, Kenya, and Nigeria, promoting cross-ministerial collaboration. PEPA tools informed Nigeria’s [cowpea seed policy](#) and Colombia’s food, land, and water [policy landscape](#).

As the Initiative concludes in 2024, NPS has successfully established a strong foundation for evidence-based policymaking and institutional capacity strengthening. The impact of its work will continue beyond its duration, with ongoing collaborations, policy uptake, and integration of CGIAR analytical tools into national decision-making frameworks and local policy implementation. The lessons learned from NPS will guide future CGIAR policy initiatives and ensure that research-driven policy engagement remains a cornerstone of global food security and agricultural development strategies.

	2022	2023	2024
	▼	▼	▼
PROPOSAL BUDGET ▸	\$9.69M	\$9.75M	\$10.56M
APPROVED BUDGET ¹ ▸	\$6.94M	\$8.20M ²	\$6.57M ²

¹ The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the [Financing Plan dashboard](#).

² These amounts include carry-over and commitments.

Section 2: Progress 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.

CHALLENGE STATEMENT

Despite improved economic growth and agricultural production in many low- and middle-income countries over recent decades, major challenges persist. Many parts of society continue to experience food and nutrition insecurity, income poverty, inequality, and economic marginalization. Countries are operating within a rapidly changing landscape of urbanization, migration, political insecurity, pockets of conflict, climate change, and other demographic and social changes that are likely to exacerbate these inequalities. For example, Africa’s 1.1 billion citizens will double in number by 2050, and more than 80 percent of that increase will occur in cities, requiring special attention to the urban and peri-urban poor within national policies and strategies. Globally, 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet, and more than 2 billion suffer one or more manifestations of poor nutrition. It is likely that food systems are already operating beyond planetary boundaries, exerting severe pressure on land and water systems. COVID-19 has brought about additional challenges to these already-stretched systems and now requires additional resources to be invested in both current development and future recovery efforts. Sector-specific governance and policy incoherence diminish the leverage points urgently needed for transformative systems change that can help underpin the sustainability and equity of food systems. In the absence of “Ministries of Food Systems,” government policy toward ensuring food and nutrition security often remains fragmented and uncoordinated, compounding further the risk of failing to achieve key Sustainable Development Goals. Making systems more productive, resilient, and responsive to growing demand and more able to withstand future climate and health shocks (e.g., COVID-19) is now pressing. Policies and strategies need novel construction methods that can enable them to achieve multiple developmental and environmental objectives. Governments and other stakeholders need to enhance synergies across different policy areas — especially those with important cross-border dimensions including trade and investment, agriculture and water resources, health and education, the environment, and migration — to create environments that are more conducive to future food, nutrition, and water security. Various authors, including King and Matthews 2010, have highlighted the challenges of achieving a joined-up policy agenda. Without coherent, evidence-driven policy design and planning, and amid escalating risks and uncertainties, future policies may lead to ineffective or inefficient investments, duplication of efforts across food, land, and water sectors, and even investments cancelling out gains if seriously misaligned. At the same time, change needs to be both substantive and equitable, with new investments and programs effectively targeting the poorest and most vulnerable and taking due account of ingrained gender inequalities. NPS will build new understanding and capabilities across and within different policy arenas to identify and respond to windows of opportunity for systemic change across water, land, and food systems. In doing so, NPS will work alongside diverse national partners and coordinate with regional and international partners, such as CAADP, AUC, FAO, the World Bank, Akademiya2063, IICA, AGRA, and others, to co-develop and use these tools; work together on strategies and investments; and establish new capabilities to enable governments and other important policy actors to build more fit-for-purpose policy and investment environments. NPS will strive to Build policy coherence at the national and subnational level, working with local partners and institutions, as well as across CGIAR initiatives active in the policy arena. NPS will work to integrate policy tools at the local level through innovative approaches such as Training-of-Trainers, and the like, to strengthen analytical performance and equip national and subnational policy analysis partners with evidence-bases for their policy advice. Recognizing the trying times posed globally and nationally for responding to crises, NPS will develop rapid-response tools and networks of policy experts to engage in a Community of Policy Practice.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What innovations can overcome restrictive social norms, promote women’s access to technologies and resources, and ensure policies and governance bolster gender and social equality in a climate-resilient agrifood system?

SPHERE OF CONTROL

WORK PACKAGES

WORK PACKAGE 1

Coherence of Policies, Strategies and Institutions for Food, Land, and Water Systems Transformation.

WORK PACKAGE 2

Integrating Policy and Investment Tools at Country Level.

WORK PACKAGE 3

Policy Analysis and Outcome Measurement for Rapid Response and Impact Assessment.

WORK PACKAGE 4

Communities of Policy Practice and Cross-Country Learning.



SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOMES

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 1

- ▶ Six countries have co-created policy research with the CGIAR 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).

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 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).

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 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).

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 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).

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 5

- ▶ Six countries recognize the importance of coherence in policy making and have taken steps to implement coherence building measures in the policy making process. (Building Policy Coherence).

END-OF-INITIATIVE OUTCOME 6

- ▶ In six countries multistakeholder policy dialogues/seminars and/or multilevel Communities of Policy Practice (CoPP) for Food, Land, and Water Systems are established. (Building Policy Coherence).

ACTION AREA OUTCOMES

SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

- ▶ 1 • Global and regional institutions, such as funding agencies, international organizations, and coordinating bodies use CGIAR research evidence in the development of strategies, policies, and investments to drive sustainable transformation of food, land, and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

- ▶ 2 • National and local multi-stakeholder platforms are strengthened to become more effective and sustainable, addressing development trade-offs and generating strategies for effective food, land, and water systems transformation.

- ▶ 3 • Implementation partners (e.g. NARES, NGOs, private companies) actively support dissemination, uptake, and implementation of CGIAR innovations.

- ▶ 4 • Research institutions, government analytical units, and scaling partners in the Global South have improved knowledge, skills, access to data, capacity to develop tools, innovations, and undertake research to support transformation of food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate objectives.

- ▶ 5 • National and sub-national government agencies use CGIAR research results to design or implement strategies, policies and programs which have the potential to transform food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

SPHERE OF INTEREST

IMPACT AREAS

NUTRITION, HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

- ▶ 1 • End hunger for all and enable affordable health diets for the 3 billion people who do not currently have access to safe and nutritious food.

POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

- ▶ 1 • Reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- ▶ 2 • Lift at least 500 million people living in rural areas above the extreme poverty line of US \$1.90 per day (2011 PPP).

GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH & SOCIAL INCLUSION

- ▶ 1 • Close the gender gap in rights to economic resources on, access to ownership of, and control over land and natural resources, for more than 500 million women who work in food, land, and water systems.
- ▶ 2 • Offer rewardable opportunities to 267 million young people who are not in employment, education, or training.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

- ▶ 1 • Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

- ▶ 1 • Stay within planetary and regional environmental boundaries: consumptive water use in food production of less than 2500 km³ per year (with a focus on the most stressed basins), zero net deforestation, nitrogen application of 90 Tg per year (with redistribution towards low-input farming systems) and increased use efficiency, and phosphorus application of 10 Tg per year.





*Fisherman on Lake Bam, Burkina Faso.
Credit: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR*

Summary of progress against the theory of change

The CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) informed and supported policymaking in focus countries by strengthening decision-analysis infrastructure through improved capacity for knowledge and analysis. Leveraging CGIAR's existing presence and networks, including via partnerships such as the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Country Strategy Support Programs, NPS engaged key individuals and institutions in policy dialogue informed by research, and strengthened alliances and policy partnerships across and beyond CGIAR. One significant collaboration remains the use of the CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight's public goods to provide timely, high-quality analysis for various government requests and facilitate cross-country comparisons and global trends. In addition, Foresight continued to offer training materials that NPS adapted and delivered in person, often through training-of-trainers sessions. In 2024, the NPS Capacity Sharing Workshop Series expanded, training over 400 participants across multiple regions. The Initiative introduced new modules on climate-smart agriculture policy and digital tools for policy decision-making, responding to evolving government and stakeholder needs.

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

Demand-driven policy research addressed government priorities and advanced analytics offered valuable insights. In 2024, NPS responded to policy requests from governments in Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya,

Nigeria, and, for the first time, Bangladesh and Uganda. These policy engagements focused on social protection, climate adaptation strategies, input subsidies, and livestock sector transformation. Collaboration with ministries of planning, social solidarity, and agriculture remained central to this effort. Additionally, NPS supported Ethiopia's Ministry of Planning and Development in refining its Recovery and Reconstruction Plan, and worked closely with Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to finalize the Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development. The NPS Seminar Series continued in both countries, engaging local policymakers and researchers in evidence-based policy discussions.

Building on the strong demand from Odisha's Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, NPS deepened its engagement in Odisha, India, in 2024. The Initiative organized three stakeholder consultations in partnership with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water. As a result, additional policy briefs were developed at the request of the Odisha Principal Secretary, addressing agricultural productivity, climate resilience, and women's economic empowerment in rural areas. Collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Gender Equality and the CGIAR Gender Platform continued, producing a new set of policy notes and multimedia resources on integrating gender perspectives in national agricultural employment policies.

NPS's strategic work in 2024 maintained its cross-country focus on soil fertility and fertilizer use, alongside evaluating national plans and large-scale development programs. The cross-country analysis, in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy, included additional studies on regenerative agriculture and alternative fertilizer approaches in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Senegal. Findings from these studies informed national agricultural strategies and contributed to the African Union's Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May 2024. Furthermore, NPS researchers published a special issue in the Food Policy journal, focusing on fertilizer and soil health policies across Africa and South Asia.

Two key innovations introduced in 2023 – the Food Security Simulator (FSS) and the Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) Sourcebook – continued to evolve in 2024.

- The FSS expanded to Ethiopia following increased demand, with an updated version incorporating local food consumption data and policy scenarios tailored to Ethiopia's economic context.

Additionally, an FSS training program was launched, engaging policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations in utilizing the tool for real-time food security assessments. In response to strong interest from West African partners, exploratory discussions began on developing an FSS tool for Senegal and Ghana.

- The PEPA Sourcebook was further developed, incorporating new case studies on food system transformation and policy implementation challenges. In 2024, NPS introduced PEPA training workshops for policymakers and research institutions in Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria, promoting the integration of political economy considerations into national policy formulation processes.

Through a combination of established programs, strategic expansion, and innovative tools, NPS continued to support evidence-based decision-making in its focus countries in 2024. With these advancements, the Initiative remained on track to achieve its end-of-initiative outcomes by the close of 2024.



Green pepper harvesting in an Farmer Field School in Yakpondi, near Yangambi, Tshopo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Credit: Axel Fassio/CIFOR-ICRAF

Progress against End of Initiative Outcomes

This infographic provides a concise summary of the Initiative’s progress toward achieving its Theory of Change End-of-Initiative outcomes for the 2022-2024 period. By drawing on reported results, it offers a comprehensive synthesis of progress made against the established outcome targets, highlighting the Initiative’s overall impact and key achievements at the conclusion of this three-year cycle.



EOIO 1

Six countries co-create policy research with the CGIAR Research Initiative of 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).



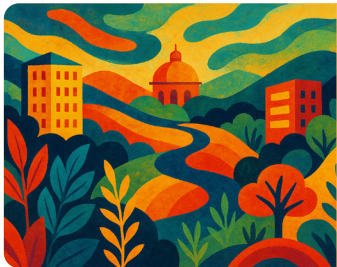
EOIO 2

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



EOIO 3

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



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).



EOIO 5

Six countries recognize the importance of coherence in policy making and have taken steps to implement coherence building measures in the policy making process. (Building policy coherence).



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).

Between 2022 and 2024, eight countries co-created policy research and contributed to evidence-based decision-making through 16 contributions. These efforts included informing social, wheat, labor, and food subsidy policies in Egypt; land policy in Colombia; and evaluating a fertilizer subsidy policy in Ethiopia. Additionally, progress was made toward influencing Ethiopia's livestock and potato strategies. Collaborative research in India focused on investment, Odisha's agricultural strategy, gender policy (in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Gender Equality), India's groundwater security policy, and policy responses 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. 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. In Rwanda, research advanced efforts to provide recommendations for the Livestock Strategy (PSTA-5) and the Investment Policy. In Lao PDR, strengthened institutional cooperation between policy researchers and policymakers supported more effective policy formulation.

Seven countries co-developed crisis response research under NPS, between 2022 and 2024, with 14 contributions. In Colombia, work focused on Food and Gender Policy, while in Egypt, the NPS team collaborated with the Institute of National Planning on research into food price inflation and with the Ministry of Social Solidarity on the evaluation of Forsa, a graduation program linked to the Takaful cash transfer initiative. In India, NPS explored the benefits of home gardens for food security and income and ways of strengthening the community management of water resources in water-insecure areas. Additionally, NPS assessed the impact of the Ukraine crises on poverty and food security in Nigeria, India and Kenya. Kenya's NPS team participated in the Special Technical Working Group on Food Security and Food Prices Data Analysis for Policy Advice, organized 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.

Between 2022 and 2024, 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 CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight. These included 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; in addition, policy hackathons were held in Kenya and Uganda focusing on critical water policy interventions and innovations. A lecture on impact evaluations was also delivered, and resources made available, to researchers in Kenya for a second consecutive year in 2024. These capacity sharing events held between 2022 and 2024 directly benefited 2,288 people, 1,227 of whom were women participants.

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

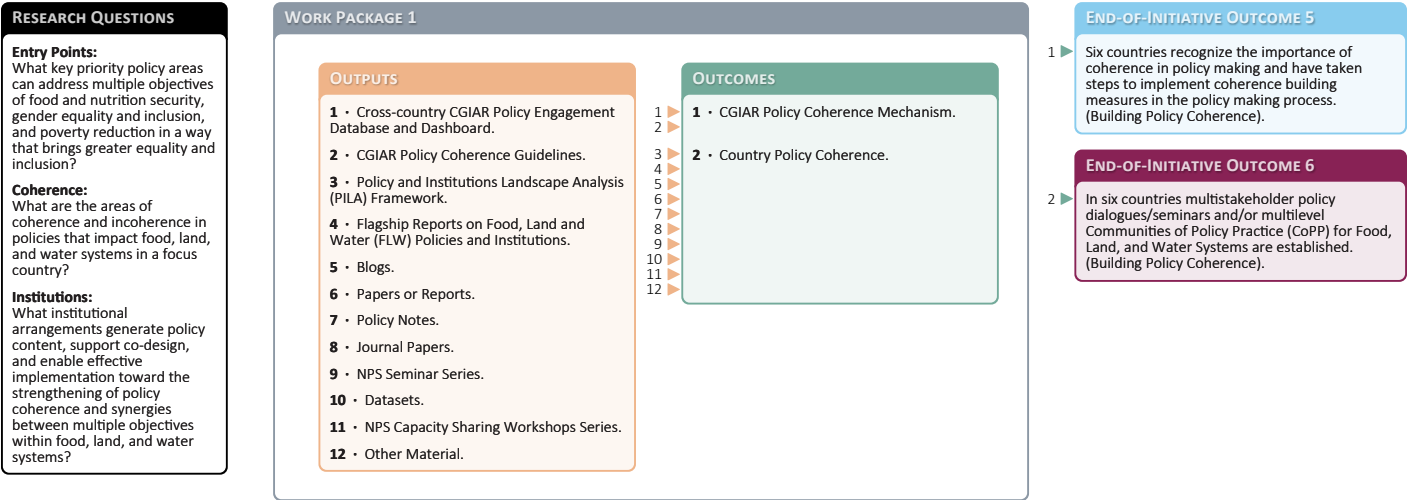
Between 2022 and 2024, across seven countries, CGIAR tools were integrated into local institutional analytical units or contributed to the creation of new ones in 14 instances. Close collaboration continued with the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis, the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, and both countries' bureaus of statistics, the Egypt Institute of National Planning, Colombia's Universidad de Los Andes, and the Policy Think Tank in Lao PDR, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Eight countries recognize the importance of coherence building measures in the policymaking process, with four outputs completed so far. Flagship reports for policy coherence of food, land and water systems have been published in all six focus countries, completed in partnership with national think tanks and other key stakeholders. 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 findings from each of the six focal countries.

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



Work Package 1 progress against the theory of change

In Work Package 1 (WP1), the NPS country teams successfully finalized the flagship reports on policy coherence across food, land, and water systems for all six NPS original focal countries. These reports were developed in close collaboration with national think tanks and a wide range of key stakeholders, ensuring that the narrative and recommendations were tailored to the needs of uptake partners in each geography. This collaborative approach not only enhanced ownership but also increased the policy relevance of the outputs.

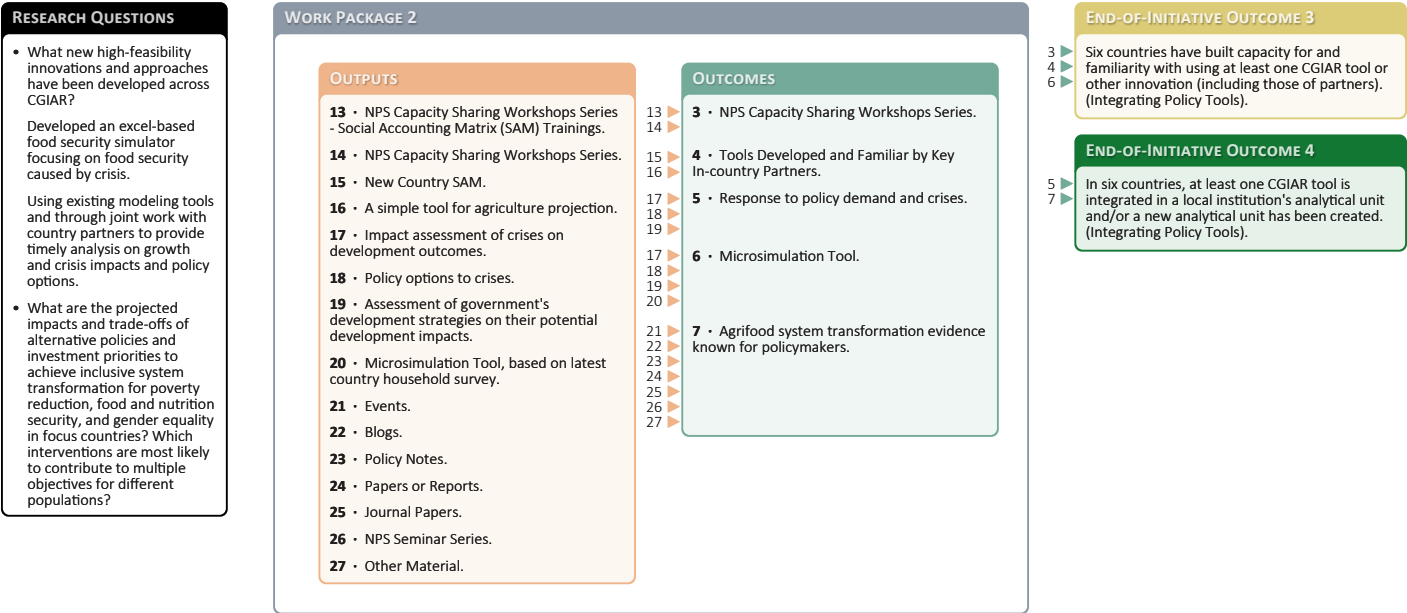
Throughout the process, WP1 developed and tested a suite of tools and methods that complemented the flagship reports. These included policy hackathons, a consolidated Policy and Institutional Landscape Analysis (PILA) framework, and a set of strong, multi-level partnerships – spanning global, national, and local actors. WP1 also led innovative dissemination efforts, such as the launch of the Policy Pathways podcast series, which featured findings from each of the six initial countries, extending the reach and accessibility of the research.

At the CGIAR level, WP1 played a key role in driving forward the agenda on policy coherence. It co-convoked a series of dialogues aimed at establishing a community of policy practice on governance

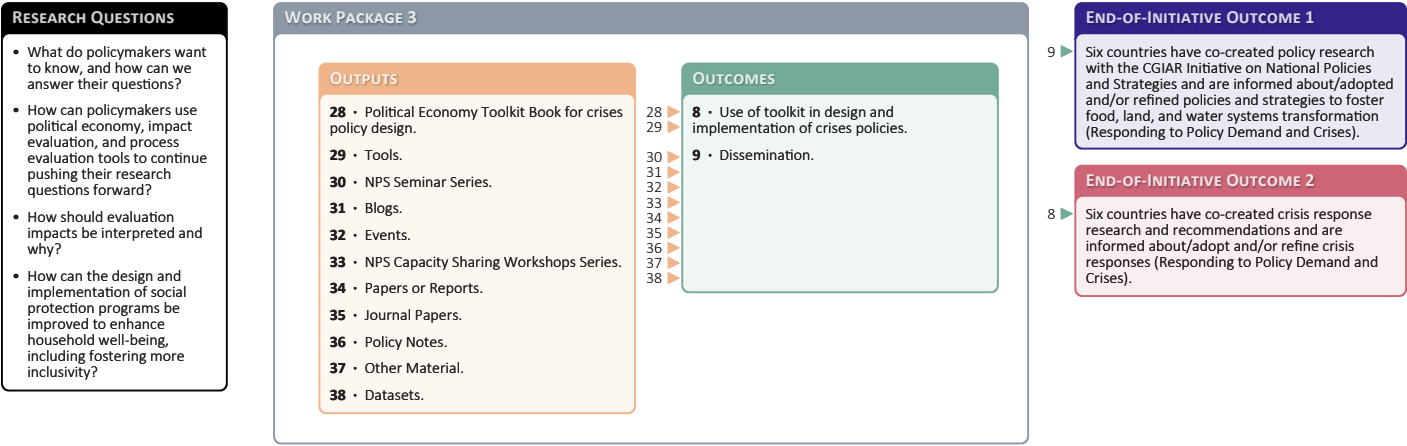
and political economy within CGIAR. Supported by over 10 CGIAR Centers and 20 Initiatives. This effort culminated in the development of a CGIAR Policy Brief Inventory featuring a set of approaches for policy coherence analysis and upscaling. The community of policy practice can continue to serve as a platform for advising the CGIAR System on enhancing policy advocacy and analysis through the activities of the Policy Innovations Science Program as part of the CGIAR Portfolio 2025-2030.

As a direct result of WP1’s work, several key partnerships were formalized. Notably, in Uganda, IWMI – on behalf of CGIAR – signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government’s water research institute to strengthen governance capacity research in 2024. This collaboration reflects growing regional interest and is expected to expand into neighboring cross-border landscapes where policy coherence remains a critical challenge. Additionally, WP1’s engagement with the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI) opened avenues for contributing to global evidence on policy coherence in water systems, and work with the Global Environment Facility enabled us to apply our policy coherence analytical expertise to addressing the challenge of generating global environmental benefits.

WP2: Integrating policy and investment tools at country level



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

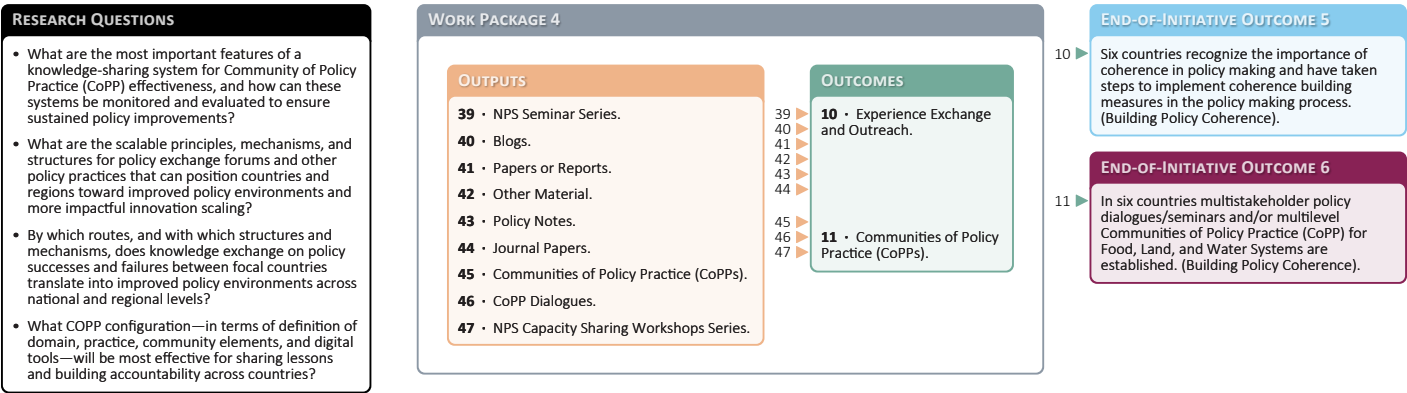


Work Package 3 progress against the theory of change

In its final phase, WP3 continued to build on rapid response research and integrating policy tools to inform decision-making and national strategies. Further progress was made along the theory of change, meeting all targets. Research based on survey-based evaluations and political economy analysis in several countries was completed, an additional tool was developed, and capacity was further strengthened among new audiences. WP3 published five peer-reviewed journal articles as well as 15 non-peer reviewed publications, two policy tools, and ten policy notes and blogs. Most of the latter have been submitted to academic journals, contributing to the first End of Initiative outcome (EOIO 1). This outcome has been met with more than six countries co-developing research and using evidence-based decision-making to support policy decisions. The PLASA tool, a novel and cost-effective way to calculate minimum

required diets in Colombia, contributes to EOIO II. The PEPA Sourcebook and the related Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered PEPA micro-simulation tool provide policymakers with a rapid decision support tool to generate rigorous insights for engaging in policy processes. Several training and capacity-building activities were conducted, including programs on impact evaluation and political economy in Kenya and India; training on the use of various tools in Colombia; and NPS seminar series presentations in Colombia, Egypt, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. These activities contributed to EOIOs I and II. 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 underpinned the design of NPS and will be carried forward into the Policy Innovations Science Program.

WP4: Communities of policy practice and cross-country learning



Work Package 4 progress against the theory of change

Work Package 4 (WP4) continued spearheading NPS cross-country work in close collaboration with the other WPs. Building on previous activities, WP4 generated important evidence while also forging strategic partnerships and facilitating major events in several countries. Focusing on fertilizer and soil health policies amidst global challenges, WP4 activities resulted in several papers and journal articles focusing on fertilizer and soil health policies in [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Nigeria](#), [Rwanda](#), and other African and Asian countries. These studies generated important evidence on how countries are responding and faring amidst a complex global environment characterized by a surge in food-fertilizer-fuel prices. Some of these studies assess [demand and profitability](#) of inorganic fertilizers due to surging global prices, while others evaluate the potential of public policies, including national [fertilizer subsidies](#), to cushion the adverse effects of these compounding crises. WP4 also supported national partners, including the government of Kenya, in evaluating the impact of their flagship [fertilizer subsidies](#).

Beyond research, WP4 actively fostered partnership with national partners and hence organized and facilitated major events to serve this purpose. WP4 organized a policy and research conference on [fertilizer and soil health in Africa](#), with the objective of contributing to the African Union Summit on Fertilizer and Soil Health. WP4 further demonstrated its commitment to national policy processes

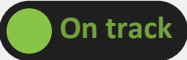
initiatives and consulted with national partners on priority challenges. In Ethiopia, WP4 organized two conferences, focusing on [rebuilding conflict-affected communities](#) and the potential of [livestock in conflict-affected communities](#).

WP4 has been at the forefront of policy dialogue and engagement at country and regional levels. At the [KIPPRA 7th Annual Regional Conference](#), WP4 actively contributed to discussions on evidence-based policy interventions. WP4 also played a critical role in building youth capacity for policy innovation in [Kenya](#), fostering the next generation of policy leaders. In [Nigeria](#), WP4 worked with the National Root Crops Research Institute to review the implementation of the [National Potato Strategy](#), ensuring policy effectiveness. Similarly, in [Ethiopia](#), WP4 provided technical guidance in drafting and successfully launching the [National Potato and Sweetpotato Development Strategy](#), highlighting WP4's role in shaping agricultural policy frameworks in the region. Additionally, WP4's research brief on [analyzing policy responses to seed, fertilizer, food, and fuel shocks in African Regional Economic](#) provided crucial insights for responding to policy demand and crisis. In Ethiopia, WP4 research on the [contribution of potato to food security, income generation, employment, and the national economy of Ethiopia](#) offered robust evidence to advocate for and prioritize the potato industry in national development strategies.

Work Package progress rating summary

WORK PACKAGE	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1	<div><div></div>On track</div> <p>All country teams finalized their respective policy inventories and accompanying datasets for deep analysis. Each team completed its flagship report on food, land, and water policies and institutions, following extensive consultation with stakeholders to enhance legitimacy and uptake. In India, the success of the flagship report led to new opportunities to conduct similar analyses in two states, focusing on specific policy implementation challenges. This activity has led to the design of new work on using AI to enhance policy implementation at sub-national and community levels in Rajasthan.</p> <p>Significant progress was achieved in advancing CGIAR’s internal policy coherence analysis. The results point to clear opportunities for improving data collection and reporting at the Initiative level, particularly in preparation for the transition to CGIAR Science Programs. The CGIAR Systems Office has recognized this work as an important foundation for introducing systemic changes over time.</p>
2	<div><div></div>On track</div> <p>Work Package progress aligns with the theory of change and has produced key timely outputs on responding to policy demand.</p>
3	<div><div></div>On track</div> <p>The target for EOIO I was exceeded with more than six countries co-developing policy research, as was EOIO II, with one additional tool developed than planned. A new academic seminar series was established, contributing to EOIO III. Consequently, WP3 contributed to meeting the goals of almost all the EOIO outcomes.</p>
4	<div><div></div>On track</div> <p>WP4 successfully delivered several knowledge products and outcomes, along with several dissemination events fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration within Communities of Policy Practice.</p> <p>WP4 responded efficiently to policy needs from target countries, demonstrating commitment to their specific challenges.</p> <p>WP4 ensured timely completion of most cross-country learning studies and events, facilitating knowledge sharing and learning.</p>

Definitions



On track

- 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

- 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

- 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.



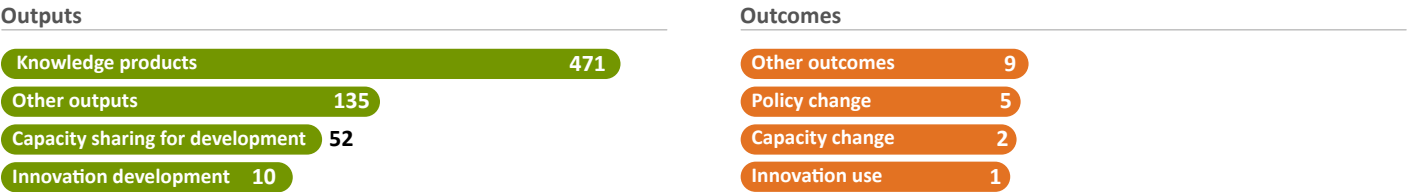
Women working together on a chart. Credit: Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT Colombia.

Section 4: Quantitative overview of key results

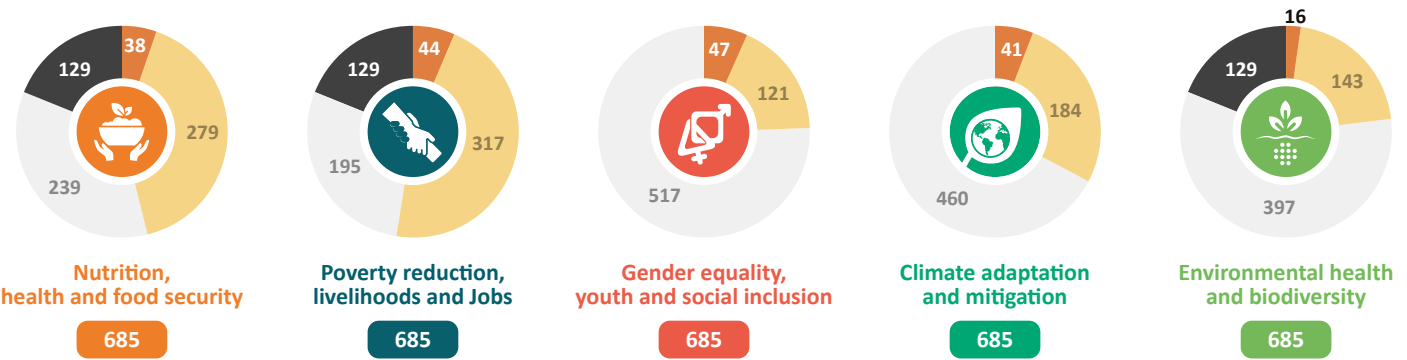
This section provides an overview of results reported and contributed to, by the CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies from 2022 to 2024. These results align with the [CGIAR Results Framework](#) and National Policies and Strategies’s theory of change. Further information on these results is available through the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#).

The data used to create the graphics in this section were sourced from the CGIAR Results Dashboard on 04 April 2025. These results are accurate as of this date and may differ from information in previous Technical Reports. Such differences may be due to data updates throughout the reporting year, revisions to previously reported results, or updates to the theory of change.

OVERVIEW OF RESULTS BY CATEGORY



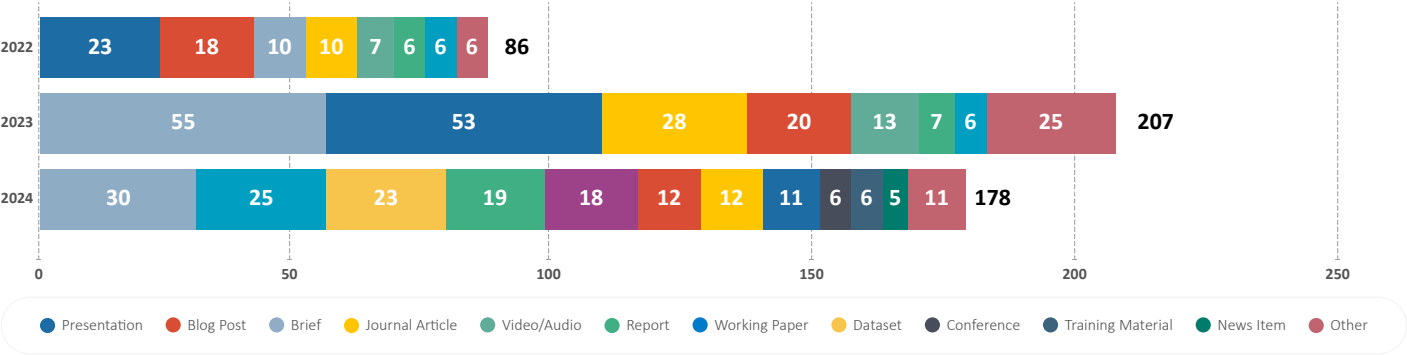
NUMBER OF RESULTS BY IMPACT AREA CONTRIBUTION



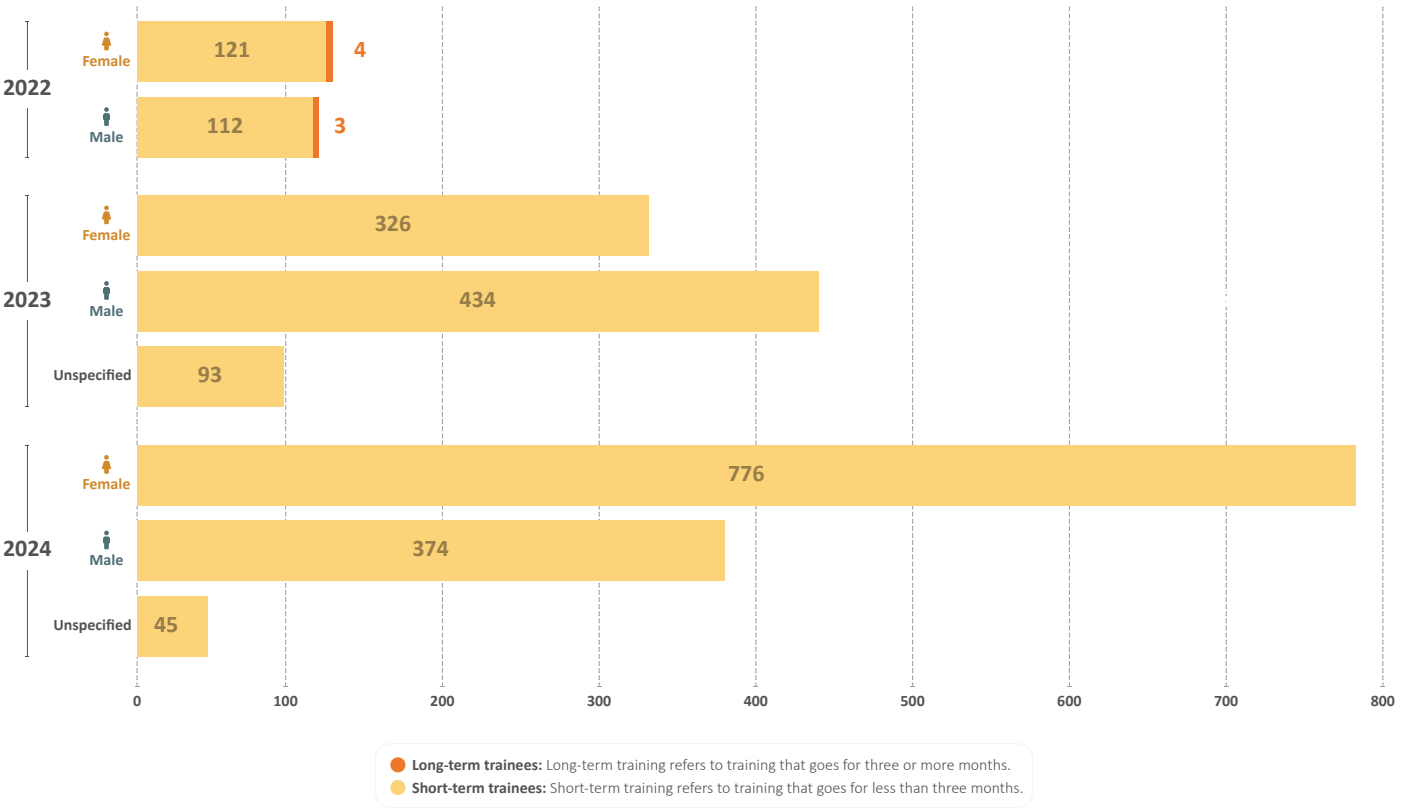
- **2 = Principal:** Contributing to one or more aspects of the Impact Area is the principal objective of the result. The Impact Area is fundamental to the design of the activity leading to the result; the activity would not have been undertaken without this objective.
- **1 = Significant:** The result directly contributes to one or more aspects of the Impact Area. However, contributing to the Impact Area is not the principal objective of the result.
- **0 = Not targeted:** The result has been screened against the Impact Area, but it has not been found to directly contribute to any aspect of the Impact Area as it is outlined in the [CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation](#) strategy.
- **Not applicable:** Pertains to 2022 reported results when only information on Gender and Climate impact area tagging was available.

NPS Initiative activities contributed meaningfully across all five CGIAR Impact Areas, supporting impactful, inclusive solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges. Nutrition, health, and food security were central to the initiative, with 40% of reported results principally focused on this area, and an additional 29% making significant contributions. Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs also received strong attention, with 35% of results directly targeting this objective. Although only 15% of results were primarily aimed at gender equality, 80% contributed significantly—demonstrating a commitment to embedding inclusivity across the initiative’s work. Contributions to climate adaptation and mitigation, while less frequently a primary focus, were evident in nearly 30% of results. Finally, environmental health and biodiversity gained increasing relevance, with 56% of results significantly supporting this area—positioning the NPS Initiative as a key player in fostering sustainable and equitable agri-food systems.

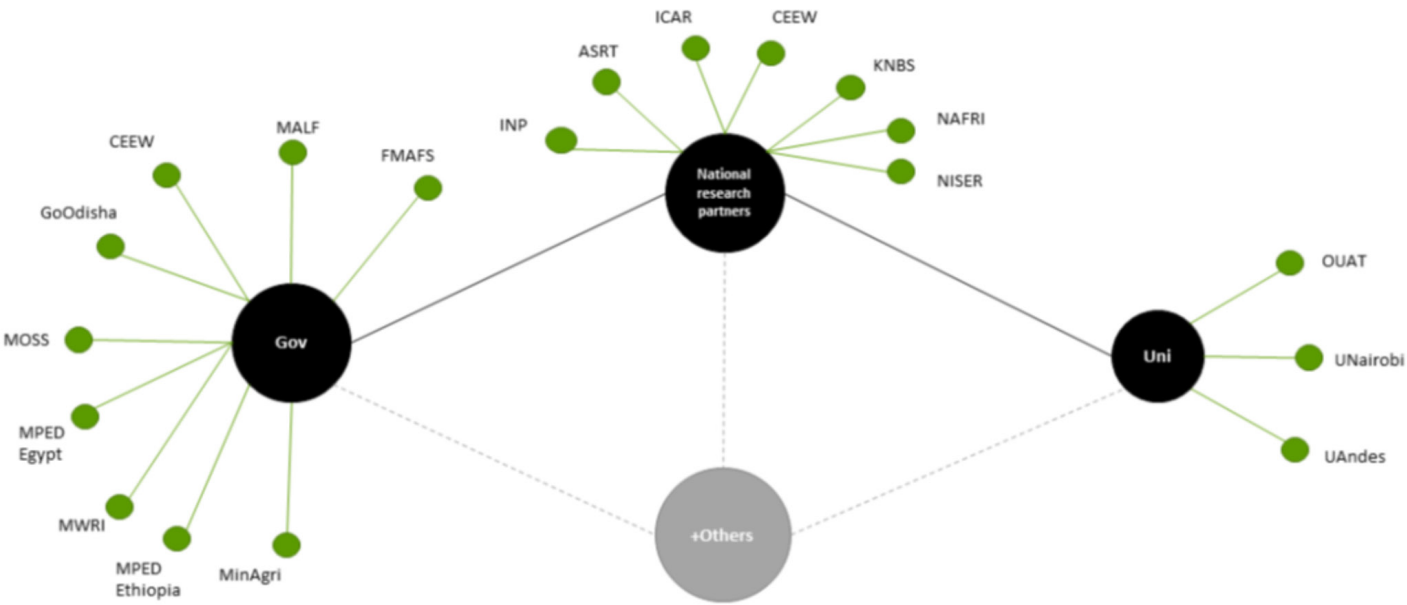
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS BY TYPOLOGY



NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS TRAINED BY THE INITIATIVE



Section 5: Partnerships



Source: 2024 NPS Output Monitoring Tool.

Partnerships and National Policies and Strategies’s 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:** Banco de la República; Universidad de Los Andes (UAndes).
- **Egypt:** Institute of National Planning (INP); Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED Egypt); Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS); Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI); Egyptian Food Bank (EFB); Academy of Science, Research and Technology (ASRT); Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD).
- **Ethiopia:** Ministry of Planning and Development (MPED Ethiopia).
- **India:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW); Government of Odisha (GoOdisha); Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT).
- **Kenya:** National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA); University of Nairobi (UNairobi); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF).
- **Lao PDR:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF); National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI); Policy Think Tank (PTT).
- **Nigeria:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS); Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER); Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF); National Bureau of Statistics (NBS); Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN); National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC); World Food Programme (WFP); International Rescue Committee (IRC).
- **Rwanda:** Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MinAgri).

Partnerships with national institutions are at the core of NPS to effectively build coherence, integrate tools, and respond to policy demand and crises. Some significant examples included:

1. **Nigeria: Strengthening agricultural policy and food security analysis**
NPS collaborated with 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), and the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN). Together, they:
 - Developed the Nigeria Social Accounting Matrix (SAM), enabling evidence-based economic planning.
 - Trained FMAFS personnel on monitoring and evaluation, and data management using STATA.
 - Introduced the Food Security Simulator for Nigeria (FSSN) to key stakeholders, allowing improved policy analysis of food security risks.
2. **Ethiopia: Supporting recovery and reconstruction through data-driven policy**
In collaboration with Ethiopia’s Ministry of Planning and Development (MPED Ethiopia), NPS provided analytical support for the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. Key achievements include:
 - Conducting surveys and impact evaluations to assess post-conflict agricultural and economic recovery.
 - Establishing a data-sharing partnership between MPED Ethiopia and CGIAR to integrate economic forecasting tools into national planning.
 - Organizing capacity-strengthening workshops on food security and climate adaptation for Ethiopian policymakers.
3. **India (Odisha): Enhancing agricultural policy through real-time decision tools**
NPS partnered with Odisha’s Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment, the Odisha University of Agriculture

and Technology (OUAT), and the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW). Key outcomes include:

- Development of a real-time agricultural policy impact dashboard to assist policymakers in decision-making.
- Training of Odisha state officials on policy simulation tools for food security and climate adaptation.
- Co-creation of policy briefs on gender-sensitive agricultural strategies in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Gender Equality.

4. **Kenya: Institutionalizing capacity; responding to policy and crisis demand**

Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research Analysis (KIPPRA) in 2022, key outcomes from NPS to inform policies and institutionalize capacity are as follows:

- Establishment of an Economic Modeling Unit within KIPPRA and related analytical capacity – a key highlight of the partnership.
- Institutionalization of datasets and tools (e.g., SAM, CGE, FSS).
- Co-creation of model-based assessments on the Ukraine-Russia war; National Development Strategy (BETA plan).
- Co-creation of a demand-driven assessment on the impact of introducing withholding tax.
- Co-creation of policy briefs on the impact assessments conducted.
- Building of the Kenya Tax model to inform Kenya tax policy reforms.

5. **Lao PDR: Policy Think Tank (PTT) and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI):**

The PTT plays an important role in providing evidence-based research to support decisions related to agriculture development in Lao PDR. NPS worked with the PTT to share and validate lessons learned on building evidence-based research capacity and a science-policy community in Lao PDR. As a result of a consultation process, NPS supported the Lao government in:

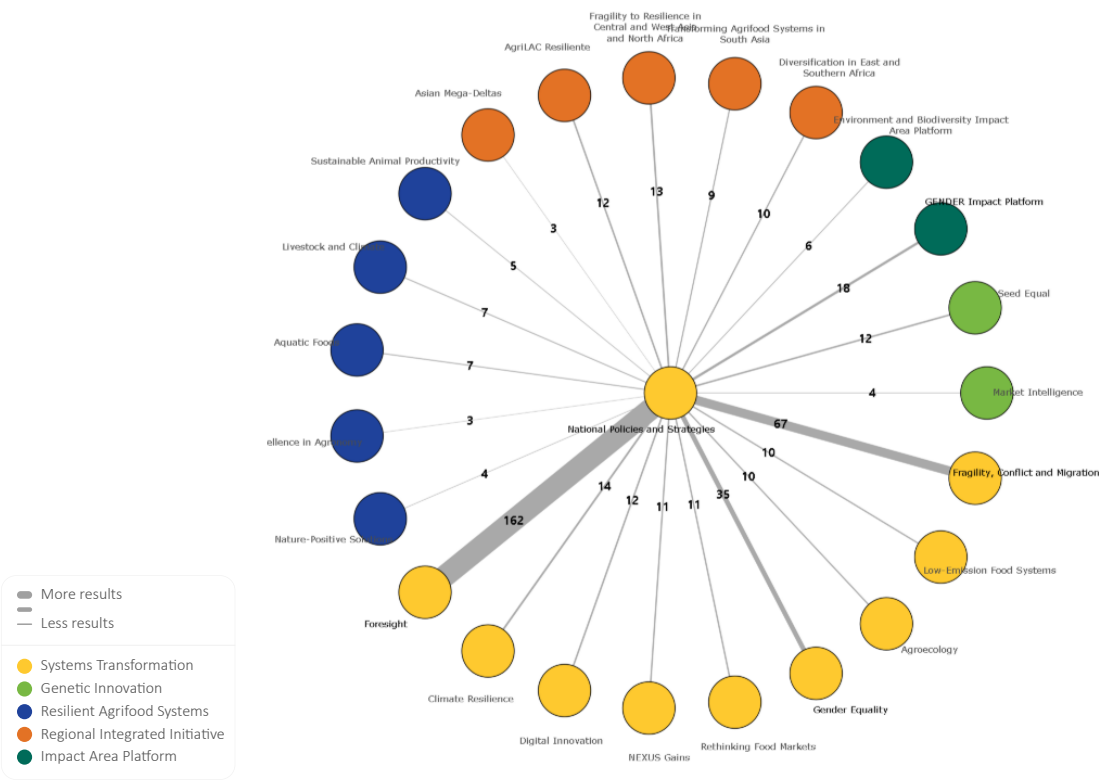
- Discussing potential ways forward for the community of policy practice in Lao PDR.
- Supporting the PTT in its work through the Sector Working Group on Agricultural and Rural Development
- Providing technical support to strengthen the PTT, including its stakeholder meetings.
- Conducting regional, national and sub-national workshops, consultations, high-level events; contributing to the co-development of strategies, policies and management plans; supporting the development of research agenda priorities; and setting up sectoral consultations to improve understanding of development priorities.
- Assisting in the drafting of a policy on research priorities which, once endorsed, will guide future research for evidence-based decision-making in Lao PDR.

By fostering these trusted partnerships, NPS effectively contributed to national policy coherence, evidence-based decision-making, and enhanced policy responsiveness, ensuring the sustainability of the Initiative’s work beyond 2024.



IFPRI and CBK teams at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.
Credit: CBK Communication office

NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES’ INTERNAL NETWORK OF COLLABORATIONS



The diagram presents the internal collaborations of the NPS initiative with other CGIAR Initiatives, Impact Area Platforms. Connections are sized according to the number of shared reported results, highlighting the depth of collaboration across the CGIAR Portfolio. A results threshold filter is applied (set to a minimum of three results) to focus the view on the most significant collaborations. Thicker lines represent stronger collaborative links based on a higher number of shared results.

Portfolio linkages and National Policies and Strategies’s impact pathways

Achieving NPS’ end of Initiative outcomes required strong partnerships with other CGIAR Initiatives. The response to policy demand and the integration of CGIAR tools in national institutions has strengthened partners’ ability to provide policy-relevant analysis and contribute to policy debates. NPS has drawn upon analytical frameworks developed across CGIAR, with a particularly important relationship with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Foresight. The public goods created by Foresight enabled NPS to provide timely, high-quality analysis to governments, and facilitate relevant cross-country comparisons and insights on global trends.

In 2024, NPS and Foresight collaborated on refining analytical tools for economic and food security forecasting. Building on earlier work, NPS helped adapt SAMs and CGE models to specific national contexts, with new SAMs developed for Ethiopia and Rwanda in partnership with national institutions. Training modules on these models were further expanded, and NPS facilitated capacity-sharing sessions across multiple countries.

At the CGIAR and regional levels, NPS deepened collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiatives on Gender Equality, Rethinking Food Markets, and Digital Innovation. In 2024, these partnerships expanded further through joint research on gender-responsive policy frameworks and digital agricultural innovations for policymaking. Additionally, partnerships with the CGIAR Research Initiative on

Fragility, Conflict, and Migration, and the Gender Impact Platform led to new insights into policy responses to climate-induced migration and gender-sensitive social protection programs.

NPS also strengthened its collaboration with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Excellence in Agronomy, particularly on cross-country research into soil fertility and fertilizer use. This effort contributed to a special journal issue on fertilizer and soil health policies, informing national strategies and the African Union’s Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in 2024.

Furthermore, NPS continued partnerships with regional CGIAR Research Initiatives, including Diversification in East and Southern Africa and Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia. These collaborations ensured a more unified research agenda and broader dissemination of policy-relevant insights within the CGIAR community. In 2024, NPS extended these linkages to include the CGIAR Research Initiative on Low-Emission Food Systems, supporting climate-smart agricultural policy integration in selected countries.

By leveraging these Portfolio linkages, NPS enhanced its ability to respond effectively to policy demands, ensuring that CGIAR’s research is both relevant and impactful within national policy frameworks. These collaborations will continue to inform future CGIAR efforts beyond the conclusion of the NPS Initiative in 2024.



'Food Systems Transformation in Kenya' book launch, attended by Jonathan Mueke - Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Ismahane Elouafi - Executive Managing Director, CGIAR, Appolinaire Djikeng - Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Clemens Breisinger - Lead National Policies and Strategies (NPS).
Credit: IFPRI Kenya



Stakeholder Forum Sub-sector Working Group on Irrigation, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Credit: IWM Lao PDR

Section 7: Key result story

NPS driving policy innovation for global impact



Farmers cultivate lettuce, while another farmer digs a small chanal (marrwa) with a donkey.
Credit: Hamish John Appleby/IWMI

Primary Impact Area



Other relevant Impact Areas targeted



Contributing Initiative

National Policies and Strategies

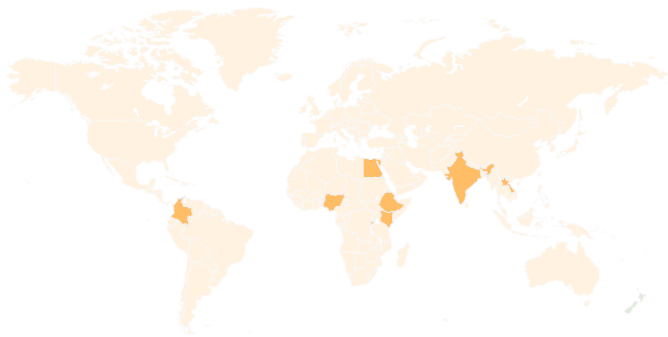
Contributing Centers

IWMI · IFPRI · ICRISAT · IITA

Contributing external partners

University of Ibadan (UI) · Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) · The Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IFW) · Egyptian Food Bank (EFB)

Geographic scope



Countries: Colombia · Egypt · Ethiopia · India · Kenya · Lao
People’s Democratic Republic · Nigeria · Rwanda

In 2024, the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) strengthened global policy coherence, co-created innovative solutions, and informed high-priority reforms in food, land, and water systems. Collaborating with governments, research institutions, and stakeholders, NPS developed Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered policy tools, guided fiscal and social policies, and enhanced value-chain strategies. Its research influenced key decisions, from Kenya's tax policy to Egypt's food subsidies, and Nigeria's import duties. As NPS transitions into CGIAR's Policy Innovations and Scaling for Impact Science Programs as part of the CGIAR Portfolio 2025-2030, it continues to drive transformative, partner-driven policy solutions for resilient systems.

In 2024, the CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) continued to co-create policy solutions, share institutional capacity, and foster policy coherence globally. Its on-the-ground presence, policy research excellence, and trusted partnerships with governments, research institutions, and stakeholders expanded the impact of this work.

While major crises that NPS helped to address, such as the Ukraine-Russia war fallout (2022) and the cost-of-living crisis (2023), have stabilized, NPS focused on building resilience and driving policy innovations for the transformation of food, land, and water systems. To help address future crises, NPS co-created and institutionalized quick-to-deploy [Food Security Simulators](#) in Kenya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia that enable rapid crisis impact assessments. Leveraging the Political Economy and Policy Analysis (PEPA) [Sourcebook](#), NPS also developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered PEPA microsimulation tool to identify critical policy innovations in food systems. Interviews with 350 [partners](#) across 12 countries emphasized the potential of AI in supporting policy responses, provided it is coupled with human oversight.

NPS research informed several high-priority policy reforms. In Africa, it contributed to the Nairobi Declaration on Fertilizer and Soil Health via a [high-level policy conference](#) and a special issue of the [Food Policy](#). It supported [Kenya's decision to integrate](#) the private sector in public fertilizer distribution and assessed the progress of several countries (including [Ethiopia](#)) in meeting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals amid market shocks. Studies in [Malawi](#) and [Nigeria](#) shaped debates on fertilizer price surges and public subsidies and work in India helped support the development of effective leadership training to support groundwater security policy implementation.

NPS also played a role in fiscal policymaking. In Kenya, it analyzed the negative implications of an [agricultural withholding tax](#), informing the government's decision to withdraw the proposal. In Nigeria, it assessed the temporary (150-day) [removal of import duties](#) on staple foods, confirming the policy's role in moderating food price inflation. As inflation eased in December 2024, policymakers, informed by NPS, explored long-term domestic food security strategies.

Social and gender policies remained a key focus. In Egypt, NPS research highlighted the successes of the [Takaful](#) cash transfer program and identified targeting challenges in the [Forsa](#) graduation program, which led to a redesign of livelihood programming by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. NPS research also revealed the macro-nutrient distortions caused by staple-heavy in-kind food transfers, informing policy discussions on transitioning Egypt's food subsidy system – serving 64 million beneficiaries – to cash transfers. In Ethiopia, NPS guided policy priorities for [rebuilding communities impacted by conflict](#) and other crises, emphasizing women's empowerment and the strategic use of social safety nets to drive post-conflict recovery. In India, NPS research informed interventions that enhanced [the participation](#) of thousands of women in the governance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), improving their aspirations and increasing inclusion.

NPS supported governments in developing value-chain-specific strategies. [Ethiopia](#) and [Nigeria](#) adopted National Potato and Sweet Potato Strategies to boost production and livelihoods of farmers, rural communities, and the overall economy. Rwanda incorporated NPS research into its [five-year livestock development plan](#), while Nigeria designed a [National Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy](#) with NPS assistance. In Lao PDR, NPS supported national think tanks and the National Agriculture and Forestry [10-year strategy](#) (to 2035).

Policy coherence remained a cornerstone of NPS's work. The [PEPA Sourcebook](#) guided country-level analyses and policy dialogues in Colombia, Egypt, India, Kenya, and Nigeria, promoting cross-ministerial collaboration. PEPA tools informed Nigeria's [cowpea seed policy](#) and Colombia's food, land, and water [policy landscape](#). In Lao PDR, NPS established a high-level community of practice, fostering interministerial policy dialogue on agroecology and food systems transformation. The eight episodes of the [Policy Pathways](#) podcast series, based on NPS research, underscored how policy coherence enhances climate resilience and development outcomes. This work also informed discussions within the OECD Water Governance Initiative, reinforcing OECD Water Governance Principle 3 on policy coherence.

NPS responded swiftly to the [GenZ protests](#) over youth unemployment and lack of opportunities in food systems transformation. By hosting dialogues in Kenya and Ethiopia, the research highlighted key challenges for African youth, leading to partnerships with governments, CGIAR, and local organizations to address the two most important issues: unemployment and limited public representation.

Looking ahead, NPS is transitioning into CGIAR's Policy Innovations and Scaling for Impact Science Programs. As part of these larger Programs, it will continue to foster partner-driven innovations and collaborative solutions for stronger policies and institutions.

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The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2025-2029) is the culmination of a collaborative effort between IFPRI, WorldFish, and CGIAR, and the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, and a dedicated team of national experts. Together, we have envisioned a transformative roadmap aimed at the sustainable development of Nigeria's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

H.E. Adegboyega Oyetola, CON. Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Nigeria



Key result story

The co-creation of impact analysis of the Ukraine conflict informs policies and capacity sharing in Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria



Key result story

Policies help governments navigate the cost-of-living challenge

