SAPLING
SOUTH ASIAN POLICY LEADERSHIP
FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION AND GROWTH

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Population growth, increasing urbanization and climate change are exerting pressures on diets and agricultural systems, contributing to the double burden of malnutrition. Multi-sectoral solutions within food systems are needed
SAPLING INITIATIVE

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Championing the development of integrated, multi-sectoral actions to combat malnutrition in all its forms at local, national and regional levels.
SAPLING INITIATIVE

1. **Build national multi-stakeholder coalitions, strengthen regional bi/multi-lateral partnerships and create a regional platform for exchange of knowledge related to best practices and common threats among South Asian countries.**

2. **Align of agriculture & food systems to ensure that calorically adequate and nutritionally appropriate diverse diets are available to each person at every stage of life.**

3. **Catalyze change in future policies to account for trans-border influences like climate change, shared waters and regional trade in order to deliver healthy diets for all across the region.**
OUR APPROACH

1. **Advocate** for the nutrition agenda in South Asia
2. **Facilitate** technical collaboration for regional consensus
3. **Act as a platform** to advocate for role of agriculture and food systems in delivering good nutrition through healthy diets
4. **Accelerate** joint learning
KEY PRIORITY AREAS

1. Create a consultative technical platform of experts
2. Produce policy briefs on suggested South Asian initiatives to transform agriculture and systems to support nutrition security, health protection and environmental sustainability
3. Engage with policymakers, industry, civil society and media to develop consensus recommendations on prioritised actions
4. Develop indicators for measuring progress in implementation of these recommendations
5. Advocate for increased financing of research on scientific/technological innovations.
SAPLING TIMELINE

- **Feb 2016**: Statement of intent developed and endorsed
- **Oct 2016**: SAPLING launched
- **Feb 2017**: Discussion at EAT-Lancet Commission
- **Feb 2017**: Presentation to Asian Development Bank Board
- **Sep 2017**: Presentation at SAFANSI regional meeting

- **Sep - Dec 2017**: Define work plan and priorities
- **Jan - Mar 2018**: Secure seed funding and establish secretariat
- **Apr 2018**: Initiate programme of activities
REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO FOOD SYSTEMS

• Rapid urbanization and population growth
• Competition for natural resources
• Climate change
• Globalization & trade
• Cultural similarities
• Women’s empowerment