

Objective

- Defining the processes and practices (technical options, scaling interventions, policy settings and implementation) that can be applied to achieve sustainable, efficient, diversified food systems at scale in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Understanding the context for diversification in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Defining and implementing diversification pathways using collaborative and inclusive approaches.
- Deepening understanding of the trade-offs and synergies associated with diversification pathways.
- Engaging and communicating with change-makers to ensure outputs are used and integrated into independent programs.

Expected scientific results

- Producing a list of agronomic, economic, environmental and institutional development priorities as part of a formalised assessment process.
- Providing a framework for assessing scaling interventions that can be applied to existing and proposed initiatives to enable farmers and local businesses to improve their part of the food system in sustainable and inclusive ways.
- Examining policy settings at national and state/provincial levels that influence diversification of smallholder farming systems in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, with a micro-level understanding of how these policies are implemented.
- Increasing understanding of the changes associated with diversification at micro and macro levels, particularly regarding livelihoods, gender and equity, groundwater sustainability, nutrition and climate change.
- Quantifying projected impacts of diversification pathways over the medium to long term.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Demonstrating pathways for equitable and sustainable diversified food systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Improving evidence-based policies for planning and development programs that promote diversification.
- Self-sustaining diversification pathways that are owned by local partners and promoted without ongoing project support.

