Food Systems Summit India 2025:
Marketplace for Ideas

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Organised by:

The Food and Land Use Coalition
India Country Platform

Concept Note

Context

Food systems are a set of all the activities and actors involved in the production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food.[1] They are influenced by localized cultures, traditions, societal norms, and policies designed and implemented by the state actors – national and sub-national governments. The non-state actors' interventions also play a major role in shaping the local food systems. While modern food systems have contributed to enhancing food security and extending the life expectancy for many, persistent malnutrition, regional disparities, and environmental degradation suggest that the benefits of food system evolution have not been distributed equitably.

Similar to various other countries, India's food system too is facing critical sustainability and nutrition challenges, driven by widespread ecosystem degradation, depleting natural capital, and heightened climate vulnerability. A shift toward sustainable and regenerative agricultural production systems is therefore imperative and instrumental towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India has expressed a strong desire to shift to Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture (SRA) as suggested by its multiple programmes and policies. However, pilot landscapes that can demonstrate a complete shift in practices without compromising production at scale in contiguous small farmers' holdings are yet to be established. These proof points exist only within a rich ecosystem of non-state actors (including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), research institutions, experts, and progressive farmer collectives), who develop of a wide array of context-specific, field-tested methods and practices for SRA in different Agro-Climatic Zones (ACZs). Such practices encompass a range of approaches, including natural farming, integrated pest and nutrient management, seed

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). 2013. The State of Food and Agriculture 2013. Food systems for better nutrition. Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/i3300e/i3300e.pdf

sovereignty, organic soil health enhancement, water-efficient cropping, agroforestry, and biodiversity conservation. These innovations have emerged from years of experimentation, adaptation and learning in diverse agroecological settings. Production practices have also been shaped by regional food preferences, cultural diets, and local knowledge systems. These practices have demonstrated promising outcomes in climate resilience, soil and water health, biodiversity, and farmer livelihoods, but they often remain fragmented, under-documented, and mostly excluded from mainstream national policy and research development processes.

For stronger alignment between bottom-up innovation and top-down support in food systems transformation, Food and Land Use Coalition India (FOLU India) has initiated the process of building a Food Systems hub at the national level. The hub will capture the initiatives of state (both national and sub-national) and non-state actors on multiple aspects of food systems.

In order to catalogue and mainstream field-tested methods for sustainable and regenerative agriculture, and to capture their impacts on natural, produced, social, and human capital resources, FOLU India is initiating a series of Food Systems Summits at both national and sub-national levels. These summits, organized around ACZs, aim to develop a comprehensive compendium and spatial database of proven practices. This will be a continuous process anchored in the knowledge portal.

Food Systems Summit

The journey began with the Food Systems Summit (FSS) India in 2024, which brought together over 250 delegates from 19 states and 4 countries, featuring 81 presenters and 23 overview speakers across 23 thematic sessions, along with 19 panelists participating in 5 high-level plenary sessions. As part of this effort, 140 local non-state initiatives were documented, and over 900 Union Government programmes were compiled in a dedicated database separately. FOLU India now aims to further map and integrate knowledge from both State and non-state actors, through the creation of a geo-spatial knowledge base. The upcoming Summits will catalyse structured knowledge exchange, cross-sector dialogue and policy learning. The sub-national level is particularly vital, as agriculture and allied sectors fall under State or Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. This is where administrative mechanisms are implemented, region-specific R&D is conducted, and locally tailored solutions are developed. Building on this momentum, FSS India 2025 will focus on showcasing impactful, field-tested production practices to enable wider adoption and investment in inclusive, ecologically sound solutions.

FSS India 2025 Objectives

- Showcase field-tested methods and practices for sustainable and regenerative agriculture developed by CSOs, FPOs, research institutions, universities, ICAR, KVKs,

experts, and farmer groups including women farmers in different Agro-Climatic Zones.
- Foster dialogue among CSOs, grassroots innovators, scientists, policymakers, and donors on the enablers and challenges of scaling such practices.
- Promote peer-to-peer learning across geographies and agro-ecological/Agro-Climatic Zones.
- Consolidate and disseminate these methods and practices through a knowledge portal.
- Identify areas for further research, innovation and new practices in specific local contexts.

- To analyse policy level interventions and suggest improvements.

Summit Features

The proposed FSS India 2025 will focus on the production segment this year, deep diving into practices and successful models of sustainable and regenerative agriculture that improve soil quality, enhance water efficiency, promote and conserve biodiversity and increase farmer incomes.

Below is a snapshot of the programme format and themes.

Format

1. Participation - The Summit will host three types of participants including Panel Speakers, Presenters and Delegates. The summit will host around 200 participants over two days, including CSOs, FPOs, farmers, government bodies, ICAR/KVK experts, researchers, policy and sector specialists, donors, agri-tech enterprises, and youth leaders.

2. Poster-Based Presentations and Communication: The Summit will be centred on poster-based presentations as the primary mode of knowledge-sharing and engagement. This format will be supported by digital tools to enable meaningful interaction, documentation, and wider accessibility. The poster-based communication will take place in three ways:

    a. Presentation Points
        - There will be eight Presentation Points distributed across four dedicated halls. Each presentation spot will have a digital screen.
        - Each presenter will have a 25-minute slot at a talk point, including a brief oral presentation by the presenters followed by an open discussion with delegates.

b. One-to-one interaction and networking
   All delegates and presenters will also have the opportunity to interact with each other at 'assigned' discussion tables in the main hall.

c. Digitally enabled interactions
   Each poster will carry a QR Code that will allow the participants to chat with the presenter via the FSS event page. Based on chat, the participants and poster authors can set up one-to-one or small group meetings in the venue for which facilities will be available.

Key Themes

Each poster presentation will be categorised under one of the following production-focussed themes:

1. **Seed and Breed Stock Management**
   Posters under this theme will cover conservation and promotion of indigenous seeds and breeds, strengthening community-based seed systems, and encouraging climate-resilient, locally adapted genetic resources to enhance productivity and resilience.
2. **Soil, Nutrient & Water Management**
   This theme will cover practices that build soil health, improve organic nutrient cycles, and ensure efficient water use through techniques like composting, mulching, water harvesting, and low-cost irrigation suited to local agro-ecologies.
3. **Pest, Weed and Disease Management**
   This theme will highlight ecological approaches to managing pests, weeds, and diseases using biological controls, botanical extracts, habitat management, and traditional knowledge to reduce chemical dependency.
4. **Crop Harvesting, Loss & Residue Management**
   Stakeholders will showcase field-tested methods & practices which are focused on crop lifecycle—from sowing and crop care to harvesting, minimising losses, and managing residues—to improve productivity, reduce waste, and support regenerative outcomes on the farm.
5. **Livestock and Fisheries management**
   Under this theme multiple innovative ways of livestock and fisheries management, and their integration with the sustainable agriculture will be presented and discussed.

Poster Submission Process

- Presenters will submit tabular-format data as part of the registration process.
- Submission templates and guidelines will be provided through the FOLU India website.

- After the initial review to capture maximum geographic and crop systems coverage of the practices, along with the agencies that submitted the same, invitations will be made to shortlisted agencies to avoid repetition of agri-methods in posters. All the submitted data post review will also be included in the live compendium document, going forward.

Who can register as presenters

- Civil society organisations, research institutions, individual researchers, and farmers.

Facilities for presenters

- Logistical support: Travel and Accommodation for Presenters and Speakers will be provided by FOLU India
- The FSS India 2025 event page on FOLU's website will provide all the details about the event including the posters, presenters and speaker details
- Participants will also be able to chat directly with presenters using a QR code-based system.

About FOLU India

The Food and Land Use Coalition India (FOLU India) is a coalition of institutions working to support the country's efforts to bring about a more sustainable food and land use economy. The Coalition aims to provide platforms to inspire key Indian stakeholders with a view to accelerating globally significant action that addresses the important development, climate, environment, biodiversity, and health/nutrition challenges India faces in the coming decades concerning food and landuse. The Food and Land Use Coalition in India comprises high-level policy engagement with national and sub-national decision-makers in the public and private sector. The FOLU Coalition in India comprises the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and WRI India.

Website: www.foluindia.org