



Food Systems

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Why in News

According to the **Global Nutrition Report 2020**, food systems should be inclusive, local and diverse to address food security and malnutrition and build economic and climate resilience.

Key Points

- **Food systems**

- A food system is a composite of the environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.
- Production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food are a part of food systems.
- They also include the outputs of such activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

- **Reducing malnutrition through food systems**

- **By adjusting food systems** away from staples like wheat and rice towards non-staples like vegetables, fruits, fish, nuts etc., malnutrition can be reduced.
- More incentives towards millets, and non-staples will make production of healthy food attractive to producers and therefore improve the availability of **more nutritious food**, especially for the rural poor.
- Procurement of **nutritious and climate-resilient crops like sorghum and millets** should become the policy of the government.
 - Their consumption should be increased through public food distribution schemes and creating awareness on the health benefits of these crops.
- **Child malnutrition is a risk factor** that can keep India from fulfilling all its child mortality related Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. SDG 2: Zero Hunger).

- **Role of small farm holders**
 - Small farm holders who usually do not have access to big value chains will be critical in improving food systems.
 - Incentivising and hand-holding them to transition to diverse crops may improve local value chains as better access enables income enhancement.
- **Food systems and climate change**
 - **Smaller and localised value chains instead of supermarket** driven long-value chains can reduce carbon footprints.
 - Similarly, climate-resilient and less water intensive crops should be incentivised and popularised among farmers and consumers alike.

Source: DTE