



A group of cook-cum-helpers, who drive the school meal programme in Virat Nagar Block near Jaipur, with just acquired tablets with a learning app on providing safe and hygienic meals that contribute to providing better and safe nutrition for school children. Photo: WFP/Shyamalima



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# Quarterly Bulletin

## UN WFP India | Jan-March 2022

*This edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India has updates on stakeholder consultations for developing WFP India's new Country Strategy Plan; innovations that are optimising capacity and systems for delivering food security entitlements in Odisha, Rajasthan, and Meghalaya; strengthening PM POSHAN delivery, partnerships on strengthening access to nutrition and food security; thought leadership through Opinion Pieces and events.*

### STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS FOR WFP INDIA'S NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY

Building on a legacy spanning over fifty years in India, WFP hosted wide-ranging interactions with central and state government officials and counterparts for developing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2023-2027.

These interactions were part of multi-stakeholder consultations that saw participation from civil society organisations, academia, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral bodies, and private sector. The findings from the review of the current CSP (2019-2023) were shared with participants apart from a deep-dive around the operational context at state and national levels.

As an outcome of these consultations, and other CSP processes underway at different levels, a draft will be shared with the Government of India for concurrence, paving the way for its implementation starting in January 2023.

WFP has been a co-traveller with successive governments in India's transition from a food aid recipient to a provider of humanitarian food assistance and an exporter. Since 2012, WFP's focus has been on technical assistance and capacity strengthening of the Government. Through the current CSP, WFP is supporting India in achieving its goals under Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.

The new CSP developed a year ahead of its schedule will be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for India planning cycle (2023-2027).

Recognition of WFP's role as a catalyst and strengthening capacities for large-scale impact by leveraging existing government programmes emerged as a common theme at the consultations. WFP's focus on building strategic partnerships to expand engagement around nutrition and food security in the country was also appreciated.

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**March 2022**

# Climate Change and Adaptation

## WFP AND ISHA OUTREACH JOIN HANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

WFP and Isha Outreach will partner on creating awareness and supporting conversations around food and nutritional security in India.

An MoU for this was signed between Mr. Bishow Parajuli, WFP India Representative and Country Director, and Ms. Moumita Sen Sarma, Director Isha Outreach, in New Delhi on 21st February.

“Every responsible scientist in the world and the UN agencies are clearly saying we have 80-100 harvests left, that means approximately 45-50 years of agricultural soil left on the planet. By 2045, we will be producing 40% less food than what we are producing right now, and our population will be 9.3 billion people,” said Sadhguru, spiritual leader and founder of the Isha Foundation, weeks before the launch of [Save Soil Campaign](#). WFP is supporting Save Soil Campaign led by Sadhguru as it is directly linked with the future of global food security.

“We are aligned on the need to create sustainable practices and approaches to addressing hunger, malnutrition, and creating long-term food security, we will work together,” said Mr. Parajuli.

WFP is working on Adaptation Fund and with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change on various initiative around adaptation.



Sadhguru with WFP India Country Director Mr. Bishow Parajuli and Director Isha Outreach, Ms. Moumita Sen Sarma. Photo: WFP

## ODISHA, WFP TO WORK ON BOOSTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WFP and the Government of Odisha have joined hands to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers in India by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

An agreement on this was inked by Dr. Muthu Kumar, Director, Agriculture, and Food Production, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, and Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director, WFP in India.

A key highlight is participatory pilot climate advisories that will allow farmers to adapt to climate change. Smallholder farmers, who constitute 90 percent of farming communities in Odisha, will be able to select the right farming and

livelihood options based on this information to mitigate risks, and improve their food security and incomes.

WFP and the department will develop toolkits, modules, and guidelines to provide climate services to smallholder farmers, helping the farming communities make informed decisions for a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

“The Government of Odisha is committed to improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. This partnership with WFP will contribute to inclusive growth and resilience in agriculture thus contributing to improved food security,” said Dr. Kumar.

## Generating Evidence

WFP participated in a panel discussion on experiences of building an evaluation ecosystem in India on 25th February at the 3rd Asia Pacific Evaluation Association Conference and EvalFest 2022, focusing on mainstreaming millet and helping to position India as a global leader in knowledge exchange around millets.

WFP provided training to the data collection teams of the Inter Agency Group (IAG) Odisha for the third study on the impact of COVID-19, droughts, and cyclones on the food security of vulnerable groups in the state.

Contributing to the ongoing evaluation of the 2013 National Food Security Act (NFSA), WFP prepared a synthesis report of findings from the multiple evaluations on NFSA published by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, which is part of the secondary literature review under the evaluation of NFSA.



# Improving Access to Food

## LEARNING PLATFORM FOR FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES OFFICIALS

WFP in India continues to partner with the Government of India to make the nation's Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more efficient and effective. A [Learning and Management System](#) (LMS), developed by WFP in collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), was launched in February.

The digital learning solution or platform will reduce training costs while enabling functionaries of food and civil supplies departments to quickly learn new technologies and reforms rolled out frequently to ensure that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) entitlements reach those in need. The department aims to train 20,000 officials and so far 31 States/UTs have registered.

## PILOTS ON OPTIMISING EFFICIENCY SHOW PROMISE IN ODISHA

WFP has installed an automated packaging machine and provided training to block level federation members in Delang block, Puri. The solution will reduce packaging time for supplementary food products by almost 40 per cent, providing opportunities to enhance the incomes of 22,800 people and improve the livelihood options for self-help groups in Odisha. The immediate response to the packaging machine has been enthusiastic, with women realising a of possibilities for packaging and selling other products like spices and condiments, besides Take Home Rations.

## OPTIMISATION OF SUPPLY CHAIN IN MEGHALAYA

Building on its recent partnership agreement with the Government of Meghalaya, WFP is working on developing a mobile application for optimising the supply chain network by establishing a mobile-based GPS tracking solution in the state.

In addition to this, WFP has also developed a [price monitoring dashboard](#) for the state that provides various analyses for retail pricing across the 16 districts for 22 essential commodities. The real-time information is expected to benefit policymakers and civil society organisations working towards food security.

WFP also welcome Mr. James P K Sangma , Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, at its Delhi office to discuss the [partnership and cooperation](#).



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