



Indian Pathways to Healthy and Sustainable Food and Land Use Systems: A Dialogue Session Partner: EAT-Lancet

Background:

Food is central to multiple facets of human life: it is our principal source of nutrition, it is our primary interaction with nature, it is a strong determinant of our cultural identity. What foods we produce and consume, how we produce and consume them, how much we lose and waste have both individual and planetary scale impacts on human and planetary health. There is a fundamental human right to food, and more importantly a human right to healthy food - however considering food's outsized impacts on health, sustainability and justice, it may even be more important to recognize that we have a responsibility to healthy food. How this responsibility is acted on by a diversity of actors, across sub-national, national, and international scales has become a central question for navigating evidence-based transition.

Science can provide clarity on risks related to dietary health, environment, and justice - however how to navigate transitions must be guided by society. Enabling such transitions thus requires a more iterative, interactive, and dynamic interaction between science, policy and society.

In this session we will take a deep dive into food. We will look into whether we can define a universal healthy diet, how we might define the environmental limits of food, and what it means to define a just food system. We will explore the current status of food system in India, including across the planetary boundaries, and in regards to dietary health. In collaboration with the India FABLE team, we'll consider plausible pathways to healthy, safe and just food systems - including a look at the current state of Indian food and land use systems, the national commitments being made by the country in relation to global climate, health and biodiversity goals, and what this means for food in India and in relation to global goals.

Understanding healthy safe and just food systems is the first step to describing contextualized transition narratives. The second step is require participation and ownership by a diversity of stakeholders. A significant portion of the session will be facilitated dialogue amongst participants in reaction both presentation with the aim of developing an Indian narrative pathway to health, safe and just food systems. We will invite the participants form a reference group tasked with defining an Indian food system pathway in collaboration with the India FABLE and FOLU teams. Such a pathways would be used in engaging with various Indian focal points, whether via the UN Food Systems Hub, focal points in climate and biodiversity negotiations. We will use the final portion of the session to better understand the degree of engagement, and ambition that such a group might have and how it can best be supported by national and international partnerships.