# GRAPE
Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems



# Foresight methodology

**GRAPE policy brief #1**

## Foresight methodology can promote inclusive and resilient local food-system planning in Nepal

### Summary

Resilient and inclusive food-system development requires established strategies that incorporate concrete steps for implementation by local government. Development of such plans can be facilitated. This policy brief is to inform the local governments and implementing actors in Nepal about approaches to developing concrete strategies and action plans for resilient and inclusive food- systems at municipal level. The brief recommends further utilization of foresight methodology and the findings in facilitating municipal planning and creation of strategies. In the context of GRAPE, the foresight methodology co-created 20-year visions, goals and broad activities and concrete action plans for 19 municipalities in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.

### Background

Since 2015, a new constitution has given local governments new roles and mandates. The constitution has delegated 22 exclusive and 15 concurrent powers to local government, potentially making them a major player for local economic development and food system development. To manage their responsibilities, municipalities have a right to develop local policies, strategies, and institutional structures within the municipality organization.

Food systems encompass the interconnected processes, institutions, and policies that govern the production, distribution, and consumption of food, influencing socioeconomic and environmental outcomes. Accordingly, food-system development at municipal level requires specific plans and strategies that incorporate concrete steps for implementation. Despite the mandate, the municipalities typically lack resources to develop implementable high-quality strategies. They also often lack resources to implement the created plans and policies.

Development of such plans can be facilitated in different ways. In light of climate change and with its high importance of imaging the future, the GRAPE project piloted co- identification of municipality level visions for sustainable and inclusive food systems with stakeholders from 19 municipalities in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces. The work included co-creation of concrete, practical pathways of transformational change towards the vision. This process was facilitated by using the methods with foresight approach.

### Policy Recommendations

1. Foresight methodology is appropriate for municipality-level strategy development

2. Municipalities are recommended to adopt strategic food system visioning and action planning with concrete doable steps

3. Strategic food system visioning to account for social inclusion and sustainability perspectives

4. Identification of stakeholders, opportunities and challenges in food supply chains is highly context-dependent and hence analysis needs to be conducted locally, and the results need to adopted by municipality level planning

5. Key drivers of local food system development are
   1) economic,
   2) governance, and
   3) socio- cultural. These drivers should be highlighted in the planning processes.

## 1. Foresight methodology is appropriate for visioning of food system development at municipality

The methodology, including a range of tools such as back casting, imagining futures, and futures literacy, was successfully used to analyse the status of local food supply chains, their sustainability, resilience, and social inclusion. This has resulted in the development of visions for municipal food systems transformation. However, the methodology must be carefully exercised, adapted to local conditions and audience, and well- facilitated to ensure good results.

We recommend the use of the foresight methodology for municipal vision and strategy development in single municipalities – given that adequate facilitation resources and know-how are available.



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## 2. Municipalities should adopt strategic food system visioning and action planning

Vision and strategy development through foresight methodology could be adopted by municipalities to develop strategic long- term sectoral planning, and also in their annual planning processes (seven steps planning process of local governments: e.g., the tole/settlement level planning meeting (step 3), ward level project prioritization meetings (step 4) and meeting with plan and budget formulation committee on consolidated plan to be integrated in the annual plan and budget (step 5)). This process should be facilitated by local resource persons well trained in foresight methodology.

External implementing partners with the required capacity could support in developing trained local resource persons.

## 3. Strategic food system visioning should account for social inclusion and sustainability

The piloted workshops indicate a strong will by the participants to incorporate social inclusion, gender equity, sustainability and resilience at the core of food system development. Social inclusion, gender equity, sustainability and resilience reflect people's needs and should therefore at the core when facilitating municipal level annual planning and policy development work. Gender balance and adequate representation of ethnicities should be granted when planning and developing policies. When we talk about sustainability, we should also take into consideration of climate change and its impact on local economic development.

## 4. Local analyses of food systems required for municipality planning

Detailed analysis on context-dependent characteristics of individual food supply chains should be conducted locally. Similarly, the foresight approaches should be developed for context specific needs.  This ensures that the results are valid and they can be best included in the annual planning processes and local decision-making.

## 5. Key drivers of local food system development are 1) economic, 2) governance, and 3) socio-cultural.

Economic drivers referred to, e.g., improved employment opportunities, modernisation of agriculture, improved skills, and promotion of local and indigenous products and crops. Governance-related drivers referred to, e.g., proper development and implementation of various policies, strategies and plans related to agriculture, landscape management and disaster risk reduction. Socio-cultural drivers referred to, e.g., social inclusion and gender equity in practice, as well as diets and food access and consumption-related capabilities at family level.