

Feeding the Future: Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Food Security

Mr. S. Kathirvel¹, Dr. B. Aishwarya²

¹PG Scholar, ²Assistant Professor

¹²Department of Agricultural Economics, Institute of Agriculture Research & Technology (IART), NMV University, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar – 629 105.

e-mail id: aishubalu221@gmail.com

[DOI:10.5281/trendsinaagriculture.17503269](https://doi.org/10.5281/trendsinaagriculture.17503269)

Abstract

Global partnerships are vital in tackling food insecurity and malnutrition. Collaborative efforts among FAO, WFP, IFAD, CGIAR and public private alliances strengthen strategies for sustainable food systems by improving productivity, promoting nutrition-sensitive policies, and building climate and market resilience. Despite progress, gaps in funding, coordination, and regional implementation persist. Enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement, technology transfer, and local capacity can improve long-term outcomes. This paper analyzes the structure, achievements, and challenges of major partnerships, emphasizing inclusive, science-based, and sustainable collaboration to ensure equitable access to nutritious food.

Introduction

Food security and nutrition are essential for global development and human well-being. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food security as a condition where all people have continuous physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. In the 21st century, ensuring food security has become increasingly complex due to population growth, climate change, natural resource degradation, conflicts, and economic instability. These global challenges require coordinated international action rather than isolated national efforts.

To overcome these challenges, international organizations, governments, NGOs, research institutions and private sector partners have developed collaborative initiatives to create sustainable food systems. Programs such as the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) highlight the impact of joint efforts in enhancing agricultural productivity, resilience, and nutrition. Global partnerships thus play a crucial role in aligning innovation with local needs, improving policy coordination and ensuring equitable access to food

resources for current and future generations.

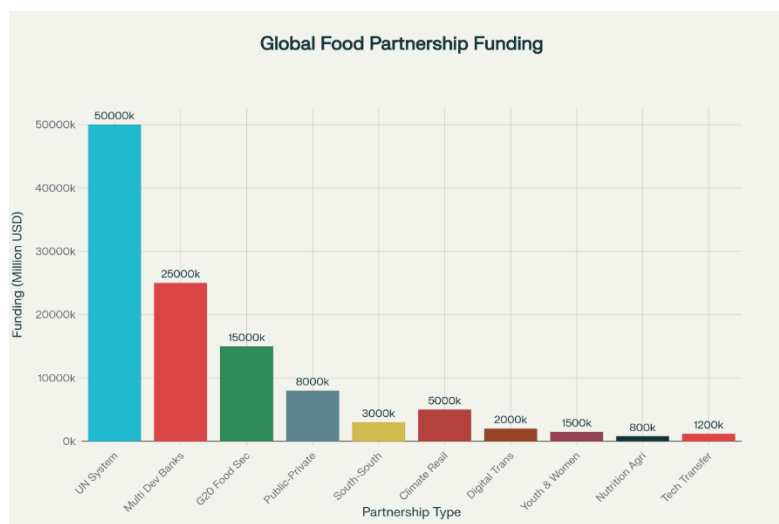
Global Efforts and Partnerships

Global food security and nutrition efforts progress through collaboration among international organizations, governments, research institutions and the private sector. FAO leads global action with policy guidance, technical support and data systems. WFP provides emergency food aid and builds long-term resilience in vulnerable regions. IFAD supports rural development and smallholder farmers through finance, infrastructure and capacity building.

Research networks like CGIAR drive sustainable agriculture and crop innovation through centers such as IRRI and CIMMYT. Public private partnerships like GAIN and HarvestPlus address micronutrient deficiencies and promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture through funding, technology and community programs.

India contributes actively through FAO, WFP and World Bank collaborations and South South Cooperation sharing its agricultural expertise with developing nations. Its initiatives under the International Solar Alliance and climate-resilient farming programs strengthen global nutrition and sustainability goals. Together these efforts advance SDG 2—Zero Hunger—by linking science, policy and practice to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The global partnership funds to the achieve the sustainable goals are listed in the figure 1.

Figure 1
Global Food Partnership Funding



Context and Problem Statement

Global progress toward SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) remains off track, as highlighted by *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025*, which reports slow reductions in hunger, rising food prices diminishing diet quality, and growing inequalities. It calls for

structural actions such as emergency food reserves, transparent markets, resilient trade systems, and greater investment in agrifood innovation. The *2025 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC)* shows that conflict, climate shocks, and economic pressures continue to drive acute food insecurity, emphasizing the need to balance immediate relief with long-term resilience. In response, international coordination has strengthened through the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, which supports countries in building inclusive partnerships, aligning climate and nutrition goals, and mobilizing coalitions for implementation. The *SDG 2025* report underscores the importance of strong national leadership backed by global cooperation to reverse the setbacks faced since 2015 and accelerate progress toward ending hunger.

Partnership Archetypes and Roles

The G20 has strengthened global food system governance since the 2021 Matera Declaration focusing on food security, price stability and macroeconomic resilience. Under South Africa's 2025 presidency, its Food Security Task Force is developing tools that align national, regional and global responses. Priorities include commodity stabilization, measurable frameworks and resilient value chains. Ministers emphasize climate smart agriculture, diversified diets and post-harvest loss reduction alongside expanded social protection. Inclusive finance, digital trade, blended finance, insurance and cold chain systems are promoted to empower youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship.

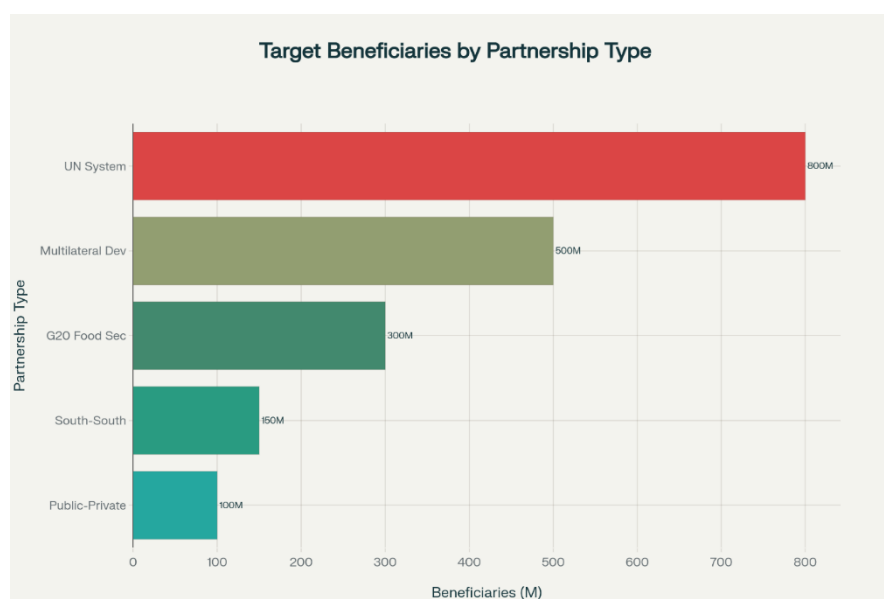
South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) serves as a key enabler of food systems transformation. IFPRI and CGIAR recognize its impact through Africa China research programs and India's DAKSHIN initiative which spans 113 countries. The 2025 India WFP fortified rice partnership connects surplus grain production with crisis response through digital grain ATMs ("Annapurti") and smart logistics positioning India as an emerging donor and technology supplier in global food systems.

Public private producer partnerships (PPPPs) promoted by IFAD attract private investment while ensuring social inclusion and smallholder participation. The WFP BCG partnership enhances the efficiency of cash-based transfers and school feeding through management innovation. FAO's 2021–2025 private sector strategy advances MSME financing, open data frameworks and SDG aligned business models that link sustainability with market development.

Thematic coalitions such as the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance and COP28 Water Food initiatives integrate agriculture water priorities into national climate policies through partnerships among FAO, IWMI and WEF. Nutrition sensitive agriculture links soil health, crop systems and diets to improve nutrition outcomes. Gender and youth coalitions led

by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women, SEWA and WFF focus on empowerment, access to finance and local policy actions. Global innovation networks including CGIAR, OECD, ASEAN Japan ERIA and WTO promote digital agriculture, market transparency and technology transfer while addressing digital divides through coordinated public private action. Therefore, the target beneficiaries by partnership are seen in the figure 2.

Figure 2
Target Beneficiaries by Partnership Type



What's New in 2024–2025

- The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty's "2030 Sprints" unify commitments on cash transfers, school meals, maternal and child nutrition, smallholder empowerment and integrated finance policy instruments.
- The EIB–WFP partnership establishes financing for climate resilience and fragile contexts, while the EIB–FAO MoU extended to 2030 supports agrifood investment pipelines in Sub-Saharan Africa through technical assistance.
- Under South Africa's G20 presidency, the Food Security Task Force aims to stabilize food prices, enhance macroeconomic coordination and align national actions with regional and global pathways through blended finance and insurance mechanisms.
- The India–WFP fortified rice partnership operationalizes South–South humanitarian supply chains, integrating nutrition technology and logistics upgrades that reflect emerging donor roles for agrarian surplus economies.
- The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub reports that countries are strengthening coalitions to implement national food systems pathways aligned with climate action and resilience goals.

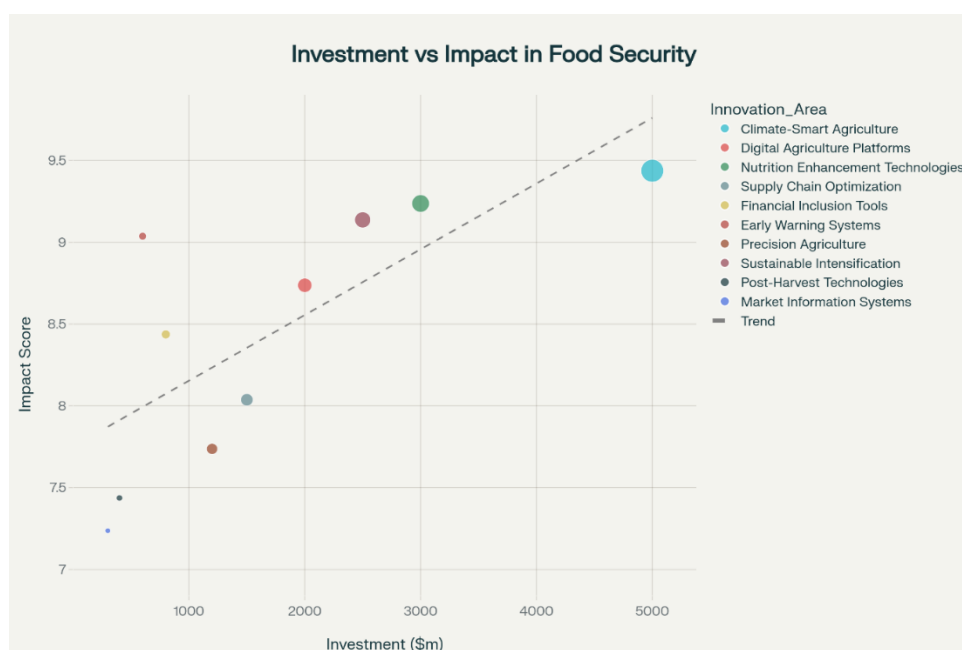
Priority Partnership Domains and Evidence

- **Market Stability and Trade:** FAO and G20 advocate for open, predictable markets and discourage export bans, emphasizing strategic reserves and transparent market information to reduce crises. The India–Brazil joint statement supports public stockholding and opposes protectionist trade measures, reaffirming fair, rules-based governance in food markets.
- **Climate Adaptation and Risk Finance:** Partnerships now integrate climate risk insurance, anticipatory action, and resilient inputs such as drought-tolerant seeds and efficient irrigation, with pilots in Ethiopia prioritizing smallholders and women's inclusion.
- **Nutrition-Sensitive Systems:** FAO and the Global Soil Partnership promote soil–crop–nutrition linkages, while reviews on nutrition-sensitive agriculture highlight embedding micronutrient objectives across agriculture, social protection and emergency programs.
- **Digital Transformation:** CGIAR, OECD, G20, and ASEAN–Japan initiatives focus on interoperable ag-data platforms, remote sensing, fintech inclusion and digital extension systems, backed by public–private investments to close digital divides.
- **South–South and Triangular Cooperation:** IFPRI and CGIAR note rising South-led technology exchange and institutional networks, with India WFP fortified rice initiatives demonstrating SSTC at humanitarian scale.
- **Youth and Gender Inclusion:** Coalitions for women, girls and youth through WFP, WTO and farmer organizations promote targeted training, finance, land access, and farmer-led innovation for equitable food systems.

Operational Design: How to Build High-Impact Partnerships

- **Governance:** Build inclusive national food systems platforms involving all key actors, aligned with UNFSS and integrated into climate policies (NDCs/NAPs).
- **Finance:** Blend public and private capital through climate insurance, results-based finance and pooled procurement, scaling proven models like EIB–FAO/WFP and G20 Sprints.
- **Markets:** Ensure transparent reserves, real-time data and regional coordination via G20 principles to stabilize prices and trade.
- **Technology:** Advance SSTC and CGIAR–NARS partnerships for climate-smart innovations with farmer-driven, affordable adoption.

- **Nutrition:** Integrate fortification, biofortification and nutrition-sensitive agriculture into value chains and public programs such as school meals.
- **Digital:** Expand interoperable agri-digital infrastructure, open data systems and smallholder decision tools through PPPs and regional cooperation.
- **Inclusion:** Empower women and youth with access to land, finance, and skills; strengthen local food governance and social protection.
- **Fragility:** Pair humanitarian aid with system investments climate insurance, cold chains and local procurement using WFP logistics and EIB–FAO expertise.



Country and Regional Illustrations

India–WFP: Fortified rice partnership links surplus supply to crisis response through grain ATMs and smart warehousing, aligning with India’s bilateral agri-initiatives on climate-resilient seeds and water management.

Sub-Saharan Africa: EIB–FAO and EIB–WFP MoUs advance climate resilience, insurance and smallholder finance, while CGIAR and AU partnerships strengthen research-to-impact systems.

G20/Global: South Africa’s G20 Task Force coordinates macro policies on price stability and inclusion, as the Global Alliance’s “Sprints” expand cash transfers, school meals and maternal-child nutrition support.

Metrics and Accountability

Outcome Metrics: Track diet affordability and quality (SOFI), malnutrition trends (wasting, stunting, acute insecurity), women’s empowerment, youth engagement and smallholder income resilience.

Systems Metrics: Measure post-harvest loss cuts, price stability, trade predictability, digital adoption, climate insurance reach and transparency of food reserves.

Partnership Metrics: Assess blended finance mobilization, SSTC and tech transfer progress, coalition effectiveness, data openness and MEL compliance under G20 Task Force guidance.

Actionable Recommendations (2025–2030)

Global Alliance “Sprints”: Scale up through national financing compacts linked to social protection and school meal programs, prioritizing the poorest and most climate-vulnerable.

Market Stability: Apply G20 principles on price stabilization, expand transparent food reserves, avoid export bans and establish regional market dashboards.

Finance Expansion: Extend EIB–WFP/FAO-style MoUs to other DFIs to scale climate insurance, SME finance and fragile-context operations.

SSTC & Innovation: Implement CGIAR–NARS accelerators for climate-tolerant crops, nutrition-sensitive practices and efficient water use aligned with farmer-led innovation and local seed systems.

Nutrition Integration: Embed nutrition goals in agricultural programs using NSA checklists, fortification procurement and soil-crop-diet pilots in nutrient-deficient regions.

Digital Investment: Fund digital public goods and inclusive agtech ecosystems, support last-mile connectivity and align with ASEAN–Japan and OECD frameworks.

Gender & Youth Inclusion: Provide targeted finance, asset access and agripreneurship training through FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women coalitions.

Crisis Resilience: Link humanitarian aid with system investments such as cold chains, storage, local procurement and anticipatory action using WFP logistics and national systems.

Conclusion

Global partnerships are evolving from ad hoc projects to strategic, finance-enabled coalitions designed to reshape markets, de-risk climate shocks and empower local actors. The combination of UN-system coordination, MDB partnerships, G20 policy leadership, SSTC technology transfer and inclusive coalitions on climate, digital, nutrition, gender and youth form a coherent delivery architecture. With 2030 approaching, the imperative is disciplined execution: codify principles, capitalize blended vehicles, unlock technology transfer at scale and rigorously track outcomes across hunger, diet quality, resilience and equity. The instruments, institutions and political fora to “bend the curve” exist; success depends on aligning them to country-led pathways and sustaining collaborative momentum through 2030.

References

- Major multinational food and beverage companies and informal sector contributions to global food consumption: implications for nutrition policy.” (2011).
- “Partnering for sustainability in agri-food supply chains: the case of Barilla Sustainable Farming in the Po Valley.” (2019).
- “Private Sector Partnerships for Global Nutrition Impact: Early Learnings.” (2021).
- “Partnerships promote innovation in food supply chains.” (2022). Food Science & Technology, Vol 36, Issue 3.
- Bandura, R. & Girgvliani, S. (2024). “Partnership Opportunities to Transform Food Systems.” Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Report.
- “Food brands partner with public sector to boost sustainability.” (n.d.). PepsiCo & others in FI Global Insights.
- “Partnerships and networks.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- “Understanding collaboration in short food supply chains: a focus on collaborative relationships, interaction mechanisms and relational benefits.” (2024).