



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP's support to smallholder farmers in Bhutan

## EVALUATION REPORT OVERVIEW

A developmental evaluation was carried out on WFP's support to smallholder farmers and its expanded portfolio across the agriculture value chain in Bhutan from January 2019 to June 2021. Based on the findings, five recommendations were made to advance its food systems portfolio.



## COUNTRY CONTEXT



**2.6%**  
of the land area is used  
for crop production



**727,145**  
Bhutan's population



**5%**  
of Bhutanese identified as  
multi-dimensionally poor in 2017

 **2023**

The year in which Bhutan  
is to graduate to lower  
middle income country

 **130**

Bhutan's global ranking for  
women's equal economic  
participation



**22.6%**

youth unemployment  
in 2020

### Real GDP growth

**7.2%**

2019 pre-COVID-19

**5.5%**

2018-2019 financial year

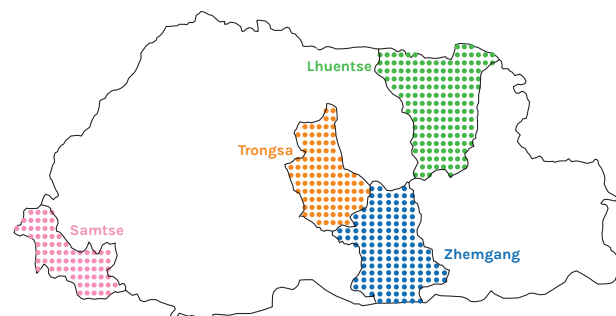
**2.7%**

2019-2020 financial year

**50,000**

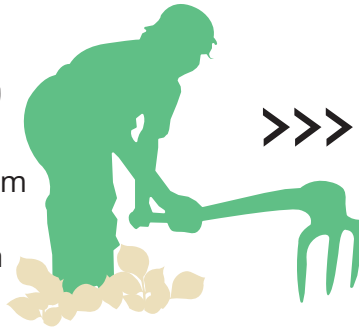
jobs among youths and young adults lost  
due to low tourist arrivals in 2020 and 2021

### Evaluation coverage



# 7,516

smallholder farmers benefited from establishment of farmer-school linkages and the emergence of a national fresh produce market



# 60%

of beneficiary group members were women

# 55

officers trained in adherence to procurement standards (including food quality management and inspection) and farmer group support by WFP

# 18,095

(9,538 girls and 8,557 boys) students diet improved



# 96.5%



net primary school enrollment rate  
(Stakeholders say access to school meals contributed to high enrollment rate)

# 30%

of arable land was fallow in 2020

# 13.4%

agriculture sector's contribution to GDP

With the majority of schools closed from March to December 2020 due to national lockdowns, just 29 percent of the 100,000 school children entitled to receive school meals were able to access them or acquire the nutrition supplements.

## Findings



The introduction of agriculture portfolio complemented the transfer of School Feeding Programme to government with integrated package of support for farmer-school linkages



Government interest in WFP sector contributions supported a role in accelerating smallholder market access in Bhutan



WFP began to build a value proposition focused on the strengthening of smallholder access to markets and a WFP role as a food systems enabler



Examples of progress and good practice in integrated food and nutrition programming, homegrown school feeding and digital enhancement



Bhutan's food systems did not keep pace with a growing demand for high quality food products, especially in urban areas. While food imports had risen significantly, food exports had failed to grow.

## Recommendations

Recommendations focused on action areas where WFP had opportunities to make significant progress in advancing its future portfolio and value proposition for agriculture



Support tangible development outcomes, enhanced resource contributions and expanded support for country capacity strengthening



Focus on supporting smallholder access to agriculture markets as a basis for the development of effective government, partner and donor relations



Develop a partnership strategy providing a clear focus and direction for the Country Office's engagements with government, UN and civil society counterparts beyond its project activities



Establish key organizational capacities to deliver a balanced portfolio of innovation projects, country capacity strengthening and resource mobilisation support for government



Seek to build on existing engagement of rural women and commit to the transformative opportunities of organisational capacity strengthening for rural women, farmers' groups and cooperatives