

HIGHLIGHTS OF

IFPRI STRATEGY

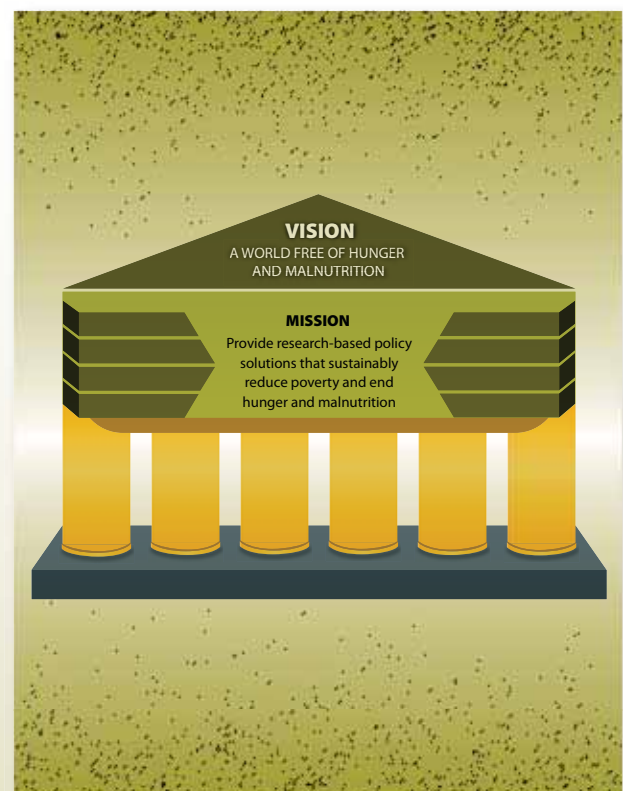
2013–2018

FOOD POLICY RESEARCH

in a Time of Unprecedented Challenges

The global food policy landscape is changing rapidly. Volatile food prices are threatening the food and nutrition security of the poor and vulnerable. Rising incomes, urbanization, and changing dietary preferences are presenting both challenges and opportunities. Climate change and weather-related shocks are escalating. And the growing scarcity of water, energy, and land means that in order to feed a growing global population, agricultural and food systems must do more with less.

As the world faces unprecedented challenges, IFPRI has developed a new strategy to address the most critical food policy issues.



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The new strategy comes at a time when agriculture and food security are back in the global development spotlight, allowing the Institute to have a significant impact on food policy discourse alongside new players that include emerging economies, global alliances, and the private sector. Its release also coincides with a new CGIAR, a global partnership of fifteen centers, of which IFPRI is one, working on agricultural and food security research. The strategy is aligned with CGIAR's system-level outcomes and certain research areas will be carried out with the help of the two large CGIAR Research Programs led by IFPRI—Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

During the next five years, IFPRI will use its strategy to produce high-quality research that can shape policies, investments, and programs, contributing to a productive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural and food system.

The 2013–2018 Strategy

This strategy will reinforce IFPRI's position as an evidence-based research organization that partners for impact and will help achieve the Institute's vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

Strategic Research Areas

IFPRI's six research areas respond to the most critical drivers affecting food security in developing countries, and address critical knowledge gaps and emerging trends. These research areas span disciplines and sectors, building partnerships, ownership, and capacity along the way to evidence-based policies (see Figure 1).

RESEARCH AREA 1: ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

As the global population increases and the resources needed to feed it become scarce, it is criti-

IFPRI's Comparative Advantages

- ▶ High-quality, relevant food policy research and communications
- ▶ Leadership in modeling, impact evaluation, and social science research linked to food policy
- ▶ Close proximity to stakeholders through regional and country offices
- ▶ Ability to bring together many different groups that set the global food security and nutrition agenda
- ▶ Expert staff with a wide range of disciplines and technical skills

cal to make food production more environmentally sustainable and protect biodiversity, while safeguarding the livelihoods of the poor.

IFPRI will assess policies, institutions, innovations, and emerging technologies that can advance food and nutrition security while reducing the wasteful use of resources, ensuring biodiversity protection, and supporting poorer producers and consumers. Innovations in the areas of improved policies with regard to natural resource management, climate and energy, as well as bio-safety systems, and their gender-differentiated impact, will be a top focus.

IFPRI will also carry out strategic foresight analysis, evaluating the range of potential outcomes of future policy changes and events. These analyses can help to preempt and discern future threats to food and nutrition security and make certain that scarce budgetary resources are directed toward development priorities that achieve the highest impact.

IFPRI's work will contribute to larger investments in and better policies on agricultural research and development, leading to more evidence-based policies on natural resources, and in turn, more effective local, national, regional, and global agricultural systems.

This Highlights document is excerpted from IFPRI's full Strategy (<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/ifpri-strategy-2013-2018>).

RESEARCH AREA 2: PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS

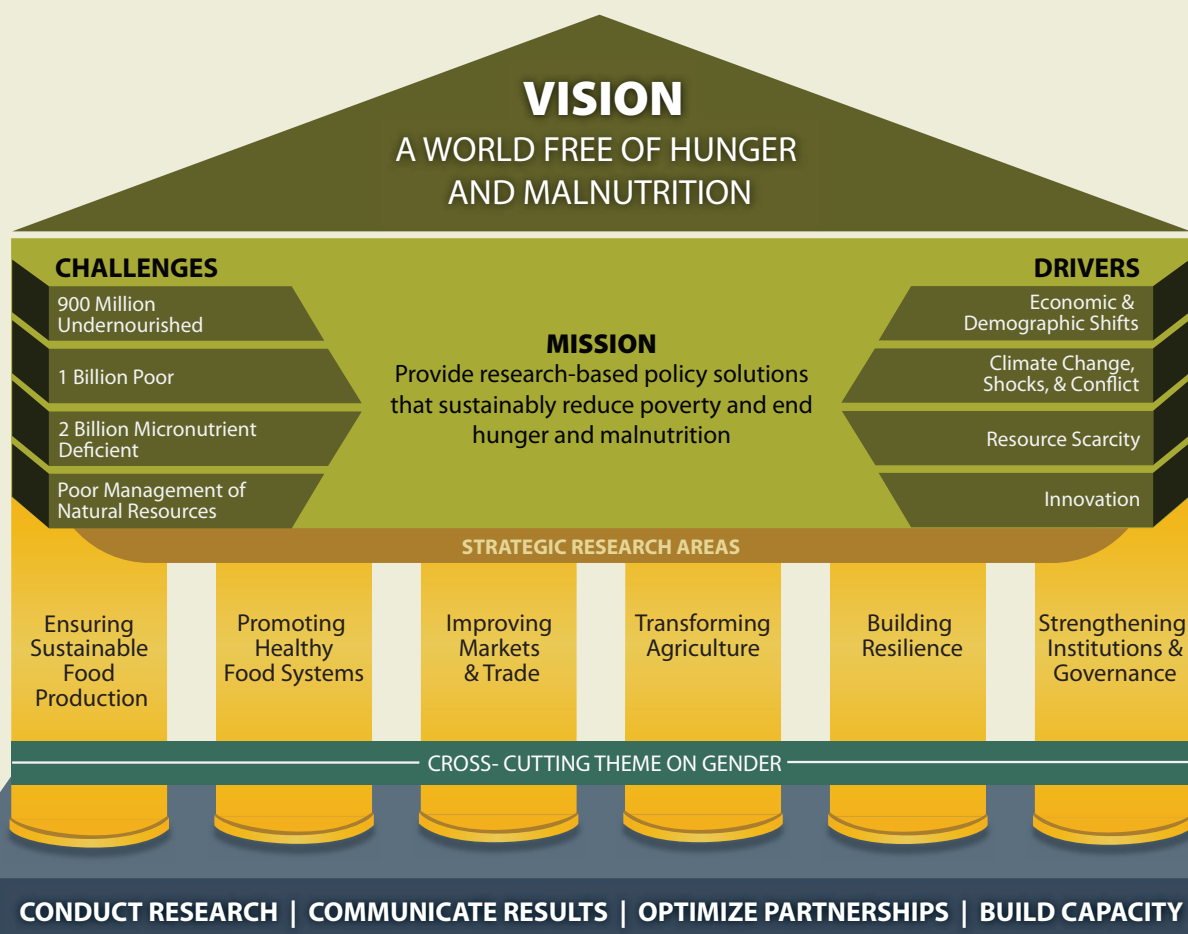
Access to nutritious and safe foods is essential for individuals to achieve their full physical and cognitive potential; maintain their health and economic productivity; and, ultimately, protect the health, development, and nutrition of their children.

IFPRI will focus on improving the diet quality of the poor, particularly women and children, who require higher levels of essential nutrients. The Institute will develop innovative approaches to maintaining the safety of nutrient-rich foods and protecting or enhancing their nutrient content as they move from farm to table.

IFPRI will also analyze investments in other sectors, such as water, sanitation, and education, that can improve nutrition and health outcomes. The Institute will continue to support biofortification research and the dissemination of biofortified staple foods through the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

This work will help foster programs, policies, and investments that span many sectors and shape a food system capable of providing more nutritious and safer food for the poor, especially women and young children.

FIGURE 1 IFPRI Strategic Framework



RESEARCH AREA 3: IMPROVING MARKETS AND TRADE

Ineffective policies, weak institutions, and inadequate infrastructure have hampered the move to market economies and have led to limited market access for many smallholder farmers. Efficient and equitable markets are needed to improve agriculture-led economic growth and food security in developing countries.

IFPRI will focus on how to correct market failures and remove the barriers to market access while making market participation more beneficial for smallholders. Researchers will analyze how to manage risk, build social capital, enable collective action, foster partnerships between smallholders and the private sector, redress missing markets, and improve infrastructure. Researchers will test innovative smallholder-oriented marketing arrangements using experimental approaches, giving particular attention to examining and overcoming gender-related and social barriers to participation in trade and value chains. They will investigate the factors that contribute to volatile food prices, financial crises, and shocks and provide evidence-based policy options that minimize the negative impact.

This research will help shape policies that provide smallholders with better access to functioning markets at the local, regional, and global levels, making investment easier, introducing more ways to earn a living, and improving livelihoods.

RESEARCH AREA 4: TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE

Many developing countries have low-income, rural, agriculture-based economies. Accelerating and easing their transformation into high-income, urbanized, services-based economies requires better understanding of the broad role of agriculture in poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, and economic growth.

IFPRI will focus on development strategies and agricultural policies that encourage rural economic growth, particularly in Africa south of the Sahara and South Asia, where growth is needed most. Researchers will look at ways to jumpstart the transformation process, using

real-world findings in developing countries to ground their concepts.

Researchers will also assess the returns on different types of public investments in agriculture and rural areas, and use that information to help governments decide where and how public funds should be invested and distributed. Special attention will be given to gender aspects of migration and employment, equal access to resources and public services, and investment behavior and development outcomes.

This research will produce both country-specific and broader lessons that can serve as the basis for policy options that foster pro-poor agricultural and economic growth in developing countries.

RESEARCH AREA 5: BUILDING RESILIENCE

Natural disasters, conflicts, financial crises, and volatile food prices have hit poor people hard in the past decade. To cope with and recover from such shocks, countries must develop strategies that build the resilience of individuals, communities, states, regions, and ecosystems for long-term sustainable growth and food and nutrition security.

IFPRI will set benchmarks for achieving resilience at various levels, contributing to a clear resilience framework. Researchers will evaluate whether safety nets, insurance, and other strategies to cope with risk increase the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems. This will include consideration of tradeoffs associated with achieving resilience, as well as how benefits and costs are distributed by wealth and gender.

This research will identify instruments and approaches for reducing vulnerability to shocks and help individuals, communities, states, regions, and ecosystems to develop more effective strategies for managing risk and building resilience.

RESEARCH AREA 6: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Sound institutions facilitate the fair management of common resources and environmental services, while effective governance includes the poor in shared growth. Understanding the factors that shape institutions, governance, and policy pro-

cesses is key for policymakers to ensure growth, equality, and stability.

IFPRI will analyze the management of natural resources through collective action to identify the respective roles of the state, the private sector, and local citizens in this process. Work on property rights will address formal land governance systems as well as rights to land, water, and other natural resources, assessing how these arrangements affect the distribution of wealth as well as incentives for investment and long-term security.

Research will examine the political economy of agricultural policymaking and the policy options for delivering more effective and equitable services to smallholders, women, and the rural poor. IFPRI will also assess how to build capacity to use research-based evidence for policymaking.

This research will shed light on the policymaking process, helping to increase the political feasibility of pro-poor policy reforms and improve governance arrangements that benefit poor smallholders, especially women.

CROSS-CUTTING THEME: GENDER

The six strategic research areas will consider gender within all of their research questions. Gender issues will also be accounted for in every phase of research, from participatory assessment and analysis to implementation of research interventions, to monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment. Researchers will consider factors such as women's access to and control over assets and other means of production, their inclusion in market development and trade processes, their role in building institutions and making decisions, and their ability to effectively improve health and nutrition. IFPRI will continue to support the use of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index as a mechanism for tracking gender-related changes that result from interventions or policies.

Strategic Regional Priorities

IFPRI has also identified specific research priorities for each major region in the world in which the Institute works. The map (on pages 6–7) highlights just a few of the priorities for these regions.

Links with CGIAR

IFPRI and CGIAR share the same vision, and the development of this strategy has taken full consideration of CGIAR's Strategic Results Framework (2011). A number of the six research areas and regional priorities identified in this strategy will be delivered within the IFPRI-led CGIAR Research Programs: Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). Many of the new research areas will also help to conduct cross-cutting research across the CGIAR Research Programs. These synergies will allow IFPRI to combine its strengths in social science, economics, nutrition, and gender research with the agricultural and biological sciences capacity of other consortium centers and partners.

From Strategy to Action

Partnerships, communications, and capacity strengthening are essential for putting IFPRI's high-quality research into practice.

PARTNERSHIPS

IFPRI is committed to long-term, inclusive, and transformational partnerships. The increasingly complex research questions that IFPRI tackles cannot be solved by any one discipline, sector, institution, or country. Optimizing partnerships with those who undertake and implement development activities, farmers' and women's organizations, and the private sector among others is vital. IFPRI will assess its current partnerships to ensure that they cover the relevant research areas, regions, and phases along the research cycle, and work on strengthening these partnerships' performance and impact. The Institute will collaborate with new partners, such as the private sector and emerging-economy institutions, to expand the ways it works to reduce hunger and poverty.

COMMUNICATIONS

Innovative, rigorous, policy-relevant research forms the basis for evidence-based food policy solutions. But that research will only have impact if it is properly communicated to those who can use it, share it, build upon it, and adapt it. IFPRI fo-

cuses on creating knowledge, promoting dialogue, presenting research, and making knowledge freely available in order to make sure its research products reach as many stakeholders as possible. Putting more books, papers, briefs, datasets, and multimedia products into the right hands and bringing more stakeholders to knowledge platforms, policy seminars, trainings, and collaborative spaces contributes to changes in policies, programs, and investments and can ultimately lead to improved food and nutrition security, poverty

reduction, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

To fulfill its mission and strategic goals, IFPRI depends on the ability of collaborators and partners to design and lead development strategies, policies, and programs. Development partners, researchers, and governments are demanding greater access to tools and knowledge for policy and strategy formulation, monitoring and evalu-

Highlights of regional priorities

This map shows a few highlighted priorities for each region and subregion where IFPRI works, selected at random to show the breadth of IFPRI's research under each of the six research areas. The complete list of regional priorities can be found in the full Strategy document. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IFPRI.

Central Europe & OECD Countries

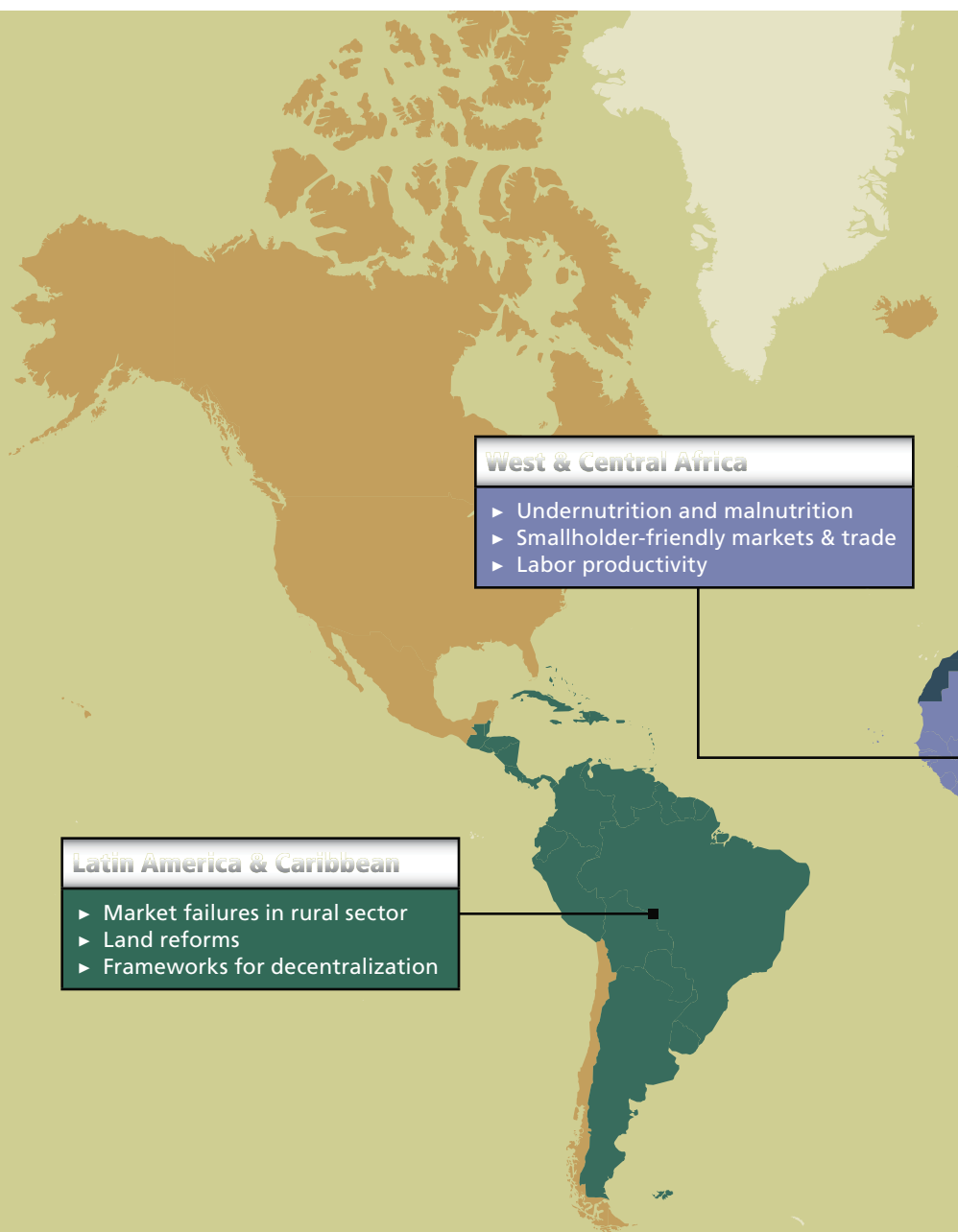
- ▶ Nutrition-sensitive development policies
- ▶ Food aid reform
- ▶ Accountable global governance

Latin America & Caribbean

- ▶ Market failures in rural sector
- ▶ Land reforms
- ▶ Frameworks for decentralization

West & Central Africa

- ▶ Undernutrition and malnutrition
- ▶ Smallholder-friendly markets & trade
- ▶ Labor productivity



ation, and impact assessment. IFPRI will mainstream capacity-strengthening research within the Institute, focusing on empirical and action-oriented research to assess countries' strengths and weaknesses, and partnering with collaborators to conduct theoretical research on capacity. The Institute will also build a framework for prioritizing, monitoring, and evaluating the impact of capacity-strengthening activities within CGIAR.

From Action to Impact

IFPRI's goal is to have a meaningful effect on people's lives (Figure 2). To achieve this goal, research results are shared and translated into knowledge and capacity in the short term and into development impacts in the long term. IFPRI engages in periodic strategy planning to ensure that its work stays relevant, timely, and topical. It shares vital information and knowledge on international public goods, through publications, datasets, information systems,

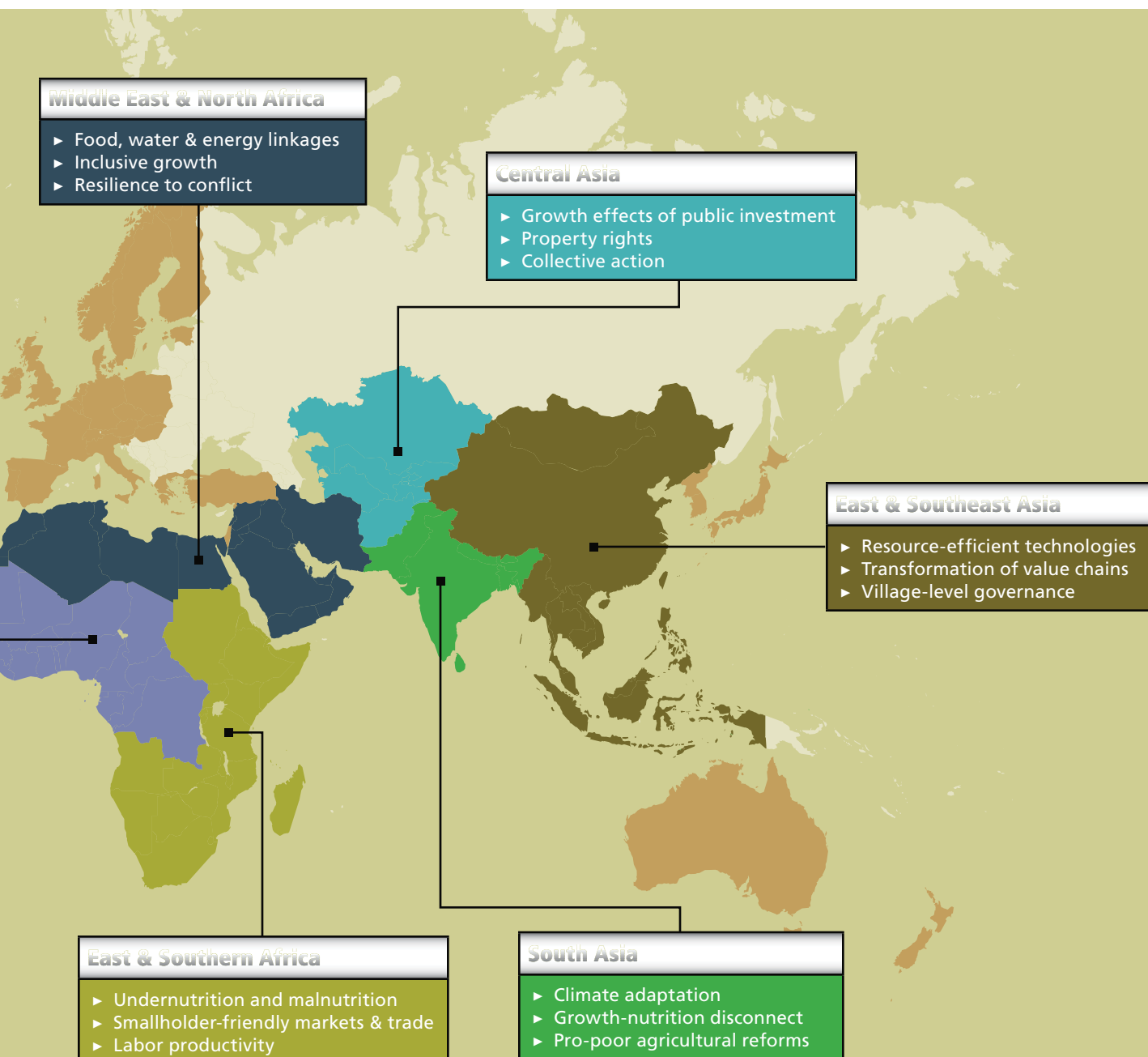
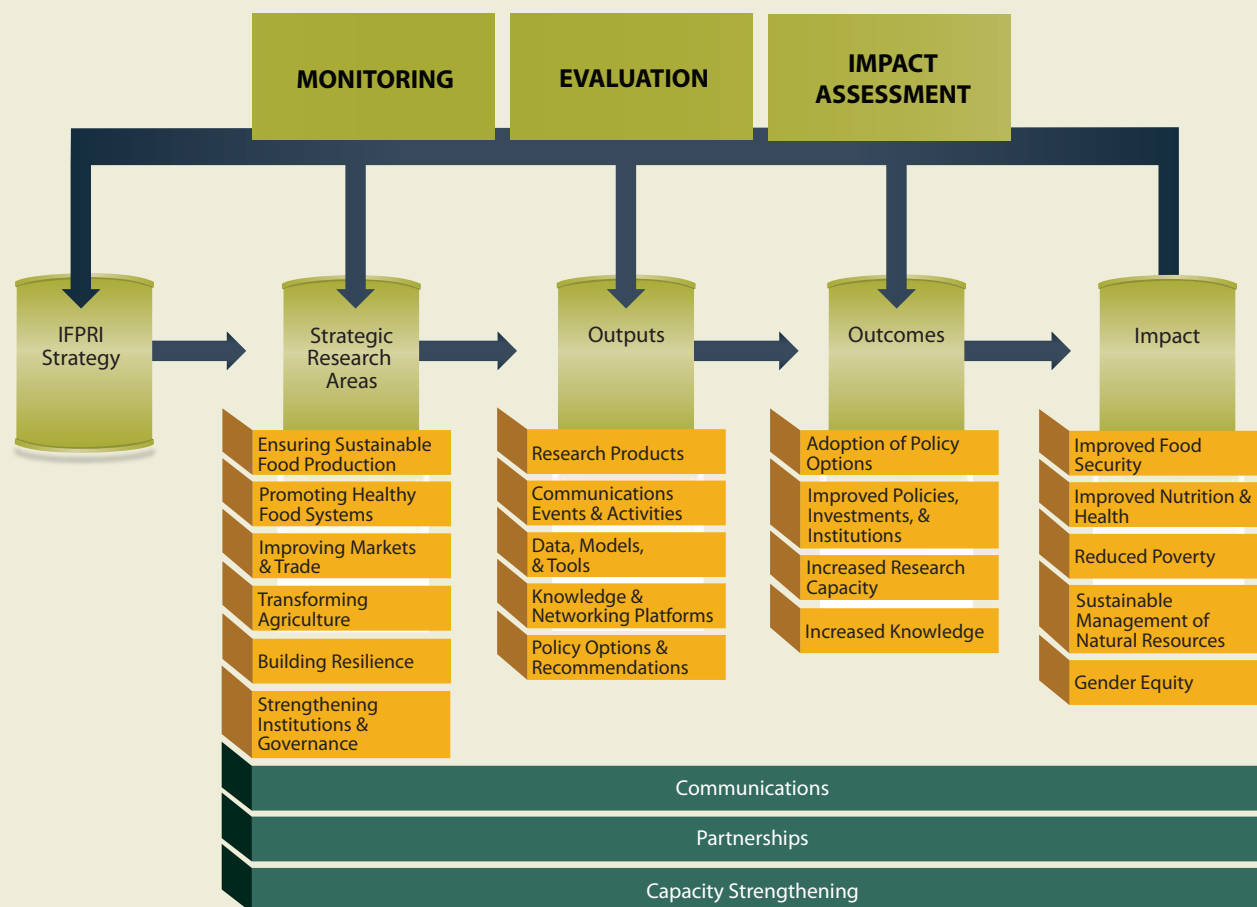


FIGURE 2 Process to transform strategy into impact



models, and events that build research and policy capacity in individuals and organizations. This leads to more knowledge and awareness of effective policies, tools, programs, and investments in agriculture and rural development. Ultimately, the desired lasting impacts include improved food security, nutrition, and health; reduced poverty; gender equity; and the sustainable management of natural resources. To measure this impact, IFPRI will develop indicators in coordination with the CGIAR Research Programs and continue to monitor its research performance.

A Food-Secure Future

IFPRI's strategic research areas and cross-cutting gender research represent the latest thinking on the type of research that can improve the lives of poor and vulnerable people. In complement with the regional priorities, they respond to critical drivers of change and build upon IFPRI's comparative advantage in interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research. The 2013–2018 Strategy will reinforce IFPRI's role as an evidence-based research organization that partners for impact, and will help the Institute to achieve its vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition.