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Food and Nutrition Security: A Case Study of Bhutan

Webinar

Regional Dialogue: Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption and the Shift to Healthy Diets in Asia through Farm to Fork Concept,
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Presentation Outline

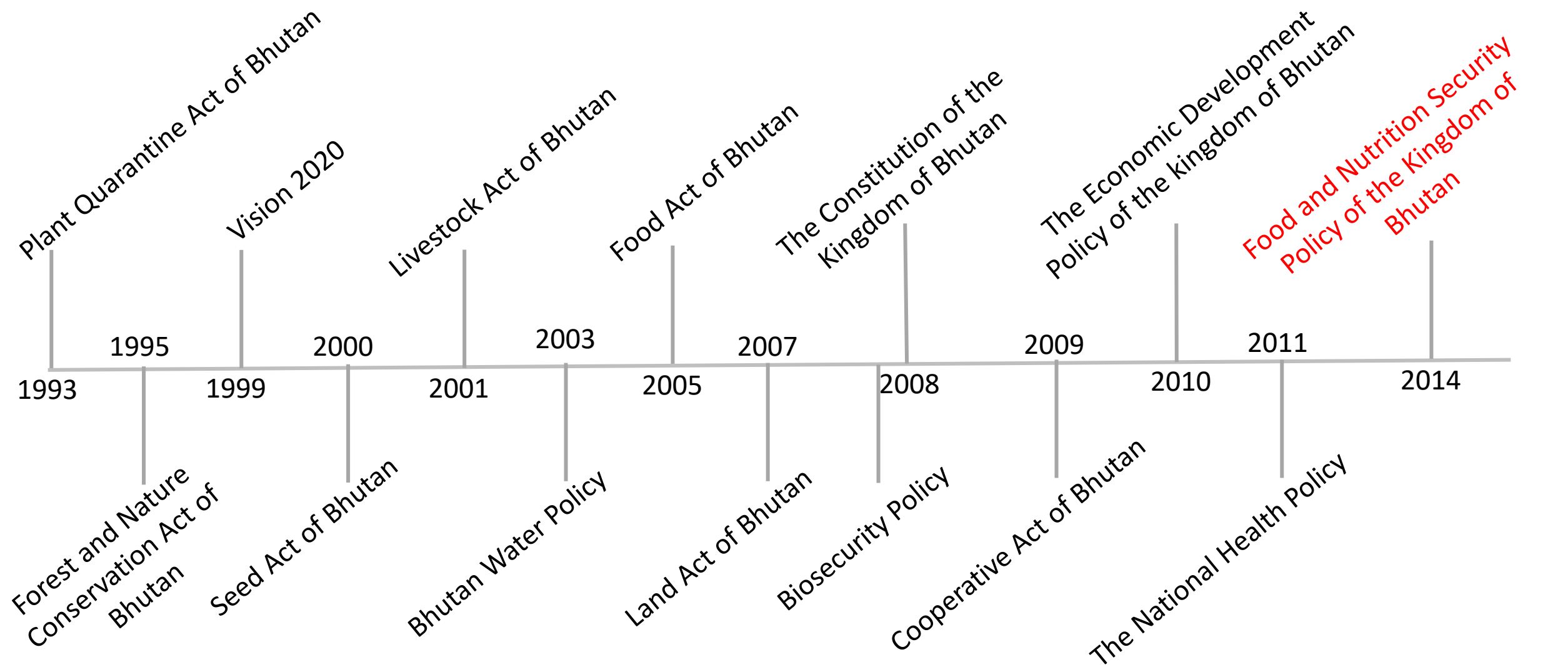
1. Background
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Background

- Geographical area - 38,394 sq. km
 - ✓ Forest – 71 %
 - ✓ Agriculture – **2.93 %**
- Elevation - 160 to 7000 masl - subtropical, temperate and cold climate in the northern Bhutan
- Total population >700,000
- Agriculture accounts for the livelihood of **49.9 %** of the population and largely subsistence and traditional farming
- GDP contribution by sectors in 2019 (NSB, 2020)
 - ✓ **Agriculture 15.82 %**
 - ✓ Construction 11.48 %
 - ✓ Hydropower 12.71 %



Policy and Legal Environment



Food and Nutrition Security Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2014

Vision

All people living in Bhutan at all times have physical, economic and social access to safe and adequate nutritious food for a healthy and active life contributing to realization of Gross National Happiness

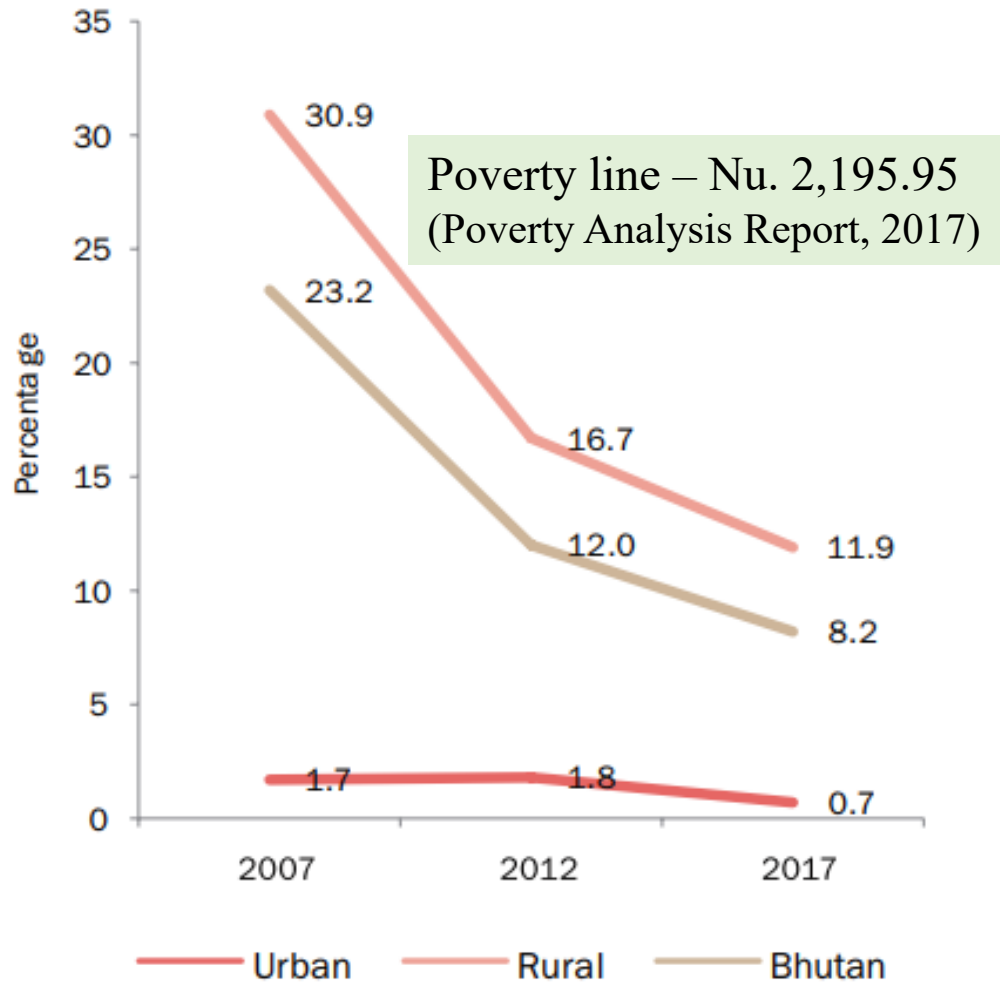
Five Year Plans (FYP)

12th FYP – (2018 – 2023)

NKRA 8 – water, food and nutrition security ensured;

increase food production, sustainable agriculture practices to enhance food self sufficiency, ensure water security, address nutritional needs of children and reduce prevalence of malnutrition

Poverty Status in Bhutan



Reduction of poverty

1. Commercialization of agriculture
2. Expanding of road infrastructure in urban and rural areas
3. Economic boost from hydropower projects

Fig: Poverty rates for 2007, 2012 and 2017

Drive to achieve Food Self sufficiency

- Agriculture land development & fallow land revival
- Development of marketing facilities
- Electric fencing system
- Construction & maintenance of irrigation schemes, infrastructures and facilities
- Farm road development
- Farm mechanization
- Climate Smart Agriculture technologies support
- Micro-credit support to farmers
- Support to youth farmers and groups with technical and financial support -
- Seed and seedlings support
- Development of resistant varieties of crops
- Research and Development in Agriculture

Food Self sufficiency and Dietary Energy Supply

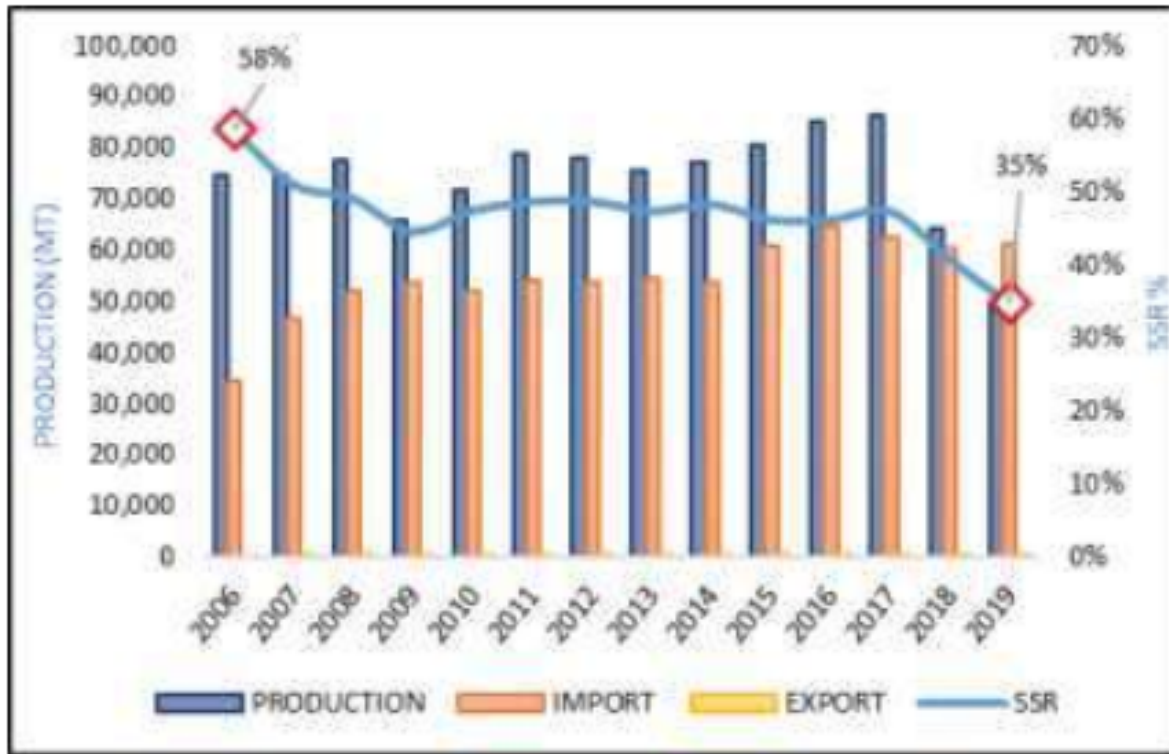


Fig: Rice production (MT), import (MT), export (MT) and SSR from 2006 to 2019

Source: DoA, 2022

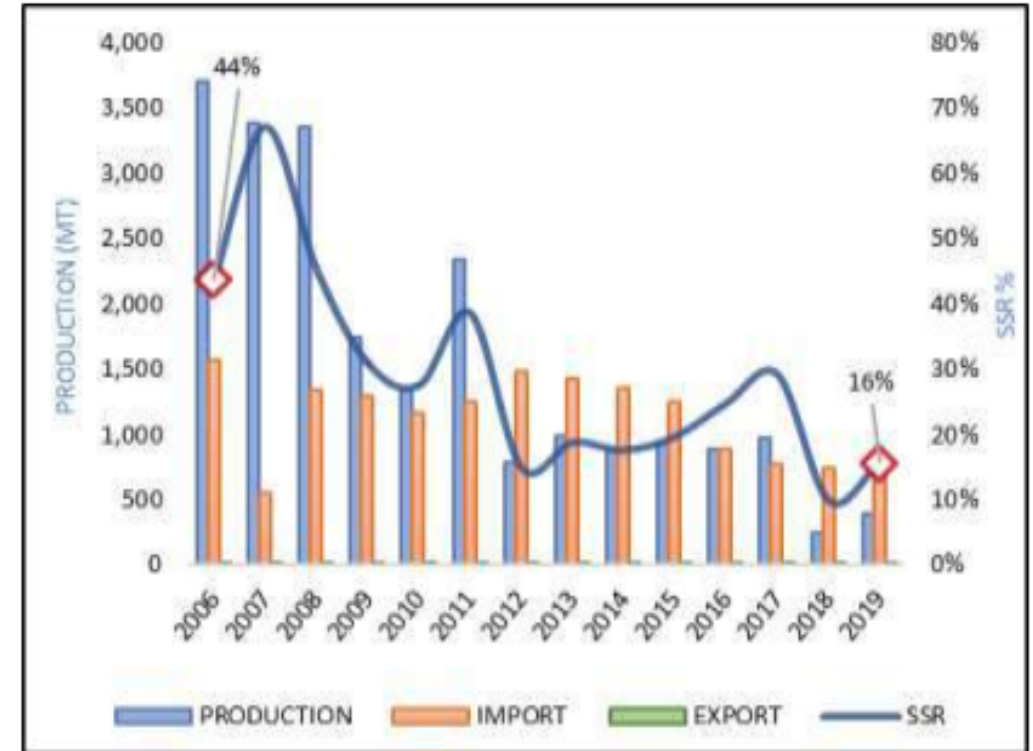


Fig: Oil seeds production (MT), import (MT), export (MT) and SSR from 2006 to 2019

The Self sufficiency and Dietary 2021 report indicate SSR of other commodities such as vegetable – 84%, pulse – 3.7 %, fruits – >115%, potato – 153%

National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2021 - 2025

To improve nutritional security, especially for those at higher risk of malnutrition such as **children, women, adolescents, the elderly and people with special needs** in collaboration with multiple sectors to achieve the **national and global targets for malnutrition** across all age groups by 2025.



Institutions and Programmes

1. **Kidu from HM's project** – monthly supply of rations to households with disabled individuals; HM's Secretariat office and District Administration and Local governance
2. **School Meal/Feeding Programme** – students engaged in growing own vegetables in school through School Agriculture Programme; WPF, MoE, HM's project
3. **Health programme in school**– Supply of Vitamin A, de-worming, Iron tablet, health check of school children; Schools and Ministry of Health
4. **Contract Farming** – Supply of vegetables and fruits to schools by farmers in rural and semi-urban area; Dept. of Agriculture, Schools



Institutions and Programmes

5. **Water, sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programme** – schools, monastic institutions and rural communities – UNICEF, Bhutan, MoH, MoE, CSO, NGO

6. **Food Corporation of Bhutan** – located in rural areas of 20 districts, distribute essential food items and farm produce, provide marketing platform for farmers, Food reservoir during disaster eg: COVID-19



Challenges

- Mountainous, rugged terrain, fragmented land, small scale, rain fed farming, human wildlife conflict
- Fragile mountainous ecosystem of Bhutan – vulnerable to natural disasters induced by climate change
- Climate change and its risk to major revenue generating sectors including agriculture (water and land resources)
- Rigid environmental and climate laws
- Rural urban migration, labour shortage, low mechanization in farming,
- Small economy

Way forward

- Develop resilient and sustainable farming against shocks and maintain healthy population
- Design and implement robust strategies and programmes to realize food and nutrition security at the households
- Build capacity of farmers to climate resilient and digital farming technologies

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

TASHI DELEK !