

# Primary Production

Employment: 62% of population (aging workforce).

Land:

Family farms, avg 0.6 ha, highly fragmented.

Technology:

Traditional methods, limited mechanization.

Products:

Rice (1.5M ha), maize, wheat (700K ha), lentils, vegetables, fruits.

Livestock: 7.4M cattle, 5.5M buffaloes

# Food Processing

Major Companies: P S Group (\$75M), Salt Trading (\$67M), Jagdamba Foods (\$48M), C.G. Foods, Agam Food.

Products:

Rice/flour, vegetable oils, dairy, noodles, tea/coffee, spices. Recent \$37.9M investment in processing

## Nepal Food system

*Agricultural Landscape, Challenges & International Cooperation Opportunities*

*Agricultural GDP: 23% | Employment: 62%*

*Trade Deficit: NPR 340B | Self-Sufficiency: Limited*



## System Goals

**Self-Sufficiency:**

Paradox - national grain surplus but regional deficits. Right to Food Act.

**Trade Goals:**

Reduce import dependency, increase exports.

**Sustainability:**

Net-zero by 2045, sustainable practices, agroforestry.

**Food Safety:**

Improving standards & quality control



## Overview & Geography

Three Agro-Ecological Zones:

\* Terai Plains: Rice, wheat, maize (grain basket)

\* Hill Region: Maize, millet, fruits, vegetables

\* Mountain Region: Limited farming, potatoes, barley

Monsoon-dependent traditional subsistence farming dominates. Cultural heritage linked to local production

# Trade and retail

Supply Chain: Traditional markets dominant, modern retail growing. 30-40% post-harvest losses.

Import Dependency:  
NPR 400B imports vs NPR 60B exports.  
Rice & wheat 75% of food imports.

Retailers:  
Bhat-Bhateni (27 stores, 22K employees),  
Nimbusbazar (\$25.8M), Big Mart, Daraz

# Administration and advisory

Policy: Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development (MoALD).

Provincial governments active.

Advisory:  
NARC research/extension, FAO, CGIAR, 40+ cooperatives providing bundled services.

Research:  
Climate-resilient varieties, soil health, sustainable systems. FAO framework 2023-2027.



# SELF-SUFFICIENCY & SECURITY

Sufficient: Rice, maize, lentils (aggregate), potatoes, seasonal vegetables, some dairy

Import-Dependent:  
Rice/wheat (despite surplus), fruits, oils, sugar, processed foods.

Security:  
Vulnerable to disasters, climate change. 50% child malnutrition.  
Remote areas critical.



# EXPORT & IMPORT FLOWS



Exports (NPR 60B): Cardamom, ginger, lentils (top 10 global), tea, organic products  
Imports (NPR 400B): Rice, wheat, fruits, oils, sugar, processed foods

# STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES

- Diverse agro-ecological zones
- ✓ High-quality specialty products (cardamom, ginger, lentils, tea, honey)
- ✓ Strong cooperative movement (40+ active)
- ✓ Growing retail infrastructure in urban areas
- ✓ Significant livestock sector (7.4M cattle)
- ✓ \$37.9M investment secured (Madhesh 2025)
- ✓ 41 MT improved seeds distributed (2025)
- ✓ Top 10 global lentil exporter



# CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

## Challenges

- Fragmented land (0.6 ha avg)
- Low productivity (25% below avg)
- Climate change impacts
- 30-40% post-harvest losses
- NPR 340B trade deficit
- Youth migration
- 50% child malnutrition
- Limited market access



## Solution

- Cold chain infrastructure
- Irrigation expansion
- Climate-resilient varieties
- Rural road development
- Cooperative strengthening
- Value-added processing
- Youth & women empowerment

## Finland Cooperation

- Strengthening cooperative governance and market integration models.
- Advancing climate-resilient and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Dairy development through Finland's cold-climate production expertise.
- Enhancing access to EU organic markets through certification support.