

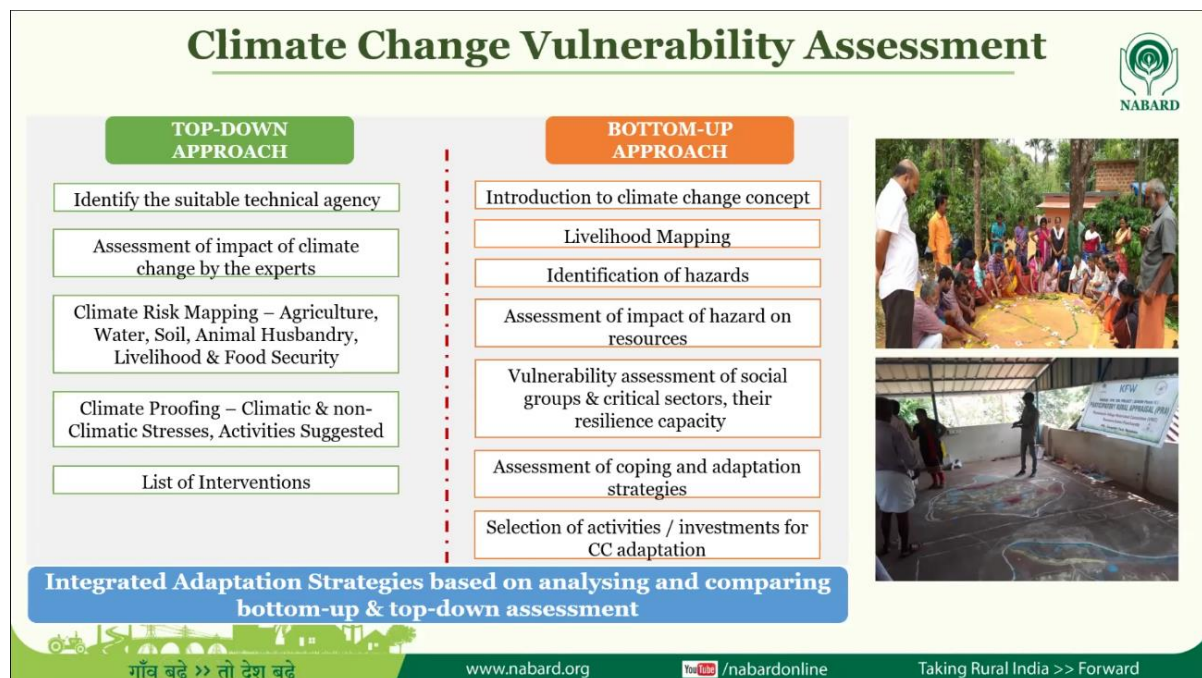
# Strengthening Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Insights from the Agri-PDB Webinar

The webinar on nutrition-sensitive investments in agriculture, held on January 15th, 2025, focused on how Public Development Banks (PDBs) can enhance their funding strategies to improve nutrition outcomes and contribute to sustainable development. Organized by the Agri-PDB Platform in collaboration with the [World Food Program \(WFP\)](#), [Agence Française de Développement \(AFD\)](#), and [Results for Development \(R4D\)](#), the event provided a valuable platform for sharing experiences and lessons on integrating nutrition components into PDB operations.

## Key highlights from the Webinar

Dr. A.V. Bhavani Shankar from [National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development \(NABARD\)](#) shared key nutrition interventions within NABARD's strategy. These include:

- Promoting soil and water conservation techniques to improve agricultural productivity.
- Supporting the cultivation of climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crops such as millets and vegetables.
- Focusing on agro-biodiversity by integrating livestock, aquaculture, and agroforestry to enhance household nutrition and income security for vulnerable communities, particularly women and children.

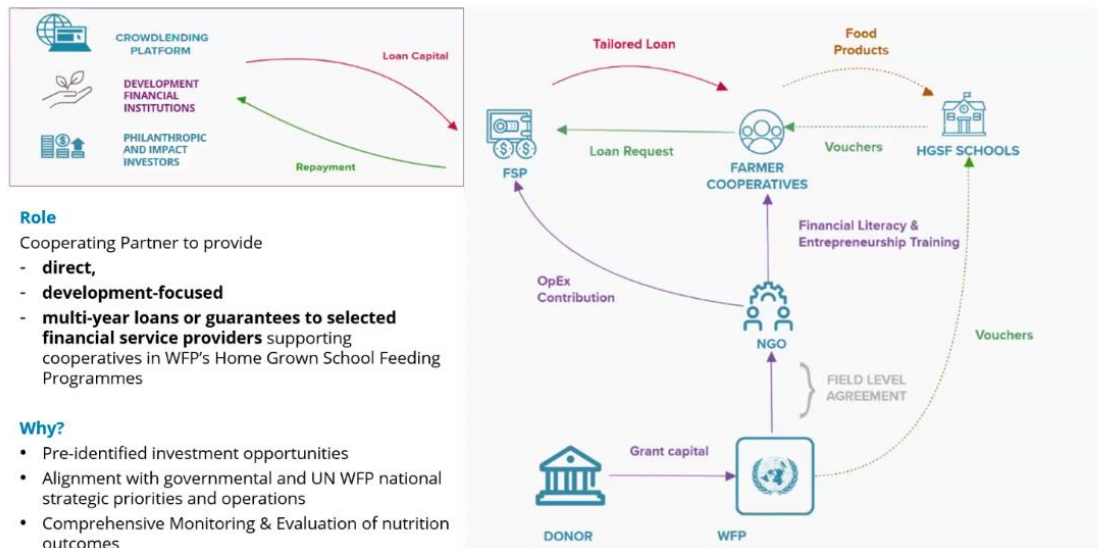


Nora Praher from the World Food Program (WFP) presented the SheCan initiative, a blended finance program in Cameroon that:

Supports smallholder farmers by providing working capital through microfinance institutions. Enables farmers to supply nutritious food for school feeding programs, contributing to food security and improved nutrition outcomes.

Nora shared the program's financial structure, highlighting the potential role of PDBs in driving similar initiatives.

## PDB engagement opportunities in this model



Mary D'Alimonte from Results for Development (R4D) introduced the OECD's nutrition policy marker. This tool helps:

- Identify and track nutrition-sensitive investments.
- Guide the design of agriculture programs that incorporate nutrition objectives, such as food fortification and promoting healthy diets.

By leveraging this tool, PDBs can align their investments with the nutrition targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## What is the OECD Nutrition Policy Marker (NPM)?


A voluntary, qualitative tool to identify donor investments with a nutrition objective, making data publicly available via the OECD Creditor Reporting System database

- It can be used across sector codes
- It can track the number and share of projects with an NPM score within a sector
- It can track commitments and disbursements to *projects* with a nutrition objective or indicator over time (NOT the estimated amount going specifically to nutrition actions)

**OECD Guideline defines eligibility:**  
A project is **eligible** for an NPM score if:

1. It is reported under the basic nutrition purpose code, or
2. It contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome and the project documentation includes an **explicit nutrition objective or indicator**

NPM Score	Description
2	Nutrition is the <b>principal objective</b> of the action and is fundamental in its design and expected results
1	Nutrition is an <b>important and deliberate objective</b> , but not the principal reason for undertaking the action
0	Action has been screened against the marker, but has not been found to target nutrition in any significant way



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Adrien TROUVADIS from Gret shared key learnings from a nutrition-sensitive agriculture project, emphasizing

- The importance of integrating nutrition and food diversification into agricultural projects.
- Promoting sustainable and local food systems.
- Supporting gender equality and involving local stakeholders in decision-making.

Adrien provided the lessons learned from different projects and proposed guidelines that PDB project managers can use to build nutrition-sensitive agricultural projects.

### GRET LEARNINGS ON NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE

**GRET and its partners identified main recommendations that should be taken into account for sustainable connections between agriculture and nutrition :**

- **Holistic diagnosis to understand the nutrition problematics linked to existing food systems**, including stakeholders' own situation, interest and capacities for nutrition
- **Integrating nutrition and food diversification objectives in agriculture projects**
- **Supporting local high-nutritive value chain** on production, quality, market and structuration to sustainably improve the offer of local high nutritional value products
- **Promoting territorial food systems supporting and protecting family farming, agroecology and local high nutritive value chain** to reinforce availability and accessibility of local and nutritive food products
- **Long term capacities reinforcement** favoring **complementarities between trainings, awarenesses and advisory participative approach** to support sustainable changes in agriculture and food practices towards agriculture and food value chain as well as consumers
- **Integrating nutrition and care for women and young children specific questions in support-mecanisms to farmers** in complementary and in line with community health system and national policies.
- **Integrating a gender approach** and reinforcing women economic autonomy
- **Promoting food environment allowing equitable and sustainable access for consumers** to diverse and safe food products

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The Q&A session offered deeper insights into implementing nutrition-sensitive strategies. Highlights included:

- Dr. Bhavani Shankar elaborating on NABARD's interventions, such as millet cultivation, kitchen gardening, and agroforestry.
- Nora Praher emphasizing the gender-responsive design of WFP's SheCan initiative and its impact on empowering women and improving school meal programs.

Participants also inquired about aligning PDB efforts with WFP initiatives and plans to expand SheCan into Latin America, with pilot projects set to launch in Ecuador and Colombia.

The meeting concluded with an engaging discussion on the potential for a follow-up webinar later in the year, aimed at providing practical tools for PDBs, such as a checklist or scorecard to guide agriculture project managers in integrating nutrition-sensitive investments. The next webinar, scheduled for the first week of February, will focus on agroecology, exploring tools and resources to assist PDBs in assessing and supporting the transition to agroecological practices.