## **Transformation Story:**

## **Initiative in India**

Reimagining India's Food Future to be inclusive, sustainable, and resilient for empowered communities and transformed food systems – this is the mission of the Coalition for Food Systems Transformation in India (CoFTI). We are a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together diverse actors to address the complex challenges of India's food systems – from malnutrition, food loss and waste, and climate risks, to unstable incomes and limited market access. Launched during the UN Food Systems Summit in June 2021, we aim to create safe, nutritious, sustainable, and equitable food systems for all.

Working towards this vision demands transformative action by fostering **collaboration**, **innovation**, **and advocacy**. The coalition is managed by the Food Future Foundation in partnership with Welthungerhilfe India, and Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN), supported by a network of over 50 partners, including government agencies, NGOs, businesses, academicians, and researchers.

"Extracting value from waste is good for people and the planet. There is so much nutrition in the waste streams of the food system from farm to fork, that it can bridge the gap for the under-nourished and solve the problems of the over-nourished."

 Rinka Banerjee, facilitator of Action Lab 4 on Food Waste and Loss



Through seven Action Labs, we have built platforms to foster collaboration of thought and action. The Action Labs are interconnected and designed to drive systemic change across the food system through targeted interventions. They broadly aim to advance sustainable agriculture and strengthen food security and nutrition through many diverse measures, including – but not limited to – food literacy, agroecology, food business, and policy. We focus for example on reducing food loss and waste by spotlighting improved storage practices, logistics, and building consumer awareness initiatives.





Another key area of work includes advocating for progressive policy and governance frameworks, known as farmer-first food policies, that prioritise inclusivity, farmer welfare, and planetary health. By linking academia, farmer-producer companies and food businesses, we further aim to drive business innovation and to promote sustainable food enterprises, responsible sourcing, and circular economy models.

Through inclusive models of co-creation and colearning among our members and networks, CoFTI promotes a platform for sharing of knowledge, ideas, and innovations for food systems transformation in India. We engage with academia to search for scientific evidence to support changes in perspective and practice. Thought leadership is facilitated through research, knowledge exchange, and innovation to generate evidence-based insights. Our impact is driven by **community-led action**, **advocacy**, and **partnerships for change**. As we move ahead as a bigger and stronger coalition, we focus on **scaling solutions**, **strengthening community ownership**, and **ensuring inclusive policies** that benefit the most vulnerable.



"Businesses have the power to reshape how food is produced and consumed. By promoting good production practices and responsible sourcing, we can create a more sustainable food system."

- Prof. Gurmeet Singh, facilitator of Action Lab 3 on Food Business

Imprint: