



Circular Economy for Better Nutrition and Sustainability

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Scale of the problem

Compounded crises around **FOOD**

Great Food Insecurity:
418 million - Asia & Pacific
40%.

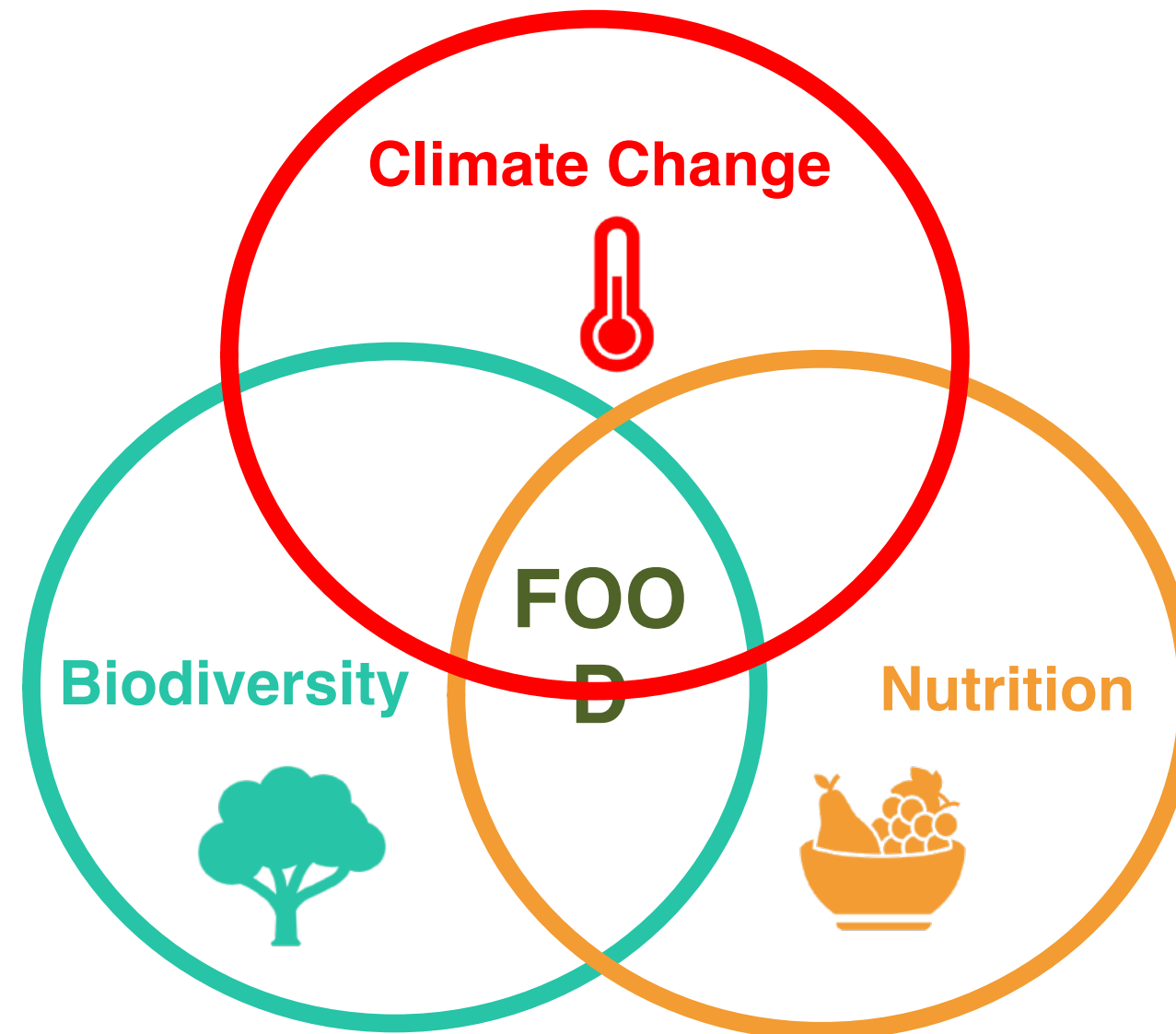
Burden of Malnutrition:
From under nutrition to
overweight/obesity

Climate Change:
Temperatures increased
by 1.1°C.

Rapid Biodiversity Loss:
deforestation, soil
degradation, species
extinction.

*“**Food** is the single strongest lever to optimize **human health** and **environmental sustainability** on Earth...*

*... However, **food** is currently threatening both **people** and **planet**.”*



Why **nutrition** matters for ADB

The urgency of nutrition:

- Malnutrition is the leading global risk factor —worse than tobacco and alcohol.
- 418 million in Asia-Pacific are food insecure.
- 1 in 2 Children under 5 suffering from some form of malnutrition



ADB's Role and Commitment

Nutrition is central to achieving goals on:



Human
capital

Gender

Climate

Resilience

It's not a standalone sector —
it's a cross-cutting outcome.

Linking Circular Economy, Biodiversity and **Nutrition**



Urban and Rural Systems – Circular Pathways to **Nutrition**

Rural Systems



Regenerative agriculture and local crop diversification



Women and youth-led food enterprises (e.g. processing, packaging)



Backyard poultry, small livestock, aquaculture for nutrient access

Urban Systems



Digitized food distribution platforms



Smart cold chains to preserve nutrients in perishable foods



Food loss and waste (FLW) apps connecting surplus food to need

Rural – Urban Linkage for Nutrition



Public procurement models (e.g., school meals linked to local farms)



Local circular loops for nutrient recycling (compost, water reuse)



Data systems and traceability for nutrition + CE outcomes



Circular Economy as a Pathway for **Nutrition**

CE enables nutrition-sensitive food systems by:

- ✓ Optimizing Resource Efficiency –
Water and Energy
- ✓ Reduce Food Loss and Waste (FLW)
- ✓ Supporting Regenerative Agriculture - Soil
health

For HEALTHY DIETS

It's a Win-Win!
Better Nutrition + Better Environment



Circular Economy for Better **Nutrition** Outcomes

Circular Economy Solutions



India (Meghalaya)

- Organic & GI-tagged crops, women-led cooperatives, eco-tourism.



India (MAGNET-Marahastra)

- Cold chain and logistics for FLW and nutrient preservation.



Nepal

- Agroforestry, NTFPs for dietary diversity, women-led value chains.



Sri Lanka

- Cold chain and logistics for FLW and nutrient preservation.

Cross-sectoral linkages – to be further reviewed



- Water management
- Green/blended finance.



Nutrition Outcomes



Better **soil** → Better **nutrition** and ecosystem health



Dietary diversity at household level → Healthier **diets**



Reduced food loss and waste → Access to affordable, nutrient-rich foods



Income generation from **climate-smart, nutrient-rich** food items



Improved livelihoods for women and marginalized groups



Climate resilience through regenerative and circular practices



Closing loops for a **sustainable, nutrition-sensitive food system**

ADB's **Nutrition Commitments:** Circular Economy as a Key Pathway

At Nutrition for Growth 2025, ADB committed to:

- Scale multi-sectoral nutrition-sensitive investments.
- Integrate nutrition in at least 3 CPSs (e.g., Pakistan, Bangladesh, PNG, Pacific).
- Develop ***nutrition tagging and tracking systems***.
- Leverage ***blended finance*** (e.g., SME credit, bonds).



Circular Economy investments help us
deliver on these commitments

CE + **Nutrition**: Path to Stronger *Projects, Financing and Leadership*

Small design shifts = big nutrition gains—no new layers of work required.

- ✓ Stronger projects: More climate resilient and better diets.
- ✓ New financing: Attracts blended capital and nutrition funds
- ✓ Policy leadership: Elevates CE-nutrition in regional dialogues
- ✓ Career growth: **Nutrition** skills are now essential in development finance



Nutrition outcomes,
local livelihoods,
circular systems—
connected



From Fields to Tables: **Nutrition** as a catalyst for health, resilience and sustainability

Together, we can: *transform* food systems to deliver:

- Healthier, affordable diets for all
- stronger more resilient communities
- A sustainable, climate-smart Asia-Pacific.

Let's make **nutrition** the heart of ADB's impact — delivering better diets, stronger communities, and a more resilient region.





Thank You!

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