Foresight4Food
International Collaborative Initiative

FoSTr – Foresight for Food System Transformation

What is the FoSTr programme?

FoSTr provides a country support facility for food systems foresight and scenario analysis. The country-led and multi-actor foresight process aims to assist national food systems transformation. It supports the dialogue, analysis and understanding necessary for co-creating food systems of the future that are sustainable, healthy, equitable and resilient. The Programme will be implemented in five focus countries. FoSTr also supports the global networking and knowledge sharing activities of Foresight4Food.
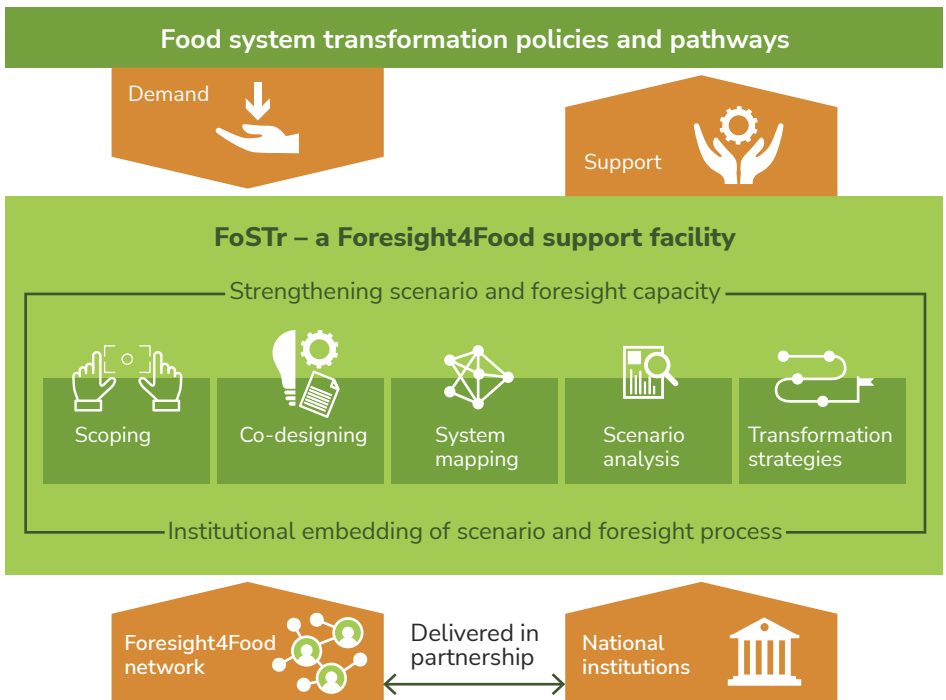
What does FoSTr offer?

- Support for organising national food system foresight processes with broad stakeholder involvement

- Opportunities for enhancing the capability of research institutions, government agencies, and community organisations to facilitate and support food systems foresight processes

- Access to better 'futures knowledge' on food systems for policy makers and other decision makers

- Insights into options and pathways for food system transformation

- Practical methods and tools for facilitating food systems analysis and foresight processes

- Multi-stakeholder engagement and learning informed by access to data, use of computer modelling, and graphic presentation of critical information

- A mechanism for countries to share experiences and learn from each other's experiences

- Through the Foreisght4Food initiative, a global community of practice for providers and users of food systems foresight

Implementation and funding

FoSTr operates under the umbrella of the Foresight4Food Initiative. The Programme has been funded by the Netherlands through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It will be delivered by members of the Foresight4Food network with National institutions supported to deliver in-country work. The Programme will be managed on behalf of Foresight4Food by the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute (ECI) in partnership with Wageningen University and Research. The programme will collaborate with initiatives of the CGIAR, the Rome Based Agencies (IFAD, FAO, WFP) and other groups working on food systems transformation. In Africa, the reach of FoSTr will be extended through a partnership between Foresight4Food and the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA), under the umbrella of the Africa Foresight Academy.
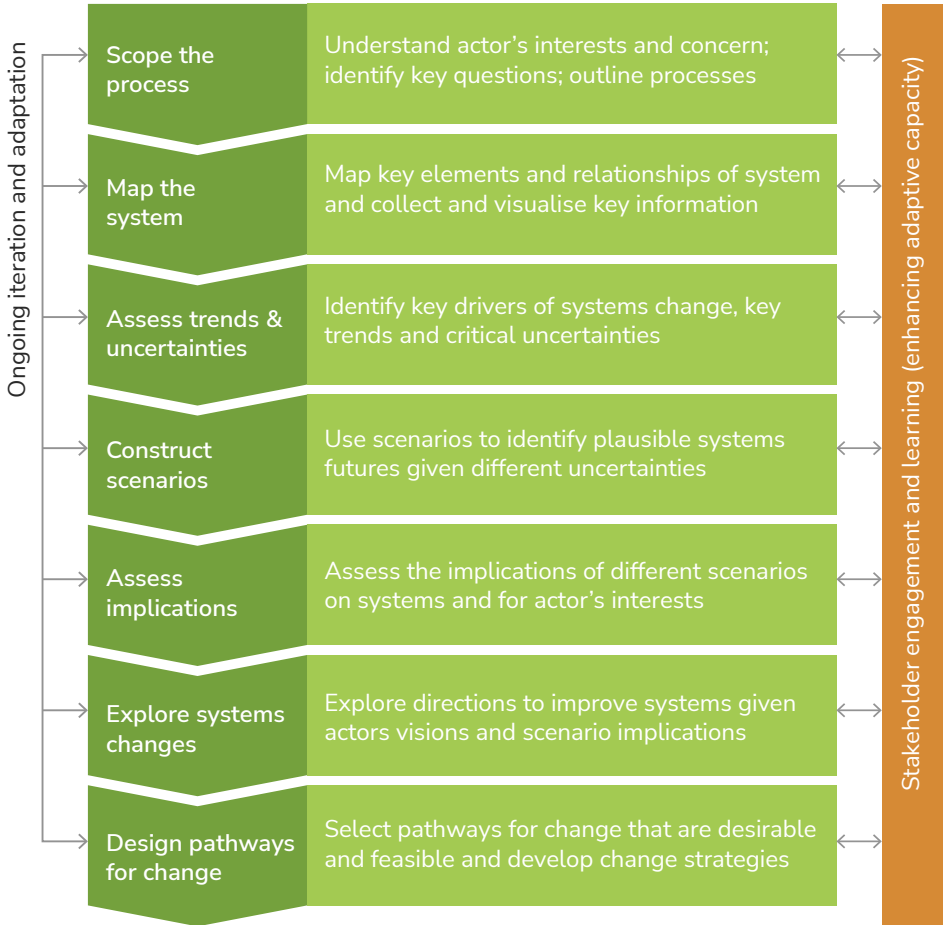
How will FoSTr work at the country level?

FoSTr will be responsive to the needs and priorities of the focus countries and work collaboratively with other in-country initiatives. It will provide technical support and financial resources for local institutions to organise and facilitate foresight and scenario analysis processes with actors from across the food system. FoSTr will operate over three years from mid 2022. The first year of work will support overall country level food systems analysis and foresight. The later years will use the approach to focus on priority local and national issues for bringing about food systems change.

Food system transformation policies and pathways

Demand

Support

FoSTr – a Foresight4Food support facility

Strengthening scenario and foresight capacity

Scoping

Co-designing

System mapping

Scenario analysis

Transformation strategies

Institutional embedding of scenario and foresight process

Foresight4Food network

Delivered in partnership

National institutions

What is the Foresight4Food process?

Foresight4Food has integrated a range of approaches and methodologies into an overall foresight process. For each element there are tools which can be used to guide stakeholders through the process. This foresight process has been tested with stakeholders in a diversity of countries.

Ongoing iteration and adaptation

Scope the process	Understand actor's interests and concern; identify key questions; outline processes
Map the system	Map key elements and relationships of system and collect and visualise key information
Assess trends & uncertainties	Identify key drivers of systems change, key trends and critical uncertainties
Construct scenarios	Use scenarios to identify plausible systems futures given different uncertainties
Assess implications	Assess the implications of different scenarios on systems and for actor's interests
Explore systems changes	Explore directions to improve systems given actors visions and scenario implications
Design pathways for change	Select pathways for change that are desirable and feasible and develop change strategies

Stakeholder engagement and learning (enhancing adaptive capacity)

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