

The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2021 report

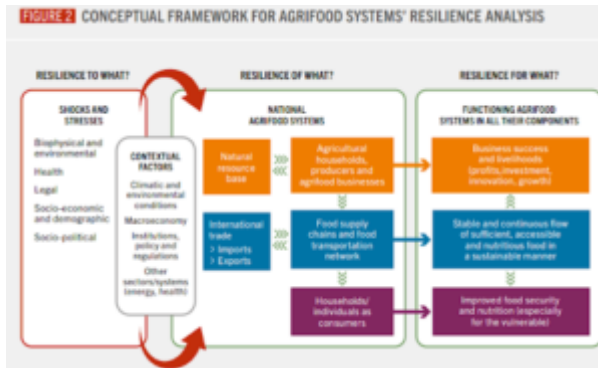
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In news- The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) has released the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2021 report recently.

Key highlights of the report-

- The tagline of the SOFA report is Making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses.
- As per the report, **Agri-food systems encompass primary agricultural production of food and non-food products** (from crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture), the production of food of non-agricultural origin (e.g. synthetic meat), the food supply chain from producer to consumer and the final consumer of food.
- Globally, these systems produce some 11 billion tonnes of food each year and form the backbone of many economies.
- It said that **the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerability of agri-food systems to shocks** and stresses and led to increased global food insecurity and malnutrition.
- **It defines shocks as short-term events that have negative effects on a system**, people's well-being, assets, livelihoods, safety and ability to withstand future shocks.
- It says that **a disruption to critical transport links could push food prices up for some 845 million people.**
- The indicators measure the robustness of primary production and food availability, as well as physical and economic access to food.
- It says that while low-income countries generally face

much greater challenges, middle-income countries, high-income countries, such as Australia and Canada are also at risk because of the long distances involved in the distribution of food.



- It also recommends diversification – of actors, input sources, production, markets and supply chains – to create multiple pathways for absorbing shocks.
- It also recommends supporting the development of small and medium agrifood enterprises and cooperatives.