



NIPN

National Information
Platforms for Nutrition



NIPN Partners Webinar #3: Strategic Engagement with Academia

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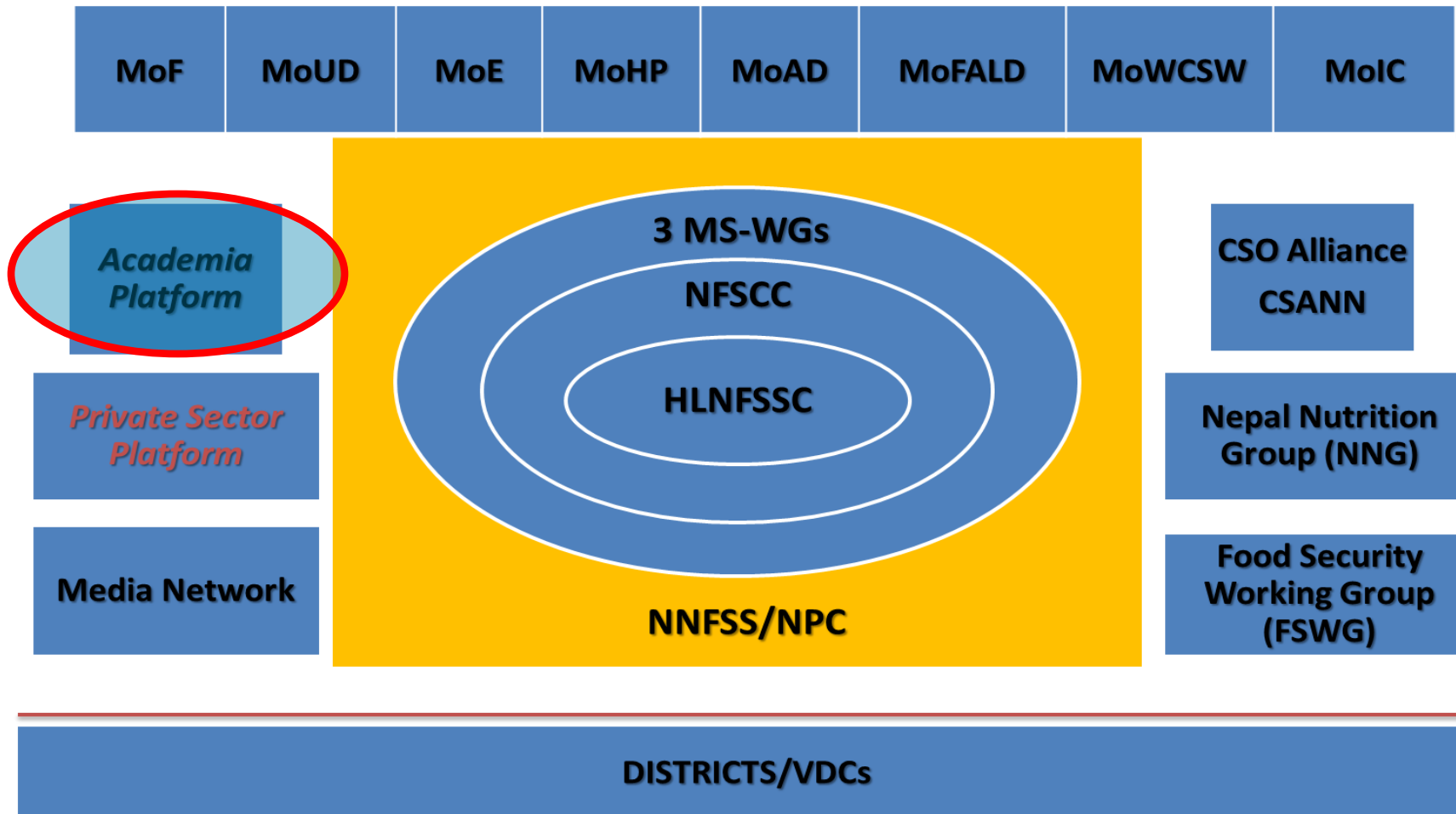


Experience from Nepal

- The academia platform was formally established as a regular, strategic forum with specific TOR
- Key entity: National Nutrition & Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), based within the National Planning Commission (NPC)
 - Facilitated collaboration and supported the platforms, high level committees and Multisectoral Working Groups (MS-WG)
 - Planning and follow-up of action points from meetings
 - Facilitated events related to knowledge-sharing, dissemination of research findings, research capacity enhancement
- Modality of working:
 - Academia platform took place every 2 months, unless the members decide differently
 - As needed, this platform assigned small teams or individuals for specific tasks.



Coordination Architecture



Academia

“National and international research institutions/universities, and/or other actors (Government, development partners, etc.) conducting research projects, studies and working with students who may be involved in field research”



Actors involved

- Universities, research institutions and councils in Kathmandu
- Ministries relevant for the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP)
- National Planning Commission
- Training institutions
- UN agencies
- NGOs
- Nutrition and Food Security Projects



Academia Engagement

- There is a tendency for many research activities and studies to be conducted individually by national and international universities, research teams or others, public health institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, projects, etc.
- Engagement with academia is often limited to:
 - Bilateral research cooperation
 - Invitation to attend events
 - Conferences organized by Academia



Opportunities

- Coordination of research activities to fill evidence gaps to inform policies and programmes in support of the MSNP
- Discuss and get advice on planned research and studies
- Identify new & targeted study/research opportunities
- Coordinate use of HR resources (students for thesis, etc.)
- Enable better identification and allocation of resources for studies/research
- Advise foreign research institutions and ensure information sharing about planned studies/research
- Etc.



Purpose

- i) Bring together academia members and institutions to share information about their engagement in research and capacity development for nutrition and food science
- ii) To facilitate coordination and collaboration of “Academia Platform” members with others, such as the Multisectoral Working Groups in support of the MSNP



Specific Objectives

- To share and discuss results of research activities
- To ensure coordinated, targeted planning and implementation of research, training activities and other relevant activities
- To identify policies that should be revised or developed based on evidence created
- Provide advisory support to HLNFSAC and NNFSCC
- To identify opportunities on how research, academic or training activities could be planned and implemented in collaboration with other stakeholders
- To provide advice to and collaborate with other stakeholders (via the three MS-WGs)
- Coordinate resource allocation
- Organize knowledge sharing events
- Guide and facilitate planning and implementation of FNS programs
- Provide advice to new organisations/institutes planning to carry out research in Nepal



Achievements

- Better coordinated planning and implementation of studies and research
- Better alignment of studies and research with evidence needs for the implementation of the MSNP
- More effective planning and utilization of field work of students in collaboration with development partners
- Ensuring that external research institutions would present their plans for discussion prior to implementation
- Enabling research institutions to have better access to funding resources (donors, development partners, etc.)
- Enabling academia to be part of the MSNP coordination and collaboration efforts



Q&A

