



**United Nations Food Systems Summit**  
**Action Track 4: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods**  
**Potential Game Changing & Systemic Solutions for the**  
**UN Food Systems Summit**

**Wave Two**

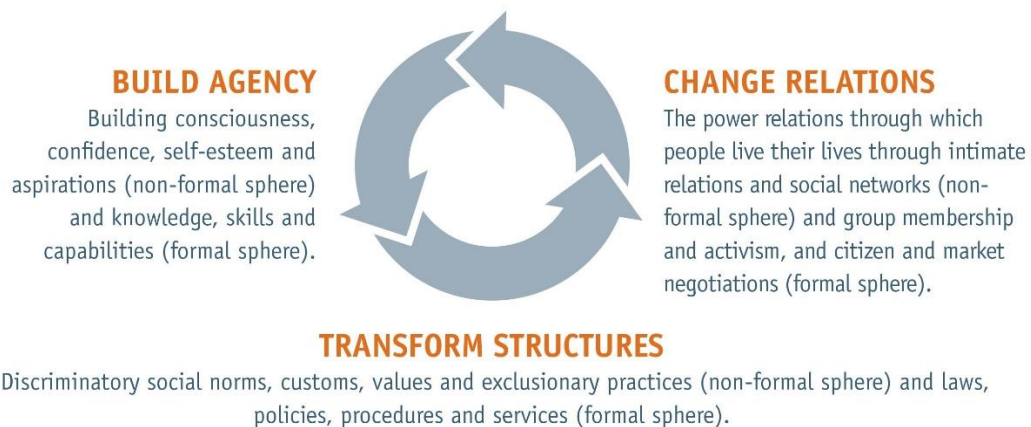
*Submitted to the UN Food Systems Summit Secretariat*

**DISCLAIMER:** *This paper presents additional ideas submitted to the UNFSS Secretariat by AT 4 (i.e., the second 'wave' of ideas): additional solutions will continue to be developed over the coming months, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the ideas presented here are far from final: they will continue to be developed further and contextualised, again through active stakeholder engagement. Finally, while these ideas are emerging from an interactive and collaborative process, Action Track 4 is a diverse and broad group, containing varied perspectives and opinions: inclusion of a solution here should not be interpreted as an endorsement of that idea on behalf of all Action Track 4 members or their institutions.*

## A. Introduction

### **Goals of Action Track 4**

Advancing equitable livelihoods requires building agency of the underrepresented -- those that lack the space or the enabling environment in which to exercise their power and rights. It implies protecting and strengthening the capacities and the knowledge, resilience, and innovation that they possess. Changing power relations in food systems is also critical and requires changes both in formal spheres (market negotiations, group membership, etc.) and in non-formal spheres.



The shift involves transforming structures, including confronting social norms and practices that are embedded in structures that systematically privilege some groups over others, marginalizing the poor. We must confront the inherent barriers within institutions and policies, with the aim of achieving lasting change, so that food systems can lead to equitable, sustainable livelihoods, rather than just temporary or seasonal increases in opportunities. Within food systems, this transformation means adjustments to regimes that regulate access to, use of and control over resources, especially those defining land distribution, labour division, and decision-making power.

Central to advancing equitable livelihoods in food systems are the nearly 500 million small-scale food producers that often work in fragile and vulnerable terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Their production choices, technologies, natural resource management, access to finance and services, and market links determine not only the sustainability and resilience of their livelihoods and their capacity to overcome poverty and food insecurity, but also the diversity of food that will be available to their communities and to consumers and the prices they will pay. Equally, the choices made by consumers and the processors, wholesalers and retailers who supply them with food, affect the opportunities available for small-scale producers. But the agenda of equitable livelihoods in food systems also includes wage labour and international migrant workers who often have less access to services or support due to their different citizenship status. It also includes women and men who operate micro, small and medium enterprises all along food value chains.

The role and potential of the agricultural private sector (corporations, small- and medium- sized enterprises, small businesses, etc.), also needs to be recognized and leveraged to improve equitable access to livelihoods. The private sector holds the potential to generate much-needed investment in

agriculture and food systems and ensure responsible and culturally appropriate supply chains that can benefit small-scale producers, workers, and consumers. Small business, particularly women-owned, need investment opportunities and greater access to vital resources, education, and markets. However, irresponsible, and inappropriate business and financial sector operations can undermine this potential. Responsible investments in food and agriculture require the proactive engagement and commitment of all partners. It is imperative that global financial institutions and organizations cooperate towards responsible investment in agri-food value chains. It is also imperative that women and men who operate micro and small enterprises should have improved access to technology, markets, finance, and services to strengthen their capacity to invest sustainably.

Barriers that hamper access to financing for the private sector to invest sustainably and in inclusive manners in food systems need to be addressed. Increasing investment and access to finance is also critical to achieve rural transformation, especially for small-scale food producers and rural micro, small and medium agri-food enterprises. In this context, public finance can play an important role in supporting rural transformation as well as in supporting investments in food systems, by delivering public goods (e.g. around infrastructure and services), and by mitigating risks hindering private investment at all scales (including at the micro and small enterprise scale).

### ***Whose livelihoods***

Discussing food systems means going beyond the classical value chain approach. It is important to consider the multifunctionality of food and agriculture systems. AT4 had to identify the most vulnerable actors in food systems both in urban and rural areas, with a view to ensuring their human and labour rights and promoting their livelihoods. When dealing with livelihoods in agriculture and fisheries, the work must not be limited to production but also production of non-agricultural commodities. AT4 seeks to address how food systems contribute to sustainable development involving a combination of economic, social, and environmental issues.

The workforce in agriculture, fisheries, and food production whose livelihoods need to be improved to ensure equity and social justice are:

- **Agricultural workforce** comprises an estimated 1.5 billion farmers (self-employed) plus waged, employed agricultural workers.
- **Farmers:** micro, small-scale, and family farms to large commercial farms, plantations.
- **Waged agricultural workers** employed on farms and plantations in crop, livestock, dairy, aquacultural and non-food crop production 300-500 million workers. Migrant, women, indigenous, youth, rural/urban. Full-time, part time, seasonal, casual, temporary, piece rate workers.
- **Fishers/fisherfolk** (both marine and freshwater), pastoralists, and other livestock breeders
- **Food processing/manufacturing workers:** Food including beverages; Animal food manufacturing; Grain & oilseed milling; Sugar & confectionary product manufacturing; Fruit & vegetable preserving & specialty food manufacturing; Dairy product manufacturing; Seafood product preparation & packaging; Bakeries; Other food manufacturing; Animal slaughtering & processing; Animal slaughtering; Meat processed from carcasses; Rendering and meat by product processing; Poultry processing including slaughtering.
- **Transport/distribution workers:** handling and delivering raw food products, semi-processed and processed food products including riders.
- **Supermarket/shop and market workers:** handling packaged, canned foods and fresh foods when serving customers and filling shelves; all formal and informal food market traders.

- **Food preparers/servers:** - restaurants, cafes, hotels, conference centres, catering companies, canteens in schools & factories, street food vendors.

## B. Snapshot: Action Track 4 Game-Changing Solutions

### Action Area 4.1: Rebalancing Agency within Food Systems

1. Empowering women, smallholder farmers and youth through school-based agricultural education
2. Women's Economic Empowerment for Sustainable and Healthy Consumption Patterns: 50 countries create, finance, and implement national plans for the economic empowerment of women to achieve sustainable and healthy consumption patterns by 2030
3. Ensuring access to equitable and sustainable livelihoods for forcibly displaced persons (refugees, IDPs, returnees)
4. Indigenous Peoples' Trust Fund
5. Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Agency in Food Systems
6. Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
7. Community Score Cards for Social Accountability
8. Promoting the development of mobile-enabled insurance products against natural disasters for smallholder farmers
9. Empowering youth as innovators and change makers for sustainable food systems
10. Gender Transformation National Food Systems Policies
11. Closing the gender gap in financial inclusion in food systems
12. Putting the right to food at the heart of food systems
13. Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing
14. Empowering Smallholders as Informed Market Players: Farm Business School Approach
15. Women Farmer Led Agri-Business Enterprise
16. Food Processing initiative of the Informal Women Workers
17. Knowledge Hubs for mainstreaming Human Rights
18. Recognition and Promotion of Health and Safety as a Fundamental Labour and Human Right in Food Systems

### Action Area 4.2: Eliminating Worker Exploitation and Ensuring Decent Work in Food Systems

1. How many livelihoods do we have to make equitable in food systems? UNFSS must ensure adequate levels of resources to ensure equitable livelihoods for a workforce of more than 1.5 billion persons
2. Improving working and living conditions and upholding human rights on board fishing vessels
3. Elimination of Child Labour and Promotion of Decent Youth Employment in Agriculture (Food Systems)

### Action Area 4.3: Localizing Food Systems

1. Promoting agritourism to advance small-scale food producers' equitable livelihoods

2. Farmer Seed Networks - Promoting inclusive seed systems for equitable livelihoods and the protection of human rights
3. Establishing an Arab Food Security Center that brings together successful Arab initiatives to promote sustainable food systems and facilitate investments for promising regional initiatives
4. The development and adoption of regional legislations to ensure strategic stocks of basic commodities (food or non-food) to avoid shortages during any crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Aligning Efforts in the Smallholder Farmers Support Ecosystem
6. Advancing Equitable Livelihoods Through the Scale Up of Economic Inclusion Programmes
7. Coalition on Living Incomes by 2030
8. Governance (*working title*)
9. Urban Food Systems and Local Planning
10. Increasing Public and Private Financing for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Food Systems
11. Markets and Environment (*working title*)
12. Geographical Indications for Territorial Approach to the SDGs
13. Support Territorial Markets
14. Sustainable Public Food Procurement

## C. Details: Action Track 4 Game-Changing Solutions

### Action Area 4.1: Rebalancing Agency within Food Systems

#### S.1. Empowering Women, Smallholder Farmers and Youth through School-Based Agricultural Education

##### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

School-based agricultural education (SBAE) is a practical, cost-effective system that has enormous potential to engage the education sector in transforming food systems. By involving youth as early adopters of improved agricultural innovations, better nutritional practices, and environmental stewardship, SBAE empowers youth to be change agents for the diffusion of those innovations and practices within their rural communities. SBAE is not a new concept. It has been serving agricultural educators and students around the world for more than a century. What is new is its potential to empower youth, women, and smallholder farmers in rural communities across sub-Saharan Africa at a time when a youth population bulge poses both a unique challenge and opportunity to the agricultural, economic and political future of the continent.

##### 2. What were the sources from which this solution emerged?

This idea emerges from a network of institutions that constitute The Movement for School-Based Agricultural Education (SBAE). Through the Movement's efforts, economist Chris Udry at Northwestern University's Global Poverty Research Lab, in conjunction with the Liberian Ministry of Education and 4-H Liberia, is currently conducting a multi-year randomized controlled trial on the efficacy of SBAE on youth development and rural livelihoods. Funding is provided by the World Bank, National Science Foundation and USAID.

Additional institutions associated and supportive of this solution: 4-H Ghana, 4-H Senegal, National 4-H Council, VVOB – Belgium, Liberia Ministry of Agriculture, University of Liberia, Cape Coast University, Borlaug Institute of International Agriculture, and Catholic Relief Services in Uganda (CRS).

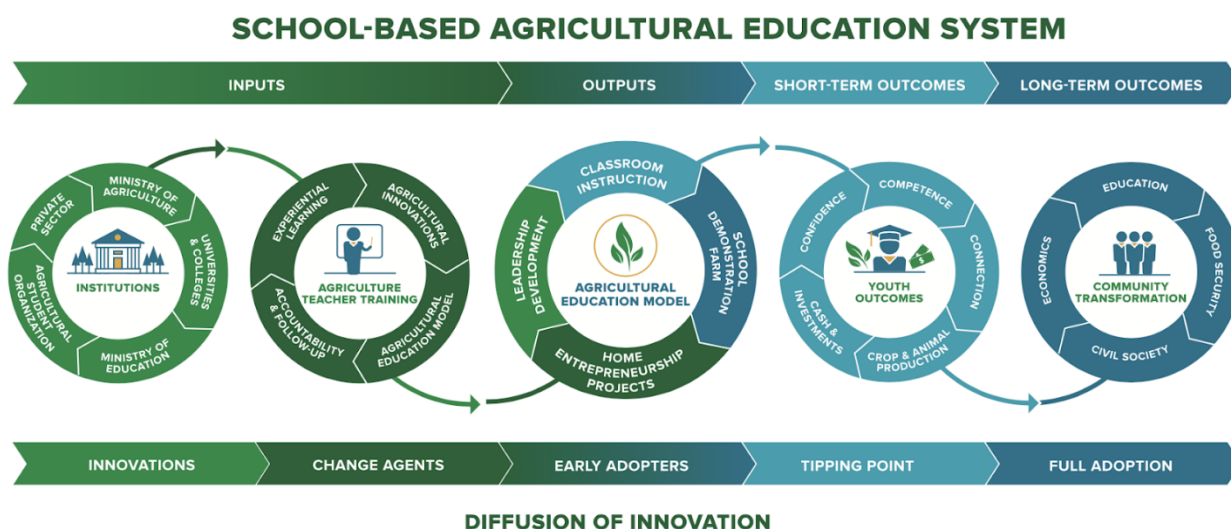
To create a cross-cutting solution, this approach could be joined with similar youth, education and civil society game changing solutions including: 1.12: Implement comprehensive school food programmes in every country; 2.4: Education; 2.6: Civil society and youth; 5.19: Enriching child’s food and nutrition education.

### 3. What problem is this solution addressing?

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is home to almost 1 billion people – approximately 13 percent of the world’s population. By 2050, the population of the region is expected to double, with half under the age of 18. Smallholder farmers constitute more than 60 percent of the region’s population, piecemealing livelihoods from agriculture and other low-income jobs. Almost half of the farmers are women. With these trends, agriculture offers a significant opportunity for impact on poverty reduction, gender equity, youth development and rural transformation. Agricultural innovations (“any idea, practice or object that is perceived as new by an individual”) that save time, make farm life more comfortable, improve productivity, reduce loss, enhance nutrition and preserve natural resources are critical to this process. Yet, innovations are only as good as their adoption rates.

Innovations often elicit feelings of uncertainty within any social system. This is especially true from the reference point of a smallholder farmer. An effective way to frame the efficacy of agricultural innovations is to shift a farmer’s reference point, or perspective, through empowering school-aged youth as early adopters and change agents. Young people are the ideal entry point into a rural community because they are more easily influenced than adults, especially within a school setting. This is not the standard school garden program often seen across the African continent. It is a twenty first century behavioural economics approach to an early twentieth century experiential learning model.

### 4. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?



Developed more than 100 years ago, school-based agricultural education (SBAE) encompasses the theoretical foundations of four different bodies of knowledge – diffusion of innovations, experiential

learning, positive youth development (PYD) and behavioural economics. Within junior high and senior high school levels, SBAE works towards two core objectives:

contribute to the academic, vocational and life skills development of rural youth through experiential learning methods; improve rural livelihoods by transferring skills and agricultural innovations into the home and community through schools.

SBAE is a collaborative system that brings together actors from civil society, research-based institutions, agricultural extension, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Education. Through an experiential pedagogy, teachers diffuse improved nutritional and agricultural practices to students who demonstrate those ideas at home and school. As parents and other farmers, especially women, in the community witness the confidence, increased agricultural production and income generated by youth, they begin to ask questions and adopt the same knowledge and practices, themselves.

SBAE excites students about agriculture and school by actively engaging them in the learning process through various nudges. Earning money through home entrepreneurship projects empowers students with greater agency. And through the excitement of leadership opportunities within an agricultural student organization, students expand their confidence and world experiences. Leadership camps, public speaking competitions and agriculture fairs allow students to compete and connect with other students interested in agriculture. Leadership opportunities for girls within an SBAE agricultural youth organization has proven to be a powerful retention tool to keep girls in school.

Regardless of their status or aspiration, SBAE improves the lot of everyone currently in agriculture – those who remain smallholding, those who transition into commercial agriculture and those who exit the sector altogether. By identifying youth as early adopters of agricultural innovations and empowering them to be change agents for the diffusion of those innovations, SBAE becomes an economic incubator for the entire rural community – amplifying existing agriculture and education initiatives.

#### **5. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes.**

In addition to the randomized controlled trial currently being conducted in Liberia by Northwestern University, many of the SBAE components are supported by agricultural development and youth development literature, discussed further in *Empower Youth, Transform Agriculture*. A 2016 randomized study found that students in Peruvian high schools who received agricultural extension videos significantly influenced their parents' knowledge and practices after a sustained eight-month intervention. Through positive experiences with adults, young people in SBAE increase their desire to contribute to their community, especially within agriculture. Many students of SBAE intend to study agriculture in post-secondary school, hoping to return and assist more farmers in their community with better knowledge.

#### **6. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The African regional landscape prioritizes agricultural growth and job creation as a means of rural and structural transformation across Africa – many emphasize youth as a critical pathway. The following initiatives set the stage to successfully scale SBAE across SSA.

As the framework for action in agricultural transformation, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) focuses on the expansion of agricultural growth, improved infrastructure, expanded agricultural research and greater access to technologies through a market economy. The Malabo Declaration recommitted to the principles of CAADP, but with specific targets in agricultural finance and agrifood job creation – including creating new job opportunities in agricultural value chains by 2025, with preferential entry for women and youth. The African Union’s Agenda 2036 foresees an inclusive development that eradicates poverty and transforms economies through improved education, modern agriculture, and environmental resilience. The Feed Africa Strategy outlines additional programs through the African Development Bank’s (AfDB’s) \$24 billion investment in African agricultural transformation. The Strategy emphasizes the need for a new crop of young “agripreneurs”, which will require empowering and training youth to change the traditional view of agriculture while equipping them with the skills and financing to be successful. Additionally, the AfDB has launched the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, designed to increase investment into agricultural research and dissemination of proven, Africa-tailored technologies ready for scale.

In addition, SBAE substantially contributes to eight of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

**7. Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?**

School-based agricultural education exists around the world and remains ready for scale, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. SBAE leverages existing capital and operational infrastructure including schools, teachers, research farms and extension agents – making it very cost effective. Its scale requires simple, collaborative adjustments between Ministries of Education and Agriculture.

**8. If selected as a game-changing solution, how will you leverage the UNFSS to scale your solution?**

*The UNFSS provides a crucial opportunity to recognize, center, and engage youth leaders and education specialists in the work of food systems transformation.* It also offers a venue to center youth visions, aspirations, and demands as a force for transformative change and promote the participation of youth in awareness-raising, norm changing, and implementation agendas. The UNFSS could highlight forthcoming research on school-based agricultural education and the political support of such initiatives across sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world.

**9. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape or other type of setting (e.g. high- or low-income countries, aquaculture)? If so, please specify.**

While not limited to any particular geography, ecosystem, or income status, due to current demographic shifts towards a younger population, also known as the “youth bulge”, school-based agricultural education will achieve its greatest impact in sub-Saharan Africa.



S.2. Women's Economic Empowerment for Sustainable and Healthy Consumption Patterns: 50 countries create, finance, and implement national plans for the economic empowerment of women to achieve sustainable and healthy consumption patterns by 2030

### **1. What problem is your solution addressing?**

Unsustainable and unhealthy food production systems are creating long lasting environmental damage, which are having a disproportional effect on women. Sixty percent of the 821 million people that are currently food insecure are women and girls, and environmental degradation is increasingly a major driver for gender-based violence against rural women due to conflict over limited resources. Entrenched social norms largely limit women's full participation across food value chains, and often ignores women's traditional knowledge on food production and healthy consumption patterns. At the same time, women around the globe play an important role in shaping food consumption systems, as traditional division of household responsibilities leaves them largely in charge of growing and buying food for the household, and of cooking. Compared to men, they have different nutrition knowledge, preferences and tendencies when adhering healthier patterns of food consumption.

Women are in this way largely affected by unsustainable and healthy food systems but can also play an important role in nudging these systems towards more sustainable and healthy paths. Their role is crucial throughout the food chains, for example, from production to food preparation, to distribution within the household, as traders in the markets, as food processors, and as laborers in food systems, as well as consumers. As such, any successful transition to more sustainable and healthy consumption patterns will need to put women's needs and priorities at the center and will need to apply gender transformative approaches to address the root causes of gender inequalities in food systems.

### **2. How does your solution address the problem?**

Gender transformative approaches in food systems are increasingly recognized as one of the most effective strategies for achieving improved nutrition and development outcomes. The combination of concurrently tackling women's strategic needs while addressing underlying social norms, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender inequalities is a proven powerful drive for change. Applying gender transformative approaches is thus paramount for an effective change towards sustainable production and healthy consumption patterns.

Our solution aims at incentivizing a paradigm shift in the way governments and development actors address changes towards healthy consumption patterns, by placing a strong focus on women's economic empowerment. Countries will create, finance, and implement national plans for women's economic empowerment in transitions towards sustainable production and healthy consumption patterns. The plans will focus on women's empowerment across the value chain from production to consumption:

- Enhancing women's decision making in framing legal frameworks, policy design, programs, businesses governing food systems and shifts towards sustainable production and healthy consumption patterns.
- Ensuring access and affordability of quality food for rural women and the poor, valuing indigenous food and women's traditional knowledge including growing traditional and highly nutritious products, dual-purpose plots, as well as traditional recipes.

- Addressing social norms and cultural practices that limit women's healthy food consumption and promoting positive practices.
- Empowering women in value chains to increase production of nutritious food and productivity, speeding up the adoption of innovations, raising household incomes, and ensure significant improvements in consumption patterns that can benefit child health and improve nutrition outcomes.
- Enhancing women's access to, and control over, means of food production to reach markets, including education, training, and skills development to enhance their ability to make decisions and seize emerging employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Incentivizing gender-responsive research on food loss reduction, behavioral change, gender equitable consumption practices, food labeling, and technology that responds to women's needs and preferences.
- Strengthen women's knowledge and voice as educated consumers to counteract the movement for processed foods and to advocate for easily available, healthy, and sustainably produced food.

**3. Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?**

Existing solution in need of scaling

**4. Which organization/s, institution/s or group of individuals are associated with the solution?**

FAO, IFAD, WFP, World Bank, National governments, women's producer organizations, female consumers, civil society.

**5. If selected as a game-changing solution, how will you leverage the UN Food Systems Summit to scale your solution?**

FAO has gained solid expertise in developing transformative and inclusive approaches for women's economic empowerment and has a wide portfolio of field projects at country level. FAO, together with other UN Agencies International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) have developed a solid package of knowledge, tools, methods and capacity development materials to strength the capacities and the involvement of women in agri-food value chains and consumption domains; build institutional capacity at different levels for promoting gender-responsive food systems; incentivize equitable nutrition and consumption patterns; tools and knowledge products for policy formulation and advocacy; and engage with the private sector.

**6. We will leverage the UN Food Systems Summit to scale the solution by:**

- Creating momentum for gender transformative change in transitions towards sustainable and healthy consumption patterns.
- Publicly launching the game changing solution and inviting countries to join and create national plans for gender transformative approaches.
- Invite donors to finance the design and implementations of the plans at country level
- Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape, or other type of setting (e.g. high- or low-income countries, aquaculture)? If so, please specify.

- Medium and low-income countries, with partnerships created between governments, producer and consumers organizations, rural and indigenous communities, women's organizations, multilateral development (e.g. FAO, IFAD, WFP), and research (e.g. CGIAR, universities).

#### **7. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

National governments (policymakers and legislators), rural communities, civil society, women's and indigenous organizations, multilateral development organizations, and research institutions.

#### **8. Source and process:**

Susan Kaaria, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), AT2 Gender Lead, building on public feedback on Action Track 2 during the event: "Making Food systems Equitable: An African Dialogue on Gender & Food Systems" on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### S.3. Ensuring access to equitable and sustainable livelihoods for forcibly displaced persons

#### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

The goal of this solution is to strengthen livelihoods of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) -- a term that includes refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees -- while ensuring basic food and nutrition needs are met, encouraging an enabling environment for increased self-reliance.

Improving livelihoods is a key component of achieving protection outcomes and solutions for FDPs also contributes to their self-reliance and resilience, empowering them to meet their needs in a safe, sustainable and dignified manner; avoids aid-dependency and negative coping mechanisms; contributes to their host community's economy; and prepares refugees and IDPs for their future whether they return home, integrate in their country of asylum or resettle in a third country.

Many FDPs originate from rural areas and hold valuable agricultural skills as crop producers, livestock keepers or fishermen. Given the right support and productive assets, they have the potential to not only feed themselves, their families and their communities, but also enter lucrative markets and prosper. When provided with the opportunity and an enabling environment, they can also contribute to local economic development, benefiting themselves and host communities alike.

Humanitarian assistance efforts should progressively transition refugees and displaced populations from relying on humanitarian assistance to self-reliance. This necessitates working across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus through joined up programming which allows humanitarian development and peace actors to establish and support pathways to resilience and self-reliance. Long term solutions not possible just through humanitarian assistance efforts.

Host countries should formulate policies to ensure the protection of FDPs in the labour market including guaranteeing the right to work, freedom of movement and the right to pursue livelihoods and entrepreneurial opportunities in their host communities. Vocational training, off-farm income generating opportunities, and specific actions aimed at youth and women, and social protection interventions, are some of the actions required in ensuring access to sustainable livelihoods for FDPs. However, for FDPs livelihoods to be truly sustainable, host countries should also enact policies aimed at facilitating social and economic inclusion, including those which allow for access to social protection

systems and savings and loans facilities. These also need to be supported by host government policy, for these to be sustainable.

Critical that FDPs also have access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods support on return to their origin communities. This also has a critical flow on affect to the food security, economic development and recovery of conflict and disaster affected communities.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The solution is built on existing international legal framework and guiding principles, including:

- The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and its Global Compact on Refugees including the call for the enhancement of refugee resilience and self-reliance, as well as the need for and benefit of taking on a whole-of-society approach.
- The ILO Conventions protect all workers, including FDPs who are working, seeking work or in need of income security, unless otherwise stated <sup>[2]</sup>.
- The Guiding Principles on the Access of Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labor Market (ILO 2016) provide an important framework for governments to promote refugees' full enjoyment of the right to work.

The solution has also emerged from programming experiences by host governments, as well as from UNHCR, ILO, FAO, CARE and other global organizations implementing programs in support to FDPs camps across the world, facing multiple constraints and limitations that hamper the access to long-term sustainable livelihoods.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

*Policy and legal barriers for FDPs to access equitable and sustainable livelihoods:*

FDPs often faces significant policy and legal barriers that limit their rights to access production assets (land, capital, equipment, business premises, business permits, etc), right to employment (formal and informal), right to engage in different value chains e.g., agriculture (production, processing, marketing), right to education/extension services, right to citizenship, and finally access to basic services, right to (timely) information, right to personal and other documentation (to enable travel, employment, access to services and assistance, amongst other rights).

In some countries, refugee and/or labour legislation may be outdated and no longer apply to the complexity of protracted displacement. Often, the government response relates to the failure to recognize the protracted nature of displacement. Approaches are usually short-term in nature, which discourage integration into host communities. Very few States have undertaken legislative or administrative reform to improve access to livelihoods and labour markets for refugees and IDPs. Indeed, the legislative machinery governing access to labour markets is often becoming more restrictive in so far as these populations are concerned<sup>[4]</sup>.

Often, refugees are not permitted to use land for agriculture purposes outside the camps. Water shortage is also a major issue in most of the refugee camps, which are often located in rural areas where natural resources are increasingly scarce due to the impacts of climate change. Competition for natural resources between host and displaced populations, can also cause or exacerbate tensions, eroding social cohesion. Most displaced persons do not have access to production inputs like vegetables seeds,

different farm tools and initial capital, and they also often lack skills to undertake backyard agriculture or animal husbandry practices<sup>[5]</sup>. FDPs households have less agricultural assets (land and livestock), often due to losses they have suffered during conflict and displacement, and produce a smaller range of crops; this results in high levels of food and nutrition insecurity, the adoption of negative coping strategies to deal with food shortages, and a persistent and high dependency on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs<sup>[6]</sup>.

Agriculture in FDPs settlements, is also hampered because most families lack capital for investment, and lack of commitment from the government /host community to provide active support to access livelihoods<sup>[7]</sup>.

*Limited long-term solutions for FDPs to access equitable and sustainable livelihoods:*

Almost half of all FDPs in the world today are caught in protracted situations. In many cases, there are limited prospects for durable solutions, and refugees remain dependent on ongoing international humanitarian assistance. Given that conflicts continue to grow in number, severity, and duration, it is likely that an increasing number of refugees will face similar circumstances in the future. Yet a traditional humanitarian assistance approach undermines their dignity and may not be financially sustainable in the long term.

A ‘humanitarian assistance’ approach still predominates in many protracted situations. This traditional approach presents two principal challenges. First, it undermines the dignity of refugees by not allowing them to utilize their full potential. Many FDPs have considerable capacities and skills that would permit them to become more economically self-reliant and benefit countries of asylum but are not supported to make these contributions under a traditional approach. Second, the cost of ongoing assistance may be financially unsustainable. Not only have the number of FDPs increased, but total humanitarian needs have risen dramatically, making it difficult for donor countries to provide adequate levels of assistance. The increases in humanitarian costs and “donor fatigue” are largely consequence to the increasing protracted nature of forced displacement.

The short term and often siloed nature of humanitarian funding streams does not allow for the investment in long term livelihood solutions; hence, the importance to promote the humanitarian, development peace nexus approach of joined up programming towards collective outcomes, namely, the achievement of durable solutions for FDPs.

FDPs are people with skills and abilities to operate in the value chains of the host countries (in production, processing, marketing...), and a strong motivation to build their own livelihoods. Many of them were farmers in the location of origin<sup>[8]</sup>. FDPs possess knowledge and skills gained through the livelihood strategies in which they engaged in their countries of origin<sup>[9]</sup>.

There is growing consensus that access to livelihoods is key for a sustainable response to the presence of FDPs, enabling them to participate in and contribute effectively to the economies and societies of host countries and ensuring they can fulfil their basic food needs.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Ensuring access to long-term sustainable livelihoods for the 71 million FDPs it is a key dimension for promoting equitable livelihoods in food systems and sustainable development globally.

Through strengthened policies and opportunities, as well as additional educational & sustainable technical opportunities (sustainable & climate-smart agriculture, food safety, food loss & waste, markets systems trainings, financial literacy, etc.), FDPs have the ability to combine their own existing knowledge with increased technical knowledge and contribute to not only feed themselves and their families, but become leaders in food and farm system, contributing to solutions to increase access to healthy foods and unique market systems, and conserve and bolster natural resources.

- Will save on money used for humanitarian response which can be redirected for use in building their livelihoods.
- The services provided by FDPs will benefit others and local economies in addressing the food security challenges.
- Their contribution in production in different sectors will result in increased access to sustainable livelihoods and economic growth.

##### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

The underlying logic of this solution or gamechanger is that, achieving sustainable livelihoods for FDPs require both (a) inclusive legal frameworks in place, and (a) proactive support for building livelihoods.

The goal of this solution is to strengthen livelihoods of FDPs. while ensuring basic food and nutrition needs are met, encouraging an enabling environment for increased self-reliance.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to FDPs livelihoods. Interventions must be adapted to the local context. Factors such as whether refugees and IDPs, reside among the local population or stay in camps, whether they live in urban centers or rural areas, are facing a protracted crisis or temporary displacement, fundamentally change the way livelihood interventions should be designed<sup>[10]</sup>.

- A. Progressively and intentionally transitioning refugees from relying on humanitarian assistance to self-reliance is key to building resilience<sup>[11]</sup>. Humanitarian assistance must link to longer term development work, and in conflict/post-conflict contexts, link to peace actors which invest in sustaining peace efforts, to avoid re-displacement.
  - a. Humanitarian assistance should prioritize the rebuilding of access to productive assets (including agricultural inputs and land); these efforts should complement social cohesion, gender and diversity, and protection interventions to ensure the inclusivity of access to assets and integrate refugees both economically and socially.
  - b. Initial assistance should help FDPs rebuild their livelihoods based on this existing know-how upon settlement or enable them to acquire new knowledge and skills to adapt to a different labour market.
  - c. This assistance should focus on FDPs households' safe and equitable access to information and productive assets, to enable them to adapt to new environmental factors (e.g. by adopting agricultural techniques suited to the ecological zone in terms of soil quality, rainfall patterns, etc.)<sup>[12]</sup>
- B. Host countries should formulate national policies and action plans as appropriate, to ensure the protection of FDPs in the labour market, including the right to work and pursue sustainable livelihoods. FDPs should be included in the medium- to long-term policies of social and economic district development plans<sup>[13]</sup>. These National policies and action plans should:

- a. Foster opportunities for formal work and self-reliance for FDPs should at a minimum include measures to Consider removing or relaxing refugee encampment policies and other restrictions that hinder decent work opportunities, provide access to personal and other documentation to enable travel and employment (and minimize protection risks), promote discrimination or lead to irregular employment, or that limit access to arable land or the access to seeds and other production means.
  - b. Facilitate increased access to decent work opportunities for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons and host communities, including by fostering transitions of employment from the informal to formal economy. Creating an enabling environment for job creation and access to jobs for FDPs and host community members is key to enhance their income source generation.
- C. Inclusive and innovative formal transfer schemes should be set up to stimulate the development of markets by injecting cash into a system; they should be accompanied by training programs to strengthen agricultural and business skills.
  - D. Vocational training programs should be developed with an eye to opportunities along the agricultural value chain, from primary production to processing<sup>[14]</sup>. There is a need for skilled workers to operate and maintain production infrastructure (e.g. machinery), with a view to upscaling production processes.
  - E. Policymakers should create an environment that enables FDPs households to exploit off-farm income generating opportunities<sup>[15]</sup>. Private and public-sector stakeholders should collaborate to promote the social and economic integration of FDPs , and help leverage the economic potential created by the presence of refugees to support wider rural development. Economic integration should specify access to capital/finance e.g. ability to open bank account, access finance etc. Restrictions on these in host communities, prevent displaced populations from establishing more sustainable livelihoods, particularly about entrepreneurship.
  - F. Specific actions should be responsive to the needs, priorities, and capacities of women and men, boys and girls, and youth<sup>[16][17]</sup>. Integrated and holistic programs that promotes diversity and inclusion, as well as targeted program that address underlying inequalities – need to be designed and budgeted with the specific needs of target groups in mind. They should aim to develop business skills and technical capacities that allow them to participate in the development of value chains, and safe and timely access to information and services that support them<sup>[18]</sup>.
  - G. There is a need for social protection system integration, that target persons with specific needs from the refugee population and extremely vulnerable individuals from the host community, as well as other marginalized segments of the population. Special attention should be given to women and girls, persons with disabilities, LGBTI, indigenous groups and other marginalized groups at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation.

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

- Impact potential at scale- There are 26 million refugees in the world—the highest ever seen; and more than 45 million IDPs.
- Actionability and sustainability- The potential to promote FDPs self-reliance livelihoods depends on collaboration with governments. While programs that enable access to labour

markets for FDPs may entail costs in the short run for the host countries, there can be considerable long-term benefits, including ensuring social cohesion. Moreover, expenditure on inclusion policies and programs can be seen as a form of expansionary fiscal policy in advanced, emerging and more recently emerging economies and hence boost aggregate demand.

## **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

Despite the challenges and constraints, some governments are reforming their refugee and/or labour legislation and have adopted positive strategies to promote refugee livelihoods through granting access to the labour market. In 2016 Turkey adopted the Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection, allowing Syrian refugees in possession of their temporary identity cards and residing in Turkey for six months, to apply for work permits.<sup>[19]</sup> Uganda also offers a strong example of refugee policy reform in alignment with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Uganda also provides a strong example of refugee policy reform in alignment with the CRRF.

Jordan is also engaged in labour market reform with respect to refugees' access to its labour markets and has developed a pioneering strategy, the Jordan Compact, to provide work permits for up to 200,000 Syrian refugees in the coming years<sup>[20]</sup>. The permits are both to help regularize the situation of refugees working in the informal economy, and to create new work opportunities for these refugees and Jordanians in special economic zones.

CARE International and other organizations are supporting agriculture-based livelihoods for Syria refugees in camps in Jordan by promoting hydroponic agriculture. In Georgia, IDPs have been supported by CARE<sup>[21]</sup>, FAO and other organizations with various livelihoods'-based activities, including vocational education and access to agricultural assets and access to small livestock. Other examples include: Community-based organizations facilitating access to work in Kenya<sup>[22]</sup> and in Cameroon<sup>[23]</sup>; refugees' self-help micro-enterprise support in Uganda<sup>[24]</sup> while in Zambia, there have been several initiatives to support access to labour markets while promoting community cohesion through the formation of host and refugee networks and cooperatives.

UNHCR has developed a market-oriented, data-driven Global Livelihood Strategy and Minimum Criteria for Livelihoods Programming. Among other livelihood interventions, UNHCR promotes the Graduation Approach, intended to help the poorest of the poor, is a targeted, sequenced and time bound approach to livelihoods support including assessment, training, support for wage and self-employment, access to finance, and mentoring.

Resettled refugees in sustainable farming programs, across the United States, have proven, if provided with responsible farming and food systems opportunities, people can feed themselves, their families, and their communities; additionally, the ability to be reconnected to the land and community has been directly linked to improved physical and mental wellbeing. In Denver, through DeLaney Community Farm, which is dedicated to supporting resettled refugee farmers, refugees are tackling food insecurity, food access, as well as food loss and waste by providing the community with healthy, organic produce to restaurants, farm stands, farmers' markets, etc; they are doing this through agroecological methods that nurture the land and resources.



## 8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?

There is currently a high level of political support and a substantial corpus of work by UN System organizations to the notion of ensuring access to sustainable livelihoods by FDPs .

- ILO has a mandate to protect the interests of all workers “when employed in countries other than their own” including refugees.
- UNHCR helps refugee farmers to be economically empowered and food secure through sustainable, climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural livelihoods.
- WFP sets the framework for collaborative initiatives to enhance food security and self-reliance by synchronizing livelihoods interventions and food assistance in a sequenced and protection-sensitive strategy.
- FAO, conducts agriculture development and humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees and IDPs, including value chain development for livestock, forage, crops and vegetables, and emergency livelihood assistance through agricultural inputs<sup>[25]</sup>.

## 9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited?

The solution is especially well suited for FDPs who were working on agricultural production in their places of origin, and that are resettled in rural setups.

As mentioned above, there are examples of successful models to facilitate access to sustainable livelihoods for IDPs and refugees in many countries, but particularly in those with large refugees and/or IDP populations. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees, with 3.6 million people. Colombia is second with 1.8 million, followed by Pakistan (1.4 million) and Uganda (1.4 million). There are 6.2 million IDPs in Syria, the largest IDP population in the World, and 5,6 million IDPs in Colombia.

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<sup>[1]</sup> This UNFSS ‘gamechanger’ or ‘solution’ was drafted by Juan Echanove (Senior Director for Food and Water Systems, CARE), with key contributions from Sally James (Forced Migration and Protracted Crisis Specialist, FAO), Melissa Joy (Deputy Director for Food Security and Resilience, CARE), Justus Liku (Senior Advisor for Emergency Food and Nutrition Security, CARE) and Heather Delong (Technical Advisor for Agriculture and Market Systems, CARE).

<sup>[2]</sup> ILO (2017)- *Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)*

<sup>[3]</sup> UNHCR and WFP (no date) -*Enhancing Self-Reliance in Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Refugee Situations.*

<sup>[4]</sup> ILO (2016)- *The access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market*

<sup>[5]</sup> UNHCR (2015) - *Enhancing livelihood security among Mauritanian refugees*

<sup>[6]</sup> De Vriese, Machtel (2006) -*Refugee livelihoods A review of the evidence. UNHCR*

<sup>[7]</sup> Wtsadik, Mulugeta-*Enhancing Household Food Security in Refugee Camps in Ethiopia. Urban Agriculture Magazine, number 21 (2009)*

<sup>[8]</sup> UNHCR (2013)- *UNHCR’s Engagement with Displaced Youth.*

<sup>[9]</sup> UNHCR (2017) -*Guide to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees*

<sup>[10]</sup> *Women’s Refugee Commission- Building Livelihoods A Field Manual for Practitioners in Humanitarian Settings (2009)*

- [11] Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (2017). *Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective.*
- [12] OCHA (2020) *Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security through sustainable agriculture for local communities and refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Jordan*
- [13] ILO (2017) *Guiding principles Access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market*
- [14] FAO (2018). *Agricultural skills training to address the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey*
- [15] CARE (2019) *UptakePreneur -Model for Uncovering and Accelerating Social Enterprises and Social Market Solutions in Fragile Settings.*
- [16] CARE (2016). *Syrian women and the struggle to survive five years of conflict*
- [17] CARE (2017). *Resilient Markets, Strengthening women's economic empowerment and market systems in fragile settings*
- [18] Kabir, R and Klugman, J (2019)- *Unlocking Refugee Women's Potential. GIWPS*
- [19] Bellamy, C & et al (2017) *The lives and livelihoods of Syrian refugees. HPG Commissioned Report*
- [20] World Bank (2019). *The Mobility of Displaced Syrians: An Economic & Social Analysis.*
- [21] CARE (2015) *Baseline Assessment of Skills & Market Opportunities for Youth in Azraq Refugee Camp- Jordan*
- [22] UNHCR (2019). *Agricultural farming, a reliable source of livelihood for refugees and host community in Dadaab (Kenya).*
- [23] Barbelet, Veronique (2017) *Livelihood strategies of Central African refugees in Cameroon . HPG EWorking Paper*
- [24] Ben Chie, Denis (2010) *Livelihood Strategies for Refugees: a study of Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda*
- [25] FAO (2014) *Resilient Livelihoods for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security in Areas of Jordan Affected by the Syria Crisis*
- .....

#### S.4. Indigenous Peoples Food Systems Trust

##### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

This is an innovative and catalytic Indigenous Peoples-run Trust to: support the leadership capacity of indigenous youth, to develop collaborative and inclusive research and learning platforms for Indigenous Peoples, to protect Indigenous Peoples' Food systems, to promote their territorial and land rights, to support their customary institutions and governance, and to improve equity by reducing asymmetries of power. The spirituality and cosmogony of Indigenous Peoples and their intimate relationship with ecosystems, the environment, and the land, will be central values that will inform the operationalization of this innovative fund. During the March 31, 2021 exchange of ideas between members and researchers of the FAO initiated Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples Food Systems and the Scientists of the Scientific Committee of the UN Food Systems Summit, the White/Whipala Paper presented by the Global Hub acknowledged this Trust Fund as a possible game changer. It suggested that it could be considered as an autonomous Sub Fund of the Zero-Hunger Fund identified by Action Track 1 as a game changer. This will empower the key elements of sustainability and resilience inherent in Indigenous Peoples food systems for centuries. It will also inform future food systems, indigenous as well as non-indigenous. The systemic approaches that indigenous people's practice (based upon system elements and the relationships between them), the sacred relationship with nature, consensus-based decision-making, gender equity, collective rights to territory and communal resources and, the protection of

biodiversity, will be essential characteristics to be considered when managing this Indigenous Peoples' Trust Fund.

This innovative solution will support platforms that promote the collation, transmission and continuous refinement of indigenous people's knowledge related to their food systems. This is critical to ensure the protection of ecological attributes that can counterbalance climate change, protect biodiversity while guaranteeing the continuity of indigenous peoples' food systems and their governance and territorial management systems that inform them.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

This solution has emerged from an Indigenous People's elder and representative in AT4 and from various discussions on the topics in AT4 meetings and other summit dialogues. It is also based on content from a paper by the CIAT-Bioiversity Alliance and the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (TIP), from the White/Whipala paper drafted by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples Food Systems, from FAO recommendations to other Action tracks, and from a solution submitted by WFP as well as other literature.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge Systems and their traditional knowledge, in most cases orally transmitted, have been critical to the preservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the integrity of ecosystems worldwide. Scientists around the world are progressively understanding the overlapping between biodiversity rich areas, pockets of high cultural diversity and number of languages spoken. The interconnection between languages, culture, spirituality, and biodiversity conservation is being progressively understood by non-indigenous peoples. This is leading to the review of some of the current conservation practices and the review of fundamental ecological paradigms to incorporate the role of, in this case, indigenous peoples to maintain biodiversity and ecosystems health. Despite this, Indigenous Peoples are increasingly under threat from extractive industries, logging, mining, and intensive commercial large scale agricultural schemes. This is creating displacement, violence, illegal resource extraction, land tenure insecurity, biodiversity destruction and loss of indigenous peoples' millennial knowledge.

Moreover, intersectional vulnerability which looks at the effect multiple identities (i.e. Indigenous poor female) can have on a person or a group's livelihood opportunities and well-being- is progressively gaining attention. Capacity building -training, skill development, access to resources, markets, to appropriate social protection schemes, and to opportunities in the formal economy, and being part of co-creating knowledge for the design of sustainable food systems are key areas for Indigenous Peoples to play a significant role in game changing and systemic solutions to food production.

Current food systems approaches do not adequately protect and enhance the capacities of young Indigenous Peoples nor do they recognise the knowledge of elders. We cannot expect indigenous communities to carry the burden of protecting the world's agrobiodiversity and traditional agroecological knowledge, without funding, capacity building support, audiences or truly supportive and long-term strategic alliances and champions. Many young indigenous people are forced to consider migrating from their communities to find sources of livelihoods other than those in their communities, including, sadly, rejection of their local food systems. There is no networking or learning opportunities

with basic training, coaching, or mentoring for young indigenous people interested in food systems sustainability, governance, decision-making or institution building. There is also no room for innovating their food systems and knowledge is being lost rapidly.

Access to policy making processes is restricted and local and indigenous knowledge is undervalued and misrepresented in mainstream technical and policy discussions. Further, climate change and variability and damage to ecosystems are also challenging indigenous communities' ability to adapt. Biodiversity loss is having adverse impacts on indigenous communities' abilities to sustain themselves and their needs using their traditional food systems. Some communities can mitigate against these risks using their existing knowledge, but others need support from trusted partners to help them problem-solve and identify climate resilient species and varieties and, where appropriate, leverage modern technologies and agroecological practices to meet local needs. This requires organised, funded, youth-oriented capacity strengthening and knowledge management.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

AT4 seeks solutions that drive access to equitable livelihoods. An equity approach implies that Indigenous Peoples (historically marginalized and often now displaced from their lands) are afforded more resources and opportunities to protect and enhance their livelihoods with emphasis on their indigenous peoples food systems and local resources. Policy makers and multi-lateral organizations need Indigenous Peoples' Leaders to share their experience of what they need, what they have learned, what is working, what plant species are resilient and which ones are not, just as much as Indigenous Peoples need opportunities to learn other innovative approaches from other cultures (e.g. western) and seek ways to build their own capacities to adapt and to increase their resilience. An Indigenous Peoples-ran fund will enable them to reduce the asymmetry of power and negotiations that historically has progressively marginalized indigenous peoples across the world.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

By acknowledging that the practices, knowledge, and resources of indigenous food systems can contribute to advancing equitable livelihoods, this solution can catalyse investment in youth leadership and capacities to ensure the achievement of multiple SDGs. Successful protection, sustainable use and revitalisation of Indigenous food systems for well-being and livelihoods by communities would be beacons of hope for a world desperately looking for regenerative solutions to environmental degradation, habitat destruction and climate change. The success of such approaches would in turn not only highlight the need to go beyond methods and solutions derived from intercultural co-learning and co-creation but also emphasise the role played by Indigenous values that make possible life-affirming relationships with nature and other peoples based on the 4R's: Reverence, Respect, Reciprocity and Redistribution.

Our theory of change is that small scale localized traditional and indigenous systems of food production can not only advance equitable livelihoods, but that they can advance nutritional wellbeing, ecosystem health and resilience to climate change. Sharing knowledge can also contribute to the design and management of the much-needed sustainable food systems worldwide. Our aim is to connect previously disconnected indigenous change makers, youths, holders of traditional and contemporary knowledge through learning and knowledge processes for livelihood development. The solution will strengthen the agency of indigenous youth through training and specialist skills so that they can lead the

protection, sustainable use, and revitalization of indigenous food systems for livelihoods and wellbeing. Initiatives under the fund could include:

- Leadership and capacity strengthening of emerging leaders and intergenerational mentorship
- Community ownership and management of natural resources promoted through youth training
- Movement building through networking and communities of practice
- Strengthen existing and explore new partnerships with alliances, confluences, and social movements
- Build indigenous knowledge systems with new curricula, learning processes, mentorship, training
- Establish scholarships and research initiatives with established institutions
- Extract the learnings, and widely advocate both the success and the guiding forces that made it possible
- Integrate gender equality and promote the leadership of young women
- Catalyse and reorient ongoing global funds such as the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund or the Payment for Ecosystems Services of the CBD to scale up their initiatives in the territories of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

This solution can have significant impact at scale as it would result in the protection and enhancement of the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and their natural environments. Collective action by indigenous youth leaders and communities demanding and contributing to change within political processes and institutions will help to secure local control and management of food systems. The solution also meets the expectation within the Summit of approaches that deliberately aim to protect and enhance the agency of people in food systems – particularly the agency of the most marginalised.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work/achieve initial outcomes**

Exclusion from decision-making processes and institutions deprives many young Indigenous Peoples of access to the resources and services, as well as to economic opportunities in local food systems, that would improve their lives. But indigenous grassroots leaders in North-East India are discovering on average 202+ new plant species per village. Farmers there are keen observers merging local traditions with innovations; fighting pests without polluting their crops; exploring solutions to scale, without damaging the fertility of their lands; adapting to climate change by making more informed food decisions instead of simply migrating; resisting cash crop farming where they can to protect their families nutrition and food security when income is low. UN statistics show that indigenous peoples are nearly three times more likely to live in extreme poverty than their non-indigenous counterparts.

Indigenous peoples’ opportunities to access good quality employment are scarce – they are 20 percent more likely to work in the informal economy than non-indigenous workers. Indigenous women are 26 percent more likely to work in the informal sector than non-indigenous women. Over 97 percent of indigenous women in Africa work in the informal economy. Almost 47 percent of indigenous adults in employment have no education compared to 17 percent of non-indigenous adults signalling severe educational inequalities. COVID-19 has exacerbated this vulnerability—and even more so in the case of

indigenous persons with disabilities. Traditional agriculture still covers cover around 10 million ha, worldwide, providing cultural and ecological services to rural inhabitants and wider markets. By providing means to study those traditional systems and encouraging the process of sharing knowledge between generations and between elders and scientists, we can enhance our knowledge on complex systems and propose novel sustainable food systems suited for different needs and habitats.[1]

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is growing recognition of the need for action and investment by governments, international agencies, and civil society organizations for more and better support to youth leadership and capacity building in indigenous food systems. Indigenous youths with more skills in acknowledging, respecting, and understanding how traditional knowledge and contemporary science can work together for a more caring society is urgently needed.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

According to the UN, there are over 370 million Indigenous Peoples worldwide, living in about 70 countries. Their presence in different ecosystems, habitats, cultures, languages, means that there is a high potential for Indigenous Peoples and the global community to collaborate significantly in the design of more sustainable food systems worldwide. In doing so, they will help to build bridges between cultures and systems of knowledge through an intercultural process. Indigenous communities everywhere are therefore central to generating solutions to local challenges. When young people are empowered with knowledge and skills, with access to networks and communities of practice, with increased confidence and agency, they will become the creators and custodians of both sustainable and equitable food systems.

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[1] <https://www.istor.org/stable/3868293?seq=1>

### S.5. Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Agency to Contribute to Food Systems Transformation

#### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

WFP, in close partnership with UN agencies, government, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations, have developed an integrated approach across three pillars to address the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, unsustainable livelihoods, and food and nutrition insecurity.

1. *Promoting cultural revitalization and traditional knowledge as a component to food security and climate prediction* empowers indigenous communities to harness and use traditional practices to improve livelihoods. For example, as part of this global approach in Guatemala the JPRWEE programme supports indigenous women to use traditional soil conservation practices and recovers and promotes traditional foods and local varieties. It has led to the development of a recipe book documenting their food practices using native products. In Bolivia WFP worked with indigenous communities to develop an early warning system based on bio-indicators which

draw on ancestral knowledge and traditional practices to predict the weather which are integrated into the National Early Warning System.

2. *Expanding linkages of IP's to markets to reduce conflict* incorporates local peace-building initiatives to prevent and mitigate conflict between the indigenous communities and the non-indigenous local groups in Democratic Republic of Congo, through the identification, planning and creation of common infrastructure projects and village peace committees, thereby promoting dialogue, social cohesion and social and economic integration.
3. *Strengthening traditional livelihood resilience to climate change*: By building the adaptive capacities of indigenous peoples to changing climates and greater variability to rainfall, increases traditional livelihoods to thrive. For example, along the border area of Colombia and Ecuador and in Republic of Congo with the indigenous Aka people and smallholder farmers are provided with knowledge and adapted cultivation techniques to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

This solution has emerged from a collection of sources among them an assessment of WFP activities involving indigenous peoples and the work emerging from WFP's IP Portfolio in addition to discussions with various partners from AT 3 and 4, which have validated some of the findings.

It is also based on content from various sources of literature emerging from IP networks, research institutions and UN agencies as well the projects in Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Republic of Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo which have a shared story. They target often neglected and remote communities affected by conflict, disaster, food insecurity, and/or structural discrimination. The projects foster agency by recognizing their traditional knowledge and practices and building their capacity to lead the protection, management, and restoration of their landscapes. These projects place the beneficiaries and their organizations as the drivers- deciding how they will engage through the principle of free prior and informed consent and as implementing partners. They benefit from a web of alliances that bridge the scientific and academic communities with the local- enabling the documentation of know-how in meteorology, nutrition, forestry- benefitting people at scale.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

According to the International Labour Organization, there are approximately 476.6 million indigenous people in the world, belonging to 5,000 different groups, in 90 countries worldwide. In some countries like Guatemala indigenous peoples make up over 40 percent of the population and 80 percent of indigenous people live in multi-dimensional poverty in marginalized rural areas<sup>1</sup>.

Indigenous peoples' complex traditional knowledge (TK) systems have been critical to the preservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the integrity of ecosystems.

Their livelihoods have also traditionally relied on land and resources. However, indigenous peoples are increasingly under threat from resource extraction, land tenure insecurity, environmental conservation efforts and the impact of climate change- and in some circumstances armed conflict. Moreover, intersectional vulnerability which looks at the effect multiple identities (i.e. Indigenous poor female) can have on a person or a group's livelihood opportunities and well-being- is progressively gaining attention.

Capacity building -training, skill development, access to resources, markets, to appropriate social protection schemes, and to opportunities in the formal economy are key areas for moving forward.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your Action Track?**

Traditional knowledge is recognized as a resource that contributes to communities' food security and can help communities address significant challenges ranging from sustainable agriculture to disaster mitigation and social cohesion. It is thus critical to ensuring equitable access to livelihoods and central to the strategic intent of AT4. This means ensuring indigenous peoples' informed participation in decision-making, enhancing their capacity and skills, and harnessing their traditional knowledge and practices as a valuable resource to ensure their livelihoods and environment can thrive and benefit all. Furthermore, boosting nature-based production and equitable livelihoods requires intercultural approaches that are promoted through partnerships, network building and access to platforms to make indigenous peoples' contributions visible.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

This solution is premised on a programme with a potential operational footprint in over 80 countries with integrated programming currently ongoing in over 50 countries to:

- improve the living environment of people in vulnerable situations and communities at risk through the creation of various community assets for disaster risk reduction
- protect local environments and ecosystems through climate adaptive agricultural practices and related activities
- improve communities' natural resource base through soil and water conservation measures
- facilitate access to assets, capacity, skills, and information to fulfil an equitable livelihood

Our theory of change is that small scale localized traditional and indigenous systems of food production can not only advance equitable livelihoods, but that they can advance nutritional wellbeing, ecosystem health and resilience to climate change. Indigenous food systems sustainably manage and govern natural resources and allow traditional knowledge to guide decisions to maintain ecosystem integrity.

This entails identifying solutions and models that 1) assist communities in vulnerable situations with the skills and partners to drive the initiatives forward, and 2) enable processes for all stakeholders to work together to encourage innovation. A common strategy used to address these issues is to establish or enlarge protected areas. Often areas coincide with indigenous peoples' territories resulting in their displacement. For example, in Nepal according to NEFIN (National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities), 65% of indigenous peoples' ancestral land has now been occupied by national parks and reserves<sup>[1]</sup> forcing many to take refuge elsewhere. There is a need for new solutions to preserve and boost biodiversity while also reducing potential conflict and further displacement.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

This solution can have significant impact at scale as it would result in the protection and enhancement of the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and their natural environments. Collective action by indigenous leaders and communities demanding and contributing to change within political and social processes and institutions will help to secure local control and management of food systems.



It could lead to the scaling out of soil conservation practices that would contribute to sustainability across other communities, including early warning systems based on ancestral knowledge to predict weather patterns which contribute to disaster risk reduction, and the cultivation of nutrient-rich food and the cultivation of often neglected foods to provide diversity in diets. These activities and practices are a benefit for all and many have proven key during the current Covid 19 pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerabilities of global food chains.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work/achieve initial outcomes**

[Evidence](#) demonstrates that IP food systems can be climate resilient, productive, sustainable, and equitable. (See also research emerging from the [Global Hub for Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#)) A UN Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Guatemala exhibits how the recovery of traditional social conservation practices can have an impact on food security. The *milpa*, an intercropping method based on traditional knowledge of the environment, climate and availability of natural resources can be key in the availability of food. These kinds of practices can be identified and promoted in other contexts. For example, a recent study carried out in Central African Republic documented that overall, 67.4 percent of the indigenous people's households surveyed were food insecure. This is due to multiple issues including displacement from territories/lands, lack of access to resources and discrimination. Projects that could identify and recognize their practices in livestock rearing for the Peuhl; and in forest derived food products for the Aka could have long lasting benefits for the IPs but also non-indigenous communities alike.

UN statistics show that indigenous peoples are nearly three times more likely to live in extreme poverty than their non-indigenous counterparts. Indigenous peoples' opportunities to access good quality employment are scarce—they are 20 percent more likely to work in the informal economy than non-indigenous workers. Indigenous women are 26 percent more likely to work in the informal sector than non-indigenous women. Over 97 percent of indigenous women in Africa work in the informal economy. Almost 47 percent of indigenous adults in employment have no education compared to 17 percent of non-indigenous adults<sup>2</sup> signalling severe educational inequalities. COVID-19 has only exacerbated their vulnerability—and even more so in the case of indigenous persons with disabilities.

- Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future
- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2019 theme: Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection)
- FAO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE How ancestral knowledge will improve food

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is a growing recognition of the need for action and investment by governments, international agencies, civil society organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations for greater and better support capacities in indigenous in food systems.

Rome based UN agencies, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Rio conventions, and international and local NGOs, among others from the scientific community are strong advocates for

recognizing the role of traditional knowledge in sustainable food systems and the importance of working with indigenous peoples as partners in moving this work forward. .

## **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The actions proposed can be implemented globally, in areas and countries where both non and indigenous peoples and local communities live.

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[1] <http://www.nefin.org.np/list/Indigenous-People-of-Nepal/5/0/5>

### S.6. Measuring Women’s Empowerment in Food Systems - Upholding rights and advancing equitable livelihoods through a global capacity strengthening programme on the project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index

#### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

This solution sees the establishment of a multi-annual and multi-partner programme of work on the project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). It is an initiative (underpinned with dedicated funding) to support an alliance of organizations to use the pro-WEAI suite of tools (and its variants) to measure impacts of food systems programmes and interventions on women’s empowerment. This solution sees the establishment of:

- a learning platform to share lessons and data (linking directly to the Global Food Systems Data Consortium) on what works for women’s empowerment in food systems and
- a global cohort of women WEAI trainees and trainers. A training and mentorship programme for young women is envisioned as part of the global cohort.

The WEAI is the first comprehensive and standardized tool to directly measure women’s empowerment and inclusion in the agricultural sector. It is an innovative tool composed of two sub-indices: one measures women’s empowerment across five domains in agriculture[1], and the other measures gender parity in empowerment within the household. Accurate household-level measures and data that do not obscure gender gaps and differential vulnerabilities regarding food security and nutrition are key to an enabling environment for change. Data on women’s presence in agricultural production, as actors in food value chains and markets, as users of agricultural inputs, as adopters of technologies, as managers of natural resources, as domestic carers etc. can and should be collected systematically to inform practice and policy. Our solution harnesses the capacities and agency of young women to build a global cadre of expertise in the application of the tool and will have particular emphasis on closing capacity gaps in fisheries and livestock pastoralism.

#### **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

This solution has emerged from discussions within AT4 on the need for improved ‘data for equity’. It is also based on historical and recent evidence around the positive food security and gender equality impacts of improved measurement of women’s empowerment. The solution is also based on published learning and evidence and on the need for more solutions that address the agency of women and men

in local food systems. It also emerged from discussion on the need to apply measurement of empowerment more systematically in fishery-based livelihood programmes.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

There is overwhelming evidence that gender-based discrimination - or the denial of women's human rights - is one of the major causes of poverty and food and nutrition insecurity.[2] A real problem, however, is the lack of awareness and knowledge around the potential of women's empowerment to challenge discrimination and promote equality. This is partly due to the lack of capacity to accurately measure women's empowerment within institutions and programmes working in agriculture. The absence of consistency in the capture, analysis, and publication of accurate data on the gender-based dimensions of agriculture-based livelihoods is a huge system weakness. This diagnostic weakness leads to inadequate policies, and, ultimately, the failure of people's entitlement to food.[3] Creating policy or guidance that does not thoroughly investigate and analyse power and privilege between women and men and other intersectional vulnerabilities is a major barrier to progress.

But the denial of rights and entitlements, either through social norms or through formal and informal institutions and laws, are both causes and consequences of our problem. The widespread and systematic institutional discrimination and bias against women in access to assets, services and information such as land; credit and other financial products and services; education, training and extension; employment opportunities; mobility; climate and market information; agricultural inputs and technologies can thus be attributed to the absence or weakness of data-driven policy making. When measuring the impacts of agricultural programs, the tendency is to focus on production and income. However, agricultural projects affect intrahousehold dynamics and improve (or worsen) the empowerment of individual household members. Further, sex and age matter in terms of how people experience crisis. Evidence clearly and overwhelmingly reflects that there are often significant differences in experiences of humanitarian crises in terms of access to essential, life-saving services based on a person's sex/gender and age. When agencies fail to use sex and age disaggregated data and/or gender and generational analyses, their interventions can be misguided, fail or put vulnerable groups at risk.[4][5]

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your Action Track?**

Action Track 4 is focused on advancing equitable livelihoods. This then means that mechanisms that promote increased agency among excluded or marginalized people, including women, are required. The pro-WEAI is an established, tested and proven tool for the advancement of the agency and power of women in agriculture and, as such, its promotion is critical to the success of AT4 and the wider Summit goals. Moreover, the solution contributes to the achievement of SDG5 and several other SDG sub-indicators. In particular, the pro-WEAI[6] aims at measurement of progress at community level and therefore understanding how the agency of producers can be further strengthened.

### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Our theory of change is based on evidence that increased empowerment of women in agriculture leads to better food security and nutrition outcomes. When women are empowered and have equal access as men to productive and financial resources, income opportunities, education and services, there is a consequent increase in agricultural output and a significant reduction in the number of poor and hungry

people. An empowered woman who has access to and control over resources can influence the extent to which resources, specifically food, are allocated in the household, benefiting the health and nutrition outcomes of the entire family. If we improve the way we measure empowerment, adapt management and report on our progress, we can make immediate progress against several SDG sub-indicators and contribute to great gender equality. Our solution, by increasing the capacities of institutions to be able to apply a standard, tested and proven measurement tool, will bridge a major systems gap. The added value of our solution is that it will place the knowledge and skills in the hands of a large and diverse range of young women working in agriculture – thus ensuring sustainability, institutionalization, and scale.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

This solution will result in the enhancement of the lives and livelihoods of millions of women and men in agricultural production whose livelihoods are constrained by formal and informal barriers and inequities. It will deliver against all Summit goals through its contribution to strengthening the agency of women food producers across the world. The solution is game-changing as it will deliver the impact and scale *across all Action Tracks* that the Summit seeks by reinforcing the evidence we already have around the importance of women’s empowerment as a contributor to gender-equality and to more equitable livelihoods in food systems. Evidence presented below demonstrates contributions of empowerment measurement of empowerment to improved consumption (AT1), healthier diets (AT2), sustainable production (AT3) and resilience to climate change and crises (AT.5).

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work/achieve initial outcomes**

This solution will drive the evidence base that will continue to influence policy and practice change. There is comprehensive and extensive evidence that women’s empowerment, beyond its intrinsic value of building the confidence and capacities of women and men to lead fulfilling, safe and dignified lives, has multiples other benefits. This solution will amplify and scale out these successes:

- The agricultural productivity of women has direct implications on income as well as on the food security of their households. Increased income for women is associated with greater food consumption and improved nutritional status of household members.[7]
- A cluster-randomized controlled trial conducted in Burkina Faso to assess the effect of women’s empowerment on reducing wasting and improving anaemia among children of 3-12 months, showed that interventions, particularly spousal communication contributed to reductions in stunting[8] and a women’s empowerment study in Nepal, which measured project outcomes against 3 WEAI indicators found significant associations between women’s empowerment and increased child nutrition.[9]
- Inclusive engagement and education of women and men in sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture improves household nutrition by increasing access to diverse, nutrient-rich diets.[10]
- Women’s empowerment is a pathway to improved nutrition because of the positive association between women’s empowerment and child and maternal health[11] and, because women spend on food and education, the enhancement of women’s control over production and income strengthens food security.[12]

- Equitable engagement of women and men in adaptation to climate change and natural resource governance enhances environmental outcomes, soil and water conservation and productivity.[13]
- Women's land ownership is linked to income growth, greater bargaining power within their households, better child nutrition and higher educational attainment for girls.[14]
- Biodiversity and conservation interventions that adopt gender and social inclusion strategies are associated with increases in dietary diversity[15] and women's empowerment is also associated with increased production diversity.[16]
- Empowering women by engaging men in sharing caregiving responsibilities and control over productive assets and allowing participation in household decisions leads to increased leadership among women and lower levels of gender-based violence.[17]

## **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is a widespread and growing recognition of the need for action and investment by governments and all development partners in the empowerment of women in agriculture. Commitment to SDG5 is high and many donors are looking for practical ways to advance equitable livelihoods in food systems. One logical way is by investing in the measurement system and, critically, in capacities to use the tools in that measurement system. WEAI has now been used in 56 countries by 113 organizations. Given this rapid uptake and the overwhelming demand for technical support, it is a solution ripe for scaling by engaging more partners and particularly institutions that will build the capacities of young women in developing countries on the application of the tool. Accurate indices allow for transparency and accountability; they allow for policy actions and institutional changes to have analytical basis; they are entry points for reform, and they allow for better information exchange and knowledge management. Most importantly for AT4, this solution with this index will allow for systematic capacity strengthening of institutions and partners that can drive food systems towards more just and equitable outcomes.

## **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The action proposed can be implemented globally but will be particularly required and most beneficial in places where food systems lack support structures and networking opportunities for small-scale farmers. Further, the solution can have higher and faster equity returns where women and marginalised communities face compound vulnerabilities due to, for example, poor governance.

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[1] *The five domains of empowerment in agriculture: decisions about agricultural production; access to and decision-making power about productive resources; control of use of income; leadership in the community and time allocation*

[2] *FAO, 2019, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*

[3] *IDS, 2014, Gender and Food Security: Towards Gender-Just Food and Nutrition Security*

[4] *Mazurana, D., et al, 2020 "Sex and Age Matter: Improving Humanitarian Response in Emergencies." Feinstein International Center, Tufts University*

[5] *CARE, 2020, Where are the Women? The Conspicuous Absence of Women in COVID-19 Response Teams and Plans, and Why We Need Them*

[6] Hazel Malapit, Agnes Quisumbing, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Greg Seymour, Elena M. Martinez, Jessica Heckert, Deborah Rubin, Ana Vaz, Kathryn M. Yount, 2019, *Development of the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)*, World Development

[7] FAO, 2019, *The State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World*

[8] Heckert, J., et al, 2019, *Is women's empowerment a pathway to improving child nutrition outcomes in a nutrition-sensitive agriculture program? Evidence from a randomized controlled trial in Burkina Faso*

[9] Cunningham, K., et al, 2015, *Women's empowerment in agriculture and child nutritional status in rural Nepal*

[10] FAO, 2017, *Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems in practice. Options for intervention*

[11] Malapit et al., 2015, cited in CGIAR, 2017, *CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems, Gender Strategy*

[12] Agarwal, B., 2018, *Gender equality, food security and the sustainable development goals (child survival, nutrition and health are notably better if the mother has assets and income, than if the father alone has the same)*

[13] CARE, 2019, *Gender Transformative Adaptation: From Good Practice to better policy*

[14] Markham, S., 2015, *The Four Things You Need to Know about Women's Land Rights*. IFPRI

[15] Skinner, A., et al, 2019, *Social Outcomes of the CARE-WWF Alliance in Mozambique: Research Findings from a Decade of Integrated Conservation and Development Programming*

[16] Malapit, H., et al, 2013, *Women's Empowerment in Agriculture, Production Diversity, and Nutrition: Evidence from Nepal*

[17] Africa Center for Gender, Social Research and Impact Assessment, 2021, *Costs and Benefits of Applying a Gender-Transformative Approach in Agriculture Programming: A Win-Win for Gender, Agriculture and Nutrition*

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## S.7. Community Score Cards for Improved Social Accountability, Equity and the Realization of Rights in Food Systems

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

There is broad consensus that more inclusive governance is required for food systems to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits. While there is significant rhetoric on inclusive governance, more attention to models that work at community level is required. Community Score Cards (CSC) is an example of an approach that can be used to facilitate the improvement of governance through the promotion of participation, transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. The CSC model brings together community members, service providers, and local government to identify service utilization and provision challenges, and to mutually generate solutions, and work in partnership to implement and track the effectiveness of those solutions in a process of quality improvement. Like similar models. the CSC is a two-way and ongoing participatory tool for assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of services. Such models are easy to use and can be adapted for any service delivery scenario. It brings together the demand side ("service user") and the supply side ("service provider") of a particular service or programme to jointly analyse issues underlying service delivery problems and find a common and shared way of addressing those issues. It is a constructive and accessible way to increase participation, accountability and transparency between service users, providers, and decision makers; and to realise rights embedded in national and international legislation. When applied in local food systems scenarios, the potential for positive impact is enormous.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The emergence of this solution is due to persistent calls from action track leadership groups and summit-related discussions on the need to invest in and support better governance in and of food systems. The solution is also the result of significant deliberations in AT4 about social accountability and the importance of citizen led accountability processes and mechanisms. Academic discourse and evidence are also sources of this solution. Definitions of food systems differ with respect to views on components, boundaries, and interactions, which has implications for the scope of food systems analyses for addressing inequality. These differences surround the causes and consequences of food system performance and the political opportunities for influencing food systems governance. This solution is based on the increasing realization that inequity in food systems is inextricably linked with weak or restricted voice and poor accountability mechanisms for citizens within food systems and related systems of food provisioning and public services such as maternal and child health. This implies that improving social accountability will increase access to equitable livelihoods.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

This solution addresses lack of accountability in food systems that results in inequity. Approaches that are top-down and fail to engage with all relevant stakeholders struggle with accountability, credibility, and effectiveness. Failure to recognize multiple sources of knowledge through, for example, social accountability tools; failure to link farmers, researchers and extension agents, and; failure to hold private, public and voluntary sector bodies accountable to women and men at every level of the food system are aspects of this problem. Food insecurity is often attributed to poverty, which itself is created and sustained through unequal power relations and unjust distribution of resources and opportunities, which has particularly disproportionate effects on Indigenous Peoples for example and on women and girls. Other drivers of vulnerability, based on age, disability, ethnicity or even geography, compound this challenge for many. Underlying the unjust distribution of power and resources are both social norms and poor governance – both manifested in the marginalization of people from decision-making roles. For example, despite the labour burden that they assume or are ascribed, women's spaces for influence are restricted. In the public sphere, the largest gender disparity in the global gender gap indices is the political empowerment gap.[1] Social expectations on gender roles stigmatize working mothers and women in politics, restricting their economic and political leadership and compromising the representation of the interests of women.[2] This is despite evidence that women's participation in local government contributes to improved food intake and wider development.[3] The limited presence and voice of certain food systems livelihood groups, such as pastoralists or urban street vendors for example, in public affairs means policies, investments and frameworks are less sensitive and responsive to their needs and constraints. Fewer people from minority livelihood groups are in leadership positions at regional and national levels than those from larger groups such as farmers. This absence of participation not only restricts ability to influence decisions, but it also hinders access to knowledge.

Inequality in food systems thus demands transparent, inclusive policies and processes and this implies more and better social accountability.

## **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

AT4 seeks solutions that drive access to equitable livelihoods. An equity approach sees three key dimensions of recognition, procedure, and distribution.[4] Recognition is about acknowledging and

respecting rights, and the diversity of identities, knowledge systems, values and institutions of different actors. Procedure is about participation of actors in decision-making, transparency, accountability, processes for dispute resolution. Distribution is about the allocation of benefits across the set of actors, and how the costs/burdens experienced by some actors are mitigated. This understanding of equity is clearly connected to governance – which relates to power, relationships and accountability (who makes decisions, how those decisions are made, how resources are allocated, and how stakeholders have their say and hold those in power to account). In food systems, when underpinned with social accountability mechanisms, issues of rights can be constructively addressed and the positive relationship between governance and equity realized.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Social accountability consists of strategies, approaches, and tools that enable service users to voice their concerns and hold service providers accountable for the quality of the services they are providing. The ability to voice interests and concerns around the services that have a direct effect on an individual or community's wellbeing and welfare is a significant marker of an engaged citizenry and an informed community. The theory of change in this solution is thus that: *If citizens are empowered, if power holders are effective, accountable, and responsive, if spaces for negotiation are expanded, effective and inclusive, then sustainability and equity in food systems can be achieved.* Change needs to take place and be sustained in all three domains to achieve this impact. This theory of change does not see empowerment as a bestowal. Systems, processes, norms or even laws that exclude or stifle women's or Indigenous People's participation or voice in decision-making cripple their potential and productivity in food systems. Advancing social accountability leads to self-empowerment of individuals and groups because they can articulate needs and priorities and play active roles in promoting these interests. Amplifying voice will increase political representation and drive more responsive governance and accountability.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

This solution can have significant impact at scale, is easily actionable and would result in sustainable (institutionalized) improvements in food systems governance. It would have wider impacts across all action tracks. Collective action by communities demanding and contributing to change within political processes and institutions improves the responsiveness of duty bearers and service providers. Local movements require space and resources to localize control of food systems.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work/achieve initial outcomes**

Exclusion from social and economic processes and institutions deprives many people of access to public goods and services, as well as to economic opportunities in food systems. There is widespread discrimination in terms of access to decision-making on social and economic issues, and being rural and unorganized means that individual response to challenges is unlikely to have impact.[5] Typical constraints faced by women include inadequate business skills; insufficient market information or transport; social barriers placed by men on women's engagement in markets or in collective action; and lack of time. Formal and informal collectives such as producer groups, cooperatives or savings groups



and related social and vocational learning platforms such as field schools have, however, been effective in increasing women's empowerment and their control over resources and agricultural value chains.[6]

Sustainable management of common property resources is also facilitated by collective decision-making that is mediated by institutions – either formal or informal.[7] Community-led collective action in natural resource management and governance, can bring socio-economic and environmental returns while delivering food and nutrition security outcomes.[8] As a result of the evidence generated from social accountability approaches, there is a strong case for scale up. In India, a social accountability model implemented to help realise rights under India's National Food Security Act led to improvements in service provision and access to the Public Distribution System; a food support service; as well as enrolment in a maternity benefits scheme[9]. In Tanzania and Ghana, the World Health Organization has invested in adapting the CSC to improve family planning services. The US Government Initiative, PEPFAR has also adapted and utilized the CSC in PEPFAR's guidance to enable community monitoring of the services they access. While the CSC has been implemented in more than 30 countries, experiences in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania demonstrate the power of such tools to leverage and scale the model. For example, in Tanzania, the Canadian government invested nearly \$11 million into replicating the CSC model. Collectively, the project has been able to influence more than 13 additional donors in more than 11 countries to adopt and scale the model for a total of \$83.5 million.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is growing awareness of the need for more action by governments, international agencies, the private sector, trade unions and civil society organizations for more and better social accountability in food systems. In India, a country that has been at the forefront of innovation in social accountability approaches, the government has already taken the step of formally institutionalizing social accountability approaches as part of national food security legislation.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

Communities everywhere are central to generating solutions to local challenges. When communities—rights holders—can exercise their rights and join local stakeholders, institutions and government—duty bearers—to participate in dialogue that can spur change and action—social accountability is in effect and this is a *sine qua non* for equitable livelihood in food systems.

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[1] World Economic Forum, 2020, *Global Gender Gap Report*

[2] FAO, IFAD, 2015, *Promoting the leadership of women in producers' organizations: Lessons from the experiences of FAO and IFAD*

[3] Rao, N., 2020, *The achievement of food and nutrition security in South Asia is deeply gendered*

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[9] Gordon, J., Nisbett, N. and Tranchant, J.P., 2020, 'Using Social Audits to Improve Delivery of State Nutrition-related Services: Lessons from the CAN Program', Brighton: IDS

## S.8. Promoting the development of mobile-enabled insurance products against natural disasters for smallholder farmers

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

In the agricultural sectors of developing and emerging contexts, fostering the development of financial products that leverage mobile phone technology to provide insurance against natural disasters to smallholders can represent a gamechanger in promoting their resilience and livelihoods. Mobile technology makes it possible to overcome several of the core constraints that limit the provision of insurance products to vulnerable, financially underserved actors in the agricultural sector, which include (but are not limited to): the high levels of geographical fragmentation of rural dwellers; the high transactions incurred by private insurers; the lack of granular, timely and insightful data on insurance clients; the notable delays in handing out and receiving insurance pay-outs following a natural disaster; and the overall bureaucracy associated to stipulating an insurance policy.

### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

The technical experts from the RISE Team in the ESP Division, as well as the substantial literature on the topic, some of which is mentioned under Question 7.

### 3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?

The income and livelihoods of smallholder farmers are increasingly affected by financial shocks and natural forces beyond their control, such as extreme weather or crop damage from pests and diseases. Globally, less than 20 per cent of smallholder farmers have insurance to protect themselves against the impact of unexpected events. Smallholder farmers have been unable to access indemnity-based insurance services, which require farm-level loss assessments. Low awareness and knowledge of insurance, coupled with the high cost of premiums, have restricted farmer uptake. Insurance providers have largely overlooked smallholder farmers due to the cost of acquiring and serving rural customers in remote locations, making farmers a less profitable customer segment for the industry.

The emergence of index insurance, which makes pay-outs based on a predetermined index rather than on-farm visits, has overcome some of the challenges of indemnity-based models, such as high operational costs, the cost of premiums and the ease of settling claims. However, insurance service providers still face substantial difficulties, such as poor historical and current weather data availability, inadequate government support to provide certain index insurance services and effective distribution. As a result, providing insurance to smallholder farmers remains a challenging and risky endeavour, that sees scarce participation on the part of private insurance companies and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Ministries of Agriculture), unless substantial incentives and enabling innovations (i.e. mobile technology) are made available and adequately brought to scale.

### 4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?

The insurance coverage gap for smallholder farmers is due to a range of different factors, including: lack of awareness and knowledge of insurance and services, associated to limited penetration of financial, services in rural areas, costs of insurance premiums and the cost of travelling to nearby towns to register for services and make claims.

By promoting the development of mobile-enabled insurance products against natural disasters for smallholder farmers, this solution will help to reduce their insurance coverage gap by responding to the main factors of exclusion in rural areas, and by doing so, will allow small scale farmers to sustain and promote their livelihoods and be more protected in case of shocks.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

There are vast opportunities for mobile network operators (MNOs) to use mobile technology to register and locate farmers, as well as to use mobile money to collect premiums and pay out claims. Over the last 10 years, index insurance services have been using mobile and satellite technology to digitize service creation and delivery — enhancing their potential to scale in the process.

In fact, the provision of insurance services through mobile phones (whether basic cell phones or smartphones) has long since proven to be one of the most game-changing lines of innovation in fintech. The following are some of the advantages of mobile technology in insurance provision:

- It allows the centralization and more effective management of the collection of data on clients' identities and activities, while substantially reducing administrative and operational costs;
- It facilitates registration and significantly expands distribution channels, allowing providers to reach a large population of smallholders based in remote areas that are completely disconnected from brick and-mortar banking and insurance services;
- It significantly reduces the time required to apply for a policy, settle claims and communicate with clients. It allows for easier bundling of insurance with other financial services (such as a mobile wallet), as they can all be channelled into the same platform;
- Most importantly, in the context of disaster risk management, the rapid provision of pay-outs following an extreme natural event, facilitated by mobile technology, represents a particularly critical advantage.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

- A. Impact potential at scale (including return on investment)
  - a. Ample evidence (see Question 7) shows that mobile insurance is a considerably cheaper and more effective option to foster smallholders' resilience and overall livelihoods in the face of natural disasters compared to post-disaster direct payments (whether provided through mobile phones or with physical cash handouts). Providing mobile insurance in the frame of public programmes allows governments to set aside in advance specific portions of their budgets (destined to paying policy premiums) that are dedicated to supporting smallholders' recovery following a disaster, while the use of post-disaster direct payments is highly unpredictable and uncertain for public budgets, and it is not able to adequately cover smallholders' damages that they might have incurred following a disaster in a proportional and equitable manner.

- B. Actionability (considering politics, capacity, costs)
- a. The rapid rise of mobile penetration levels in rural areas of developing and emerging contexts represents a clear trend in favour of the development of mobile financial services (including insurance) at an increasingly lower cost. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there has also been a [substantial increase](#) in overall rates of mobile money service usage in developing and emerging contexts, which strengthens the case for the provision of insurance products through such channels.
- C. Sustainability (i.e., the ability to keep delivering to 2030 and beyond)
- a. As illustrated in the previous paragraph, mobile money usage rates are rising exponentially in developing and emerging contexts. As such, there will be a steady increase in the number of private insurance providers, as well as MMOs, willing to engage in public-private partnerships focused on the design and provision of mobile insurance services for smallholders. Furthermore, rising mobile penetration levels and increasingly better awareness of rural populations over the use, challenges and opportunities of mobile money services are only going to make it easier to develop and provide insurance products through such channels

**7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

There have been multiple pilots in recent years of successful mobile products that enabled agricultural insurance solutions for smallholder farmers, in a wide variety of contexts such as [India](#), [Kenya](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Sri Lanka](#). Key development agencies in the fields of rural finance and fintech for development have published studies and reports on the potential of mobile technology to facilitate the provision of agricultural insurance, including the [GSMA](#), [FAO](#), [ILO](#), and [USAID](#).

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

Governments in developing and emerging contexts are increasingly petitioning for new solutions that enable agricultural insurance against natural disasters, especially in the face of the rising damage brought to agricultural sectors by the consequences of climate change. As such, it is likely that any initiative/project focused on enabling fintech solutions for agricultural insurance will be well received at public level, especially in SIDS and other countries particularly affected by climate change.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

Mobile-enabled index insurance can only work in the presence of a number of key enabling elements at country level. The following list presents the core among such elements. Note that the majority of these factors can be strengthened as part of the same programme/initiative that sets out to develop mobile insurance products, although it must be noted that -if the following elements are absent in their entirety at national level- the whole project will probably not be sustainable in that specific country:

- A suitable ICT infrastructure that ensures mobile connectivity in rural areas
- Adequate levels of mobile penetration
- A strong data-gathering infrastructure that collects granular and precise weather data, especially in rural areas, which can underpin the index insurance mechanism

- Adequate capacity and expertise among Ministries and governmental agencies on the topic of agricultural insurance, to ensure that any public/private collaboration to enable such products has a chance of being effective and sustainable
- An advanced financial consumer protection regulation that protects consumers' data after being collected by the insurance company, while providing adequate grievance redressal mechanisms to defend consumers against fraud and scams
- An overall adequate regulation of the mobile money sector (neither too stifling of competition, nor too lax)
- Adequate levels of awareness on the part of the smallholder population on the mechanisms and challenges related to the use of agricultural insurance as a financial product

## S.9. Empowering youth as innovators and change makers for sustainable food systems

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

Harnessing the demographic dividend of developing countries is paramount. Of the global youth population (15-24 years old), which reached the unprecedented figure of 1.2 billion, almost 85 per cent live in developing regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, many of them in rural areas. The inclusion of young people in food systems development and productive activities (wage or self-employment, in and off farm) is key to increase the generational turnover, foster the sector competitiveness and the vitality of rural areas, and ultimately addressing the significant untapped potential of this sizeable and growing demographic.

Young people are indeed best placed to rejuvenate the sector, acquire the knowledge and skills needed to innovate, uptake new technologies, and spearhead the digital transformation. With their ability to learn fast and their innovative spirit, the youth can drive change and accelerate the transition to more sustainable production and consumption patterns that are needed to achieve the goals of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and feed the world's growing population.

Empowering youth through training, mentorship, dedicated services and incentives is a powerful solution to enable them to innovate and introduce greener and more sustainable practices into agri-food system. Moreover, giving visibility to youth champions leading change in the sector has proven inspiring for fellow youth and the older generations alike. Young women, together with other vulnerable youth groups such as indigenous youth, young migrants and youth with disabilities, need specific attention and targeted solutions to unlock their potential. Supporting a conducive environment and boosting youth agency to actively participate in food systems and their governance mechanisms (policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) is of central importance and demands mainstreaming of youth as crosscutting priority.

### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

This solution emerged from broad and compelling evidence about, on the one hand, the potential and existing commitment of youth for agri-food systems transformation, and, on the other hand, although their evident key role, the recognition of their higher vulnerability and exclusion compared to adults from the governance mechanisms that shape food systems transformation.

Key documents in this regard include:

- FAO, CTA, IFAD. 2014, [Youth in Agriculture: Key challenges and concrete solutions](#)
- IFAD 2019 Rural Poverty report - [Creating opportunities for the rural youth](#)
- UN Strategy for Youth <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-un/>
- FAO Rural Youth Action Plan <http://www.fao.org/3/nd385en/nd385en.pdf>
- IFAD Rural youth action plan <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41190893>
- Several youth declarations and strategies showing youth commitment and priorities, such as:
  - PR Food systems summit 2021, [Youth movement leads the charge worldwide for food systems transformation ahead of UN summit](#)
  - 2017, [Rome statement on the contribution of indigenous youth towards a world without hunger](#)
  - 2017, [Plan de Acción Regional dirigido a la Juventud Rural en los países del SICA](#)
  - 2016, [Agenda Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes Rurales - Directrices de política pública para las juventudes rurales de la agricultura familiar, campesina e indígena](#)

### 3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?

Despite impressive reductions in poverty globally and steady growth in several middle and low-income countries, socio-economic inequality is increasing, and rural areas are lagging behind. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress towards SDG 1 had slowed down, and the world was not on track to ending extreme poverty by 2030, with rural inhabitants and agriculture and food systems workers overrepresented among the poorest, and the underemployed, especially youth. The above persisting challenges show that the ongoing processes of rural and food systems' transformation have to become more inclusive and equitable to truly enable rural people, especially the younger generations, to capitalize on emerging opportunities, such as the expanding food demand, rather than be further marginalized by them.

Most of the world's young people live in Africa and South Asia, and these two regions will continue to have the highest concentration of young people in the years to come. Globally, this process will go hand in hand with an increase in urbanization and the ageing of the population, a process that has already started also in developing countries. Urbanization and per capita income growth offers significant new opportunities and jobs in the food system beyond the farm level. While the employment share in farming tends to decline as per capita incomes rise, the share in food manufacturing and services tends to increase. Inclusion of women and youth into food system jobs can raise productivity and improve social peace, making migration a choice and not a necessity (WB, 2017).

These trends will generate new opportunities driven by increasing food demand and dietary changes, but could also jeopardize food security and nutrition in many developing countries and generate excessive pressure on urban labour markets if older people are left behind in rural areas while adults and youth move to cities looking for jobs (FAO, 2017[1]).

Nearly 1 billion of the world's 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years reside in developing countries and their numbers are growing more rapidly in lower income countries than in higher income countries, particularly in rural areas. With the objective of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), specific attention needs to be given to youth that are unemployed or not in education, employment or training (NEET), young women, younger youth between 15 and 17, less educated youth, youth from poor or extremely poor rural families, indigenous youth, migrant youth, and youth working in the informal economy.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

As future managers of our eco- and agri-food systems, youth need to be explicitly targeted to ensure inclusive socio-economic development that is resilient to future crises and shocks and contributes to the realization of the SDGs.

This solution contributes to all the three work streams of AT4, namely:

- “Strengthening Agency” by supporting youth to raise their voices and actively contribute to shaping food systems’ transformation
- “Inclusive Policies” by supporting inclusive process and practices to end age-based discrimination and promote fairness and justice within food systems
- “Multi-dimensional Welfare and Access” by directly building more equitable value distribution and empowering young people, as essential players in the agricultural value chains and food systems as a whole

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Through empowering youth as innovators and change makers for sustainable food systems transformation, this solution will lead to better employment and economic opportunities, reduced inequalities and more successful transitions for youth in the labour market, while directly contributing to rejuvenating the sector and reducing the rural exodus.

Key Outputs to achieve such results include:

- Making agri-food systems and rural areas attractive to youth by supporting governments to enable a youth-sensitive structural transformation of the sector that makes it more remunerative and youth friendly, and by facilitating the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and resources, such as land; promoting agricultural and rural livelihoods in school curricula; giving visibility to youth champions in the sector for peer-to-peer learning and attitudinal change towards engagement in agriculture.
- Strengthening rural youth capacities for innovation in food and agriculture, by equipping them with the skills needed to uptake new and innovative technologies, greener practices, and spearhead the digital transformation.
- Boosting productive youth wage employment and entrepreneurship, by systematically mainstreaming youth wage employment/entrepreneurship needs in food systems investments, sharing knowledge and information on successful and sustainable approaches (including youth-led solutions to food systems challenges), promoting youth-to youth mentorship and investments, advocating for national and regional funds or windows in support of youth agripreneurship; Support should ensure to be adequately tailored to the differing needs and realities of Youth in agripreneurship as self-employed workers, and youth in agriworkforces as waged workers.
- Supporting youth-led organizations and networks for quality youth engagement in food systems policy and governance mechanisms, including by supporting a conducive environment and enhancing youth capacity to actively participate in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- Supporting education and training centres, producers’ organizations and service providers in responding to the needs of youth, paying special attention to the needs, constraints and opportunities of rural young women and other vulnerable groups of youth, such as younger youth, migrant youth, indigenous youth, youth with disabilities, etc.

Main assumptions include:

- Youth stand ready to further engage in agri-foods systems when they are provided with the right incentives and enabling environment.
- Food demand and value chain development will continue to increase in developing regions, offering additional opportunities for youth productive engagement in the sector.
- Governments recognize the urgent need to further engage the youth, to guarantee the rejuvenation of agriculture and food systems, as well as to address the daunting unemployment and underemployment challenges faced by a burgeoning youth population in rural areas.

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

Empowering youth to become innovations and change makers is a feasible action, for which successful examples are already in place in several country or regional contexts as well as exceptional momentum, but which demands increased global commitment and investment to truly shift the operational models, incentives, and structures that shape food systems.

- Impact potential at scale: The initiative will be global, implemented across developing regions and countries. Considering the demographics of youth and the presence of a “youth bulge” that has the strong potential to turn into a "dividend", this solution has impact potential at scale.
- Actionability: By building on and connecting existing initiatives, partnerships and networks, this initiative would need a light management structure and could easily support the replication and upscaling of successful initiatives.
- Sustainability: The initiative will deliver to 2030 and beyond. By harnessing the innovation and entrepreneurial potential and commitment of key actors in society (the youth), this solution will have positive effects on ensuring equitable livelihood opportunities, while promoting more inclusive food systems transformations.

**7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

Evidence from implementation programmes as well as from research show the innovation and entrepreneurial potential of youth when they are empowered and supported to effectively contribute to agriculture and food systems development.

Specific evidence	Source



<p>Evidence of youth overall interest and commitment towards more sustainable food system development and on supporting their peers in engaging in productive activities as well as policy dialogue around this topic</p>	<p>FAO has been effectively supporting efforts aimed at strengthening youth organizations and networks and their active participation in policy formulation and development around agriculture and food systems. Examples of successful experiences are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwanda Youth Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) (<a href="http://ryaf.rw/">http://ryaf.rw/</a>). FAO Rwanda has contributed to the establishment of RYAF through a technical cooperation project, for which the Ministry of Agriculture in Rwanda was also awarded the Saouma Award in 2019 <a href="http://www.fao.org/fao-awards/conference-awards/edouard-saouma/en/">http://www.fao.org/fao-awards/conference-awards/edouard-saouma/en/</a></li> <li>- RAPEA (<a href="https://rapea.africa/">https://rapea.africa/</a>) and YOFCHAN (<a href="https://www.yofchan.org/">https://www.yofchan.org/</a>) networks in Senegal/Western Africa and Uganda respectively are additional examples. Global networks such as CSAYN and YPARD also already contribute to this solution, yet efforts at country level remain limited.</li> </ul>
<p>Evidence of effectiveness of youth champions initiatives, where youth act as role models for other youth, contributing to increase the overall attractiveness of the sector, as well as the identification of successful practices and solutions</p>	<p>FAO supports the identification, visibility and networking of youth champions, like in the case of the Chisparural.GT platform in Guatemala (<a href="https://chisparural.gt/">https://chisparural.gt/</a>) or through multiples initiatives across different countries (see news on Uganda youth champions: <a href="http://www.fao.org/uganda/news/detail-events/en/c/1393445/">http://www.fao.org/uganda/news/detail-events/en/c/1393445/</a>)</p> <p>FAO. 2021. <a href="#">Youth-to-youth mentorship approach in agripreneurship development. Lessons learned from the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA) initiative in Uganda</a>;</p> <p>FAO, 2021. Forthcoming. - Case Study -Effectiveness and Duplicability of the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative (Uganda)</p> <p>Plan International. 2021. <a href="#">Youth voices in youth employment: a roadmap for promoting meaningful youth engagement in youth employment programs</a>; FAO. 2021.</p> <p>Youth Employment Funders Group (YEFG), 2021. Youth voices in youth employment: A roadmap for promoting meaningful youth engagement in youth employment programs <a href="https://www.planusa.org/docs/Youth_Engagement_Manual.pdf">https://www.planusa.org/docs/Youth_Engagement_Manual.pdf</a></p>

<p>Evidence of youth innovation, greening and entrepreneurship potential</p>	<p>FAO, 2020. Africa’s youth in agrifood systems: Innovation in the context of COVID-19 <a href="http://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1307956/">http://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1307956/</a></p> <p>IDRC/MasterCard Foundation. 2015. <a href="#">Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Taking Stock of the Evidence and Knowledge Gaps</a></p> <p>FAO. 2019. Youth in motion for climate action! - A compilation of youth initiatives in agriculture to address the impacts of climate change. Rome <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ca5746en/ca5746en.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/ca5746en/ca5746en.pdf</a>.</p> <p>FAO partners with youth agripreneurs to innovate in terms of sustainable solutions for agri-food systems and support their peers through mentorship or investment.</p> <p>See FAO Letter of Intent with youth-led agribusiness JR Farms to establish the GAF Fund (youth-to-youth equity investment), which will become an Academy in 2021. <a href="http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1379634/icode/">http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1379634/icode/</a> <a href="https://gafafrika.com/background">https://gafafrika.com/background</a></p>
<p>Evidence of food systems transformation to deliver jobs</p>	<p>World Bank, 2017. Future of Food – Shaping the food system to deliver jobs. <a href="http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/406511492528621198/pdf/114394-WP-PUBLIC-18-4-2017-10-56-45-ShapingtheFoodSystemtoDeliverJobs.pdf">http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/406511492528621198/pdf/114394-WP-PUBLIC-18-4-2017-10-56-45-ShapingtheFoodSystemtoDeliverJobs.pdf</a></p>

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is currently high political support for initiatives supporting youth and their engagement in achieving the 2030 Agenda, globally (see multiple inclusions of youth indicators and targets in the SDGs), regionally and at national levels.

For instance, the African Union Agenda 2063 made strong commitments to empowering young women and men while promoting more and better jobs for youth in agri-food systems was an urgent priority explicitly acknowledged by Africa’s governments already in 2014, through the African Union Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. Commitment has been growing in the region, as testified by the 2017 AfDB’s strategy “Jobs for Youth in Africa” and the AU “African Youth Charter”. Pursuant to these initiatives, many African governments and development partners have developed strategies and implemented various interventions to facilitate youth engagement in agri-food systems.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The solution applies to food systems at large yet is definitely more urgent and critical for developing regions where more than 80 percent of the youth currently live.

## S.10. Gender Transformation National Food Systems Policies

### 1. What is the solution?

At least 50% of countries have national food systems policies and action plans with clear targets for gender transformative initiatives (including % of budget to these initiatives), gender transformative impact, and have integrated collection of sex disaggregated data across the food system in their national statistics.

### 2. What problem is your solution addressing?

Across countries, many agricultural, forestry, natural resource management, climate change or trade policies and investments do not include or provide for gender equality and women's empowerment despite the critical roles that women play across food systems, as producers, processors, traders, and consumers. For example, in Africa, despite substantial gender gaps, regional and national agricultural investment plans (NAIP) insufficiently address gender inequalities and do not provide an enabling environment for women's empowerment and gender equality in agri-food systems (incentives, levels of investments, conducive legal and policy framework, institutional gender capacity etc.). A gender audit of 38 NAIP shows they rarely integrate a thorough gender analysis and do not always use sex-disaggregated data. The effective participation of women's organizations and gender institutions in the elaboration process of such plans remains too often insufficient<sup>[1]</sup>. A review of climate change policies in Latin American countries also showed a lack of integration of gender in the policies, and where gender was mentioned, this was not carried through into the action plans and budgets and neither was sex-disaggregated data collected to evaluate the impacts of these policies<sup>[2]</sup>. In the fisheries sector, a recent review<sup>[3]</sup> found that despite the role of blue foods in promoting economic livelihoods and nutrition, an evaluation of 173 countries' national production- and consumption-related policy documents uncovered little recognition of gender difference. There was positive 49 blue food outcomes in countries where policy documents acknowledged the structural drivers of injustice, centered principles of equity and human rights, and specified procedures to ensure representation.

### 3. How does your solution address the problem?

Integrating gender in food systems policies and action plans will provide the legal framework for driving action and allocating the required investments to not only close current gender resource gaps, but also address underlying causes of gender inequality and women's empowerment in food systems. It will:

- Provide a legal framework for the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment in food systems.
- Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment as a key driver for food systems transformation, into specific action plans and develop key actions for targeting and for the implementation of interventions aimed at closing current gender gaps and addressing underlying social norms, and structural causes of gender inequality in food systems.
- Allocate specific budgets across Ministries including agriculture, water, trade, nutrition to implement gender specific interventions.
- Gender transformative food policies at the national level will ensure and make provisions for the inclusion of women in the development of policies, action plans and budget allocations.
- Adoption of gender responsive budgeting principles in the allocation of national and devolved budgets for food systems development will ensure enough resources are allocated to the

implementation of interventions aimed at improving gender equality and empowerment of women.

- Inclusion of indicators and targets for measuring progress towards achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in food systems, identifying gaps for further investments.
- Inclusion of gender indicators, and sex disaggregated data in national statistics will allow for monitoring of progress in achieving indicators and in identifying key gaps for future investments.

#### **4. Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?**

While some countries have integrated gender in agriculture, trade, or NRM policies, often these are not accompanied by action plans and budgetary allocations and indicators for systematically measuring progress. Other countries have women's focused programs, but these are not anchored in policy and have not been monitored for their effectiveness. The full solution of gender transformative policies, action plans, investments, indicators and data collection mechanisms are new.

#### **5. Which organization/s, institution/s or group of individuals are associated with the solution?**

IFPRI, FAO, IFAD, SEWA, RECOTF, WFP

#### **6. If selected as a game-changing solution, how will you leverage the UN Food Systems Summit to scale your solution?**

Member states are a critical constituent of the UN Food Systems Summit. We will use the summit to mobilize members states to make commitments to ensure they have gender transformative food policies, and allocated resources for implementation. We will also engage civil society organizations including national policy think tanks, women's rights organizations, researchers and UN agencies in countries to form coalitions to support governments in ensuring the development of the policies and actions plans and to provide accountability mechanisms for government.

#### **7. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape or other type of setting (e.g. high- or low-income countries, aquaculture)? If so, please specify.**

Global with potential for North South and South-South collaboration for technical support, lesson sharing, and resource mobilization

#### **8. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

National Governments /Member States, Women's Rights Organizations, National Policy Think Tanks, UN Women, Donor organizations

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[1] FAO and AUC, 2018. *Leaving no one behind. Empowering Africa's rural women for zero hunger and shared prosperity.* <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1506EN/ca1506en.pdf>

[2] Tatiana Gumucio and Mariana Tafur Rueda (2015) *Influencing Gender-Inclusive Climate Change Policies in Latin America.* *Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security* Vol 1, Issue 2, pp 42-61, 2015

[3] Hicks et al, 2020: *Towards Justice in Blue Food Systems.* *Submitted to Nature*

## S.11. Closing the gender gap in financial inclusion in food systems

### **1. What is the solution?**

An alliance of at least 50 global and national financial institutions implement gender transformative finance mechanisms to design and deliver financial products and support of women led businesses in food systems with the aim of closing the gender gap in financial inclusion by 2030.

What problem is your solution addressing?

The solution addresses a two-fold problem, namely the large gap in financial inclusion for women in agriculture and food systems and the need to connect access to finance to a range of other actions in order to achieve women's economic empowerment in agriculture and food systems.

Fifty-six per cent of all those without a bank account are women – meaning that nearly a billion women are unbanked[1]. Those with bank accounts do not necessarily have control over their finances due to various reasons including harmful gender norms. Women face unique obstacles in accessing financial services, some of which result from regulations and policies meant to promote financial inclusion. On its own, financial inclusion will not result in gender equality and the proposed alliance will work with other partners to ensure the demand side of translating financial inclusion to empowerment of women and gender equality are addressed. Only with equal access to the full range of needs-based financial services – savings, credit, insurance, payments – and the accompanying financial education, and addressing the social and cultural barriers do women stand a chance of social and economic empowerment.

Commercial banks often focus on men and formal businesses, neglecting women who make up a large and growing segment of the informal economy. Many microfinance institutions (MFIs) have risen to the challenge, focusing primarily on women, but to change the status quo, much more is needed, not least because microfinance is not well suited to serve the needs of women who manage small and medium-scale businesses. Most efforts at financial inclusion aim to dismantle barriers to access on the demand side, including building women's financial literacy, linking savings and loans associations to financial institutions etc but many formal financial institutions still do not cater to and do not provide solutions what work for women in food systems, despite women in food systems constituting a unique and significant market opportunity. They may also not know how to serve and attract women as clients due to a lack of skills in gender equality and on food systems (particularly as concerns agriculture). As a result, many banks offer a standard suite of financial products across sectors and types of clients including women. This lack of solutions and services that address the specific needs of women in agriculture and food systems are a key barrier to financial inclusion for women as well as to translating access to finance into economic empowerment. Both better financial services and their combination with other interventions are needed to have meaningful impact on the empowerment of women.

## **2. How does your solution address the problem?**

An alliance of global, regional, and national financial services provides with a commitment and targets for closing the gender gap in financial inclusion can address women's access to financial inclusion by addressing the multiple barriers to women's financial inclusion and empowerment (i) designing and delivering solutions that work for women in food systems (ii) addressing the demand side barriers such as financial and digital literacy (iii) addressing constraints and barriers to translating women's financial inclusion to women's empowerment.

The alliance of financial institutions would:

- Designing products and delivery channels, including use of accessible digital tools, other tools such as lease financing to eliminate collateral for women that suit the unique opportunities and constraints of women working in food systems.
- With other partners, promote the growth of women-led businesses in food systems beyond what microfinance institutions can provide. This would involve targeting women led businesses in the food systems space with necessary financial education, business and market linkages, mentorship, and gender training.
- Integration of gender considerations in the training of staff in financial institutions, inclusion of staff with skills in gender and food systems
- Review and simplification of banking and credit processes so that they are accessible to all especially women, and small business owners working in the food systems informal sector.
- Promotion of collective action, and collective mechanisms for saving and loans by women that provide a building block for access to formal financial services.
- Working with other partners to address the social and cultural barriers that women face in accessing financial services, and in translating these services to impact for them and their families.

**3. Is this a new solution or an existing solution that needs scaling?**

This is an existing solution that requires to be targeted and to be implemented at scale. While there are alliances for financial inclusion, these are not often targeted at women working in food systems and therefore are not always inclusive of the specific nature of women owned businesses in food systems.

**4. Which organization/s, institution/s or group of individuals are associated with the solution?**

SEWA, IFPRI, RECOTFC, FAO, CARE(?)

**5. If selected as a game-changing solution, how will you leverage the UN Food Systems Summit to scale your solution?**

We will leverage the presence of the private sector to make the business case for investing in women in food systems, showing the potential market and returns to this market. We will also use the UN Food systems platform to bring together existing alliances and new members for a sub alliance around supporting women in food systems. We will also work closely with the Finance Lever of Change.

**6. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape or other type of setting (e.g. high- or low-income countries, aquaculture)? If so, please specify.**

Global

**7. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

AfDB, Financial Alliance for Women, Centre for Financial Inclusion, Financial Sector Deepening Trust, CARE, etc

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[1] 2017 Findex Report

## S.12. Putting the right to food at the heart of food systems

### Background information on group and process

This working group (WG) initially composed of Amnesty International (AI), Human Rights Watch (HRW) and FAO, was convened by Lawrence Haddad, (GAIN and the leader of AT1) to bring a human rights

vision to the UNFSS. Its objective, to strengthen human rights within a food systems context, highlighting violations, and making them a springboard to action. Principal challenges are: inequality is increasing because COVID-19 divides the world into people who can continue to work and those who cannot; a K-shaped recovery means some people and sectors face the prospect of a rapid upswing in fortunes, while others continue to decline; and an austerity response to the crisis would further exacerbate inequality. Strong food systems underpinned by rights are essential for a rapid recovery from COVID.

This was the initial task set for the WG to examine together with its consultation group, which subsequently included UN Special Rapporteurs (RtF), specialised human rights and right to food experts from International NGOs (AI and HRW), International Organizations (FAO), and academia (University of Colombia, University of California Santa Barbara, University of Oslo, Pace University, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)). Following small group consultations, including two roundtable meetings, a first proposal to action was drawn up which became known as: ***Putting the Right to Food at the Heart of Food Systems***. This was shared among experts for further brainstorming and comments. Feedback was identified, summarized and filtered into thematic areas, leading to the identification of a final game changing solution proposal, reached by consensus, and to work around the monitoring of specific indicators that are established, already agreed and signed up to by countries under the SDGs.

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Food systems must integrate a human rights perspective in order to ensure that the fight against hunger and malnutrition affecting vulnerable groups in every society disproportionately – is effective, sustainable and just. For effective implementation, transparent, participatory and non-discriminatory monitoring systems must be in place that can provide specific information on some of the most overlooked vulnerable people and groups.

This solution is not creating a new framework for accountability. It is proposing to use existing indicators coming from the SDG framework and FAO which can shed the light on a few key structural issues and aspects of food systems that unless they are looked at more closely, food systems will not change - let alone become more sustainable. These issues are: household food insecurity, unpaid care and domestic work, sustainable agriculture, tenure rights, and violations against human rights defenders and the media. The data that these indicators can obtain, not only will aid decision-makers to put different issues together and therefore have a clearer picture of what are some of the blocks that make their food systems lag behind or even vulnerable. It will also greatly help provide public opinion, consumers, the *ordinary* people, with an easier-to-understand and usable framework of what factors are affecting their rights.

By using these established indicators, this solution emphasizes that to ensure the right to food is fully upheld in our food systems, other human rights must also be realized, because human rights, are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

### **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

See answer to 1 above. Members of the WG came up with this solution based on existing and agreed indicators derived from the SDGs.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Over 700 million people are going to bed hungry each day. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated hunger and malnutrition. The current food systems are not delivering what they are supposed to. Their policies avoid looking at the root causes of hunger and malnutrition affecting billions of people [2].

It is commonly observed that the food system reinforces longstanding existing inequalities, in particular pertaining to gender. The system is not stable. Hidden social and environmental costs; and asymmetries, including on gender roles, contribute to the illusion that the system is functioning. These power imbalances inherent in our current food systems also generate violence, which can be observed through violations of the human rights of unions, community leaders, defenders, advocates, etc.

This proposal seeks to increase duty-bearers' human rights knowledge and capacities and their accountability towards the most vulnerable, including about States' duty to protect against the abuses committed by third-party actors, such as agribusiness and other industries. It also aims at strengthening their commitment of achieving the 2030 Agenda and embracing their active role in the post-UNFSS2021.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Closely monitoring and tailoring solutions around the most vulnerable is a powerful tool to mainstream in recovery plans, emergency plans, and development plans to leave no one behind. This way, it will be possible to open the door for transformations into more inclusive and sustainable food systems that can benefit everyone.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem?**

The solution will provide member countries and other stakeholders, including food systems actors themselves, with a few already available indicators that, when used together and closely monitored, can provide better information on who are those in most need of attention and recurrently left behind, whether their rights are violated and move towards food systems that address root causes of food insecurity, discrimination, informality, and inequality. The following are the suggested indicators:

- SDG Indicator 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Two FIES-based indicators, disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity ... These can be used for national and global monitoring purposes.
- SDG indicator 5.4.1 *Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location* which recognizes and values unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally.
- SDG indicator 2.4.1, *Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture*
- SDG indicator 1.4.2, *Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure* which ensures that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources.
- SDG indicator 16.10.1 or similar to ensure respect of human rights defenders and the media in food systems: *16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months (and find out how many of them relevant to food security)*

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**



This proposal invites stakeholders to operate through a human rights-based approach and prioritize the most vulnerable in the food systems. While it has been recognized that monitoring is an effective solution to keep track of the progress towards the SDGs, not all the indicators are appropriate or effective to do so and not appropriately put into practice. The above indicators have been carefully selected as viable tools in a food system context to identify and monitor the most vulnerable. This game changing solution has impact potential at scale, it is easily actionable, and it is sustainable, aimed towards achievement of the SDGs and capable to keep delivering beyond. Moreover, it is innovative, with no overlap yet detected with any of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wave AT1 solutions proposed. None explicitly provides for monitoring on rights-based accountability criteria. This being the only AT1 solution put forward that explicitly refers to all human rights.

It also complements and has co-benefits with other proposals: This solution would serve to complement many of the existing solutions put forward across the ATs, which would benefit from a centralized monitoring capability that provided reliable information about indicators, or to promoting and implement right to food in general to enhance specific proposals in all game changers.

It finds particular resonance and synergies with AT4, which makes express reference to labour rights, to strengthening social dialogue and extending social protection coverage to all. There is the potential that future solutions presented to the AT5 may reveal some points of convergence with the proposed solution considering that one of the criteria sought is to identify solutions promoting universal access to food.

No specific reference is detected across the ATs expressly to the monitoring of Care as against SDG5.4.1, nor of human rights violations (media and HRDs) as against SDG16.10.1.

**7. What is the existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least that it will achieve the initial outcomes described above?**

These indicators are already being used, just not specifically together or in a food system context.

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is strong demand and political commitment behind this solution. AT1 and other ATs are receiving increasing demands, not only by member countries but also by international experts, civil society and other groups, to ensure that human rights and in particular the right to food are clearly standing out in substantive discussions and actions leading up to and following the UNFSS2021. This solution will be greatly complemented by an active role played by UN Special Rapporteurs, independent experts, INGOs and civil society who can emphasize aspects related to how the inclusion of the most vulnerable and increased respect, protection, and fulfilment of their human rights, can ensure greater sustainability of our food systems. The proposed selected indicators serve to highlight structural inequalities that stakeholders have already agreed upon. They are easily accessible and understandable for non-experts.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?**

This solution is based on existing SDG monitoring targets and considered well suited to all contexts.

**10. Any other remarks or comments you would like reflected in AT1's report out on 'game changing' solutions (optional)**

This solution offers the opportunity to capitalize on existing forums, such as the UNGA or the CFS as platforms that can offer the space to discuss, share experiences, gather best practices and evidence on

how states are performing against SDG indicators for the realization of the right to food and human rights. These forums can also offer an outlet and space where food systems are discussed systematically through a human rights lens.

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[1] *The final game changing solution proposal benefitted from the inputs of: Wenche Barth Eide (University of Oslo); Kaitlin Y. Cordes (University of Colombia); Lorenzo Cotula (IIED); Hilal Elver (University of Santa Barbara and UNSR RtF 2014-2020); Michael Fakhri (University of Oregon and UNSR RtF); Lawrence Haddad (GAIN); Smita Narula (Pace University); Kartik Raj (HRW); Juan Carlos Garcia y Cebolla, Serena Pepino, Sarah Brand, Marie-Lara Hubert Chartrier, Claire Mason, Marta Ramon (Right to Food Team FAO), and Margret Vidar – (Legal FAO). It was presented on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021, by Ms Hilal Elver at the AT1 Second Wave Public Forum with positive feedback.*

[2] *This statement points at the total number of people with malnutrition and hungry, including undernourished, overweight, obese, anaemic, food insecure (moderate, severe), etc.*

### S.13. Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing

#### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

To encourage and support tobacco farmers to switch to economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing.

The bulk of the world's tobacco production has shifted to low and middle-income countries. Despite the claims of the tobacco industry, early evidence was beginning to show that tobacco farming appeared to be a very hard way to make a living for small-scale farmers.

There are also well documented country examples of experiences in switching to alternative crops from tobacco:

- [Case Studies on Alternative Livelihoods to Tobacco | unfairtobacco](#)
- As part of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases Tobacco Control Thematic Working Group, a toolkit for Article 17 and 18 is being developed as a joint project of multiple UN agencies: WHO, Secretariat of the WHO FCTC, UNDP, ILO, UNODC, FAO and UNEP.
- Based on the recent reports received from Parties on implementation of Article 17:
- Parties that reported recent initiatives of alternative crops: China, Colombia, Ecuador, EU (reported on Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020), Malaysia, Mexico, Uruguay.
- Other examples: Philippines (alternative livelihoods), Sierra Leone (it seems they have transitioned all or almost all tobacco growers to other crops).
- Parties that provided information already reported in previous reporting cycles: Afghanistan (since 2018), Bulgaria (2018), Canada (2018), India (2018), Mali (2016), Myanmar (2018), Poland (2016), Timor-Leste (2018), Tunisia (2016), Turkey (2018), Zambia (2016).
- Example of a South-South cooperation project facilitated by the Convention Secretariat:
- [WHO | Article 17: study visit to examine Brazilian alternative livelihoods](#)
- [Report South South Art17.pdf \(who.int\)](#)
- [This proposal](#) is supported by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Articles 17 and 18 (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation(Fiocruz), an institution of the federal public administration under the Ministry of Health of Brazil, through its Center for Tobacco and Health Studies (CETAB) of the National School of Public Health Sergio Arouca (ENSP).

#### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

[WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) (WHO FCTC), adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003, entered into force on 27 February 2005 and has 182 Parties as of April 2021. It is an evidence-based treaty that sets out objectives and principles that Parties must follow. The WHO FCTC includes measures related to farming of tobacco (Article 17 on provision of support to economically viable alternative activities) and the environment (Article 18 on protection of the environment and the health of people engaged in tobacco cultivation and manufacture). As one of the most widely embraced treaties in the United Nations' history, it is a powerful tool to curb tobacco use across the globe. It is also viewed as serious threat by the tobacco industry, which regularly challenges government implementation of the Convention.

Since its first governing body meeting (the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC) in 2006, the Parties have consistently adopted decisions related to Article 17 and 18.

- [EB Document Format \(who.int\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - FCTC COP2 DIV9-en.doc \(who.int\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - FCTC COP3 DIV3-en.doc \(who.int\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - FCTC COP4 DIV6-en.doc \(who.int\)](#)
- [Microsoft Word - FCTC COP5\(8\)-en.docx \(who.int\)](#)
- [EB Document Format \(who.int\)](#)
- [FCTC/COP7\(10\) Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing \(in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC\)](#)
- [FCTC/COP8\(19\) Implementation of Articles 17 and 18 \(alternative livelihoods and protection of the environment\) \(who.int\)](#)

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

It is a well-established fact that tobacco farmers are the weakest and most vulnerable link in the marketing chain. Continuing growth of demand for tobacco leaf has done nothing more than perpetuate low-incomes and dependency among these farmers. The evidence suggested that tobacco farming was extremely labour intensive with farming families providing much of the unpaid labour (including in many cases, children). The tobacco plant leached nutrients from the soil and required large amounts of pesticides. In addition to the health hazards from the pesticides, others included smoke inhalation from tending to the drying kilns, 'green tobacco sickness' from picking wet leaves, inhalation of tobacco dust from storing the dried leaves in the homestead, etc. Economically, while providing farmers with much-needed cash, they often appeared to find themselves tied into a vicious debt bondage cycle with tobacco companies.

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

As mentioned previously, tobacco farmers face enormous challenges achieving equitable livelihoods in food systems. Tobacco farming is not only unfair to workers, but it is also an incredibly labour intensive and dangerous industry. Due to the lack of industry regulations and protection, often marginalized populations are forced into the industry. Specifically, the tobacco industry really struggles with child labour and still relies on children in many cases as a significant portion of the labour force. Action Track 4: advancing equitable livelihoods and the human rights working group both have an interest in ending child labour and protecting marginalized groups.

### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Not only does the tobacco industry have significant issues within the supply chain, but the crop itself causes significant health issues globally. This solution is aimed at promoting alternative crops to

tobacco, which in turn will cut down on the global addiction to tobacco products. This solution will both protect the workforce in this industry and give alternatives that could provide healthy crops into local and global supply chains.

The guiding principles of these policy options and recommendations include:

- Livelihoods diversification should be the concept guiding implementation of economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing
- Tobacco growers and workers should be engaged in policy development concerning Article 17 and 18 in line with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines
- Policies and programmes to promote economically sustainable alternative livelihoods should be based on best practices and linked to sustainable development programmes
- The promotion of economically sustainable alternative livelihoods should be carried out within a holistic framework that encompasses all aspects of the livelihoods of tobacco growers and workers (including the health, economic, social, environmental and food security aspects)
- Policies promoting economically sustainable alternative livelihoods should be protected from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry, including leaf companies, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines
- Partnership and collaboration should be pursued in the implementation of these policy options and recommendations, including the in provision of technical and/or financial assistance

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

- **Impact Potential at Scale (including return on investment):** This solution is focused on any tobacco growing country in the world. There are approximately 100 countries that produce tobacco and over 50 countries produce over 5000 tonnes of tobacco yearly.
- **Actionability (taking into account politics, capacity, costs):** Many international governing agencies are already working to implement this solution and there is global agreement on the importance of safeguarding the tobacco industry, but it will require the buy in of governments who have interest in tobacco production. Without a viable alternative, there will be minimal interest for governments to disrupt the industry.
- **Sustainability (i.e., the ability to keep delivering to 2030 and beyond):** As momentum builds between international governing agencies, there will be substantial changes made to the tobacco industry. This will require a multi-sectoral approach, but it is necessary to achieve sustainable food systems.

**7. What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution? Please mention the implementation approach for 3 levels, if appropriate:**

- Encourage and support tobacco farmers to switch to economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing.
- Implement policies that promote establishment of innovative mechanisms for the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods for tobacco growers a workers in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
- Build up development programmes connected with the promotion of food security and feasible markets that cover all aspects of the alternatives to tobacco growing, including economic viability and environmental protection.

### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The main actor would be the Government of these tobacco growing countries and who are Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). Government agencies, particularly those with a strong influence in rural areas, have an important role to play in supporting the diversification of livelihoods in tobacco-growing regions, through an array of policies and measures, including the provision of training for tobacco workers and growers and their families. International institutions and farmer organizations should also play an important role in the development and implementation of policy.

### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

Political and policy factors:

- Ownership and access to land and other natural resources specifically assets that increase livelihood productivity such as livestock
- Social and cultural decision-making, agency and leadership roles for women and youth:
- Recognition of traditional forms of knowledge regarding sustainable local food systems
- Realization of aspirations among youth and those with entrepreneurial spirit
- Economic, finance, and building entrepreneurial skill sets
- Training and education, access to technology, knowledge, credit, and financial services
- Capacity of rural institutions:
- Institutions for collective action that foster improved access to markets, financial services, and technology, as well as sustainable management of natural resources with a focus on structural inequities that marginalize disadvantaged communities and diminish opportunities for equitable livelihoods.

## S.14 Empowering Smallholders as Informed Market Players: Farm Business School Approach

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

The Farm Business School (FBS) is a curriculum-based participatory approach developed by FAO to strengthen capacities of service providers and farmers in transitioning towards market-orientation and “farming as a business”. FBS aims to build farmers’ capacity in farm business management and develop their entrepreneurial skills making farm operations profitable and responsive to the market demands. The Farm Business School approach is based on an unconventional and conducive learning space where small groups of farmers exchange knowledge, experiences, and practices. The learning takes place at the village level and at farmers' pace based on a "learning by doing" approach. The simple, yet comprehensive, FBS curriculum is designed to guide farmers over the full farm business cycle, with basic concepts and exercises on business planning, farm management, and financial literacy. FBS are generally organized by extension workers and lead farmers who facilitate relevant sessions. The FBS contents and approach are meant to foster participants’ critical thinking so they can analyse their situation, identify opportunities for improvement, make strategic decisions to enhance their farm business and implement them. By fostering the use of key decision-making tools like farm business plans, the FBS approach enhances farmers’ ability to be in control of their farm business, to assess their production and management practices, and to enhance their access to market for increased income and enhanced livelihood. The FBS approach was systematized in a comprehensive FBS training package serving as a master reference for the design, implementation, and evaluation of FBS as well as for the development

and contextualization of training materials in different countries. The information included in the FBS “universal” training package is therefore general in nature, however they capture the essential features of farming as a business for FBS practitioners to review, restructure and adapt to the local context.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

FAO developed the Farm Business School Approach in 2004 to support extension services and, in turn, smallholder farmers to cope with major global dynamics emerged over the last thirty years and which contributed re-shaping the rural landscape from an economic, demographic, institutional and environmental perspective. These include:

- globalization, economic liberalization, structural adjustments, decreasing role of the state in managing national economy and consequent difficulties for farmers to enter formal markets
- Volatility in the supply of basic food
- Demographic changes: rural-urban migration (rise in urban wage rates)
- Increase demand for (higher value) food in urban areas
- Decreasing land holding size of smallholders also due to conversion of agricultural land to other uses
- Weakening of public extension/ advisory services, rise of private sector as service provider, more complex access to services

The above changes heavily affected the way food system worked and required an exceptional adjustment and repositioning efforts by both public extensions and small-scale farmers. Particularly, they entailed a profound shift of focus from production solely to market-oriented farm management to ensure the profitability of farming enterprises and make sure that farmers achieve better control over them. This transition required the acquisition of new knowledge and capacities in market-oriented farming and entrepreneurial attitude towards enhanced farm commercialization.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

The Farm Business School approach addresses those information asymmetries and power dynamics preventing smallholders’ participation in value chains and profitable markets, and constraining their livelihood and income, with women, youth and other vulnerable groups being at a particular disadvantage. These challenges include, inter alia, limited access to information and advisory services (financial and non-financial) to enhance competitiveness and profitability, limited networking, voice and bargaining power and limited participation in collective action. These factors limit farmers’ decision making power and entrepreneurial attitude. Notably, despite their fragmentation and small size, smallholders’ farms provide food for a large part of the world’s population and play a key role in ensuring food security and nutrition. This paradox points to the need of addressing inequalities and patterns of exclusion characterizing food systems and the disproportionate distribution of benefits along the value chain. It also signals the importance of supporting extension and rural advisory services in providing farmers with relevant advice and actionable solutions, to be able to drive inclusivity in the food system.

## **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

By addressing the above challenges, the FBS approach empowers smallholders to gain control over their farm business, enabling them to make informed decisions and act upon them to sustain and expand their livelihoods. Farm Business Schools elicit smallholders’ understanding of their farm business positioning in food systems and of existing market dynamics. Also, the FBS approach triggers farmers’ collective action and participation in rural organizations. In this perspective, FBS enhance smallholders’

voice and participation in policy debates. As a place-based initiative, the Farm Business School constitutes one of the territorial drivers that contribute influencing the way actors operate and make decisions in the food chain, with potential outcomes at socio-economic, environmental, and territorial governance levels as well as in terms of food security and nutrition.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

The FBS theory of change holds that capacity development inputs, complemented with facilitation of access to market and services, empower smallholders in making informed decisions and to act upon them to effectively operate in the marketplace (individually or collectively), hence increasing profitability and expanding their livelihoods. The above description of causal linkages offers insight into various and relevant impact dimensions spanning the short, the medium and the long term. The FBS approach favours smallholders' ability to make strategic choices and to act upon them to produce desired outcomes, in a context where this ability was previously limited or non-existing.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

According to the Food System Summit, a "game changing solution" is a feasible action which can be sustained over time that would shift the capacity of food systems to advance global goals." The Farm Business School Approach is designed to reduce dependence on external support sources. Also, it is designed to be embedded in the public and non-public advisory service system, to ensure methodological and developmental sustainability. Sustainability is also favoured by the peer to peer learning dimension fostered at field level, hence promoting knowledge generation within farming communities with a diffused approach. The FBS Approach is based on a synergistic effort encompassing different dimensions including the policy level (macro), the service provision level (meso) and the farm level (micro). The Farm Business School Approach embraces these three dimensions to ensure ownership, sustainability, replicability, scaling up and institutionalization.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

FBS have been consistently promoted by FAO in a variety of countries in South East Asia, Africa and the Near East. Countries where the FBS approach has been institutionalized by public extension and advisory services so far include the Philippines and Malawi.

FAO has recently undertaken a review of FBS experiences, considering 18 FAO FBS projects implemented since 2004 . The review indicates FBS contribution in terms of enhanced market-orientation and advisory capacities of service providers. As per farmers, FBS have contributed enhancing the following:

- Access to information, business advisory and financial services
- Farmers' market-orientation, farm management knowledge (business planning/risk assessment), skills, better practices
- Farmers' financial literacy and credit worthiness
- Group organization and collective action
- Market access, participation in value chains
- Competitiveness and profitability

In the Philippines (2012 -2014) FAO piloted 72 FBS targeting 1615 farmers. The project fostered contract farming and the creation of favourable and sustainable market linkages. There, the FBS approach was taken to national scale through institutionalization by public extension services. FBS are now present in

all the 12 regions of the country and have evolved to address resilience and innovation through “Climate Smart FBS”. In the Philippines, FBS participants have established fruitful collaborations with social enterprises. For instance, some 300 FBS participants regularly supply the socially engaged company OrganicOptions Inc. Monthly supplies amount to 40-45 tons fruits and vegetables. Organic Options Inc. guarantees an additional 10 percent premium to the amount. These supplies derived farmers a 64 percent income increase as compared to trading in regional wholesale market. The Company engages in the free of charge training of farmers in quality and organic production, encourages farmers to consume organic products and to sell to different marketing companies to reduce the risks attached to dealing with a single buyer. It also invites farmers to become shareholders in the company for a more equal distribution of value .

In Lebanon, in 2019, FAO established 9 FBS pilots which trained 91 farmers (25 percent women). There, FBS were conducive to farmers’ change of focus, from production solely to profitability, through the adoption of key management practices, such as farm business feasibility plans. Also, FBS contributed to enhancing entrepreneurial skills and market-orientation of farmers. In addition, FBS strengthened farmers’ capacities to cope with shocks and disruptions like COVID-19, including, inter alia, the valorisation of local networks, markets, and resources. The experience is being taken to scale through integration in new programmes with the establishment of 50 additional schools and curricula adaptation for 150 women-led cooperatives and 250 women groups . The FBS approach is gradually being implemented in other countries in the Near East Region.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The Farm Business School Approach has been institutionalized in the advisory service system in the Philippines and in Malawi. The Approach has garnered the interest of public sector institutions across several countries as well as of non-government organizations.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The Approach is suited in all contexts where there is a need to enhance farm business management skills.

#### *Sources:*

*Empowering smallholders as informed market players: practices and lessons from Farm Business Schools in Asia, Africa and the Near East. (FAO, forthcoming)*

*Introducing Farm Business Schools in Lebanon: fostering farmers’ decision-making and resilience (FAO, forthcoming)*

### S.15. Women Farmer Led Agri-Business Enterprise

#### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

A Rural Distribution Network (RUDI), designed as an integrated food value chain, and fully owned and operated by over 250,000 small and marginal women farmers - The for-profit agri-business enterprise directly connects farmers to the end-users, using its own procurement channels, processing centers, packaging units and a distribution network. Smallholder farmers sell their produce to RUDI, which is then graded, processed and packaged into affordable small packages and then redistributed into the villages by SEWA’s sales-force - called Rudi-bens’ or Rudi Sisters. Farmers get fair returns, landless laborers get employment, and a million households have access to food and nutrition security.



## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

Rural women from the informal economy constitute 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the member base of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). With agriculture as one of their main occupation, SEWA was confronted with the burning question of "*Why does the Farmer remain hungry?*" A deeper analysis of the issue showed that some of the most common challenges faced by these rural workers could be attributed to the lack of direct market linkages. In response, SEWA organized over 250,000 smallholder women farmers and established a Rural Distribution network or RUDI. RUDI has been conceptualized, designed, and implemented by over 250,000 poor small and marginal women farmers and landless agricultural labourers in Gujarat, India.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Historically, despite taking care of major field activities, women have struggled to find a voice, recognition of contribution or identity as a farmer in mainstream agricultural practices. The lack of visibility has resulted in disempowerment to benefits as well as lack of access to agricultural extension services; thereby reducing their overall income from agriculture. Small and marginal farmers, having a very small marketable surplus, are forced to sell through "Distress Sell" at the time of harvesting due to lack of access to markets and proper storage facilities. They are also subjected to exploitation by a chain of middlemen or intermediaries between the producers and the market – from improper weighing to being offered low prices and delay in payments. All of this is augmented by the increasingly frequent climate and market shocks that has made agriculture unprofitable, unsustainable, and unviable.

## **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

The underlying premise of RUDI as a solution model fits squarely within the contours of the goal of the working group: the integration of gender transformation approaches across the production-consumption continuum for equity and justice in food systems. Addressing the problem by setting up an innovative women led Rural Distribution Network will ensure:

- Normalization of women's leadership and participation in decision-making in food and agricultural systems
- Generation of multiple livelihood opportunities for landless women laborers and youth across the supply chain of agro-commodities
- Fair returns and direct market linkages to the marginal farmers
- Internal rotation of scarce funds of the rural producers for sustained long-term benefits, and strengthening of the rural economy
- Generation of multiple livelihood opportunities for landless women laborers and youth across the supply chain of agro-commodities
- Livelihood Security through continuous and timely procurement
- Creation of an integrated value chain to enhance the efficiency of agricultural activities
- Elimination of exploitative middlemen, and other institutional barriers
- Efficiency in supply of wholesome nutritious food security kits to rural households
- Integration of technology for seamless conduct of operations
- Training and capacity building of on incorporation of improved practices in agriculture and animal husbandry to increase production and mitigate climate and market shocks.
- Long-standing partnerships with skill and knowledge providers (e.g. State Agriculture Universities) for upgrading skills on need-basis

RUDI as model is driven by sustainability as a core value, and aims to build long term structures and local capacities of the workers in line with SEWA's goals of full employment and self-reliance, and the working group's intention to shift the focus to the contribution of equitable food and agricultural systems to the process of women empowerment.

### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

To enable real progress for women farmers there is a need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to economic growth that organizes women producers, provides long-term sustainable support, and creates better access to financial services and markets.

RUDI is a game changing solution in its attempt to build an integrated sustainable food value chain to address the needs of a diverse set of stakeholders within the food system. It ensures gender inclusion through a woman owned and managed supply chain, economic empowerment through fair returns to farmers, livelihood security through equitable employment opportunities for landless laborers & youth, and an overall strengthening of the local food distribution system. Through RUDI, SEWA is empowering women farmers as change agents and critical market actors, demonstrating that by enabling direct market linkages to guarantee better price, creating farmers owned supply chains, members owned cooperative and through value added activities such as setting up processing centres managed by rural women, farmers can enhance their income generating potential.

### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

RUDI is targeting a systemic transformation in the agricultural processes while catering to nine out of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (1,2,3,4,5,8,10,12,17). The model allows women farmers to acquire new skills and technology, and market collectively to enable them to replace the chain of middlemen between the producer and market and increase their earnings. It is an end-to-end agri solution to ensure food security for all while providing livelihoods and encouraging quality consumption. A distinctive feature of the model is the seamless integration of digital **technology** to create an efficient value chain through a customized mobile application - RUDI RSV. The app helps to keep a track of stocks, generate sales receipts, and updates the RUDIbens on the launch of new products. In partnership with Universities and other skill providers, constant support is ensured for small farmers and agro-processors, with a focus their integration in the mainstream.

The guiding principle of this RUDI's business model is the four bottom lines - Livelihood, Sustainability, Empowerment and Environment. Therefore, it aligns to the criteria of a "Game-Changing Solution".

### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

RUDI as a solution was conceptualized in 2009 and has since then had a significant positive impact on the women and their communities. Among the changes experienced by women, the most remarkable have been an increase in their confidence and self-worth, and the conviction in their ability to earn their own livelihoods.

Through RUDI, SEWA is procuring agri-produce from around 10,000 small and marginal farmers across 3000 villages covering the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. It has already created employment opportunities for over 4500 RUDIbens', who earn an average monthly income of INR 8000 – 10000 using

smart-phone based RSV app for sales and marketing. The annual turnover of the enterprise is over INR 10 crores.

During the Covid-19 crisis, the women of RUDI demonstrated their ability & agility to innovate and adapt as a response to shocks. When all supply chains were interrupted, it was the local decentralized supply chain of RUDI that helped its small holder farmer members, RUDIbens' as well as the processing center operators sustain themselves and their families while serving the community. Faced with the constraints of the lockdown, RUDI repurposed its supply chain with immediate effect and started procuring the produce of its small farmers across the state – thereby linking the small farmers directly to market and solving their cash-flow issue. Similarly, RUDI started preparing grocery-kits of essential spices / oil / tea / cereals and pulses which were delivered to the members' homes.

To meet working capital needs to facilitate procurement of produce from as many farmers as possible, and deliver free grocery kits to members, RUDI started tapping into the urban market by promoting door-step delivery of RUDI grocery items. E-enterprises were set up and social media tools were taken recourse to, to reach a whole new customer segment. This not only helped in promoting the RUDI brand in the niche urban market, but also generated a higher volume of orders– thereby allowing it to procure from more small and marginal farmers.

During the 74 days lock-down in 2020, RUDI had a monthly turnover of over INR 1,00,00,000. The enterprise was able to procure over 3000 tons of farm produce from small farmers – thereby ensuring income security to around 75 - 80 small farmer households. It also distributed around 5000 grocery kits to poor women worker's households – thereby ensuring food and nutrition security to rural households during the pandemic crisis.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The Government of India is committed to the empowerment of rural women through its various schemes and policies focused on skill development (Mahila Shakti Kendra) and trainings related to employability and entrepreneurship in agriculture and food processing sector (STEP – Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women). Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) is a flagship scheme by the Rural Development Ministry, as a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission, to empower women engaged in agricultural activities by making systematic investments to enhance women's participation and productivity. The scheme has benefitted over 36 lakh women farmers. Measures are being undertaken to bring women into mainstream agriculture and recognize their contribution to farm productivity and production.

To further catalyze market expansion, in future there is a need to explore the possibility of launching local and regional buyer platforms to increase market access and transparency. This will require advocacy for recognition of agriculture on par with industries and treatment of farm as an enterprise. Moreover, there is a need for enabling policies to promote formation and then scaling of rural workers owned agribusiness / microenterprises. Additionally, to safeguard the farmers against climate shocks and market shocks, there is need for an integrated farm planning and management packages.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited.**

Success of RUDI has shown that organizing women producers together into collectives/micro-enterprises and building on their technical and soft skills, empowers women farmers to capture greater ownership of

the value chain and market for their products, while ensuring food and nutrition security to the poor producers and their families as well as the rural households.

The current RUDI model is established and operational in Gujarat and Rajasthan states of India. Scaling of a micro-enterprise model like RUDI to other parts of the country would ensure direct market access for more women producers while helping them gain more leverage and bargaining power in the market. A decrease in dependency on a chain of middlemen will enhance their livelihood potential, while enabling them to become critical market actors, strengthening both the efficacy and sustainability of the enterprise model. Based on the experience during the COVID crisis, there is now a proof of concept for upscaling of the value chain to urban markets

The model has a huge potential for transforming the grave agriculture situation of smallholder farmers into favorable and sustainable agriculture, providing sustainable food and nutrition security to the rural and urban households alike.

#### S.16. Food Processing Initiative of the Informal Women Workers

##### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

Designing and delivering a women-led business of Smart Food (\*) products by integrating small, marginal farmers and landless rural women labourers into an innovative food chain system - right from procuring the “Smart” ingredients (whole food grains, millet, sorghum) directly from the marginal farmers, to processing these into traditional, nutritious delicacies for self-consumption and marketing to consumers. The landless women laborers become the owners, planners, managers and marketers of their Smart Food Processing enterprise.

*(\*) Smart Food is defined as food that is good for self, good for the planet and good for the farmer.*

##### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

**Kamla** – a unique and innovative Food Processing social enterprise was conceptualized by SEWA to address the problems faced by the small, marginal farmers and the landless laborers. It is a for-profit agri-business company, fully owned and operated by landless rural women laborers who have come together to form SEWA Gram Mahila Haat. Through its innovative approach, the marginal farmers get fair returns for their “Smart” produce and the landless laborers get employment opportunities. It encourages the cultivation and processing of Smart Food and enables the small farmers and landless laborers to earn their livelihood from their farming and business ventures respectively. The project also focuses on bringing appropriate visibility and identity to them as valuable producers, distributors, processors, and gives them the right share in the profits generated. It aims to preserve the tradition and skills of growing indigenous and nutritious food crops.

##### 3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?

Over the last several decades India has witnessed a vital boost in agricultural productivity. However, it is only the farmers with large land holdings, excellent irrigation facilities, multiple cultivation seasons and access to latest agricultural technologies who have prospered.

The small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural laborers with little or no land have been pushed further into poverty, due to their lack of bargaining power, distress sale of their small, marketable produce, vulnerability to the exploitative middlemen, damage to their crops by pests and natural calamities and losses due to lack of storage facilities. Further, with the cost of cultivating food grains and millets becoming unsustainable, the farmers are shifting their cropping pattern to cash crops, leading to a shift in their dietary habits. On the other side, the landless women laborers, despite being a part of food production, processing, marketing and distribution system, barely eke out a living as they lack visibility due to the informal structure of their operations.

*Kamla* is designed as a unique and innovative Smart Food Processing business enterprise to address the above issues by :

- Building a value chain encompassing most of the stakeholders
- Enabling marginal farmers market their “Smart” produce at a fair price directly to the landless women laborers
- Eliminating the exploitative middlemen and their malpractices
- Providing employment opportunities to the landless laborers and enabling them to earn their livelihood through processing and marketing of “Smart” Food products
- Building the capacity of women laborers and organizing them into planning, owning, managing and marketing the products of their Smart” Food Processing enterprise
- Encouraging the production of “Smart” crops and preserving the knowledge of cultivating indigenous crops

*Kamla* also addresses the unhealthy consumption habits of today’s youth. The new generation is attracted to and indulges in consuming convenient but unhealthy packaged food lacking in nutrition. *Kamla* provides an ideal, healthy alternative of good taste, nutrition and convenience with its traditional snacks processed using whole and coarse food grains and millets.

#### 4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?

The most common challenges faced by the small rural farmers are non-marketability of their modest produce of food crops and the lack of employment opportunities for the landless women laborers. By addressing these key issues together, *Kamala* aims to bring maximum benefit to the small farmers and the landless laborers by :

- Generating livelihood and employment opportunities at each stage of production
- Ensuring fair returns to the marginal farmers for their modest produce
- Establishing an enterprise led, owned, and managed by landless women laborers
- Building an integrated value chain which enhances the efficiency of agricultural activities
- Reducing hardships of the producers and creating multiple employment opportunities for the processors
- Strengthening local production and distribution of Smart Food
- Ensuring food security for rural households and providing an ideal, healthy alternative of good taste, nutrition and convenience with its traditional snacks processed using whole and coarse food grains and millets

The project fulfils SEWA's overall goals of generating employment for its members and making them self-reliant and financially independent.

**5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

*Kamla* addresses the problem at the core and supports the theory of change. Its gender-inclusive approach focuses on establishing an enterprise led, owned, and managed by landless women laborers. The model on which *Kamla* is based is in sync with Action Track 4 of the UN Food Summit and provides multiple opportunities for equitable livelihoods. It contributes to the elimination of poverty by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain. It enables entrepreneurship and addresses the issue of inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. The model reduces inequalities between the rich and poor agriculturists and helps in bridging the gender and technology gaps. Additionally, *Kamla* facilitates a shift in the dietary habits of children and youth from unhealthy packaged food to nutritious "Smart" Food. By producing and processing food locally, the model also supports the environment and reduces the carbon footprint.

Thus, *Kamla* is a game-changing solution and achieves the triple goals of building gender equality, sustainability and healthy food systems. It provides healthy, nutritious food locally and generates multiple employment and livelihood opportunities for rural people at each stage of production and processing.

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

The guiding principle of this Social Enterprise's business model is meeting the four bottom lines - Livelihood, Sustainability, Empowerment and Environment. Therefore, it aligns to the criteria of a "Game-Changing Solution" .

The model enables women workers to acquire new skills and technology, eliminates the exploitative middlemen and increases the earnings, skills and visibility of the small farmers and landless laborers. It encourages the cultivation of "Smart" and indigenous food crops, preserves traditional and nutritious food habits, and generates employment opportunities for landless laborers in the entire food processing system i.e. from the farm to the table.

**7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

*Kamla* started its operations in 2015. Since its inception, around 500 women have been trained in processing "Smart" Food in Ahmedabad city and 9 districts in Gujarat. Annually, *Kamla* procures agri-produce from around 700 small and marginal farmers across 200 villages of Gujarat and processes it into "Smart" Food products. These products are redistributed from *Kamla* outlets housed in SEWA's district offices as well as in Ahmedabad city.

The members of *Kamala* have the ability to adapt, change, innovate and align with the changing times. This was evidenced during the current pandemic when the members of *Kamla* re-purposed their supply chain swiftly and started processing and marketing their products directly from the villages. During the 74-day lockdown period, *Kamla* had a turnover over Rs 500,000 and was successful

in protecting the livelihood of the small farmers and the laborers even during the unprecedented crisis period.

*Kamla* has started tapping the urban market by promoting door-step delivery of its products to the niche urban market through social media, which has helped in promoting the brand in newer territories and generating higher volumes of sales. With an annual turnover of INR 68 lakhs, Kamala has created employment opportunities for over 267 rural women, who earn an average monthly income of INR 12,000 per month.

The current Kamla model is established and operational in Gujarat, India and its success in this limited geography has shown that organizing small women producers and food processors together, building on their technical and soft skills, promoting on-farm and off-farm processing and giving value-additions empowers them to capture greater ownership of the food chain system and market for their products.

Scaling of the enterprise to other states of the country and thereafter nationally will enable direct market access to more women producers and generate many more employment opportunities for poor, rural women.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

*Kamla's* business model is based on integrating the poor and the marginalized into food supply chains, enabling them to escape poverty, improving their nutrition and reducing economic inequalities amongst the rich and poor. At each stage of production and processing, Kamala is generating multiple employment opportunities and enabling the small, marginal farmers and the landless laborers earn their own livelihood, become self-reliant and financially independent. It encourages production and processing of indigenous Indian food crops. The model is also contributing in bridging the gender and technology gaps. Along its journey, *Kamla* is making each producer and processor in its system "*Atmanirbhar*" i.e Self-Reliant.

All the activities of Kamla are perfectly in sync with the Government of India's ideology of making each Indian "*Atmanirbhar*". Its model is also in line with the Government of India's commitment to reducing the inequitable distribution of the country's resources, tackling gender injustice, strengthening & boosting local production and value chains, improving nutrition and making available affordable, healthy and safe food products to the people. Additionally, it supports the "Make in India" vision of the government with each step of production and processing being done locally, with locally sourced ingredients.

Hence, *Kamla* will get political support in its business endeavors.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited.**

The project is most suited for women in the informal sector. It does not require a huge capital investment and focuses on using the inherent capabilities of the people to empower them and make them self-reliant. Its success in Gujarat has shown that organizing women producers together into micro-enterprises and building on their technical and soft skills, empowers women farmers to capture greater ownership of the value chain and market for their products, while ensuring food and nutrition security to the poor producers, their families and the rural households.

Based on the experience during the COVID crisis, there is proof for upscaling of the value chain to urban markets as well. The model has a huge potential for transforming the grave agriculture situation of smallholder farmers and landless laborers into favorable and “Smart” food enterprise, providing sustainable food and nutrition security to the rural and urban households alike.

## S.17: Knowledge Hubs for mainstreaming Human Rights

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

This solution proposes the establishment of Knowledge Hubs on all human rights, including the right to food, decent employment, health and gender; how human rights connect to each of the SDGs and how their respect, protection and fulfilment is key to equity in food systems. All people, without exception, have human rights, including the right to food<sup>1</sup>. However, many people lack the capacity to adequately advocate for the realization of their right to food because they lack knowledge and understanding of its meaning and application and they lack networks and institutions to engage with. Advancing equitable livelihoods requires that all people are not only knowledgeable about their human rights but are empowered to make decisions about their implementation and have access to enforceable remedies if their rights are denied. This solution thus proposes the establishment of Knowledge Hubs which will facilitate the mainstreaming of human rights and the Right to Food. It will establish connections between all stakeholders including marginalized groups and ensure better access to the appropriate knowledge, resources, and tools required to respect, protect, and fulfil the Right to Food.

### **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

Though Human Rights is a central theme of the UNFSS, Action Track discussions demonstrated that more substantive human rights-based solutions and proposals were required. Human rights are the foundation upon which all propositions presented at the Summit should be based. Human rights experts from across Action Tracks, therefore, joined forces to develop a series of propositions and this specific solution was identified as one within those conversations.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

The denial of rights and entitlements, through formal and informal institutions and laws, is central to the problem of inequity in livelihoods within food systems. The widespread and systematic institutional discrimination and bias against marginalized groups in access to resources in food systems is frequently attributable to the denial of human rights. The precise problem that this solution seeks to address is the lack of knowledge and awareness among all actors across food systems, including rights holders and duty bearers, on the right to food and other rights that impact the right to food. For example, it will allow all stakeholders to seek practical guidance on the pursuit of the right to food.

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

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<sup>1</sup> The right to food is authoritatively defined by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Committee on ESCR) in its [General Comment 12](#) of 1999 *the right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone and in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement (para. 6).*



Equity with food systems livelihoods cannot be achieved without the realization of human rights. Control over the production of and access to food is as one of the world's most fundamental sources of power. However, many current food systems are premised on extreme imbalances in this power structure which is reinforcing the inequalities the Summit aims to resolve.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

If all stakeholders have the same access to knowledge on the right to food and all relevant human rights, mutual accountability will improve. Our theory of change is based on the premise that capacity strengthening across institutions and interest groups through improved access to knowledge within independent Hubs will lead to more active and responsive duty bearers.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

This solution is game-changing because it is an innovative and cross-disciplinary mechanism that will be designed to meet the needs of all stakeholders. It will build on practices by many organizations (e.g. [FAO Right to Food Training](#), [FIAN The Right to Food: A Resource Manual for NGOs](#)) and link directly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Because all aspects of food systems require a human rights focus, coherence, and mutual understanding on the Right to Food is required. This solution will broaden outreach on right to food and human rights concepts and understanding so that all actors are informed and aware of the key role of all human rights for more sustainable, productive, equitable and resilient food systems.

#### **7. What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution?**

FAO identifies three groups of relevant stakeholders involved in the realization of the human right to food: rights-holders, duty-bearers, and agents of accountability<sup>2</sup>. Knowledge and learning processes focusing on the human right to food and other human rights can help strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers to fulfil their mission, encourage the empowerment and participation of rights-holders, and actively involve agents of accountability. The key actions of the Knowledge Hubs will be to:

- Establish Hubs, led by an independent and impartial lead agent, with membership from all stakeholder groups (including but not limited to cross-ministerial representation and civil services, civil society and social movements, private sector, academia (ensuring multidisciplinary engagement) and consumer organizations)
- Establish common working principles and practices that would address issues of inclusion and access (distances, languages, technology etc.)
- Establish capacity strengthening strategies and host trainings (including training of trainer programs) and inductions on guidelines and principles (such as the UN Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD-FAO Guidance for responsible agricultural supply chains and all relevant CFS-Voluntary Guidelines)

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is widespread recognition within the summit action tracks and across a broad spectrum of stakeholders that more knowledge and awareness on the right to food and all relevant human rights is required if we are to ensure its mainstreaming and realization

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<sup>2</sup> [Right to Food Handbooks 10 - Right to food training \(fao.org\)](#)

## 9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?

A multi-stakeholder approach is needed if this solution is to have the desired impact. This will require different types of facilitation of dialogues and knowledge sharing sessions and training. While a major focus of this solution is on building capacity within marginalized communities, all stakeholders will be invited to the knowledge hubs to ensure broad understanding of human rights so that all sectors are engaged in their promotion, respect, protection, and fulfilment (duty-bearers at all levels also require updated or new knowledge). Due to human rights being such an important factor to be integrated throughout the entire Summit, this solution is particularly important for all contexts.

### S.18. Recognition and Promotion of Health and Safety as a Fundamental Labour and Human Right in Food Systems

#### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

Health and safety is a fundamental labour and human right, enshrined in UN Human Rights Conventions such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, ILO Convention No. 155 Concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As much of labour along the food system are deemed dirty, dangerous and difficult (“3D”) the right to health and safety must be recognized and enforced in food systems. It is not only the duty of states because of their labour and human rights obligations but also the responsibility of businesses as recognized in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The ILO Centenary declaration (2019) proposed that Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) be classed as a fundamental Convention – so to join the 8 ILO fundamental Conventions on Freedom of association and the right to organise, collective bargaining, equality, no discrimination, no forced labour, and no child labour. Recognition of a Convention as “fundamental” brings important obligations on ILO member states who by virtue of being ILO members are expected to implement the main requirements of the fundamental Convention(s) in their laws. Health and safety can’t be protected without the right to organize and a union contract. So decent health and safety conditions, freedom of association, collective bargaining - and the rights that go with them - must be part of the same package.

Promoting Health and safety as a fundamental labour and human right includes:

- Ensuring other UN organisations and international agencies incorporate health and safety as a fundamental labour and human right in their founding governance charters, constitutions, rules etc. and develop and promote policies, programmes and activities to improve health and safety conditions in food systems workplaces.
- Ensuring and strengthening national government Health and Safety Policies, which are either nonexistent or remain weak in agriculture and other food sectors.
- Removing agricultural exemption from labour and health and safety laws. Agricultural workers have a long history of exemption from labour and health and safety laws protecting workers in industry and commerce. Their labour rights are often not recognized, or only poorly so, by

governments and employers. This history of exemption must end. Workers in food systems must have the same rights, and enjoy similar levels of health and safety protection, to workers in industry and commerce, including the right to refuse unsafe work without reprisal.

- Ensuring decent health and safety standards are incorporated as a key element in improved labour market governance - local and national, urban, and rural.
- Strengthening workers' compensation regimes for agricultural workers, including making them more responsive to a mobile and migrant workforce. When agricultural workers can meaningfully access workers' compensation, injured workers are better protected from disability-related unemployment and loss of livelihood. A system which includes increased premium rates for employers that cause injuries and illnesses among workers creates a financial incentive for creating safer workplaces, as seen in countries like Canada.
- Strengthening government Labour Inspection in food systems. It is acknowledged by ILO governing bodies that government labour inspection in agriculture - which should be a central pillar of any National Health and Safety Policy on Agriculture - is either non-existent or so weak as to be totally ineffective. So, farm and plantation workers do not enjoy the protection provided by routine visits of government labour inspectors to farms and plantations.
- Ensuring businesses - Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular - are helped, and given technical support where necessary, to implement preventative health and safety risk control measures and programmes in food systems workplaces in order to prevent/reduce fatalities, injuries and occupational disease, and negative impacts on the environment and neighboring communities.
- Ensuring that Government labour inspectors in agriculture must have appropriate qualifications, knowledge, training, experience, and skills so that they can be "competent" to deal authoritatively with health and safety issues and gain the respect and confidence of employers and workers
- Having legally empowered and elected/designated worker health and safety representative systems (what are termed as "roving » worker health and safety systems). Workers on farms and plantations and in food factories etc. often lack any form of representation. Such representatives are the backbone of worker organization on health and safety in the workplace, and work with employers daily to improve conditions. These worker representatives are *not* the same as worker representatives on workplace health and safety committees who deal with health and safety issues in a different manner.
- Ensuring food system workers are fully covered by social protection measures. Only 20% of agricultural workers are covered by and any form of social protection which includes health insurance (See the game changing Solution on Social Protection which lists the 9 elements of SP).

It would help:

- Ensure equitable livelihoods and dignity for those essential workers who produce and process our food, deliver it, and prepare and serve it in restaurants, cafés, bars, and canteens.
- Boost national and international efforts, activities and programmes to improve health and safety conditions for all workers, especially those in agricultural/food industries, including "blue food sector" industries.
- Focus attention on especially vulnerable groups in the food systems workforce such as migrant workers.

- Businesses to demonstrate their commitment to respecting and promoting human rights in food systems (Do we quote the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Improving health and safety conditions to become an integral part of promoting and strengthening the territorial governance of food systems.
- Attract young persons into agriculture seeing it a sector with multiple opportunities rather than how it often characterised at present as a profession which is: Dangerous, Dirty, and Dead End. Attracting youth is vital to counter the problem that farmers and farmworkers are often an ageing and less productive workforce.
- Attract women workers into the sector including helping them attain more supervisory and management positions.
- Ensure food security and good nutrition for all based on forward thinking and forward moving food systems.

Protecting the health and safety of essential workers in food systems by recognition of their rights and improving working/health and safety conditions in agricultural industries, would also bring benefits and “solutions” for the public, food consumers and the environment. Examples include:

Improving pesticide risk management:

- As well as protecting workers, it can help reduce spray drift contamination and the risk of poisoning of people living in communities near to the farms or plantations.
- Can improve food safety protection measures for consumers by reducing pesticide residues in crop, livestock and aquacultural food products. (Another example would be reducing antimicrobial drug use, and therefore drug residues, in livestock and fish/crustacean production.
- Can improve protection of the environment by preventing and reducing aquatic, soil and aerial pollution, and biodiversity from pesticides, including groundwater.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The solution emerged from the new emphasis on labour rights as human rights, including the focus on business and human rights. Plus, the realization that agriculture, if it is to be truly agroecological and sustainable, must drastically reduce the staggering annual numbers of deaths, injuries and occupational disease among farmers, agricultural workers and fishers as detailed in Section 3 below. The impact of Covid 19 on workers on farms, plantations and food factories etc. has added more misery to the already grim statistics. As farmers and waged agricultural workers figure prominently amongst the 65% of the world’s core poor who work in agriculture, the SDGs have highlighted their vulnerability and focused attention and support on making their lives and livelihoods more equitable.

Plus, the growing realization among agricultural stakeholders and food consumers that the realisation of global food security and nutrition for all, and achievement of the SDG goals of ending poverty and hunger and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth, must be based the recognition of health and safety as a fundamental labour and human right.

Plus, the growing demand from consumers for food that is produced in a wholesome manner and where the labour and human rights of those who produce our food are respected, and farmers receive a fair price for their products and agricultural workers receive fair wages for their labour and skills.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

The main problem is that many work activities in agriculture and fishing are, and remain, high risk. As a result, in terms of fatalities, injuries and occupational disease, agriculture along with capture fishing, is acknowledged as one of the three most dangerous occupations in which to work. An estimated 170,000 thousand farmers and agricultural workers in crop, livestock and aquacultural production are killed at work EACH YEAR. If all the FSS talk about reforming and strengthening food systems is to have any real meaning, then this human slaughter must be stopped.

The specific problems on health and safety which need to be addressed by FSS include, inter alia:

- Nationally, Government Health and Safety Policies are either nonexistent or remain weak in agriculture and the food sectors. Such policies must be drawn up or strengthened where they exist.
- Agricultural workers have a long history of exemption from labour and health and safety laws protecting workers in industry and commerce. Their labour rights are often not recognised, or only poorly so, by governments and employers. This history of exemption must end. Workers in food systems must have the same rights, and enjoy similar levels of health and safety protection, to workers in industry and commerce.
- It is acknowledged by ILO governing bodies that government labour inspection in agriculture - which should be a central pillar of any National Health and Safety Policy on Agriculture - is either nonexistent or so weak as to be totally ineffective. So farm and plantation workers do not enjoy the protection provided by routine visits of government labour inspectors to farms and plantations. Labour inspection in food systems must be set up or strengthened.
- Furthermore, government labour inspectors may be “general” inspectors and not “competent persons” on health and safety issues - meaning they lack qualifications, knowledge, training, experience and skills. So, government labour inspectors in agriculture must have appropriate qualifications, knowledge, training, experience, and skills if they are to be “competent” with deal authoritatively with health and safety issues and gain the respect and confidence of employers and workers
- Workers on farms and plantations and in food factories etc. often lack any form of legally empowered and elected/designated worker health and safety representative systems (including a lack of what are termed, “roving worker health and safety systems). Such representatives are the backbone of worker organisation on health and safety in the workplace, and work with employers daily to improve conditions. These worker representatives are *not* the same as worker representatives on workplace health and safety committees who deal with health and safety issues in a different manner.
- Health and safety are also linked to social protection measures which are generally weak in agriculture. Only 20% of agricultural workers are covered by and any form of social protection which includes health insurance (ADD the 9 elements of SP). Food system workers must be fully covered by social protection measures.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

An important element of ensuring equitable and sustainable livelihoods means ensuring decent health and safety conditions at work based on labour rights, social protection, and linked to decent wages. Agriculture often has a poor reputation in terms of health and safety - it is often characterised as Dirty, Dead End and Dangerous.

Changing this image and the reality of high risk, poorly managed, life and health threatening work activities is a major challenge for constituents and activists in food systems reform. Success in drastically reducing the number of fatalities, injuries and levels of occupational disease in agricultural/food industries, including the blue food industries, in the follow up to the Summit will be a key indicator of the success and achievements of the Summit itself.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

The need to make food systems more dynamic and forward thinking and looking must include national and international action to prevent and reduce the drastic toll of human life and health in agriculture/food production.

Radically improving health and safety conditions and standards in agricultural/food industries, based on the recognition of health and safety as a basic right, is one of the key changes needed to make agricultural/food production truly agroecological and sustainable.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

It aligns in the following ways

- Driving realization of labour and human rights in food systems
- Being scalable given institutional and legal architectures and mechanisms and
- Impactful given huge numbers in the workforce in food systems (1.5 billion plus)

#### **7. What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution? Please mention the implementation approach for 3 levels, if appropriate:**

- Recognition of health and safety as a fundamental labour and human right, including in food systems involving.
- Recognition by ILO and other UN agencies and international bodies
- Recognition by governments
- Recognition by the business corporations any by the business community in general
- Recognition by farmers organisations and networks
- Recognition by CSOs

## **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is growing support for this idea of the “right to health and safety” being declared a fundamental labour and human right. In 2022, the ILO tripartite governing bodies will debate whether to include the “right to health and safety” as a fundamental labour right.

It is important that other international organisations/bodies do likewise and declare that right to health and safety” is a fundamental labour and human right as part of modernised and forward thinking and forward moving food systems. This would not only ensure equitable livelihoods for the workforce but ensure food security and good nutrition for all. Included within this right to health and safety must be a right to workers’ compensation. When health and safety measures fall short, those who become sick or injured as part of the food system must themselves still have food security and income replacement, which is provided for by a meaningful and enforceable workers compensation system.

It is important that corporations and the business community in general, linked to their promotion of human rights, actively support, and help spearhead, the transformation of agricultural/food industries, including blue food industries, into safer and healthier places to work, and with less adverse environmental and inhumane impacts.

Also, that farmers organizations and networks recognise and support a radical improvement of health and safety conditions on farms and plantations and in blue food production sites

Trade unions in agriculture/food industries, including blue food production sites, would actively support moves to make workplaces safer and healthier, and to lower their environmental impacts

## **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The solution is well suited for all agricultural contexts - crop, livestock and aquacultural production - and for all occupational groups in the food systems workforce. (EXPAND)

## **Action Area 4.2: Elimination Worker Exploitation and Ensuring Decent Work in Food Systems**

S.1. How many livelihoods do we have to make equitable in food systems?: UNFSS must ensure adequate levels of resources to ensure equitable livelihoods for a workforce of more than 1.5 billion persons

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Making livelihoods more equitable for those working in the different food systems sub sectors as listed below will require EXTRA RESOURCES, and improved planning, targeting and allocation for the effective

and sustainable use of these resources. We need to ensure EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS for the following categories of persons (women and men alike) involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry, or fisheries:

- Farmers
- Waged Agricultural Workers including aquacultural workers
- Fishers
- Pastoralists
- Forestry workers
- Hunter-gatherers
- Food processing/manufacturing/aggregation workers
- Transport/distribution/delivery workers, food delivery riders
- Supermarket/shop/grocery/market workers, street vendors
- Food preparers/cooks/servers

Currently, however, global figures and data on workforce numbers and composition - in both urban and rural areas - are lacking, poorly disaggregated (including by gender), imprecise, and sometimes even contradictory. Many parts of the workforce are Invisible due to lack of statistics. This then risks that the levels and types of resources needed to make livelihoods equitable and ensure resilient food supply chains, will be underestimated by the Food Systems Summit and its constituents.

The ignorance about the key role of food system workers starts with statistics. While every single government in the world produces its statistics on yields and productivity in agriculture, only a few countries collect nationwide data on the workers that produce, process, and transform these yields.

So the solution being proposed is the development of a COOPERATION MECHANISM between international organisations and agencies involved in food systems for the regular collection, coordination and analysis of statistics/data on workforce numbers and composition in agriculture and other sub sectors of the food system.

This could also be linked to the Global Food Systems Data Consortium, Action Track 1 Game changer proposal.

International organisations and agencies which could play a lead role in this Cooperation Mechanism include inter alia: OECD, FAO, ILO, IFAD, and the World Bank. There would also need to be linked capacity building initiatives at the national level, e.g., development of, or refining of, national employment registration schemes in agriculture and other food system sub sectors.

Improving intelligence, statistics and data on exactly how many livelihoods we have to make equitable in food systems in order to accurately estimate the levels of resources needed will also require improved cooperation and coordination between governments, between international and UN organisations and agencies involved in food systems, as well as with businesses/companies, trade unions and civil society organisations.

The statistics and data collected can be refined and targeted to generate socio-economic information/data on categories such as on women, indigenous peoples, youth, migrant workers et al. Workforce numbers can be cross referenced with poverty data, etc.



Improved statistics and data provision can also provide much needed information on the rapid emergence and expansion in food systems of the platform or gig economy. This worldwide phenomenon may be resulting in an increase in the numbers of vulnerable workers in food systems, less equitable livelihoods, or increased denial of rights. Unless data capture and analysis are improved with equity and rights as established metrics, there is high risk of increased vulnerability and marginalisation.

Improved statistics and data provision can also provide much needed information the workforce in: Food processing/manufacturing workers; Transport/distribution/delivery workers, delivery riders; Supermarket/shop/grocery/market workers, street vendors; Food preparers/cooks/servers; and Hunter-gatherers.

Based on new figures from farmers, the FSS now knows it has to aim to promote equitable livelihoods for well over 1.5 billion people working in food systems worldwide. (whereas a previous 2018 UN estimate had put the figure for farmers and agricultural workers at 860 million persons - 640 million persons fewer)[1].

1.5 billion represents over 45% of all people currently working in the world (3.3 billion global workforce - all economic sectors). These are the “essential workers”, in the time of covid, whom we have all heard and read about who are ensuring that food - fresh, processed and packaged, and ready cooked - is available for all 6-7 billion of us on a daily basis.

And to this 1.5 billion we still must add the numbers of: Waged agricultural workers and workers in food processing, delivery, supermarkets, restaurants, cafes etc.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

A wide range of constituents in the FSS realise that more accurate information on the levels and types of resources needed to achieve FSS goals are required. There is recognition in discussions that improved data are needed on the numbers and categories of people experiencing inequity in food systems and whose livelihoods are at risk. If targets in the SDGs on the elimination of poverty and hunger and UNFSS goals are to be met, then more accurate data on the exclusion, discrimination, and rights denial that different livelihoods groups face are urgently required.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

The wide range of land ownership patterns and methods of production gives rise to numerous types of labour relations and various forms of labour-force participation and employment in the agriculture sector. Occupations can be difficult to define in a rural setting

Currently, at the global level, relevant figures and data on workforce numbers and composition are simply often lacking, e.g., the number of farmers worldwide, or imprecise, and sometimes even contradictory.

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1.5 billion represents over 45% of all people currently working in the world (3.3 billion global workforce - all economic sectors). These are the “essential workers”, in the time of covid, whom we have all heard

and read about who are ensuring that food - fresh, processed and packaged, and ready cooked - is available for all 6-7 billion of us on a daily basis.

And to this 1.5 billion we still must add the numbers of:

*Waged Agricultural Workers (300-500 million according to current ILO estimates):* These are the women and men - many of them migrant workers - who labour in the crop fields, orchards, glasshouses, livestock units, and primary processing facilities to produce the world's food and fibres. They are employed on everything from small- and medium-sized farms to large industrialised farms and plantations. They are waged workers because they do not own or rent the land on which they work nor the tools and equipment they use and so are a group distinct from farmers. They can be permanent, seasonal, casual, temporary, daily or piece rate workers.

*Food processing/manufacturing/aggregation workers:* They work in abattoirs, food factories, dairies etc., processing and packaging fresh meat, crop and dairy products into semi-processed and processed food products including beverages

*Food transport/distribution/delivery workers/food delivery riders:* Handling and delivering raw food products, semi-processed and processed food products including the rapidly growing numbers of food delivery riders in the platform/gig economy

*Supermarket/shop/grocery/market workers, street vendors:* Handling packaged, canned foods and fresh foods when filling shelves, and serving customers indoors or out on the street

*Food preparers/cooks/servers including bar staff:* In restaurants, cafes, hotels, conference centres, catering companies, canteens in schools & factories

*Hunter gatherers - an estimated 10 million or so:* So, these are the livelihoods that FSS has to help make equitable.

It is a real challenge but one the FSS must rise to.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Improved and regular statistics/data on the number of people in the food system workforces whose livelihoods need to be made equitable is relevant to all Action Tracks and should underpin the work of the whole Summit.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

This solution will allow better planning and targeting of efforts and resources in making livelihoods more equitable, and food supply chains more resilient.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

Improved data will automatically contribute to the realisation of game changing successes because policies will be developed with more accurate information. This meets the scale criterion as we know that knowledge is power in policy making and investment decisions. Where more data is available on inequities

faced by different livelihoods groups, more pro-poor and pro-rights policies will emerge. This solution is also feasible and as management information systems, data banks and data expertise already exists. Resources are required to develop the metrics and ensure their applicability in these systems.

**7. What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution? Please mention the implementation approach for 3 levels, if appropriate:**

Development of a Cooperation Mechanism between international organisations and agencies involved in food systems for the regular collection, coordination and analysis of statistics/data on workforce numbers and composition in agriculture and other sub sectors of the food system.

The development of accurate metrics and categorization for this Cooperation Mechanism will be critical.

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is a general recognition of the need for improved, systematic and regular workforce data collection and analysis in food systems at both national and international levels

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited.**

The solution is relevant/applicable to all situations and in all food systems. Indeed, this solution is one that requires universal support and application if the UN, policy makers, governments and all development partners are serious about data for equity in food systems.

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[1] *Employment by sector - ILO modelled estimates. International Labour Organization, May 2018*

[2] *Employment by sector - ILO modelled estimates. International Labour Organization, May 2018*

## S.2. Improving working and living conditions and upholding human rights on board fishing vessels

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

The improvement of working and living conditions on fishing vessels would represent a significant step forward in achieving equitable livelihoods for fishers in the fishing sector and upholding human rights, in building back better, sustainable and resilient fishing supply chains and in improving the image and reputation of the global fishing industry.

The first step to attain this goal is for governments to establish a national legal framework of working and living conditions of men and women working on board commercial fishing vessels, in line with ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), which contains provisions covering all aspects of working life: fair recruitment; minimum hours of rest; written work agreements, signed by the fishing vessel owner or the representative, which are comprehensible to the fishers and set out the terms of their work, such as methods of payment and the right to repatriation; regular pay; appropriate accommodation; proper food and water; occupational safety and health; medical care ashore/at sea and social security protection.

The subsequent and indispensable step in achieving decent work in fishing is for governments, as appropriate, to put in place systems of Flag State inspection and Port State control of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels. The requirements for inspection systems are laid down in the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and supplemented by sets of ILO Guidelines on flag State inspection and port State control respectively. Establishing inspection systems to ensure and enforce decent working and living conditions for fishers will also contribute to addressing other issues such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, forced labour and human trafficking, and child labour.

Furthermore, case studies have revealed that there are almost as many women as men employed in the fisheries sector but women's role in fisheries has remained buried in the data-poor sub-sectors of part-time employment and post-harvest activities. So it follows that one of the solutions needed is a greater focus on how the roles of women in fishing can be enhanced and recognized (through gender disaggregated data collection), gender equity achieved, and any bad practices eliminated. This includes a call for gender equitable small-scale fisheries with particular reference to the FAO Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines.

Fisher means every person employed or engaged in any capacity or carrying out an occupation on board any fishing vessel, including persons working on board who are paid on the basis of a share of the catch but excluding pilots, naval personnel, other persons in the permanent service of a government, shore-based persons carrying out work aboard a fishing vessel and fisheries observers (ILO C.188, Article 1(e)).

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The solution has emerged from international recognition of the high degree of exploitative working and living conditions on board fishing vessels, especially as fishing crews on deep-sea vessels often employ a high percentage of migrant workers. There is also growing cooperation on improving labour standards in fishing between international agencies such as the International Maritime Organization, FAO and ILO (for example, the FAO-ILO-IMO Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters), national fisheries agencies, national fisheries (employers) organisations, trade unions representing fishers and regional fisheries management organizations.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable fisheries are vital for global food security.

Difficult working and living conditions are common in fishing regardless of the type of commercial fishing operation. Fishing involves long working hours and strenuous activity in a marine environment where weather and sea conditions can rapidly change. Fishing is considered to be one of the four most hazardous and high-risk occupations. Fishers' fatality and injury rates are much higher than national averages for all workers in many countries. Even the voyages to reach and return from fishing grounds can be perilous. In the event of injury or illness at sea, fishers may be far from professional medical care and must rely on others on board for such care; medical evacuation services vary considerably among countries and regions. Fishing vessels engaged in long-distance fishing operations may refuel, resupply, change crew and offload catch in foreign ports or at sea using resupply vessels and fish carriers. Fishing vessels may be at sea for long periods (weeks or even months, sometimes years at a time), operating in distant fishing grounds, and in such cases the standard of the accommodation and food provided on board is particularly important. Moreover, fishers often face difficulty in taking shore leave in foreign ports and problems obtaining visas allowing them to join or leave the vessel in foreign countries. In

some countries, there is a lack of clarity on terms of employment, fundamental rights are not being respected and there is a lack of a systematic approach to occupational safety and health. Lastly, many fishers are self-employed, or are considered as such due to the share system (remuneration based on a share of the value of the catch rather than a set wage), thus often falling through gaps in labour and social security laws and regulations that protect shore workers nationally.

FAO amended its global estimate of the number of fatalities fisheries in 2019 to 32 000 casualties per year. The basis for this amendment was the increase in the number of fishers worldwide from around 30 million in 2000 to 40 million in 2016. The 1999 ILO' established rate of 80 fatalities annually per 100 000 active fishers was maintained for this new estimate. It should be noted that the amended FAO global estimate is likely an underestimation. Reports from the few developed countries that collect fisheries accident data commonly show rates of more than 100 fatalities per 100 000 active fisheries. In fact, in some industrial fishing fleets, accident and fatality rates have been on the rise recently. Furthermore, there is anecdotal evidence that in developing countries with small-scale fishing fleets the fatality rates among fishers are significantly higher.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Improving working and living conditions on board fishing vessels is a vital element in ensuring socially, economically and environmentally sustainable fisheries and resilient fish supply chains (including by helping address IUU fishing practices which often go hand in hand with labour exploitation of vulnerable fishers, forced labour and human trafficking, and child labour.)

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

As one of the outcomes of the FSS, a major international effort to improve working and living conditions on board fishing vessels would build capacity of all stakeholders at the national level to ensure a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable fishing industry, and strengthen international cooperation.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

The solution would have great impact potential at scale, would be easily actionable and would result in sustainable, permanent improvements in working and living conditions on board fishing vessels, and a better image and reputation for the global fishing industry.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

Following the rapid ratification and implementation of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006) by over 30 of the world's major shipping countries, there have demonstrable improvements in the working and living conditions of Seafarers (any person who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a ship other than a fishing vessel) and in the safety of the vessels in which they sail. A similar process for Fishers could occur if the FSS could promote renewed international efforts to ensure equitable livelihoods for fishers, including wider ratification and efficient implementation and enforcement of ILO Convention No. 188.

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is growing awareness of the need for more action by governments, international agencies, the private sector, and trade unions and civil society organisations to raise living standards for fishers.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The solution can be applied to both deep sea and coastal fishing.

S.3. Elimination of Child Labour and Promotion of Decent Youth Employment in Agriculture

**1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

As the International Year of Child Labour, 2021 will provide an opportunity to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 (to end child labour in all its forms by 2025). As the official global partnership to achieve SDG Target 8.7, Alliance 8.7 is the vehicle to coordinate action to end child labour by 2025.

The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) can help the international campaign to eliminate child labour by responding to one of its main challenges: namely, helping farmers, in cooperation with their workers, to transform hazardous child labour into decent youth employment in agriculture for 14/15 to 17 year olds by radically improving health and safety conditions in crop production, livestock farming and aquacultural production, reforestation, logging and forest products processing, primary processing and food transformation sites; and for fishers and foresters to make similar health and safety improvements in capture fishing and forestry as well.

Between the ages of 14/15-17, children and youth share an overlapping age bracket/cohort. According to the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 (Minimum Age for Legal Employment) and 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour), those within this age bracket, having attained the minimum age for employment are free to work so long as it is not in a job classified by a national government as “hazardous child labour” If it is “hazardous child labour/work,” they would remain classified as child labourers and not as young workers. Further, as their employment under hazardous conditions would be in breach of child labour laws, they would have to be removed to a place of safety.

In this context, young workers are female and male adolescents below the age of 18 who have attained the minimum legal age for admission to employment in their country (14, 15+ depending on national laws). In other words, they have reached the age in their country when they can legally leave school and are therefore legally authorized to work under certain conditions. These are also often youth who would not seek higher levels of education for various reasons and instead, would benefit from better paying and safe jobs. They have a legal (and human right) to employment under decent conditions of work which ensure their safety, health, and well-being.

If farmers, and their workers - with support from governments, private businesses/companies, trade unions, international agencies, communities, civil society organisations etc. - can sufficiently improve

workplace safety and health conditions to guarantee “children” in the 14/15 to 17-year age bracket “decent conditions of work”, including proper training for them on safety and health at work, then there is no reason why these “children” should not remain at work, productively employed and earning wages. By sufficiently improving workplace safety and health conditions, the child ceases to be a “child labourer” and becomes classed as a “young worker.” In this way, “youth” remain in employment, earning wages, contributing to their family’s incomes, learning skills, and contributing to their communities and the national economy, as well as achieving their own life aspirations.

However, promoting youth employment in agriculture involves much more than raising safety and health standards. Many youngsters not only see agriculture as dangerous but as dirty and a dead-end as well. Rural youth encounter a difficult time envisaging themselves in agricultural activities often based on poor experience as many of them have witnessed their parents and community struggle to make a living. Limited access to mechanized agriculture decreases the productivity and thus the attractiveness of the sector. Moreover, the negative connotation of agriculture is often triggered by parents who wish their children to receive greater education and turn away from agriculture. In fact, agricultural activities such as cultivating, or ploughing have been used as common disciplinary measure in schools. Stimulating rural youth employment is particularly critical given the large numbers of unemployed or underemployed rural youth, which also reinforces the pressure on urban migration (where rural youth often end up as urban child labourers working in difficult, exploitative, and hazardous conditions), and the presence of large numbers of child labourers in rural areas. Urban and rural unemployment cannot be considered as two separate things for, in many countries, much of urban unemployment is migrated rural unemployment. Thus, efforts must also focus on engaging and training youth in the benefits of agricultural work, and ensuring they have decent conditions of work. It is also to the benefits of producers and actors in the agri-food systems who often face labour shortage or lack of skilled available workforce, to ease the school to work transition of this age cohort into food systems.

Additionally, social protection schemes are widely recognized as effective in tackling the household poverty and economic vulnerability which are often the main drivers of child labour. These schemes hence reduce the need of the households to resort to negative coping strategies and provide the children with an option to choose decent employment in agriculture, addressing supply side problem. Social protection also builds human capital such as through improving nutrition and health of the children and better equip them to engage in decent rural employment. Evidence suggests that social protection programmes, when appropriately designed, can contribute to the elimination of child labour in agricultural sector, and must be implemented in coherence with the above-mentioned measures such as ensuring workplace safety and health at work.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The solution has emerged in large part from cooperation between employers and workers in the ILO who in 2011 agreed on Key Message 3, Make Workplaces Safe and Healthy for All:

- “Combating hazardous child labour means making workplaces safer and healthier for all workers – young and adult.
- Adequately improving workplace safety and health practices and conditions will allow children who have attained the minimum legal age for employment in their country (which may be as low as 14 or 15) to stay in their jobs.

- Employers' organizations and trade unions must continue to interact, and work together to ensure safer and healthier workplaces in all economic sectors and to encourage youth employment."
- This solution has been also identified by the documented results of the expert meeting hosted by FAO on Rural Youth aged 15-17, in particular its working groups on "safe working conditions" and "skills development in rural areas": Develop a business case to make explicit the need to transition from hazardous child labour into decent youth employment. Enhance engagement and collaboration among the public and private sector, civil society and community institutions and leaders, in skills development for rural youth, including girls, especially in the 15-17 age group.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

70% of child labour is found in agriculture - 108 million girls and boys aged under 18 years of age. The majority of child labourers in agriculture are engaged in what is popularly termed "hazardous child labour," defined in ILO Convention No. 182 as, "*work which by its nature, or the circumstances it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.*" No child under 18 years of age shall be engaged in hazardous child labour. The determination of what constitutes hazardous child labour is made by each country in the form of a legally enforceable national hazardous child labour list; guidance for governments on this topic is given in ILO Recommendation No. 190 on Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999). Children of school age (under the minimum age of employment) should be in school and not working.

Agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors in which to work in terms of fatalities, injuries (serious to minor), and occupational disease; inevitably, child labourers figure amongst those killed, injured or suffering health and/or disability problems. Many injuries and occupational diseases experienced by child labourers can also lead to physical disability/impairment or chronic, permanent illness in adult life. Examples of hazardous child labour in agriculture include "children" applying pesticides or working in fields where pesticides are being applied to crops, or carrying bundles/crates of crops which are too heavy for them resulting in them suffering from "musculoskeletal disorders".

Child labour also undermines decent work and fair wages for adult workers by driving down the demand and pay for adult labourers. There cannot be equitable livelihoods in food systems as long as child labour remains rampant. It also undermines the sustainable modernization of agriculture and the capacities of its small-scale producers to apply new and innovative techniques allowing to withstand shocks and cope with climate change emerging challenges.

Between the ages of 14/15-17, children and youth share an overlapping age bracket. According to the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 (Minimum Age for Legal Employment) and 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour), those within this age bracket, having attained the minimum age for employment are free to work so long as it is not in a job classified by the government in a country as "hazardous child labour" If it is "hazardous child labour/work," they would remain classified as child labourers and not as young workers. Further, as their employment under hazardous conditions would be in breach of child labour laws, they would have to be removed to a place of safety.

However, many "youth" who are of legal age for employment, are being denied their legal and right to work because of the failure to distinguish between "work by its nature" and "work by "the circumstances in which it is carried out". Farmers, with the help of their workers, should be encouraged to provide safe and health workplaces for all workers. They can achieve this by improving risk management and risk



assessment on the different food systems sites, including farms and plantations, for all workers - young and adult - and implementing practical solutions (risk control measures) to problems (hazards)

Child labour is a global problem especially in agriculture. It is important to eliminate child labour in its own right - to ensure the human rights of the child, including the right to safety, health and education. Child labour undermines decent work and fair wages for adult workers. There cannot be equitable livelihoods in food systems if child labour remains rampant including ensuring that the different challenges faced by male and female child labourers are adequately analyzed and addressed. It is also a solution that would help addressing the future of food systems where children and youth represent the future generations in which we need to invest in in terms of human capital, and health protection.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Child labour is a global problem especially in agriculture. It is important to eliminate exploitative child labour in its own right - to ensure the human rights of the child, including the right to safety, education, and health. Child labour undermines decent work and fair wages for adult workers. There cannot be equitable livelihoods in food systems if child labour remains rampant including ensuring that the different challenges faced by male and female child labourers are adequately analyzed and addressed.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

As one of the outcomes of the Food System Summit (FSS), a major international effort to improve health and safety conditions on the different food systems sites, including farms and plantations, would help reduce the tragic annual loss of life, the large numbers of (under-reported) injuries and occupational diseases, and build the capacity of all stakeholders at the national level to help eliminate child labour and strengthen international cooperation on the health and safety issues.

Improving human health and safety on food systems sites, including farms and plantations, also improves (i) protection of the environment - e.g. reduction in the use of pesticides - biodiversity protection, reduced water pollution, etc.; (ii) food safety - e.g. less pesticide residues in food, decreased use of antibiotics in livestock production and fish farming - reducing the (growing) problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in agriculture, food systems (iii) - climate change reduction - reducing harmful inputs of pesticides, fertilizers, promoting crop rotation, agricultural diversification, etc. There are cross links to the other Action Tracks - e.g. improved governance, promotion of agroecological methods of production, biodiversity protection, promotion of improved diets and nutrition, resilient food chains ,etc. It also contributes to the one health vision of food systems.

This solution will also tap into the role of social protection in addressing the causes of child labour and implement child-sensitive social protection interventions in coherence with other measures proposed including health and safety interventions.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

The solution would have a great impact potential at scale, would be easily actionable, and would result in sustainable, permanent improvements in health and safety on food systems sites, including farms and plantations, to the benefit of agricultural employers and companies, workers and trade unions, local communities, the environment, and consumers (food safety). There is a business case to adopt and replicate this solution: skilled youth in food systems are more able to protect their health, to secure stable

livelihoods and negotiate decent working conditions, to produce healthy food, and to sustainably transform food systems to adapt to changes and shocks. Children who are not exposed to hazardous work and have access to quality education and vocational training in rural areas, and sufficient and nutritious food, giving them the resources to grow and to become healthy, productive and skilled producers or workers of tomorrow.

## **7. Existing Evidence Supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

Training farmers and their workers in health and safety risk assessment, backed up by technical support from government services, companies and trade unions, allows them to identify and implement practical solutions (risk control measures) to the problems (hazards) they have identified in the risk assessments, thereby improving health and safety conditions for all.

Early entry into work and poor working conditions faced by children in child labour result in fewer chances of accessing decent jobs (ILO, Global Report 2015 on child labour).

There exists evidence that social protection schemes, when appropriately designed and implemented coherently with other measures, can build human capital and be effective in eliminating child labour. For instance, school feeding programmes have proven to have positive impacts in reducing child labour in Bangladesh, Egypt and Zambia.

## **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The International Year of Child Labour 2021 shows there is a global effort to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 to end child labour in all its forms by 2025, especially given the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector in exacerbating inequities and economic hardship that lead to increases in child labour. An increasing number of countries are adopting national due diligence legislation to ensure that child labour is eliminated from value chains, including agri-food value chains. The European Union's commitment to fighting child labour by pledging a "zero-tolerance policy on child labour" in new trade agreements represents a strong support as well. An EU wide directive on due diligence, including no child labour as a criterion, is in the pipeline, and the Farm to Fork strategy encompasses an attention to ending child labour and health protection of agricultural workers and producers. So an effort by FSS to help eliminate child labour by helping bring about permanent improvements in agricultural health and safety would be extremely well received by farmers (employers), workers and trade unions, companies/businesses in agriculture and food systems/chains (food processing, supermarkets etc.), governments, international organisations, local communities, civil society organisations and the public at large. In addition, social protection schemes have been widely adopted globally to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is a growing consensus that social protection schemes should be child-sensitive and take into consideration the needs of children.

## **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The solution can be applied to all food systems sites, including all sub-sectors of agriculture, farms, and plantations - whatever their size.

It allows farmers, in cooperation with their workers, to manage their own health and safety problems, and provides support roles for governments, companies, trade unions and international agencies.

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[1] <https://endchildlabour2021.org>

[2] By improving health and safety risk management/assessment on all food systems sites, including farms and plantations, to ensure safe systems of work are in place. So that, for example, “youth” do not use pesticides, dangerous machinery is properly guarded, and loads carried by young workers are not too heavy for them and so on. Coupled with health and safety training for farmers and all their workers- young and adult.

[3] As per the government national list of hazardous child labour as per Article 4 of ILO C 182.

[4] Extract from the FAO’s background document to the 2016 expert meeting on rural youth aged 15-17, the right season to feed the future (<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/fr/c/471492/>)

[5] Employers’ and Workers’ Handbook on Hazardous Child Labour. ILO Bureau for Employers’ Activities (ACTEMP) and ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV), Geneva, 2011, Key messages, page IX; [https://www.ilo.org/actrav/info/pubs/WCMS\\_164573/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actrav/info/pubs/WCMS_164573/lang--en/index.htm)

[6] [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575499.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf)

[7] The majority of child labourers in the agriculture sector are unpaid family members who often begin carrying out agricultural activities from a very young age (Five years old upwards). While boys are more likely to undertake agricultural activities than girls (62.8% boys; 37.2% girls), girls face the double burden of household chores resulting in them working more hours.

[8] Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention No 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. In 2020, C 182 became the first ILO convention to achieve universal ratification.

[9] The ILO estimates that at least 170,000 farmers and waged agricultural workers are killed on farms and plantations every year. ILO website. Agriculture: A hazardous work. [https://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardous-work/WCMS\\_110188/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardous-work/WCMS_110188/lang--en/index.htm)

[10] As per the government national list of hazardous child labour as per Article 4 of ILO C 182.

Existing contribution from the private sector:

[https://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/press\\_releases/major-retailers-and-consumer-brands-commit-to-eradicate-forced-labour-from-global-supply-chains-with-launch-of-new-coalition-of-action](https://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/press_releases/major-retailers-and-consumer-brands-commit-to-eradicate-forced-labour-from-global-supply-chains-with-launch-of-new-coalition-of-action)

## Action Area 4.3: Localizing Food Systems

### S.1. Promoting agritourism to advance small-scale food producers’ equitable livelihoods

#### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

Agritourism is defined as travel which combines agriculture with a touristic experience, allowing guests to have a flavor of farm life during their rural retreat. Agritourism, therefore, is quintessentially a link between tourism and agriculture, where new products are developed for visitors<sup>[2]</sup>. Agritourism can contribute to the elimination of poverty amongst small-scale producers, by promoting full and productive employment and decent work, reducing risks for the world’s poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value.

Agritourism can give small-scale food producers an opportunity to diversify their livelihoods, generating additional income and an avenue for direct marketing to consumers. It also provides communities with the potential to increase employment and can help to preserve agricultural lands and promote agroecology and biodiversity conservation.<sup>[3]</sup>

Agritourism stimulates the development of small businesses and generates significant export revenues<sup>[4]</sup>. Rural tourism offers many benefits to the farmers themselves. The combination of tourism and agriculture helps farmers to diversify their income from agricultural production and from the provision of tourism services, which is especially important in a situation like the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

The solution was inspired from the experience in promoting agritourism in Georgia via the EU's ENPARD program in the Republic of Georgia. Implemented since 2013 with a total budget of EUR 179.5 million, the main goal of ENPARD is to reduce rural poverty in Georgia. The first phase of ENPARD in Georgia focused on developing the potential of agriculture. The second and third phases of ENPARD, which have been inspired by the EU LEADER approach, focus on creating economic opportunities for rural population that go beyond agricultural activities with a strong emphasis on promoting agritourism.

LEADER is a key innovative approach for rural development in the EU. The abbreviation stands for the French term "Liaison entre actions de développement rural" which already indicates the main objective of the approach: to link actions of rural development LEADER is seen as an approach to find innovative responses to changes or challenges in rural regions. Its main objective is to improve the livelihoods of people living in rural areas by applying a holistic concept which focuses on the creation of employment opportunities and income diversification with agritourism as one of the most significant options<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Small-scale producers are by far most farmers in the world, in some estimates producing 70% of the world's food. They make up the largest proportion of the world's disadvantaged. They are particularly vulnerable to climate change, poverty, inequality, underinvestment and growing competition for land and resources.<sup>[6]</sup> It is agriculture-based, so the main motivation for travel is to share experiences with the farmer and the rural culture and landscape. The main activity of the visited businesses is agriculture while tourism is its secondary activity. A thriving, reputable agritourism destination is usually an asset to the community, in contrast to many conventional farms that can justly be seen as liabilities; and in contrast too with traditional tourism, whose economic benefits are usually courted by larger business, with little impact on small-holder farmers.

Agritourism can transform a farmer into a price-maker rather than a price-taker, and has the potential of adding value to farmers, especially during off-season. Agritourism also adds value to local products, due to the increase in demand for natural or handcrafted regional agricultural products. Its development can increase farm revenue in times when agriculture is not as profitable, therefore reducing farmers' economic dependence on their agricultural activities; it offers to local farmers an avenue to expand their farming operations and to reduce market risks. Agritourism can also create opportunities for employment for women in areas once dominated by male employment, reduce female outmigration, and raised women incomes.

Although agritourism is now a popular source for farmers' livelihoods diversification in developed countries (Europe, US, Canada, Japan, etc.) and in some middle-income countries (e.g. Georgia, Costa Rica, South Africa, Thailand), it is not yet widely promoted or supported in many other countries where it would have the potential to help advancing equitable livelihoods amongst small-scale food producers. Often, there is inadequate awareness and popularity of agritourism and its attractiveness to small-scale producers, frequently due to the absence of specific policies to regulate and promote the sector.

Even if such policies exist, small-scale food producers that would be interested in agritourism as a means for income diversification, many not always possess the essential business competencies required for success. Also, smallholding small-scale food producers' farmers have limited access to credit and financial assistance to invest in developing agritourist activities in their farms.

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

## 5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?

- **Undertaking policy reviews** to better understand the limitations of government actions that impact on the agritourism ecosystem. This mapping could identify the areas needing stakeholder actions towards agritourism development and serves as a trajectory for agritourism development<sup>[7]</sup>.
- **Formulating policies** to promote agritourism development. Those policies should provide for liability protections and guidance and encourage the promotion agritourism activities through state marketing and tourism efforts as well as fiscal and economic incentives to small-scale producers embarking on agritourist activities.
- **Aligning agritourism policies with conversation and suitability objectives:** Agritourism can support sustainable socio-economic development. Besides, proper planning and management may contribute to environmental conservation. However, when tourism development is not integrated into the overall development plan of local areas, it may result in negative repercussions on the natural environment and associated cultural aspects, including agricultural systems and landscapes. To ensure that it also helps to conserve diversity, the rural population itself must have recognized agrobiodiversity as valuable and worthy of protection.
- **Having specific policies to monitor agritourism activities**, such as efficient use of resources to generate income, dissemination of relevant information about agritourism enterprises, ensuring community compliance to agritourism guidelines, and finally ensuring value addition to agritourism products and services by the operators<sup>[8]</sup>.
- **Developing agritourism resource centers.** The high potential for agritourism development in many regions means it is critical that mechanisms be created to nurture and support the industry's growth. One of the most effective ways is developing an agritourism resource centers that can provide various forms of 'one stop shopping' support for nascent and established agritourism operators. This is the approach that the State of Maharashtra in India, the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti in Georgia, and many other regions in different countries, are now currently implementing very successfully.
- **Assisting farmers and farmer associations to source financial and technical support towards developing agritourism investments.** Access to adequate credit products, with repayment structures adjusted to agricultural cycles, would be needed. This applies not only to agricultural production, but also to equipment for processing as well as infrastructure to store products and investments for recreational activities for the visitors at the farm or local level. Before undertaking concrete investments, cost-benefit analyses should be carried out.
- **Providing capacity building for agritourism.** Supporting farmers to enter into agritourism will require building business skills an entrepreneurship capability, as well as fostering networking (e.g. farmer-to-farmer connections)<sup>[9]</sup>. To ensure that agritourism will also help to conserve biodiversity, the rural population itself must have recognized agrobiodiversity as valuable and worthy of protection.

## 6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?

Agritourism can contribute to the elimination of poverty amongst small-scale producers, by promoting full and productive employment and decent work, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value, which are the objectives under AT4 of the Summit.

It also aligns with the objectives of all other ATs, namely:

- **Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all**- In the countries where agritourism is more widely adopted, it is becoming an important tool to educate children about where their food comes from and to promote healthy nutritional practices. A farm set up for tourism offers excellent real-world educational opportunities. Agritourism is also usually a trigger to promote investments on better food safety standards at farm level.
- **Shift to sustainable consumption patterns**: Food consumption is a way to get to know other cultures and their food, and at the same time it is an obligatory activity while travelling, since tourists need to eat to obtain nutrients. Agritourism can play a role in broader policy efforts to support sustainable consumption patterns by connecting directly with consumers to purchase produce and other local products. It creates an opportunity for farmers to interact with their customer base, cultivate relationships with them, and listen to their needs. Agritourism by its very nature fosters farmer–customer partnerships.
- **Boost nature-positive production**- can bring many environmental benefits, largely because it valorizes environmental conservation. Many more farmers engaged in agritourism realize the value of landscape and wildlife conservation, and that rural environments can produce wealth through visitation rather than solely through food production. Agritourism encourages the conservation and regeneration of local ecosystems in the visited farm or nearby areas. And, compared with traditional tours, it minimizes visitor impact on the environment.
- **Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, as it is a source of livelihoods' diversifying and off-season income for the farmers**- Within the framework of the sustainable livelihoods approach, the ability to cope with shocks is based on strategies of diversification. When a household is active only in agriculture or tourism and thus relies only on one source of income, and the ability to cope with stress is lower. In contrast, being active in both tourism and agriculture, (e.g. farmers who own a guesthouse and produce their own agricultural products, which are also offered to their guests) is a better risk reduction strategy<sup>[10]</sup>.

The potential **large-scale impact** of the gamechanger is also very significant- The trend in demand for responsible tourism is continuing to rise and greater account is being taken of the congestion tourism generates and of the negative effects on resources and host communities that can come with it. There is a growing demand for transparency in social and economic benefit to communities and tourism contribution to preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. There also is a growing support by the international tourism trade, including major international operators, to recognize destinations and businesses who are actively addressing these sustainability themes.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

The **EU** has been promoting agritourism as a diversification strategy in search of more diverse and sustainable rural economic development. In fact, Agritourism is widespread across the European Countries, typically providing between 10 and 20% of rural income and employment, twice tourism's income and employment levels averaged across Europe. The E.U. policies that support agritourism are linked to efforts to market high-value foods based on a region's historical, cultural, and social traditions. The diversification of the rural economy through tourism has become an important, recurrent theme of

integrated territorial development strategies, especially in the context of the LEADER, one of the EU's most important rural development strategies.

In the **United States**, there is an extensive history of agritourism activities as well and many States have responded to the growing interest in agritourism through legislation. The first was Kansas, which enacted its Agrotourism Promotion Act in 2004.

Outside of North America and Europe, some countries have also, in recent years, start to promote agritourism in various ways, cognizant of its potential advantages for equitable economic growth and livelihoods diversification in rural areas. There are countless examples of successes proven positive outcomes of agritourism development activities, ranging from the adoption of agritourism in **Georgia**, as part of the adoption of the LEADER approach in the contexts of the ENPARD program, to the 'seed markets held in the highlands of **Peru** and **Bolivia**, where women offer their own varieties of potatoes and other crop plants for sale, also attract tourists<sup>[11]</sup>, the avocado and macadamia farms' visits in **South Africa**<sup>[12]</sup>; the agritourism initiatives related to trekking tourism in **Nepal**, or the tours to coffee plantations in **Guatemala** or **Costa Rica**.

In all these contexts, agritourism has proven profitable, improving the lives of the farm families directly engaged but also their wider rural communities, as various studies have demonstrated. IICA'S Rural Agroindustry Hemispheric Program – PRODAR- has promoted the development and application of mechanisms that make possible the direct exchange of lessons, experiences and testimonies among actors directly involved with rural agroindustry and agritourism in the Americas identifying many instances of good practices and positive impacts<sup>[13]</sup>.

Another example of evidence come from Nepal, about a National Park at the border to Tibet. While in former times in this region trade with Tibet was the most important source of income, the closure of the border in 1959 led to a loss of income. However, the rising agritourism sector contributed to a compensation for this loss. Combining tourism with agricultural activities like dairy and horticulture even led to reverse migration flows. Hence, this is also an example where linking tourism and agriculture has helped to adjust to changes in the local framework conditions.

## **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

Agritourism represents an expanding segment of the tourism economy of many countries. Globally there is a growing awareness of the opportunities and benefits of strengthening the links between agriculture and tourism. The growth of interest in agritourism products is supported by recent research by, for instance, the Travel Industry Association of America indicating that 60 percent of American leisure travelers are interested in taking a trip to engage in culinary activities within the next 12 months.

With the increasing interest of people in agricultural life, desires for experiencing gastronomic cultures, and the potential for agritourism to shrink rural-urban migration, agritourism is gaining the attention the tourist industry, the public, and governments in low and middle income countries, some of which has reticently start setting policies to promote agritourism. For instance, in since 2016 **Vanuatu** has a Agritourism Plan of Action. In **India**, the Government of Maharashtra has established in 2020 an Agri Tourism Development Corporation. The 'Green Farm' project launched by the Government of Kerala is aimed at promoting agritourism too<sup>[14]</sup>.

## **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited**



The solution is particularly well suited for developing or middle income countries with significant numbers of small-scale producers and with an existing tourist industry (e.g. **Thailand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania**, etc.) but also in other developing countries where tourism is currently perhaps less developed but there is a potential for the sector to growth. In fact, in recent years there have been baseline studies in various countries on their potential to promote agritourism as a source of income and diversification for small-scale producers, including in **Ghana, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, or Papua New Guinea**, just to name a few.

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<sup>[1]</sup> This solution was drafted by **Juan Echanove**, Food and Water Senior Director, CARE

<sup>[2]</sup> Wicks, B.E. & Merrett, C.D. (2003). *Agritourism: An economic opportunity for Illinois*. Rural Research Report, 14(9), 1-8

<sup>[3]</sup> Philip S, Hunter C, Blackstock K. A typology for defining agritourism. *Tourism Management*. 2010

<sup>[4]</sup> Arenliu, Arlinda (2015): *Linking rural tourism to agriculture. Evidences from comparative case studies in Kosovo, Italy and Spain*. With Matteo Vittuari and Samir Sayadi.

<sup>[5]</sup> European Commission (2006): *The Leader approach. A basic guide*. Luxembourg: Publications Office (Fact sheet / Directorate-General for Agriculture).

<sup>[6]</sup> Stewart, Mary & Chase, Lisa. *Agritourism: Toward a Conceptual Framework for Industry Analysis*. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*. Vol 8 (2018)

<sup>[7]</sup> Eshun, G. & Mensah, K. (2020). *Agritourism Niche-Market in Ghana: A MultiStakeholder Approach*. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 9(3):319-334.

<sup>[8]</sup> Eshun, G. & Tettey, C. (2014). *Agritourism development in Ghana: A study of its prospects and challenges at Adjeikrom Cocoa Tour Facility*. *Bulletin of Geography. Socioeconomic Series*, 25(25), 81-99.

<sup>[9]</sup> Goodwin, H., Santilli, R. (2009). *Community-Based Tourism: a success? GTZ*. International Centre for Responsible Tourism ICRT. ICRT Occasional Paper No. 11.

<sup>[10]</sup> Huller, Sara (2019). *Linking Agriculture and Tourism A Qualitative Study on the Status and Perspectives of the Kazbegi Region in the Greater Caucasus*. Dissertation to obtain the Doctoral Degree at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University Giessen.

<sup>[11]</sup> Ceballos-Lascurain, H. (1996): *Tourism, Ecotourism, and Protected Areas*. IUCN–The World Conservation Union, Protected Areas Programme. Gland & Cambridge.

<sup>[12]</sup> Rogerson, Chisrtian (2014) *Agritourism and local economic development in South Africa*.

<sup>[13]</sup> A look to successful experiences of agritourism in Latin America / IICA - San José, C.R : IICA, 2010

<sup>[14]</sup> Prasad, Soumi Chatterjee and M. V. Durga (23 January 2019). *"The Evolution of Agri-Tourism practices in India: Some Success Stories"*. *Madridge Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences*. 1 (1): 19–25.

## S.2. Farmer Seed Networks - Promoting inclusive seed systems for equitable livelihoods and the protection of human rights

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

This solution sees the establishment of networks (national and sub-national) for the advancement of inclusive and pluralistic seed systems. Organizational networks that manage seeds are critical for ensuring sustainability and productivity in food systems throughout the world. In particular Farmer Seed Networks – which transfer seed through farmer-to-farmer gifting, swapping, bartering, or purchase, and also through trading or sale which occurs outside of the commercial seed sector and formal regulation – are key to sustainable and equitable livelihoods. The planting material flowing through such networks comes from a range of sources, including farmers’ own fields and gardens and those of other farmers (or farmer or community groups – often called ‘community seeds), local or district markets, NGOs and foundations, national and international agricultural research centres, and agro-dealers and other commercial seed suppliers. Literature often refers to such networks as part of ‘informal seed systems’ through which local seed varieties flow – in contrast, and often in opposition, to ‘formal seed systems’ which convey improved, certified seed to farmers (Biemond et al., 2013a). But permeability and interaction exist between these systems and farmer seed networks can take a variety of forms. They are



broadly social networks that emerge through seed transfer events and they have vastly differing governance structures. In some situations, these seed events do not or cannot take place and this precludes the safe, affordable, and equitable transfer of seeds. This solution addresses this vacuum by establishing inclusive networks so that farmers can engage with each other in the interests of local food security and sovereignty and of equitable livelihoods.

## **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

This solution has emerged from discussions within AT4, between AT1 and AT4, and with peers – and in dialogues in the context of the summit. The solution is also based on published learning and evidence and on the need for more solutions that address the agency of individuals and collectives in local food systems, regardless of macro-economics.

## **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Seeds are the basis for almost all land-based food systems and without an adequate supply of good quality seeds, with the required traits, these systems will be unable to deliver the quantity and quality of food we require to meet the nutritional needs of society. Despite the centrality of farmer seed networks to solutions on challenges ranging from seed sovereignty and rights to sustainability and biodiversity, the roles and potential of these networks are poorly understood and inadequately supported. Support to farmer seed networks (be they local or territorial or specific seed- or market-based) is grossly inadequate and a failure of agricultural sector development. Making seed available for the wide range of crops and varieties farmers may desire is therefore the food systems challenge that this solution addresses. In many countries, the formal private sector routinely focuses on predominant staple crops (such as maize) and key horticultural crops, and the formal public sector can only partially fulfil gaps in other majority crops to serve the producer base. Commercial certified seed production is limited by market forces to those crops that have high multiplication rates and good seed-to-grain price ratios as it is difficult to cover the costs of producing fully certified seeds for crops with low multiplication rates and OPVs. Commercial seed production is also limited in many countries by bottlenecks in the supply of Early Generation Seed.

While some farmers may buy, for example, hybrid maize and some vegetable seeds from the formal sector, many rely on local grain markets and saved seeds to supply most of their legume seeds. Though local markets meet a clear need, the use of *grains* as *seeds* is inherently unreliable and many farmers thus require a pluralistic seed sector to meet their requirements. These systems should be underpinned by farmer networks. A pluralistic seed sector involves large, small, medium and cooperative commercial seed producers producing cash crop seeds, for example; small and medium enterprises and cooperatives producing quality declared (QDS) legume and niche variety seeds; and farmers' rights to own, save and exchange traditional varieties protected by law. Notwithstanding extensive and comprehensive formal sector supply in some cases, there are gaps between seed availability, and the demand for seed (including heritage breeds and varieties) of a diverse set of crops that farmers may want and need. In particular, there are significant gender-based gaps in supply. Women have differing preferences and needs than men, for different reasons and at different times of production seasons, for example, yet supply often fails to identify and respond to these differences. Decentralized seed production or small scale seed enterprise, which give attention to these dynamics (through facilitating availability of neglected/orphan crops or other crops high in particular nutrients or with important socio-cultural or local economy benefits – or simply increasing access by women to resources and support) are critically important for sustainable and productive local food systems.

#### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your Action Track?**

Action Track 4 is focused on advancing equitable livelihoods and this implies increasing access by the poorest and most marginalized to resources and services. The importance of seed accessibility (including, where relevant, affordability) for food security and nutrition, agricultural development and rural livelihoods, and agrobiodiversity and conservation is well accepted by policy makers, practitioners, and researchers. More importantly, the autonomy, agency and rights of farmers in the production and transfer of seeds is central to this accessibility. But definitions of seed security are unfortunately often based on food security assessments and, though related, they are not synonymous. Farming household may lack food to eat yet have enough seeds to sow on their land. Conversely a farming household may have food to eat but lack the right amount or quality seeds to plant to secure her or his family livelihood. This is often a function of a collapse or an absence of social networks that facilitate the trade or transfer of locally appropriate seeds. Further, repeated provision of seed assistance over multiple seasons leads to farmer dependency and thus increased vulnerability, making the need for vibrant farmer seed networks a question of resilience as well as of equity. Finally, and of central importance to AT4, the production of seed by farmer-owned SMEs promotes entrepreneurship and creates productive employment and decent work.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Our theory of change is based on evidence that livelihoods are more equitable and secure where informal transfer, local market trade and small-scale commercial seed enterprise can thrive. If farmer networks are strengthened with support for information and knowledge transfer (at seed fairs or through digital technology or other media), then their individual and collective agency is strengthened. This strength can then lead to increased bargaining power, market engagement and connection with higher level governance structures. These higher level structures, in turn, can shape clear divisions of responsibility (government extension and advisory services, NARS, NGOs, farmers' groups and entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, grain traders); provide up-to-date training and technical information; and, in some cases, stimulate key marketing opportunities (to the private sector and/or institutional buyers).

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

This solution can have significant impact at scale as it would result in the enhancement of the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and their seed resources. The capacity to contribute to the protection, restoration and management of critical genetic resources and the protection of farmers' rights to save and trade seeds is increased in such systems. It would lead to increased cultivation of nutrient-rich foods and the cultivation of often neglected foods to provide diversity in diets. It would also drive the localization of food systems as it underpins territorial, landscape and agro-ecological approaches to rural development and increase the resilience of food systems to climate change by ensuring diversity and heterogeneity.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work/achieve initial outcomes**

There is extensive evidence in the literature that plural and flexible seed systems, based on farmer networks and knowledge and built on transparent governance can improve the sustainability and equity of food systems (IFAD, FAO, Sperling, worldseed.org, Coomes and others). Improved understanding of the seed network-rural policy-food systems nexus could inform policy initiatives that leverage the advantages of farmer-based seed transfer (e.g. for diffusion of improved varieties) and strengthen seed systems to

the benefit of farmers, for instance, by promoting diverse provisioning channels and new partnerships that improve farmers' access and choice, supporting local systems for managing quality (FAO, 2006), or 8.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is a growing recognition of the need for action and investment by governments, international agencies, the research community and civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations for greater and better support to developing the agency of farmers in seed system management. Many interventions, including research, have failed small-scale farming communities by assuming exogenous market dynamics and technology transfer would address seed quality and quantity challenges. Most actors now recognize that the agency and autonomy of farmers and farmer networks is key to sustainability, productivity, equity and resilience in food systems. Research and development on seeds and seed policy has made assumptions about adoption and scale and production that have neglected or even been at odds with farmer preference and agency, socio-cultural realities, and various rights frameworks.

#### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

The action proposed can be implemented globally but will be particularly required and most beneficial in places where food systems lack support structures and networking opportunities for small-scale farmers. Further, the solution can have higher and faster equity returns where women and marginalized communities face compound vulnerabilities due to, for example, harmful social and gender norms, poor governance or lack of regulatory authority, weak or non-existent extension systems, disrespect for human rights or contraventions of responsible investment frameworks.

*Finally, it is worth repeating that the development of a commercial seed sector is not in competition with, or an alternative to, the strengthening of farm-level seed management capacities. Indeed, the emergence of a commercial seed sector will occur only where farmer seed systems are strong, where farmers know a great deal about what varieties are available, are engaged in widespread seed and information exchange, have good connections with formal plant breeders, and are confident and knowledgeable consumers of various agricultural inputs. Any aspirations for commercial seed sector development need to begin with attention to farmers. Robert Tripp 2003*

S.3. Establishing an Arab Food Security Center that brings together successful Arab initiatives to promote sustainable food systems and facilitate investments for promising regional initiatives

#### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Food security means providing the necessary food goods for the individuals, which may depend on cooperation with other countries or the state's self-sufficiency. Food security prevents food shortage or disruption under dangerous concomitances such as drought and wars and other problems that impede food security.

Thus, an Arab food security center must be established to bring together successful initiatives to promote sustainable food systems and facilitate investment in the Arab countries.

#### **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

Data and reports illustrate the implications of such a crisis, in addition to the mechanism used to assist victims of food crisis in the Arab States by providing them with essential food commodities to reach a state of stability.

**3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Reaching a stable level by cooperating with the Arab countries through establishing the Arab Center for Food Security, which aims to promote trade in agricultural commodities and reduce imports from abroad and encourage cooperation between Arab food-exporting countries. In addition, develop innovative mechanisms to integrate Arab food security, which ultimately aims to export food commodities among them.

This cooperation is possible through organizations such as the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, or other regional organizations.

**4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

To find and reach the needed solutions to promote food sustainability, such as improving the agricultural investment climate in Arab countries and stimulating Arab capital to invest in the agricultural sector in Arab countries, by adopting a range of trade policies to achieve food sustainably.

**5. How can this solution address that problem 'theory of change'?**

The solution addresses the problem through the ongoing cooperation between the Arab States to discuss and exchange ideas and proposals to achieve food security. Such as the execution of infrastructure projects for the agricultural sector, creating an attractive investment environment, joint Arab agricultural projects, and at last, establishing an electronic system that allows the exchange of knowledge and shares the latest innovative solutions. Which all untimely aims to facilitate cooperation during crises and elevate the agricultural sector.

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game-changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

Achieving food security has a great direct impact on humans' safety and health. It also reduces imports and helps rely only on inter-Arab trade by directly investing in the agricultural sector projects.

**7. What is the existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least that it will achieve the initial outcomes described above?**

The successful Arab initiatives, the implemented projects, and the existing investments serve as supporting evidence as they all demonstrate and promote food security's goals.

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The political support for this idea is evident, as most Arab states are conducting conferences and seminars related to the subject. In addition, the parliamentary leaders are supporting legislations related to the strategic stocking of essential food and non-food commodities.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?**

The solution will work very well for all the Arab states, especially the most affected States.

S.4. The development and adoption of regional legislations to ensure strategic stocks of basic commodities (food or non-food) to avoid shortages during any crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic

**1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Developing and adopting legislation to guarantee a basic stock of commodities to achieve economic stability, stabilize prices in the markets, and provide the necessary needs for citizen consumption, and prevent monopolism.

**2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

Reports and data that illustrate the implications of the crises, as well as the importance of the commodities' availability and the consideration of the citizens' needs, to manage crises and achieve food security.

**3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Spotting the needs of citizens and addressing them along with preparing for crises by developing and adopting specific legislation to guarantee strategic supplies of commodities, whether food or non-food, to achieve food security.

**4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

To attain the availability and continuity of commodities to achieve strategic food stocks, passing new legislation ensures such availability and continuity.

**5. How can this solution address that problem 'theory of change'?**

Through the cooperation between the country's ministries and institutions in holding relevant meetings and studies, along with the exchange of experiences with other countries in the region, to reach the primary goal of developing and adopting new legislation to ensure strategic stocks of basic commodities (food or non-food).

**6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game-changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

To reach means of security and stability, which is the ultimate goal, and also ensures the sustainability of commodities, particularly during crises.

**7. What is the existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least that it will achieve the initial outcomes described above?**

The best evidence is the proposals submitted by some of the Bahraini Shura Council members, which are related to the strategic stocks of commodities that aim to achieve economic stability by providing basic goods, stabilizing prices in the markets, and providing the necessary needs for citizen and to prevent monopolism.

**8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

There is great political support for this idea, and it's illustrated by the implementation of the Royal instructions and supporting the government's efforts to achieve food security in the Kingdom.

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?**

The solution is very suitable for all countries, as it guarantees the sustainability of both food and non-food commodities, especially during crises.

### S.5. Aligning Efforts in the Smallholder Farmers Support Ecosystem

**1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Smallholder farmers work the majority of agricultural land and produce 70% of all food consumed globally. It is imperative that the UN Food Systems Summit pays proper attention to advancing this substantial part of the food system. Many actors and initiatives – including initiatives owned and led by smallholder farmers themselves via farmers' organizations – exist to support smallholder development across a range of action areas, from agronomic practices to technology improvements, from market access to financial services, and more. There are a lot of tried and tested approaches around different action areas, and different ways of bundling different types of services and product offerings to smallholders. However, the overall landscape of initiatives and actors working with smallholders remains quite fragmented. Indeed, a recent report published by Duke University revealed that [1]"in 2018, bilateral DAC donors reported a total of 13,649 aid activities for agriculture, with average funding of US\$0.5 million per aid activity, while multilaterals accounted for 2,275 aid activities, with average funding of US\$1.2 million. At the country level, there is an abundance of small uncoordinated projects, which causes high-transaction costs for recipient countries and inefficiencies in pursuing common SDG objectives.

This game changer aims at addressing this fragmentation issue by aligning efforts in the smallholder farmers support ecosystem (henceforth, "Smallholder Ecosystem" proposal). It is proposed as part of Action Track 4 due to its anchoring around empowerment, agency, and supporting structures to strengthen the livelihoods of actors in food systems – in this case, women and men who make a living from smallholder agriculture.

**Goal**

The ultimate goal of this proposal is that a large number of smallholder farmers in emerging economies have better and more efficient access to an ecosystem of integrated and mutually supportive services to improve their livelihoods, resilience, food security and productivity. The direct objective of this proposal is to facilitate alignment, high-impact and cost efficient collaborations, and accelerate learning loops among different actors and initiatives working with smallholder farmers to strengthen their access to resources, services, markets, and know how, with particular focus on amplifying the impact of tried and tested approaches.

**2. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Smallholders in many cases are void of several of the following:

- Access to stable markets
- Access to knowledge, technology and the results of innovation
- Access to capital and finance

- Effective ways to mitigate producer and market risks
- Countervailing power in value chain structures
- Land ownership
- Education and training
- Access to digital resources
- Representation by well-functioning farmer organisations.

As a result, yields from the farm are typically low, smallholder farmer income is around the bare poverty line, risks accumulate at farm level and outlook to improve the business and livelihood is minimal.

Against this background, the specific problem that this proposal addresses is the fragmentation of efforts, approaches, and resources mobilized to support smallholders in accessing these different types of services and assets, which results in foregone opportunities for synergies among types of services and initiatives, high transaction costs for smallholder farmers engaging with different initiatives and service providers, slow or inefficient learning loops, and as a result, limited impact.

### **Context**

In the last few years, several initiatives by public and private sector – including smallholder organizations - have accumulated lessons learned from a variety of interventions across the smallholder ecosystems. This has also further highlighted the various weak points which need to be addressed to deliver on a holistic smallholder ecosystem approach.

This initiative aims to strategically capitalize on these different interventions and approaches to facilitate alignment and scale. The focus will be on integrated value chain approaches, as singular interventions have more often than not proven less effective and in some cases produced unwanted negative side-effects. In this integrated approach, the initiative will aim at realising farm family living incomes, nutritional outcomes, and social equity and inclusion all while ensuring sustainable business models for effective continuity.

### **Approach**

Fragmentation of initiatives is partly the natural result of the different mandates and business models of different actors in the ecosystem support space, and partly the result of the information asymmetry/high transaction costs associated with different actors discovering what others are doing and/or with documenting and making available to others actionable knowledge resources. Rather than taking the approach of establishing an alliance of institutions or a platform of actors working in the smallholder support ecosystem, which may amplify rather than eliminate the underlying factors behind fragmentation, this game-changer is focused on the production of a smart, user-friendly, regularly updated non-proprietary data system that organizes highly actionable information that can: 1) inform actors' programming and targeting of underserved and vulnerable groups; 2) align the ecosystem around a common approach to benchmarking services and service providers for quality and impact; 3) accelerate learning loops without the need for extensive capacity building programming.

Concretely, a digital knowledge system would be established with a curated, geo-referenced data interface tracking: 1) key ongoing or planned initiatives under a number of key headings of smallholder support systems; 2) a digital directory of service providers for different countries vetted by one or more of the participating partners based on a transparent set of criteria; 3) non-confidential data on impact tracking and lessons learned from different programmatic models; 4) a marketplace function for

participating actors with interest in seeking collaborations. The system could be complemented by periodic forums gathering smallholder organizations and service providers designed to refine existing models, ensure that services are strongly anchored into smallholders' demand and responsive to it, and accelerate the pace of innovation and mutual learning through peer discussion.

The key headings for initiatives to be tracked are:

1. Farmer Trainings (thematic and geographic)
2. Data (types, privacy and security)
3. Financial Solutions (credit to insurance and aggregated and / or individual with a gender lens)
4. Farmer IDs (access to markets, finance and other services)
5. Traceability (responsible sourcing and building a record)

The above initial technical areas have been identified taking into account (i) a smallholder ecosystem approach of production to distribution, (ii) currently listed action track 4 game changers which link / touch upon smallholder farmers, (iii) on-going initiatives in the ecosystem, and (iv) pertinent gaps that could be better addressed through collaboration and possibly standardization. Hence, this work provides the subsequent opportunity to build on the data and knowledge systems by identifying specific sub-areas, like data sharing and supporting regulations etc, to be collectively further developed by combining expertise, data, and services in the field.

To streamline the above efforts and focus on the technical areas, and provide back bone support on network, data and knowledge brokering, fits a content-driven **coordinating body** like the Netherlands Food Partnership, hosting and curating the data system.

## Conclusion

The proposed game changer submission to the Food Systems Summit Action Track 4 while complementing the other submissions also addresses critical farmer-centric digital, trainings and financial solutions that are not touched upon so far. The aim is to not reinvent the wheel and rather to link the solving of key gaps through key technical and operational partnerships.

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[1] *The Financing Landscape for Agricultural Development*, available at [AqDevFinancing-WFPC-Dec2020.pdf \(duke.edu\)](#)

## S.6. Advancing Equitable Livelihoods Through the Scale Up of Economic Inclusion Programmes

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

*Strengthening the economic inclusion of the rural and peri-urban populations and, the rural poor, to advance equitable livelihoods.*

Globally, at least three quarter of the extreme poor live in rural areas. While, globally, about 76 per cent of the rural workers who are extremely poor engage in agriculture, around 4.5 billion people in the world depend on food systems for their jobs and livelihoods, along the rural-urban continuum. Indeed, peri-urban and urban areas also play a central role in food systems as not only main consumer hubs of food products, but also drivers of integrated and inclusive food systems, including by enabling access to



markets for small holders, and basic infrastructure and services. On another hand, rural and peri-urban areas are key to ensure food security in a context of ever-growing demand for food, and are also at the forefront of the fight against climate change.

Economic inclusion is one key pillar of poverty eradication, but also central to foster more equal societies and to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas (FAO, 2019; World Bank, 2021). Social protection directly contributes to more inclusive food systems by enhancing food security and household assets.<sup>[1]</sup> By combining social protection with livelihood interventions and/or financial inclusion initiatives (World Bank, 2021), and with migration remittances, when feasible, economic inclusion programmes address multiple constraints that poor households face in engaging in productive activities and support their investments for promoting a sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems transformation.

## **2. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

The transformation of food systems won't be effective if not inclusive of the rural poor. 80% of the extreme poor live in rural areas, and around 4.5 billion people depend on food systems for their jobs and livelihoods. For example, in West Africa, the food system accounts for 66% of total employment (82 million jobs as of 2017). Roughly 78% (64 million jobs) are in agriculture itself, 15% (12 million) in food marketing and 5% (four million) in food processing (GLOPAN). Embedding economic inclusion programmes within actions to transform food systems carries a significant potential in terms of poverty reduction, income generating opportunities and ensuring access to healthier diets.

Over the next 15 years, about 1.6 billion people will reach working age in low and middle-income countries. In many countries, food systems already provide more jobs than any other sector both self and wage employment, and it is expected to remain the top employer for the foreseeable future. But food systems already play a vital role in providing incomes and livelihoods to rural populations, such as small-holder farmers and many others in the rural economy, ranging from input suppliers to those engaged in downstream processing and distribution, as well as the final stage of supermarkets, canteens, food stalls and restaurants. As per capita incomes increase and eating patterns shift, the demand for jobs in these off-farm segments of the food system increases.

However, at the same time, food systems contribute to and are impacted by climate change – agriculture in particular is major source of greenhouse gas emissions (25%-30% of total). Food systems overuse natural resource and put at risk biodiversity. In addition, current food systems do not ensure access to healthy diets, and the double burden of malnutrition and obesity is increasing globally. Indeed, nearly 3 billion people are unable to afford a healthy diet and poor-quality diets are linked to 11 million deaths per year. Even if food systems represent a largest part of livelihoods and jobs in the world, those are generally precarious and at risk – generally not always inclusive of the poorest.

Economic inclusion programmes can be central to address the inclusivity gap of food systems. Indeed, inequalities in present food systems exclude the poor and vulnerable populations from contributing to and benefiting from them, notably in terms of accessing healthy foods, and accessing markets, social protection and financial services to increase their incomes and managing risk. To ensure these programmes address these multiple challenges, these programmes need to be embedded in food systems related policies, moving away from standalone and standalone interventions to sustain pathways out of poverty.<sup>[2]</sup> In addition, an enabling environment securing access to basic services and infrastructure is also key to sustain the economic inclusion of the rural poor. Such inclusion further depends on the local context and analyzing the specific barriers and constraints that cause impoverishment and perpetuate

the vicious circle of poverty is critical to inform economic inclusion pathways and the design of such programmes.

### **3. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Addressing that problem is critical to (1) contribute to the elimination of poverty by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, (2) reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value, and (3) improve social and economic inclusion, and resilience, through social protection and seek to ensure that food systems "leave no one behind."

Indeed, rural areas have the key to the food system transformation agenda; on the other hand, 70% of the SDG targets relate to rural areas.<sup>[3]</sup> Advancing equitable livelihoods to transform food systems therefore necessarily implies promoting the economic inclusion of the rural poor and populations in vulnerable situations in rural areas, which are central actors of such systems. Promoting economic inclusion of poor rural households is central to meeting some of the most critical challenges faced by food systems, including ensuring access to healthy diets, enhancing natural resource management and protecting biodiversity.

Specifically, achieving economic inclusion can help achieve several SDG goals that directly impact the rural poor's livelihoods:

- SDG 1, end poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 8, promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, and full and productive employment and decent work for all
- SDG 10, reduce inequality within and among countries

### **4. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Economic inclusion programs are a bundle of coordinated, multidimensional interventions that support individuals, households, and communities to increase their incomes and assets. Economic inclusion programs therefore aim to

facilitate the dual goal of strengthening resilience and opportunities for individuals and households who are poor. These goals are met through strengthening community and local economy links (World Bank, 2021).

Economic inclusion programmes support asset accumulation and increased returns from assets, as well as address basic needs and human capital accumulation, which in turn also contribute to facilitating the accumulation of more productive assets.<sup>[4]</sup> While pro-poor growth starts in agriculture, reducing rural poverty also requires creating off-farm jobs, fostering economic diversification and investing in human capital, health, education and infrastructure. Transforming food systems encompasses all these agendas, while also addressing climate change, biodiversity, natural resource management and healthier diets. In order to take advantage of food system transformation for rural poverty reduction, we need to make it as inclusive as possible. Indeed, the transformation of food systems cannot be sustainable without being inclusive.

Economic inclusion, particularly in the context of food systems transformation, is about much more than income. It is about social inclusion, building agency, particularly women's agency, and participation in the process itself, especially at local and regional and territorial levels and of producer organizations and indigenous peoples, amongst others. Economic inclusion further support ensuring the human right to access to social protection, access to healthy and nutritious food, and access to basic services and infrastructure.

The solution calls for **strengthening the economic inclusion of the rural populations and, in particular the rural poor, to advance equitable livelihoods** by leveraging social protection systems to support the three main pathways out of poverty rural households (FAO, 2021):

- the agriculture path, to intensify production and sales: EI programmes can reduce poverty by increasing the capacities of small scale farmers to produce affordable healthy food and by supporting the adoption of climate-smart practices, pushing forward agroecology-centred approaches and long-term climate adaptation programmes (example: CASH+). In those, social protection is a necessary “buffer” that allows people to take some risks associated with adopting new livelihood strategies, as their basic needs are protected. However to be sustainable, those programmes should be focusing on high potential local value chains linked to market opportunities (school feeding) and eventually promote shorter value chains to reduce power imbalances, facilitate access to social security, improve work conditions, reduce informality in the sector and support access to AG insurance for improving resilience of those livelihoods in the long run;
- the diversification path, to generate income from agriculture and natural resource management as well as from non-agriculture related activities: EI can support the diversification of livelihoods and improve natural resource management (fish, forest, land and water for example) by creating job opportunities and facilitating transition to alternative source of income through the promotion sustainable agri-food value chains that requires specific skills (aquaculture as alternative to fisheries, processing, marketing, transport...) as in non-agricultural sectors. It could be done through the promotion of alternative jobs that are less dependent on natural resources (pescaturism for instance – via cash+) or via the promotion of green jobs (cash+ and labour market interventions or public works), to respond to growing opportunities associated to policies supporting employment-intensive green technologies; management and preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity; and green agricultural research and extension services.
- the non-agriculture path, which is associated with income strategies unrelated to agricultural livelihoods.

The different economic inclusion pathways create new earning opportunities on the labour market, and their success depend very much on the matching between individual skills and demand for skills. Support under those pathways should be connected to developing skills (soft and technical) and providing labour intermediation services in order to link job seekers with job opportunities. Working with the public and private sectors to offer decent rural employment, which provides the rural poor with an adequate living income, and protect them from occupational risks and income shocks, will be key. This will need approaches to local economic and territorial development that assess trade-offs and maximize employment generation and use of production by poorer producers, but that also respect environmental limits.

The different pathways related to employment, wage, or self, may be linked to migration processes. Human mobility is part of the process of economic, social and human development. As societies undergo

transformation, people inevitably move within and between countries in search of better opportunities. The shifting of economic activities across sectors and borders, and the consequent declining share of labour employed in agriculture are typically accompanied by a movement of labour from rural to urban areas, where more productive sectors in manufacturing and services are often located (FAO, 2019c). Mechanisms to support safe, orderly, and regular migration are also indirectly key to successful economic inclusion processes linked to it, as well as the importance of remittances for investing in the areas of origin.

## **5. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

Numerous FAO, World Bank analytical and policy work around economic inclusion advance compelling evidence that demonstrates the impacts of economic inclusion in advancing equitable livelihoods in rural areas, including:

- Andrews, Colin, Aude de Montesquiou, Inés Arévalo Sánchez, Puja Vasudeva Dutta, Boban Varghese Paul, Sadna Samaranayake, Janet Heisey, Timothy Clay, and Sarang Chaudhary. 2021. “The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: The Potential to Scale. Overview.” Washington, DC: World Bank.
- De La O Campos, A.P., Villani, C., Davis, B., Takagi, M. 2018. Ending extreme poverty in rural areas – Sustaining livelihoods to leave no one behind. Rome
- FAO, 2016. Strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection to combat poverty and hunger in Africa. Framework for Analysis and Action. Rome.
- FAO, 2017. Cash+: FAO’s approach. Rome.
- FAO, 2017. FAO framework on social protection: promoting rural development for all. Rome.
- FAO. 2019. FAO framework on rural extreme poverty: Towards reaching Target 1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Rome
- FAO. 2020. The contribution of social protection to economic inclusion in rural areas. Rome.

## **6. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

Strong. Beyond the centrality of promoting economic inclusion in rural areas, where most of the extreme poor live globally, to achieve SDG2, the central tenant of all the 2030 Agenda is to Leave No One Behind. Efforts to promote the economic inclusion of the rural poor, key actors to transform food systems in a sustainable and sustained way, including to ensure food security and nutrition for all, but also to better manage natural resources, are important to ensure the transformation of food systems is indeed inclusive.

The World Bank State of Economic Inclusion Report (2021) provides a compelling case for scaling up economic inclusion programs and stresses the current political support to this agenda, building on an extensive array of evidence. FAO’s From Protection to Production project further evidences the positive impact of cash transfers in reducing rural poverty, while its Framework for Analysis and Action makes the case for building coherence between agriculture and social protection policies to strengthen rural livelihoods.

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[1] Hidrobo et al, 2018. *Social Protection, Food Security, and Asset Formation. World Development, Volume 101.*

[2] Heinemann, A., Montesquiou, A. d. & Hashemi, S. M. 2018. *PEI Brief: Building the graduation approach into social protection systems. Washington, DC, World Bank.*

[3] Trivelli, C and Berdegué, J.A, 2019. *Rural transformation. Looking towards the future of Latin America and the Caribbean. 2030 - Food, agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, No. 1. Santiago. FAO.*

[4] Mariotti, C., Ulrichs, M., & Harman, L. 2016. *Sustainable escapes from poverty through productive inclusion: a policy guide on the role of social protection. Chronic Poverty Advisory Network Policy Guide No. 9.*

## S.7. Coalition on Living Incomes by 2030

### 1. What, in brief, is the solution?

This solution aligns and strengthens efforts and the collective contribution to establishing global living incomes in the food and agriculture sector. Building on existing initiatives as well as providing a platform to co-design and co-deliver additional initiatives, the proposed six pillars of action will include a commitment to living wage supported by a suite of strategic interventions that address barriers and enablers to living incomes:

- A Voluntary Commitment to 100% Living Wage by 2030 and support for the implementation of the IDH Roadmap.
- Advocacy to shape social welfare and job creation policies – the necessary social safety-nets that influence how living wages are determined as well as how living incomes are met.
- Quantify collective private sector community and R&D investments from the food and agriculture sector, to better understand the contribution to and role of the critical foundations that enable a living wage (access to health, education, infrastructure, technical assistance).
- Strengthen company human rights policy and practice with a spotlight on land-tenure and rights to collective bargaining – as pre-requisites to living incomes.
- Enable better access to finance and markets – key enablers of realizing living incomes.

### 2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?

Data shows us that persistent income polarization and wage stagnation is a key driver of inequality – alongside the rising costs of essential services, work fragility and transition, persistent gender and race gaps and failing safety nets. WBCSD's Vision 2050 Report identifies inequality, together with the climate emergency and nature loss, as one of the three most pressing challenges facing our society globally. At least four of the 10 "clear and present dangers" identified in Economic Forum's 2021 Global Risks Report are inequality related, including livelihood crises, widespread youth disillusionment, and erosion of social cohesion.

### 3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?

Inequality is emerging as one of the most pressing challenges facing society. It threatens our collective ability to meet the SDGs, in particular SDG1 on No Poverty and SDG2 on Zero Hunger. Addressing inequality is also essential to building a sustainable food system: as stated in the Action Track 4 final Discussion Paper, 'Food system transformation that does not address inequalities and specific vulnerabilities risks reinforcing and deepening inequalities and undermining the resilience of food systems'.

### 4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?

Understanding a food systems' local or regional context is critical to identifying its' relevant drivers and levers. A 'territorial perspective' – *embracing integrated landscape management, as well as the socio-economic dimensions of the use of natural resources, connects local, regional, national and international scales as well as urban and rural areas* – enables a truly systemic response. *It promotes more social participation and allows policymakers to close information gaps and make better-informed decisions across different sectors (ref. Egal et.al., Territorial Food Systems for Sustainable Development: Issue Brief for UN Food Systems Summit).*

The challenges to securing global living incomes can be best addressed through a territorial approach to food systems and through partnership/leadership from local and regional governments: *local socio-economic, cultural, political and institutional contexts are best addressed at the territorial level*. This proposed solution, therefore, has a close and critical alignment with the working group on 'localizing food systems'.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

There are 2 critical components of this solution: convening the relevant mix of cross-sector actors that bring the necessary and shared insights experience and resources; a mix of interventions that tackle the strategic barriers as well as raise the bar (a voluntary commitment to living wage).

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a 'game changing solution' developed by the Summit?**

This proposed solution fits particularly closely to the following 3 criteria:

- Have positive effects on ensuring equitable livelihood opportunities, advancing human health, and regenerating environmental integrity, with focus on youth, women, marginalized and disabled populations.
- Be implementable at a sufficient scale to reach a large portion of the population with clear, timely and verifiable outcomes that produce significant impacts by 2030.
- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in food consumption and production systems.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

This solution is based on extensive data and action to-date as well as growing momentum and has been designed to foster new commitments to living wage whilst at the same time tackle the barriers to securing global living incomes.

Specific sources of extensive and robust intel that inform the coalition's structure and pillars of action are drawn from WBCSD member sustainability strategies, IDH and the Living Wage Roadmap, ISEAL/GIZ Community of Practice on Living Incomes and the Global Living Wage Coalition.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The urgency of building more Equitable Value Distribution across food and agri value-chains is gaining in profile and momentum. The World Food Programme's latest 'State of Nutrition and Food Security in the

World' report estimates that the pandemic will add over 100 million people to the total number of those undernourished worldwide and the World Bank estimates that a further 100 million people will be living in extreme poverty – both by the end of 2020. Our collective efforts to achieve the Global Goals related to poverty, food security and inequality have been significantly set back. The impacts of COVID-19 have indirectly been socially and economically devastating and have seriously exacerbated these inequalities. Living incomes are a key solution to tackling rising inequality. Successful examples which demonstrate the commitment from key growing jurisdictions include those cited by #20 submitted into Wave 1 such as the *Living Income Differential (LID) in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana that ensures a decent revenue to local farmers. Building on this initiative the European Union engaged in a partnership with Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon to link this price increase to further actions aiming at reinforcing the overall sustainability of cocoa production, and particularly halting deforestation and eradicating child labour in cocoa production. Other examples include the Costa Rican law dictating the split of the added value in the coffee branch or the "Interprofessions" in France that regroup various actors from producers to distributors in a given value chain.*

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

This solution has broad application given the extent of the global living income challenge and range of engaged actors. In order to prioritise, key impact areas where the greatest investment and contribution are needed will be identified by identifying the overlap in presence of 'champions' from both the private and public sectors.

*S.8 Governance (working title)*

**1. Idea for potential solution (required)**

Integrate urban and territorial food governance into the overall food systems transformation recognizing the crucial role of governments and stakeholders at different levels and their inter-relationships (nexus).

**2. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

- Policymakers (governments at all levels)
- Private sector (businesses, etc.)
- Civil Society (NGOs, etc.)
- Policy makers and stakeholders
- Local and regional governments
- National governments
- Food Consumers and Consumer Associations
- Private sector stakeholders (e.g. producers, distributors, retailers, processors)
- Civil society, community food leaders, food policy councils, local food networks

**3. Where are main areas in which this would make changes?** Urban Food Systems Governance and Territorial Planning cuts across all components and stakeholders in the food system.

**4. Within which category does this intervention most easily fall?**

Cross-cutting - Integrating urban and territorial food governance into overall food systems transformation, The intervention recognizes the interdependence of the various components of the food systems and the crucial role of different levels of governments and governance stakeholders working in a coherent and coordinated way.

It involves all the components and related stakeholders in the food system: producers, consumers, distributors, retailers etc. and therefore has potential to promote integrated and inclusive food system transformation.

**5. What would this change about food, in the eyes of consumers?**

- Availability
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Convenience
- Desirability
- Safety
- Quality (other than Safety)

An effective food systems transformation needs to recognize the importance of urban and territorial governance in a multi-level governance approach which and, as such, it supports availability, affordability, access, safety, convenience and desirability (quality and cultural appropriateness) at all levels. It includes all components and stakeholders in the food system.

**6. Is this primarily about reducing hunger, making nutritious foods more available and affordable, or improving safety? (These are the three main areas of Action Track 1's work)**

- Reducing hunger
- Availability/affordability of nutritious foods
- Improving safety

Urban and territorial food governance facilitates poverty reduction in urban but also in rural areas through urban-rural interactions, reduces food insecurity, promotes access to nutritious foods, promotes prevention and efficient food waste management and improves food safety. Cities consume the majority of food currently and in perspective and transformation of urban food systems and consumer demand will reverberate throughout the majority of food consumed in cities.



**7. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography or type of setting (e.g., semi-arid areas, higher- or lower-income countries)? If so, please specify.**

All urban and peri-urban areas in small, intermediary and metropolitan cities .

**8. Where is this idea coming from? (Please include a citation to a document, if applicable, or the name of a person or organisation)**

The collective knowledge and richness of experiences of participants in the Urban Food Systems Working Group comprising city networks (C40 Delice Network , Global Resilient Cities Network, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, MUFPP. UCLG), Academic Institutions and other organizations (Cardiff University, Consumers International, EAT Foundation, Food Foundation, GAIN, IPES Food, Nourish Scotland, Rikolto, RUAF, The Prince's Foundation) and UN-Agencies (FAO, UN Habitat, UNCDF, UNEP, UNICEF, UNSCN, WHO)

FAO, 2021. Urban Food systems governance: current context and future opportunity  
<http://www.fao.org/3/cb1821en/cb1821en.pdf>

**9. Any other comments, including evidence or arguments in support or against?**

Food policies are usually characterized by sectoral approaches or national policies which fail to include sub-national governments. Urban and regional governments have a major role to play in food systems transformation in the face of growing importance of urban areas in the overall food consumption. Many city governments have committed themselves to prioritizing urban food systems in their policies. There are numerous examples of important actions towards sustainable urban food systems, most recently evidenced in the COVID-19 response. Therefore, to be effective national food policy frameworks affecting urban food systems should include the principles of subsidiarity and must be drafted and implemented with local and regional government engagement.

At the same time, a territorial (place-based) approach to food and food systems has been shown to bring about substantial benefits in terms of rural and urban poverty reduction and promotion of improved health and nutrition. This involves defining a functional territory from a food systems point of view and establishing the necessary formal and informal mechanisms for better coordination of policies, planning and interventions affecting the incentives and capacities of food systems actors. The territory is comprised of a number of cities and towns and their rural/agricultural catchment areas and it is a place where production, processing, transport and consumption meet. Actions within a territory have spill-over effects and facilitate an integrated, more efficient approach to policy and planning.

However, exploiting the benefits of a territorial approach often runs against existing governance systems which are bounded by administrative barriers and delimitation of jurisdictions. Opportunities or “win-win” solutions and the resolution of trade-offs between costs and benefits across sectors/stakeholders are therefore lost. Employing a territorial approach to food policy and planning

would address this. Thus, the need for a cross-sectoral, cross-spatial and multi-stakeholder governance approach across a territory.

Mechanisms such as food policy councils (or similar multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms) can act as a consultative forum and provide advise to urban and local governments, support policy design and implementation, promote stakeholder engagement (including vulnerable populations) and facilitate monitoring and evaluation of progress in policy implementation, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. Food Policy Councils (or other similar multi-stakeholder mechanisms at the city, territorial and regional level) are effective for developing and implementing inclusive multi-sectoral urban food policy and planning strategies and in breaking down policy silos. Such approaches proved to be invaluable during the COVID-19.

Food Policy Councils, often supported and administered through local/regional government, include representatives of consumer and producer associations, civil society and community organizations, academic institutions, and private sector stakeholders. These food councils could be anchored to a municipal department or could be a collaborative coalition among various municipal departments. They can also serve as an integrated governance system among several municipalities that are part of the same functional territory. They can also be used as a leverage to link food system transformation at local and national levels.

What is important to highlight is that these mechanisms are increasingly emerging as crucial instruments to address gaps in local policies and planning related to food, but they need to be scaled up and their capacities strengthened.

Therefore, these urban and territorial food governance mechanisms should be promoted at the national and global level as innovative and inclusive platforms for achieving food systems transformation.

## S.9. Urban Food Systems and Local Planning

### 1. Idea for potential solution (required)

Urban Food Systems and Local Planning

### 2. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?

- Policymakers - sub-national government
- Private sector food system stakeholders (through multi stakeholder platforms)
- Civil society, food networks, multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. food policy councils)

### 3. Where are main areas in which this would make changes?

This proposition is cross cutting and involves all stakeholders in the food system: producers, consumers, distributors, retailers etc. It has potential to engage all stakeholders and to promote food system transformation.

**4. Within which category does this intervention most easily fall?**

Cross-cutting

**5. What would this change about food, in the eyes of consumers?**

Effective urban food systems and local planning supports availability, affordability, access, safety, convenience, and desirability (quality and cultural appropriateness)

**6. Is this primarily about reducing hunger, making nutritious foods more available and affordable, or improving safety? (These are the three main areas of Action Track 1's work)**

The integration of urban food systems into local planning facilitates poverty reduction, improve food security, promotes access to nutritious foods and improves food safety. It also improves rural livelihoods and more sustainable food production modalities.

**7. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography or type of setting (e.g., semi-arid areas, higher- or lower-income countries)? If so, please specify.**

All urban and peri urban areas in small, intermediary, and metropolitan cities

**8. Where is this idea coming from? (Please include a citation to a document, if applicable, or the name of a person or organisation)**

- The collective knowledge and richness of experiences of participants in the Urban Food Systems Working Group comprising city networks (C40 Delice Network, Global Resilient Cities Network, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, MUFPP. UCLG), Academic Institutions and other organizations (Cardiff University, Consumers International, EAT Foundation, Food Foundation, GAIN, IPES Food, Nourish Scotland, Rikolto, RUAF, The Prince's Foundation) and UN-Agencies (FAO, UN Habitat, UNCDF, UNEP, UNICEF, UNSCN, WHO)
- FAO-UCL Integrating food into urban planning: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2260EN/ca2260en.pdf>

**9. Any other comments, including evidence or arguments in support or against.**

S.10. Increasing Public and Private Financing for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Food Systems

**1. Idea for potential solution (required)**

With rapidly growing rates of urbanization, especially in developing countries, the transformation of global food systems necessitates critical attention and increase in financing for Urban Food Systems (UFS) solutions. The Urban Food Systems working group has called for:

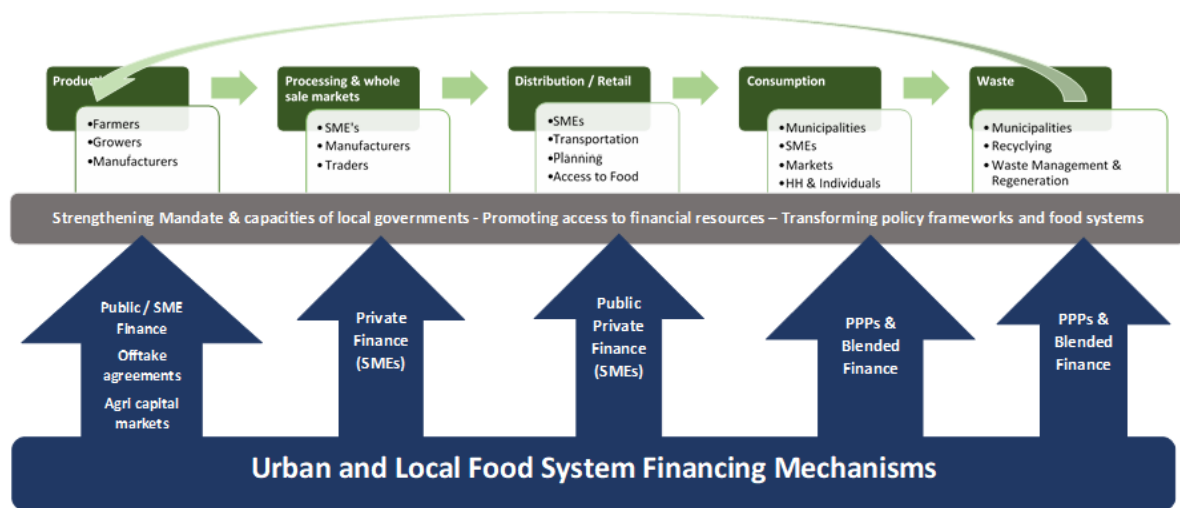
- increased financing by UN and multi donors that provides catalytic capital to promote territorial solutions towards sustainable food systems which will include comprehensive actions across all components of food systems/food value chains including promoting capacity building of local

administrations and programmes to promote nutrition and sustainable food consumption and production patterns, and that

- National governments and resource partners support public and private sector towards a policy and incentives framework for and strategic planning of urban food systems to ensure making nutritious food, sustainably produced, is available and affordable for all.<sup>3</sup>

To achieve this requires significantly increasing both public and private finance and blended financing mechanisms to invest in catalytic food security and nutrition (FSN) projects/initiatives that increase food value, create impact in terms of sustainable production and consumption, and increase access to nutritional foods. Such UFS initiatives should also generate equitable livelihoods and promote employment and inclusive ownership structures for the poor, women, and youth, and promote energy efficient and circular economy solutions that minimize environmental impacts and waste. Incentives for and promotion of more local food production through urban and peri-urban agriculture initiatives (including urban gardens or vertical farming) that result in shorter food supply chains and greater resource efficiency should also be explored. The blending of financing instruments, that include private finance as well as the return streams from productive infrastructures and increased tax revenues will have the ability to provide the right mix of capital to finance transformative urban food systems, that also improve the linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

The implementation of the financing solutions aim to strengthen the mandate and capacities of cities/municipalities and local governments in the area of FSN, promoting access to financial resources along the food value chains for transformative urban and local food systems that lead to more innovative UFS circular economy and territorial models connecting urban areas with peri-urban and rural areas, which will benefit food security, nutrition and environmental outcomes simultaneously.



<sup>3</sup> Urban Food Systems Working Group (UFS WG), Presentation outline, Meeting with Leaders of UNFSS Action Tracks, 24 March 2021

The financing solution requires the following key actions:

1. Finding the appropriate mix of public and private investments to improve and strengthen the food value chain in the urban food systems, specifically through:
  - Providing Public / SME Finance assorted with adequate offtake agreements and Agri capital markets to Farmers, Growers and Manufacturers to improve sustainable and diversified food production in the urban, peri-urban and rural areas
  - Providing SMEs, Manufacturers and Traders with Private Finance to ensure sustainable food processing & wholesale markets
  - Supporting food distribution / Retail by providing Public Private Finance (SMEs) for SMEs, Transportation, Planning for adequate access to Food
  - Promoting PPPs & Blended Finance for Municipalities, SMEs to improve Markets and enhance sustainable food Consumption at household and individuals through enhanced food producer-consumer connection
  - Promoting PPPs & Blended Finance for Municipalities to improve Waste Management & Regeneration and enhance circular economies
2. Increase access to transformative capital for local governments and municipalities by deploying affordable capital with debt financing instruments that carry extended tenures to expand their local fiscal space.
3. Leveraging domestic and international, public and private, financial resources from all possible sources (e.g. central budget transfers, ODA, remittances, FDI, Foundations and Global Funds, pooling of resources, etc.) and allocate them to local and urban FSN sensitive investments that enhance diverse and sustainable food production and consumption.

## **2. What is the potential action that could be taken? (In one simple, clear phrase) \***

The development of innovative urban food security and nutrition financing models that link rural peri-urban and urban communities' and economies for inclusive growth and promote a circular green economy model connecting local territories.

## **3. Additional details on potential solution (Optional but preferred)**

The introduction of an innovative UFS financing model will have the capacity to rebuild and develop new domestic circular food systems and solutions for sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture and improve urban-rural linkages. The innovative UFS financing model will add value at transboundary transitions and to attract capital market investments through bond instruments and credit guarantees and private sector investment partnerships (PPPs) and equity investments. These models will require a holistic three prong approach to be initiated that includes:

- (i) development of capacities and competences within local governments and communities in spatial planning, project management, partnerships, and innovation

- (ii) origination and the technical development of projects covering productive infrastructures, logistics and land reclamation especially within municipal boundaries, and
- (iii) the deployment of affordable capital with debt financing instruments that carry extended tenures.

#### **4. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**

The actions will be implemented by Central Governments, local Governments/Municipalities and Private Sector, investors, and donors through mobilization of international and domestic capital and PPPs

#### **5. Where are main areas in which this would make changes?**

The game changing solution for UFS is to develop innovative financial mechanisms and tools to boost public and private FSN sensitive investments by offering access to affordable medium-term finance for agricultural and connectedness infrastructure through value adding projects that aim at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, promote green economy solutions, increase supply of and access to diverse and nutritious food, and improve circular economies and waste reduction. These projects will target the following food supply chains and environments as per the HLPE:

- Food supply chains - Inputs
- Food supply chains - Production
- Food supply chains - Storage & Distribution
- Food supply chains - Processing & Packaging
- Food supply chains - Retail & Marketing
- Food environments - availability
- Food environments – affordability

#### **6. Within which category does this intervention most easily fall?**

- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Sustainable food production
- Sustainable food consumption and behaviour change
- Business incentives
- Food research, processing, technology
- Supply Chain infrastructure
- Subsidies, transfers and taxes
- Public sector food policy and finance

#### **7. What would this change about food, in the eyes of consumers?**

- Availability
- Affordability

- Accessibility
- Convenience
- Desirability
- Safety
- Quality (other than Safety)

**8. Is this primarily about reducing hunger, making nutritious foods more available and affordable, or improving safety?** (These are the three main areas of Action Track 1's work)

- Reducing hunger
- Availability/affordability of nutritious foods
- Improving safety
- Promoting circularity and reducing environmental impacts

**9. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography or type of setting (e.g., semi-arid areas, higher- or lower-income countries)? If so, please specify.**

The target food supply chains can be funded in any environment based on the food production system and environmentally friendly alternative technology for food production and diversification. The following projects can be funded to improve the UFS

- Large scale rainfed intensive crop production
- Large and Small-scale irrigation systems
- Post-harvest handling equipment/technology
- Urban and peri-urban agriculture or community gardens
- Primary and Secondary processing and packaging equipment
- Technologies for effective storage chains, including mobile storage units, combined drying/storage systems
- Effective cold chain management systems
- Solar and other types of green energy for handling, processing and storage
- Digital technologies for handling, processing and storage

**10. Where is this idea coming from? (Please include a citation to a document, if applicable, or the name of a person or organisation)**

This concept is prepared by UNCDF on behalf of the Urban Food Systems (UFS) Working Group. It draws on the experience of the UNCDF Finance for Food (F4F) programme and the EU financed UNCDF START (Support to Agricultural Revitalisation and Transformation) Facility model has been tested in Uganda for a territorial approach to food security investments. This experience in deploying in blended finance, SME finance and local government finance for investments in FSN can be replicated across municipalities and local governments, especially in developing regions. In addition, the concept also draws upon experience of other UFS member initiatives, particularly SAFIN, FAO

Feeding cities, C40, UNEP urban circular economy in food initiative, the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF) launched by UNCDF and UCLG.

### **11. Any other comments, including evidence or arguments in support or against?**

With growing urbanization, a major challenge for municipalities and local governments is to ensure that nutritious food is secured for all people, while respecting nature. In many Least Developed Countries (LDCs), food expenditure in cities may be as high as two thirds of total household expenditure. Localizing more food production, and strengthening food systems across cities, regions and towns through shorter supplies and improved distribution schemes are key for the development of inclusive local economies that contribute to livelihoods and employment, rural transformation, and overall sustainable development. The trade between the rural, peri-urban, and urban territories can be improved whereby each transaction value adds as this inter-territorial trade is implemented.

The change of the nature of rural livelihoods, is often linked to relative changes and advancement of the domestic food and agricultural value chains on both the input and post-harvest sides. These changes which are occurring in many developing countries through disruptive technologies, economic transformations, and natural changes in climate often fuelling the rapid growth and expansion of cities and peri-urban areas. The overcrowding is placing immense strains on the rural urban food value chains with shortages and related price-hiking being normal practice, creating in some cases engines of perpetual poverty. The challenges are often greatest for the young and vulnerable urban populations, including new migrants to cities. This requires new social protection policies that address food insecurity and affordability especially amongst vulnerable groups and the informal workforce that commonly reside outside of any social security or social protection scheme.

The transformative infrastructure needs require partnership and capacities for public and private investment in all aspects of the UFS value chain. On a territorial level local government can develop horizontal planning linkages that drive the development of transboundary trade systems. Such harmonized planning solutions can attract investors through the development of holistic infrastructure portfolios whereby revenue streams are matched in part through the transboundary nature of the entire system. Such portfolios will include investments in the context of the production, processing and distribution of food and reinforcing the linkages between urban, peri-urban, and rural food production and supply chains.

The concentration of poor people in cities with limited access to the food supply, can create deep inequality and result in social instability in cities. Crisis situations, such as the Covid19 pandemic, can create disruptions in urban food systems and increase vulnerability unless crisis response and preparedness measures are identified and planned for and financed. However, cities and local governments have in most cases limited mandate on food security. They need adequate technical, and institutional capacities, financial resources and they face insufficient policy frameworks conducive to transformative food systems change.



The solution requires strengthening the mandate and capacities of cities/municipalities and local governments in the area of FSN, while promoting access to financial resources for investment in the food value chain for transformative urban and local food systems and circular economy.

## **12. Additional details on submitting person (Optional but preferred)**

And, just for tracking purposes, are you (the submitting person/organisation) based

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF's financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy; and by showing how localized investments—through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance—can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

### S. 11. Markets and Environments (*working title*)

#### **1. What is the potential action that could be taken? (In one simple, clear phrase) \***

Promote fresh food markets and efficient food retail environments to improve access to nutritious food in urban areas, provide markets for local producers and strengthen urban-rural linkages.

#### **2. Additional details on potential solution (Optional but preferred)**

- Efficient and accessible urban food retail distribution, including both formal and informal sectors, has an impact on both smallholder farmers and consumers and it is crucial for promoting short supply chains, facilitating, access to nutritious food and promoting healthy diets for all. Together this promotes resilient urban food systems.
- Mapping the food retail environment and developing specific protocols identifying the areas with limited access to nutritious food (e.g. slum areas) could be crucial for promoting food security, identifying food desert areas and identifying areas for priority intervention.
- Mechanisms to improve fresh food markets and food retail environments could include incentives, zoning regulations, ordinances, regulatory recommendations for supermarkets, special tax regimes, mobile food vendors to reach underserved areas (e.g. slums), or promote nutritious food access around schools, food sharing facilities, transformation of vacant urban space in multi-functional food hubs etc.
- Improved digitalization and logistics support efficient short food supply chains between consumers and (small) producers (market access) and make supply chains more resilient in case of suspended operation.

- Additional needs: regional distribution networks; regular investments in markets; using available city levers to establish markets and local procurement policies, support diverse types of vendors to start and grow their businesses and recognizing markets as inclusive public spaces.
  - For cities, public markets become a social venue where people can interact with farmers, connect with (the origin of) food and where public education about food can take place. Most have food waste reduction policies in place with unsold food often provided to local community organizations to provide to low income people.
- 3. Who are the main actors that would put this action into place?**
- Policymakers (government)
  - Private (businesses, etc.)
  - Civil (NGOs, etc.)
- 4. Where are main areas in which this would make changes?**
- Food supply chains – Production
  - Food supply chains - Storage & Distribution
  - Food supply chains - Retail & Marketing
  - Food environments – availability
  - Food environments – affordability
  - Food environments - Product properties (including safety)
  - Consumer behaviour
- 5. Within which category does this intervention most easily fall?**
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture
  - Business incentives
  - Supply Chain Infrastructure
  - Subsidies, transfers and taxes
  - Consumer education, training, and awareness
- 6. What would this change about food, in the eyes of consumers?**
- Availability
  - Affordability
  - Accessibility
  - Convenience
  - Safety
  - Quality (other than Safety)
- 7. Is this primarily about reducing hunger, making nutritious foods more available and affordable, or improving safety? (These are the three main areas of Action Track 1's work)**
- Availability/affordability of nutritious foods

- 8. Is this idea applicable to a particular geography or type of setting (e.g., semi-arid areas, higher- or lower-income countries)? If so, please specify.**

Fresh food markets/hubs and efficient food retail environments are applicable everywhere

- 9. Where is this idea coming from? (Please include a citation to a document, if applicable, or the name of a person or organisation)**

Urban Food System Working Group (FAO, GAIN, ICLEI, C40, MUFPP, RUAF a.o.)

### S.12. Geographical Indications for a territorial approach to the SDGs

Our vision is of food systems that are inclusive and diverse and which contribute to the elimination of poverty and food and nutrition insecurity by creating jobs, raising incomes across food value chains, protecting and enhancing cultural and social capital, reducing risks for the poorest and increasing value distribution. This vision cannot be realized by crossing planetary boundaries and implies the protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems and tackling climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss.

- 1. How would you define equitable livelihoods? What are the dimensions of equitable livelihoods that you feel are missing from the AT4 Discussion Starter?**

**( [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/at4\\_discussion\\_starter-dec2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/at4_discussion_starter-dec2020.pdf) )**

Equitable livelihood is a comprehensive approach to ensure that all people in a territory can have a decent life, including good working conditions, access to healthy diet and good education, supported by revenues from their activities conducted in a sustainable manner, i.e. preserving the local resources, natural and cultural, for the future generation, and that feed the sense of ownership, local identity and self-esteem.

A dimension that could be enriched in the AT4 discussion starter is the topic of inclusive value-chains, and more generally the topic of market access and fair marketing practices. It is important that producers (primary producers, processing actors) can get the sufficient return from their local economic activities, that recognize and remunerate their efforts towards the development of local sustainable food systems. This is crucial to ensure sustainability of the food system, for people, especially small-holders, family farmers, women, to really engage in better and sustainable practices, develop motivation and self-esteem from their activity and reinvest economic return in their territory. More specifically the topic of “place-based voluntary standards” such as geographical indications, developed by the local community to enhance the preservation of their resources and their practices throughout the production of food in particular, and ensure a better remuneration from the market and local redistribution of added-value, could be specifically addressed.

- 2. What are the potential actions that could be taken to advance equitable livelihoods in the context of food systems in your community, locally? (In one simple, clear phrase). Please, be as specific as possible You can mention up to three actions.**

The development and management of a geographical indication (GI) is one of the potential actions that addresses the gap described above with a systemic and place-based approach. A well-managed GI process can support fair and equitable value chains, by empowering local producers to make decision

over the local rules. They can agree on their own in tailored specifications that are then recognized and protected by the State at the domestic and international level, so to preserve their specific-quality product linked to the origin and differentiate it on the market. A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin, including natural and human factors (WIPO definition). It represents an opportunity for a group of smallholders to protect collectively the intellectual property attached to their product name and the reputation of their related production system. The added value can be then better redistributed locally to local primary producers and processors, as a result of their specific practices valued in the specifications.

GI specifications represent also a powerful tool to preserve the natural resources and traditional knowledge involved in the GI food product. At the same time, the control or certification system provides guarantees to consumers on the product quality and traceability and prevent from frauds. By preserving traditional and specific quality products on the market, GIs can contribute to diet diversity and the promotion of food heritage.

Finally, territorial strategy can be developed building on the GI process, by linking with the other actors of the territory to develop a territorialized basket of goods (food, handicraft) and services (accommodation, restaurants, tourism and agritourism etc.), following the same vision: endogenous development with ownership of local producers over the rules of production and promotion of their products in an equitable and sustainable manner thanks to remunerative and fair markets.

### **3. Whose livelihoods will your proposed action(s) aim to advance?**

GI products can concern all types of value-chain stakeholders, but it is particularly relevant for smallholders, family farmers, indigenous communities and women. As they often play a key role in the production of traditional food, GI allow them to be recognized as crucial actors within the value-chain and thus to be able to gain more decision-power in their activities and management of the scheme.

GI also benefit the whole territory as the value-chain stakeholders are localized, bringing more employment in the area. Tourism development based on GI products is for instance an important outcome.

### **4. What is the potential action that could be taken to advance equitable livelihoods in the context of food systems in your country? (In one simple, clear phrase)**

At country level, the national legislation is crucial to protect consumers and producers and maximize the economic benefits from the GI and the positive externalities to contribute to sustainable food system. National competent authorities can also play a key role in setting a national GI protection legal framework, identifying their national food heritage and GI potentialities in the country, develop research and knowledge on specific GI products, support smallholders, family farmers and indigenous communities in engaging in GI processes (collective action, promotion, control systems), raise stakeholders' awareness including to consumers and fight against frauds in the market.

### **5. Whose livelihoods will your proposed action(s) aim to advance?**

Same as before: small-holders, family farmers, indigenous communities and women. Actions at country level can scale-up the benefits from the GI processes by extending to many territories. In this perspective, capacity development of public authorities (national and local levels) and all the

stakeholders of the territory through GI processes in such a game-changed is crucial and is also beneficial to any local development processes as local producers gain ownership in the management of their local resources and production system.

**6. What is the potential action that could be taken to advance equitable livelihoods in the context of food systems globally? (In one simple, clear phrase)**

International recognition of GI for the benefit of small-holders, family farmers and indigenous communities to preserve their traditional food and the related knowledge and natural resources involved in their production is important to raise awareness of the treasures that represent traditional and origin-linked quality products, from the point of view of national cultural heritage and equitable livelihoods. This can be facilitated by the work of UN agencies on the topic according to their mandate (e.g. WIPO, FAO, UNCTAD, ONUDI) and other international organizations such as WTO, therefore conducting to the enhanced protection at national level in every country.

The consolidation of International or inter-regional networks of GI producers and territories, in particular origin, but also AREPO, etc., could be further promoted and supported with Communities of practice where local stakeholders from different places could share their experience on GI processes. For example, knowledge exchanges for similar types of territory and landscapes which provide with highly specific origin foods (e.g. oasis, nutritious forest, mountain areas, mangroves...) could promote the food heritage globally.

**7. Whose livelihoods will your proposed action(s) aim to advance?**

Same as before, with particular emphasis on people from vulnerable ecological areas and the ones more impacted by climate changes (e.g. oasis, nutritious forest, mountain areas, mangroves...).

**8. Please share any additional details on potential solution (Optional but preferred)**

An additional interesting aspect of GI processes is the fact they enhance public-private collaboration, linking a market tool to differentiate the origin-linked products on the market and the provision and maintenance of public goods (heritage, landscape, biodiversity, food diversity, reputation of the place etc.). The development of GI locally is not only an opportunity to strengthen and support inclusive localized value chains but also to enhance coordination with public authorities, locally and nationally, to maximize the provision of public goods, and pave the way for additional territorial strategies, extended to other economic activities, in particular in relation with tourism development. Finally in the perspective of sustainable food system, at local, national and global, food diversity and balanced diets are important considerations. GI schemes represent tools for the preservation and promotion of a huge diversity of traditional foods, unprocessed or minimally processed foods, and food linked to biodiversity, which have been recognized as playing certain roles in relation with healthy diets.

It is to be noted that even though we have chosen to submit GI as a game-changing solution for AT4, they represent a cross-cutting solution for the other Action Tracks. Indeed, as mentioned before, they have consequences on both the safety and nutritional quality of the produced food, they play a role in keeping diversity in local diets and are produced in a sustainable manner.

**9. What factors your proposed action(s) is/are targeting?**

Areas could include:

- Political and policy factors: Ownership and access to land and other natural resources specifically assets that increase livelihood productivity such as livestock?
- Social and cultural: Decision-making, agency & leadership roles for women and youth
- Recognition of traditional forms of knowledge regarding sustainable local food systems
- Realization of aspirations among youth and those with entrepreneurial spirit
- Economic, finance, and building entrepreneurial skill sets
- Training and education, access to technology, knowledge, credit, and financial services Capacity of rural institutions
- Institutions for collective action that foster improved access to markets, financial services, and technology, as well as sustainable management of natural resources with a focus on structural inequities that marginalize disadvantaged communities and diminish opportunities for equitable livelihoods.

The following factors are considered:

- At policy level, to raise awareness, build capacity of public authorities on the importance of the topic and need for appropriate legal and institutional frameworks.
- Capacity development of producers and their collective representative organizations to ensure their empowerment, leadership capacity, and decision power, on the following topics: collective action, territorial governance, preservation of their traditional knowledge, specific quality management (control and traceability), natural resources including biodiversity, recognition of the specific roles of certain categories of actors (smallholders, family farmers, women, youth...), entrepreneurship and fair marketing access.
- Capacity development of rural institutions, extension services, local research and development centers, to provide support and knowledge to producers for the identification of the specific quality of their product and establishment of the specifications.
- Consumers' awareness and education for informed choices to contribute to sustainable consumption.
- Appropriate guarantee systems (national and local levels) to protect producers and consumers, including establishment of certification system such as participatory guarantee system

**10. How would you measure whether the proposed action was successful? References to specific accountability tools most welcome.**

Different impacts can be easily measured with the following indicators.

At international level: number of countries being part of an international agreement on GI (such as those managed by WIPO)

At country level: number of countries having a GI legal system with detailed specifications and managed by a collective representative of the producers in place.

At country level: evolution of the number of GI recognized (registered), which can be monitored through the oriGIIn compilation website ( <https://www.origin-gi.com/i-gi-origin-worldwide-gi-compilation-uk.html> )

At local level (on a specific GI): number of producers involved, evolution of the price paid to producers, in particular smallholders and women, references to traditional knowledge and natural resources, biodiversity in the specifications, number of jobs created to measure the impact on territorial development.

In relation with comprehensive assessment of the specific GI contribution to sustainable food system, FAO and oriGIn have developed the sustainability strategy for GI (SSGI) and a series of tools to help GI producers to identify their sustainability issues, assess and improve their GI system to be more sustainable. A database of GI sustainability indicators and guidelines can be instrumental in measuring and monitoring contribution of GI to equitable livelihoods and sustainable food systems.

**11. Where do you think the action you are proposing would be applicable? Your response can be a specific region, or an entire country, or to various countries, or a type of landscape, etc. (e.g., District X, or semi-arid areas in country Y, or higher- or lower-income countries)? If so, please specify.**

The action proposed is appropriate in any place where food presents some specific qualities linked to their origin to be the driver for a sustainable GI process. This is particularly relevant in areas where food and agriculture remain strong or at risk of decline so the action can restore and preserve food heritage, biodiversity and traditions including mountain areas, oases, mangroves, forests, traditional agriculture and specific related landscapes, etc.

**12. Where is this idea coming from? Please include a citation to an evidence or learning document, if applicable, or the name of a person or organization or project or initiative.**

The idea comes from many players in the topic, including FAO, Cirad (research institute), oriGIn (producers associations federation) and countries particularly interested in preserving their food heritage and resources associated, not only in European countries but more and more worldwide in any continent, in particular Asia (see the Asean GI policy), Latin America, and Africa, as illustrated for example by the Continental strategy for GI endorsed by the African Union in 2017.

Some references :

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Biénabe E and Marie-Vivien D. (2018) Institutionalizing Geographical Indications in Southern Countries: Lessons Learned from Basmati and Rooibos. *World Development* 98: 58-67.

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Wilkinson J, Cerdan C and Dorigon C. (2018) Geographical Indications and "Origin" Products in Brazil – The Interplay of Institutions and Networks. *World Development* 98: 82-92.

**13. Please share any other comments, including evidence or arguments in support or against.**

References above provided evidence on the many benefits that can arise for GI processes, from a number of case studies in the world. A large literature exist that demonstrate the elements provided as game-changing, when specific conditions are taken into consideration during the establishment and management of GI, in particular: i) the specific quality linked to origin well defined in the specifications ii) the collective action and territorial governance; iii) the effective marketing efforts and iv) the legal framework and the role of public sector.

For information, Cirad and FAO, with the support of oriGIn and the Swiss Intellectual Property Institute (IPI), will convene an independent dialogue on GIs in the frame of the UN Summit on Food system, on 27 May 2021.

S.13. Support Territorial Markets (*working title*)

**1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

Support territorial markets through investment, policy and capacity development in order to make these markets more inclusive, revitalize the local economy, enable access to healthy and diversified diets to consumers, and catalyze the transition toward sustainable food systems.

**2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

The solution is inspired by the recommendations draw on the outcomes of the CFS High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets, and particularly on tis recommendations **#18** (*'promote short food supply chains that enable smallholders to obtain a better income from their production'*) and **#24** (*'facilitate smallholders' capacity to increase their bargaining power and control over their economic environment, and participation in food value chains by acting collectively'*) and also on the CSM Analytical Guidelines on Connecting Smallholders to Markets.



### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Despite limited assets and capitalization, in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa smallholders produce an estimated 80% of the food that is consumed, and the vast majority of food transactions occur in domestic markets. However, local markets in which smallholders mostly operate are systematically neglected in poverty reduction strategies and economic development plans. This is likely to be the result of an existing information gap resulting from an implicit assumption that poverty (and especially rural poverty) is determined by disconnection of smallholders from profitable (export) markets. Whereas, most of the farmers already sell at the local, domestic markets. Therefore, to understand markets potential to contribute to poverty reduction and revitalization of local economy, these markets have to be considered and supported. With the adequate support and investment, these markets can be more inclusive for smallholders farmers and for small-scale food retailers, particularly women retailers, thus ensuring them to fully benefit to their participation in food supply chains.

At the same time, the last two decades have seen a global surge in diet-related health problems, such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. These problems are linked to increased consumption of ultra-processed, energy- dense foods with low nutritional value, and insufficient consumption of nutrient-rich foods, such as fresh vegetables and fruits. Food retail outlets, including supermarkets, open-air wet markets and street food sellers play a significant role in influencing the diets and nutrition of consumers through the quality and price of foods they sell. This is especially evident in the regions of Sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, where the “double burden of malnutrition” is most present. Although there has been a surge in the growth of supermarkets in these regions over the past few decades, driven by rapid urbanization and the expansion of the middle class, the evidence shows that territorial markets (such as open-air wet markets) are still fundamental to the food retail system.

Finally, food losses, poor post-harvest management, inadequate logistics and market infrastructure and limited food labelling are among the factors that hinder the great potential of these market outlets to catalyze and contribute a transition towards sustainable food systems.

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

NA

### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

Despite limited assets and capitalization, in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa smallholders produce an estimated 80 per cent of the food that is consumed, and the vast majority of food transactions occur in territorial markets. In Sub Saharan Africa, the share of traditional retail in food expenditures is 80 to 90 percent, while supermarkets make only 10-20 percent. Moreover, over 90 percent of all fruits and vegetables in Low-Income Countries (LICs) are purchased through territorial markets. Even in countries with high modern supermarket penetration like Thailand and Mexico, the traditional outlet share for fruits and vegetables is high, reaching 63.2 and 72.5 percent, respectively. However, open-air wet markets are not only the primary retail outlet for fruits and vegetables for all income groups, but also for the animal source foods and staple foods. Furthermore, territorial markets play a central role also in providing formal and informal employment opportunities within markets.

In terms of sustainability, these markets have the inherent potential to significantly contribute to social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. In October 2016, the CFS defined *territorial markets* based on the following criteria (CFS, 2016):

- They are directly linked to local and/or national food systems (most products, producers, retailers and consumers are from the concerned territory);
- They are more characterized than other markets by horizontal relations (i.e. non-hierarchical) among the various stakeholders;
- They are inclusive and diverse in terms of stakeholders and products;
- They have multiple economic, social, cultural and ecological functions in their respective territory, and they are not limited to food supply;
- They are the most remunerative for smallholder farmers who have greater bargaining power over prices;
- They contribute to structuring the territorial economy, creating wealth and redistributing it within the territory;
- They are formal, informal or a hybrid between the two;
- They can be located at different levels of the territories (local, national or even cross-border).

Given the embeddedness into a territory, territorial markets have the potential to reduce distances (both geographical and socio-cultural) among supply chain actors, while shorter distribution channels can enable smallholders to acquire information more easily (thus reducing the information asymmetries), and to negotiate better terms of participation to these markets. Similarly, the embeddedness of these markets into territories make them crucial to ensure food security and access to healthy diets to local consumers, especially to the most vulnerable ones for whom these markets are the main retail outlet for purchasing fresh, unprocessed food ingredients. They should be recognized supported as they can be the key channels for contributes to healthier local food environments.

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

Support territorial markets make a great game changing solutions because they are tangible and concrete assets that have a high potential to tackle three important aspects of the food system: (i) smallholder livelihoods and rural poverty, (ii) food security and food safety at territorial level, and (iii) healthier and diversified diets to consumers. Given territorial markets are at the core of food systems, they also have the potential to catalyze the overall transition towards sustainable food systems.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

In 2016, the CFS adopted policy recommendations aimed at “establishing a link between small producers and markets”, with one recommendation related with the need for data collection on territorial markets. To implement the CFS recommendations, in 2017 FAO initiated a process, towards the development of a well-structured methodology for the collection of reliable and comparable data and information on territorial markets, together with producer organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutions . The methodology (FAO, 2021a) was pilot tested in Africa and Latin America and is now being rolled out in several projects and countries.

Through the Mapping of Territorial Markets in Tanzania, it has been possible to identify main gaps in infrastructures and facilities, as well as gaps in business services provision, having an impact in terms of food offer, food lost and waste, food safety and scaling-up opportunities for retailers' businesses. As an example, among interviewed retailers, only 16% have access to cold warehouses. This has a huge impact on availability and accessibility of perishable food, since this cannot be preserved and is subjected to seasonal fluctuations.

Due to the inadequate or deficient infrastructures and facilities like cold storage warehouses, retailers selling perishable food have been more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic than those selling other food products (on average 6.5 working days lost over a 30-day period against 4.5 working days lost by retailers selling non-perishable food). This had an impact both on the supply chain, since retailers were not even buying perishable food from producers, and on consumers, since these nutritious food products were hardly available in territorial markets. That is why the identification of the above mentioned gaps and the design of strategies to overcome these gaps, has the potential to not only revitalize territorial markets but to contribute to the overall resilience of territorial food systems.

### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

Territorial markets are currently absent from the policy radars of many governments and their potential is not yet well and widely understood. However, after creating evidence on these markets, policymakers have been keen to consider and endorse the potential of the markets.

### **9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited.**

The regions currently undergoing food system transformation, characterized as 'traditional' and 'transitional' food systems are particularly well suited for this solution, simply because the role of the traditional retail channels there is dominating. This refers to the regions of Sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia in particular, but also Latin America and MENA region.

#### S.14. Sustainable Public Food procurement

##### **1. Existing Game changing solutions on Public procurement:**

AT1: #7 creating a global partnership on public procurement

#12 implement comprehensive school food programs

AT2: #16 leveraging food-based dietary guidelines through public procurement

AT5: #17 local and public procurement schemes specifically targeting smallholder farmers and SMEs

At the moment, all the gaming changing solutions related with public procurement are dispersed and do not allow for a comprehensive approach of the topic. However, Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is already included under SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with one specific indicator # 12.7 "*promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities*".

It would make sense to align all these gaming changing solutions within a new Action Area (or a sub-topic under another AA) aligned with SDG 12.7. This would promote a comprehensive and coherent approach to sustainable public food procurement conceived as a policy instrument able to achieve multiple social (including healthy and nutritional), economic and environmental outcomes and benefit multiple beneficiaries, including food consumer, food producers and the local community. A comprehensive approach that is in line with the existing international frameworks and broader debate on sustainable public procurement.

## 2. Rationale for a specific Action Area:

Sustainable Public Food Procurement is part of a broader Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) agenda, that is anchored on the SDGs ( # 12.7 ) and on existing international and national policy and regulatory frameworks. It is based on the recognition that government can and should use its procurement power to promote sustainable development and to address social, economic and environmental policy goals.

According to procurement choices and government priorities, countries, regions and cities can use Public Food Procurement (PFP) to achieve specific social (including health and nutrition), economic and environmental outcomes and benefit not only those who receive the food, but also those who produce it and the wider community.

“Green procurement”, “local procurement”, “procurement from smallholder farmers and SMEs” are all different facets of sustainable PFP. The possibility of targeting different policy goals (according to government priorities) does not mean that these are different instruments. It represents exactly the great flexibility and versatility of PFP that makes it a unique policy instrument, adaptable to the very different contexts, from low to high-income economies

Food procurement has been increasingly recognized not only as one key part of the SPP agenda, but also as an important **entry point to shape food systems** and to trigger more sustainable modes of food consumption and production.

By its intrinsic characteristics, PFP impacts upon all different components of the food system (i.e. food production, food environments and food consumers) and affects a wide range of actors and actors.

By creating a demand for certain types of products (such as diverse, nutritious, healthy, locally produced by smallholder farmers and environmental friendly), governments can not only benefit those who receive the food, but also set a positive trend. They can send a signal about government ambitions on the future directions of the food system that has the power to incentivize also supply chain actors to align their values and practices accordingly, fostering a transition towards sustainable food consumption and production.

The great potential of sustainable PFP to achieve multiple benefits and multiple beneficiaries comes also with great complexity for its implementation. Enabling factors and necessary interventions are linked

not only to the demand, but also to the supply sides. They are also linked to policies, institutions and legal frameworks.

To discuss PFP with a comprehensive approach (and possibly within a specific Action Area) is therefore very relevant. It may contribute: to strengthen the linkages between PFP and the existing SPP agenda, the SDGs and related existing policy and regulatory frameworks; to foster an international discussion on the topic based on an unified and multi-dimensional policy instrument; to promote broader knowledge exchanges on best practices, common challenges, enablers, barriers and instrument useful for supporting the implementation and scaling up of PFP within a multi-dimensional perspective.

### **3. FAO comparative advantage and value added:**

PFP initiatives represent one of the key areas of work of the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN) under the responsibility of the “Market Linkages and Value Chain” group, and one of the FAO growing areas of work for the recent years.

The work of FAO on sustainable PFP covers with particular attention school food and nutrition initiatives (i.e. home-grown school feeding - HGSF), as well as other public institutions initiatives.

FAO work encompasses all: (i) technical assistance (ii) evidence generation and (iii) policy support. It covers all (i) supply side; (ii) demand side, (ii) as well as the aspects on how to establish the link between the two, including policy, institutional and legal frameworks.

Areas of FAO support related to public food procurement initiatives include:

Technical support on production, post-harvest, storage, processing, organizational and marketing skills,

Technical support for market diversification and nutrition sensitive value chain development,

Guidance on the design and implementation of smallholder-friendly procurement mechanisms,

Technical support for developing, implementing and monitoring food based dietary guidelines as well as nutrition standards and guidelines for school food and meals,

Promotion of explicit linkages between policy, procurement, school food and the food environment,

Advocacy and guidance on development/review of food procurement related policies and legal frameworks,

Promotion and support of multi-sector coordination mechanisms and knowledge-exchange platforms,

Capacity development and training materials,

Monitoring, evaluation and evidence generation, in particular related with impact evaluations of HGSF Programmes on food security for small farmers and the all community.

FAO work in this area is developed in synergy with the various technical units, regional and country offices and in **partnership** with several institutions, including other UN agencies. Examples include the World Food Programme, UN Environment Programme, International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, Bioversity International and the academia. FAO is currently a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Sustainable Public Procurement programme of the One Planet Network. FAO is supporting the development and will lead a new interest group on “sustainable public food procurement”.