



CONCEPT NOTE

FANRPAN 2022 REGIONAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER POLICY DIALOGUE

Resilient African Food Systems - Solutions for Climate Change, Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security

20-22 September 2022

Venue: Fully Virtual

INTRODUCTION

Global food systems are in disarray and are imposing increasing pressure on our planet,¹ causing massive costs on human health and the environment². The case is even worse in Africa, with economies and food systems that remain fragile to various shocks. Shocks from disease, climate change, extreme weather, and conflict (e.g., the war in Ukraine), and others are already common occurrences in the continent, and may become more common as temperature and rainfall patterns continue to change³. At the same time, Africa's food systems are evolving rapidly, driven by the rise of an African middle class, growing urbanization, shifts in the labour force from farming to non-farm jobs, and increased availability of digital technologies⁴. As a result, the widening gap between Africa's food production and consumption is changing the entire food system, resulting in rising food import bills. In addition to the growing need for healthier, more diverse, and safer foods, consumers have different preferences regarding packaging, shopping outlets, financial services, and electronic payments⁵.

Despite growing demand and competition for African farmland, low input, rainfed production systems with low yields⁶ remain dominant, and the entire food value chain is led by smallholders and small and medium enterprises (SMEs)⁷. In addition, women play critical roles in the production, processing, retailing, preparation, and waste management of food⁸. With more than 50 percent of Africa's population depending on rainfed agri-food systems for their livelihoods, the impact of climate change on Africa's food and nutrition security and other outcomes will continue being enormous. Similarly, other crises such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic and locust and fall armyworm infestations have exposed the fragility of Africa's food systems across the continent.

In addition, although food insecurity, hunger, and undernourishment have worsened across Africa, the prevalence of undernourishment is a major concern. The persistent high levels of income inequality put healthy diets out of reach, especially for the rural and urban poor.

There is broad consensus that without successful agricultural transformation, agricultural growth cannot be sustained to deliver prosperity and reduce poverty. The goal of agricultural transformation in Africa is to enable production and availability of safe and nutritious food and to provide livelihoods, raise income, create jobs and wealth for the population and those in the agriculture sector value chain. Food systems — encompassing the interlinked biophysical and human systems that span from agricultural production, through post-harvest processes of manufacturing and distribution, to food consumption — should be engineered primarily to boost productivity in delivering sufficient and healthy dietary needs in the face of human population growth and climate change and variability. African agriculture needs a major and urgent transformation if it must significantly contribute towards the improvement of livelihoods of the population and to the broader countries' macroeconomic welfare and prosperity.

¹ AGRA. (2021). Africa Agriculture Status Report. A Decade of Action: Building Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Africa (Issue 9). Nairobi, Kenya: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

³ Engelbrecht et al., 2015; Souverijns et al., 2016

⁴ de Bruin, S., Dengerink, J. & van Vliet, J. Urbanisation as driver of food system transformation and opportunities for rural livelihoods. *Food Sec.* 13, 781–798 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-021-01182-8>

⁵ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2022. 2022 Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change and Food Systems. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896294257>

⁶ T.S. Jayne, F. Meyer, and L.N. Traub, "Africa's Evolving Food Systems: Drivers of Change and the Scope for Influencing Them," IIED Working Paper (International Institute for Economic Development, London, 2014)

⁷ T. Reardon, D. Tschirley, L.S.O. Liverpool-Tasie, et al., "The Processed Food Revolution in African Food Systems and the Double Burden of Malnutrition," *Global Food Security* 28 (2021): 100466

⁸ E. Mkandawire, M. Mentz-Coetzee, M.N. Mangheni, and E. Barusi, "Enhancing the Glopian Food Systems Framework by Integrating Gender: Relevance for Women in African Agriculture," *Sustainability* 13 (2021): 8564

POLICY DIALOGUE THEME AND SUB -THEMES

The theme for the 2022 FANRPAN Regional Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue is: “**Resilient African Food Systems - Solutions for Climate Change, Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security**”.

The Policy Dialogue comes at the tail-end of FANRPAN’s 2016-2023 strategy, which focused on “building resilient African agriculture and food systems, securing prosperity and health for all”. The dialogue presents an excellent opportunity for the network to reflect on achievements and progress registered to date. It also provides a dynamic platform for stakeholders to come together to take stock of key processes, identify their roles and how they can be linked to accelerate transformation.

The Policy Dialogue will showcase solutions and elevate pathways to food systems transformation under three sub-themes:

1. Accelerating Climate Resilience

Climate change presents a significant challenge to African food production and threatens the recent progress in increasing productivity and reducing poverty and hunger. Addressing climate change and variability is an imperative for Africa. The Policy Dialogue will unpack the climate change – food systems nexus and highlight opportunities for scaling up promising policy and investment interventions. It will further give an opportunity for food systems stakeholders to craft a unified African position on agriculture and food systems ahead of CoP 27.

Key topics to be discussed include:

- Mainstreaming responses to the climate challenge into agriculture and food systems policies,
- Building Systemic Resilience Against Climate Variability and Extremes, and
- Enhancing capacity to estimate agricultural greenhouse gas emissions at national scale.

2. Shifting to Sustainable and Healthier diets

One of the most significant challenges for food systems today is ensuring access to (and consumption of) sustainable healthy diets to all. Our food systems are not providing sustainable healthy diets for everyone, everywhere. Shifting to sustainable healthy diets that protect both human and planetary health presents several challenges, which include major changes in consumption patterns and ensuring affordability of healthy diets. With 2022 being the African Union (AU) Year of Nutrition, the Policy Dialogue will discuss what it will take to shift to sustainable and healthier diets.

Key topics to be discussed include:

- Making sustainable healthy diets affordable for all,
- Stimulating demand for nutritious foods; and
- Improving dietary and health data for decision-making.

3. Strengthening Institutions and Systems for Resilient Food Systems

One of the major gaps impeding transformation of agriculture and food system in Africa, as observed from the Biennial Review processes of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo Declaration is the lack of capacity for both state and non-state actors to deliver on key policies and strategies. Strong institutions and systems are essential for addressing Africa’s food systems challenges, and for making progress towards the attainment of the CAADP-Malabo Declaration commitments, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets. It is critical to strengthen the capacity of key institutions and create an enabling environment for food systems transformation, through a wide application of technologies and innovations for increased productivity, incomes, and nutrition. The Policy Dialogue will explore approaches to strengthening the capacity of policy systems, institutional systems and individuals to build resilience and enhance growth and structural transformation in food systems. The Policy Dialogue will explore approaches to

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Key questions to be discussed include:

- What are the existing institutional capacity gaps to deliver the necessary agricultural transformation in the continent?
- What capacities are required to domesticate new technologies and spur innovation to increase productivity and incomes, and improve nutrition?
- What are experiences and successful stories in strengthening institutions and systems for resilient food systems that we can learn from?

POLICY DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Objectives

1. Facilitate broad-based and inclusive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders (government, farmers organizations, research institutions, women, and youth groups, CSOs, development partners, and private sector, among others) on African agriculture and food systems transformation.
2. Facilitate mutual learning and experience sharing among countries, with a view to strengthening and deepening country engagements and ownership to advance the agriculture and food and nutrition security agenda.
3. Raise awareness of food systems' centrality to the entire sustainable development agenda, and the urgency of transforming food systems, particularly in the wake of global pandemics and conflicts.
4. Catalyse, accelerate, and enhance bold action for the transformation of food systems by all relevant stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced level of awareness and engagement among a broad spectrum of African food systems stakeholders
2. Policy options and innovative approaches for early action to accelerate food systems transformation in Africa
3. Clear recommendations for Africa's UNFCCC Negotiators on Africa's position on food systems and climate change towards CoP27.

PARTICIPANTS

The policy dialogue will bring together representatives of international and regional institutions and state and non-state actors, including regional economic communities; international development partners; policy makers; international, regional, and national research organizations; universities; farmer organizations; private sector; civil society; and the media

