



## FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogue Day 1 Highlights

The 2022 FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogue began today under the theme ***Resilient African Food Systems - Solutions for Climate Change, Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security*** and will run till the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022.

The Policy Dialogue which comes at the tail-end of FANRPAN's 2016-2023 strategy presents an excellent opportunity for the network to reflect on achievements and progress registered to date.

Over 100 live participants from Africa and beyond participated in Day 1 of the Policy Dialogue which focused on Accelerating Climate Resilience. According to the most recent assessment report of the IPCC (2021-2022 AR6), Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the consequences of the climate crisis. African nations not only contribute least to the causes of climate change, generating less than 3% of all greenhouse gas emissions, but rapidly increasing climate shocks will hit hardest in Africa. The day's programme co-convened in collaboration with [CLIM-EAT](#) featured remarks by Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Mission, Dr Theo de Jager, FANRPAN Board Chair and Dr Bruce Campbell, Chief Innovation Strategist Clim-Eat.

Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata Ukama from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) delivered a [keynote presentation](#) on Unlocking African ingenuity in research - SME collaboration: the PPPP scaling pathway to resilient agrifood systems and accelerated growth. This was followed by reflections from the private sector, Mr Edgar Nhlanhla Mashinini from the [Southern African Business Development Forum](#).

Three breakout sessions focusing on i) Gender and Youth Session; ii) Financing Climate Action in Africa Session and iii) Adaptation and Resilience Facilitator.

The closing session of the day focused on Africa's preparedness for the UNFCCC COP 27 taking place in Egypt in November. Participants received presentations on the History of Agriculture and Food Systems in Climate Discussions and What to Expect in Egypt by Wiebe Smit, Program and Policy Specialist at Clim-Eat and remarks on Africa's Priorities for COP 27 from Rafik Aini, the Chief Agriculture Negotiator from the [African Group of Negotiators](#).

### **Key Messages from Day One:**

- Climate change impacts are severe and will intensify in the decades ahead. These impacts will have direct and indirect consequences for agrifood systems in Africa.
- Technologies and practices that can help farmers deal with climate impacts exist, but they are not being adopted and scaled up enough. The incentive systems are wrong, capacity and knowledge constraints are abundant, finance is not flowing where it is needed, and root causes of poverty and inequality entrench vulnerability.



- Planned adaptation is critically important to build resilience and improve responses to the increased frequency and intensity of climate shocks.
- Strong business cases for adaptation that give due attention to social and economic constraints must be built.
- Responding to climate change, and achieving sustainable transformation of Africa's food system will require significant public and private sector action and cooperation.
- Climate finance will be critical for enabling Africa to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change and to ensure that its future development path is consistent with the goal of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C.
- In order to meet the scale and urgency of the challenge, Africa must be prepared to do its part. It must put in place robust institutional mechanisms to ensure implementation of global, regional and national climate commitments and translate them into tangible investment programs and pipelines of projects.
- The private sector has an enormous role to play in transforming Africa's food systems through investment and technological innovation and providing finance for mitigation and adaptation.
- An environment that enables action on the ground is critical. For Africa's food systems, this means looking beyond purely technical adaptation options, but instead exploring how systemic and political dimensions are inhibiting adaptation.
- To maximise the private sector contribution to tackling climate change, clear and appropriate incentives need to be created.
- The nature of the policy incentives adopted to accelerate climate action will also determine the scale and nature of private sector involvement.
- Focusing on on-farm technologies and practices is the easy part. But understanding context and design to transform food systems, creating an enabling environment, scaling up climate smart actions, for adaptation actions and dealing with the root causes of vulnerability – that is the challenge. This requires strong political will and follow through on implementation.
- The priority for Africa for the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP27) to be held in Egypt from 7 to 18 November 2022 should be about advancing climate adaptation action. Progress and transparency on the COP26 agreement to doubling international finance for adaptation by 2025 through delivery into the country programs of the most vulnerable should be central to the success of COP27 for Africa.



## **FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogue Day 2 Highlights**

Day 2 of the 2022 FANRPAN Regional Policy Dialogue saw over 80 live participants joining the discussions focused on ***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, Day 2 of the Policy Dialogue was co-convened in collaboration with the University of Pretoria and facilitated by Prof Joyce Kinabo from Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. The keynote presentation on Shifting to sustainable healthier diets – improving dietary and health data for decision-making was delivered by Prof Hettie Schönfeldt from the University of Pretoria.

This was followed by a panel discussion which featured Dr Hester Vermeulen, Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy who focused on making sustainable healthy diets affordable for all - nutrient quality, food baskets and pricing options. Dr Gloria L Essilfie from the University of Ghana focused on how to stimulate demand for nutritious food and improve nutrition data for decision making

Participants had an opportunity to get into in-depth discussions during three breakout sessions which focused on:

- How can we make sustainable healthy diets affordable for all?
- How can we stimulate demand for nutritious foods?
- How can we improve dietary and health data for decision-making?

### **Key Messages from Day One:**

1. The conflict in the Ukraine and Russia has resulted in increases in prices of food staples in Africa, making an already alarming situation worse. Higher food prices mean that fewer African households will be able to afford a single decent daily meal. Malnourishment will rise. Africa's food-insecure households will be left much further behind and millions will be in danger of malnutrition and deepened poverty.
2. Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing the double burden of malnutrition with high levels of undernutrition and a growing burden of overweight/obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).
3. Malnutrition – including undernutrition and nutritional deficiencies – are still major causes of death and disease, especially among vulnerable and socially disadvantaged people like women and children less than five years of age.
4. Drivers of the double burden of malnutrition originate outside the health sector and operate across national and regional boundaries. Largely



unregulated marketing of cheap processed foods and non-alcoholic beverages as well as lifestyle changes are driving consumption of unhealthy diets in the African region.

5. There is need to strengthen current data collection systems to enable accurate information on nutrition status across the status which will result in targeted interventions
6. There is need to create awareness around indigenous African foods (such as sorghum, cowpea and Bambara groundnut) that have great potential for the development of foods with health promoting properties. Such foods could be beneficial for preventing diet-related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.
7. SMEs/agri-entrepreneurs can be catalysts in delivering innovations that can allow production of alternative nutritious and healthy food products at local level
8. Progress toward the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030 requires intensified efforts to reduce undernutrition and focused action on the reduction of obesity and diet-related NCDs.
9. There is need to strengthen policies that promote, protect and support the consumption of safe and healthy diets
10. There is need to strengthen national capacity for the prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition; and to strengthen the evidence base supporting policies and programmatic action.
11. Dietary habits are often rooted in local and regional traditions. National strategies need to be culturally appropriate and be able to challenge cultural influences and to respond to changes over time.