

2.1 Food Systems Framework

Facilitating Cross Sector Assessments and National Action Plans up to 2030

What problem is your solution addressing?

There is currently no comprehensive or standard framework for assessing food systems at the national level. Commitments to the Paris Agreement include emissions from agricultural production within the country territory but do not account for imported food, and thus the impacts of this food production elsewhere in the world. There is no way to simultaneously tie food systems with climate goals, biodiversity goals and public health goals (diet and non-diet related) – and to assess the robustness of food systems in relation to environmental or other shocks. Low & Middle Income Countries (LMICs) lack resources to conduct comprehensive assessments of their food system, and all countries lack a specialty ‘food systems department’ within government to adequately deal with such assessments and subsequent policy formulation and implementation. With the timeframe for meeting Sustainable Development Goals quickly narrowing, it is imperative that countries are able to conduct comprehensive food system assessments and establish clear roadmaps to 2030.

How does your solution address the problem?

The Food Systems Framework will set out the processes and structures to enable:

- The development of a standardized science-based Food Systems Blueprint that will provide a framework for country level assessments to guide food systems development in alignment with meeting Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- The establishment of a Food Systems Fund that High Income Countries (HICs) will contribute to in a similar way to how aid commitments or climate finance are currently made. The Food Systems Fund will be available to LMICs to facilitate access to the resources needed to conduct a comprehensive food systems assessment using the Food Systems Blueprint.
- LMICs to develop regionally specific roadmaps for food systems that minimize environmental impacts, maximise public health and wellbeing benefits, and are resilient to future shocks. The roadmaps, or National Action Plans, will incorporate key criteria such as climate, biodiversity and public health goals (diet and non-diet related), and provide a clear timeline of interim steps and targets leading to 2030.
- HICs to set highly ambitious National Action Plans that surpass the requirements for meeting Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- The establishment of a Food Systems Team/Department in HICs and LMICs at the national level. This will be a cross-department government team to assist joined up policy making across nutrition, agriculture, land, environment, biodiversity, education, climate and public health.
- The development of sector specific guidance stemming from the National Action Plans, for example for the food service sector, and policy specific requirements such as those relating to agricultural subsidies.

- Adoption of a multi stakeholder approach in developing the National Action Plans, involving a wide range of perspectives including youth, indigenous groups, and farmers.
- Ongoing funding post-assessment from the Food Systems Fund – for the implementation of National Action Plans in LMICs.

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

New solution.

Which organisation/s, institution/s or groups of individuals are associated with the solution?

Chatham House.

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

(a) If commitments from Member States are obtained in advance of the summit, the Food Systems Framework will be presented as a new solution that already has commitment from the given Member States, with an invitation for other Member States to join. This includes HICs who can pledge financially to the Food Systems Fund, and/or who can make a commitment to establishing a national Food Systems Department within government, and/or LMICs who would like assistance from the fund to develop their National Action Plans.

(b) To run Food Systems Summit Dialogues to help pave the way for such commitments to be made, for example, convening HIC Member States with relevant experience and LMICs who would be recipients of the Food Systems Fund.

Is this idea applicable to a particular geography, demography, landscape or other type of setting?

The idea would be applicable globally. HICs would be providing the Food Systems Fund for LMICs to utilize. All countries would establish a Food Systems Department and develop a National Action Plan.

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

Policymakers (government), UN agencies, other.

Source and process

- Helen Harwatt, Chatham House, AT2 WS1 Deputy Lead.