

2.5 Action hubs

National Food System Action Hubs

What problem is your solution addressing?

The UN Food Systems Summit announces that it will be a “people’s summit” and a “solution summit.” Building on the Summit and looking forward, it is critical to create spaces for all relevant stakeholders, including the general public, to engage in the transformation of food systems and to take part in generating ideas, sharing views and collaborating in developing solutions that can be put into action. This can best be achieved at the national (and subnational) level, tailored to specific national contexts, and fostering the development of a shared knowledge base grounded in a common language. It is also important that innovations and actions are encouraged, inspired, documented, shared and improved before, during and after the Summit.

The majority of the world’s population live in the Global South and Southern countries are often at the forefront of many of the food system challenges today. However, language and information barriers, as well as lack of diversified means for participation, mean that people in the Global South are at a disadvantage when it comes to opportunities for participation. National Food System Action Hubs supported by national and international resources can play a crucial role in leveling the playing field and facilitating wider participation in shaping the future of food.

Such Hubs can also play a critical role in broadening participation and engagement in countries in the Global North.

How does your solution address the problem?

National Food System Action Hubs can connect all stakeholders of the food system and facilitate innovations and collaborations as well as provide a platform for monitoring progress. They can create an “eco-system” for food systems stakeholders (policy makers, academia, private sector, civil society) to drive positive change together. Food System Summit Dialogues provide a great basis for laying the groundwork for National Food System Action Hubs.

The Hubs can disseminate information about the UNFSS and its outcomes, including its menu of game changing solutions, in local language(s) and contexts. In turn, the Hubs can build action coalitions around specific solutions and turn them into action. The Hubs can also become hosts for emerging ideas from the Summit process that require a similar organization at the national level, such as Chefs’ Action Hubs, Menus of Change Innovation Hubs, etc. Furthermore, Hubs can serve as the national gateways for international partners to contribute, with ownership and leadership provided by governments and national stakeholders.

National Food System Action Hubs should aim to host public forums and facilitate recurrent Food System Dialogues to broker a shared understanding around the need to tackle major challenges and how to go about doing this, grounded in the best available science. They should also help identify critical knowledge gaps requiring new research. Furthermore, they

can host policy boot camps and simulation labs to generate new and improved solutions for complex food system challenges. Finally, National Food System Action Hubs can gather and empower Food Systems Heroes, volunteers and media to carry out public engagement campaigns, reaching the general public.

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

The first National Food System Action Hub - the China Action Hub for AT2 – has already been established. In the run-up to the Summit, as well as at the Summit, this example will be presented globally in order to inspire the establishment of similar hubs in other countries, and to build a coalition of international organizations, multilateral development banks, non-government organizations, academia, foundations, investors, industry groups and other actors in support of such National Food System Action Hubs. Some countries may already have set up entities that can take on the role of a National Food System Action Hub.

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

No. This idea is applicable to various settings.

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

Policymakers (government), civil society organizations, private sector, UN agencies, farmers/fisheries, cities and others

Source and process

This solution is based on conversations within Workstream 1. It builds upon a range of solutions submitted through the solution sourcing process run by Workstream 1.