

19. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN JAMAICA

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| ACTION AREA | FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE |
| SOLUTION CLUSTER | INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS |
| THEMATIC AREA | WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS |
| SUBMITTED BY | JAMAICA NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS |

WHAT ARE THE KEY THEMES THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCY?

Inclusiveness: Food systems differ based on geography. Therefore, there cannot be a one-size-fits-for all approach because circumstances and production realities differ from continent to continent and region to region. The approach should be based on common ground and inclusiveness, where no one will be left behind. All farmers, including women and young farmers deserve to be empowered and provided with the same resources in terms of i.e. access to land, inputs, finance, education, to maximize their contribution towards more resilient food systems, as well as to prepare the future farmers' leadership.

Transparency: Transparency of information is required at all levels from global to grassroots, as well as in feeding the international discussion with the farm level experiences and best practices that are ready for scaling up and replication in other countries. The flow of information must be timely and effective to allow all actors to make proper decisions and take robust actions for the benefit of the world farmers and the whole population. The digitalization has to be improved as an instrument of knowledge and transparency of the chain and at the same time the property of data has to be considered a priority for farmers. Transparent and trustful relationships between farmers and consumers (the first and final stage of the food value chain, where open traceability is available) must be promoted. The farmers' share of value added in the whole approach must be not only valorised but also restored.

Farmers' driven: Farmers are at the centre of food systems. Therefore, any policy- making process that has an impact on the farming sector at local, national, and international levels should involve them, through their organized structures. Representatives of farmers' organisations and cooperatives must therefore also be partners in the discussion and decisions on sustainable food systems and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This approach applies to decision-making processes and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation actions

Reference:

WFO-Policy-Paper-on-Sustainable-Food-Systems_approved-by-the-WFO-2020-GA_EN.pdf (wfo-oma.org)

WHAT DO YOU THINK CONSTITUTES SOCIAL RESILIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS? WHAT ARE THE CROSS-CUTTING SOLUTIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE?

Ensuring social, environmental and economic resilience in food systems means recognizing the multidimensional nature of the farming activity replacing the old vision of agriculture as a simple "provider of raw material". Farmers ensure food security providing quality food; they are at the forefront of combating climate change; they preserve and promote biodiversity; they are committed to nurture

farmer-driven research and innovation. This translates into social resilience, environmental resilience and economic resilience in food systems.

Therefore, if we aim to align and lay the foundations for the necessary shift towards Sustainable Food Systems, this role has to be emphasised and mostly valorised, putting farmers at the centre of the transition towards sustainability.

Within the World Farmers' Organisation, awareness of the centrality of agriculture and the responsibility this entails for sustainable food systems is clear and has been formalised with the adoption, in June 2020, of a policy document marking "The Farmers' Route to Sustainable Food Systems" https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WFO-Policy-Paper-on-Sustainable-Food-Systems_approved-by-the-WFO-2020-GA_EN.pdf

A route based on three guiding principles: inclusiveness, transparency and the centrality of farmers in every strategic process.

WFO proposes to focus future commitments on the following cross-cutting actions, with the central role of farmers in each of these actions:

- Involving the whole value chain
- Fighting climate change
- Structuring disaster risk management
- Attaining global nutrition security
- Enhancing Research and Innovation
- Protecting biodiversity
- Deploying investments and incentives
- Valuing the livestock sector's role
- Achieving food security
- Boosting the role of farmers' organisations and cooperatives
- Promoting inclusiveness: youth and women are key to succeed.

WHAT SOLUTIONS CAN WE PROPOSE TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND PREVENT FUTURE SOURCES OF CONFLICT, MANAGE TENSIONS AND OTHER STRESSES IN FOOD SYSTEMS ?

One solution has been proposed from the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers. Jamaica is a small Country but well committed to the fight against climate change. As all other Caribbean Countries, it is exposed to climate change effects i.e. increasing sea level, watersheds degradation.

The Country is committed to the Paris Agreement implementation, has set a 30% target to reduce emissions by 2030 and has adopted a national policy framework on climate change.

Best practices adopted include watershed management, like the Rio Minho watershed where they have built dams to manage the water flow coming from hills to use it for irrigation purposes, as well as other practices for introducing sustainable water harvesting techniques.

WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN?

We must reduce farmers' vulnerabilities to shocks and risks so to reduce consequent food supply chain disruptions, increased food insecurity levels and reduction in farmers' incomes.

WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Farmers, Farmers Organization / Cooperatives, Scientists

WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

- Food supply chains - Production
- Food supply chains - Storage & Distribution
- Food environments - availability
- Food environments - affordability

WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY DOES THIS INTERVENTION MOST EASILY FALL?

- Regenerative agriculture
- Cross-cutting

IS THIS IDEA APPLICABLE TO A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHY OR TYPE OF SETTING (E.G., SEMI-ARID AREAS, HIGHER- OR LOWER-INCOME COUNTRIES)?

The best practice was first implemented in Jamaica with the potential to be replicated and scaled in other Countries.

WHERE IS THIS IDEA COMING FROM?

The best practice was first shared in the context of the initiative "The Climakers", the Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda conceived by the World Farmers' Organisation and carried out with different partners, with the aim to be assessed by science against climate smartness criteria and be scaled up and replicated in other Countries.

Reference: <https://www.theclimakers.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Climakers-Stories-from-the-Field-Volume-1.pdf>

ANY OTHER COMMENTS, INCLUDING EVIDENCE OR ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OR AGAINST.

The best practice was assessed against Climate smartness criteria by CCAFS, with the following results: "It is worth highlighting that the project focused on the implementation of collective benefit practices and practices of an individual nature, which allow climate risk management at different scales, this contributing more effectively to the success of the project. The project is mainly focused on helping producers to adapt to climate change and variability with regards to water resource management. The practices implemented allow farmers to have water available during both the rainy and dry seasons. In the same way, by promoting practices that allow crops to develop in dry seasons, the income is increased through enabling farmers to sell their products throughout the year. Therefore, this project is climate-smart since it is framed within two of the fundamental pillars of this approach, which are adaptation and productivity. To be more comprehensive, the project could include practices focused on the conservation of the basin and the implementation of forest systems that help improving the hydrological cycle, which may be beneficial for the objectives of this initiative. Additionally, this type of practice, which includes the use or conservation of tree species, enables adding the mitigation component to the initiative, since carbon sequestration in tree biomass could also be considered."

Reference: <https://www.theclimakers.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/The-Climakers-Stories-from-the-Field-Volume-1.pdf>