

51. MARKET APPROACHES TO RESILIENCE (MAR) IN ETHIOPIA

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS
THEMATIC AREA	POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS FOR RURAL AREAS
SUBMITTED BY	FARM AFRICA

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 ?

An example is offered by the Farm Africa's Market Approaches to Resilience (MAR) project implemented in lowland Ethiopia. The MAR project has applied a system approach to increase capacities of lowland Ethiopians to cope with climate shocks as part of a bigger resilience and adaptation programme funded by the UK Government. The project aims at address multiple drivers of vulnerability simultaneously, so to increase communities' resilience by increasing their ability to manage their resources efficiently as well as managing daily risks. This is done by promoting economic opportunities, stimulating diversification of economic activities and incomes, as well as increasing adaptation capacities to risks.

WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN?

We should increase resilience of farmers and rural communities worldwide, so to ensure they can keep on producing and selling food, which is at the basis of their livelihoods and incomes, despite external shocks. Access to affordable financial services i.e. insurance schemes, as well as to technology and information i.e. meteorological information, is crucial for farmers.

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

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Farmers, Farmers organization / cooperatives

WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

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

WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY DOES THIS INTERVENTION MOST EASILY FALL?

- ☒ Food research, processing, technology
- ☒ Supply Chain Infrastructure
- ☒ Cross-cutting

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

Increasing farmers' resilience to shocks, especially climate related shocks, should be a global priority. This practice is applicable especially to particularly vulnerable areas, in lower income 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: "The promoted practices in this project are mainly focused on financial services as a mechanism to strengthen adaptation to climate change, especially in terms of guaranteeing access to resources to respond to climate events that have impacted producers. Similarly, it focuses on the implementation of a meteorological network that allows producers to monitor climatic conditions on their region. Therefore, this initiative contributes in terms of increasing the producers' adaptation and improving the stability of their income, which is part of the CSA approach.

However, it would be important to guarantee the optimal use of the information collected from the weather stations, as well as strengthen the capacities of the producers in the interpretation and use of the data, making emphasis on linkage of climate and crops to support them in the decision-making processes to better manage agricultural systems. It would also be useful to prioritize practices that may be funded through the financial mechanisms (some of them in CIAT and BFS/USAID, 2017), as well as to understand whether the approach is post-event or also aims for preventing crop-losses prior to the climate extreme events. Moreover, it would be interesting to include financing alternatives in the future that encourage producers to adopt CSA practices that in addition to increase adaptation and increase income from productive systems, also contribute to emission reductions or to the capture of greenhouse gases as a co-benefit."

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