

# 81. RESILIENCE, INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE IN MONTSERRAT

ACTION AREA	CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
SOLUTION CLUSTER	CLIMATE ADAPTATION, MITIGATION & RESILIENCE
THEMATIC AREA	SMALL ISLAND STATES AND COASTAL AREAS
SUBMITTED BY	MONSERRAT FARMERS ASSOCIATION

## 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](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 ?

There is a best practice from the Monserrat Farmers Association, being Montserrat a Country particularly affected by climate change effects including intense rainfall, long droughts, which cause soils erosion, crops losses, problems for land tillage operations on arable lands. Also, a major problem is caused by hurricanes which not only affect production but also destroy machineries and properties. This best practice focuses on training farmers on how to harvest water using tanks, small ponds, solar pumps to pump water from ponds or cisterns to the tanks, windbreaks, greenhouses.

The best practices adopted include:

- Water harvesting;
- Drip irrigation;
- Protected agriculture;
- Contour farming and establishing proper drainage.

## WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN?

- To promote CSA practices which help both mitigate and adapt to climate change (i.e. by increasing carbon capture or reducing GHG emissions);
- To increase information flow to farmers as well as train them on how to use it best so to allow them to make better choices according to the 3 sustainability pillars;
- To build community awareness and improve the use of social networks among farmers to foster knowledge sharing and replicability of good practices.

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

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses), Farmers, Farmers' Organization/Cooperatives, Scientists

## WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

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

## WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY DOES THIS INTERVENTION MOST EASILY FALL?

Food research, processing, technology; Supply Chain Infrastructure

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

This is replicable on a global scale, particularly for countries vulnerable to climate change effects.

## 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 & 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 diverse practices promoted in the project support the bases of CSA since they focus mainly on adapting to climate change & increasing the profitability of crops. Most of the practices promoted in the project are identified among the main ones in terms of a global CSA evaluation at a global scale by Sova et. al., 2018. The project also recommends working on some practices that contribute in terms of carbon capture or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to increase the affinity of the initiative with the CSA approach. It is also recommended to include other additional practices in the region to the ones that are in the implementation phase, which can be identified by the producers themselves. In order to do this, it is important to strengthen the flow of climate information towards producers, as well as their empowerment when it comes to use such information, in order to ensure that in the future they can make good decisions, adjusted to their socioeconomic & environmental conditions.

Likewise, working on building community awareness & strengthening social networks in these communities show up as relevant factors that can help producers to understand that what they do on their farms can affect other producers. This helps to scale promoted practices & contributes to sustainability over time".