

53. FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS ROLE TO IMPROVE FARMERS' RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS IN KENYA

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	KENYA NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION

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 ?

As an example of the role of Farmers' Organisations, below a set of solutions implemented by the Kenya National Farmers' Federation as a strategy to enhance food security and help farmers to deliver on their role of providing nutritious food for their families and communities, in the context of climate change and COVID 19:

- Promotion of sustainable home gardens for enhanced household level of food & nutrition security;
- Provision of basic inputs and liquidity support for the establishment of apiculture projects, and planting of trees, fruit trees and creation of vegetable nurseries;
- Support to youth and women groups;
- Support to Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMGs);
- Installation of fodder plots;
- Intensive sharing of information and knowledge on Covid-19 mitigation, adaptation and resilience, leveraging on several farmer - friendly media (local radio and TV) but also on social media and FO internal communication channels;
- Creation of a national USSD code for communicating with farmers on a wide range of issues including containment and management of COVID-19, support services for farmers, seasonal weather forecast, technical advisory services and market intelligence and information;
- Training and support for rural entrepreneurship;
- Training on and promotion of farm forestry;
- Setting up a network of Farmer Field Schools;
- Raising awareness and sensitising farmers on international policies making;

- Support to the organisation of farmers into groups and associations, as well as strengthening existing organisations;
- Establishment of integrated, climate-smart production systems with food crops, cash crops and agroforestry;
- Exploring new markets and value addition to generate better returns, more income streams and new commercial channels;
- Expanding alliances for investments, innovation and equitable value distribution, enhanced food safety from farm to fork as well as engaging consumers and shift to digital tools and platforms.

WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN?

- Governments should put in place policy processes that allow Farmers' Organizations and cooperatives to actively participate in decision-making to look into farmers-driven solutions to food systems transformation and to promote sustainable innovation and foster the transition.
- Value chain should be restructured to allow a shared value added also enhancing cooperatives' key role in generating incomes and building local communities thus strengthening farmers' position in the markets, increasing their income and improving their ability to produce more in a more sustainable and resilient way.

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

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

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Civil (NGOs, etc.), Farmers, Farmers organization / cooperatives, Scientists, Indigenous groups

WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

- Food supply chains - Inputs
- Food supply chains - Production
- Food environments - availability
- Food environments - affordability
- Food environments - Product properties (including safety)
- Food environments - vendor properties
- Food environments – food messaging
- Individual consumer factors - Economic
- Individual consumer factors - Cognitive
- Individual consumer factors - Aspirational
- Individual consumer factors - Situations
- Consumer behaviour

WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY DOES THIS INTERVENTION MOST EASILY FALL?

- 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 set of practices described in section 3 were first implemented in Italy 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/2020/12/THE-CLIMAKERS_Stories-from-the-Field_COVID-19-Special-Edition-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: "This project is focused on the use and empowerment of agro-climate information for decision-making processes, which is key for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). Starting from this knowledge, the prioritization and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices has been developed, focusing on farmers' real needs of the farmers, their advantages and disadvantages, as well as on their real climate threats.

In general terms, this project is very complete and we observe a great quantity of strategies aimed at the development of CSA, focusing on all the pillars (adaptation, mitigation, productivity and food security). Because of this, it is recommended to maintain their functioning and sustainability over the long term and, if possible, use their example in order to scale and address larger population. Likewise, it is recommended to work on strategies for facilitating climate financing that would make it possible to accelerate the transformation of the production systems to be more resilient to the climate."