

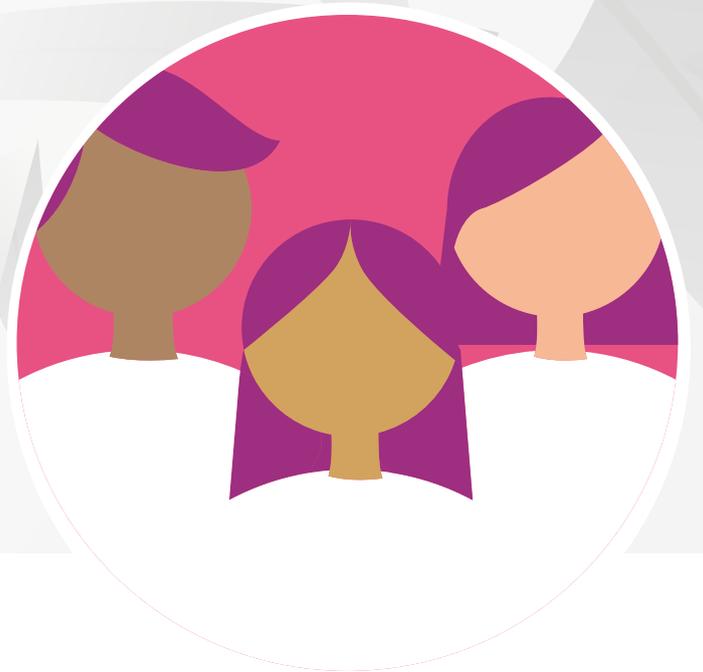


GLOBAL ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES

RESEARCH FOR AGRICULTURAL
SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Food systems approach to address food security and socio-economic dimensions of climate change

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020



 *Taking a closer look at technical issues
identified during the Koronivia Joint Work
on Agriculture workshops*

KEY MESSAGES

- **Food system transformation is one of the few entry points to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to achieve the target of the Paris Agreement.**
- **A successful food system transformation needs to be holistic and address the root causes of hunger, food insecurity, inequality, and unsustainable management of natural resources, including biodiversity** - all at the same time. It also requires integrated actions across multiple sectors.
- Transforming food systems includes such changes as:
 1. **rerouting farming and rural livelihoods;**
 2. **de-risking livelihoods, farms and value chains;**
 3. **reducing emissions through diets and value chains;** and
 4. **realigning policies and climate finance.**
- **Developed countries have completely different food systems compared to developing countries.** One tends to be highly organized and dominated by large producers, manufacturers and retailers, while the other tends to consist primarily of smallholders and short supply chains, with more diverse food available in informal markets. Therefore, **different priorities and actions need to be identified for each region considering also cultural and dietary patterns.**
- **The examples of Switzerland and the European Union (EU) highlight two approaches of how to target and analyze the food system, and identify required dietary shifts,** as well as the importance of **linking food systems with other sectoral policies and strategies.**

SHORT SUMMARY

There is a global consensus that we need to shift towards healthier diets and more sustainable food systems in order to feed the growing population, to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the targets of the Paris Agreement. At the same time, current food systems are failing to deliver these goals. According to the FAO's annual flagship report **The State of Food and Nutrition in the World**, 690 million people went hungry in 2019 and this will inevitably increase in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a growing population suffering from obesity and almost half of the global population cannot afford a healthy diet. In a large part of the world, the current food systems are vulnerable to external impacts and are not providing secure employment opportunities. Furthermore, food systems are a significant contributor to the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (19 to 29 percent, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] Special Report on Climate Change and Land) and depend on the world's natural resources and environment, which are under increasing pressure.

Transforming food systems is a challenge that goes beyond disciplinary, divisional or institutional boundaries and requires a much more holistic and coordinated approach. Integrated action by all stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels in multiple areas such as agriculture, trade, policy health, environment, education, transport and infrastructure is needed. Transforming food systems means a significant change to, for instance, the structure of landholdings, technologies and their use, capabilities of women and men, and the distribution and dynamics of the population and labour force. The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) proposes four action areas with 11 specific and concrete actions to transform food systems under climate change. These action areas include: (1) rerouting farming and rural livelihoods to new trajectories; (2) de-risking livelihoods, farms and value chains; (3) reducing emissions through diets and value chains; and (4) realigning policies, finance, support to social movements and innovation. While the focus of these actions is climate change adaptation and mitigation, all actions should have co-benefits that support other food system objectives (food security, socio-economic dimensions and health).

The Government of Switzerland analyzed the optimal Swiss food system to minimize environmental and climate impacts. The study concluded that environmental impact can be optimized by 50 percent by reducing livestock production and import of animal feed and overall imported food. This would result in a shift towards more plant-based diets. In this way, Switzerland aims to reduce GHG emissions from agriculture and food systems by 40 to 50 percent while maintaining 50 percent self-sufficiency.

The European Green Deal is at the heart of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which, for the first time, is considering food systems as an overarching approach for transformation. The Strategy is looking at the environmental, social and economic sustainability aspects throughout the food value chain, including economic feasibility of farms, affordability of the products, social rights of agriculture workers and welfare of animals, among others. In order to achieve these targets, the Strategy is also linked with the EU restoration initiatives, agriculture policy and biodiversity strategy.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the food system perspective focusing on technical aspects;
2. Share latest technical developments and research activities to address the complex web of food systems;
3. Learn about the high-level international initiatives addressing transformation to sustainable food systems, and consider how the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) can contribute to realizing those transformative actions on the ground.

EVENT OUTLINE

Moderated by Ms Julia Wolf, Natural Resources Officer, FAO

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKER
13:00 – 13:15	Opening remarks	Ms Akiko Nagano, Deputy Director for Climate Change Negotiations, Environment Policy Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan Dr Jamie Morrison, Director of Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO
13:15 – 13:45	Global trends	Dr Ana Maria Loboguerrero Rodriguez, Head of Global Policy Research, CCAFS
13:45 – 14:00	Country experiences	Dr Thomas Nemecek, Deputy leader of the Life Cycle Assessment group at Agroscope, Switzerland Mr Herwig Ranner, Policy Officer for Climate Change, European Commission
14:00 – 14:25	Q&A	
14:25 – 14:30	Closing remarks	

MEETING RECORDING:  zoom

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