

## Advancing Equitable Livelihoods

### Summary of Outcomes

Over the past 18 months - the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of global food systems. The most heavily impacted have been the rural poor and particularly marginalised communities of women, youth, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, informal economy workers, and those marginalized on grounds of ethnicity, race, religion, and disability.

This event discussed the importance of the [Coalition on Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages](#) (DWLIW), co-led by CARE, ILO, IFAD and WBCSD. Speakers highlighted that achieving success requires shared purpose and aligned efforts across public, private, and civil society actors in countries and value chains. All actors must work together to promote labour and human rights, economic and social justice, 100% living incomes and wages, adequate and nutritious food for all food systems workers, and increase opportunities for decent employment within the agri-food sector.

#### Speakers:

**Tom Anyonge**, Acting Director, ECG, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Data on inequities within food systems, from local to international levels, is essential to effect change, as well as sufficient monitoring and evaluation of the interventions that aim to address inequity. We believe that we should harmonize different collection efforts, following a common framework.

**Gabriel Ferrero**, Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Government of Spain

- Workers have transformative power as agents of change, but we are still far away from securing the respect of human rights in food systems. We need stronger legislation at the national level; full integration throughout value chains (in which involvement of the private sector will be key); strengthened territorial governance; and better support to consumers to make right choices (through labelling and fiscal drivers). This can be brought together through the DWLIW coalition and wider efforts stemming from the UNFSSS.

**Reema Nanavaty**, Executive Director, Self-Employed Women's Association

- Women play a major role in the food production value system, but their voice remains missing from discussions on food. Women face persistent issues in access to reliable energy, modern tools and equipment, direct market, technical and marketing skills, financing mechanisms and lack of awareness of government programmes. SEWA aims to help women overcome these issues.

**Silvia Cruz-Cargas**, Director International Programs, The PepsiCo Foundation

- Livelihoods are critical to our growth as a company and a society. Multiple actors (public, private, NGOs) are needed to elevate issues. Recognising the role of women is the first step to transforming livelihoods. We want to improve the livelihoods of 250,000 people in our agricultural supply chain, and specifically through initiatives that improve the economic livelihoods of women.

**Kate Schneider**, Fellow, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

- There is lots of data, but it is not ideally disaggregated or granular to fully identify food system workers. We face challenges to get accurate data on informal employment, seasonal or temporary employment, migrant laborers, and consistent data over time. An even bigger issue is the quality of these jobs (i.e., wages/human rights abuses).
- We can get quite far with small changes to the way existing data on labour are collected and categorized. For example: disaggregating economic statistics categories or a common framework for food system sub-sectors.

**Bah Phrang Roy**, Coordinator, The Indigenous Partnership on Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty

- Indigenous peoples value biodiversity and the caring and sharing nature of women. Social protection is valued in indigenous society, for example rice is kept aside for potential visitors and land is owned by women.
- Indigenous are increasingly recognised as custodians of their land. The representation of Indigenous youth in discussion on food systems transformation is positive.

**Ms Alette van Leur**, Director of the Sectoral Policies Department, ILO

- Sector specific standards - i.e., safety and health and labour inspection in agriculture are key - but unfortunately these are the least ratified of the ILO conventions. Action is needed in four areas to make progress on equitable livelihoods in food systems: quality jobs, rights at work, social protection and extended social development. Engaging youth is also key, this requires quality jobs, entrepreneurial support, and access to modern technology.