

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



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How Climate Shocks Reach Children: Evidence for Food Systems Policy

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

In rural India, climate shocks do not stop at crop loss. They move through food systems and reach children.

A drought can reduce agricultural output, disrupt food access, and increase the risk of low birthweight and child undernutrition. This study traces that full pathway, from climate shocks to child outcomes, and identifies where policy can intervene.

OBJECTIVES

- Map the causal pathway: rainfall deficit → vegetation loss → low birthweight → stunting/wasting
- Assess whether governance moderates the climate–nutrition pathway
- Extend single-hazard evidence toward a multi-risk, compound framework for food systems policy

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

We combined four datasets that have rarely been linked: birth outcomes for 32,892 children (NFHS-4), 35 years of satellite rainfall records (CHIRPS), NASA vegetation data tracking crop stress (MODIS NDVI), and a district-level governance index built from health infrastructure, literacy, sanitation, and electricity access. The analysis traces how climate shocks propagate through agriculture and food systems to affect child health outcomes.

RESULTS

- Findings confirm that drought increases child undernutrition risk.
- The key insight is governance: In weak-governance districts, stunting rises nearly twice as fast under drought compared to well-governed regions.
- Governance acts as a protective buffer between climate shocks and children.

How Climate Shocks Reach Children



Under drought, stunting rises nearly 2× faster in weak-governance districts.

1. CLIMATE SHOCKS



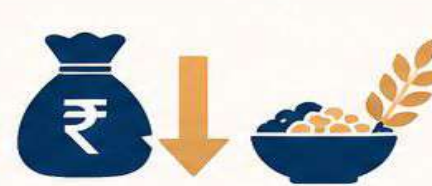
- Drought
- Heatwaves
- Extreme Rainfall

2. AGRICULTURAL STRESS



- Yield loss
- Vegetation decline
- Crop failure

3. FOOD ACCESS



- Income loss
- Price instability
- Food insecurity

4. CHILD UNDERNUTRITION



- Stunting
- Wasting
- Low Birthweight



Women's Literacy
Education and empowerment



Health Access
Institutional births and services



Sanitation
Improved facilities and hygiene



Electricity Access
Energy and infrastructure

Strong governance moderates and reduces vulnerability at every step of the pathway



IMPLICATION

Integrated climate, agriculture, and nutrition systems — supported by strong governance — are essential to protect children from the compounding impacts of climate shocks.

KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Scalable multi-hazard evidence linking climate, agriculture & child health across 640 Indian districts
- Governance composite index validates 4 institutional dimensions as climate resilience buffers.
- Produced scalable evidence for integrated climate, agriculture, and health policy.
- Policy-ready evidence and district climate adaptation planning

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Author

 **María Paula Alvarado-Rodríguez**
Costa Rica

Youth Leadership for Food Sovereignty and Nutrition in Costa Rica

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Through the Youth Leadership Programme, I contributed to the **creation of the World Food Forum National Youth Chapter in Costa Rica**, promoting youth leadership in food sovereignty, nutrition, and sustainable food systems advocacy

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen youth leadership in food systems
- Promote food sovereignty awareness
- Build partnerships and advocacy spaces

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group:

Youth leaders and students

Methods:

Advocacy, networking, public engagement

Tools/Resources:

Youth platforms, media outreach, institutional partnerships

RESULTS

- Increased visibility of youth voices in food systems discussions
- Strengthened national and international partnerships
- Expanded youth engagement in nutrition and food sovereignty advocacy
- Opened new opportunities for leadership and international collaboration in agrifood systems

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Helped establish the World Food Forum National Youth Chapter in Costa Rica
2. Successfully secured a USD 10,000 grant from the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Youth Advocacy Fund through a youth-led project proposal I developed
3. Participated in a UCR (oldest and high level university in the country) radio programme on food sovereignty

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Author

 **Andrea Quiñonez**
Ecuador

YOUTH LEADERS FOR NUTRITION - ECUADOR

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

My initiative strengthens youth participation in transforming food systems and addressing Chronic Child Malnutrition (CCM) in Ecuador through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Youth Program. Ecuador has one of the highest CCM rates in **Latin America**, affecting **19.3%** of children under two, especially in rural and Indigenous communities. Through training, advocacy, and collaboration, we empower young people to contribute to public policies and local actions for more inclusive and sustainable food systems.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Strengthen youth participation in food systems and nutrition decision-making processes in Ecuador.

Objective 2: Promote advocacy and collaboration between young people, civil society, and public institutions to address Chronic Child Malnutrition (CCM).

Objective 3: Foster inclusive and sustainable local actions that improve food systems in vulnerable communities.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group: Young leaders and vulnerable communities affected by Chronic Child Malnutrition (CCM) in Ecuador.

Methods: Training, advocacy, and multisectoral dialogue to strengthen youth participation in food systems and nutrition.

Tools/Resources: Youth networks, volunteer work, partnerships with civil society and public institutions, and spaces for developing proposals and public policies.

RESULTS

Through the program, we strengthened youth participation in advocacy and dialogue spaces on food systems and nutrition in Ecuador. The initiative engaged young leaders and youth organizations, promoting greater awareness of Chronic Child Malnutrition (CCM) and more active youth participation in the development of public policies and local actions.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievement 1: Strengthened youth leadership in food systems and nutrition advocacy across Ecuador.

Achievement 2: Increased youth engagement and awareness around Chronic Child Malnutrition (CCM).

Achievement 3: Advanced a youth agenda on CCM with potential for long-term legislative impact.

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Author

ASAELI NAIKA



Exploring the TEK of Wild Food Plants in the Korobasabasaga Lowland Forest Communities - Fiji

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

iTaukei communities hold deep TEK on wild food plants (WFPs) – a biocultural heritage underpinning food systems resilience. This MRes study documents and helps revitalize WFP-related TEK across five lowland forest communities, Korobasabasaga Range, Namosi Province. Grounded in the Fijian Vanua Research Framework. Funded by FNU-CGS · Jul 2025–Jul 2026 · Supervised by Dr. Shipra Shah (Associate Professor in Forestry) · HREC approved.

OBJECTIVES

- **Objective 1:** Document the ethnobotanical knowledge and use of wild food plants among multi-generational iTaukei knowledge holders
- **Objective 2:** Assess WFP contributions to household food security and income across five community sites
- **Objective 3:** Identify socio-ecological drivers of TEK erosion and develop community-validated, evidence-informed policy recommendations

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Guided by the Fijian Vanua Research Framework (a decolonial methodology that centers Indigenous Fijian worldviews and protocols)

- **Target group** • **Methods:** Vanua walks · Ethnobotanical surveys · **Kills** · **Household** surveys (FIES) · Talanoa/Focus Groups · Vendor Surveys
- **Tools/Resources:** TEK composite indicators · Use-value indices · Mixed methods · CARE Principles for Indigenous data sovereignty

RESULTS

Field data collection is active across all five iTaukei communities with vanua walks, ethnobotanical surveys, KIs, and household surveys currently in progress. Early findings reveal **rich wild food plant (WFP) diversity** among elder knowledge holders but a **significant intergenerational TEK gap**. This pilot evidence has already catalysed national-level action, directly informing **VUNA: Harvesting Resilience from Wild Food Plant Biodiversity** – a concept note now under review with Fiji's CBD Focal Point (Ministry of Environment & Climate Change) for the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking Round, June 2026.

Panel Speaker | Food Systems Transformation Side Event at the Sixth Asia Pacific Forum for Ministers and Environment Authorities | August 2025



VUNA
Harvesting Resilience from Wild Food Plant Biodiversity

Concept Note Briefing — NBSAP Accelerator Partnership MatchMaking Round — June 2026

Presented by: Asaeli Naika, Assistant Lecturer in Food Science (Food and Nutrition Sciences)

Institution: Department of Applied Sciences, School of Sciences, CETVET

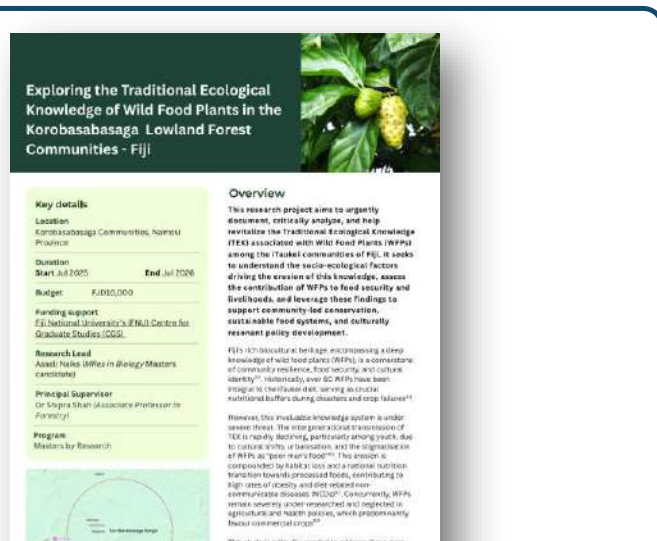
Partners: MECC · SPREP · NBSAP Accelerator

Date: May 6, 2025
Venue: Main Conference Room, Ball tower, Torua, Department of Environment.

FNU researchers, Asaeli Naika and Arti Pillay, brief Fiji's CBD Focal Point – Director of Environment Mrs Senimili Nakora and Senior Environment Officers Mr Krishneel Nand and Mr Jimmy Gaunavou (MECC) – on the VUNA concept note, 6 May 2026, advancing national endorsement ahead of the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking June 5 deadline.



Exploring the Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Wild Food Plants in the Korobasabasaga Lowland Forest Communities - Fiji



The forest fed us long before the supermarket. That balance – between rigorous science and standing with your own people – is something many of us in the Pacific struggle to find. YLP showed me I did not have to choose. What is needed is the political will to take it seriously, the research infrastructure to document it rigorously, and the platforms to amplify it globally.

Panel Speaker | Pacific Wild Food Biodiversity within the Agri-Nutrition Nexus | Asia Pacific Workshop on "Accelerating the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through an Integrated and Synergistic Approach" | October 2025.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Achievement 1:** FNU has established strong working partnerships with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the Ministry of Forestry – both actively supporting the research in direct alignment with their respective bio-cultural heritage mandates.
- **Achievement 2:** Field-validated evidence base on WFP diversity and TEK erosion that directly informed the VUNA concept note's design and theory of change.
- **Achievement 3:** VUNA concept note formally presented to Fiji's CBD Focal Point, initiating national endorsement ahead of the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking deadline, reflecting strong FNU–Government coordination.

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Transforming Smallholder Food Systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains (Rupantar)

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Focus: Transforming smallholder food systems through sustainable, efficient, and diversified farming pathways.
Challenge: Low productivity, limited diversification, weak markets and service networks, poor water-resource development, and slow adoption of improved practices.
Region: Eastern Gangetic Plains of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, home to about 450 million people and marked by high rural poverty and heavy dependence on agriculture.

OBJECTIVES

- Define scalable processes and practices for sustainable, diversified food systems.
- Understand the local context for diversification in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.
- Co-create and implement inclusive diversification pathways.
- Deepening understanding of the trade-offs and synergies associated with diversification pathways.
- Engaging and communicating with change-makers to ensure outputs are used and integrated into independent programs.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Approach: Co-develop and implement diversified food-system pathways with local partners
Target group: Smallholder farmers, and local communities.
Methods: Situation analysis, mixed research methods
Participatory methods, coordination, facilitation, demonstration and support, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and knowledge repositories
Tools/Resources: Scaling Assessment and Discussion tool (ScAD), Monitoring frameworks, Qual-Quant protocols

RESULTS

- Adoption increased across nine diversification pathways in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal within 2-3 seasons.
- Increased economic gains with few Indian ZT mustard households reporting higher income upto USD 295 and increased milk yields for most farmers, with a few in Nepal reporting doubled yields.
- Nutrition, resilience, and gender inclusion also improved, with women leading most poultry (100%) in Bangladesh and goat pathways (84%) in India.
- Circular practices strengthening household stability.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Increased productivity/profitability:** 63% higher irrigation-constrained yields (88% cost reduction) and 76% higher ZT mustard yields in India. Similarly, increased economic gains experienced crop and livestock based livelihood diversification pathways in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- **Enhanced community capacity:** Strengthened marginalized households through inclusive training, high-diffusion (67-78%) knowledge sharing, formation of farmer groups and improved soil/ water resilience.
- **Secured long-term scalability:** Proven, high-demand pathways (upto 100% continuation intent) aligned

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the support of funding partner ACIAR, all Rupantar project partners and participants in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh for their active contributions for this work. I specially acknowledge CIMMYT project team for their constant support.

Author

 Carlos Paul Nidza

Ministry of Agriculture
/Zimbabwe

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Climate-Smart Solar & Thermal Dehydration Hubs for Post-Harvest Loss Reduction in Murewa

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Smallholder farmers in Murewa District, Zimbabwe, experience severe post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage infrastructure, unreliable electricity supply, limited cold-chain systems, and seasonal market oversupply. Through community-operated dehydration hubs linked to market-ready branding under “Chatukuta Dried Foods,” the project aims to transform post-harvest management from a source of loss into a pathway for rural economic empowerment, climate resilience, and sustainable food processing innovation.

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: To establish and operationalize community-based solar and thermal dehydration hubs for preservation of horticultural produce in Murewa District.
- Objective 2: To reduce post-harvest losses among participating smallholder farmers from approximately 35 -40% to below 5%.
- Objective 3: To improve income generation opportunities for smallholder farmers through value addition, food preservation, and improved market access.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target group:** women and youth
- **Methods:** The project adopts a community-based, technology-enabled, and market-oriented implementation approach combining youth empowerment, and agricultural value addition.
- **Tools/Resources:** Two climate-smart solar-thermal hybrid dehydration hubs established using locally available materials.

RESULTS

Baseline and endline surveys conducted have shown that there is a reduction in in post-harvest loss levels, farmer incomes have increased, youth employment has increased, over 200 youth trained, coupled with improved food preservation outcomes. Kobo-based digital data collection systems and periodic monitoring visits supports evidence-based project management and accountability.

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1: Successful development of a scalable and community-owned climate-smart food preservation model in rural Zimbabwe.
- Achievement 2: Reduction of food waste and improved utilization of surplus horticultural produce within Murewa District.
- Achievement 3: Empowerment of women and youth through skills development, enterprise participation, and income generation opportunities.

Author

 **DAOUDA SECK**
SENEGAL

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Digital Village Initiative: Advancing Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems in Senegal

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This project contributes to the transformation of agrifood systems in Senegal by leveraging digital innovation to address key constraints faced by smallholder farmers: limited access to timely advisory services, climate variability, and fragmented information flows. By integrating satellite data, artificial intelligence, and last-mile delivery mechanisms, it strengthens farmers' decision-making and enhances the performance of extension systems.

OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance access to inclusive, real-time, and data-driven advisory services
2. Strengthen climate resilience and adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers
3. Improve efficiency and reach of agricultural extension systems through digitalization
4. Promote sustainable and resource-efficient production practices

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target group:** Smallholder farmers and agricultural advisors
- **Geographic focus:** Rural communities in Senegal (Groundnut basin & Niayes area)
- **Key interventions:**
Deployment of a digital advisory platform combining satellite imagery and AI / Dissemination of localized advisories via automated voice messages in local languages / Training and capacity building for farmers and extension agents

RESULTS

- **2000+** smallholder farmers directly reached through digital advisory services
- Up to 30% improvement in irrigation efficiency
- 20–25% reduction in input misuse (fertilizer/pesticides) due to targeted recommendations
- Early detection of crop stress enabled for participating farmers, reducing potential yield losses
- Increased advisory reach: extension agents supported more farmers per cycle through digital tools

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Strengthened **climate resilience** through adoption of **climate-smart practices** (optimized irrigation, better input management)
- ✓ Improved **last-mile delivery of extension services**, reducing information asymmetry
- ✓ Demonstrated a replicable model integrating **technology, local knowledge, and farmer-centered design**



Author

 **ELIZABETH MWENDE MWENDWA**
Ministry of Agriculture and
Livestock Development,
KENYA

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Youth in Food Systems Innovation Challenge

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Project Focus: A national youth-led platform identifying and scaling innovative solutions to food systems challenges in Kenya, implemented during the Inter Governmental Forum on Agriculture Summit (November 2025).

Food systems challenges addressed: Limited youth inclusion, low agricultural productivity, climate vulnerability, food insecurity, and limited market access.

OBJECTIVES

Main Objective: To empower and position youth as key drivers of innovative, sustainable, and inclusive food systems transformation in Kenya.

Specific Objectives:

1. Identify and support youth-led food systems innovations
2. Strengthen youth leadership and participation
3. Promote climate-smart, scalable solutions

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target group:** Youth innovators across Kenya.
- **Collaborators:** WFF Kenya Chapter + Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya
- **Methods:** Open call (1,810 applicants) → Top 6 shortlisted → Live pitches at IGFA Summit → Judging panel → Top 3 awarded
- **Resources:** 5 WFF volunteers + Financial support by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

RESULTS

- **1,810+** Youth reached nationwide
- **6** Finalists showcased at IGFA Summit
- **3** Winning innovations awarded
- **Multi-sector engagement:** Diverse stakeholders.
- **Increased visibility:** Youth innovations featured on a national platform.
- **Key outcome:** Strengthened youth role in providing solutions to food systems challenges.

Position 3 awarded by Governor Kenneth Lusaka



Elizabeth presenting the winners



The judges and the Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretary



Position 2 awarded by the Principal Secretary
Hon. Jonathan Mueke



Position 1 awarded by the cabinet secretary
Hon. Sen. Mutahi Kagwe



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Achievement 1:** 1,810 youth mobilized nationwide
- **Achievement 2:** Youth innovations addressing real community challenges
- **Achievement 3:** Replicable, scalable model for sustained impact

Leadership Reflection: The initiative strengthened my capacity to mobilize partnerships, coordinate youth engagement, and create platforms for youth-led solutions in food systems

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Author

 **Ghea Sandrine Mawen**
Ganz-Africa/ Rwanda

Reimagining Food Systems Through Data and Youth Leadership

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

As a Ganz-Africa Fellow and Digital Solutions Champion within the Rwanda WFF National Youth Chapter, I work at the intersection of agriculture, policy, and technology, mobilizing young Rwandans to co-design digital tools, shape policy dialogue, and drive measurable change across the country's food system.

OBJECTIVES

Drive youth-led transformation of Rwanda's food systems through:

1. Building digital solutions that serve Rwanda's agri-food systems.
2. Convening youth across thematic groups to co-create policy and innovation.
3. Strengthening data and land governance through accessible public dashboards.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

A multi-channel approach combining advocacy, training, and product development:

- **Target Group:** Rwandan youth, smallholder farmers, government partners, and academia.
- **Methods:** Convenings, leadership training, sandbox prototyping.
- **Tools:** Public dashboards, digital platforms, WFF Rwanda & FAO partnerships.

RESULTS

Hosted the Youth Food Systems Leadership Program with 100+ participants. Co-launched the World Food Forum Rwanda National Chapter at ALU Rwanda with 50+ in attendance, and built the chapter website that now connects 1,000+ youths across six thematic groups.

SOME PICTURES



RWANDA LAND DASHBOARD



Scan to explore the dashboard
rwandalanddashboard.lands.rw

60,000+ users across government, academia & civil society

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Led the launch of the Rwanda Land Dashboard, now serving 60,000+ users across government, academia, and civil society.
- Grew the Rwanda WFF National Youth Chapter to 1,000+ active members across 6 thematic groups, including Digital Solutions which I champion.
- Convened 100+ youth at the Youth Engagement in agri-food systems workshop and contributed to ongoing sandbox initiatives for Rwanda's agri-food digital solutions.

Author

 **Haward Muhwezi**

Young Farmers Champions

Network/Uganda

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Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN)

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN) is a youth-led agricultural initiative operating across Uganda. The network mobilises and empowers young farmers to address food insecurity, rural unemployment, and low agricultural productivity. YOFCHAN works primarily in rural and peri-urban communities, tackling systemic food system challenges including limited access to inputs, fragmented market linkages, and inadequate agri-business skills among the youth.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen youth-led agri-enterprises across Uganda

- **Obj 1:** Build capacity of young farmers in modern agri-business practices
- **Obj 2:** Improve market access and value chain linkages for youth farmers
- **Obj 3:** Advocate for youth-inclusive agricultural policies in Uganda

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

YOFCHAN deploys a peer-led “Champions” model where top-performing young farmers mentor peers

- Target group: Rural and peri-urban youth (18–35), with focus on women and persons with disabilities
- Methods: Farmer field schools, digital extension services, savings groups, and market fairs
- Tools/Resources: Mobile advisory apps, demo farms, seed capital grants, and partner NGO networks

RESULTS

YOFCHAN has directly reached over 5,000 young people (52% women) across 8 districts. Youth participants report a 35% average increase in farm productivity and a 30% improvement in household income. Over 200 agri-enterprises have been established, with 78% still operational after two years, demonstrating strong sustainability of the model.

PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained over 1,200 young farmers in climate-smart agriculture and business skills
- Facilitated market linkages for 45 youth farmer cooperatives, boosting incomes by 30%
- Established a replicable champions model now adopted in 8 districts across Uganda

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 **Imran Zahoor**
Pakistan

Khyber Pass Economic Corridor

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) is a World Bank supported initiative designed to promote inclusive growth through infrastructure, private sector development, and institutional strengthening. It enhances value chains by connecting farmers to markets, and supports agribusiness across international borders. By improving logistics, transport systems and livelihoods, KPEC contributes to a more efficient, sustainable, and climate-responsive food system in the region.

OBJECTIVES

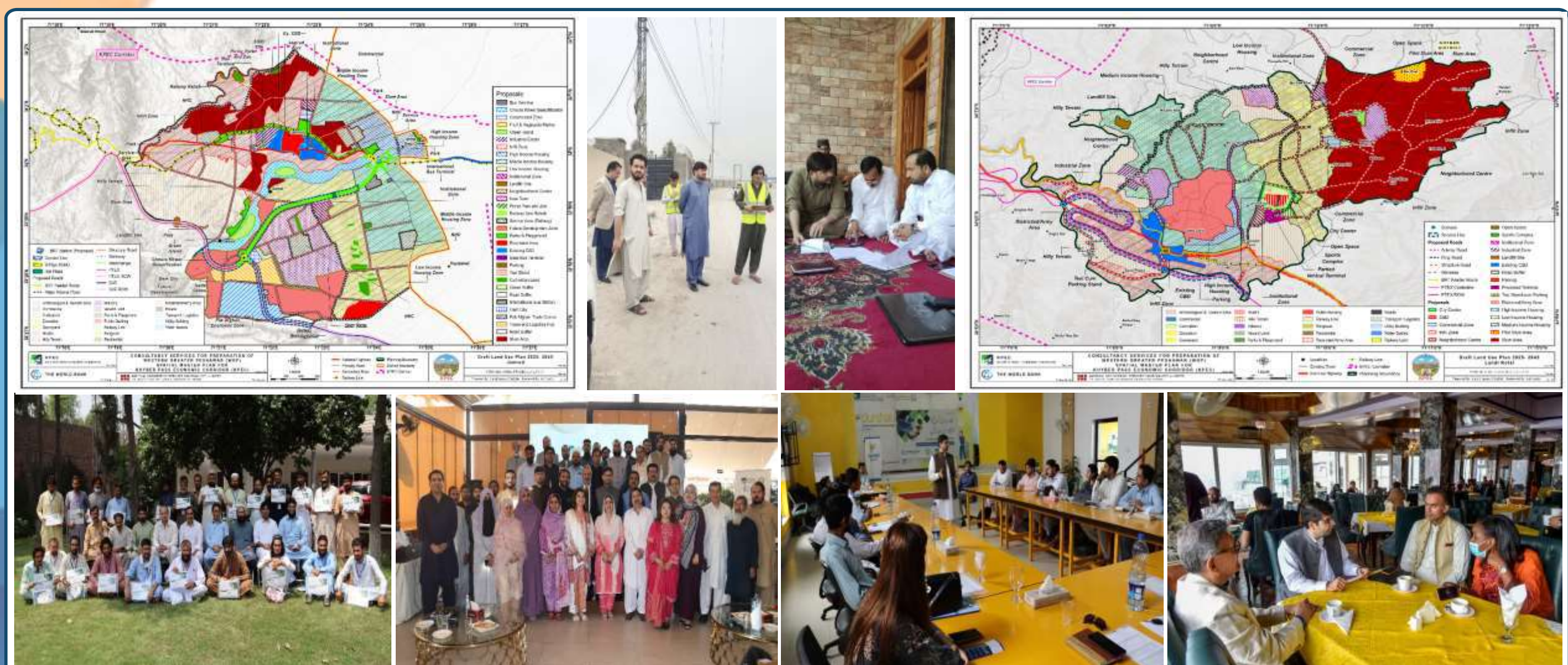
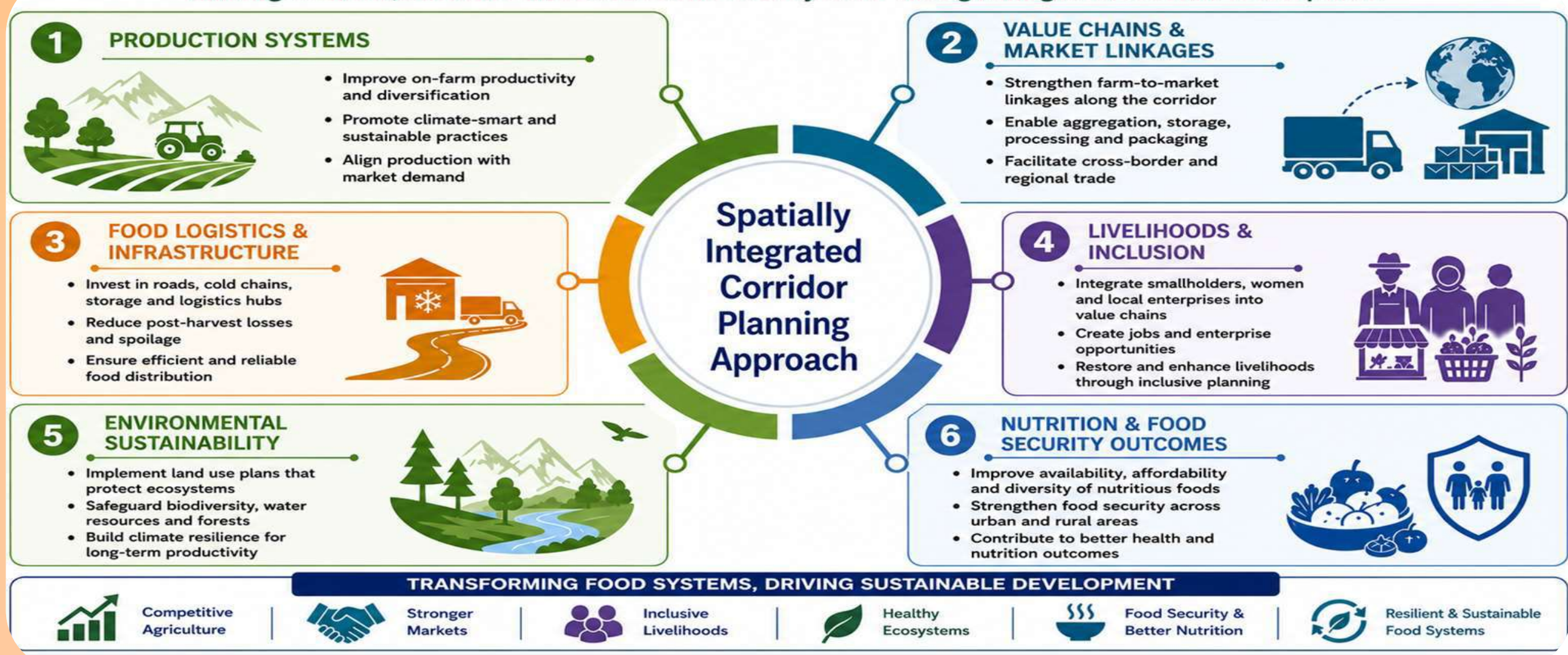
1. Enhance regional connectivity for trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and Central Asia.
2. Promote economic development and job creation through private sector investment, industrial growth, and improved access to markets.

OUTPUTS

Enabling farmers to link with urban, cross-border, and regional markets more efficiently.

Encouraging private investment in storage, logistics, and agro-processing to reduce losses and enhance productivity.

Building Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems through Integrated Corridor Development



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed integrated land use plans for key urban centers and a comprehensive corridor master plan enabling evidence-based regional development and investment prioritization.
- Embedded strong environmental and social safeguards, protecting biodiversity, ecological corridors, and migration patterns while ensuring sustainable land and resource use.
- Ensures delivery of infrastructure alongside robust livelihood restoration frameworks, safeguarding affected communities and ensuring inclusive, socially responsible development outcomes.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 [Irene Ernest]

[Tanzania Land Alliance
/Tanzania]

Improved land policies for Sustainable and equitable land governance (LAPSEL)

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Through this project TALA envisioned a stronger organizations/CSOs and it will contribute in building strong Network of land rights organization to advocate for strong land rights. The project will consolidate land rights agendas and influence policy makers and implementers to improve land tenure security for the communities. TALA will play the role of bringing together land actors while developing the capacity to be able to carry land rights agenda at different levels of land dialogue from local to national level

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Strong Network of land rights organization to advocate for strong land rights.
- Objective 2: Strong land and natural Resource Governance institutions which are capable of protecting communities' land tenure rights
- Objective 3: Strong land Policy for security of tenure of land for all

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- Target group: CSOs, policy makers and rural communities in Dodoma, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza region particularly women and youths
- Methods: Capacity building and institutional strengthening and policy advocacy
- Tools/Resources: National Land Forums and policy dialogue platforms, Stakeholder engagement meetings and workshops, Policy briefs, position papers, and advocacy materials, financial support from We effect.

RESULTS

Outcome: Improved land and natural resource governance policies and laws for secure land.

Results: Developed 4 policy briefs and supported the revision of Tanzania land policy rights for all.

3: Outcome: Strong Network of land rights organization to advocate for strong land rights

Results: Provided technical support to 15 CSOs working on improving land security, food system and climate resilience

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- [Achievement 1: Revised the Tanzania Land policy to be more inclusive, supported 15 CSOs across Tanzania
- [Achievement 2: The supported CSOs improved their service delivery to communities reaching a total of 139,350 community members
- [Achievement 3: The trained CSOs are expected to continue to improve their interventions and the policy change (system change) is expected to be put into implementation]

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 Isabel Sofía Baquerizo Medina
Ecuador

Legislative reform to grant Family Farming (AFC) preferential access to public markets

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Legislative reform to grant Family Farming (AFC) preferential access to public markets. It addresses rural poverty and market exclusion by operationalizing direct state purchases for school feeding programs. Led by **Fundación Proyecto Sueños** and **Assemblywoman Janina Rizzo**. Currently in the **legal/technical review stage** to ensure political viability and majority consensus in the National Assembly.

OBJECTIVES

- Obj 1:** Institutionalize **territorial proximity** in public food procurement.
- Obj 2:** Create **simplified bidding** and direct-purchase models for small farmers.
- Obj 3:** Enable **data interoperability** between AFC and official provider registries.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group: Small-scale farmers (AFC) and the National Legislative Assembly.
Methods: Technical-legal drafting, policy advocacy, and multi-sectoral consensus-building.
Tools/Resources: National statistics (INEC), legal benchmarks, and specialized legislative advisory.

RESULTS

Political Traction: Secured formal support and active collaboration within the National Assembly via Assemblywoman Rizzo. **Unified Strategy:** Successfully merged fragmented legal proposals into a single, high-probability reform.
Note: This project is in its active legislative approval phase, specifically designed to overcome previous regulatory hurdles.

SOME PICTURES

Primera sesión mensual para definir agenda pública y de comunicación del grupo – elección autoridades	Agosto 2025
Taller de inducción interna sobre el derecho a la alimentación y ODS relacionados	Septiembre 2025
Entrega de distintivos por parte de FAO a los miembros del Grupo Parlamentario por el Día Nacional de la Soberanía Alimentaria (16 de octubre)	Octubre 2025
Inicio del diseño de un boletín informativo trimestral digital del GTPESH	Noviembre-Diciembre 2025
Participación en eventos de presentación del GTPESH con sociedad civil y FAO	Diciembre 2025
Sistematización del mapeo de aliados estratégicos locales con enfoque territorial	Enero 2026
Publicación digital de la hoja de ruta del GTPESH 2025 - 2027	Febrero 2026
Planificación del ciclo de capacitaciones 2026 para actores locales sobre soberanía alimentaria	Marzo 2026
Evento de Rendición de cuentas del periodo	Abril 2026



EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS

La Constitución de la República del Ecuador reconoce a la soberanía alimentaria como uno de los pilares fundamentales del régimen de desarrollo, estableciendo como deber del Estado garantizar que todas las personas, comunidades, pueblos y nacionalidades accedan de manera permanente a alimentos sanos, suficientes y culturalmente adecuados. En este contexto, la Agricultura Familiar Campesina (AFC) constituye un componente estructural del sistema agroalimentario nacional, no solo por su contribución a la producción de alimentos, sino también por su rol en la preservación de saberes ancestrales, la conservación de la biodiversidad y el sostenimiento de economías rurales. En el Ecuador, según datos de organismos internacionales como la FAO, la agricultura familiar produce aproximadamente entre el 60% y el 70% de los alimentos que se consumen en el país, lo que evidencia su importancia estratégica. Sin embargo, pese a esta relevancia, su integración en los circuitos económicos formales continúa siendo limitada, lo que genera una contradicción entre su peso productivo y su participación en los mercados.

Esta brecha estructural se manifiesta principalmente en las dificultades que enfrentan los productores de la AFC para acceder a mercados formales y sostenibles, especialmente aquellos vinculados al Estado. Entre los principales obstáculos se identifican barreras administrativas, exigencias técnicas, falta de mecanismos de intermediación adecuados y una débil articulación entre la oferta productiva local y la demanda institucional. En la práctica, los sistemas de contratación pública han sido diseñados bajo lógicas que favorecen a proveedores con mayor capacidad operativa, financiera y logística, lo que excluye o limita la participación efectiva de pequeños productores. Como resultado, la AFC se mantiene mayoritariamente en circuitos informales o de baja rentabilidad, lo que incide directamente en los niveles de pobreza rural y en la falta de dinamismo económico en los territorios.

De acuerdo con cifras del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), la pobreza por ingreso en el área rural supera significativamente a la urbana, alcanzando niveles que en presen | meel.google.com está compartiendo tu pantalla. | [Opciones de compartir](#) | [Quitar](#) | [Cerrar](#)



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1:** Unified reform draft presented, integrating three key national laws.
- Achievement 2:** Potential impact on **250,000+ rural families** via stable state markets.
- Achievement 3:** High political viability due to legal alignment with fiscal and technical standards.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **Jody Frank Brown**
[Western Cape/ South Africa]

Advancing Climate Change Action Across Systems

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Despite the escalating global climate crisis, climate literacy in South Africa remains low. 45% of South Africans report knowing little or nothing about climate change, awareness in the Western Cape is the lowest nationally at just 33%, and around 23% of citizens do not recognise human activity as a significant driver of climate change. This project addresses these gaps by strengthening climate literacy, acknowledging the role of interconnected systems, including food systems, in enabling service-driven climate action across society.

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to increase awareness of the climate emergency amongst citizens in the Western Cape, with a focus on youth as a marginalized and vulnerable group. Its objectives are to:

- Empower citizens, (particularly youth) with practical climate knowledge using clear, relatable resources.
- Develop a mainstreaming methodology that is scalable for different climate related policies, plans and programmes across multiple sectors and systems.
- Mobilise climate action through strategic stakeholder engagement across private sector, government and civil society.

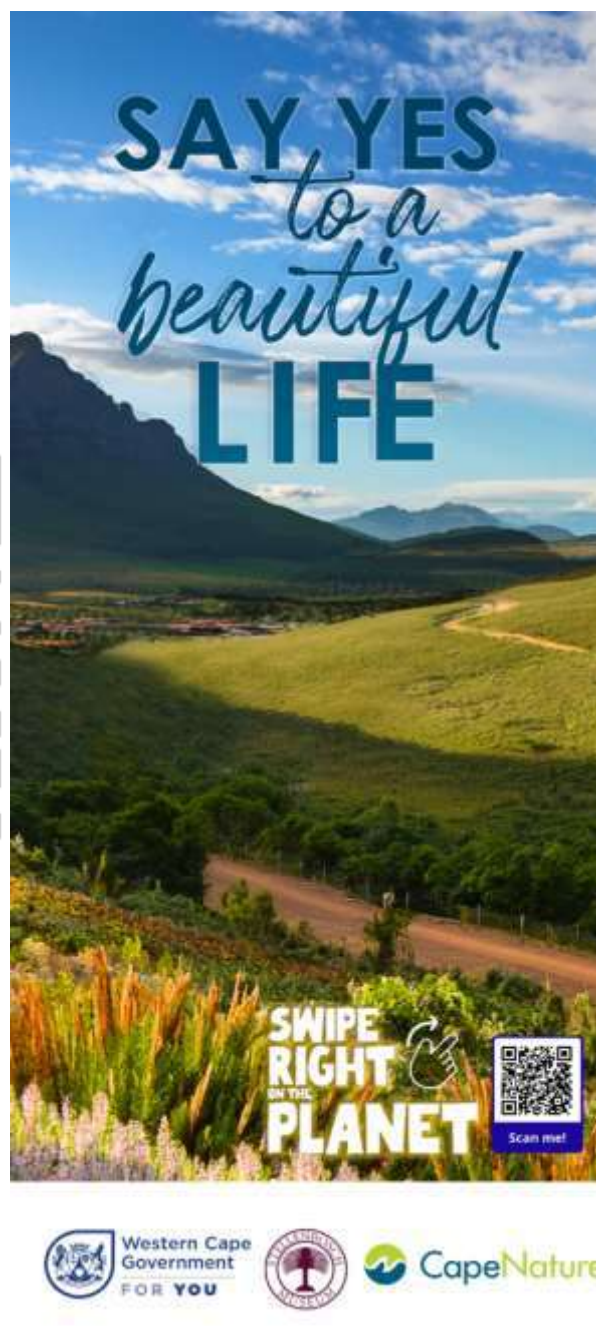
METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

A mainstreaming methodology was utilised to:

- Leverage systems-based approaches to maximise reach without additional budgets.
- Embed climate awareness within established government networks, programmes, and partnerships across departments/service delivery imperatives.
- Translate climate policies & information into clear, relatable language to broaden understanding.
- Mainstream intersectionality into sector foresight planning tools in environment and development planning.

RESULTS

- 3 major youth-focused climate platforms delivered (2024–2026), reaching 3,000+ people across dialogues, summits, radio advertisements and festivals.
- Province-wide community reach to 30 municipalities enabled through new learning programmes across 35 museums, 325 libraries, 35 NGOs and accessible resources to 1900 schools.
- Climate Change Awareness initiatives reaching 80 000+ Government employees.
- Lasting policy impact secured, with youth, gender, & human rights mainstreamed into legislated sector foresight plans.



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Built a subnational mainstreaming framework enabling whole of society engagement & implementation of strategies/plans that can be replicated across multiple sectors.
- Low-cost, high-impact delivery: Scaled impact without new budgets, mobilising partnerships and existing institutions to sustain climate literacy and action across society.
- Institutionalised intersectionality as a core principle guiding programme design and implementation.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Keshia Hoaeane

University of the Western Cape
(UWC), Centre of Excellence in
Food Security (CoE), South Africa

Innovation under Shared Constraints: Explaining Uneven Food System Transformation in the Breede Valley

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Food SocioScope is an international qualitative research initiative examining how food system actors adapt, innovate, or remain constrained within specific territories. It focuses on unequal capacities to respond to shared pressures such as water scarcity, energy costs, regulation, and market instability.

In South Africa, the project was conducted in Worcester and the Breede Valley, a highly productive agricultural region where food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, and child malnutrition persist in nearby communities such as Zwelethemba and Avian Park. The initiative highlights the contradiction between agricultural productivity and unequal access to food system benefits.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Describe

To document how diverse food system actors in Worcester and the Breede Valley operate, adapt, and pursue innovation within their territorial, institutional, and environmental contexts.

Objective 2: Describe

To analyse how shared structural constraints, such as water scarcity, energy costs, regulatory requirements, and market volatility, shape decision-making, adaptation strategies, and innovation pathways.

Objective 3: Describe

To explain why some actors develop adaptive and potentially transformative innovations while others remain constrained, by examining differences in actor capability, relational embeddedness, and institutional engagement.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Describe your approach

The project employed an abductive qualitative methodology, combining grounded theory techniques with a food systems analytical framework. The analysis followed a three-tier coding strategy:

- 1 Structural and open coding to map actors, constraints, and practices;
- 2 Analytical coding aligned with innovation pathways, enabling conditions, institutional mediation, and distributional outcomes; and
- 3 Cross-case configurational analysis to identify recurring patterns and typologies of food system innovation.

This approach enables explanation of differentiated innovation outcomes under shared structural constraints.

Target group: Who did you work with?

The study engaged 30 purposively selected participants involved in different parts of the food system in Worcester and the Breede Valley, including primary producers, processors, logistics actors, informal enterprises, civil society initiatives, and municipal actors.

Methods: What strategies did you use?

In-depth semi-structured interviews using the SocioScope interview guide; Contextual site familiarisation and observation; Audio-recorded interviews, with supporting video and photographic documentation; Field notes and observational records; Team debriefings to generate additional analytical insights

These methods enabled detailed analysis of lived experience, adaptation, and innovation in practice.

Tools/Resources: What resources were utilized?

Standardised SocioScope interview instrument; Audio and video recording equipment; Transcription and qualitative coding software

Analytical coding frameworks; Ethical protocols, including informed consent and secure data storage; AI-assisted tools were used to support transcription and coding, while maintaining researcher-led interpretation.

RESULTS

Share your project outcomes and impact

The project generated approximately 30 hours of qualitative data, providing detailed insight into food system dynamics in the Breede Valley. Findings show that innovation is uneven, processual, and context-dependent, emerging through technical, organisational, relational, and institutional forms. Actors frequently engage in incremental adaptation, experimentation, and learning-by-doing, while also navigating or adapting to institutional constraints.

Include quantitative data where possible

30 participants engaged

Approximately **30 hours of recorded interviews and field material**

Coverage across **multiple food system functions**

What changes have you observed?

The research identifies clear differentiation between actors who are able to innovate and adapt, and those who remain constrained. These differences are shaped by access to networks, resources, and institutional support, rather than differences in structural conditions alone. Informal and relational practices emerge as critical mechanisms of adaptation, particularly among resource-constrained actors.

How many people were reached or impacted by your initiative?

30 direct participants were engaged

Indirect impact extends to multiple communities across Worcester and the Breede Valley, through contributions to research, policy discussions, and food system governance processes.

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievement 1: Development of a high-quality, multi-dimensional qualitative dataset

The project produced a robust empirical dataset consisting of approximately 30 hours of audio, video, photographic, and field note material collected through in-depth engagement with food system actors in the Breede Valley, including Worcester and surrounding communities. This dataset provides a comprehensive evidence base for analysing uneven food system transformation under shared structural constraints, capturing innovation pathways, institutional interactions, and adaptive practices across diverse actor groups.

Achievement 2: Strengthened stakeholder access, trust, and relational embeddedness across the food system

A major achievement of the project was the successful establishment of deep relational access to a wide range of food system actors, including small-scale producers, informal enterprises, civil society initiatives, commercial farmers, philanthropic organisations, and private sector actors. The project enabled access to stakeholders and operational spaces that are typically difficult to reach in research contexts.

Achievement 3: Participatory video production as a tool for knowledge return and practical value creation

A key methodological innovation of the project was the production of professionally edited short videos (approximately 5 minutes each) documenting the work of each participating initiative. These videos were provided directly to participants for their own use, enabling them to communicate their activities more effectively and strengthen organisational visibility.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP



Author

Lucius Ndimele

Sustainable Food Systems
Youth Foundation

LEARN TO IMPACT

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Learn to Impact Project is a youth-led food systems transformation initiative co-created by Nigerian Chapters of LCOY, GYBN, YPARD, WFF, and SUN Youth Network focused on institutionalizing sustainable food systems education and action within the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), which mobilizes over 400,000 graduates annually.

OBJECTIVES

- Build the capacity of Nigerian youths on sustainable food systems, nutrition, climate action, and leadership.
- Promote systems thinking and multidisciplinary approaches to food systems transformation.
- Strengthen youth participation in food systems policy implementation and community action.
- Support innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability among young people.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target Group

- NYSC Corps Members, Youth leaders and young professionals
- Students and community-based youth groups

Methods

- Systems thinking, Advocacy, Stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue

Tools / Resources

- Digital learning platforms, Youth networks and partnerships and knowledge-sharing sessions

RESULTS

The Learn to Impact Project is currently in the development and mobilization stage ahead of full implementation. Early outcomes include strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement, youth mobilization, and national-level recognition for its innovative approach to youth-led food systems transformation.

The initiative has successfully built momentum among youth organizations, institutions, and stakeholders interested in climate-smart food systems, nutrition, sustainability, and systems thinking approaches for national development.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Received endorsement from the Federal Ministry of Youth Development., Recognized and Co championed by the National Task Team on Food Systems Implementation. Positioned to train and mobilize Nigerian youths as future food systems leaders. The project's sustainability and scalability are strengthened through its positioning as a national youth-led food systems initiative supported by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, aligned with the National Food Systems agenda under the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and integrated into NYSC activities which runs every year."

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **Mathews Vichr Lopes**

Ministry of Rural Development
and Family Farming (MDA) / Brazil

Digital MDA

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

What is digital government for farmers?

Big tech companies use our data and AI to offer personalized products and maximize profits. Governments should do the same to deliver more effective policies to citizens. **Digital MDA** is transforming how the Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming interacts with family farmers, in a more data-driven and evidence-based approach

OBJECTIVES

Transforming the National Registry of Family Farming (CAF), comprising **4 million families**, into an asset for **intelligence** and **relationship** building.

INSIDE

1. 
INTELLIGENCE
Data management and holistic view from the farmer to the territory.

OUTSIDE

2. 
RELATIONSHIP
Personalized communication with targeted policies and information.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target group:** Family farmers, traditional communities, fishers, riverine populations, and extractivist communities registered in CAF across Brazil
- **Methods:** Integration of family farming policy databases and use of AI to improve policy design, implementation, and personalized communication through farmers' preferred channels
- **Tools/Resources:** AI, government apps, social media, and partnerships with universities

RESULTS

4M
Family farmers
registered in
CAF

6/32
Integrated
public policy
databases

140K
Farmers reached
through personalized
WhatsApp messages
(1st and 2nd rollouts in 2026)

PICTURES

-  Established and continuously improving
-  In development


**EXTERNAL
RELATIONSHIP**

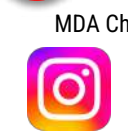
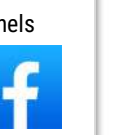
**SERVICES
PORTAL (WEB)**

Official Website
of Brazilian Govt.
85 digital services 

**APPS FOR
FARMERS**
 
Land and
Farmer
Registries
Digital extension
services, training,
agricultural zoning,
and weather 

**RELATIONSHIP
CENTER**
 
MDA Channel
CAF Chatbot 

**TARGETED MESSAGES
TO FARMERS**
 
Official Channel
of Brazilian Govt. 

**SOCIAL
MEDIA**
MDA Channels
 
132K
followers
195K
followers 


**INTERNAL
INTELLIGENCE**

 
Partnership on AI with
Brazil's Largest University 

**MONITORING CENTER
SITUATION ROOM**
 
Integration of
public policies
databases
Integrated intelligence,
monitoring and
communication team
Data and evidence-based decision
support for high-level management 

 
University partnership on
Social Media Monitoring 



**Digital MDA
meeting with the
Minister and
presidents of
public universities
March, 2026**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Quick win:** 1st messages sent to 13,5K farmers affected by natural disaster about income support
- **Next steps:** Structured and ongoing medium-term strategy for MDA digital transformation
- **Question:** What is the legitimate boundary between effective public policies and data privacy?

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



[Mawloda Hassas]

[APAC Green Skills Academy at
Climate Incubator/ Afghanistan]

Youth, Human Rights, and Sustainable Food Systems: Addressing Environmental Risks

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan is facing a serious food security crisis, with millions of people experiencing hunger and malnutrition. As most people depend on agriculture, environmental challenges such as drought, pollution, and land degradation directly affect food production.

This project explores the link between hazardous waste, environmental damage, and its impact on agriculture and food security. It highlights the need for sustainable food systems and stronger youth engagement to build long-term resilience.

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: To raise awareness of the impact of hazardous waste on food systems
- Objective 2: To promote a human rights-based approach to food security
- Objective 3: To strengthen youth engagement in environmental and food system governance

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- Target group: Youth, women, and vulnerable communities.
- Methods: Legal research, policy analysis, advocacy, and participation in multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Tools/Resources: Academic research, YLP network, collaboration with NGOs.

RESULTS

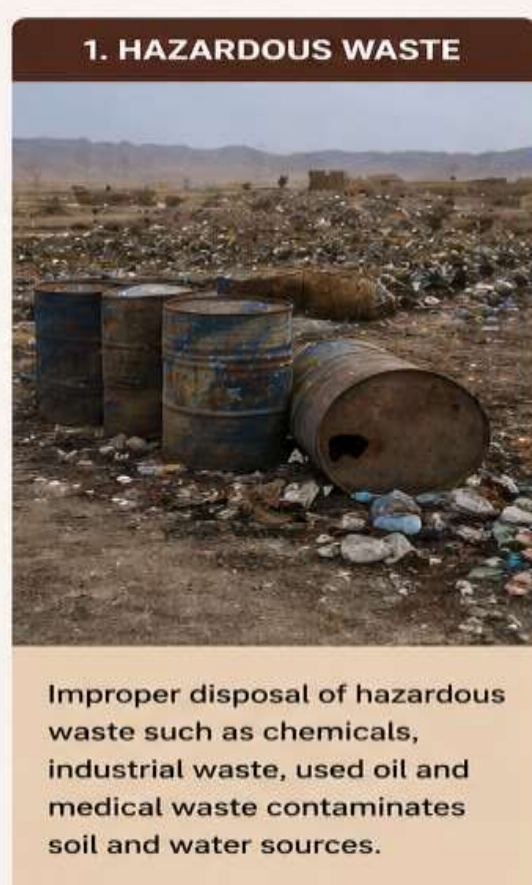
This work has highlighted how hazardous waste negatively affects soil, water, and food safety, contributing to food insecurity.

It has also strengthened awareness of the need to integrate youth voices and human rights perspectives into food system policies.

This initiative contributes to ongoing dialogue on building more inclusive and sustainable food systems.

SOME PICTURES

THE CHAIN OF IMPACT IN AFGHANISTAN



Addressing hazardous waste and environmental damage is essential to protect agriculture, improve food security, and build a healthier and more resilient Afghanistan.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1: Conducted research on environmental law and food systems.
- Achievement 2: Engaged with organizations working on youth empowerment and climate change.
- Achievement 3: Contributed to discussions linking environmental harm with food security challenges and green skills energy.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Melissa Yamel Flores López

Universidad Simón Bolívar México
in collaboration with Mexico's
Ministry of Health | Mexico

Design of a Results Indicator Matrix (MIR) to Strengthen Municipal Food Security

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Food insecurity remains a major challenge in Mexico, especially in rural municipalities where poverty, low agricultural productivity, and limited institutional coordination reduce access to nutritious food.

This project focuses on strengthening **Municipal Intersectoral Councils (CIM)** through the design of a **Results Indicator Matrix (MIR)** based on the **Logical Framework Methodology (MML)**.

The project was developed using the case study of **Hueypoxtla, State of Mexico**.

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Design a Results Indicator Matrix (MIR) for Municipal Intersectoral Councils
- Objective 2: Identify effective food security interventions at the municipal level
- Objective 3: Improve monitoring and evaluation of food-related public policies
- Objective 4: Reduce food access deprivation in vulnerable communities
- Objective 5: Strengthen sustainable and agroecological food systems

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

6 stages of the Logical Framework Methodology:

Problem identification

Stakeholder analysis

Problem tree development

Objective tree development

Selection of intervention alternatives

Construction of the Results Indicator Matrix (MIR)

Target Group:

Municipal governments

Municipal Intersectoral Councils

Local food producers

Vulnerable populations experiencing food insecurity

Tools Used:

Municipal diagnosis , Problem tree analysis , Objective tree analysis , Performance indicators, Monitoring framework

RESULTS

The project successfully created a structured evaluation tool that allows municipalities to measure food security interventions.

Key Indicators Created:

- ✓ Malnutrition reduction rate
- ✓ Food access deprivation rate
- ✓ Municipal intervention performance indicators
- ✓ Monitoring and accountability metrics

Expected Impact:

Reduce food insecurity in municipalities

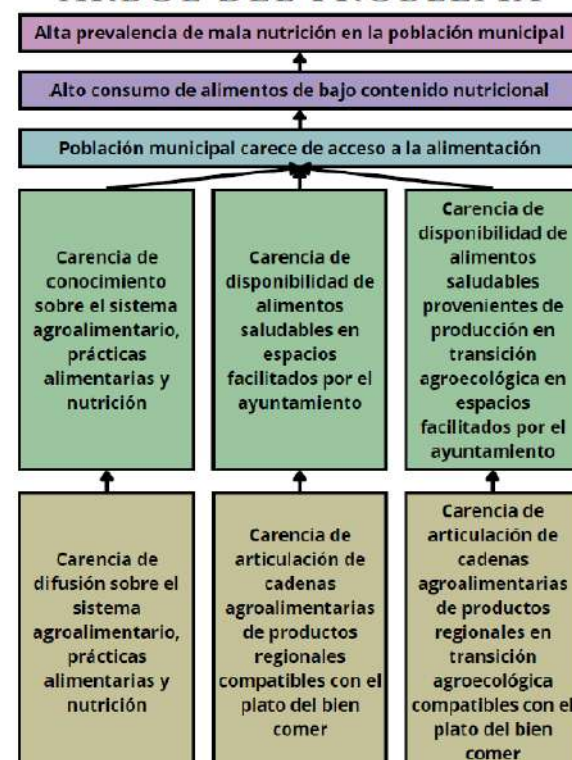
Improve policy efficiency

Strengthen local food production systems

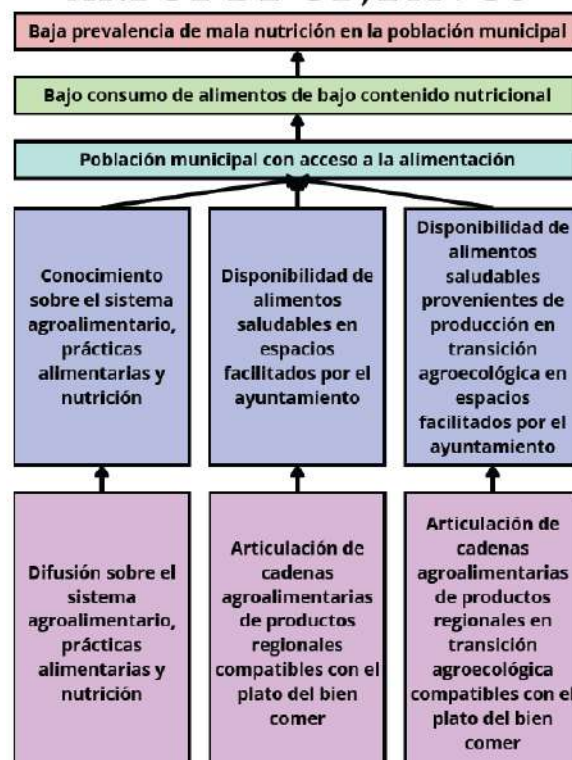
Promote evidence-based decision making

SOME PICTURES

ÁRBOL DEL PROBLEMA



ÁRBOL DE OBJETIVOS



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1: Design an innovative monitoring tool for municipal food policy
- Achievement 2: Connected local governance with national food security goals
- Achievement 3: Aligned project with SDG 2
- Achievement 4: Created a scalable model that can be replicated in other municipalities across Mexico

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Engaging Youth for Sustainable Food System Transformation: Pathways to Bangladesh 2050

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This initiative focuses on engaging school and university students in sustainable food systems transformation in Bangladesh, aligning with national priorities such as the “Transforming Bangladesh Agriculture Outlook 2050.”

Recognizing that long-term food systems transformation depends on active youth participation, this initiative integrates education, community engagement, and policy linkage to promote innovative, inclusive, and future-oriented agriculture.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Promote youth participation in agriculture as a career option and strengthen youth engagement in food systems transformation.

Objective 2: Strengthen community-based youth engagement in sustainable agriculture practice.

Objective 3: Align youth-driven initiatives with national food systems strategies through peer-to-peer learning to promote sustainable and resilient food systems.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group: University Students, Local communities, including school students and farmers.

Methods: Classroom-based systems thinking education, Community outreach programmes, Youth-led agricultural initiatives, Policy communication and institutional linkage.

Tools/Resources: Academic curricula and training modules, Direct youth engagement in food systems activities, Collaboration with national policymakers and industry stakeholders.

RESULTS

- Increased youth interest in agriculture as a viable career pathway among university and school going students.
- Strengthened community awareness on sustainable practices.
- Bridged academic knowledge with real-world applications.
- Contributed to long-term food system resilience thinking

SOME PICTURES



- Read Clockwise**
1. Experiential learning in rice cultivation
 2. Fruit sapling distribution programme
 3. Community engagement activities
 4. Group discussions on farming as a career pathway
 5. Household vegetable cultivation practices



Image: Mohammad Ali & Department of Agricultural Science, DIU

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievement 1: Distributed **over 6,000 fruit saplings** to primary school students and local communities to promote nutrition security and environmental sustainability.

Achievement 2: Conducted three community-based programmes on sustainable agricultural practices.

Achievement 3: Engaged aspiring youth with national stakeholders and contributed to the “Transforming Bangladesh Agriculture Outlook 2050” initiative to promote youth-led food systems transformation.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **Musa Juwara**

WFF-GM Chapter Lead
/Gambia]

Strengthening SPSI in Practice in the Gambia

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

SPSI inception workshop was launched in The Gambia on the 18th-19th December 2024. Empowering the next-generation of food systems leaders at the University of the Gambia. A network that strengthening science- Policy and Society Interface for food system transformation in the Gambia. To promote Inclusive Youth governance in food systems transformation. It addresses the gap of low evidence base in agrifood system policies. To create a robust mechanism to account for the progress of food system pathway of the Gambia.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Setup the foundation of SPSI platform in the Gambia
Objective 2: To Trained 50 young leaders with the knowledge, analytical skills, and practical tools to understand evidence-based policy and practice required to transform food systems and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Objective 3: The Lab's objectives include fostering youth inclusion in food systems governance, promoting policy innovation through a systems-thinking approach, and establishing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of policies and food system Pathway.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group: stakeholders engagement; from government agencies, the Private Sector, Non-governmental organisations, farmers' organisations or groups, academia and research institutes.

Methods: Youth working group Formation, Stakeholder consultation, National Technical Committee, Convergence, collaboration, partnership, networking etc

Tools/Resources: FAO technical support, National Conveners office and the Hub, Funding BMZ leveraged on the Technical support of FAO and the Convener office, Pilot countries Funding package, Follow-up Financial support from the hub through BMZ.

RESULTS

Recruited and trained 50 youth fellows from the University of the Gambia, UTG (different faculties (schools), Eg Medicine, Social and Natural Sciences, Business and Public Administration). Establishment of a Youth Food Policy Innovation hub at the University of the Gambia a network comprising students, lecturers and Researcher. strengthened SPI in government working documents and structure The Establishment of the foundation of the WFF Gambia Youth Chapter stakeholder capacity built on SPI and SPI technical working group established to asses the food systems pathway ahead of global stocktaking,

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1:** A network and platform of 35 stakeholders, from government agencies, the Private Sector, Non-governmental organisations, farmers' organisations or groups, academia and research institutes are well enlightened about SPSI in the Gambia
- Achievement 2:** 50 University students from 7 different background or field of study from Social science to Engineering capacities are build on analytical skills, and practical tools to understand evidence-based policy and practice required to transform food systems.
- Achievement 3:** A Network is established at the University of the Gambia in partnership with the UTG, WFF Gambia Chapter, Ministry of Agriculture and UN FAO Gambia The WFF Gambia Youth Chapter is established to support SPI initiatives in the Gambia and foster synergy.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **ASaeli NAIKA**



Exploring the TEK of Wild Food Plants in the Korobasabasaga Lowland Forest Communities - Fiji

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

iTaukei communities hold deep TEK on wild food plants (WFPs) – a biocultural heritage underpinning food systems resilience. This MRes study documents and helps revitalize WFP-related TEK across five lowland forest communities, Korobasabasaga Range, Namosi Province. Grounded in the Fijian Vanua Research Framework. Funded by FNU-CGS · Jul 2025–Jul 2026 · Supervised by Dr. Shipra Shah (Associate Professor in Forestry) · HREC approved.

OBJECTIVES

- **Objective 1:** Document the ethnobotanical knowledge and use of wild food plants among multi-generational iTaukei knowledge holders
- **Objective 2:** Assess WFP contributions to household food security and income across five community sites
- **Objective 3:** Identify socio-ecological drivers of TEK erosion and develop community-validated, evidence-informed policy recommendations

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Guided by the Fijian Vanua Research Framework (a decolonial methodology that centers Indigenous Fijian worldviews and protocols)

- Target group: Communities: iTaukei knowledge holders (elders, adults, youth) across 5 lowland forest communities
- Methods: Vanua walks · Ethnobotanical surveys · KIIs · Household Surveys (FIES) · Talanoa/Focus Groups · Vendor Surveys
- Tools/Resources: TEK composite indicators · Use-value indices · Mixed methods · CARE Principles for Indigenous data sovereignty

RESULTS

Field data collection is active across all five iTaukei communities with vanua walks, ethnobotanical surveys, KIIs, and household surveys currently in progress. Early findings reveal **rich wild food plant (WFP) diversity** among elder knowledge holders but a **significant intergenerational TEK gap**. This pilot evidence has already catalysed national-level action, directly informing **VUNA: Harvesting Resilience from Wild Food Plant Biodiversity** – a concept note now under review with Fiji's CBD Focal Point (Ministry of Environment & Climate Change) for the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking Round, June 2026.

SOME PICTURES



Kire, one of the four types of fungi identified by elderly knowledge holders in the 5 communities that was once part of their traditional diets often boiled with a mix of green-leafy vegetables.



FNU researchers, Asaeli Naika and Arti Pillay, brief Fiji's CBD Focal Point – Director of Environment Mrs Senimili Nakora and Senior Environment Officers Mr Krishneel Nand and Mr Jimmy Gaunavou (MECC) – on the VUNA concept note, 6 May 2026, advancing national endorsement ahead of the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking deadline.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Achievement 1:** FNU has established strong working partnerships with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the Ministry of Forestry – both actively supporting the research in direct alignment with their respective bio-cultural heritage mandates.
- **Achievement 2:** Field-validated evidence base on WFP diversity and TEK erosion that directly informed the VUNA concept note's design and theory of change.
- **Achievement 3:** VUNA concept note formally presented to Fiji's CBD Focal Point, initiating national endorsement ahead of the NBSAP Accelerator MatchMaking deadline, reflecting strong FNU–Government coordination.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **Nantaporn (Ploy)**
Thirapongphaiboon
The Global FoodBanking Network
Thailand

Food Banking Policy and Food Corporate Partnerships

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

My current role focuses on strengthening food banking systems and surplus food recovery across Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region through corporate partnerships, policy engagement, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Through the Global FoodBanking Network (GFN), the project supports food banks in 12 countries to increase access to safe surplus food while addressing food waste, food insecurity, and sustainability challenges.

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Increase surplus food donations through partnerships with multinational and regional food companies
- Objective 2: Strengthen food banking policies and enabling environments in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region
- Objective 3: Promote cross-sector collaboration and awareness on food loss, food waste, and food recovery systems

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group:

Food banks, corporate leaders, government agencies, food industry stakeholders, and sustainability networks across Asia-Pacific.

Methods:

- Facilitated direct partnerships between food banks and corporate donors
- Supported policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement in Thailand
- Organized regional learning exchanges and public speaking engagements on food recovery systems

Tools/Resources:

- GFN regional network
- Corporate partnership meetings and site visits
- Collaboration with government agencies, chambers of commerce, and sustainability organizations

RESULTS

- Supported food banks to secure increased surplus food donations from multinational and regional companies and helped open new corporate donation partnerships for food banks
- Contributed to Thailand's National Food Bank Network and stakeholder engagement involving the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade Thailand, NSTDA, Scholars of Sustenance Thailand, UN agencies, Pollution Control Department, and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- Supported ongoing discussions on food donation incentives, food safety guidelines, and carbon credit opportunities linked to surplus food recovery in Thailand
- Raised awareness on food waste and food recovery through speaking engagements with business leaders, food industry stakeholders, and MICE sector representatives

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened surplus food recovery systems across 12 Asia-Pacific countries through regional corporate partnerships and food bank collaboration
- Contributed to multi-stakeholder policy advancement in Thailand on food donation systems, food safety, and enabling measures for food donors
- Increased awareness and engagement among businesses and public stakeholders on the role of food banking in reducing food waste and improving food access

Author



Nantaporn (Ploy) | **Wannika (O)**
Thirapongphaiboon | **Wutthi**

YLP & WFF Thailand Youth Chapter
Thailand

Advancement and Reflection Convening of

All Thailand Youth Chapter & Youth Engagement as YLP Alumni

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The WFF Thailand Youth Chapter was established in 2025 by YLP alumni and young food systems professionals to strengthen youth engagement in food systems transformation in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region. The initiative promotes youth participation, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and awareness on challenges including food security, climate change, food loss and waste, and food heritage loss.

OBJECTIVES

- **Objective 1:** Strengthen youth engagement and leadership in food systems transformation in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Objective 2:** Foster collaboration between youth, policymakers, academia, civil society, and private sector stakeholders through multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships.
- **Objective 3:** Raise awareness and advocate for sustainable and inclusive food systems, including climate adaptation, food recovery systems, and preservation of food heritage.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group:

Young professionals, students, youth leaders, and food systems stakeholders in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region.

Methods:

- Participated in regional and global food systems forums
- Promoted youth representation and intergenerational dialogue
- Collaborated with youth networks and stakeholders across sectors

Tools/Resources:

- YLP alumni network
- Regional forums and policy dialogues
- Partnerships with youth organizations and advisors

RESULTS

- Established and launched the WFF Thailand Youth Chapter at the World Food Forum in Rome (2025)
- Recruited 20+ youth members and 10 advisors from different sectors
- Represented youth voices at APAN Forum, the 4th Asia-Pacific Food Systems Transformation Meeting, GYBN Policy Café, and CoFSA Asia events
- Strengthened regional collaboration through activities with the WFF Philippines & Indonesia Chapter and other youth networks
- Increased visibility of youth engagement in food systems discussions in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established the WFF Thailand Youth Chapter with 20+ youth members and 10 advisors within the first year, creating a growing platform for youth engagement in food systems transformation
- Increased youth participation and visibility in regional food systems and climate discussions through representation at APAN Forum, the Asia-Pacific Food Systems Transformation Meeting, and other youth-led platforms
- Strengthened long-term sustainability and scalability through partnerships with regional youth networks, WFF Chapters, and the YLP alumni network to support continued collaboration and future expansion across Thailand and Asia-Pacific

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Sustainable Farming Innovation through Rainwater Harvesting and Organic Fertilizer Empowerment

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Our initiative promotes sustainable agriculture in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, through rainwater harvesting systems and liquid organic fertilizer made from agricultural waste. The project addresses key food system challenges such as water scarcity, high fertilizer costs, low farm productivity, and unmanaged organic waste. Working closely with the Harapan Sejahtera Farmer Group, we empower local farmers with affordable, eco-friendly technologies that improve irrigation, reduce waste, enhance soil fertility, and strengthen community food security and resilience.

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Improve sustainable water access for farming
- Objective 2: Convert agricultural waste into organic fertilizer.
- Objective 3: Empower farmers with eco-friendly agricultural practices.
- Objective 4: Strengthen local food security and resilience.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target group:** Local farmers communities in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan
- **Methods:** training, workshops, technology implementation, and mentoring.
- **Tools/Resources:** Rainwater harvesting systems, organic fertilizer installations, agricultural waste materials, and educational modules.

RESULTS

The project improved water access for local farmers through the installation of a rainwater harvesting system and increased the use of organic fertilizer made from agricultural waste. More than 20 farmers directly participated in training and mentoring activities, with over 80% of participants able to independently operate and maintain the systems. The initiative helped reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers, lower farming costs, improve environmental awareness, and strengthen sustainable food production in community

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1: More than 20 farmers trained in sustainable agriculture practices
- Achievement 2: Lower farming costs through the use of organic fertilizer and rainwater resources
- Achievement 3: Low-cost and easy-to-implement technology suitable for rural communities

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Nicolette Francis

Antigua and Barbuda

Growing Greatness!



PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education Agricultural Science Department aims to create an awareness of the importance of agriculture in the citizenry of Antigua and Barbuda. Also, the Ministry aims to regenerate excitement for the agriculture sector by showcasing agriculture as a viable career option to students.



OBJECTIVES

- Vision: Empowering our learners with skill sets and attitudes to improve food security in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Mission: To ignite a passion for lifelong learning in sustainable agricultural practices.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The Ministry of Education initiated the Interschool Garden and Broiler Competition, Agro Expo and the Agriculture Youth Empowerment Workshop.

- Target group: Principals, teachers, students, parents, crop and livestock farmers, agro processors and officials from the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Transformation
- Methods: Collaboration
- Tools/Resources: Networking

RESULTS

This is the third year that the Ministry is hosting the Interschool Garden Competition. Initially, 11 schools participated. Last year, 26 schools participated. This year, 30 schools participated. Parents, members of the community and businesses supported schools. This is the first year that we are hosting the Interschool Broiler Competition. All secondary schools and a primary school participated. The prize giving ceremonies are held at Agro Expo. Last year, 500 students attended the Expo. This year over 800 students attended the Expo.

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achievement 1: Increase agricultural production. More schools are participating in the Interschool Garden Competition.
- Achievement 2: Principals, teachers and students are excited about Agricultural Science. Parents and members of the community are supporting schools.
- Achievement 3: Students are exposed to agricultural production.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



NJABEH RITA BONWI

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development -YLP Alumni Cameroon

Strengthening Local Production and School Feeding Supply Chains through Youth Entrepreneurship

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

As part of the country's initiatives in supporting youths in agricultural development and food security, the project was aimed at mobilizing young agricultural entrepreneurs around local food supply chains in order to promote school feeding specifically in the regions where the school feeding program takes place. It involved government stakeholders from ministries of agriculture, ministries of basic education, youth, health; partner organisation, youth cooperatives, and agri-food enterprises.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Identification of youth cooperatives in the 6 regions where the HGSF programme is effective notably Far North Region, East, Adamawa, Center, Northwest and South west region.
Formulation of concrete multi-stakeholder commitments between government, international organisations, cooperatives, and young entrepreneurs;
Formalisation of public-private partnerships between youth cooperatives and WFP institutional procurement programmes (HGSF);
Intensified participatory training in focused groups on priority value chains for school feeding, product standardization and procurement procedures.

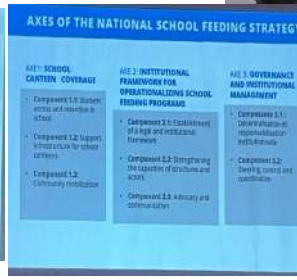
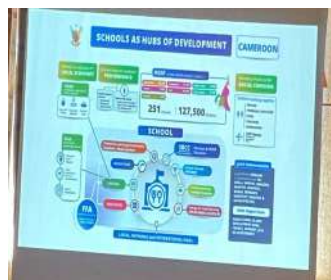
OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Increase youth participation in the Transformation of food systems and priority value chains for the school feeding markets.
Objective 2: Linking school meals to locally available, diverse, and culturally appropriate priority value chains foods that improves diet quality while stabilizing rural markets.
• Objective 3: showcase works by successful youth led cooperative leaders.
Objective 4: capacity enhancement on food standards and certification, sustainable financing mechanisms and partnerships.

RESULTS

- Clear identification of three priority value chains for school feeding (production, processing, and marketing);
- Validation of 1,500 WFP partner cooperatives, of which 60% are led by women and youth;
- Formulation of concrete multi-stakeholder commitments between government, international organisations, cooperatives, and young entrepreneurs;
- 100 trained young cooperatives and entrepreneurs on product standardization, sustainable financing and procurement procedures

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- By 2025, over 1,500 cooperatives collaborated with WFP, 60% led by youth and women, supplying cereals, legumes, poultry, vegetables, bakery products, and processed foods.
- Completion of national school feeding Strategy 2025–2030 with 1 million children reached by 2030 and increase involvement of youth entrepreneurs.
- Increased compliance with quality and international standards.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Noraini Binti Ruslan

Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia
(MALAYSIA)

Empowering Malaysian Youth Through Sustainable Oil Palm and Coconut Food Systems Education

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Program: A 2-day fully sponsored youth learning program was held on 24–25 July 2025 at R&D FELCRA, Nasaruddin, Bota, Perak.

Partners: FELCRA R&D Berhad, SSEW Technology Sdn Bhd, and UTHM.

The initiative exposed young people to upstream oil palm and coconut production, including plantation operations, nursery systems, breeding, pollination, and sustainability practices. It also assessed youth perceptions and the potential of educational tourism to promote sustainable agriculture awareness.

OBJECTIVES

1. Expose youth aged **16–25 years** to real upstream oil palm and coconut operations.
2. Strengthen understanding of **breeding, pollination, plantation management, and sustainable practices**.
3. Evaluate participants' **perceptions, learning outcomes, and the feasibility of educational tourism** at FELCRA R&D.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target Group

39 youth/student participants, aged **18–25**

Methods

Guided briefings · Field visits · Facility tours · Direct observation · Interactive sessions · Perception survey

Tools / Resources

Google Form questionnaire, exhibition materials, plantation & nursery exposure, facilitated by FELCRA R&D Berhad, SSEW Technology Sdn Bhd, and UTHM.

RESULTS

39 responses received — strong positive outcomes:

- ☐ **94.9%** More positive perception of oil palm
- ☐ **94.9%** Rated experience Excellent / Good
- ☐ **94.9%** Willing to join future programs
- ☐ **92.3%** Would recommend the tour
- **84.6%** Interested in educational tour visit
- **82.1%** Felt more informed after visit
- **79.5%** Would like to revisit FELCRA R&D

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Engaged **39 youths** in hands-on food systems learning
- ◆ Improved awareness of upstream oil palm & coconut production
- ◆ **94.9% willing to participate in future programs**
- ◆ Demonstrated FELCRA R&D's potential as a **youth-focused educational tourism platform**

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 **Odane Brooks**

CARICOM Youth Ambassador,
Jamaica and PhD Scholar

GreenThumb Aquaponics and Gardening Project

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The GreenThumb Aquaponics and Gardening Project uses a school-based aquaponics system to build climate-resilient agriculture skills and food security awareness. It tackles climate-related food disruptions and low youth engagement by teaching practical, sustainable farming methods to students and teachers at Clan Carthy High School in Jamaica, with support from national partners.

OBJECTIVES

- Build student knowledge and skills in climate-resilient agriculture through hands-on aquaponics training.
- Increase awareness of food security and sustainable food production within the school community.
- Strengthen youth engagement and partnerships to support long-term adoption of climate-smart agriculture.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The project used a hands-on approach that combined aquaponics installation with practical training for high school students, including system operation and sustainable agriculture. It was funded through a grant obtained through CARICOM Climate Change and Health Programme partnership with PAHO. Additional grant support came from the Lions Club International. A consultant was contracted to design and install the system.

RESULTS

- The design and installation of the aquaponic system is complete.
- Training is underway for students and teachers.
- The system is expected to produce lettuce and fish and be the main supplier to the school's canteen. This will increase nutrition and reduce overhead costs to source these from external sources.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- [Achievement 1: Aquaponics System completed and training is underway.
- [Achievement 2: The school can become a source supplier of lettuce and fish for the community.
- [Achievement 3: The system design is documented and can be replicated by the school and other stakeholders. The system will be maintained by students and is expected to develop key skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture and technology.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Ruth Magak | SBCC Specialist | Nutrition & Food Systems Governance and Policy Advocate
County Government of Nakuru, Kenya
YLP Alumna

From Policy to Practice: Embedding Food Systems Transformation at the Sub-National Level

Institutionalizing Nutrition & Food Systems Governance
Nakuru County, Kenya

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This initiative strengthens food systems governance in Nakuru County, Kenya by linking policy, systems, and community action through social and behaviour change communication (SBCC). It responds to persistent challenges of malnutrition, food insecurity, and climate-related shocks, which are compounded by fragmented sectoral responses, limited household adaptive capacity, and social and gender norms influencing food access and dietary practices.

Recent household evidence shows high levels of food stress, with many households reducing meal sizes and experiencing recurrent shortages. These challenges reflect not only resource constraints but also behavioural and normative factors that shape food distribution and nutrition outcomes at household level.

Within a devolved governance context, the initiative promotes coordinated, multi-sector action that integrates community realities into policy processes to improve equity, resilience, and sustainable nutrition outcomes.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: To strengthen multi-sector coordination by aligning health, agriculture, and social systems toward shared nutrition and food systems outcomes

• **Objective 2:** To institutionalize nutrition governance through policy frameworks that ensure sustainability beyond short-term interventions

• **Objective 3:** To address gender and social norms influencing food access, consumption, and decision-making at household and community levels

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group:

Women of reproductive age, children under five, smallholder farmers, and youth in vulnerable households

Methods:

Policy advocacy and public participation; community dialogues using the Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach; multi-sector coordination across health, agriculture, and social sectors; youth engagement through platforms such as national youth chapters and local forums

Tools/Resources:

Household survey data (HFIS), KHIS data systems, community dialogue frameworks, policy development processes (Nutrition Policy 2024), and partnerships with government and development actors (GAIN, CARE, Nutrition International, SBN-Nakuru etc)

RESULTS

✓ **High food insecurity identified:** 60% households reduced meal size; 43% experienced food shortages

✓ **Climate vulnerability highlighted:** 40% households affected by crop failure; only ~10% using climate-smart practices

✓ **Policy and systems impact:** Evidence informed development of the **Nakuru County Nutrition Policy** and strengthened multi-sector coordination

✓ **Community & inclusion outcomes:** 100+ households and local actors engaged; increased participation of youth and women in decision-making

♦ **Observed Change:** Stronger alignment between **data, policy, and community action**, improving awareness and enabling more coordinated food systems responses.



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❑ Generated evidence from a household survey reaching **123 households in Nakuru**, identifying critical levels of food insecurity and climate vulnerability to inform decision-making
- ❑ Strengthened community engagement through dialogues and platforms reaching **100+ households and local actors**, improving awareness on nutrition, gender norms, and resilience strategies
- ❑ Contributed to the **development and validation of the Nakuru County Nutrition Policy**, providing a sustainable, scalable framework for multi-sector food systems governance providing a sustainable, scalable framework for coordinated and evidence-driven food systems governance.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author

 [Sean T.A Resosemito]

[Garden of Paramaribo /
Suriname]

Garden of Paramaribo and Knowledge Hub

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Garden of Paramaribo and Knowledge Hub is a community garden and learning space in Suriname that teaches people about sustainable food production, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences. It addresses challenges such as food insecurity, and youth disengagement from agriculture.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase community knowledge of sustainable food production through hands-on education.
2. Promote local food security by demonstrating modern and traditional growing methods.
3. Inspire youth and stakeholders to support climate-smart and resilient food systems.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Target group: Youth, farmers, and public/private sector.

Methods: The project combines education with practical action by involving stakeholders in planning, building, operating, and monitoring.

Tools/Resources: Technical consultants and partner institutions. Local knowledge and international best practices are also key resources.

RESULTS

While implementation has not yet started, the immediate impact has already been the creation of new partnerships, increased stakeholder interest, and validation of the project's importance within Suriname. We expect to reach **at least 5000 people** through workshops, training sessions, and community activities during the first phase.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Secured **USD 50,000 grant funding** from GEF to launch the Garden of Paramaribo & Sustainability Knowledge Hub, enabling the development of a community garden, training programs, and educational infrastructure.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Shadrack Agaki
Technical Trainer
& Researcher.

Ministry of Education State
Department for TVET -Kenya

Hands and Minds that Feed Nations

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Hands and Minds That Feed Nations reframes food systems as capability systems, where resilience depends on human skills, knowledge, and coordination.

- Skills as infrastructure, not an afterthought
- Capability as the bridge between policy and practice
- Youth as system builders, not just beneficiaries

OBJECTIVES

- Build **skills as infrastructure** for climate-resilient food systems
- Align **policy, training, and economic reality** for effective implementation
- Promote **skills diplomacy** for cooperation, youth participation, and inclusive growth

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- **Target Group:** Policymakers, agrifood systems practitioners, and the TVET ecosystem.
- **Methods:** Policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, interviews, and field observations to identify capability gaps and implementation challenges
- **Tools / Resources:** Independent research, practitioner insights, and self-funded resources supporting evidence generation and knowledge production

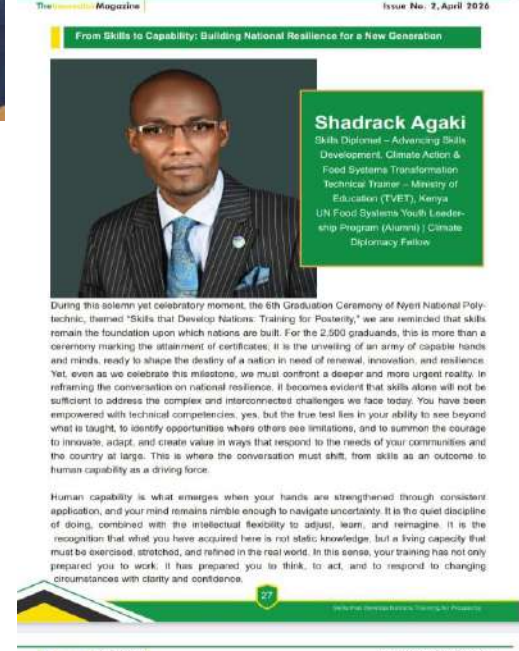
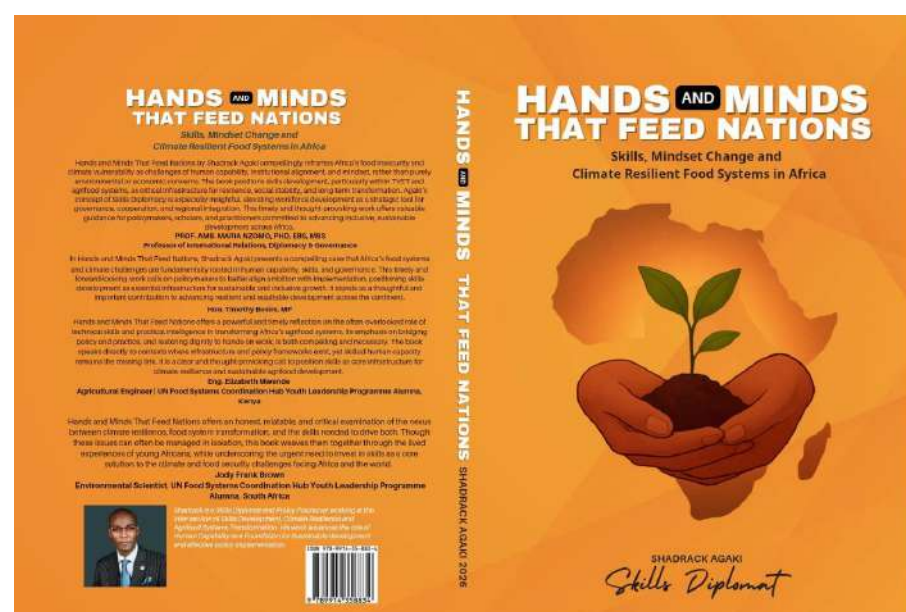
RESULTS

Mindset Shift: Growing recognition of agrifood systems as a central pillar of Africa's development and resilience

Youth Engagement: Increased engagement of young people in conversations and action on food systems, skills development, and sustainability

Reach & Influence: 50+ copies of *Hands and Minds That Feed Nations* disseminated. Featured in radio discussions on food security in Kenya.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Engaged **6,000+** trainees through national TVET graduation platforms
- Influenced youth perspectives on **skills and food systems transformation**
- Expanding **global visibility and dissemination** of the book.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

ORGANIC WASTE VALORIZATION AND AGROECOLOGICAL UPSKILLING

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The focus of this initiative is to promote agroecology and organic farming as viable solutions to food insecurity and environmental degradation in the Umvoti Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. By targeting public institutions and small-scale farmers, the project addresses the high cost of synthetic fertilizers and the declining health of soil in rural and peri-urban landscapes. This initiative operates within Greytown, utilizing local partnerships to transform organic waste into nutrient-rich soil amendments

OBJECTIVES

- To build the capacity of smallholder farmers and institutions in sustainable farming methods and agroecological principles.
- To demonstrate the practical application of composting as a waste management and soil fertility tool.
- To foster inter-departmental collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), EDTEA, and DFFE to provide holistic agricultural support.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

- Target Group: Small-scale farmers, inmates and staff at Correctional Services, and students at TVET Colleges.
- Methods: Hands-on demonstrations conducted during International Compost Week, complemented by theoretical workshops on the science of decomposition.
- Tools/Resources: Organic waste material, manure, plant material, food scraps and technical expertise

RESULTS

The initiative reached multiple institutions across Greytown, successfully implementing campus and facility organic waste into active compost heaps and feeding worms with organic waste to get organic worm cast and organic liquid fertilizer that was then used to grow organic vegetables. Observations show an increased awareness of circular economy principles among participants.

SOME PICTURES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hosted successful live composting demonstrations at correctional service, TVET college and schools during International Compost Week (May 5, 2026).
- Empowered smallscale farmers institutional residents with the skills to produce their own organic growing medium and fertilizer, directly impacting long-term food security for these facilities.
- Established a scalable model for public-sector collaboration, linking agricultural extension with environmental management and economic development

Author



SSM Peramunagama

Cashew Corporation

Ministry of plantation and community
infrastructure, Sri Lanka

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Establishment of Cashew Cluster Villages in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The “Establishment of Cashew Cluster Villages in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka” project aims to strengthen rural livelihoods through climate-resilient cashew cultivation, value-chain development, and market integration. The initiative supported over 2,000 farmers, including youth and women-headed households, across 1,500 acres through training, institutional coordination, and sustainable agribusiness practices

OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance climate-resilient cashew cultivation among smallholder farmers through technical training and field-level extension support.
2. Strengthen rural livelihoods by improving market access, value addition, and income-generation opportunities for youth and women-headed households.
3. Promote sustainable cashew-based agribusiness development through cluster village formation, institutional coordination, and stakeholder partnerships.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The project worked with smallholder farmers, youth, and women-headed households in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Cluster-based farmer mobilization, technical training, field demonstrations, and market linkage development were used as key strategies. Resources included extension officers, training materials, climate-resilient planting approaches, institutional coordination, and support from the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation and provincial stakeholders.

RESULTS

The project supported over 2,000 farmers across 1,500 acres in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Farmers received training on climate-smart cashew cultivation, field management, and market-oriented production. The initiative improved farmer participation, strengthened rural livelihoods, increased youth and women engagement in agriculture, and was recognized at ministry level for its contribution to sustainable agribusiness development.

SOME PICTURES



KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Supported 2,000+ farmers across 1,500 acres through cashew cluster development and training.
- Improved livelihoods of youth and women-headed households through market-oriented agriculture.
- Scaled for expansion to 2,500 acres in 17 districts by 2026.

Advancement and Reflection Convening of the YLP

Author



Wannika Wutthi

Ministry of Agriculture and
Cooperatives/Thailand

Thailand Pathway for Agrifood Systems Transformation

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 called for urgent transformation of food systems to achieve the SDGs, addressing challenges in food security, sustainability, and equity. Food systems are complex and influenced by multiple drivers, requiring a systemic, multi-dimensional approach across five Action Tracks. Thailand, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) with FAO support, conducted inclusive national and subnational dialogues. FAO supported this process through technical assistance under a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct an inception meeting with relevant line ministries to agree on the scope, work plan, and implementation arrangements of the TCP.
2. Organize a series of thematic workshops and consultations aligned with the five UNFSS Action Tracks to review existing national policies and programmes related to food and agriculture systems and to identify priority transformative actions for inclusion in the national pathway.
3. Organize a national-level event to disseminate and promote the National Pathway for Agrifood Systems Transformation and to strengthen public awareness and multi-stakeholder engagement.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

The project was implemented at the national level and comprised a sequence of consultations and stakeholder engagement activities, including:

- Two initial workshops focusing on stocktaking and policy review under the five UNFSS Action Tracks;
- Three thematic stakeholder consultation workshops to identify solutions and priority actions for food and agriculture systems transformation;
- One public hearing to solicit feedback on the draft National Pathway for Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation; and
- One national public communication and dissemination event to promote the finalized pathway.

The target groups included officials from MOAC and other relevant ministries and government agencies, representatives of the private sector, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, youth groups, and other stakeholders involved in or affected by Thailand's agrifood systems.

RESULTS

The project generated a range of qualitative outcomes, including:

- Enhanced shared understanding** among stakeholders of food systems as interconnected social, economic, and environmental systems, and of the implications for national policy and planning.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination**, fostering dialogue and collaboration across sectors and institutions involved in agri-food systems.
- Improved policy coherence**, through systematic review of existing policies and programmes and their alignment with the UNFSS Action Tracks and the SDGs.
- Increased national ownership** of the National Pathway for Agrifood Systems Transformation, supported by participatory consultations, validation processes, and public hearings.
- Greater recognition of youth as key agents of change**, particularly in promoting innovation, sustainability, and long-term transformation of agri-food systems.
- Evidence-informed policy inputs**, drawing on food systems assessments, stakeholder consultations, and synthesis of key challenges, drivers, and strategic priorities.

SOME PICTURES



Event on Transforming Thailand's Agrifood Systems toward a Sustainable Future (Thailand Pathway for Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation): *Im... and... Dee... 2030*

21 July 2025



Workshop on Youth Engagement in Driving Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in Thailand

28 November 2025

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project successfully supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in advancing the development and promotion of Thailand's National Pathway for Agrifood Systems Transformation. Through inclusive, participatory, and evidence-based processes, the project contributed to strengthening policy coherence, enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration, and reinforcing Thailand's commitment to the UN Food Systems Summit outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.