

Public Forum: Action Track 2
April 20, 2021 | 9:00 -10:30 AM EST

Link to Facebook Live: <https://fb.watch/50jEIMTK6i/>

On April 20, 2021 Action Track 2 hosted a public forum to provide updates to a panel discussion of game-changing solutions submitted so far. Over 400 people attended the live event. The session was chaired by [Ajay Vir Jakhar](#), Action Track 2 Vice Chair farmer, with a short update from Action Track 2 Chair, [Gunhild Stordalen](#), founder of [Eat Lancet](#). Panelists then participated in a lightning round of updates and discussion game changing solutions that they support.

Among many topics, the conversation focused on a “Just Transition”, the reduction of animal agriculture, and the adoption of EAT-Lancet based planetary health diets. Part of achieving this solution would include country-specific transition roadmaps and policy measures. Other notable solutions discussed included National Action Plans to incorporate key criteria such as climate, biodiversity, and public health goals; and new technologies to address food waste. Many points of discussion highlighted the need for stakeholders from all aspects of the food system to work together to make the food system healthy and sustainable. A few panelists noted the need for the Summit to ensure specific groups of people are not “left behind” throughout the Summit process, specifically highlighting youth, indigenous people, and women.

Detailed Meeting Notes

Opening Remarks - Gunhild Stordalen

- Calling in from her kitchen - making Thai, Indian and Norwegian dishes
- Want to get the world to eat more healthy and sustainable foods
- This Summit is unique, and we want everyone to join the table and the cooking itself
- 1000+ ideas for game changing decisions received through Action Track 2 to date
- 200+ questions were submitted at the last public forum for AT 2 – we ask that you continue to submit more questions to our forum today
- Submit new ideas for game changing solutions - there are many opportunities, including blue food, marketing, incentives for businesses
- Stakeholder commitments coming soon - this will help us build game changing solutions and transforming them into action
- We must work together to fix the broken food system and come together for our health and common future
- If we succeed in fixing food by 2030 we can help climate change, the environment and save lives
- We can build a greater future and our only chance is doing it together
- Food is a powerful connector - across the table, across borders, religions, cultures, etc - it connects us all
- We are all stakeholders of the global food system - we all have to eat and we all have a voice and we all have a stake in fixing our food
- Play your part and have your voice heard

Ajay Vir Jakhar – Moderator

- Food connects us and we need to make connections to make change
- Conducting 4 anonymous polls throughout the discussion

Celine Jurgensen

- Discussion related to school meals (*in french*)

Kefilwe Fifie Moalosi

- Our role is to coordinate all the national food dialogues and ensure Africa is not left behind
- We have about 27 National conveners coming from Africa
- Orientation for AU member states on agriculture and nutrition
- Homegrown feeding program is one of our solutions
 - School feeding program is a focus, specifically linking farmers to schools, creating wealth and small markets for farmers and ensuring children get fresh food
- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) - Africa's policy framework for agriculture transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economy growth and prosperity for all
 - Ensuring it is connected to the UNFSS
 - We need to promote investments in Africa
 - Calling on African governments to allocate 10% of national budget to agriculture production and productivity
- AU believes that CAADP can be leveraged for the implementation for UNFSS and make school feeding a game changing solution for the Summit

Victor Mugo

- Farmer, work with young adults in agriculture, involved with UNFSS Youth Liaisons group
- We have seen in this AT that we can leverage all young people because they are the greatest consuming group we have
 - Need to rely on the young people for the Summit, meaningfully involve them, and help them participate in this process
- Young people organizing independent dialogues and game changing solutions already

Emily Henegha

- Sun Business Network - work across 30+ countries - National Nutrition Agendas
 - Work with small and medium sized business enterprises to contribute to national nutrition agendas
- Business/private sector play a key role in the Summit
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in low income countries - 50-80% of food economies
- Engaging businesses: strong push coming from MSMEs - elevating their voices through the ATs

- The key opportunity is through regional and national food system dialogues - need to understand opportunities and strengths
 - Especially important for game changing solutions for low- and middle income countries - this is where MSMEs are critical for helping consumers have healthy and sustainable diets
 - Opportunities for growth and innovation

Yon Fdez de Larrinoa

- Unique opportunity for AT 2 to consider game changers proposed by indigenous people
 - Come up with game changers with interculturality that includes indigenous people
- Indigenous people need to be central to the Summit

Helena Wright

- Director of Policy at FAIRR
- Outlined FAIRR research related to the Summit:
 - Risk to global food system - 86% of meat and dairy fail to disclose emissions, 70% of animal ag are at a higher risk for fostering pandemics
 - Protein diversification is a major way to reduce climate risk- there is a rising demand and the demand is projected to rise
 - Currently small portion of protein market
 - Links to just transition solution
 - Livestock producers risk becoming a stranded asset, and there is a need to provide proactive support to transition away from meat and dairy and into more sustainable food systems
 - Subsidy reform - called on EU commission to be more ambitious on their common agriculture policy
 - Reducing foods that have higher emissions such as red meat and dairy
 - Support farmers in more sustainable practice
- Opportunity for transition for a more sustainable food system - job creation, sustainable jobs
 - The shift to plant based foods could create more jobs

Lasse Bruun

Enable a Just Transition of Livestock Production to Mitigate Climate Change, Improve Health and Create Jobs

- A just transformation of livestock production is not only instrumental to solving climate crisis, but also brings numerous environmental, health and socio-economic benefits
- What problem is the solution addressing?
 - Climate emergency -global livestock large contributor
 - Environmental degradation - not just in relation to deforestation, but local environments, water and air pollution
 - Antimicrobial resistance- people have built up resistance through the way they eat

- Infectious Disease - Covid19 - there is an established link to large scale agriculture and rate of infectious disease
- Chronic and Non-communicable diseases- specifically noted Type 2 DiabetesCardiovascular Disease - linked to overconsumption of animal products, specifically red meat
- Unjust nutrition global nutrition distribution - We do not have a food production problem, we have a food distribution problem. We have enough food. Polarity of obesity and eating too much to those who are hungry and malnourished
- How does your solution address the problem?
 - Reversing environmental degradation and improving the local environment
 - Reducing global consumption of meat, dairy and overall calorie intake to healthy levels significantly reduces emissions and releases arable land for food-system change of restoration
 - Feed corn for livestock also a contributor
 - Creating better public health, saving millions in health costs, increasing overall resilience to pandemics
 - A global switch to diets that rely less on meat and more on fruit and vegetables could save up to 8 million lives by 2050
 - Improving the socio economics of the farming system including a revitalization of rural economies
 - A just transition to plant-based diets would create 19 million jobs in Latin America and The Caribbean (15 million net)
 - Revitalizing local economies, as well
 - Equitable food distribution and protecting livelihoods are key
 - The onus is on the G20 countries to lead the transition
 - Those creating the problems should be the first to help solve the problems
 - Preventing livestock intensification in the Global South
 - Developing a set of global multidisciplinary policy measures
 - Must work across disciplines
 - Country-specific transition roadmaps
 - Outline the key steps we need to take to move forward - by when and by whom
 - NDCs revision - maximizing the Paris Agreement Framework
 - Has been little focus on livestock, more focus on energy, transportation and industry
 - Can maximize this framework
 - Livestock needs to be front and center

Victor Mugo – Response to Lassee Bruun

- Need to build a just transition
- In Kenya:
 - Economy heavily relies on cattle - trade, food source
 - Livestock plays a huge role - add to degradation of the land, reduce soil fertility and risk our health

- Meat consumption is on the rise
 - Livestock problem is a consumption problem
 - Do not need to work on livestock intensification
 - Livestock consumption is detrimental to our health and environment
 - Transition is necessary and must be just

Helena Wright – Response to Lasse Bruun

- There is a huge benefit to food security to shift to more sustainable consumption, and this is well reported in scientific literature
- With an intensification of livestock systems we will use up more maize crops
- Associated benefits -food security, livelihoods, biodiversity, health climate, reducing pandemic risk, limiting antibiotic resistance
- Comment from the chat box - monocultures are responsible for herbicide use - the production of animal feed is a huge contributor to herbicide use

Lasse Bruun – Response

- Expected more pushback in conversation - we are showing much consistency in our opinions around this issue
- This an issue that has been neglected for some time
- There is more serious conversations around this which is good
- We are not talking about small scale production - we are talking about the global north and the increasing global south growing production
- The idea of food security misses the importance of diversity, which is why the focus needs to shift to nutrition security to capture that diversity component in the diet
 - Plant based diet typically is more diverse than a diet with livestock
- Animal feed: Lived in Brazil previously and saw how the soy fields are huge monocultures and destroyed the land
- Direct linkage between animal protein consumption and deforestation and habitat destruction

Question + Answer

Question: There is lots of research on sustainable livestock intensification. Can you share your thoughts on this?

Lasse Bruun

- Sustainable intensification has been put forward as a solution, but I do not subscribe to this- it is trying to stay with consumption patterns that are wrongly being used
 - Need a moderated diet - that takes into consideration the high consumption of animal proteins
- We need to cut down on livestock production, not “clean it up”

Question: We need to factor gender into these transitions (especially women). We would love to hear your thoughts on this.

Lasse Bruun

- I absolutely support factoring gender into these discussions
 - Need to support and up the game for them so they are more empowered and take charge of their food production

- There is a direct link between large agriculture facilities and the destruction of local livelihoods - which would directly impact women
- We need to empower women in rural economies

Helena Wright

- There needs to be more collaboration among the public and private sector, and there is a need for more financial mechanisms, including blended finance

Helen Harwatt

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Food Systems Framework - Facilitating Cross Sector Assessments and National Action Plans up to 2030

- Currently no comprehensive or standard framework for assess food systems at the national level
- Paris Agreement includes emissions from agricultural production within country territory
- Production does not account for impacts of imported food
- No format or assessment that connects food systems with climate, biodiversity and public health goals (diet and non-diet related) - and assess the robustness of food systems in relation to environmental or other shocks
- Countries lack a specialty “food systems department” within government to adequately deal with such assessments and subsequent policy formulation and implementation.
- Potential resource constraints for some countries to conduct comprehensive assessments of their food system
 - Time frame for meeting Sustainable Development Goals is quickly narrowing- imperative that countries are able to conduct comprehensive food system assessments and establish clear roadmaps to 2020

The Food Systems Framework will set out the processes and structures to enable:

- Development of standardized science-based Food Systems Blueprint to provide a framework for country level assessments - and guid food systems development in alignment with meeting Sustainable Development Goals by 2020
- Regionally specific National Action Plans for food systems that minimize environmental impacts, maximize public health and wellbeing benefits and are resilient to future shocks.
- National Action Plans are formulated using a multi-stakeholder approach, including youth, indigenous groups and farmers.
- National Action Plans incorporate key criteria such as climate, biodiversity and public health goals (diet and non-diet related), and provide interim steps and targets leading to 2030
- Establishment of national-level cross-department government Food Systems Team/Department- joined up policy making across nutrition, agriculture, land, environment, biodiversity, education, climate and public health
- Establishment of a Food Systems Fund that HICs will contribute to in a similar way to how aid commitment or climate finance are currently made

- The Food Systems Fund will be available to L&MICs to facilitate access to resources needed to conduct a comprehensive food systems assessment using the Food Systems Blueprint
- Ongoing funding post- assessment from the Food Systems Fund - for the development and implementation of National Action Plans in L&MICs

Kefilwe Fifie Moalosi – Response to Helen Harwatt

- We are doing National Agriculture Investment Plans
 - Promote investment in agriculture and boost consumption of indigenous foods
 - Promoting African chefs
- Culture and heritage should be a focus
 - Improve policies that are nutrition sensitive

Helen Harwatt

- Need to expand on this within the framework
- We foresee the frameworks developed with a range of stakeholders including indigenous people and youth groups

Question + Answer

Question: How do you see food banks as an equitable way to help with food distribution?

Helen Harwatt:

- We are currently in a state where food banks are essential – hope to see a time when they are not needed
- They are now increasingly important which is a worrisome sign that our system is going in the wrong direction rapidly

Question: How does the changing implementation in African countries happen when governments are not supporting or empowering you or agriculture production ?

Kefilwe Fifie Moalosi:

- African Union – focused on culture and heritage and youth also important and that they don't forget culture and heritage
 - Have a youth program to work across AU member states - have many donors
- Advocacy and policy level - working closely with the private sector to make sure agriculture and youth are not left behind

Richard Swannell

Food is never waste

- Brings together proven policy interventions with new technology to ensure no food is wasted and sent to the landfill
 - Mandatory segregation of food waste by businesses and households
 - Incentives for food donation
 - Mandatory measurement of food waste by businesses
 - Taxing or banning landfill and incineration of food waste
 - Incentivizing the use of FLW as a feedstock for added value products

Yon Fdez de Larrinoa – Response to Richard Swannell

- Indigenous communities really do not have concerns with managing food waste- they can not accumulate food so there are other ways of distributing food before wasting it
- We must reduce food waste- it is a problem that we produce food that directly turns into waste, and the resources that have to go into producing waste is too much
- The price of food does not reflect the environmental impact of food production, part in due to incentives/subsidies
- Mixing up food generation with food production and putting in the same bag
 - When we fish, and catch 1000s of fish because they have no market value we are being wasteful
- Food labeling is going to change
 - Trace back how the food is produced
 - Displacement of food, environment impact, total distance food has traveled
- Food waste is not the problem - the waste of our values is the problem

Emily Heneghan- Response to Richard Swannell

- Gap that I noted - the realities of the developing countries
 - Infrastructure
 - Most governments don't have resources to support infrastructure for disposal
 - Enforcement of regulation is highly inconsistent
 - Low and middle income context - application
- Prevent food waste- by extending shelf life of food products
- Value added products that there will be a market for
- The more we can help create income streams for women and youth - sustainability of these proposed solutions

Richard Swannell

- Agree that we do not value food
- When asked the question, "Are you wasting food?", people respond with no we are not wasting food.
 - When measured - people realize they are actually wasting food (businesses and at home)
- A lot of this game changer is focused on getting people to look at the impact they are making that they don't realize they are making when it comes to food waste
- This game changer is about prevention
- Where is there surplus food that can be shared? Can we turn it into other products for better distribution?
- Circular lower or no-waste economy
 - Must find creative ways to do this in low-income countries

Question + Answer

Question: Food waste is in Africa: Investment in technology might help but in indigenous areas it is not happening. What is a solution?

Yon Fdez de Larrinoa

- Difficult answer
- Need to stop using cooked food as waste
- We are wasting food without realizing it

- Companies have a major role to play here- why are companies only selling the products and not helping with the waste?
- There is a lot that can be done along the food chain

Question: Regarding food is never waste. The Philippines has regulations for mandatory segregation of food waste by businesses and households, but there is no real control over it. What can be done?

Richard Swannell

- Food waste in the home is a problem
- Hefty fines, leading by example
- Role of business is absolutely key- innovation, extending shelf life, creating more circular solutions, businesses need to be committed and be part of the conversations what households and food waste in their homes
- Rather than bans - we should look to incentives to help with the food waste problem

Question: Agriculture is not a mandatory curriculum in schools. What is the AU doing to ensure agriculture education in schools is translated into best practices?

Keilwe Fiffie Moaliosi

- Working on incorporating education that is targeted at youth and doing collaborations with local farmers
- Support from donors and partners (including the UN)
- Engage with the youth and make sure this connection is improved

Question: Consumers in developing countries believe they need a diet with animal products to be healthy. How can the government act to quickly change consumption?

Lasse Bruun

- Look at reality of low income countries and emerging economies and examine the realities, needs and culture and then accommodate those factors
 - Now what we are seeing in the global north is to work against nature - and this idea is being “exported” to the global south
 - Working against nature, instead of with nature
 - Shift to regenerative agriculture or agriscology is crucial

Question: Future of Food Institute - Why do we have true food pricing?

Richard Swannell

- The food system has one of the largest impacts on the environment

Yon Fdez-de Larrinoa

- Price differences between the perfect apple and the less than perfect apple, organic (more expensive)
 - This is a strange concept

Ajay Vir Jakhar: **Question:** Why as a farmer do I find that more and more research is being done on more production instead of reducing food waste?

Richard Swannell

- We need to drive out food waste and loss out of the food system. If we need more production after limiting food waste that is fine, but should focus on food waste first.

Gunhild Stordalen - Closing Remarks

- This was a very rich discussion and is really helping us shape the solutions menu
- Constructive and critical feedback is important and this is a much needed reality check