

## Action Track 4 Public Forum | Advance Equitable Livelihoods

April 26, 2021 8:00 - 10:00 AM EST

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/UNFoodSystems/videos/129991049144457>

Action Track 4 hosted a Public Forum to discuss the work that has been done to date and new ideas related to advancing equitable livelihoods. Much of the discussion focused on worker rights as human rights, and many representatives noted the importance of collaborating with the other action tracks. Leaders from Action Track 2 and Action Track 3 provided brief commentary at the end of the forum to discuss how their respective action tracks relate to the work of Action Track 4.

Michelle Nunn, CEO of CARE, Chair of AT 4 UNFSS

### Opening Remarks

- This discussion will help lay the foundation for the next wave of ideas
- Expect to have 800+ people listen in today
- Where are we?
  - Equitable livelihoods is our focus of work
    - Rebalancing agency within food systems
    - Eliminating worker exploitation
    - Localizing food systems
- We've had constructive debates and hope we continue to have boisterous conversation with all those at the table
- These issues are more important now more than ever - "build better forward"
- This pandemic has exposed the inequalities that we already knew existed
- In the last month we've had over 20 consultations
- Trying to make sure each conversation is broadly set and we are lifting up voices that are not always heard
- Want to share the solutions that have been proposed and what are the next wave of solutions and how can we get everyone involved
- Social justice/human rights and how do we apply this to our food systems?

Juan Garcia Cebolla, FAO

The Importance of Human Rights for Equitable Livelihoods and the UNFSS

*Putting the right to food at the heart of food systems*

### Human Rights: The game changer for Food Systems

- All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights
- Current food systems compound inequalities Covid-19 serves as a wake up call and an opportunity

### UNFSS: One Chance to Transform

- Human rights are universal, interdependent, interrelated and indivisible
- From people serving food systems to food systems serving people:
  - Human rights may link all ATs

- Human rights will help us have a sense of direction and a way to put together all the forces together
  - Help us have a monitoring framework and help us put together the different ATs
    - May think the ATs have some overlap which helps us have a coherent interaction and work together.

How to achieve equitable livelihoods? Leave no one behind.

- Build agency- change relations - transform structures
- Apply human rights lens
- Make things fairer, redress the power imbalances, assure inclusive economic recovery, better production for better lives

AT1 Proposal: Putting the right to food at the heart of food systems

- Address the rootcauses of food insecurity discrimination, informality, and inequality with targeted monitoring:
  - Tenure rights
    - Household food insecurity
    - Sustainable agriculture
    - Unpaid care and domestic work
    - Violations against human rights defenders, environmentalists, the media

Funding Commitments

- If there are no resources for our proposed ideas to be executed then it is equivalent to no recommendation

Paul DeMerritt, CARE

AT 4 - Action Areas

Rebalancing Agency within Food Systems

- Strengthen the capacities, skills and confidence of women, youth, indigenous peoples across food systems so they can collectively:
  - Challenge social norms
  - Increase ownership and control of resources and assets
  - Increase access to markets and services
  - Strengthen their voice to promote equitable power

AT 4 Game Changing Solutions

- Improving Social Dialogue Mechanisms
- Integrate Gender Transformative Approaches for Equity and Justice in Food systems
- Promote power relationships that ensure a fair share of resources
- Mobilizing civil society and lifting up youth-led initiatives

Juan Echanove, CARE

Eliminating Worker Exploitation and Ensuring Decent Work in Food Systems

- Promote living incomes and wages for small-scale farmers and agricultural workers
- Strengthen labour regulations
- Improve governance of labor markets
- Endorse ratification and effective implementation of international labor standards

Promote living incomes/wages in value chains for small-scale farmers/agricultural workers

- To enjoy sustainable livelihoods, small-scale farmers/workers need to earn sufficient income for a decent standard of living
- Examples:
  - Initiative on cocoa prices launched by Cot d'Ivoire and Ghana - Living income differential
  - Costa Rican law dictating the split of the added value in the coffee branch or the "Inter-professions:

#### Improve Governance of Labor Markets in Food systems

- Labor rights are human rights
  - Improve access to labor market
  - Eliminate child labor
  - Regulate the contractor relationship
  - Include agricultural wage workers in land reform
- Widespread political support for the ILO's Decent Work Agenda
- The private sector increasingly recognizing the critical role of labor standards on productivity and trade

Karl Deering, CARE

#### Localizing Food Systems

- Make food systems finance accessible for rural people
- Promote demand-driven transformation
  - Related to enabling the environment and opening opportunities for small scale producers
  - Driving more responsive cities and local governments and investing in smaller enterprises and business development
- Leverage local procurement and value chain opportunities
  - Improving and protecting short value chains
- Want to protect and promote food systems that are already localized to empower these producers

#### AT 4 Game Changing Solutions

- Localize services and support
  - Inclusive Farmer Seed Networks - AT 1, 2, 3 also focused on this work
- Increase social accountability
- Inclusive finance

How are we going to address the gaps?

Elvis Beytulla

- Everyone has the right to work, free choice to work, favorable conditions to work
- Agriculture remains the backbone for low income countries
  - Unable to connect with resources available to them as workers
- Labor standards is an area of action
- Strengthen organization in urban areas
  - Lack of organization leads to lack of engagement in social dialogue
- Children must be free from labor

- Occupational safety and health is another priority

Mamadou Traore

- Discussed Child Labor in cocoa production

Vasanti Venkatesh

- Challenges faced by migrant workers as it relates to food systems
- Have to think about broader trade concerns when speaking of labor concerns
- Bilateral agreements, one on one agreement, special agreements, seasonal or temporary schemes
- Problems faced- these workers are non-citizens - they do not have the right to have rights
  - One of the most exploited groups in agriculture
- Migrant workers have limited rights and barriers to organizing and unionization - no representation
- Rights-Based Framework
  - Recognizes right to permanent status and family life and their essential role in food production
  - Innovative ways to enforce labor and human rights laws
  - Innovative solutions to organize and ensure they have a voice in the making of the policies of receiving countries in recruitment, in enforcement, skills training
  - Workers representatives involved in policy and regulations making
  - Address cultural isolation and racism/xenophobia (defined broadly)
  - Need a rights-based framework for a sustainable food system

Localizing Food Systems

Florence Egal, UN HABITAT

AHWG on territorial food systems

Territorial Approaches to Food Systems/Urban-Rural Linkages

- Looking at the planet there are very different geographical areas across the planet and these regions have nothing to do with nation lines
  - Geographical areas typically cross nation lines - meaning the solutions have to be helpful across geography not across country?

Territorial Food Systems

- What?
  - Re-orient Natural Resources Management and Food Production
  - Revive local economies in a connected world
  - Ensuring Human Rights and Social Protection
- How?
  - Multi-level governance (knowledge management, capacity building, enabling framework)
  - Financing for sustainable territorial development
  - Cities and local governments have a key role to play

Urban-Rural Linkages for Integrated Territorial Development

- Follow-up to New Urban Agenda
- Guiding Principles and Framework for Action
- 1st International Forum on Urban Rural Linkages
- Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19

For your consideration

- Let's start with at-risk territories: resilience is key
- Let's build upon local knowledge and existing practices
  - "Evidence based" - need to look to what is happening in the field, not what is going on in laboratory work

CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition CNC

- COVID-19 has shown polarity between advanced economy and those that are developing
  - Adaptation for developing economies took much longer (especially those in Africa)
- CAADP developed in 2003
  - Policy framework is continent wide
  - Looks at African agriculture for opportunities for technological growth, economical growth, job creation, livelihood development
- Africa is struggling to meet advancement
- Increase capacity for agriculture, wealth from agriculture, see agriculture as a business, modernize the agriculture, and digitize
- There needs to be an enabling policy framework to incentivize the economy

Question + Answer

- Question: Could you share your thoughts regarding the role of innovation in the territorial approach? Building resilience and development to reach sustainable food systems would require us to take advantage of all our capacities.
  - Answer: Florence Egal
    - We must ask: What is happening in a given area? What are the problems? Can we learn from this? How can we bring in innovation?
    - Usually one stakeholder has a piece of technology and goes around to try and "sell" the solution to different territories, instead, we must first look at the area and see if the solution fits the region's concerns.
- Question: Any successful case studies/approaches of improving equitable livelihoods in the Indo-Pacific region? Much of the focus is on Africa and sub-Saharan Africa to be specific.
  - Answer: Juan Echanove - There has been some fantastic work coming from the Indo-Pacific region.
  - Community based adaptation to climate change, early warning systems for communities and how it relates to livelihoods.
  - These are examples of solutions that are feeding into other solutions, however some are specific to the Indo-Pacific region
- Question: How can people plug into this work or contribute?

- Answer: Wave 2 solutions are due May 10th. All solutions are welcome until the Summit (September 2021) but, if you have great ideas that you would like to share now, please send them to me directly at [christine.campeau@care.org](mailto:christine.campeau@care.org)

Representation from AT 2 + AT 3 shared brief comments related to their respective Action Tracks and how it overlaps with the work of AT4

#### Action Track 2: Lina Mahy

- This conversation is interesting and complex just based on the speakers and their talking points
- Activities of AT 2 can't be achieved unless AT 4 initiatives are implemented
- Malnutrition example
  - AT2: addressing immediate causes
  - AT4: addressing broader range of issues/concerns
- AT2 is focused on the shift to diets that are healthy and sustainable to make it easier for consumers to have healthy decisions that are sustainable and better for their health
  - Clear, understandable information about the food people are choosing to eat
  - Ensure school curricula includes nutrition education
  - Develop economic behaviors related to better food behaviors
  - Improving breastfeeding
- These solutions can't be worked on in a vacuum
- We can have a fantastic package of policies and correct information, but we need something more
- Can we expect a single-mom to make better food choices when faced with many challenges in her community?
  - What if the more sustainable diet is not within reach?
  - We need to work together AT 2 + AT4
- Must address basic inequalities.
- All efforts in AT 2 must address inequalities and work closely with AT4

#### Action Track 3 Joao Campari

- Our food system is central to many challenges, including climate change, biodiversity, food insecurity and risk of future pandemics
- Sustainable future must reverse biodiversity laws
- Solutions must be nature and people positive
  - Pursue solutions that focus on both
  - Agroecology - delivers social and environmental outcomes (positive) - improves both, ensures dignified livelihoods as much as positive environmental outcomes
- UNFSS provides all ATs a unique opportunity to accelerate adoption of agroecological approaches
- Agroecological practices will bring us closer to achieving the 2030 agenda
- Protecting nature and livelihoods can also be achieved through agroecological practices
- We need to work hand and hand with the Committee on World Food Security on this and leverage the work they have done on the voluntary guidelines on the food systems and nutrition (recently approved), as well as policies

