



The European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Global Food and Nutrition Security



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation – Eswatini

Introduction

There is a global consensus that most food systems are unsustainable: they generate food insecurity and hunger, malnutrition (from stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies to obesity), environmental degradations (natural resources depletion, climate change, and biodiversity loss), and inequalities and vulnerabilities among territories and food stakeholders. A transformation toward more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems is urgently needed, and the identification of ad hoc levers to implement this transformation strategic.

On the one hand, the [National Pathways](#) to sustainable food systems are one of the outcomes generated by the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). They have been informed by national dialogues organized during the preparation of the Summit. It should not be assumed that these pathway documents are final or endorsed by the respective government as [most countries](#) approach their pathway as 'living documents', but they still give a picture of the priorities.

On the other hand, under a partnership between the European Union, FAO, and CIRAD, and in cooperation with national and food systems stakeholders, country level [Food Systems Assessments](#) are being conducted, at different level of completion, in more than 50 developing countries.

Both National Pathways (NP) and Food Systems Assessments (FSA) profiles have identified country specific priority actions for the transformation of food systems.

The ambition of this synthesis report is to provide the comprehensive list of these priority actions in a condensed format that helps to gain an overview of the main results of both approaches and allows to some extent a comparison.

Methodological approach

This synthesis report is developed using a three steps approach:

- First, screening NP and FSA reports and extraction of the priority actions. In the National Pathways, the priority actions are called "game changers" and grouped around five "actions tracks" (i.e. thematic areas) defined in the frame of the UNFSS. In the FSA, the priority actions are called "systemic levers" and are grouped around four thematic areas. Notwithstanding these differences, it remains possible to extract from these documents "priority actions" and group them around the five "actions tracks";
- Second, reformulation, simplification and grouping of NP and FSA priority actions and classification according to the UNFSS five action tracks (Tables 2 and 3). These tables are displayed below to keep trace in a systematic and transparent way of the modifications performed during this step;
- Third, overview in a single table of the NP and FSA priority actions per action track (Table 1).

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Advancing knowledge towards zero hunger and sustainable food systems

Table 1: Summary of Priority Actions for the Sustainable Transformation of Food Systems in Eswatini

UNFSS	FSA	UNFSS – National Pathway – Priority Actions	Food Systems Assessment – Priority Actions
AT1: Ensure safe and nutritious food for all	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local production of nutritious food and productivity • Improve access to agricultural inputs • Support digital agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable and diversified agricultural production
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the Nutrition Council • Promote healthy eating and lifestyle • Support School Feeding Program • Promote nutrition fortification programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support nutrition education program and awareness campaign • Promote healthy foods: dietary guidelines, product labelling and regulatory measures on unhealthy food
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable management of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen natural resource governance mechanisms (policies, legislation, participation of the public)
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and protect local industries (PPPs) • Invest in export markets • Strengthen farmer organisations and commercialisation of local production • Develop value chain infrastructure • Promote youth participation in food systems (starter packs) • Develop digital commodity platform (marketing and tracing products) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of farmers organizations (commercialisation) • Support inclusive finance • Develop value chain infrastructure: market, electricity, digitalization, rural roads • Invest on Swazi Nation Lands (customary land): basic services (health care & education) • Ensure equal opportunity for women (social protection, access to land) through legislation and awareness campaigns)
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote climate-smart agriculture • Establish insurance schemes for smallholder farmer and green food business • Establish an agricultural contingency fund • Develop agri-information systems (including trade data) • Improve institutional capacity for food systems governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support climate smart agriculture • Improve territorial development governance: technical and regulatory capacity • Develop climate information services

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

Table 2: Priority Actions - Food Systems Assessment (FSA)

Thematic Areas	FSA - Priority Actions (Systemic levers)			FSA - Reformulation Priority Actions	Link to AT	Comment
Addressing a high incidence of malnutrition and countrywide food security challenges	1	Support a strategic and policy focus and strengthen institutions (including budgets), investments in diversification and sustainable agricultural production practices and technologies, to support rural communities – especially those on customary land.		Support sustainable and diversified agricultural production	1	1.1, 4.1 grouped
	2	Dietary guidelines and efforts to raise health and nutrition awareness among consumers, including discouraging high consumption of sugar and salt through appropriate public education and regulatory measures, such as taxes, product labelling, and strong nutrition education components.	2.1	Support nutrition education program and awareness campaign	2	
			2.2	Promote healthy foods: dietary guidelines, product labelling and regulatory measures on unhealthy food	2	
Develop domestic agrifood value chains	3	Capacity development of agricultural associations and cooperatives to increase their capabilities and capacities to aggregate produce from small-scale farmers (including business development).		Capacity building of farmers organizations (commercialisation)	4	
	4	Supporting farmers to increase production sustainably in volume and quality (good agricultural practices, crop & livestock diversification, climate-smart adaptation).	4.1	Support diversified local food production		grouped with 1.1
			4.2	Support climate smart agriculture	5	
	5	Improving access to rural finance and appropriate financial products.		Support inclusive finance	4	
6	Upgrading infrastructure (markets, electricity, digitalization, rural roads) and improving transport services for all actors in the value chains.		Develop value chain infrastructure: market, electricity, digitalization, rural roads	4		
Addressing territorial and socioeconomic differences / gender inequities across food systems	7	Enhance governance (e.g. strengthening existing technical & regulatory capacity) and ensuring that effective legal and policy frameworks are in place.		Improve territorial development governance: technical and regulatory capacity	5	
	8	Increase public and private investments in Swazi Nation Land to improve food systems delivery, infrastructure and basic services (health care and education).		Invest on Swazi Nation Lands (customary land): basic services (health care & education)	4	
	9	Ensure equal opportunity for women and reduce inequalities by promoting appropriate legislation and actions (including social protection and access to land).		Ensure equal opportunity for women (social protection, access to land) through legislation and awareness campaigns)	4	9, 10 grouped
	10	Raising awareness at national and community level about gender inequalities.				grouped with 9
Combating natural resource distress (water and land) and vulnerability to climate change	11	Review, approve and implement the hierarchy of land-related draft policies in Eswatini that would contribute towards creating an inclusive, enabling environment that supports sustainable agricultural practices and food systems and strengthened natural resource governance mechanisms.		Strengthen natural resource governance mechanisms (policies, legislation, participation of the public)	3	11, 12, 14 grouped
	12	Review and enforce existing land- and environment-related legislation to formalize and systematize customary land administration and ultimately enhance institutional capacity for integrated land-use planning and landscape management.				grouped with 11

	13	Ensure drought planning, including preparedness (e.g. data forecasting systems and knowledge depository on water permits) and risk-mitigation measures (land-restoration, land-use planning) to enhance sustainable use of natural resources.		Develop climate information services	5	
	14	Strengthening and widening the participation of the public and private sector and other institutions (e.g. universities) and women, and the empowerment of local communities in land-use planning and land restoration management				grouped with 11
Total		14			12	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic Areas	National Pathway - Priority Actions (Game changers)		National Pathway - Reformulation Priority Actions		Link to AT	Comment
Area 1: Agricultural Value Chain planning and Structuring	1	Promotion of Local Industries (Public-Private Partnership Scheme)		Promote and protect local industries (PPPs)	4	1, 4 grouped
	2	Promotion of Local Production and productivity		Support local production of nutritious food and productivity	1	2, 34 grouped
	3	Mainstreaming Climate Smart Practices		Promote climate-smart agriculture	5	
	4	Declaration of Infancy-industry				grouped with 1
	5	Inclusive Commercialization of Smallholder farmers				grouped with 7
	6	Investment in Export Markets		Invest in export markets	4	
	7	Strengthen farmer organizations and other key value chain players		Strengthen farmer organisations and commercialisation of local production	4	5, 7, 12 grouped
Area 2: Establish and operationalise the Agricultural Development Fund	8	De-risking and risk-sharing facilities for smallholder producers and private green businesses engaged in food systems		Establish insurance schemes for smallholder farmer and green food business	5	
	9	Improving access to agricultural inputs by farmers		Improve access to agricultural inputs	1	
	10	Developing strategic and resilient agricultural value chain Infrastructure		Develop value chain infrastructure	4	
	11	Enhancing agricultural Marketing and Trade – incentivizing localized food systems (import substitution)				grouped with 7
	12	Ensuring sustainable management of natural agricultural resources		Support sustainable management of natural resources	3	
	13	EADF Contingency Fund Facility		Establish an agricultural contingency fund	5	
	14	Youth starter packs		Promote youth participation in food systems (starter packs)	4	
Area 3: Integrated Digital Agri-Information Systems	15	Agri-information systems		Develop agri-information systems (including trade data)	5	17, 22 grouped
	16	Digitalization of Agriculture		Support digital agriculture	1	
	17	Digital Commodity Exchange platform		Develop digital commodity platform (marketing and tracing products)	4	19, 20 grouped
	18	Production Planning Scheduling (contracting and product tracing)				grouped with 19
	19	Market observatory and security				grouped with 26
	20	Agri-trade Data Repository and inter-portal data sharing				grouped with 17
Area 4: Institutional Re-engineering	21	Facilitate phased de-coupling of the conflated roles of Government and its institutions in the market which may require revisiting the constitutional mandate of Agriculture Marketing Boards and related institutions				Not selected - not specific
	22	Strengthening the convening power, structure and capacity of the Nutrition Council		Strengthen the Nutrition Council	2	

	23	Sector wide review of legislative and regulatory instruments to enable agribusiness		Improve institutional capacity for food systems governance	5	21, 26, 27 grouped
	24	Improve systems for Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight.				grouped with 26
Area 5: Support, Upscale safe and nutritious food for all	25	Promote healthy eating and lifestyle		Promote healthy eating and lifestyle	2	28, 29 grouped
	26	Promote sustainable consumption practices				grouped with 28
	27	Support School Feeding Programme		Support School Feeding Program	2	
	28	Assist the poor and crises affected food insecure population				Not selected - not specific
	29	Support vulnerable groups specific food and nutrition needs (Pregnant women, NCD affected etc.)				Not selected - not specific
	30	Coordinate nutrition fortification initiatives		Promote nutrition fortification programs	2	
	31	Promote Nutritious Indigenous foods				grouped with 2
Total		31			19	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022