



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



## Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation - Nigeria

### 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;

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- Third, overview in a single table of the NP and FSA priority actions per action track (Table 1).

**Table 1: Summary of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation in Nigeria**

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"> <li>Strengthen agricultural extension services (capacity building of extension agents, building knowledge on production suitability).</li> <li>Increase funding for agricultural research (traditional crops, regenerative agriculture) and develop partnerships with private sector research institutes.</li> <li>Improve agriculture curriculum in tertiary institutions.</li> <li>Strengthen food safety (development of food safety standards, capacity building of regulators and food handlers).</li> <li>Improve access to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds, livestock, aquaculture).</li> <li>Establish safe grazing reserves for pastoralists through PPP.</li> <li>Support cultivation of bio-fortified crops and utilisation of biofortified commodities as industrial raw materials (including through regulation and research).</li> <li>Promote homestead food production.</li> <li>Develop regulatory standards for manufacturing agricultural machinery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen agricultural research and extension.</li> <li>Enhance food safety (awareness, regulation, monitoring).</li> <li>Strengthen implementation of the relevant agri-food policies (timely deployment of funds, improved decision-making process and coordination through a multi-stakeholder platform).</li> <li>Enhance public and private investment in the agricultural sector (including aquaculture).</li> </ul>
AT2 Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support nutrition education programmes (including at school, including through digitized communication tools).</li> <li>Reduction of food waste (awareness raising, preservation techniques, home storage of food).</li> <li>Develop food-based dietary guidelines.</li> <li>Improve food labelling, advertisement, and marketing (guidelines, regulations, nutrient profiling system).</li> <li>Promote the consumption of local nutritious food (including through tax incentives).</li> <li>Discourage the production of unhealthy food (regulation, sugar tax).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition education and awareness campaigns on healthy diets.</li> </ul>
AT3 Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote eco-friendly system of land development.</li> <li>Promote agroforestry at community level.</li> </ul>	
AT4 Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish agricultural production and processing hubs, and enable access for farmers, including women and youth.</li> <li>Invest in automated food value chains to support traceability of products.</li> <li>Improve storage facilities through PPP.</li> <li>Develop incentives for local food manufacturers (tax breaks, low-interest credit) and facilitate administrative procedures (registration of food products).</li> <li>Enhance farm product transportation through improved and expanded railways.</li> <li>Establish free-trade zones to promote export and international trade.</li> <li>Develop basic market infrastructures including cold chain facilities.</li> <li>Re-introduce market boards.</li> <li>Support farmer groups and cooperatives for easy access to agri-services and market.</li> <li>Improved access to finance and insurance services for smallholder farmers and SMEs.</li> <li>Reform land tenure system for easy access for youth and women.</li> <li>Support technical and vocational training programmes for youth and women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved farmers' access to credit (including for smallholder farmers)</li> <li>Encourage farmers' groups / cooperatives</li> </ul>

AT5

Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses

- Develop agricultural information systems (including through capacity audit).
- Strengthen information and research on climate change.
- Develop climate services.
- Invest on climate smart agriculture (including, hydroponics and aeroponics, biotechnology).
- Scale-up rainwater-harvesting systems.
- Preserve / establish / secure forest reserves.
- Restore various fish stocks and other aquatics.
- Promote recycling of agricultural waste.
- Develop social protection (cash transfer).
- Establish food bank.
- Improve food systems governance and create an enabling environment for food systems transformation (inclusive platforms, food systems dashboards, transformation support facility).
- Build capacity for peace building and security including through EWS).
- Approve and implement the Right to Food Bill.
- Promote good governance and stakeholder engagement in governance (peace, socioeconomic stability, sustainable management of natural resources).
- Promote climate-smart agriculture.

Source: KC-FNS, 2023

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

Thematic Areas	FSA - Priority Actions (Systemic levers)		FSA - Reformulation Priority Actions		Link to AT	Comment
Addressing poor diet quality and high prevalence of malnutrition	1	Strengthen policy and institutional frameworks to implement food and nutrition security policies and programmes (multisectoral institutional framework).				grouped with 3
	2	Strengthen sub-regional level platforms to promote behavioural change in dietary practices (nutrition education and awareness to promote healthy diets).		Nutrition education and awareness campaigns on healthy diets.	2	
					1	
Addressing the underdevelopment of agricultural value chains and unsustainability of the food systems	3	Strengthen implementation of the relevant policies (e.g. Agriculture Promotion Policy and National Policy on Food Safety).		Strengthen implementation of the relevant agri-food policies (timely deployment of funds, improved decision-making process and coordination through a multi-stakeholder platform).	1	1, 3 grouped
	4	Increase awareness among food system actors along with developing a strong regulatory and monitoring mechanism to promote safe food practices.		Enhance food safety (awareness, regulation, monitoring).	1	
					2	
Addressing vulnerability to internal and global shocks	5	Enhance public and private investments in the agricultural sector, and improve access to financing to the smallholder farmers.	5.1	Enhance public and private investment in the agricultural sector (including aquaculture).	1	
			5.2	Improved farmers' access to credit (including for smallholder farmers).	4	5.2, 8.3 grouped
	6	Promote good governance through transparency and accountability (thriving for peace and socioeconomic stability).		Promote good governance and stakeholder engagement in governance (peace, socioeconomic stability, sustainable management of natural resources).	5	5, 6 grouped
					3	
Addressing vulnerability to climate change and natural resources degradation	7	Promote good governance and stakeholder engagement to limit natural resource degradation and develop climate resilience.				grouped with 6
	8	Strengthen smallholder farmers' adaptive capacity to climate change through improved and climate smart agricultural practices: encourage farmer associations, improve access to credit, strengthen research and extension.	8.1	Promote climate-smart agriculture.	5	
			8.2	Encourage farmers' groups / cooperatives.	4	
			8.3	Improve farmers' access to credit.		grouped with 5.2
			8.4	Strengthen agricultural research and extension.	1	
					3	
Total		8			9	

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
Cluster 1: Investing in food security and nutrition knowledge dissemination, skills' development, and information management systems to enhance agricultural productivity	1	Collect information on weather soil, crops, livestock, aquaculture, and poultry management through radio and disseminate through various platforms for planning agricultural activities: • Information about weather patterns and crop/livestock suitability information is collected; • Messages and guidelines around safe, nutritious, and sustainable food production for all food system actors is developed and standardized; • Radio scripts and information brochures are developed and disseminated on weather patterns and production suitability information.	1.1	Develop agricultural information systems (including through capacity audit).	5	1.1, 17 grouped
			1.2	Strengthen agricultural extension services (capacity building of extension agents, building knowledge on production suitability).	1	1.2, 3, 23 grouped
	2	Establish agricultural production and processing hubs, and enable access for farmers, including women and youth.		Establish agricultural production and processing hubs, and enable access for farmers, including women and youth.	4	2, 36 grouped
	3	Develop model for identifying and building capacity of agricultural extension agents to deliver improved agricultural extension services.				grouped with 1.2
	4	Strengthen capacity of regulators and food handlers on food safety standards to ensure its adoption and enforcement.		Strengthen food safety (development of food safety standards, capacity building of regulators and food handlers).	1	4, 7 grouped
	5	Scale up appropriate nutrition education programmes for increased consumption of nutrient rich and diversified diets, fortified/bio fortified foods, and reduced household food waste.	5.1	Support nutrition education programmes (including at school, including through digitized communication tools).	2	5,1, 10, 11 grouped
			5.2	Reduction of food waste (awareness raising, preservation techniques, home storage of food).	2	5.2, 48 grouped
	6	Develop and produce quantitative food-based dietary guidelines including child/adolescent-specific guidelines for informed nutrition education.		Develop food-based dietary guidelines.	2	
	7	Establish food safety standards for food production, meals, and snacks to ensure provision of safe and healthy foods.				grouped with 4
	8	Strengthen technical and vocational training programmes for youth and women for food systems related livelihoods.		Support technical and vocational training programmes for youth and women.	4	8, 44 grouped
	9	Establish guidelines and regulations on food labelling, advertisement, and marketing.		Improve food labelling, advertisement, and marketing (guidelines, regulations, nutrient profiling system).	2	9, 13 grouped
	10	Embed nutrition education in school curricula to enhance positive orientation and modify children's eating behaviours.				grouped with 5.1
	11	Digitize nutrition education through games, apps, infographics, and social media to foster behavioural change communication.				grouped with 5,1
	12	Revise agriculture curriculum in tertiary institutions to include greater field learning and increased attraction to the youths for livelihood.		Improve agriculture curriculum in tertiary institutions.	1	
	13	Develop nutrient profiling system to guide food labelling, nutrition and health claims, and marketing.				grouped with 9
					<b>10</b>	
Cluster 2: Building sustainable, responsive, and inclusive food systems	14	Improve physical security of lives and property, including farmlands and transportation systems.				grouped with 54
	15	Strengthen supply chains for agricultural input and improve access for women and youth.		Improve access to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds, livestock, aquaculture).	1	15, 76 grouped
	16	Increase LGA level organization of farmers into commodity groups/cooperatives for improved access to services.		Support farmer groups and cooperatives for easy access to agri-services and market.	4	16, 31 grouped
	17	Conduct capacity audit on production farm equipment, extension agents, input suppliers, irrigation facilities, storage facilities across the country.				grouped with 1.1
	18	Establish safe grazing reserves for pastoralists through PPP.		Establish safe grazing reserves for pastoralists through PPP.	1	
	19	Preserve forest reserves and engage forest guards to secure forests against criminals, kidnappers, and bandits.		Preserve /Establish / Secure forest reserves.	5	
	20	Develop traditional and innovative sources of finance		Improved access to finance and insurance	4	20, 24, 66

		together with business coaching and advisory services.		services for smallholder farmers and SMEs.		grouped
	21	Scale-up rainwater harvesting systems to reduce flooding of farms while conserving water for dry season farming.		Scale-up rainwater harvesting systems.	5	
	22	Reform land tenure system for easy access for youth and women.		Reform land tenure system for easy access for youth and women.	4	
	23	Map and classify agricultural lands across the country for production, processing and distribution of specific crops and livestock.				grouped with 1.2
	24	Provide insurance services to smallholder farmers, and women producers.				grouped with 20
	25	Scale-up smart agriculture initiatives that require fewer natural resources and produces more food (including hydroponics, and aeroponics).		Invest on climate smart agriculture (including, hydroponics and aeroponics, biotechnology).	5	25, 29,1 grouped
	26	Recover and restore various fish stocks and other aquatics.		Restore various fish stocks and other aquatics.	5	
	27	Support cultivation of bio-fortified crops and utilisation of biofortified commodities as industrial raw materials.		Support cultivation of bio-fortified crops and utilisation of biofortified commodities as industrial raw materials (including through regulation and research).	1	27, 59, 72, 74, 75 grouped
	28	Establish national frameworks for the application of Climate Services (Domestication of Global Framework for Climate Services by WMO).		Develop climate services.	5	
	29	Adopt Climate-Smart Agricultural practices and eco-friendly system of land development with biotechnology.	29.1	Adopt Climate-Smart Agriculture (biotechnology).		grouped with 25
			29.2	Promote eco-friendly system of land development.	3	
	30	Build capacity of communities to engage in agro-forestry based production.		Promote agroforestry at community level.	3	
					13	
Cluster 3: Value chain and Market system development for improved productivity, improved livelihoods, and poverty reduction	31	Promote women groups' aggregators, for specific commodity value chains, to increase market access for women producers.		Promote women groups' aggregators and cooperatives.		grouped with 16
	32	Increase amenities and improve storage facilities through promotion of private-public partnership.		Improve storage facilities through PPP.	4	32, 38 grouped
	33	Enhance farm product transportation through improved and expanded railways.		Enhance farm product transportation through improved and expanded railways.	4	
	34	Automate food value chains to support traceability of products.		Invest in automated food value chains to support traceability of products.	4	
	35	Produce blended foods from local food sources for prevention and management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).		Promote the consumption of local nutritious food (including through tax incentives).	2	35, 47, 56.1 grouped
	36	Establish micro-processing hubs to reduce post-harvest losses, prioritizing women processors.				grouped with 2
	37	Create physical spaces and schedules for farmers especially youths and women to sell their products.		Develop basic market infrastructures including cold chain facilities.	4	37, 40 grouped
	38	Promote public-private partnerships to address infrastructural deficits.				grouped with 32
	39	Establish grain reserve services and functional commodity markets to cater for emergencies.		Establish food bank.	5	
	40	Upgrade market infrastructure to include cold rooms for fresh foods and other perishables.				grouped with 37
	41	Establish free-trade zones to promote local and international trade.		Establish free-trade zones to promote export and international trade.	4	
	42	Re-introduce market boards and improve agro-logistics support		Re-introduce market boards.	4	
					8	
Cluster 4: Increase demand for, and consumption of adequate, nutritious, and healthy foods, including in humanitarian contexts	43	Promote homestead food production and animal husbandry with improved varieties for household consumption.		Promote homestead food production.	1	
	44	Develop technical and vocational training for women and youth along food value chains to increase job opportunities.		Develop technical and vocational training for women and youth.		grouped with 8
	45	Scale-up conditional cash transfer programmes and integrate livelihood development activities.		Develop social protection (cash transfer).	5	45, 46 grouped
	46	Expand and improve social protection programmes including creation of food banks to deliver healthy, safe, and sustainable diets to poor communities and in humanitarian emergencies.				grouped with 45
	47	Promote use of traditional/ local vegetables for preparation of meals for school feeding programmes, hospitals, military, and other public institutions.				grouped with 35

	48	Establish and scale-up home storage of food through processing and preservation to minimize food waste and build-up household food stocks.				grouped with 5.2
					2	
Cluster 5: Promotion of peace-building initiatives, EWS, food marketing and regulation standards and an enabling environment for food systems activities	49	Strengthen collaboration between government, households, NGOs, and research organizations to mitigate the effects of climate change.		Strengthen information and research on climate change.	5	49, 51 grouped
	50	Promote policy reforms and enabling acts to ensure preservation of ecosystems to improve food production during adverse weather conditions.				Not selected - not specific
	51	Promote public-private partnership to monitor, track, report and disseminate information on potential climatic stresses in states.				grouped with 49
	52	Establish policies to facilitate increased competitiveness of local manufacturers in the food market (tax breaks, low-interest credit).		Develop incentives for local food manufacturers (tax breaks, low-interest credit) and facilitate administrative procedures (registration of food products).	4	52, 67, 70 grouped
	53	Establish inclusive platforms for engagement of vulnerable groups including women and youth in policy planning and implementation processes.		Improve food systems governance and create an enabling environment for food systems transformation (inclusive platforms, food systems dashboards, transformation support facility).	5	53, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 grouped
	54	Establish conflict early warning systems, and build capacity for peace building and conflict resolution for all communities.		Build capacity for peace building and security including through EWS).	5	14, 54 grouped
	55	Review and revise Nigeria Agriculture Policy to be all inclusive (youth, women, and the vulnerable groups).				Not selected - not specific
	56	Support legislation to discourage production of unhealthy foods and increase investment in the nutrition value chain (sugar tax, tax incentives for healthy food).	56.1	Incentivise the production of healthy food (tax).		grouped with 35
			56.2	Discourage the production of unhealthy food (regulation, sugar tax).	2	56.2, 57 grouped
	57	Encourage multi-stakeholder engagement for an all-inclusive policy formulation, regulation of advertisement and marketing of unhealthy foods.				grouped with 56.2
	58	Facilitate the passage of the Right to Food Bill and implementation of its Act.		Approve and implement the Right to Food Bill.	5	
	59	Advocate for accountability of government and industries for mandatory food fortification and food system awareness creation by CSOs.				grouped with 27
	60	Ensure fiscal sustainability of all sectors in national budgetary allocations.				Not selected - not specific
	61	Develop a subnational food systems dashboard.				grouped with 53
	62	Establish a National Food Systems Transformation Support Facility.				grouped with 53
	63	Develop feedback mechanisms through which food systems transformation service providers can engage with national coordination office.				grouped with 53
	64	Create a Food Systems Command Centre as part of the National Food Systems Transformation Support Facility.				grouped with 53
	65	Implement regional and global commitments and integrate their indicators, into the data platform.				grouped with 53
	66	Create index of financial institutions that provide funding to smallholder farmers and SMEs.				grouped with 20
	67	Decentralize and fast-track registration of food products with regulatory agencies				grouped with 52
	68	Develop regulatory standards for manufacturing agricultural machinery, to prevent the proliferation of inefficient machinery in the country.		Develop regulatory standards for manufacturing agricultural machinery.	1	
					7	
Cluster 6: Linking research, innovation, and extension for a sustainable food system	69	Increase research investments in traditional crops.		Increase funding for agricultural research (traditional crops, regenerative agriculture) and develop partnerships with private sector research institutes.	1	69, 71, 77 grouped
	70	Incentivise private sector to create business solutions that provide healthy food alternatives for consumers.				grouped with 52
	71	Strengthen capacity of existing food systems related research institutes to promote regenerative agriculture and restoration.				grouped with 69

	72	Improve regulation and coordination of existing fortification programmes.				grouped with 27
	73	Ensure the stability and quality of micronutrients premixes, throughout the value chain by producers and marketers.				grouped with 35
	74	Promote private sector-research institutes partnerships to develop packaging and other solutions to ensure micronutrients retention in fortified foods.				grouped with 27
	75	Improve nutrient value of staple crops through bio-fortification.				grouped with 27
	76	Develop resilient crop seed varieties, livestock, and aquaculture.				grouped with 15
	77	Promote private sector-research institutes partnerships and create linkages to address capacity gaps revealed by capacity audits.				grouped with 74
	78	Convert agricultural waste to value-added products to reduce ecosystem degradation and promulgate policies that encourage the use of eco-friendly bags.		Promote recycling of agricultural waste.	5	
					2	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>			<b>42</b>	