



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation-Colombia

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 Food Systems Transformation in Colombia

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 family farming (smallholder farming). Strengthen agricultural extension systems. Support the substitution of illicit crops. Support biofortified crops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop infrastructure (roads).
AT2 Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the implementation of national nutrition policies (e.g. breastfeeding and complementary feeding 10 year plan) and mainstream nutrition in agricultural policies. Strengthen the promotion of healthy and sustainable diets, including at school. Expand school feeding programmes, including for home learning. Promote traditional food. Improve food labelling: information on nutritional value and environmental sustainability (eco-labelling). Reduce food waste by promoting responsible consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of healthy and sustainable diets: information and awareness campaigns, taxes (meat).
AT3 Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable agricultural production systems based on agroecology and indigenous knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support programmes for reducing excessive use of agrochemicals and promote the use of organic inputs (awareness raising, extension services). Promote good production practices (agricultural, livestock, fishing, aquaculture and forestry) and strengthen related certification schemes. Promote agroecology and agroforestry (extension systems, awareness raising, certification schemes).
AT4 Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop local value chains and short marketing circuits. Promote purchase of local food from smallholders farmers in public food distribution programmes. Reduce food loss by improving food production and transformation systems (processing, packaging and marketing). Promote more inclusive food systems (ethnic groups, women, migrants, youth). Implement land tenure reform: deconcentration of land, secure land right. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate alternative marketing (e.g. e-commerce platforms). Support food value chains based on local production: short marketing circuits, geographic certification schemes, artisanal mode of transformation. Promote locally produced food in public purchases. Improve access to land. Promote farmers' associations. Promote private investments in food value chains. Promote women, youth and migrant inclusion in food value chains (urban and peri-urban value chains).
AT5 Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen social safety nets programmes (nutrition sensitive, displaced and vulnerable people), and strengthen as well food and nutritional assistance in crisis situation. Invest in social and economic infrastructure in rural areas (health, education, drinking water, access road). Improve information systems (e.g. native species and varieties, availability and price of agricultural inputs and products) and promote the work of universities, research centres and observatories. Strengthen the implementation of policies aiming at biodiversity and ecosystems preservation, including for maritime and coastal areas, soils, forests. Strengthen the implementation of climate change policies and strategies (e.g. mainstream CC into territorial development plans). Support green growth and circular economy. Improve food systems governance (participatory). Implementation of the right approach in food policies (right to adequate food, food sovereignty, democratic participation, etc.). Promote the One Health Approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in agricultural research and innovation. Develop social protection. Strengthen food information systems. Improve food system governance at local and national levels (participatory governance systems). Capacity building of public administration: local administration, inter-institutional coordination. Promote climate-smart agriculture (e.g. precision agriculture, protected agriculture) and related research and innovation.

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
Food security, nutrition and health	1	Strengthen food systems and the local marketing circuits of nutritious and safe food: o Promote local markets of diversified, nutritious and safe foods based on short marketing circuits of locally produced food (family farming); o Promote artisanal modes of transformation; o Stimulate alternative marketing spaces (e.g. community stores), and e-commerce platforms; o Awareness raising of consumers and consumer organisations on healthy and sustainable diets (for example, through public campaigns on the effects of harmful substances in highly processed foods, nutrition labelled, sustainable production).	1.1	Develop local markets for locally produced food based on short marketing circuits.		grouped with 5.4
			1.2	Promote artisanal modes of transformation.		grouped with 5.4
			1.3	Stimulate alternative marketing (e.g. e-commerce platforms).	4	
			1.4	Promotion of healthy and sustainable diets: information and awareness campaigns, taxes (meat).	2	1.4, 8.2 grouped
	2	Facilitate access of family farming to public food purchasing mechanisms at the national and local levels to stimulate local production, improve incomes of the producers, and change consumption habits.		Promote locally produced food in public purchases.	4	
					3	
Address social and economic vulnerability of small-scale producers in food systems	3	Investment in sectoral public goods (infrastructure, innovation and development, access to land) and non-sectorial (connectivity, roads, security, social protection). Encourage collective organisation to improve social environment.	3.1	Invest in agricultural research and innovation.	5	
			3.2	Develop infrastructure (roads).	1	
			3.3	Develop social protection.	5	
			3.4	Improve access to land.	4	
			3.5	Promote farmers' associations.	4	
					5	
Governance and territorial balance	4	Innovate with new systems of governance of food systems (at local and national levels): o Promote the constitution and consolidation of civil society organizations; o Support regional and local development programmes; o Promoting women and youth inclusion in food systems; o Promote participatory governance mechanisms (create spaces for discussion, negotiation and collective decision); o Generate mechanisms that consolidate food information systems and exchange.	4.1	Improve food system governance at local and national levels (participatory governance systems).	5	
			4.2	Support women and youth inclusion in the food systems.		grouped with 5.2
			4.3	Strengthen food information systems	5	
	5	Leverage private investment in sustainable and inclusive value chains: o Improve skills of local administrations in territorial planning and development. o Invest in food value chains (local and national levels), for instance in the development of urban and peri-urban food value chains involving women, young people and rural migrants. o Improve inter-institutional coordination and coherence in policy implementation (e.g. Departmental and Municipal Plans for Food Security and Nutrition). o Development of agri-food clusters that valorise local production, including through the development of certification schemes (Protected designation of origin).	5.1	Promote private investments in food value chains.	4	
			5.2	Promote women, youth and migrant inclusion in food value chains (urban and peri-urban value chains).	4	4.2, 5.2 grouped
			5.3	Capacity building of public administration: local administration, inter-institutional coordination.	5	
			5.4	Support food value chains based on local production: short marketing circuits, geographic certification schemes, artisanal mode of transformation.	4	1.1, 5.4 grouped
	6	Support programs to reduce use of agrochemicals and increase environmental and economic efficiency of conventional agricultural production: o Awareness raising on the economic, environmental	6.1	Support programmes for reducing excessive use of agrochemicals and promote the use of organic inputs (awareness raising, extension services).	3	

		and social cost of excessive use of agrochemicals (four times the average use of the OECD); o Sensitize and train producers and extension workers on the correct calculation and proper application of agrochemicals; o Generate strategies to encourage the use of organic inputs; o Promote good production practices (agricultural, livestock, fishing, aquaculture and forestry) and strengthen related certification schemes; o Promote agroforestry.	6.2	Promote good production practices (agricultural, livestock, fishing, aquaculture and forestry) and strengthen related certification schemes.	3	
			6.3	Promote agroecology and agroforestry (extension systems, awareness raising, certification schemes).	3	6.3, 7.1 grouped
7	Support the transition of family farming towards agroecology: o Promote agroecological practices through agricultural extension services and the marketing of agroecological products through certification schemes; o Awareness raising of consumers; o Promote climate-smart agriculture (adaptation and mitigation of climate change).		7.1	Promote agroecology (extension systems, awareness of consumers, certification schemes).		grouped with 6.3
			7.2	Promote climate-smart agriculture (e.g. precision agriculture, protected agriculture) and related research and innovation.	5	7.2, 8.1 grouped
8	Strengthen research and innovation for climate change adaptation and mitigation: o precision agriculture; protected agriculture (greenhouses); agroecological practices; climate-smart agriculture; taxes on meat; o Management of diets to generate less GHG emissions (short marketing circuits).		8.1	Support research and innovations on climate change adaptation and mitigation (climate-smart agriculture including precision agriculture, protected agriculture).		grouped with 7.2
			8.2	Promote sustainable diets (tax on meat).		grouped with 1.4
					10	
Total	8				18	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic Areas	National Pathway - Priority Actions (Game changers)		National Pathway - Reformulation Priority Actions	Link to AT	Comment
AT 1: Ensure safe and nutritious food for all	1	Improving the nutritional quality of food crops through the strengthening of strategies such as biofortification that at the same time protect ancestral practices and native seeds.	Support biofortified crops.	1	
	2	Continue with the implementation of the Work Plan Against Malnutrition Ni1+, in particular for the aspects related to moderate and severe acute malnutrition and social protection programmes aimed at its prevention.	2.1 Strengthen the implementation of national nutrition policies (e.g. breastfeeding and complementary feeding 10 year plan) and mainstream nutrition in agricultural policies. 2.2 Strengthen social safety nets programmes (nutrition sensitive, displaced and vulnerable people), and strengthen as well food and nutritional assistance in crisis situation.	2 5	2.1, 5, 6, 44.3 grouped 2.2, 47, 48 grouped
	3	Strengthen the promotion of healthy and sustainable diets to reduce malnutrition (undernutrition, overweight, and micronutrient deficiencies).	Strengthen the promotion of healthy and sustainable diets, including at school.	2	3, 10, 51 grouped
	4	The strengthening, promotion and support to smallholder farming is key to improve food and nutritional security in rural areas. Similarly, it is necessary to move towards improving the nutritional status of workers in agri-food systems.	Support family farming (smallholder farming).	1	
	5	Mainstream nutrition in agricultural policies.			grouped with 2.1
	6	Continue promoting, protecting and supporting the practice of breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding (10 year plan).			grouped with 2.1
				5	
AT 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	7	Consolidate and strengthen local food value chains and short marketing circuits (Plans for Peasant, Family and Community Economy and Agriculture).	Develop local value chains and short marketing circuits.	4	
	8	Strengthen knowledge on traditional food.	Promote traditional food.	2	
	9	Implementation of food labelling regulation (information on nutritional value).	Improve food labelling: information on nutritional value and environmental sustainability (eco-labelling).	2	9, 14 grouped
	10	Increase awareness on the need to shift to healthy and sustainable diets based on low-carbon emission and biodiversity friendly production systems.			grouped with 3
	11	Reduce food waste by promoting responsible consumption as per the National Policy to Prevent Food Loss and Waste and its respective regulations.	Reduce food waste by promoting responsible consumption.	2	
	12	Improve articulation between information, education and communication instruments on food and nutrition security.			Not selected-not specific
	13	Progress must be made towards improving food value chains (processing, packaging and marketing) to reduce food losses.	Reduce food loss by improving food production and transformation systems (processing, packaging and marketing).	4	13, 21 grouped
	14	The country needs to move towards eco-labelling of food products to guide consumption decisions based on sustainability.			grouped with 9
				5	
AT3: Boosting nature positive production	15	Continue with the formulation and implementation of the public policy for the promotion of agroecology and the recognition of Participatory Guarantee Systems (SPGs).	Promote sustainable agricultural production systems based on agroecology and indigenous knowledge.	3	15, 16 grouped
	16	Protection and recognition of indigenous agricultural production systems, given the contribution of these systems to the environmental sustainability of food systems.			grouped with 15
	17	Consolidation of data on native varieties and species.	Improve information systems (e.g. native species and varieties, availability and price of agricultural inputs and products) and promote the work of universities, research centres and observatories.	5	17, 44.1, 52 grouped

	18	Update, formulate and implement a new national environmental policy for the sustainable development of maritime, coastal and insular areas, to guarantee their preservation and conservation in harmony with the development of productive activities.	Strengthen the implementation of policies aiming at biodiversity and ecosystems preservation, including for maritime and coastal areas, soils, forests.	5	18, 25, 26, 27, 28 grouped
	19	Mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation into territorial development plans.	Strengthen the implementation of climate change policies and strategies (e.g. mainstream CC into territorial development plans).	5	19, 20, 23, 24 grouped
	20	Formulation and implementation of the Comprehensive Sectoral and Territorial Climate Change Management Plans.			grouped with 19
	21	Reduce food loss by improving agricultural production systems and distribution and marketing systems (implementing the National Policy for the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste, and its respective regulations).			grouped with 13
	22	Allocate more resources to agricultural extension systems.	Strengthen agricultural extension systems.	1	
	23	Continue with the implementation of the institutional strategy for the articulation of policies and actions on climate change.			grouped with 19
	24	Strengthen the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA).			grouped with 19
	25	Continue with the implementation of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services (PGIBSE).			Grouped with 18
	26	Continue with the implementation of the Policy for Sustainable Soil Management.			grouped with 18
	27	Continue with the implementation of the National Policy for the Control of Deforestation and the Sustainable Management of Forests (CONPES 4021).			grouped with 18
	28	Update and implement the National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of Ocean Spaces and Coastal and Insular Areas of Colombia - PNAOCI.			grouped with 18
	29	Continue with the implementation of the Green Growth Policy (improve economic productivity and competitiveness by 2030, while ensuring the sustainable use of natural capital and social inclusion, in a climate-compatible manner).	Support green growth and circular economy.	5	29, 30 grouped
	30	Strengthen the National Strategy for Circular Economy.			grouped with 29
				6	
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods.	31	Strengthen the inclusion and participation of ethnic groups in food systems.	Promote more inclusive food systems (ethnic groups, women, migrants, youth).	4	31, 32, 38, 39, 43 grouped
	32	Recognize and guarantee women's rights, especially rural women, as key actors in food systems.	Support rural women inclusion in agri-food value chains and processing.		grouped with 31
	33	Strengthen social and community participation in decision-making spaces that have direct and indirect influence on food, nutrition, environmental and economic aspects, given their relationship with food systems.	Improve food systems governance (participatory).	5	
	34	Guaranteeing adequate livelihoods, especially in rural areas, through secure land rights and deconcentration of land, decent working conditions, social protection (health and education).	34.1 Implement land tenure reform: deconcentration of land, secure land right.	4	
			34.2 Invest in social and economic infrastructure in rural areas (health, education, drinking water, access road).	5	34.2, 40, 42 grouped
	35	Application of the rights approach in the implementation of public policies targeting smallholder farmers in rural areas.	Implementation of the right approach in food policies (right to adequate food, food sovereignty, democratic participation, etc.).	5	35, 36, 37, 39 grouped
	36	Recognize the human right to adequate food, food sovereignty, food citizenship, indigenous knowledge.			grouped with 35
	37	Continue with the promotion and protection of the right to democratic participation.			grouped with 35

	38	Implement the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants and subsequently facilitate regularisation process.				grouped with 31
	39	Design and implement an action plan to ensure opportunities for rural youth.				grouped with 31
	40	Guarantees access to drinking water and adequate and sufficient livelihoods in remote rural areas.				grouped with 34.2
	41	Continue to implement the National Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops, in order to improve livelihoods and fight poverty, through development programmes.		Support the substitution of illicit crops.	1	
	42	Improve access to rural areas through the implementation of the National Plan for Roads and Regional Integration, in order to improve local economies and the availability of food.				grouped with 34.2
	43	Continue with the implementation of the National Plan for Youth (COMPES 4040 Pacto Colombia).				grouped with 31
					6	
ATS: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses	44	Strengthen some measures taken in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and addressing food security: monitoring availability and price of agricultural inputs and food in all regions of the country, delivering school meals when learning at home, and delivering childhood nutritional supplements.	44.1	Monitoring availability and price of agricultural inputs and food in all regions of the country.		grouped with 17
			44.2	Expand school feeding programmes, including for home learning.	2	
			44.3	Delivering childhood nutritional supplements.		grouped with 2.1
	45	Implement the One Health Approach through the promotion of inter-institutional work of the competent authorities in the fields of human health, animal health, environment, and agriculture.		Promote the One Health Approach	5	45, 46 grouped
	46	Continue with the implementation of the "Policy for reactivation, repowering and sustainable and inclusive growth: new commitment for the future of Colombia", based on three guiding principles: sustainability, intersectorality and resilience.				grouped with 45
	47	To maintain food supply during crisis situations, rapid response strategy is needed for the fast recovery of diversified agricultural production. The overall improvement of the food and nutritional assistance system and food donations system are also needed.				grouped with 2.2
	48	Continue with the Law on Care, Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims of the Armed Conflict, which provides shelter and food assistance to displaced and vulnerable people.				grouped with 2.2
					2	
Transversal actions	49	Continue the implementation of the Local Public Procurement Law, which promotes the participation of smallholder farmers in public food distribution programmes.		Promote purchase of local food from smallholders farmers in public food distribution programmes.	4	
	50	Strengthen the School Feeding Program (PAE) through the expansion of its coverage.				grouped with 44.2
	51	Design of an educational plan for the promotion of healthy and fortified food at school.				grouped with 3
	52	Strengthen agri-food information systems by promoting the work of universities, research centres and observatories.				grouped with 17
					1	
Total		52			25	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023