



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation – Sierra Leone

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 Sierra Leone

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 diversified food production Promoting artisanal and commercial fishing Promote nutrition sensitive agriculture Develop infrastructure (roads, storage, processing, marketing) Strengthen agri-food research and innovations Improve extension delivery systems Develop inputs supply chain (fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation facilities, etc) Promote commercial agriculture Promote agricultural intensification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support diversified local food production (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture) Increase the production of nutritious crops Rural Infrastructure (roads, electrification) Increase budget on agriculture (research, extension, etc...) Farm advisory services Support sustainable aquaculture Capacity building in agro-processing Promoting technology transfer in rural areas Adopt national food safety standards Targeted subsidized inputs
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education campaign on healthy food and diets Promote consumption of healthy foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition education Dietary guidelines Food fortification
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale-up sustainable mixed cropping system
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote inclusive and innovative finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to rural finance Business skills development Development of farmer organisations Strengthen inclusive land use policies and promote fair and equitable access to land
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop information system (agricultural statistics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale-up climate-smart agricultural practices Capacity for monitoring and enforcement of fisheries regulations to be strengthened

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
Food security, nutrition and health	1	Improvement of production environment to increase production, productivity and food diversity	1,1	Increase budget on agriculture (research, extension, etc...)	1	
			1,2	Support diversified local food production (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture)	1	1.2; 5.1 grouped
			1,3	Increase access to finance		Grouped with 6.1
			1,4	Promoting technology transfer in rural areas	1	
			1,5	Technical training in agriculture		Grouped with 5.4
	2	Implementation of food-based nutrition programmes.	2,1	Dietary guidelines	2	
			2,2	Food fortification	2	
			2,3	Nutrition education	2	
			2,4	Adopt national food safety standards	1	
			2,5	Increase the production of nutritious crops	1	
Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods	3	Capacity for monitoring and enforcement of fisheries regulations to be strengthened	3,1	Capacity for monitoring and enforcement of fisheries regulations to be strengthened	5	
	4	Increased investment in sustainable aquaculture interventions to complement the availability of fish from artisanal fisheries as a protein source.	4,1	Support sustainable aquaculture	1	
Territorial equity and development	5	Formulation and implementation of inclusive food systems policies and programmes focusing on territorial development.	5,1	Food diversification (crops, livestock, fisheries)		Grouped with 1.2
			5,2	Land policy and governance: fair and equitable access to land		Grouped with 7.1
			5,3	Rural Infrastrucuture (roads, electrification)	1	
			5,4	Farm advisory services	1	
			5,5	Business skills development	4	
			5,6	Development of farmer organisations	4	
	6	Private sector involvement and investment in agriculture.	6,1	Access to rural finance	4	1.3; 6.1; grouped
			6,2	Targeted subsidized inputs	1	
			6,3	Capacity building in agroprocessing	1	

Sustainable natural resource use and environment	7	Policy implementation and community engagement on key land use policies to be strengthened	7,1	Strengthen inclusive land use policies and promote fair and equitable access to land	4	5.2 ; 7.1; grouped
	8	Transition to sustainable mixed cropping system to be supported.	8,1	Scale-up climate-smart agricultural practices	5	
			8,2	Scale-up sustainable mixed cropping system	3	
Grand total		8			20	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic areas	National Pathway – Priority Actions (Game Changers)		National Pathway – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
	1	Increasing agricultural production and productivity (intensification and diversification) among the rural poor smallholders, who constitute the poorest segment of society, through a variety of support measures along the entire agricultural value chain, from pre-planting to marketing.	Promote agricultural intensification	1	
			Support diversified food production	1	
	2	Establishment of supply chains for inputs such as fertilizers, integrated pest and diseases management equipment, irrigation facilities, high yielding seed varieties and livestock breeds, agro-processing and marketing equipment and distribution points by private sector actors.	Develop input supply chain: fertilizers, pest control, irrigation facilities, etc.	1	
	3	Promoting commercial agriculture through private sector participation by creating an enabling environment that is attractive for the private sector to invest.	Promoting commercial agriculture	1	
	4	Promoting the elimination and minimization of post-harvest losses through the provision of storage facilities both by government and private sector in the form of storage, drying floors, rice mills, threshers, animal feed mills and abattoirs through loans, grants, and cost-sharing arrangements.	Support infrastructure development (roads, storage, processing , marketing)	1	4, 6 grouped
	5	Improving access to rural credit through establishment of Community Banks and Financial Services Associations, cooperatives, and other traditional credit schemes.	Promote inclusive and innovative finance	4	
	6	Increasing investment both by government and private sector for building and rehabilitation of feeder and trunk roads, and community markets infrastructure to facilitate movement of goods to marketplaces.			Group with 4
	7	Reorganizing and training of food systems - based organizations to engage in productive commercial food systems activities and link to the market economy.			Not selected – not specific
	8	Improving agricultural research, technology and innovations and extension delivery systems	Strengthen agri-food research and innovations	1	
			Improve extension delivery systems	1	
	9	Formation of coalitions to support the consumption of healthy diets through implementation of nutrition sensitive agriculture.	Promote nutrition sensitive agriculture	1	
			Promote consumption of healthy foods	2	
	10	Promoting and enhancing food environments following international best practice to increase accessibility, affordability of healthy foods.			Not selected – not specific
	11	Support programmes and actions directed to eliminate all forms of malnutrition in the country.			Not selected – not specific
	12	Promoting capacity strengthening along the food production, processing, marketing and consumption value chains through massive nutrition education targeting the general population on healthy foods and healthy diets.	Education campaign on healthy food and diets	2	
	13	Setting up an appropriate and robust food waste management systems to enhance a cleaner and healthier environment.			Not selected – not specific
	14	Promoting efficient and effective sector resource management systems, including the establishment of a database for agricultural statistics as well as creating a sector coordination mechanism.	Develop information system (agricultural statistics)	5	
	15	Providing adequate surveillance capabilities, facilitating the lifting of the ban on fish exports to EU markets.			Grouped with 16
	16	Improving the infrastructure and support services for commercial fishing.	Promoting artisanal and commercial fishing	1	15,16,17 grouped
	17	Providing adequate extension support for artisanal fishermen and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Marine Resources.			Grouped with 16
	18	Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms to support the food systems.			Not selected – not specific
Grade Total	18			13	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022