



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation- **Guatemala**

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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Advancing knowledge towards zero hunger and sustainable food systems

- 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 Guatemala

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"> Invest in irrigation systems. Strengthen agri-food research. Investment in post-harvest infrastructure (silos) to reduce food losses. Support diversified food production (focus on protein source). Provide agricultural subsidies. Strengthen agricultural advisory services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the National Rural Extension System (SNER) with a focus on smallholder farmers and indigenous people, and a focus on crop diversification. Invest in efficient irrigation systems and mechanisation.
AT2 Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the consumption of locally produced and healthy food across all ages (e.g. school feeding programmes) and promote healthy lifestyle through communication and education actions (with a focus in urban areas). Fight against chronic malnutrition in children (Update dietary guidelines for early childhood). Support school feeding programmes. Information campaigns on seasonal hunger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop public purchases of local nutritious food (e.g. for school feeding programmes). Develop dietary guidelines for children, information campaigns on healthy diet, and incorporate nutrition into curriculum. Regulate food promotion and advertising, and nutrition labels. Promote cooperation with the food industry for the production of healthy food. Develop communication strategies to promote the consumption of certified products (environmentally friendly produced).
AT3 Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water resources management. Promote soil restoration and protection and biological diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support agroecology (e.g. agroforestry). Support soil conservation practices and biodiversity. Promote sustainable agricultural practices through certification strategies (medium and large producers): reduction of the use of agrochemicals, agroforestry, forest conservation, efficient water use, etc.
AT4 Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in market infrastructure. Promote certification schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support short marketing circuits (e.g. through public purchases). Secure land ownership (property rights). Strengthen farmer cooperatives. Develop information systems: prices, weather, marketing, and transportation services.
AT5 Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote nutrition-sensitive safety nets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen social safety net programs for the vulnerable people. Scale-up climate information services.

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
Address the double burden of malnutrition	1	Improve supply, access, and consumption of healthy food: <u>Access and consumption:</u> i) Strengthen social protection programmes for vulnerable people; ii) Develop public purchases of local nutritious food for school feeding programmes; iii) Develop dietary guidelines for children; iv) Strengthen education on healthy eating (insertion in national curriculum); v) Regulate food advertising, and promotion; vi) Improve nutrition labels (e.g. “high in sugars”, “high in saturated fat”, “high in sodium”, etc.); vii) Develop communication campaigns to promote the consumption of healthy foods. <u>Supply of nutritious and diversified food:</u> i) Develop short marketing circuits (public purchases); ii) technical support (production and marketing) for crop diversification (corn, bean, vegetable crops); iii) promote cooperation with the food industry for the production of high nutritional value food.	1.1	Strengthen social protection programmes for vulnerable people.	5	
			1.2	Develop public purchases of local nutritious food (e.g. for school feeding programmes).	2	
			1.3	Develop dietary guidelines for children, information campaigns on healthy diet, and incorporate nutrition into curriculum.	2	
			1.4	Regulate food promotion and advertising, and nutrition labels.	2	
			1.5	Provide technical support for crop diversification.		grouped with 5.1
			1.6	Support short marketing circuits (e.g. through public purchases).	4	1.6; 2 grouped
			1.7	Promote cooperation with the food industry for the production of healthy food.	2	
	2	Strengthen short and local marketing circuits.				grouped with 1.6
				6		
Addressing socio-economic inequities, vulnerability of smallholder farmers, and territorial imbalances	3	Facilitate property titling for landholders and applicants. To this end, it is proposed to decentralize the services of the General Property Registry and improve and increase the dissemination of information on these processes, as well as improve legal support to advice people who seek to legalize their titles.		Secure land ownership (property rights).	4	
	4	Strengthen farmer cooperatives to improve the production and marketing of agricultural products. One of the objectives of this lever is to increase the number of members in cooperatives specialized by products (corn, beans, coffee, cardamom, fruits and vegetables, among others). A way to do this is by disseminating information about the success of cooperatives in cardamom and coffee sectors.		Strengthen farmer cooperatives.	4	
	5	Improve access of the family farmers to innovative and quality services. Strengthen the National System of Rural Extension (SNER). It is important to focus efforts in family farming with emphasis on most vulnerable producers, women and the indigenous population. Technical support to production and marketing are needed. Develop information system that sends information in real time to producers about prices, weather, marketing, and transportation services. Providing technical support to women and producers who do not speak Spanish could also increase knowledge of indigenous agricultural practices and allow their promotion.	5.1	Strengthen the National Rural Extension System (SNER) with a focus on smallholder farmers and indigenous people, and a focus on crop diversification.	1	1.5; 5.1; 6.1 grouped
			5.2	Develop information systems: prices, weather, marketing, and transportation services.	4	
				4		

Promote sustainable management of natural resources (water, soil, biodiversity).	6	Promote research and development, public investments for the agroecological transition of production systems, especially for small and medium-sized farmers. Diversification of production, reduction of the use of agrochemicals, efficient irrigation systems, mechanization of small family farms, supply chains that value agrobiodiversity, local knowledge, soil conservation practices and biodiversity. Scale-up agroforestry initiatives and reforestation -especially on riverbanks-, the implementation of irrigation systems and the establishment of climate information systems.	6.1	Promote diversification of production.		grouped with 5.1
			6.2	Invest in efficient irrigation systems and mechanisation.	1	
			6.3	Support agroecology (e.g. agroforestry).	3	
			6.4	Support soil conservation practices and biodiversity.	3	
			6.5	Scale-up climate information services.	5	
	7	Develop certification strategies and encourage the adoption of sustainable agricultural standards (environmental friendly practices) by medium and large-sized agricultural producers: reducing the use of agrochemicals, forest conservation, agroforestry systems, and the promotion of efficient water use. In parallel, develop communication strategies to promote the consumption of certified products.	7.1	Promote sustainable agricultural practices through certification strategies (medium and large producers): reduction of the use of agrochemicals, agroforestry, forest conservation, efficient water use, etc.	3	
			7.2	Develop communication strategies to promote the consumption of certified products (environmentally friendly produced).	2	
					6	
	Total	7			16	

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
Action 1: Production, access, distribution and consumption of safe and healthy food	1	Strengthen irrigation systems, promote scientific research, improve water management, promote soil conservation and biological diversity; promote integrated water resources management, develop irrigation infrastructure for food production, while preserving safety, hygiene, good practices and nutritional value.	1.1	Invest in irrigation systems.	1	
			1.2	Improve water resources management	3	
			1.3	Promote soil restoration and protection and biological diversity.	3	1.3; 2.3 grouped
			1.4	Strengthen agri-food research.	1	
	2	Investment in post-harvest infrastructure (silos) to reduce food losses. Promote diversification in food production, especially for protein source. Invest in soil restoration and protection, in productive and marketing infrastructure.	2.1	Investment in post-harvest infrastructure (silos) to reduce food losses.	1	
			2.2	Support diversified food production (focus on protein source).	1	
			2.3	Invest in soil restoration and protection.		grouped with 1.3
			2.4	Invest in market infrastructure.	4	
	3	Provide agricultural subsidies, promote the marketing of certified agricultural products, link local producers with school feeding programmes (healthy food). In addition, it is necessary to strengthen agricultural advisory services for smallholder farmers.	3.1	Provide agricultural subsidies.	1	
			3.2	Promote certification schemes.	4	
			3.3	Promote the consumption of locally produced and healthy food across all ages (e.g. school feeding programmes) and promote healthy lifestyle, through communication and education actions (with a focus in urban areas).	2	3.3, 4.1, 5.1 grouped
			3.4	Strengthen agricultural advisory services.	1	
				11		
Action 2: Food education and promotion of healthy diets	4	Promotion of sustainable, healthy and nutritious diets, promotion of healthy lifestyles, update dietary guidelines for children below two years old to prevent chronic and acute malnutrition.	4.1	Promotion of healthy diets and lifestyles.		grouped with 3.3
			4.2	Fight against chronic malnutrition in children (Update dietary guidelines for early childhood).	2	4.2, 6.1 grouped
	5	Develop communication strategies for education in food consumption according to different needs (age) and culture. Promote consumption of healthy and local food. The promotion of healthy food consumption in urban areas can become a driver of change of food systems.		Communication and education for the promotion of healthy and local food, with a focus in urban areas.		grouped with 3.3
				1		
Action 3: Strengthen social protection and food systems	6	To strengthen social protection, it is proposed: i) The intensification of efforts to reduce chronic malnutrition in children under five, ii) The strengthening of school feeding programmes, and iii) The development of climate resilience programmes (extreme weather events such as droughts and floods).	6.1	Fight against chronic malnutrition in children under five.		Grouped with 4,2
			6.2	Support school feeding programmes.	2	6.2; 8.1 grouped
	7	Implementation of the School Feeding Law and its regulations, strengthening of already existing social protection programmes, especially those focusing on nutrition (child care during the first 1000 days, including lactating mothers, conditional cash transfers linked to production. Implementation of information campaigns on seasonal hunger.	7.1	Implementation of the School Feeding Law and its Regulations.		grouped with 6.2
			7.2	Promote nutrition-sensitive safety nets.	5	
			7.3	Information campaigns on seasonal hunger.	2	
					3	
Total	7				15	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023