



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation - Burundi

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 Burundi

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"> Develop market infrastructure (transport system, storage) Support research and development Promote land consolidation Strengthen agricultural/farming services (extension services, seeds, etc.) Support agricultural intensification (quality seeds, fertilizers, etc.) Increase animal production and improve veterinary services Support value addition and agro-processing (improve quality) Improve food safety (traceability systems, food quality control system, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop infrastructure (road, water supply) Improve food storage and processing Strengthen research on seed selection Land consolidation programs Subsidize agricultural inputs Promote the production of insects
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness on nutritious food Improve nutrition for women, girls, children Support evidence based policy for women empowerment and equality in nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition awareness campaigns (including insect consumption) Support Biofortification
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote integrated watershed management Restoration of degraded land Promote composting techniques to improve soil fertility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support anti-erosion agricultural practices Support agroforestry
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop land tenure legislation (secure rights) and land use policies Improve access to finance (also for farmers) Capacity building of producer organizations/cooperatives Develop PPPs in agri value chains Develop agri-food exports (diversify product and markets, food safety, quality standard, infrastructure, e-commerce) Promote income-generating activities through financial incentives (taxes and duties) Food price regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land tenure: secure access for farmers and women Improve access to credit (also for farmers) Develop PPPs for strategic investments Strengthen certification schemes Improve education policy (improve school enrolment)
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote climate-smart agriculture (e.g. irrigation, short-cycle and drought tolerant plants, rainwater harvesting systems, etc.) Promote energy saving technology (improved stoves, biogas, briquettes, solar energy) Capacity building of local authorities in food and nutrition security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support climate smart agriculture (irrigation, seeds, goats, rainwater harvesting, less water demanding crops) Promote improve stove Promote renewable energy Develop climate information services Investment in flood protection Promote new technology for charcoal production Remove tariff and non-tariff trade barriers Develop resource mobilization at local level

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	Increase production: research on seed selection; input subsidies; biofortification; nutrition awareness campaigns; strengthen value chains; strengthen public-private partnerships; access to credit; water supply infrastructure	1,1	Strengthen research on seed selection	1	
			1,2	Subsidize agricultural inputs	1	
			1,3	Improve access to credit (also for farmers)	4	
			1,4	Develop infrastructure: water supply		grouped with 3.2
			1,5	Nutrition awareness campaigns (including insect consumption)	2	1.5; 2.2 grouped
			1,6	Support Biofortification	2	
	2	Promote changes in diets: promote insects production and consumption	2,1	Promote the production of insects	1	
			2,2	Awareness raising on the consumption of insects		grouped with 1.5
	3	Strengthen infrastructure (roads)and develop ambitious education policy	3,1	Improve education policy (improve school enrolment)	4	
			3,2	Develop infrastructure (road, water supply)	1	1.4; 3.2 grouped
Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods	4	Ensure adequate livelihoods for all: improve food storage and processing; develop mobilization of resources at local level; promote public-private partnerships and investments; reduce trade tariff and non-tariff trade barriers; strengthen certification schemes	4,1	Improve food storage and processing	1	
			4,2	Develop resource mobilization at local level	5	
			4,3	Remove tariff and non-tariff trade barriers	5	
			4,4	Develop PPPs for strategic investments	4	
			4,5	Strengthen certification schemes	4	
Territorial equity and development						Not identified
Sustainable natural resource use and environment	5	Land tenure: priority access to land for women; secure land titles for farmers; land consolidation	5,1	Land tenure: secure access for farmers and women	4	
			5,2	Land consolidation programs	1	
	6	Infrastructures and technology for a sustainable environment: promote renewable energy; promote new technology for charcoal production; promote improved stove	6,1	Promote renewable energy	5	
			6,2	Promote new technology for charcoal production	5	
			6,3	Promote improve stove	5	
	7	Climate-smart agriculture: rainwater harvesting; irrigation; flood protection; improved seeds; anti erosion agricultural practices; promote goats; agroforestry; climate information services	7,1	Support climate smart agriculture (irrigation, seeds, goats, rainwater harvesting, less water demanding crops)	5	
			7,2	Investment in flood protection	5	
			7,3	Develop climate information services	5	
			7,4	Support agroforestry	3	

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic areas	National Pathway – Priority Actions (Game Changers)		National Pathway – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
Pillar 1: Rational and equitable management of land resources	1	Develop a land policy and a national land use plan in Burundi	Develop land tenure legislation (secure rights) and land use policies, encourage land consolidation	4	1, 10, 24 grouped
	2	Promote techniques for saving energy – wood (improved stoves, biogas, briquettes, solar energy)	Promote energy saving technology (improved stoves, biogas, briquettes, solar energy)	5	
	3	Promote and adopt good sustainable land management practices through integrated watershed management;	Promote integrated watershed management	3	3, 7 grouped
	4	Restore degraded lands through the development and management of fast-growing, multipurpose forest resources with special emphasis on native species	Restoration of degraded land	3	
	5	Disseminate on a large scale improved composting techniques to increase the soil fertility	Promote composting techniques to improve soil fertility	3	
	6	Improve and diversify community livelihoods to relieve congestion agricultural sector			Not selected - not specific
	7	Promote integrated management of national and transboundary water resources;			Grouped with 3
	8	Promote climate-smart agriculture to address climate change (e.g. crops with short cycles and high market and nutritional value);	Promote climate-smart agriculture (e.g. irrigation, short-cycle and drought tolerant plants, rainwater harvesting systems, etc.)	5	8, 9, 17 grouped
	9	Promote the valuation and efficient use of water through the collection and use of rainwater, hillside irrigation, construction of dams and micro – hydro-agricultural dams and use of motor pumps;			Grouped with 8
	10	Facilitate the obtaining of land titles or certificates for farmers;			Grouped with 1
	11	Encourage land consolidation by grouping land holdings (individuals or associations)	Promote land consolidation	1	
Pillar 2: Sustainable production systems that are resilient to climate change	12	Pursue efforts to increase food production by increasing cultivable areas, agricultural intensification (quality seeds, fertilizers, compliance with the cropping calendar and cultural care)	Support agricultural intensification (quality seeds, fertilizers, etc.)	1	
	13	Pursue efforts to increase animal production through the generalization of dairy farming, pigs and poultry, the improvement of food and veterinary care	Increase animal production and improve veterinary services	1	
	14	Valorisation of food crops through processing (machining), improving the quality and prices of agricultural products. This valuation gives farmers greater incomes which allow them to buy what they do not produce on their farms;	Support value addition and agro-processing (improve quality)	1	
	15	Better distribution of food production across the country and price regulation by making agricultural trade more fluid and at affordable prices	Food price regulation	4	
	16	Changes in the eating habits of the population according to the natural regions of the country by raising awareness on the increased consumption of vegetables, fruits, cereals and legumes and certain livestock products (milk, meat and milk)	Raising awareness on nutritious food	2	

	17	The use of agricultural practices that are more resilient to climate change, in particular irrigation in the dry season, the protection of watersheds, the drainage of marshes, the cultivation of short-cycle plants, and that of plants that are more resistant to drought such as pigeon pea, cowpea, tuber and root crops (colocasia, yam, cassava, sweet potato in particular)			Grouped with 8
Pillar 3: Healthy and nutritious food and resilience mechanisms of Burundian populations	18	Increased production for sustainable and solid food availability (agricultural extension service, irrigation system, seed system, support cooperatives etc)	Strengthen agricultural/farming services (extension services, seeds, etc.)	1	
	19	Improve food safety (traceability systems, food quality control system, etc)	Improve food safety (traceability systems, food quality control system, etc)	1	
	20	Improvement of the market infrastructure (transport system (road, means of transport), storage, connectivity...)	Develop market infrastructure (transport system, storage)	1	
	21	Strong agricultural research and development	Support research and development	1	
	22	Improvement of farmers' access to credit (rural credit system, micro-finance)	Improve access to finance (also for farmers)	4	22, 47 grouped
	23	Control population density (empower rural women, increase family planning campaigns)			Grouped with 38
	24	Improvement of land law and land management system			Grouped with 1
	25	Promotion of income-generating activities (entrepreneurial) (off-farm employment, incentives (taxes and duties)	Promote income-generating activities through financial incentives (taxes and duties)	4	
Pillar 4: Agricultural competitiveness (trade balance) in a context of good governance	26	Diversify export products by introducing other products, in particular fruits, vegetables, palm and sunflower oil	Develop agri-food exports (diversify product and markets, food safety, quality standard, infrastructure, e-commerce)	4	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 grouped
	27	Explore new markets			Grouped with 26
	28	Involve all stakeholders for compliance with health standards and (SPS) upstream and downstream of exportable production			Grouped with 26
	29	Promote trade in services and e-commerce			Grouped with 26
	30	Install a refrigerated terminal at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport and the other declared entry points			Grouped with 26
	31	Ensure the accreditation of the BBN laboratory in order to meet standards compliance international quality (standards)			Grouped with 26
	32	Establish the Competition Commission			Grouped with 26
	33	Develop the National Strategy on Services and Electronic Commerce			Grouped with 26
	34	Supervise companies to increase industrial production			Not selected - not specific
	35	Supervise Artisans grouped in cooperatives to increase quality production which is competitive			Grouped with 44
Pillar 5: Promotion of the Gender dimension for resilient food production	36	Target women and girls in efforts to improve nutrition and food security with a particular focus on the first 1,000 days of life, which is the "critical period" for targeting women during and after pregnancy as well as children up to two years of age	Improve nutrition for women, girls, children	2	36, 37 grouped

	37	Targeting women and girls in efforts to improve nutrition and food security, also placing particular emphasis on adolescence, which would correspond to the second most decisive period" for improving the nutritional situation of girls and would allow at the same time to break the cycles of intergenerational malnutrition			Grouped with 36
	38	Carry out systematic analyzes at all levels of social, economic, cultural and political factors affecting gender equality in nutrition (e.g. early and forced marriages driven by food insecurity) and exploit the results of these analyzes in decision-making	Support evidence based policy for women empowerment and equality in nutrition	2	38, 23, 40, 41 grouped
	39	Establish and institutionalize coherent and systematic approaches aimed at ensuring socio-economic equality, in order to increase the effectiveness, sustainability and impact of food and nutrition security programmes			Not selected - not specific
	40	Share experiences of effective measures, promote innovation and best practices to ensure that gender determinants of malnutrition are addressed across sectors, in addition to those associated with traditional roles and reproductive functions of women and girls			Grouped with 38
	41	Leverage the role of parliamentarians to promote gender-responsive legislative reforms to improve nutrition at the national level, emphasizing the importance of empowering women and girls			Grouped with 38
Pillar 6: Strengthening governance and innovative financing for food systems.	42	Strengthen the capacities of municipalities in municipal planning sensitive to food and nutritional security	Capacity building of local authorities in food and nutrition security	5	42, 43 grouped
	43	Set up and support Communal Food and Nutrition Security Platforms for effective local governance of food and nutrition security			Grouped with 42
	44	Strengthen the structuring of producers into producer organizations such as groups and cooperatives and strengthen their management capacities	Capacity building of producer organizations/cooperatives	4	44, 35, 45, 46 grouped
	45	Establish private incentive mechanisms to guide their investments in the agricultural and livestock sector;			Grouped with 44
	46	Encourage public-private or cooperative-private partnerships to develop the agricultural value chains	Develop PPPs in agri value chains	4	
	47	Promotion of adapted and tested financing mechanisms for food value chains development			Grouped with 22
Grand total		47		24	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022