



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation - Cameroun

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 Cameroun

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 agricultural inputs subsidy program • Develop infrastructure (roads, storage, market facilities, community facilities, processing) • Fund for improved varieties research • Promote seed sector development (access to quality seeds) • Reduction of food losses at farm/production level • Support production of nutritious foods • Capacity building in the reasoned use of phytosanitary and veterinary products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support diversified food production (land tenure security, access to inputs and credit) • Increase decentralised budgets for agricultural infrastructure & services • Support agricultural / food value chain mechanisation/motorisation
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of food wastes at consumption level 	
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacities of producers on agro-ecological practices, sustainable management of soil and water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable management of soil fertility • Promote integrated forest management • Implementation of sustainable trade initiative in the cocoa sector
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods ; Territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform land tenure system • Support the development of inclusive food value chain • Promote inclusive financing for producers and farmers • Set-up and enforce corporate social responsibility • Establish a Food Market Information System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support decentralised and inclusive land policies • Support capacity building of women cooperatives and contractual relations with stakeholders in food value chains • Develop PPPs in the food sector with a focus on MSMEs • Support vocational training of women and young people • Invest in WASH infrastructures • Targeted productive subsidies for women and youth • Increase budgets for basic social services (health, education, and training) with a focus on vulnerable groups
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote renewable energy • Develop / strengthen early warning mechanisms (agro-meteorological risks) • Develop and distribute species and varieties adapted to climate change • Develop inclusive social protection schemes • Promote innovative agricultural insurance Schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop renewable energy • Strengthen risk management capacity • Enhance monitoring of food policies • Strengthen local food systems governance

Source: KC-FNS, 2022

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

Thematic Areas	FSA – Priority Actions (Systemic Levers)		FSA – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
1: Food security, nutrition and health (FNS)	1	Support for diversification in food production, especially for women (land tenure security, access to inputs and credit).	Support diversified food production ((land tenure security, access to inputs and credit)	1	
	2	Sustainable management of soil fertility to ensure maintenance of activity in the plots and achieve the goal of eliminating deforestation.	Promote sustainable management of soil fertility	3	
2: Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods	3	Support food system actors in a motorization/mechanization adapted to their activities, in order to reduce the arduousness of work while minimizing the negative effects on the environment (improvement and optimization of means of transport, packaging, processing and distribution equipment).	Support agricultural / food value chain mechanisation/motorisation	1	
	4	Increase public investments in the agro-food sector by prioritizing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and encouraging partnership between them and large private agro-industrial companies.	Develop PPPs in the food sector with a focus on MSMEs	4	
	5	Promote and support the creation of associations or cooperatives of women entrepreneurs in the different sectors or areas in which they operate to support the pooling of their initiatives, their collective voice and their autonomy.	Support capacity building of women cooperatives and contractual relations with stakeholders in food value chains	4	5, 7 grouped
	6	Pursue the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills through the professional training of populations, with an emphasis on women and young people in food system professions (especially in the fields of innovation, new technologies and infrastructure) in both urban and rural areas.	Support vocational training of women and young people	4	
	7	Encourage the networking of women and their associations, cooperatives or groups with other actors.			Grouped with 5
3: Territorial development and equity	8	Promote integrated forest management at conservation purposes, so that they can continue to provide the ecosystem services necessary for the sustainability of food systems	Promote integrated forest management	3	
	9	Promote an agroecological approach and the development of ecosystem services likely to guarantee waste management, drinking water supply, connection to sanitation networks, management of watersheds and protection of floodplain	Invest in WASH infrastructures	4	
	10	Significantly increase the budgets of decentralized structures in order to strengthen the production environment at the territorial level (in terms of access to infrastructure, basic equipment, inputs, agricultural services, training, among others) by putting the Emphasis on opening up agricultural production basins in order to improve the productivity and competitiveness of actors. Mechanisms ensuring effective transfer and transparent, efficient and effective use of public resources should be sought.	Increase decentralised budgets for agricultural infrastructure and services	1	
	11	Allocate resources at the decentralized level by priority to territories with a deficit in terms of investment. Refine targeting towards small producers and operators, in particular women and young people, by redirecting the scope of subsidies towards capacity building with a view to better integrating these actors into Cameroonian food systems through the provision of productive safety nets.	Targeted productive subsidies for women and youth	4	
	12	Develop alternative sources of renewable energy in order to contribute to the fight against deforestation and CO2 emissions. These energies will be developed on the basis of the existing potential: solar energy, wind energy, hydroelectric energy ¹³ and bioenergy from crop residues, waste and biomass.	Develop renewable energy	5	
	13	Optimizing transport: an essential aspect when it comes to resource depletion. Often the quality of transport depends on the financial resources available to each operator and the practicability of paths and roads. The use of means of transport with more product load capacity is to be favoured rather than other systems such as motorcycles and pick-ups when the roads are passable for the first.			Not selected – not specific

	14	Adopt a multi-sectoral strategy for the implementation of development programs and projects, where the territorial, environmental, socio-economic, food security and nutrition dimensions are taken into account in an inclusive manner, with the adoption of monitoring and evaluation indicators.	Enhance monitoring of food policies	5	
	15	Strengthen food governance systems at territorial level, assisting municipalities and local authorities in organizing and planning their food systems.	Strengthen local food systems governance	5	
	16	Set up a multi-sectoral and integrated mechanism for managing climate, market, food and health risks made up of urban poles and interconnected rural poles, to deal with the risks of disasters that could impact food systems (for example in the event of disruption of supply systems as was the case at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic).	Strengthen risk management capacity	5	
	17	Review the allocation of budgets devoted to basic social services, health, education and training – including technological innovations	Increase budgets for basic social services (health, education, and training) with a focus on vulnerable groups	4	
4: Sustainable natural resource use and environment	18	Set up inclusive consultation mechanisms among customary authorities, decentralized territorial authorities and local communities allowing the full participation of the populations in the management of the land.	Support decentralised and inclusive land policies	4	18, 19, 20 grouped
	19	Promote the exercise of prerogatives by local communities and customary authorities on resource management, registration of agricultural land and their participation in the deliberations concerning the decisions of lease by the State and its decentralized structures.			Grouped with 18
	20	Specific to cotton: Establishment of a consultation framework within the Decentralized Territorial Committees (CTD) for the definition of a zoning policy (coherence of land use and space and resource management plans – land, water, pastures) between the different actors of the food systems at the decentralized level (traditional and governmental authorities, local elected officials, farmers, breeders and managers of protected areas).			Grouped with 18
	21	Cocoa specific: the operationalization of the roadmap for cocoa without deforestation (The Sustainable Trade Initiative, 2021) signed by MINADER on behalf of the Government, producer organizations, the private sector, NGOs and CSOs, development institutions wanted and the partners.	Implementation of sustainable trade initiative in the cocoa sector	3	
Total		21		17	

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: Sustainably increase production	1	Provide funding for research to boost production of seeds	Fund for improved varieties research	1	
	2	Establish a framework for collaboration between research institutions, universities, ministries and Decentralized Territorial Authorities			Not selected – not specific
	3	Set up an incentive framework for the private sector in the creation of varieties and the strengthening of the control system to test the quality of available seeds	Promote seed sector development (quality seeds, availability of seeds)	1	3,4 grouped
	4	Capacity building of seed multipliers			Grouped with 3
	5	Accelerate land reform	Reform land tenure system	4	
	6	Operationalize the policy of subsidizing agricultural inputs	Agricultural inputs subsidy program	1	
	7	Involve vulnerable groups in the decision-making process to promote their access to factors of production	-		Not selected – not specific
	8	Develop partnerships and promote the financing of the agro-pastoral sector by microfinance institutions	Promote inclusive financing for producers and farmers	4	
	9	Develop / popularize production standards			Not selected – not specific
2: Improve collective infrastructural environment & access to inputs & markets	10	Open up production basins (Opening / rehabilitation / maintenance of municipal roads)	Develop infrastructure (roads, storage, markets, community facilities, processing)	1	10, 11, 13 grouped
	11	Build / Rehabilitate community infrastructure			Grouped with 10
	12	Build the capacities of producers and consumers on conservation techniques	Reduction of food losses at production level Reduction of food waste at consumption level	1 2	
	13	Strengthen processing, packaging and storage micro-infrastructures			Grouped with 10
	14	Promote the use of renewable energies	Promote renewable energy	5	
3: Strengthen resilience of production systems and sustainable management of natural resources	15	Build the capacities of producers on agro-ecological practices, sustainable management of soil and water	Build the capacities of producers on agro-ecological practices, sustainable management of soil and water;	3	
	16	Develop and distribute species and varieties adapted to climate change	Develop and distribute species and varieties adapted to climate change	5	
	17	Develop / strengthen early warning mechanisms on agro-meteorological risks	Develop / strengthen early warning mechanisms (agro-meteorological risks)	5	16,17 grouped
	18	Develop / strengthen early warning and risk and disaster management mechanisms			Grouped with 17
	19	Promote and strengthen capacities for the production of foods with high nutritional value	Support production of nutritious foods	1	19,21 grouped
	20	Strengthen the social protection system for poor households and other vulnerable groups	Develop inclusive social protection schemes	5	20, 26 grouped
	21	Develop and popularize minimum food standards and scale up initiatives to improve access to nutritious food			Grouped with 19
	22	Train stakeholders in the reasoned use of phytosanitary and veterinary products	Capacity building in the reasoned use of phytosanitary and veterinary products	1	
	23	Establish a binding mechanism to hold companies accountable for the social and environmental impacts of their activities	Set-up and enforce corporate social responsibility	4	
	24	Facilitate integration of refugees and internally displaced persons into food value chains			Not selected – not specific
	25	Develop human-wildlife conflict mitigation tools			Not selected – not specific

	26	Provide multi-sector assistance to people affected by conflict and insecurity			Grouped with 20
	27	Set up Action Plans for the Management of the Bush meat Sector in the target communities			Not selected – not specific
4: Improve governance of food systems	28	Structure the actors and strengthen their capacities around food value chains	Support the development of inclusive food value chain	4	28, 29, 32 grouped
	29	Strengthen initiatives for integration of young people into food value chains and intensify related communication			Grouped with 28
	30	Establish a Food Market Information System	Establish a Food Market Information System	4	
	31	Promote innovative financing mechanisms and agricultural insurance systems	Promote innovative agricultural insurance schemes	5	
	32	Promote synergies between actors in food value chains			Grouped with 28
Total		32		19	

Source: KC-FNS, 2022