



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation – Kenya

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 Kenya

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 technologies, particularly for arid and semi-arid lands. Promote neglected traditional foods, and invest in fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, fruits and vegetables farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase budget allocation to food and nutrition policies. Build capacity at county level for the development and implementation of agriculture programmes. Increase investment in research and development for nutrition-sensitive agriculture (including biofortification). Increase investment in research and development for disease- and pest-resistant animals and crops (including transgenic crops). Developing nutrition-sensitive value chains by promoting indigenous foods, protein-rich livestock products, and fish. Increase investments in basic infrastructure (e.g. roads, water, sanitation, electricity, etc.) with a focus in marginalized counties. Develop extension services: enhanced productivity and quality, diversification of production, including young people and women. Disseminate existing technology to reduce postharvest losses. Improve food safety: increase awareness and develop strong regulatory, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Streamline and consolidate agricultural input subsidies.
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Nutrition Action Plans to ensure diverse diets. Develop and conduct an education program on nutrition. Increase school meal programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase investment in research and development for product development (including food fortification) Promote appropriate technologies for the preparation of diversified food. Implement educations programmes on healthy diets.
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedite ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources. Raise awareness on nature conservation Expedite desilting and healing of degraded land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support organic and agroecological farming. Effective implementation of climate change and natural resources policies through improved governance and coordination. Support the conservation of indigenous animal breeds and crop varieties
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods; territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access of youth to productive resources including land, capital and agripreneurship skills. Promote digitalisation in the value chain and support young farmers with technologies and tools. Develop mobile applications for market information and extension services. Ensuring access to markets through organized cooperatives and outgrower groups. Develop and implement empowerment programs for women smallholders to increase their resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop business support services for MSMEs (e.g. aggregation of produce from smallholder farmers). Promote and strengthen producers' organization (focus on perishable products and higher value commodities, such as fruits, vegetables and dairy products).
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in Early Warning Systems, including aerial solutions and geospatial technologies for effective planning in the sector. Invest in research on resistant crops. Monitor the use of natural resources, land and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategic food reserve. Improve governance of food and nutrition security policies and stakeholders' cooperation. Increase investment in research and development for climate-resilient varieties and breeds. Strengthen social protection programmes. Streamline and consolidate social protection. Promote climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies. Promote alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on wood fuels.

Source: KC-FNS, 2023

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

Thematic Areas	FSA – Priority Actions (Systemic Levers)		FSA – Reformulation Priority Actions		Links to AT	Comment
Addressing food and nutrition insecurity and associated regional disparities	1	Implement effectively existing policies and strategies on food insecurity and malnutrition. This requires: - Budgetary support at national and county levels; - Resource mobilization efforts; - Capacity-building support at county level for the development and implementation of comprehensive agriculture sector programmes; - Streamlining the governance aspects of food and nutrition security policy by operationalizing key institutions, such as the National Food and Nutrition Security Authority, the National Food Council; - Broadening the coverage of the strategic food reserve to a wider set of commodities; - Promoting multisectoral stakeholders' cooperation (including the ministries, private sector, development partners and farmers' organizations).	1.1	Increase budget allocation to food and nutrition policies.	1	
			1.2	Build capacity at county level for the development and implementation of agriculture programmes.	1	
			1.3	Develop strategic food reserve.	5	
			1.4	Improve governance of food and nutrition security policies and stakeholders' cooperation.	5	
	2	Increase investment in research and development for climate-resilient varieties and breeds, for nutrition-sensitive agriculture (including biofortification), for disease- and pest-resistant animals and crops (including transgenic crops) and product development (industrial-level food fortification).	2.1	Increase investment in research and development for climate-resilient varieties and breeds.	5	
			2.2	Increase investment in research and development for nutrition-sensitive agriculture (including biofortification).	1	
			2.3	Increase investment in research and development for disease- and pest-resistant animals and crops (including transgenic crops).	1	
			2.4	Increase investment in research and development for product development (including food fortification)	2	
	3	Provide support to smallholder family farming: - Improving productivity and diversifying production; - Strengthening social protection programmes; - Supporting development and commercialization of nutrition-sensitive value chains (use of indigenous vegetables and other foods, protein-rich livestock products, and fish); - Promoting appropriate technologies for the preparation of diversified nutritious food; - Awareness on more varied and healthier diets through education programmes.	3.1	Support smallholder family farming to increase productivity and diversify production.		Grouped with 4.2
			3.2	Strengthen social protection programmes.	5	
			3.3	Developing nutrition-sensitive value chains by promoting indigenous foods, protein-rich livestock products, and fish.	1	
			3.4	Promote appropriate technologies for the preparation of diversified food.	2	
			3.5	Implement educations programmes on healthy diets.	2	

Enhance agrifood value chains	4	Increase investments in the agriculture sector and infrastructural development of agrifood value chains (e.g. roads, electricity and communications), technology and extension services to develop food processing, improve food safety and reducing post-harvest losses (scale up existing technologies), while enhancing smallholders' market access and productivity through quality inputs and advice. Support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through: - Fostering business support services (e.g. aggregation of produce from smallholder farmers); - Supporting farmers (including women and young people) to sustainably raise production volume and quality (including through organic production).	4.1	Increase investments in basic infrastructure (e.g. roads, water, sanitation, electricity, etc.) with a focus in marginalized counties.	1	4.1; 7 grouped
			4.2	Develop extension services: enhanced productivity and quality, diversification of production, including young people and women.	1	3.1; 4.2 grouped
			4.3	Disseminate existing technology to reduce postharvest losses.	1	
			4.4	Develop business support services for MSMEs (e.g. aggregation of produce from smallholder farmers).	4	
			4.5	Support organic and agroecological farming.	3	4.5, 10.1 grouped
	5	Promote and strengthen producers' organization (e.g. fruits, vegetables and dairy sectors) to improve access to quality inputs, markets, extension services, post-harvest handling, transportation, processing, branding and retailing.	5	Promote and strengthen producers' organization (focus on perishable products and higher value commodities, such as fruits, vegetables and dairy products).	4	
Reduce disparate regional economic growth and income inequality	6	Increase awareness among food system actors for the importance of safe food consumption and safe food handling practices. Develop strong regulatory, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure food safety throughout supply chains (e.g. certification, mandating licenses for food vendors, consumer grievance system, data and information management).	6	Improve food safety: increase awareness and develop strong regulatory, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	1	
	7	Improve the focus of policymaking, investments and development funding to address disparities in regional development by providing basic infrastructure (roads, clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, adequate education, health services and irrigation) in marginalized counties.	7			Grouped with 4,1
	8	Streamline and consolidate social protection and agricultural input subsidies, i.e. by selecting the beneficiaries on the basis of vulnerability to poverty.	8.1	Streamline and consolidate social protection.	5	
Reduce natural resource degradation and the increasing vulnerability to climate change	9	Adoption and effective implementation of policies and regulations on climate change and natural resources. Improve governance and coordination of regulatory instruments, including at county level through the involvement of traditional leaders.	10.1	Promote agroecological production systems.		Grouped with 4.5
				Promote climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies.	5	
				Promote alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on wood fuels.	5	
				Support the conservation of indigenous animal breeds and crop varieties.	3	
	10	Strengthen community-based management practices for water resources, forests and biodiversity, in combination with the support for sustainable farming systems; e.g. - agroecological production systems - climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies, - alternative energy sources to reduce wood fuel dependency - conservation of indigenous animal breeds and crop varieties	10.4			
Grand total		10			24	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023

Table 3: Priority Actions – UNFSS National Pathway

Thematic area		National Pathway – Priority Actions (Game Changers)		National Pathway – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
LEADING ACTIONS	Youth	1	Shape the skills of 4K- and Young Farmers Clubs and foster their passion for agriculture, preparing them for opportunities and finance possibilities in the agriculture sector.			Grouped with 2
		2	Facilitate the access of young farmers to productive resources including land, capital, and agripreneurship skills. Through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, provide affordable financing to bolster their agricultural ventures.	Facilitate access of youth to productive resources including land, capital and agripreneurship skills.	4	1, 2 grouped
		3	Digitize the value chain activities and equip young farmers with digital technologies and tools to engage in these value chain activities.	Promote digitalisation in the value chain and support young farmers with technologies and tools.	4	
	Digital Innovation	4	Using mobile technologies, including mobile applications, equip farmers with information on markets, and productive resources such as inputs, deploy extension services and education and foster value added production of innovative new food products.	Develop mobile applications for market information and extension services.	4	4, 16.2 grouped
		5	Boost agricultural productivity by investing in irrigation technologies, particularly for arid and semi-arid lands.	Invest in irrigation technologies, particularly for arid and semi-arid lands.	1	
		6	Invest in Early Warning Systems, including aerial solutions and geospatial technologies for effective planning in the sector.		5	
	Diverse Diets	7	Develop Nutrition Action Plans to ensure diverse diets including meat, dairy, fish, fruits, vegetables, cereals, and bio-fortified foods are reaching the consumer and improving food safety behaviours to ensure a healthy population.	Develop Nutrition Action Plans to ensure diverse diets.	2	
		8	Bring back forgotten and neglected traditional foods, and invest in fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, fruits and vegetables farming.	Promote neglected traditional foods, and invest in fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, fruits and vegetables farming.	1	
	Climate Change	9	Expedite ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources.		3	9, 15.1 grouped
		10	Raise, educate and disseminate on conservation at every level from the farms to schools unto the general population.	Raise awareness on nature conservation.	3	
		11	Commission research on crops varieties resistant to droughts, pests and diseases.	Invest in research on resistant crops.	5	
		12	Monitor land use changes, map and monitor natural resources use, including water resources.	Monitor the use of natural resources, land and water.	5	
	PRIORITY ACTIONS BY FSS ACTION TRACKS	13	Develop and conduct a program of nutrition education to ensure children, youth and mothers have access to nutrition information to inform their diet choices.	Develop and conduct an education program on nutrition.	2	
		14	Increase school meal programs to bring nutritious, diverse, and safe food to young people.	Increase school meal programs.	2	
		15	Expedite ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry, reforestation, afforestation, desilting and healing of degraded lands to bring more area under productive agricultural use, and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources.	15.1 Expedite agroforestry , reforestation, afforestation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.		Grouped with 9
15.2 Expedite desilting and healing of degraded land.				3		
16		Foster a culture of entrepreneurship, facilitating a shift from predominantly subsistence farming mentality to a more profitable agriculture outlook by commercialization of agriculture, ensuring access to markets through organized cooperatives and outgrower groups, value addition, and harnessing the power of mobile technologies.	16.1 Ensuring access to markets through organized cooperatives and outgrower groups.	4		
			16.2 Promote the use of mobile communication technologies in the marketing sector		Grouped with 4	
17		Empower women smallholders, breaking down cultural barriers and norms that hinder their full and equal participation in food systems, thus enhancing their resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses in food systems.	Develop and implement empowerment programs for women smallholders to increase their resilience.	4		
Grand Total		17			16	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023

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