



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation – Mauritania

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

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"> Set up a national advisory system for producers and strengthen support to women and young people. Promote agricultural mechanization. Invest in transport and food storage and preservation infrastructure. Subsidize energy for agriculture. Strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for food quality and safety control, including the creation of phytosanitary control posts and a National Food Safety Agency. Strengthen agricultural research. Develop local value chains (production, processing, marketing, distribution) for nutritious food: milk, meat, fish, aquaculture, poultry, and wild foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop food related infrastructure (preservation, storage, processing) in partnership with the private sector. Support the creation of integrated production hub (sylvopastoralism and milk production). Set-up food price stabilisation mechanisms (in particular for imported products). Strengthen livestock production and pastoralist families, including by sustainable rangeland management practices. Develop value chains for quality products (in oases). Diversify agricultural production in agro-pastoral areas.
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen national governance on nutrition (engagement of women, private sector, mobilisation of domestic financial resources). Create awareness on healthy and sustainable food choices (promoting local food) and hygiene practices, i.e. for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a communication strategy on nutrition to combat social norms and traditional practices harming nutritional security.
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combating environmental degradation, nitrogen-related pollution, and desertification. Promoting sustainable management of natural resources (land, fisheries) and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, including through state incentives. Develop mechanisms of the sustainable use of marine resources. Promote organic farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support agroecology in oases. In oasis ecosystem, improve water management, preserve biodiversity, restore soil quality, combat silting, erosion. Strengthen sustainable water management and the protection / rehabilitation of agricultural land in agro-pastoral areas.
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods; territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost access to finances for small-scale producers. Promote equitable access to productive resources (finance and land), with a focus on women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support (or strengthen) the creation of producers' organizations to improve food production and marketing, and increase resilience. Develop job creation programmes particularly for women and young people and strengthen vocational training and lifelong learning. Improve job market monitoring and coordination. Design a demographic dividend strategy to support inclusive development. Support decentralisation and local / regional economic development (including in oases). Foster participation of women in public affairs. Promote the development of inclusive and diversified value chains: capacity building, access to finance, promotion of local products and short marketing channels. Support women's access to productive resources and employment.

AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses

- Invest in additional water resources (rainwater harvesting, storage ponds, desalination plants, rivers and aquifers) and in hydro-agricultural developments.
- Improve food systems governance: participation of communities in decision-making.
- Update production standards and foster their implementation.
- Improve farmland administration and registration, implement land consolidation programmes.
- Develop regular and adaptive (shock-responsive) social safety nets for the most vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen prevention and response capacity to food crisis: early warning systems and contingency plans, vulnerability assessment of food value chains to shocks.
- Strengthen community resilience: specific programmes, involvement in public infrastructure management, capacity building of producers' organisations.
- Develop tourism in oases.

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
Eradicate all forms of malnutrition	1	Improve food availability and access (physical and economic) for most vulnerable households through:	1.1	Develop food related infrastructure (preservation, storage, processing) in partnership with the private sector.	1	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of infrastructure (food preservation, storage, and processing) in partnership with the private sector; the creation of integrated production hubs (sylvopastoralism and milk production); the development of food marketing channels; the development of food price stabilisation mechanisms (in particular for imported products). 	1.2	Support the creation of integrated production hub (sylvopastoralism and milk production).	1	
			1.3	Develop food marketing channels.		Grouped with 7.1
			1.4	Set-up food price stabilisation mechanisms (in particular for imported products).	1	
	2	Promote optimal use of food by developing a communication strategy to change social norms and combat traditional practices harmful to the nutritional security, particularly of women, adolescents and children (force-feeding, early marriages, feeding practices of babies and young children).	2	Develop a communication strategy on nutrition to combat social norms and traditional practices harming nutritional security.	2	
	3	Increase the resilience of the population by supporting the creation (or strengthening) producers' organizations: better organisation of the production and marketing, improved bargaining power.	3	Support (or strengthen) the creation of producers' organizations to improve food production and marketing, and increase resilience.	4	
Improve the livelihood of food systems actors, while reducing gender and development inequalities	4	Develop specific programmes for job creation, particularly for women and young people; strengthen vocational training and lifelong learning; fix quotas for foreign employees in companies. Set up a participatory labour information and monitoring system, including a survey on employment in the informal sector and developing and managing a business directory.	4.1	Develop job creation programmes particularly for women and young people and strengthen vocational training and lifelong learning.	4	
			4.2	Improve job market monitoring and coordination.	4	
	5	Design a demographic dividend strategy supported by sound information systems and national demographic observatory in order to promote inclusive development.	5	Design a demographic dividend strategy to support inclusive development.	4	
	6	Support decentralisation and local economic development. This includes the creation of sustainable (territorial and financial levels) local institutions, the support to grassroots initiatives, the harmonization between national and local priorities, and the creation of inter-community structures and inter-territorial projects in the fishery, agro-pastoral and mining sectors. Strengthen women participation in the public affairs through capacity building, positive discrimination, and gender mainstreaming.	6.1	Support decentralisation and local / regional economic development (including in oases).	4	6.1, 11 grouped
			6.2	Foster participation of women in public affairs.	4	
	7	Promote the development of inclusive and diversified agricultural value chains by strengthening capacity building programmes, facilitating access to finance, promoting local products and short distribution channels. This should be supported by a national policy promoting women's access to productive resources and the job market.	7.1	Promote the development of inclusive and diversified value chains: capacity building, access to finance, promotion of local products and short marketing channels.	4	1.3, 7.1 grouped
			7.2	Support women's access to productive resources and employment.	4	

Thematic Areas	FSA – Priority Actions (Systemic Levers)			FSA – Reformulation Priority Actions	Links to AT	Comment
Sustainable management of water resources in oasis and agro-pastoral zones	8	In oases, protect natural resources and adapt to climate change by saving and managing water resources, restoring soil quality and rehabilitate the oasis ecosystem, preserve biodiversity, combat silting, erosion and pollution, and promote alternative energies.	8	In oasis ecosystem, improve water management, preserve biodiversity, restore soil quality, and combat silting, erosion and pollution.	3	
	9	In oases, enhance productivity by developing agroecology, strengthening livestock production (e.g. sustainable rangeland management), and promoting new productions.	9.1	Support agroecology in oases.	3	
			9.2	Strengthen livestock production and pastoralist families, including by sustainable rangeland management practices.	1	9.2., 14 grouped
			9.3	Develop value chains for quality products (in oases).	1	9.3, 10.1 grouped
	10	Foster the development of oases by developing value chains for quality products and promoting tourism.	10.1	Support the development of value chains for quality products (in oases).		Grouped with 9.3
			10.2	Develop tourism in oases.	5	
	11	Improve the oasis governance through decentralisation and capacity building.	11	Strengthen the decentralized governance and management capacities of oases.		Grouped with 6.1
	12	For agro-pastoral zones, support the diversification of agricultural production.	12	Diversify agricultural production in agro-pastoral areas.	1	
	13	For agro-pastoral zones, strengthen the sustainable management of water resources, the protection and rehabilitation of agricultural land.	13	Strengthen sustainable water management and the protection / rehabilitation of agricultural land in agro-pastoral areas.	3	
14	Develop pastoralism and livestock family farming.	14	Develop pastoralism and livestock family farming.		Grouped with 9.2	
Grand total	14				19	

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
Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all and encourage sustainable consumption patterns	1	Support water management: promote rainwater harvesting, water storage ponds and sea water desalination, optimise water use from rivers and aquifers.	Invest in additional water resources (rainwater harvesting, storage ponds, desalination plants, rivers and aquifers) and in hydro-agricultural developments.	5	1, 33 grouped
	2	Involve communities in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food systems interventions.	Improve food systems governance: participation of communities in decision-making.	5	
	3	Set up a national advisory system for agricultural producers that meets the demands.	Set up a national advisory system for producers and strengthen support to women and young people.	1	3, 22.2 grouped
	4	Update production standards and make their application a condition for access to financing in the agricultural and fishery sectors, in particular for women and young people.	Update production standards and foster their implementation.	5	
	5	Implement farmland administration and registration programmes as well as land consolidation programmes.	Improve farmland administration and registration, implement land consolidation programmes.	5	
	6	Promote agricultural mechanization.	Promote agricultural mechanization.	1	
	7	Boost access to credit for smallholder farmers and artisanal fishermen through the development of microfinance programmes in rural areas.	Boost access to finances for small-scale producers.	4	
	8	Strengthen quality control of food products by implementing the relevant laws and building up of phytosanitary control posts in the production zones.	Strengthen the quality control of food.		Grouped with 18
	9	Develop appropriate transport, storage and preservation infrastructures (multifunctional warehouses) in agricultural and food production and processing areas.	Invest in transport and food storage and preservation infrastructure.	1	9, 12 Grouped
	10	Strengthen the role of women producers / processors and of the private sector in the transition toward nutritious food systems.	Engage women producers, processors and the private sector for the nutrition objectives.		Grouped with 16
	11	Create integrated development hubs at regional level (Wilayas) for horticulture, dairy processing, poultry, fishing, aquaculture, income generating activities, etc.	Create regional development hubs to foster nutrient dense food.		Grouped with 22.1
	12	Develop cooling facilities at departmental level (Moughataa) for the conservation of agricultural, livestock and fishery products.			Grouped with 9
	13	Develop distribution and marketing channels for food products.	Develop distribution and marketing channels for food products.		Grouped with 22.1
	14	Promote the processing of agricultural and fishery products.	Promote the processing of agricultural and fishery products.		Grouped with 22.1
	15	Reduce energy costs, e.g. by covering the fixed costs of electrical energy at pumping stations and/or subsidizing diesel for agriculture.	Subsidize energy for agriculture.	1	
	16	Strengthen the national institutional framework for nutrition governance (preventing and combating all forms of malnutrition).	Strengthen national governance on nutrition (engagement of women, private sector, mobilisation of domestic financial resources).	2	10, 16, 20 grouped
	17	Promote healthy and sustainable food choices, especially for young children, as well as optimal feeding, care and hygiene practices that foster good nutritional status.	Create awareness on healthy and sustainable food choices (promoting local food) and hygiene practices, i.e. for children.	2	17, 23 grouped
	18	Strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for food quality and safety control.	Strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for food quality and safety control, including the creation of phytosanitary control posts and a National Food Safety Agency.	1	8, 18, 19 grouped
	19	Create and operationalize a National Food Safety Agency.			Grouped with 18
	20	Mobilizing domestic resources for nutrition, as committed by the government in the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) movement.			Grouped with 16

Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	21	Link universities, agricultural research institutes, national extension services, the private sector and users in a research and development hub.	Strengthen agricultural research.		1	
	22	Develop local value chains (especially milk/meat, fish and wild foods) and strengthen the role of technical services in supporting women and young people.	22.1	Develop local value chains (production, processing, marketing, distribution) for nutritious food: milk, meat, fish, aquaculture, poultry, and wild foods.	1	11, 13, 14, 22.1 grouped
			22.2	Strengthen the role of technical services in supporting women and young people.		Grouped with 3
	23	Foster appropriate consumption practices while promoting the consumption of locally produced food.	Promote the consumption of local food.			Grouped with 17
Boost nature-friendly production methods	24	Combating environmental degradation and desertification.	Combating environmental degradation, nitrogen-related pollution, and desertification.		3	24, 27 grouped
	25	Promote environmentally sound agro-pastoral practices adapted to the effects of climate change through state incentives for farmers.	Promoting sustainable management of natural resources (land, fisheries) and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, including through state incentives.		3	25, 26 grouped
	26	Promote sustainable management of fisheries resources.	Develop mechanisms of the sustainable use of marine resources.		3	
	27	Promote support mechanisms to combat nitrogen-related pollution from all sources: chemical fertilizers, livestock effluents, agri-food effluents.	Create measures to reduce nitrogen pollution from all sources.			Grouped with 24
	28	Encourage certified organic production systems.	Promote organic farming.		3	
Advance equitable livelihoods	29	Develop regular social safety nets for the most vulnerable populations, e.g. cash transfer program Tekavoul, school feeding programmes.	Develop regular and adaptive (shock-responsive) social safety nets for the most vulnerable populations.		5	29, 36 grouped
	30	Promote shared access to production resources and land.	Promote equitable access to productive resources (finance and land), with a focus on women.		4	30, 31 grouped
	31	Facilitate women's access to land ownership and financing.				Grouped with 30
	32	Strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.				Not specific- Not selected
Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses	33	Expand areas for cultivation through hydro-agricultural developments while promoting sustainable management of natural resources (water and soils).				Grouped with 1.
	34	Strengthen producers' organizations in order to better manage crises and shocks.				Grouped with 40
	35	Involve local population in the management and maintenance of public infrastructure according to their capacities.				Grouped with 40
	36	Develop shock-reactive social safety nets; e.g. El Maouna, Tekavoul, EMEL.				Grouped with 29
	37	Operationalize the national prevention and response programme to food crises.	Strengthen prevention and response capacity to food crisis: early warning systems and contingency plans, vulnerability assessment of food value chains to shocks.		5	37, 38, 39 grouped
	38	Strengthen the national and local early warning system and have updated contingency plans.				Grouped with 37
	39	Assess vulnerability to shocks in value chains (fruits and vegetables, cereals, meat) and develop a warning system against disruptions and crises.				Grouped with 37
	40	Scale up integrated programs to support community resilience.	Strengthen community resilience: specific programmes, involvement in public infrastructure management, capacity building of producers' organisations.		5	34 , 35, 40 grouped
Grand Total		40		22		

Source: KC-FNS, 2023