



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



Analysis of Priority Actions for Food Systems Transformation – Niger

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 Niger

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"> Allocate 10% of the national annual budget to agriculture. Develop fruit and vegetable value chain. Develop legume production. Develop artisanal fishing and aquaculture. Support fodder production. Develop the livestock through the adoption of the land law. Promote non-timber forest products. Improve and fund agricultural extension services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train farmers on improved livestock management practices and provide incentives for adoption.
AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns	Food security, nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sorghum and millet nutritional quality through fortification. 	
AT3: Boost nature positive production	Sustainable natural resource use and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the adoption of environmentally friendly practices in the livestock sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in ecological infrastructure (e.g. agro-silvo-pastoral areas, lowlands, reforestation, water points), in a participative and inclusive way, taking into account the needs of the livestock sector. Support agroecological production systems: promote the adoption of soil organic matter and water conservation technologies.
AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Inclusive economic growth, jobs and livelihoods; territorial development and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop milk collection and milk processing facilities. Support processing and marketing of livestock products and by-products. Support millet and sorghum storage and processing. Adopt and implement the land policy and land use plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support organisational development of professional organizations. Develop market information systems for better access to inputs (e.g. seeds) and raw materials. Invest in storage infrastructures through private-public partnerships. Support investments in infrastructure for the processing of livestock products through public-private partnerships. Promote greater participation of women in decision-making (local authorities and professional organizations). Develop capacity-building programs for young people and women. Increase access of women and young people to credit, productive resources, and risk management tools.
AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public funding for research and innovation with a focus on smallholder farming. Foster the nexus Emergency-Development-Peace approach. Develop social protection (safety nets) for the vulnerable. Strengthen statistical data and analysis related to food systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop social safety nets for the most vulnerable.

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 natural resources degradation and restoring agro-silvo-pastoral potential	1	Prioritize large-scale investments in structures of collective interest: establishment of agro-silvo-pastoral systems, integrated watershed management, fight against desertification, reforestation, development of lowlands, development of water points and transhumance corridors.		Invest in ecological infrastructure (e.g. agro-silvo-pastoral areas, lowlands, reforestation, water points), in a participative and inclusive way, taking into account the needs of the livestock sector.	3	1, 8, 10 grouped
	2	Develop a coherent multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder framework for sustainable management of ecosystem services. The adoption of technologies to increase organic matter in soils and water conservation enable a more sustainable agro-ecological intensification.		Support agroecological production systems: promote the adoption of soil organic matter and water conservation technologies.	3	
Supporting the development of the downstream part of food systems	3	Strengthen the capacities of professional organizations, in particular their governance, to make them more transparent and inclusive. The implementation of efficient market information systems would be a way of linking seed companies with growers.	3.1	Support organisational development of professional organizations.	4	
			3.2	Develop market information systems for better access to inputs (e.g. seeds) and raw materials.	4	3.2, 6.2 grouped
	4	Invest in storage infrastructures through private-public partnerships.			4	
	5	Develop capacity-building programs for women and young people in artisanal processing and small-scale trade.				Grouped with 6.1
Support inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems	6	Mobilize public and private resources for the development of local food systems in secondary towns to create investment opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by socio-economic incentives favouring young people and women (training program), market research, access to credit and risk management tools.	6.1	Develop capacity-building programs for young people and women.	4	6.1, 5 grouped
			6.2	Develop market research for securing access to raw materials.		Grouped with 3.2
			6.3	Increase access of women and young people to credit, productive resources, and risk management tools.	4	6.3, 9.2 grouped
	7	Mobilize and plan for stable, long-term resources in the most disadvantaged regions to finance social safety nets, and ensure access for the most vulnerable population through appropriate targeting methods.		Develop social safety nets for the most vulnerable.	5	
	8	Promote the restoration of agro-silvo-pastoral areas, the development of lowlands, the securing of family farms, and management of rangelands, fodder banks and fire wood, in a participative and inclusive way to ensure that the needs of different communities coexist.				Grouped with 1
	9	Promote greater participation of women in decision-making processes within local authorities and in professional organizations. Improve access of women to credit, productive resources (land, inputs and equipment) and markets.	9.1	Promote greater participation of women in decision-making (local authorities and professional organizations).	4	
			9.2	Facilitate women's access to credit productive resources, and markets.		Grouped with 6.3
Ensure sustainable transformation of livestock sector	10	Give greater importance to the livestock sector in the restauration, preservation and sharing of natural resources, i.e. development of grazing areas, production and access to fodder and the participatory development of water points.				Grouped with 1
	11	Strengthen farmers' ability to adopt optimal livestock management practices to ensure their sustainability and decent incomes, while providing them with the support and incentives necessary for such adoption (risk management tools, facilitating access to markets and information systems).		Train farmers on improved livestock management practices and provide incentives for adoption.	1	
	12	Invest at local level through public-private partnerships in infrastructure for processing livestock products and by-products, and facilitate contracts and agreements between livestock farmers, processors traders and consumers.		Support investments in infrastructure for the processing of livestock products through public-private partnerships.	4	
Grand total	12				11	

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
Improving governance and financing of food systems	1	Improve the governance and financing of food systems by creating sectoral funds in addition to the Food and Nutritional Security Investment Fund. Public financing will be increased by allocating 10% of the annual budget to agriculture.	Allocate 10% of the national annual budget to agriculture.	1	
Adopt administrative and legislative reforms and related acts	2	Adopt and implement the land policy and land use plan.		4	
Promoting priority value chains for food products with high nutritional and commercial potential	3	Promote the fruit and vegetable value chain, while favouring short supply channels and lower prices.	Develop fruit and vegetable value chain.	1	
	4	Increase the production potential of legumes (i.e. cowpea).	Develop legume production.	1	
	5	Strengthen the fish value chain by targeting artisanal fishing, and aquaculture.	Develop artisanal fishing and aquaculture.	1	
	6	Develop the value chain for milk and milk products through support for the production of fodder and livestock feed concentrates, through extending milk collection and processing channels to all medium-sized towns.	Develop milk collection and milk processing facilities.	4	
			Support fodder production.	1	
	7	Develop the livestock/meat/hide and skin value chain through the adoption and implementation of the land law, through the promotion of processing facilities and markets. The adoption of more environmentally friendly practices will be promoted to mitigate the footprint of livestock sector.	7.1 Develop the livestock through the adoption of the land law.	1	
			7.2 Support processing and marketing of livestock products and by-products.	4	
			7.3 Promote the adoption of environmentally friendly practices in the livestock sector.	3	
	8	Reinforce the efforts in the area of processing, preservation and storage of millet and sorghum. Further promote the improvement of the nutritional quality of millet and sorghum through fortification.	8.1 Support millet and sorghum storage and processing.	4	
			8.2 Promote sorghum and millet nutritional quality through fortification.	2	
Strengthening research and innovation for sustainable food systems	9	Promote non-timber forest products, such as moringa (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>), gum arabic and Hanza (<i>Boscia Senegalensis</i>) to boost livelihoods.	Promote non-timber forest products.	1	
	10	Define research priorities and focused on innovative technologies for small-scale farmers, establish alliances and collaborations with sub-regional institutions and provide increased public funding.	Increase public funding for research and innovation with a focus on smallholder farming.	5	
Strengthen agricultural extension and advisory services	11	Implement and accelerate the reforms on agricultural extension and provide adequate funding.	Improve and fund agricultural extension services.	1	

Supporting resilience and recovery	12	Provide assistance to populations in fragile areas affected by various shocks (security, climate, health, economic, locust, etc.) through the nexus Emergency-Development-Peace (UDP) approach.	12.1 Foster the nexus Emergency-Development-Peace approach.	5	
		Implement adaptive intervention mechanisms such as social protection measures. Creation of a single functional register of beneficiaries of social safety net.	12.2 Develop social protection (safety nets) for the vulnerable.	5	
Provide quality statistical data and strengthen information systems, monitoring and evaluation systems	13	Pursue strategies for analysing secondary data for decision-making purposes (e.g. nutrition sector). Improve the national information systems and monitoring-evaluation mechanisms related to food systems (list of indicators defined, and regular collection of data).	Strengthen statistical data and analysis related to food systems.	5	
Grand Total	13			18	

Source: KC-FNS, 2023