

Science Policy Updates for All – Webinar series

***Agency in Food Systems Transformation:
Who Has the Power to Shape Food Systems?***

25 June 2026 – 13:30 GEST | Virtual

Agency is increasingly recognized as a critical dimension of food systems transformation. Beyond policies, technologies and financing, transformation also depends on who has the power to participate in decision-making, influence outcomes and shape food systems at local, national, and global levels.

Building on the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, this webinar will explore agency as a key driver of inclusive, equitable and rights-based transformation. It will examine how agency is expressed across individuals, communities, institutions and governments, and why questions of voice, representation and decision-making power are often overlooked in food systems debates.

The discussion will consider the agency of food producers, including farmers, fishers, pastoralists, food workers, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, while addressing structural barriers related to land, seeds, markets, finance, knowledge systems and corporate concentration. Particular attention will be given to rights-based approaches, food sovereignty, Indigenous Peoples’ food systems, and governance and policy transformation as enabling conditions for agency.

Bringing together SAC members, academics, policy experts and practitioners, the webinar aims to stimulate dialogue on how agency can be strengthened through National Food Systems Pathways, science-policy interfaces, institutional reform and participatory governance processes, and how it can be better understood, supported and measured.

Agenda

Time	Item
5 min	Opening remarks: Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted , Director, Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR – SAC Chair
15 min	Presentation: Prof Barbara Burlingame , Professor, Public Health Nutrition and Food Systems, Massey University – SAC Co-chair
25 min	Impact panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hilal Elver, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food – SAC Co-chair • Prof Nitya Rao – Professor of Gender and Development, School of International Development, University of East Anglia - SAC Member
15 min	Q&A and closing

Zoom link: [Zoom link - Agency in Food Systems Transformation: Who Has the Power to Shape Food Systems?](#)