

Food Systems Stocktaking Moment 2023

Regional Preparatory Meeting in Africa

Monday, 27 February 2023, Niamey, Niger

Executive Summary of Key Messages¹

Key takeaways

- 37 countries in Africa have submitted national pathways
- Strong link between food systems transformation and macroeconomic stability in Africa
- To support SDGs acceleration, food systems in Africa need to become more resilient
- The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation + Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) are central instruments. Their progress review frameworks can help fast track measuring and monitoring progress in the region
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should be leveraged to increase intra-regional exchanges, developing regional value chains to boost food security and self-reliance
- The multiple crises led, in some cases, to a return to siloed approaches calling for continued strong advocacy to secure political and decision-makers' support.
- Peer-to-peer learning and regional collaboration could support bridging gaps and strengthen collective, context-relevant learning.

Major challenges facing food systems transformation

- There are country and sub-regional specificities, but the main challenges faced in Africa are largely similar.
- Multiple shocks: COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating climate change and natural disasters, conflicts, and cost of living crisis.
- Availability of and access to agricultural inputs such as fertilizers is a concern.
- Cost-of-living crisis is forcing the most vulnerable people in society, especially women, children and young people, to reduce their consumption of healthy, nutrient-dense foods.
- Scarcity of financial resources, tight fiscal space, debt burden and limited technical capacity are major risks.

African countries have taken steps to implement their national pathways but have important expectations of increased support

- In several countries, coordination and governance mechanisms have been created, strengthened or expanded, budgets were increased, efforts to increase local production to enhance food security and self-sufficiency stepped up.
- Support to producers in the form of crop insurance, reduction of post-harvest losses, development of home-grown and indigenous foods, targeted tax incentives, enhanced natural

¹ This is an executive summary of the deliberations in the meeting. A detailed report will be released in due time.

resources management, school meals programmes and modernization and digitalization of agricultural systems were cited as good practices.

- Of the 27 existing coalitions, 12 coalitions have African countries or institutions as members and are increasingly offering support at the country level in Africa.
- While participants emphasized the importance of using already developed frameworks such as CAADP they highlighted the complexity of measuring progress at the national level and requested support in that area.
- There are already finance commitments through CAADP (six indicators) which need to be met, countries also welcome the Country budgeting tool for FST developed by the Hub, IFAD and the WB. ODA can support food systems provided it is aligned with national food systems priorities.
- IFIs to play an increased role to accelerate the generation of finance to support FST. Blended finance, green and blue bonds are important avenues.

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