Food Systems Study

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2021 UN Food Systems Summit

Historical focus on production, food security (calories)
Problems

• 1 in 5 global deaths are related to diet
• Agrifood systems contribute to 22-30% of GHG
• Inequity across parts of countries
What is the Objective?

• Sharing broad food systems insights and evidences to public, private sector & civil society stakeholders
• Contribute to initial food systems stakeholder dialogues
• Broadly identify next steps to advance sustainable food system transformation (e.g. policy and investment support)
• Demonstrate the value and utility of a food systems perspective and inclusive vision about food systems and develop a multi-sector and territorial policy and investment agenda.
Where is it going?

- Evaluation and dialogue – foundation for future engagement on food systems
- Hoping to shape the agenda for programming
- Stepping stone: refined analysis; detailed programming
- An investment and policy agenda in support of the transition to sustainable food systems
  - Organization of a stakeholder consultation
  - Diverse communication outputs
Bioenvironmental and physical drivers
Variable climate, poor soils;
Long dry season – seasonality of production
Very weak natural resource governance Uncontrolled, unfair resource exploitation;
Climate change impacts;
Water quality and security; Pests and diseases;

Territorial drivers
Unjust land distribution; Land tenure issues;
Low investment in rural areas especially Matabeleland;
Distance from markets; Mines and minerals act take precedence over farmer land rights.

Infrastructure and technology
Lack of agricultural R & D; Poor irrigation infrastructure;
Lack of labour-saving technology
Very poor transport; Weak cold-chain; Agrochemicals;
Resistance to GMOs and seed control

Political and governance
Policies and strategies strong but weak implementation.
Conflict between goals of min of agriculture, health and environment
Agroecology movement. FNCSs at national and subnational
Devolution shows promise GMB subsidies and conflicts
Free input distribution, Food aid

Socio-economic drivers
Highly literate population; Negative influences of colonialism, globalization and urbanization;
Influences of NGOs;
Low status of indigenous knowledge; Economic crisis;
Negative cultural/ gender norms.
Unfair contract farming, middle-men. Agroecology and food sovereignty movements,
Consumers sensitive about food safety and health impacts

Demographic drivers
Predominantly young population,
Rural population mainly women, children and elderly
Male urban/ cross-border migration. Urbanization.
Rural – urban linkages

Collection
Transport aggregation storage
Processing
Non-food sectors
Food security, nutrition and health

Feedback effects
Core system

Collection
Transport aggregation storage
Processing
Distribution
Consumption

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
TERRITORIAL BALANCE AND EQUITY IMPACTS
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS
Food Import / Export
Food aid
Food remittances
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
- Land degradation, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, crop and livestock pests and diseases, soil erosion and low soil fertility leading to dependence on inputs, wetland drying up, siltation of water courses, wildfires, pollution of soil and water systems. Human/wildlife conflicts. Livestock – methane; Overharvesting of NTFPs

TERRITORIAL BALANCE AND EQUITY IMPACTS
- Women and youth – low land ownership; lack of diversity in rural food markets; Weakening links between urban and rural areas

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS
- Few livelihood options especially in rural areas; lack of income/cash; poverty; lack of availability of diverse nutritious food in rural markets and shops; Women’s time and labour burden impacts health of the whole family.

FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND HEALTH
- Demise of traditional diverse diet; Consumption of overprocessed, empty calory food; Over consumption of maize, oil, sugar, salt; Poor WYCF practices; Malnutrition; Low dietary diversity; Low consumption of iron-rich and protein-rich foods; rise in overweight, obesity and NCDs; Poor access to WASH; Poor food safety; Most vulnerable – women, infants, children and youth
Food security, nutrition and health

- Inappropriate land and agriculture policies (colonial and post-independence), leading to resource degradation and dependence on maize, leading to low production and low cereal stocks, vulnerability to climate change and other shocks
- Situation is exacerbated by: economic and political instability (high food prices, lack of cash and foreign currency, hyper-inflation, fuel and electricity price hikes leading to high poverty); intensifying impacts of climate change and covid 19
- Need for cash forces families to sell nutritious food and buy/consume less nutritious food in
- Lack of diverse nutritious food available for purchase in rural markets
- Negative social, cultural and behavioural norms (including gender issues, lack of value placed on nutritious foods)
Environment

- Policies fragmented
- Economy/ corporations take priority
- Very poor governance at national and community levels
- Poor land management practices leading to vulnerability to shocks, increased poverty and food and nutrition issues
Thank you