Zimbabwe National Food Systems Dialogue

**THEME:** TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN ZIMBABWE

3 June 2021
Meikles Hotel, Harare

**Food System Transformation:**
*Current Issues in Zimbabwe*

Presented By: Tonderayi “Tonde” Matsungo BSc, MPhil, PhD

tmatsungo@gmail.com / +263 783 530 428
Presentation Outline

Introduction & Background

Global food systems summit

Action tracks

Food system Issues in Zimbabwe (Action Tracks 1-5)

Conclusions
Global & national realities

• Our planet – both humans and the natural world – faces four global crises:
  1. Climate change,
  2. Biodiversity loss,
  3. Environmental degradation, &
  4. **Multiple burden of malnutrition** – hunger, nutrient deficiencies, and overnutrition.

• Food systems are both a victim and culprit:
  • “As Victim” – climate change, is driving down productivity of agricultural systems around the world
  • “As a culprit” - agriculture and related land uses accounting for 23% percent of human greenhouse gas emissions and a major driver of habitat and biodiversity loss.
Background

• In 2021 the UN (SG António Guterres) will convene a Food Systems Summit in September

• Part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030

• Multisectoral transformation towards healthier, sustainable and equitable food systems “leaving No person or place behind”

• Guided by five Action Tracks

"The Summit will only be effective at setting out the pathway to 2030 if we successfully leverage the collective knowledge and experience of the broadest possible cross-section of the population.

UN Special Envoy Dr. Agnes Kalibata"
What is a food system?

A paper from the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit
March 5, 2021

FOOD SYSTEMS
DEFINITION, CONCEPT AND APPLICATION
FOR THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

by

(The authors are Chair* and Vice-Chairs**, and an Ex-Officio member*** of the Scientific Group)

2. A GENERAL FOOD SYSTEMS CONCEPT

Theory and Criteria

A practical definition of food systems should meet two essential criteria:

1. it should be suitable for the purpose at hand, which is to support the global and national collective efforts to bring about positive change in food systems, by accelerating progress on meeting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; and

2. it should be sufficiently precise to define the domains for policy and programmatic priorities, and it should be sufficiently general to not exclude any aspects of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

• A **Food System** comprises of various activities and actors in food value chains involved in transforming inputs into outcomes.

• A **sustainable food system should ensure food and nutrition security, environmental quality and well-being** (World Food System Center, 2013)
Food security & Food Systems transformation

- A food system has many domains including:
  - growing, producing, storing, transporting, processing, marketing, retailing, and preparing food

- **Food system transformation** to support impacts on hunger, malnutrition, health, biodiversity, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, nature, livelihoods and resilience

---

**Figure 1 — Food Security: A Common Goal for Agriculture and Nutrition**

![Diagram showing the relationship between food security, adequate food supply, stable food supply and access, and various considerations like nutritionally adequate diet, safe food, food culture considerations, ecologically sustainable, and economically sustainable.]

---

**Quote:**

"We have an unprecedented opportunity to realise a generational shift in the ability of food systems to better serve humanity - so let's not waste it."

- **Lawrence Haddad**, Executive Director, GAIN & Chair of Action Track 1 of the UN Food Systems Summit

---

**Quote:**

"How can we come up with the big moon-shots for food system transformation? I prefer to talk about pathways to food system transformation, pathways that will be different for each member state because there is no one size fits all."

---

tmatsungo@gmail.com
Action Tracks
Drivers for Food System Transformation
Topics to be Discussed During the Dialogues

• **Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all** *(FNC/ NNU, MoHCC)*
  • **Topic:** National Food safety regulations ensure all consumers have access to comprehensive information about how and where food is produced, empowering them to make informed choices.

• **Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns** *(CCZ)*
  • **Proposed topic:** Sustainable supply chains ensure a responsible use of natural resources, healthy food choices and a reduction of food loss and waste.

• **Track 3: Boosting nature positive production at sufficient scale** *(MoLAFRR)*
  • **Topic:** Farmers adopt home-grown nature positive agriculture practices

• **Track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution** *(Youth Farmers Club of Zimbabwe / Women in Agriculture Union)*
  • **Topic:** National agriculture and food policies promote the production of affordable nutritious, sustainably produced food while remunerating all farmers and food workers.

• **Track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stress** *(AMA /Civil Protection Unit/ UNDP)/ Min of Finance*
  • **Topic:** Building Resilient Food Systems

matsunog@gmail.com
Action Track 1
Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

- Action Track 1 will **work to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable disease**, enabling all people to be nourished and healthy

- This goal requires that all people at all times have access to sufficient quantities of affordable and safe food products

- Achieving the goal means **increasing the availability of nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in access to food**
# Action Track 1: Current Issues in Zimbabwe

**Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key successes [Strengths]</th>
<th>Major challenges [Barriers]</th>
<th>Areas that need improvement [Weaknesses]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Strong political will and policy and institutional framework including food safety standards</td>
<td>• Multiple burden of malnutrition</td>
<td>• Community outreach on food safety and food nutritious foods to generate demand for healthy food options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agric input support schemes improves physical access to food “Subsistence farmers”</td>
<td>• Food insecurity</td>
<td>• Livelihood based programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Poverty and inequalities limiting economic access to food</td>
<td>• Social protection programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Aflatoxins, pesticide residues</td>
<td>• Exploitation of traditional and indigenous foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Aggressive marketing of less nutritious processed foods</td>
<td>• Consumer awareness of food safety and food labelling including front of pack labelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Street foods and safety scare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Action Track 2
Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

• Action Track 2 will work to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the reuse and recycling of food resources, especially among the most vulnerable.

• This Action Track recognizes that we need to eliminate wasteful patterns of food consumption; it also recognizes that we need to facilitate a transition in diets towards more nutritious foods that require fewer resources to produce and transport.
**Action Track 2: Current Issues in Zimbabwe**

*Shift to sustainable consumption patterns*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key successes</th>
<th>Major challenges</th>
<th>Areas that need improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>[Strengths]</strong></td>
<td><strong>[Barriers]</strong></td>
<td><strong>[Weaknesses]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducive policy and institutional framework</td>
<td>• Postharvest loss to weevils and aflatoxin contamination</td>
<td>• Capacity building training for farmers on food preservation and processing “value addition”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Food deserts and food swamps “poor food distribution”</td>
<td>• Promotion of novel postharvest handling technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Over harvesting of NTFP e.g mopane worms</td>
<td>• Sustainable utilisation of non-timber forest products (NTFP) or neglected and underutilised species (NUS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12

```
tmatsungo@gmail.com
```
Action Track 3
Boost nature-positive production

- Action Track 3 will **work to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution**, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions.

- In its pursuit of this goal, the Action Track will aim to deepen understanding of the constraints and opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain.

- It will also strive to support food system governance that realigns incentives **to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts**.
### Action Track 3: Current Issues in Zimbabwe

**Boost nature-positive production**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key successes [Strengths]</th>
<th>Major challenges [Barriers]</th>
<th>Areas that need improvement [Weaknesses]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conducive policy and institutional framework e.g. EMA Act</td>
<td>• Deforestation by tobacco farmers</td>
<td>• Climate and nutrition sensitive agricultural production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conservation agriculture “Pfumvudza”</td>
<td>• Stream bank cultivation</td>
<td>• Water harvesting and irrigation dams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Destruction of wetlands, esp. in urban areas</td>
<td>• Promotion of regenerative agriculture techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Artisanal mining and land degradation</td>
<td>• Reforestation and anti-erosion techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Promotion of regenerative agriculture techniques
- Reforestation and anti-erosion techniques
- Climate and nutrition sensitive agricultural production
- Water harvesting and irrigation dams
- Promotion of regenerative agriculture techniques
- Reforestation and anti-erosion techniques
Action Track 4
Advance equitable livelihoods

• Action Track 4 will work to contribute to the elimination of poverty
  • By promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, reducing risks for the world’s poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value

• Action Track 4 will improve resilience through social protection and seek to ensure that food systems “leave no one behind.”
## Action Track 4: Current Issues in Zimbabwe

### Advance equitable livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key successes [Strengths]</th>
<th>Major challenges [Barriers]</th>
<th>Areas that need improvement [Weaknesses]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conducive policy and institutional framework</td>
<td>• Donor dependency syndrome still exists</td>
<td>• Shift from based support to resilience building and livelihoods programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agric input support schemes and subsidies: Command and Presidential scheme</td>
<td>• Limited access to start-up funding for SMEs</td>
<td>• Youth participation in agriculture “Making Agriculture Sexy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) for school fees</td>
<td>• Landownership and agricultural finance: The 99 year lease not bankable</td>
<td>• Strengthening of government led social protection programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ZimVAC annual surveys generates data that informs policy and program decisions</td>
<td>• Poor access to markets by farmers and exploitation by middle man</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**tmatsungo@gmail.com**
Action Track 5
Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

• Action Track 5 will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters

• The Action Track will also promote national action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics

• The ambition behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability

• Action Track 5 also aims to help people everywhere participate in food systems that, despite shocks and stressors, deliver food security, nutrition and equitable livelihoods for all.
**Action Track 5: Current Issues in Zimbabwe**

*Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key successes [Strengths]</th>
<th>Major challenges [Barriers]</th>
<th>Areas that need improvement [Weaknesses]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conducive policy and institutional framework</td>
<td>• Climate change and variability and low agricultural productivity</td>
<td>• Strengthening rural to urban linkages for market creation even in times of shocks and/or disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Documented lessons learned from Cyclone Idai and COVI-19</td>
<td>• COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns</td>
<td>• Efficient utilisation of NTFPs and NUS for food and livelihoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Efficient utilisation of NTFPs and NUS for food and livelihoods
- Precision agriculture and biotechnology for improved productivity even
Drivers of food systems in Zimbabwe

• What is the role of private sector, food companies, food service and retail?

• What is the role of consumer preferences in shaping food systems vs. food marketing and media?

• What are the other drivers that shape food systems?
  • i.e. Urbanization and income growth, technology change, climate change, natural disasters, technological changes.
  • How can we their risks be mitigated and benefit been maximized
Linkage between food system transformation and Vision 2030

“Leaving no person and community behind”
Conclusions

• There is need for food system transformation in Zimbabwe to catapult vision 2030

• Building food systems that are resilient to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic requires collective action along the entire agri-food chain, including policymakers “Multi-sectoral Systems Approach”

• The COVID-19 pandemic is increasing poverty and threatening food security. Resilience building initiatives should be strengthened
It is unacceptable that hunger is on the rise at a time when the world wastes more than 1 billion tonnes of food every year. It is time to change how we produce and consume, including to reduce greenhouse emissions. Transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals. As a human family, a world free of hunger is our imperative.

— Secretary-General António Guterres

Research and evidence generation is central to the transformation of food systems and the elimination of malnutrition in our lifetime.
Thank you!!
Further reading


• Joachim von Braun, Kaosar Afsana, Louise Fresco, Mohamed Hassan, Maximo Torero


24 tmatsungo@gmail.com
Further reading conti..