

Expert consultation and learning exchange event on building resilient food systems in the Horn of Africa

Report from the strategic food and nutrition security - resilience programme (FNS-REPRO) event held in the Netherlands 19-23 Sept 2022

Kusters, C.S.L., Boerema, E., van Uffelen, G-J., Malkowsky, C., Brouwer, H., de Steenhuijsen Piters, C.B., Joosten, K., Nyombe, M., Kardash, A., Ndungu J., M., Ferrand, C., Russo, L., van Dijk, M., Cruijssen, F., van Wanrooij, C., Bolling, R., Miteng, J., Itto Leonardo, M.



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1 Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI), Wageningen University and Research (WUR)

2 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

3 Wageningen Economic Research (WEcR), WUR

4 Zero Hunger Lab, Tilburg University

5 Netherlands Food Partnership

6 IFDC

7 Afroganics Seeds Company

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This report documents key insights arising from a strategic expert consultation and learning event organised in the Netherlands from 19-23 September 2022. During the event experiences, good practices and emerging lessons stemming from the implementation of FNS-REPRO, various Horn of Africa NUFFIC programmes and other initiatives on building food systems resilience, as well as key insights from other experts and practitioners, were shared and elaborated upon.

Keywords: food system, food systems resilience, food system transformation, food and nutrition security, seed system, system transformation, Horn of Africa, HDP nexus, partnerships.

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The event enabled the highly diverse group of participants who represented different sectors and organisations, to jointly reflect on our past experiences, current progress, achievements, remaining challenges, lessons learned, a way forward for FNS-REPRO, and future programming for building resilient food systems in protracted crisis contexts. This comes at a very important moment in time, wherein FNS-REPRO is defining and strategizing for its final implementation cycle. This sets the foundation upon which FNS-REPRO will continue to work towards achieving its intended outcomes and impacts and informs the agenda for building resilient food systems in protracted crisis contexts. But the event is also important for others working on the issue of resilient food systems in protracted crises. A final learning event will be organized towards the end of the FNS-REPRO programme, building on the lessons learned from this expert meeting and learning event.

Specifically, we would like to thank the following colleagues: Koen Joosten from the FAO resilience team Eastern Africa for co-organizing the event with us; Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen and Charleen Malkowsky from WUR, and Rojan Bolling from the Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) for helping us with the design of the event; and Danielle Arends and Elisabeth Hopperus Buma who were a tremendous support in managing organization, planning and logistics, and ensuring that the event ran smoothly and that all participants travelled without any issues.

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With kind regards,

Eelke Boerema and Cecile Kusters

List of abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CGIAR | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| EGS | Early Generation Seed |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FNS | Food and Nutrition Security |
| FNS-REPRO | Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (by FAO and WUR) |
| FSR | Food systems resilience |
| GNAFC | Global Network Against Food Crises |
| HDP | Humanitarian-Development-Peace |
| (I)NGO | (International)Non-Governmental Organization |
| IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification ¹ |
| LAFP | Learning Agenda Focal Point |
| MAFS | Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of South Sudan |
| MEAL | Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning |
| NUFFIC | The Dutch Organization for Internationalization in Education |
| NFP | Netherlands Food Partnership |
| PPP | Public-Private Partnership |
| QDS | Quality Declared Seed |
| RIMA | Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis |
| RTEA | Resilience Team for Eastern Africa of FAO |
| STASS | Seed Trade Association of South Sudan |
| UoJ | University of Juba |
| UNDRR | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| UNFSS | United Nations Food Systems Summit |
| WCDI | Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research |
| WUR | Wageningen University & Research |
| ZHL | Zero Hunger Lab |

¹ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/>

Summary

The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) is designed to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict-affected regions in the Horn of Africa and focuses on Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. Based on the experience gained so far and findings from the adaptive programming approach of FNS-REPRO, insights on how to engage in and build food system resilience in fragile and conflict-affected areas are emerging. A strategic consultation and exchange event in the Netherlands from 19-23 September 2022 engaged participants on emerging lessons and insights, providing a learning platform for exchange with a range of different stakeholders and actors, and further setting the agenda for building resilient food systems in contexts of protracted crises. This report shares the key insights from the event; thematic areas were focused as follows.

Focus 1. Food systems transformation: notoriously hard, but urgent

During lively discussions the relevance of key concepts on food system transformation, as well as lessons from the Dutch historical process took place. Can governments of nations in the Horn of Africa orchestrate food system transformation dialogues which include major stakeholders? Can national agendas be set for such transformation processes? It was generally agreed that national priority setting is needed to countervail rather anecdotal and often fragmented donor policies. Humanitarian aid and more profound system changes must align in order to build resilience of food systems to withstand future shocks and stressors. We cannot rely on external parties, but national stakeholder platforms are needed to draft the pathways for food system transformation. These pathways are needed to guide support by external parties to this domestic process.

Focus 2. Building resilient food systems in protracted crises

The presentations elaborated on the importance of building resilient food systems in protracted crises, and how this is approached in different settings. The collaboration of key stakeholders in the food system is key. This started with the national dialogues in preparation for the United Nations Food System Summit in 2021. Food systems resilience assessments play an important role in this respect.

The World Café group work done during the event validated the seven key recommendations as critical to building food systems resilience.² We therefore recommend them in programmes aiming for food systems resilience in protracted crisis situations to improve food systems outcomes, particularly food and nutrition security (FNS).



- 1. Co-create understanding on how food systems work & produce FNS outcomes**
- 2. Address root causes to sustainably improve food systems**
- 3. Acknowledge complexities and potential conflict of interests to reduce trade -offs**
- 4. Programme evidence -based in dynamic / volatile contexts**
- 5. Commit to the localisation agenda (Grand Bargain) to catalyse food systems resilience programming.**
- 6. Promote longer term funding strategies that balance flexibility with accountability.**
- 7. Develop a regulatory framework to building food systems resilience.**

Workshop findings also highlighted key challenges to putting these recommendations into practice. Some challenges are relatively easy to overcome; others are much more challenging. We therefore recommend that programmes aiming for food systems resilience acknowledge these challenges, devise appropriate strategies to manage these challenges, and document good practice in effectively mitigating potential challenges.

² <https://theworldcafe.com/about-us/history/>

Focus 3. Monitoring, evaluation and learning for food systems transformation - evidence-based and adaptive programming

While monitoring and evaluation has focused on generating evidence on fixed indicators, the complexity of food systems calls for an approach that does more. It should engage stakeholders at multiple levels to also analyse and make sense of evidence so as to inform evidence-based and adaptive programming; use a systems perspective helping us to not only look backward but also look forward to be more prepared for shocks and stresses; and help us to make informed and responsible decisions, so as to enhance synergies and minimize trade-offs between outcomes of the food system. This calls for leadership that is open to and capable of more strategic and systems thinking and collaboration with multiple actors in multiple sectors at multiple levels.

Focus 4. Foresight, big data, and scenario planning for food system transformation

Foresight and scenario analysis can play a critical role in building better food system policies by providing a systemic approach for policy making aiming at food system transformation. It can provide evidence-based inputs into stakeholder dialogues, and can unlock constructive, critical, and creative thinking for imagining new solutions.

WUR has experience in the application of foresight and modelling approaches to assess food security and nutrition development under different socio-economic scenarios, which can be used to inform national food system strategies and plans. Although these approaches focus on long-term development, they might also be useful to inform short-term programming to support vulnerable segments of the population. This session provided an opportunity to bring these two fields together.

WUR is also working with the Zero Hunger Lab, Tilburg University, on data science and in particular data literacy, data analytics and foresight. Data science is a powerful tool to enhance food system resilience interventions. If datasets have acceptable levels of reliability, quantitative tools can help farmers, NGOs, and policy makers to make better decisions.

Foresight, scenario planning and big data can be instrumental in assessing and addressing food and nutrition insecurity. For this to be effective, data quality and capacity of data analysts needs to be invested in, so as to have relevant contributions to policy processes; foresight needs to be embedded in interactive stakeholder dialogues so that joint sense-making can take place; and data and scenarios must be adapted to local realities. Abuse or neglect of data can be a source of conflict.

North-South-South partnerships and the localization agenda

Whilst North-South-South partnerships and localization are considered important, the reality in making these equal partnerships is still challenging, and perceptions still differ. Actors at all levels (local partners, government, I/NGO or UN departments) feel uncomfortable saying out loud what they really think – the focus needs to shift to building more trust and encouraging more open, critical conversations. Even in the room, some initial resistance was present when it came to these critical statements; but it helps to keep these abstract and anonymous, as then suddenly everyone agrees (e.g. after clarifying that these are not all relating to FNS-REPRO or the Dutch Organization for Internationalization in Education (NUFFIC), but also to other NGO projects of people present). There is no simple solution to this, but we have to be very aware of persisting power imbalances in partnerships and minimise their negative influence on creating impact.

FNS-REPRO emerging insights, and good practices and lessons learned

All in all, an integrated approach along the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus is needed to deal with the various challenges, shocks, and stresses that beneficiaries and stakeholders in FNS-REPRO areas face. This includes ensuring evidence-based and adaptive programming, in response not only to progress but also to emerging issues like shocks and stresses and conflict; capacity-building of, and collaboration with, key partners and actors in a sector or value chain (including the private sector) for sustainable growth and contribution to value chain development; and ensuring an enabling environment (policies and regulations but also investment) further developing the seed sector (South Sudan), fodder value chain (Somaliland) and gum Arabic value chain (Sudan). Whilst FNS-REPRO is doing good work, the challenges are many, and there are several opportunities to further enhance the work of FNS-REPRO in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

HDP nexus

An open discussion was held to show how different actors attach a different meaning to the HDP nexus.

Participants in the room were asked to share what it means to them, and answers included:

- *The HDP nexus is a recognition that life cannot be compartmentalized. People live in conflict-affected, fragile, food-insecure regions, and this cannot be boxed into specific and rigid programming domains. We need a multi-faceted approach.*
- *It's a process of transition, from a sector approach moving towards a systemic approach to address the critical challenges we are facing.*
- *It takes "three" to tango – it is difficult to merge separate working streams but it is necessary.*
- *Put peace first, followed by the humanitarian and then the development aspect (PHD Nexus).*

Since the concept is well-known, and its relevance and importance very much accepted, the question is why we still struggle to put it into practice? Responses include:

- *We cannot fix a humanitarian problem with a humanitarian solution.*
- *In development you can argue that you may support the country, therefore supporting the government might go against your humanitarian principles.*
- *Starting from a conflict angle is key – this is often where we overlook dynamics and just apply humanitarian aid.*
- *Habitual ways of staying with what we know; how much interaction do YOU have with other "silos"? Would love to see partners coming together like here in an informal setting in the target countries.*
- *A lot of humanitarian development interface comes from very short-term analysis, overlooking structural issues. You have to make a long-term development analysis for short-term humanitarian projects.*
- *On the ground it doesn't make sense to work in silos; this is often only an issue when it comes to other levels. Emergency and development providers work together already, including the private sector.*
 - *The HDP nexus can be perceived as something locals have to work with as other levels higher up use this approach, but it might not necessarily fit.*
 - *Creating a common understanding of the HDP nexus on the ground is needed (not a programme, but an approach), but contextual understanding is also a challenge; analyses are not conducted well, so a multi-dimensional contextual analysis is needed.*
 - *Development needs to happen hand-in-hand with peace projects, as the ground reality also changes rapidly.*
 - *Targeting: for humanitarian, look at Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) levels. Humanitarian projects target one part of the communities, development targets another part of communities; they need to come together.*
- *We have to have better understanding of context, but also challenge the interlinking.*

Investing in fragile settings

Key discussion points and recommendations from the session included:

- strengthening the enabling environment and supporting public-private partnerships (PPP) across the current (FNS-REPRO) and new value chains;
- better understanding the return on investment as well as investment (and the timing as well as scope and amount of investment) horizons in fragile settings;
- better understanding barriers and assessing risks, while advocating for improved policies by development partners;
- ensuring win-win partnerships between international and local actors;
- keeping the social element as the key to success (people are at the centre, and not all should be about profit);
- the development of value chains that can contribute to improved food and nutrition security in protracted food crises, including increasing benefits for primary producers and collectors;
- the importance of enhancing youth employment in adding value across the value chain for improved FNS outcomes.

Partnerships for building resilient seed systems

There are many challenges that the seed sector on South Sudan faces. The role of the informal seed system is important as it contributes about 85% of seed sources. The formal seed system is still at an infant stage. The bulk of certified seed is supplied through humanitarian aid, and significant quantities are imported. Since about 75% of the population in South Sudan derive their livelihood from agriculture, seed is important, but agricultural production is highly affected by climatic variabilities, biotic constraints, conflict, and economic hardships. However, there are many opportunities to strengthen the seed sector. All in all, there is need to transition from a seed aid dependent seed system with poor quality, imported seed, towards a more resilient seed system, which calls for integrated seed sector development that links the formal, intermediary, and informal systems. In the work leading up to this event, ten pathways were identified towards a robust, inclusive, and sustainable seed sector. They require all key stakeholders (government, academia, humanitarian agencies, private sector, etc.) to collaborate and coordinate their actions at different levels in the seed system, from the development of farmer-preferred, well-adapted varieties of quality seed production by farmers and the private sector, to marketing and distributing quality seed, to ensuring an enabling environment (e.g. seed policy). The demand and opportunities for quality seed is high. Farmers have the right to access good quality seed that can increase agricultural productivity and support their households in improving nutrition and gaining an income for more resilient livelihoods.

Overall key insights and feedback from participants

Participants appreciated the two-day expert consultation and learning event on food systems transformation. They enjoyed the interactive approach, meeting face-to-face with people from different countries and with different expertise and being able to connect theory to practice.

Key insights included understanding that food systems are dynamic and complex. Most insights related to what is needed to transform food systems: that is, a holistic approach where different stakeholders collaborate and coordinate their efforts so that different elements of a food system are integrated. This requires systems thinking, inclusivity and a bottom-up approach. It also requires commitment and willingness, especially by the government, to support food system transformation processes. In this respect political and power dynamics will need to be addressed; there is a need for behaviour change and resource alignment by different stakeholders.

Other insights related to the value of having reliable information as a prerequisite for planning and FNS programmes, but people were also aware of the pitfalls (as they are not easy to apply) and opportunities inherent in this. Critical feedback information is also needed from our partners so as to ensure we don't go back to business as usual.

Working along the HDP nexus requires putting people at the centre, and recognising that their experience, and humanitarian, development and peace issues are very much linked in their everyday life. This also calls for an integrated way of working, linking humanitarian, development and peace issues in programmes.

Investing in fragile settings is considered to be important, as relief is not sustainable and can lead to dependency syndrome. With deliberate and targeted private sector-led investments, things could be turned around. There are creative and dynamic approaches that we can learn from. However, there are many challenges and barriers to be overcome.

There is the need for more joint ventures between North-South companies and fast tracking a policy environment / framework that is beneficial to investments.

Seed can play an important role in the food system and in improving food and nutrition security and resilience. This requires the collaboration of different stakeholders in the seed system and in the food system. It's important to invest in the local seed system; the informal seed system can play an especially important role in the transition towards a more resilient seed system.

Participants appreciated the visits to the Dutch private sector as this gave insights (e.g. on technologies and innovations) and opportunities that could be useful for application in their own country or for possible partnerships.

On the whole the strategic expert consultation and learning events were very much appreciated and the objectives of the event were met. People now feel better connected to other stakeholders for building food systems resilience; participants can now see new opportunities for private sector collaboration and investment across FNS-REPRO's value chains (although the lack of attention to the fodder value chain in Somaliland was mentioned a couple of times); participants feel more capable in contributing to strengthening food systems resilience for improved food and nutrition outcomes; and they have better ideas of moving forward in building resilient food systems. Finally, participants noted that collaboration is key to food systems transformation.

1 Background to FNS-REPRO and the event

1.1 Background on FNS-REPRO

The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) is designed to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict-affected regions in the Horn of Africa and focuses on Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. The programme is funded by the Government of the Netherlands to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is a four-year programme of USD 28 million that contributes directly to the operationalization of the United Nations Security Council 2417 by addressing the “cause-effect” relationship between conflict and food insecurity, in Sudan (Darfur), Somaliland and South Sudan.³

The proposed programme is an initiative by the Dutch Government to operationalise United Nations Security Council Resolution-2417, which forbids the creation of food crises and famine as an act or result of war, by investing in food system resilience in times of crises and situations of conflict. The aim of the Dutch government-funded Food and Nutrition Security REsilience PROgramme (FNS-REPRO) is to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict-ridden regions in the Horn of Africa (South Sudan, Sudan, and Somaliland). This will be done through investing in initiatives that:

- strengthen sustainable management of the natural resource base;
- increase the resilience of agriculture- and livestock-based livelihoods and food systems;
- contribute to meeting medium- to longer-term food needs.

1.2 Background to the event

Towards the end of 2021 and into 2022 the Horn of Africa has been witnessing an increase in severity and incidence of shocks and stressors. Furthermore, the Horn of Africa region in the past years has been experiencing a sharp decline in its food security status, which according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2022 is likely to further deteriorate. Programs such as FNS-REPRO, which work across the HDP nexus and build the resilience capacities of households, communities, and institutions in contexts of protracted crises, are key in such times. Using its flexible and adaptive programming approach, FNS-REPRO demonstrates that it is possible to make significant gains and build resilience of the most vulnerable even in complex and dynamic environments, thereby creating prospects for the most vulnerable through healthier, more resilient, more sustainable, and equitable food systems.

Based on the experience gained so far and utilizing findings from the adaptive programming approach of FNS-REPRO, lessons on how to engage in and build food system resilience in fragile and conflict-affected areas are emerging. One such lesson is that the programme needs to step up its support to improve selected value chain performance, including through enhanced private sector collaboration and investment, in order to ensure sustainability and long-term benefits. Others relate to the operationalization of the HDP nexus; the importance of establishing North-South-South partnerships; building capacities of local knowledge institutions (contributing to the localization agenda); the need for evidence-based and adaptive programming; and the development of conceptual and practical approaches to building food system resilience for improving food and nutrition security in targeted countries.

Expert consultation and learning exchange events

With the above in mind, and considering that FNS-REPRO is approaching its fourth and final year of implementation, FNS-REPRO held a range of strategic consultation and exchange events in the Netherlands between 19-23 September 2022, co-organized by FAO and WUR.

³ More on FNS-REPRO: <https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/research-institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/show-cdi/fns-repro-building-food-system-resilience-in-protracted-crises.htm> or the FNS-REPRO website: <https://fns-repro.com/>

These strategic consultation and exchange events engaged participants on emerging lessons and insights and provided a learning platform to exchange with a range of different stakeholders and actors, thus further setting the agenda for building resilient food systems in contexts of protracted crises.

General objectives for the strategic consultation and exchange events included the following:

- to share experiences, knowledge, and insights, so that stakeholders can better contribute towards strengthening food system resilience for improving food and nutrition security outcomes;
- to identify emerging lessons and key challenges related to building resilient food systems, and where possible propose pathways to address the remaining key challenges;
- to stimulate private sector collaboration and investment across FNS-REPRO's value chain, to ensure the sustainability and long-term benefits of the programme;
- to improve stakeholder collaboration for building food systems resilience.

The details for each of the events that were part of this programme were as follows:

- Day 1-2: Expert consultation on food system resilience and food system transformation; FNS-REPRO event on lessons learnt, partnerships, and the localization agenda.
- Day 3: FNS-REPRO Global Programme steering committee meeting; Dutch Relief Alliance expert consultation on localization and HDP nexus operationalization; seminar on investing in fragile settings, followed by a networking reception.
- Day 4: Seeds-specific learning event "Partnerships for building resilient seed systems"; visit to organic farm near Wageningen.
- Day 5: Exposure visits to Dutch companies active in international seeds and fodder/feed value chains.

These events contributed to the following key areas that cut across the programme:

- developing conceptual and practical approaches to building resilient food systems for improved food and nutrition security;
- improving value chain performance and collaboration between value chain actors across the three FNS-REPRO value chains;
- maximising the programme's catalytic role through additional resource mobilization and enhancing synergies;
- further strengthening the programme's conflict sensitivity component;
- operationalising the HDP nexus and the localization agenda;
- improving the strategic alignment of different programmes (including FNS-REPRO, NUFFIC and NFP, and their learning and capacity building agendas), to contribute to building resilient food systems and establishing North-South-South partnerships.

1.3 Content of the report

This report is structured in line with the programme during the high-level learning event.

Chapter 1 describes the background to FNS-REPRO and to the event.

Chapter 2 elaborates on the expert consultation and learning on food system transformation. Key topics discussed during this two-day event included food systems transformation; building resilient food systems and protracted crises; monitoring evaluation and learning for food system transformation; foresight, big data, and scenario planning for food system transformation; North-South-South partnerships and the localization agenda; and emerging insights and good practices from FNS-REPRO in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland. This event was held in Wageningen.

Chapter 3 describes key highlights from discussions on the HDP nexus and on investing in fragile settings. These discussions took place on the third day, in The Hague.

Chapter 4 describes highlights from a seed event on partnerships for building resiliency systems on the fourth day. During the afternoon participants from Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland visited an organic farm in Doorwerth, but reflections on this are not included in this report.

Chapter 5 describes highlights from exposure visits by participants from Sudan, South Sudan to the Dutch private sector on the fifth and last day of the learning event.

Chapter 6 describes reflections of participants on the event.

2 Expert consultation and learning on food systems transformation (days 1 and 2)



2.1 Food systems transformation: notoriously hard, but urgent (WUR)

2.1.1 Summary of the session

This session was introduced by Herman Brouwer (WCDI, WUR), highlighting the general purpose of the day and what was to come: a deeper dive into food system transformations taking place across the globe and positioning the challenges in the Horn of Africa. Can we learn from transformation processes elsewhere taking shape?

Bart de Steenhuijsen Piters (Wageningen Economic Research) presented some basic concepts that allow the creation of a joint understanding of what food system transformations are all about.



Such a joint understanding is important if we want to effectively discuss issues arising from food system transformation. He then gave a historical analysis of food systems transformation in the Netherlands. Explaining how the Dutch society suffered from undernutrition after the World War II. Dutch government prioritised self-sufficiency in food and by multiple, profound interventions achieved that goal within 20 years. But then, the machine could not be stopped anymore and Dutch agriculture produced surpluses that were exported, under a new paradigm called “feeding the world”. The transformation of the food system synchronised with a gradual shift of power of key stakeholders: from the government to farm cooperatives, to national agribusiness firms including retailers, to international cooperation. The driver of food system shifted from national self-sufficiency to feeding the world to making maximum margins by agribusiness at highest levels of efficiency. Nowadays, the trade-offs of this transformation have become very tangible, ranging from low margins on primary production by farmers and their indebtedness due to uncontrolled investments to maximise farm turn-over, and major damage to the environment. New drivers of change announce themselves, such as EU regulations for nitrogen emissions and environmentalist organisations winning court cases against the state of the Netherlands. But where is the power and how to orchestrate the food system transformation needed to sustain Dutch agriculture, bringing it back to planetary boundaries while securing the livelihoods of farmers and other economic stakeholders?

2.1.2 Key takeaways

There were lively discussions on the relevance of key concepts in food system transformation and lessons from the Dutch historical process. Can the governments of nations in the Horn of Africa orchestrate food system transformation dialogues which include major stakeholders? Can national agendas be set for such transformation processes? It was generally agreed that national priority setting is needed to countervail rather anecdotal and often fragmented donor policies. Humanitarian aid and more profound system changes must align in order to build resilience of food systems to withstand future shocks and stressors. We cannot rely on external parties, but national stakeholder platforms are needed to draft the pathways for food system transformation. These pathways are needed to guide support by external parties to this domestic process.



2.1.3 Further reading

Dengerink, J. D., de Steenhuijsen Piters, C. B., Brouwer, J. H., and Guijt, W. J. (2022). Food Systems Transformation: an introduction. (Report / Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation; No. WCDI-22-201). Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. <https://doi.org/10.18174/566868>

De Steenhuijsen Piters, B., Termeer, E., Bakker, D., Fonteijn, H., and Brouwer, H. (2021). Food System Resilience: Towards a Joint Understanding and Implications for Policy. In A. I. Ribeiro-Barros, D. Tevera, L. F. Goulao, and L. D. Tivana (Eds.), Food Systems Resilience. <https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.99899>

van Uffelen, G. J., Malkowsky, C., Bolling, R., and de Steenhuijsen Piters, C. B. (2021). Building Resilient Food Systems in Protracted Crises: Recommendations for Operationalizing an Integrated Local Food Systems Resilience Approach. Background paper. https://www.nlfoodpartnership.com/documents/264/Building_Resilient_Food_Systems_in_Protracted_Crises_-_Background_Paper_KOXIT8k.pdf

2.2 Building resilient food systems in protracted crises

2.2.1 Summary of the session

2.2.1.1 FAO's approach to building resilient food systems in protracted crises

Luca Russo (FAO, Senior Food Crises Analyst) explained the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and why food systems are key in food crisis contexts. On average, two-thirds of those experiencing high acute food insecurity are rural people who rely on agriculture as their main means of survival. In many protracted crises these figures are even higher, such as in South Sudan (up to 95%). Since the first edition of the Global Report on Food Crises in 2017, the number of people experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3, 4, and 5) has increased alarmingly, despite record levels of funding for humanitarian response.

Luca then explained that the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), an alliance of humanitarian and development actors, was born at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.⁴ In 2019 a coalition of partners and relevant actors, including EU, FAO, WFP and the broader HDP nexus community, reached political consensus on the following: the need to address food crises in a longer term perspective; the promotion of resilient food systems in fragile contexts as a critical area of intervention; and the use of GNAFC as a framework to prevent and address food crises along its three dimensions (understanding food crises, leveraging food security investments, and promoting partnership at all levels beyond food). He also explained that since 2019 COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have distracted the work of GNAFC. There are some important coalitions: fighting food crises along the HDP nexus is one of them.⁵ With the launch of The Food Systems Summit in September 2021, the political relevance of food systems has resonated even more, assuming significant importance on the global agenda and in all countries, especially those affected by food crisis contexts. However, the big question is how to translate global commitments into practical action; he then explained the HDP nexus coalition.

GNAFC's work includes working with regional and country stakeholders to facilitate country level system wide diagnostics, including food systems assessments. This evidence is used to support strategic dialogues at country level as well as providing entry points toward discussing actionable solutions for food systems transformation that can be implemented in a coordinated manner to address the priorities as outlined in the national food systems pathways. The implementation process includes leveraging partnerships at regional and country level (including the HDP nexus coalition), with the overall leadership of the national conveners spearheading the process. Leveraging partnerships provides the opportunity to synchronise existing commitments and initiatives (e.g. FNS-REPRO) to address food system challenges sustainably. Furthermore, GNAFC helps to scale up efforts to promote solutions-based dialogues such as in West Africa and the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa. They are trying to find technical and political solutions.

FAO's work on food systems transformation includes hosting the food systems coordination hub; evidence generation (food system assessments and food systems dashboards); and supporting national processes by organising events, technical support and coordination functions.

Questions and statements by the audience.

- *We need business as usual to stop, move away from humanitarian. Globally there appears to be less interest in addressing structural issues by the international community because government is perceived as unfriendly. How realistic are your plans?*

Response: both of us know the politics of these issues. The peace part is up to the UN Security Council. Political sensitivities are serious (global agenda). What we do as FAO is to provide analysis and figures; we give these to decision makers to act on, as action is beyond our capacity. We are doing advocacy on a global level for re-thinking the way assistance is delivered. Examples of shortcomings are that we are too short term, and that there is not enough on agriculture. Governance issues include working with the right institutions on a national level. We would never say we do not want to work with national institutions. We always need to work with them; that's the solution.

⁴ <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/>

⁵ <http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/hdp-coalition/en/>

- *Who is involved in designing food systems transformation?*

Response: complexity and length of process are valid points. It is an illusion that a three to four-year intervention will bring necessary changes, even if well designed and structured. We need more long-term thinking and planning. There is a tendency to react too quickly to crises, which is not always the right approach.

2.2.1.2 The current context of The Horn of Africa; dynamics of shocks and stressors and increasing food insecurity; how does FNS-REPRO contribute to food systems resilience in the Horn of Africa? (FAO)

Cyril Ferrand (FAO, resilience team for eastern Africa) explained the current context in the Horn of Africa. He spoke about different stressors that are affecting resilience and economic growth. All types of shocks and stressors are coming together in the Horn of Africa right now, which is exceptional. There are rising conflict and insecurity levels and there are different types of conflicts. This is extremely disruptive. There is also a consistent increase in displacement; this used to be linked to conflict, but it is now more and more climate-induced. There is severe multi-season drought, with four seasons of failed rainfall. The forecast is that another rainfall (the fifth) will fail. That is unprecedented. Also the forecast for next year does not look good and people will probably not harvest before June 2023. The areas that are most impacted (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia) have below-average crop production. There is a combination of negative effects from drought in the Horn of Africa as well as the disruption of food supply from Ukraine and Russia because of the war in Ukraine. In South Sudan the displacement is induced by floods, sometimes there is drought and floods at the same time. There is also a significant desert locust upsurge; it takes us two years to respond to this as it is difficult to prepare for hazards that occur very infrequently. Furthermore, COVID-19 has led to an increase in market prices and has disrupted economies, markets, and livelihoods. Well-above-average food prices are limiting food access. Drivers include reduced regional production, high international fuel and food prices, and macroeconomic challenges/currency depreciation. This leads to high levels of food insecurity.

FNS-REPRO focuses on food systems resilience through focusing on the seed system in South Sudan, the gum Arabic value chain in Sudan, and the fodder value chain in Somaliland. For example, in Somaliland pastoralist transhumance routes go through production areas so dialogue needs to be facilitated around the conflict that this creates. There is also a need for the right mix of government, smallholder, investors, and innovators. FNS-REPRO is trying to catch up with bringing more stakeholders and private sector investors into their work.

Questions and statements from the audience.

- *What countries are affected by drought, and is it in all parts of the country? Currently, some areas actually produce very well; can parts of the country that do not have drought compensate for those having drought?*

Response: the region is generally speaking a deficit area. Drought will further reduce gross domestic production. We are working on developing and using a feed balance sheet tool looking precisely at surplus and deficit areas of feed and fodder to develop better distribution across the country. Post-harvest losses are 20-30% due to poor storage. We fail at addressing this problem.

- *In Sudan we have been focussing on Gum Arabic and the coexistence between pastoralists and gum Arabic people. Coexistence and peace are a major priority.*
- *How to reach certification for seeds?*

Response: the debate is not about formal and informal systems. Obviously we need to build government capacity, but it will remain informal for a large number of territories and areas. There is a severe seed deficit in South Sudan at the moment. We want to produce as much as possible locally.

- *FAO needs to learn from the Dutch (WUR) about what they are doing.*

Response: we are learning from the good things and the bad things. The idea of what we do here is to expose participants to what is happening in the Netherlands as a beginning of a journey. There are many exchange visits between Kenya and the Netherlands, and we want to do that in your case as well.

- *Representation: Ethiopia, the biggest country, is not represented. We need to talk about the (variety of) ecosystems, and we should include more on ecosystems.*

Response: FNS-REPRO has been focussing on three countries. We could have included more countries. The idea is to be strategic in selecting fragile areas. Ethiopia is on the radar; our regional office is based in Ethiopia.

2.2.1.3 The food systems summit national dialogues – the cases of South Sudan and Sudan

The case of South Sudan

John O. Kanisio (Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in the Republic of South Sudan) explained the case of Sudan at the 2021 UN food system summit related national dialogue. He explained on what a food system is (from production up to consumption), and food systems can have multiple purposes central to the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). He then elaborated on the food system national dialogue process in South Sudan, which he had convened and led. This culminated with agreement on four different dimensions for the national food system (food security, nutrition, and health; the socio-economy; territorial balance; and the environment). He explained how actors were able to work together on analysing challenges that relate to summit objectives; exploring promising approaches; debating pathways to sustainable food systems; and elaborating intentions and commitments. The purpose of this consultative process was to build consensus and reach a shared vision on key sustainability questions, taking into consideration not only issues related to food and nutrition security but also issues related to the environment, climate change, social development, business and peace consolidation.



The result is presented below.

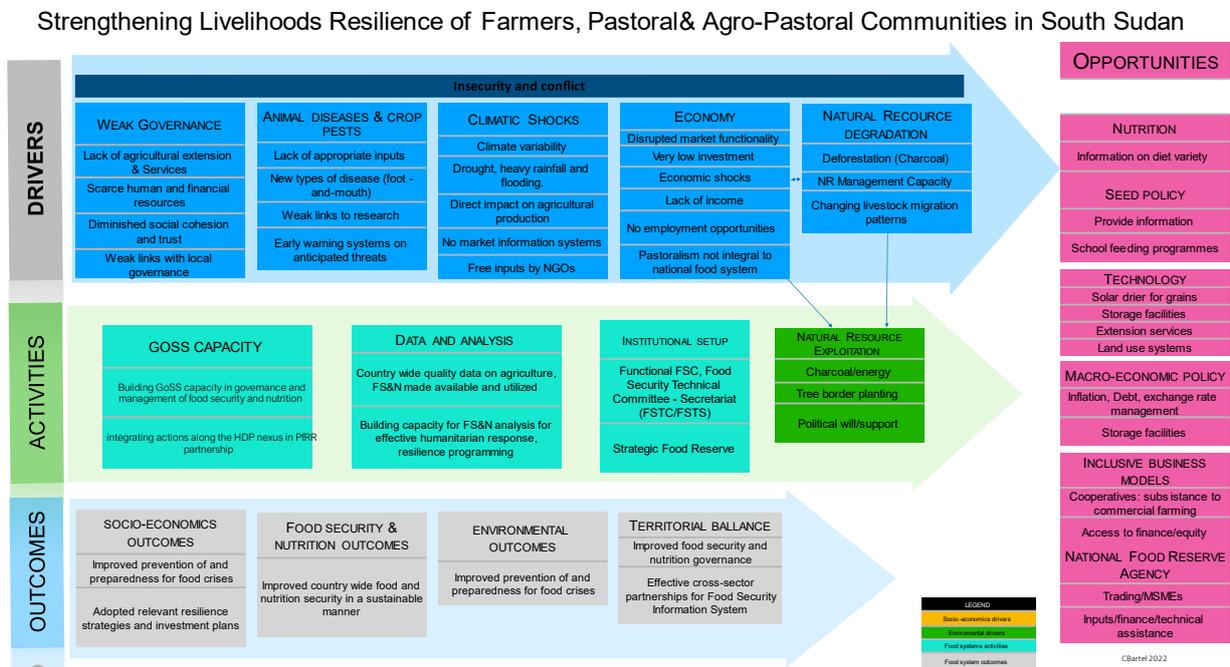


Figure 1 The case of South Sudan.

John further elaborated on the importance of transforming food systems, as the food and nutrition security situation has deteriorated sharply with over 60% of the population facing severe food insecurity. Despite humanitarian assistance, increasing amounts of food is needing to be imported to fill the production gap and this raises a question. South Sudan and its people are increasingly vulnerable and dependant on external

support. The crisis with the food system has deepened because of various shocks and stresses, including environmental, climate change, health/Covid-19, locust infestations, IDP and refugee displacement and economic shock. He concluded with saying, "Are we really doing the right thing? Resilience is the answer".

Questions from the audience

- *Consultations were done with farmers in early stages; what was the outcome?*
Response: For the sake of time I did not include their answers in the presentation. We can share the full presentation with you.
- *Energy costs are rising, can you have a Marshal plan with oil exploration in South Sudan?*
Response: Yes in theory, but policy analysis and decision-making not necessarily aligned. Decision makers won't necessarily respond to researchers. Oil has many priorities in South Sudan. This year, for the first time, we got the response from parliament that 10% of the national budget is to be dedicated to investing in the agriculture sector. I am lobbying for 1000 barrels of oil per day to be devoted to agriculture. 20.000 barrels have been devoted to roads; we also want a share for agriculture.
- *What happened after June 2021 (when the timeline for the dialogue for the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) stopped)? What is the situation now?*
Response: There are many challenges; we have had ongoing floods for two years, ongoing conflict, and a damaged economy after the global crises. The last IPC was done in December. A new one is in the making.
- *What is the way forward? Are we doing things right?*
Response: We have got a masterplan for development and transformation of agriculture sector and FNS for the next 25 years. That plan has constant investment plans.

The case of Sudan

Abelmonem Kardash (FAO Sudan) explained the national dialogue process and outcomes in Sudan organised in preparation for the 2021 UN food system summit. FNS-REPRO was actively involved in this national dialogue. Pathway 5 is endorsed by the government, with a national action plan.

He mentioned a range of opportunities in relation to this. These opportunities include having a new regime which is open to international loans and transitioning to a civilian-led government again. There is also a food system technical secretary in place. Furthermore, although agricultural production is low there is enough fertile land available, there is a lot of livestock, there is a suitable environment for forest production, and water resources are good. There is the potential to add value to crops by engaging the private sector, research centres can be engaged, and

Sudan is strategically located. But of course there are also many challenges. Key drivers of food insecurity include above average rain and floods; economic decline and inflation; continued internal and intercommunal conflict (for instance because of the annual migration of livestock) and insecurity, leading to increased displacement; and pests and diseases in crops, animals and humans.

VISION, MAIN GOALS, OBJECTIVES

Vision

Develop sustainable food systems that leaves no one behind, put to an end all forms of food insecurity and malnutrition in line with Sudan's commitment to SDGs.

Main Goal

To transform food system to an equitable, sustainable and resilient system to achieve the SDGs

Objectives:

- Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Change to nature -positive food production system
- Advance equitable livelihoods
- Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

PATHWAY RELATED TO TRACK 5

Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress through:

- Following the systemic and nexus approach and consider the resilience interlinked factors that can be influenced by multiple systems.
- Putting in place robust Early Warning Systems to respond to humanitarian crisis and mitigate the impact of shocks in a timely manner.
- Putting in place multisector (food, health, WASH etc.) rapid response mechanisms to reach vulnerable communities affected by shocks.
- Putting in place pandemic resilient food systems.
- Creating income generation opportunities for host populations, IDPs and refugees.

The suggested way forward includes tools for resilience /vulnerability mapping and analysis; enhancing coordination; capacity-building for food system staff; organising dialogues (e.g. with farmers and pastoralists) for peace building; establishing an early warning system for community disaster management; developing and adopting nutrition sensitive, climate-resilient agriculture; rehabilitation of infrastructure; policies and legislation to improve marketing environment; and value chain development.



2.2.1.4 Making food systems resilience work: the FNS-REPRO community of practice; building resilient food systems in protracted crises; operationalizing a local food systems resilience approach (WUR)

Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen (WCDI, WUR), also on behalf of Rojan Bolling (NFP), delivered a presentation on making food systems resilience work. He explained the definition of resilience for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Rome-based organisations. He further elaborated on the role of WUR in relation to FNS-REPRO’s learning and capacity building agenda that is carried out by WCDI in collaboration with partners. This includes alignment with NUFFIC projects, undertaking food (and seed) systems (resilience) assessments, facilitating communities of practice to address key challenges in building FSR, learning journeys, and capacity building. NUFFIC initiatives include a Joint Regional Masters course on Disaster Risk Management and Food Systems Resilience (JRM DRM-FSR) and integrated learning pathways for mid-career professionals on FSR through short courses (Resilient Landscapes; Food Systems Resilience; Climate Vulnerability in Fragile Areas; Making Agriculture work for Healthier Diets).

The FNS REPRO programme

What is Resilience ...

UNDRR definition

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions
(<https://www.undrr.org/terminology/resilience>)

Rome Based Agencies (focus on ag, food security & nutrition)

Resilience is essentially about ...

- ✓ the inherent capacities (abilities) of individuals, groups, communities and institutions
- ✓ to withstand, cope, recover, adapt and transform in the face of shocks.



2

WCDI in partnership with the University of Juba (UoJ) is also facilitating state-level food systems resilience dialogues and pathway development at the invitation of South Sudan’s Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR) in South Sudan’s Western Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria States. The food systems dialogues pay respect to the localization agenda (the Grand Bargain), by programming to local contexts, capacity building of local institutions, and engaging key actors along the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus (HDPN). The food systems resilience dialogues and pathway development are highly participatory and interactive, co-creating a common and shared foundation to enhance evidence-based strategic programming; strengthen co-ordination and co-operation amongst actors along the HDPN; and impact the policy decision-making processes.

Key lessons are captured in a background paper on building resilient food systems in protracted crisis (see 2.2.4 “further reading”). Gerrit-Jan elaborated on the seven recommendations as described in the paper, which was published in preparation for the UNFSS. These recommendations were closely looked at in group work.



1. Co-create understanding on how food systems work & produce FNS outcomes
2. Address root causes to sustainably improve food systems
3. Acknowledge complexities and potential conflict of interests to reduce trade-offs
4. Programme evidence-based in dynamic / volatile contexts
5. Commit to the localisation agenda (Grand Bargain) to catalyse food systems resilience programming.
6. Promote longer term funding strategies that balance flexibility with accountability.
7. Develop a regulatory framework to building food systems resilience.

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Results of the group work

During a World Café interactive session on the way forward for building resilient food systems in protracted food crises, participants were organised in seven groups to reflect on these questions for each of the seven recommendations to operationalise a local food systems resilience approach.

- Do you agree or disagree with the recommendation? Why or why not?
- What are the opportunities to put the recommendation into practice?
- What are the barriers/challenges to putting the recommendation into practice?
- What can overcome these barriers/challenges?

2.2.1.5 Recommendation 1: co-create understanding of how food systems work and produce FNS outcomes

Co-creating understanding of how food systems work and produce FNS outcomes is fundamental to building food systems resilience.

The group agreed with this recommendation as it enhances inclusivity; creates buy-in and ownership; and contributes to a common and shared understanding and consensus on what food systems are, and how they function and generate (or fail to generate) outcomes such as food and nutrition security.

Opportunities to put recommendation 1 into practice included identification of food systems and mapping of stakeholders (assessing interests and mandates); convening of stakeholders (like the national food systems dialogues for the 2021 food system summit);⁶ Ruforum (virtual coordination);⁷ and the creation in 2021 of an African common position paper on food systems.⁸

Barriers/challenges to put recommendation 1 into action include conflict and insecurity, unrealistic timeframes, and lack of good governance. How to address these barriers and challenges is yet to be determined.

2.2.1.6 Recommendation 2: address root causes to sustainably improve food systems

Addressing root causes and not only symptoms, is important to sustainably improve food systems for improved FNS. This includes the following: taking a longer-term perspective; involving humanitarian, development, and peace actors; and paying attention to groups at risk, e.g. by maximising meaningful engagement of /employment for youth in food systems.

⁶ <https://summitdialogues.org>

⁷ <http://www.ruforum.org>

⁸ <https://www.nepad.org/publication/african-common-position-food-systems>

The group agreed with recommendation 2. Barriers/challenges to put recommendation 2 into action include lacking political will, conflicts of interest / nepotism / bias, donor priorities, donor fatigue, and limited resources (time/money/capacity).

Suggestions to overcome these barriers included lobbying and advocacy (based on evidence); engaging policy makers; more resources (time/money/capacity); dialogues / wider consultation and pathway development; and inclusiveness for all stakeholders. Additional suggestions included involving broad private sector / business community and local knowledge / learning institutions from the start and throughout the process; and establishing / making use of / strengthening local coordination fora, with a key role for line ministries.

2.2.1.7 Recommendation 3: acknowledge complexities and potential conflict of interest to reduce potential trade-offs

Acknowledging complexities and potential conflict of interest is important to reduce potential trade-offs: groups may have different priorities; and there may be different pathways to resilience for specific groups.

Group participants agreed to this recommendation as needs and interests amongst stakeholders are diverse, representing potential gains but also potential loss in building food systems resilience. It's important for the process to be inclusive and anticipate potential challenges and conflicts of interest.

Opportunities to put recommendation 3 into practice included: a secure environment, trust, and commitment or support to coordinate, engage, listen and be transparent/open.

Barriers/challenges to put recommendation 3 into action included: ego / selfishness, time / electoral cycles, and resources.

Suggestions to overcome these barriers included starting by giving and not receiving (empathy); giving people evidence of the cost-effectiveness of resilience building (over humanitarian action); and being ready to make compromises, in order to navigate complexity and avoid severe conflict of interest!

2.2.1.8 Recommendation 4: apply evidence-based adaptive programming as required when working in volatile and dynamic contexts

Programming in an evidenced-based manner is essential to facilitate adaptive programming in dynamic / volatile contexts. The impacts of shocks and stressors make protracted food crises dynamic, so we should:

- *adapt programmes in the face of food system dynamics and emerging leverage points; and*
- *work with formal, intermediary, and informal systems to build resilience.*

The group agreed with this recommendation. Reasons given include that locally relevant evidence can help to ensure a programme is relevant to the needs of the community and make explicit what is contested or unknown. Different types of evidence / knowledge need to be appreciated; not only evidence from research or the government, but also for example indigenous knowledge and resilience capacities. This calls for different levels of engagement to address the questions of resilience to what, why, and how. Furthermore, evidence also needs to include qualitative data (including local perceptions) with quantitative data. A balance should be ensured between collecting and analysing data and using these data for informed decisions on actions to be taken. Sensemaking of this evidence is crucial to inform evidence-based, adaptive programming.

Opportunities to put recommendation 4 into action include putting in place a mechanism for sharing knowledge at different levels of the food system, e.g. inbuilt mechanisms for sensemaking in programming, social media, journalism etc. Scenario analysis and foresight are important so as to better anticipate and build resilience in the face of particular shocks and stresses, as is an early inventory of critical issues and finding out what is contested or unknown. It is also important to realise that knowledge itself doesn't automatically lead to change; rather, we should determine what kind of knowledge which actor needs to bring about change, and be aware of who has access to knowledge and what power relations are at play.

Barriers/challenges to put recommendation 4 into action include lacking a culture of learning and reflection. This includes not learning from mistakes, but also mindsets, linear thinking, compartmentalised thinking, negative thinking and not acting on lessons learned can have a negative effect on a culture of learning and reflection. Poor quality evidence and biased evidence can lead to inappropriate decisions. Sometimes funding strategies do not provide scope and opportunity for learning and adaptive programming. Also strict protocols, contracts, terms of funding etc. can be restrictive in learning and adapting to changing contexts. Power differences and vested interests protected by elites can limit the use of evidence for adaptive programming.

Suggestions to address these barriers include promoting evidence-based programming and educating people on critical thinking and learning. This also has implications for protocols which need to provide room for flexibility; culture, which requires an open and reflective culture of learning and sharing mistakes; power relations, which requires programmes, implementing agencies and funding agencies to be aware of the power they have and use this carefully; and funding mechanisms, which need to be flexible to be able to adjust to a rapidly changing environment. Furthermore, findings need to be translated into easy-to-understand language for those involved in learning from evidence to be able to make informed decisions.

2.2.1.9 Recommendation 5: commit to the localization agenda (Grand Bargain) to catalyse local food system dialogues and programming

Committing to the localization agenda (Grand Bargain) to catalyse food systems programming includes:

- *strengthening capacities of local institutions to facilitate food systems dialogues and pathway development;*
- *involving local / thematic experts;*
- *programming to contexts / local realities.*

The group agreed with recommendation 5. They think this should apply to everyone engaged in building (resilient) food systems. They agreed to the recommendation because it helps to be responsive to the local situation (programming to local contexts); to create a sense of ownership and belonging; to strengthen capacity of local institutions in co-design and delivery of interventions; and to promote co-ordination and cost-sharing (increasing sustainability).

The Grand Bargain

The Grand Bargain (GB) launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, is a “unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations who have committed to get more means into the hands of people in need and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action”; the Grand Bargain 2.0 (2021) reframes the overall objective to achieving “better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, and greater accountability, in the spirit of quid pro quo (equivalent exchanges) as relevant to all”.⁹

Key ideas for moving the GB localisation agenda forward include:¹⁰

- A focus on localisation and participation at the 2020 Grand Bargain annual meeting
- Concerted attempts to decentralise multi-stakeholder localisation dialogues from Geneva and Brussels to country level
- Ambitious targets for increasing local and national actor share of country-based pooled funds
- New approaches to compliance, due diligence and risk management to enable locally led humanitarian action to flourish
- A stronger gender lens across all localisation work, and targeted support to local and national women-led and women’s rights organisations.

Opportunities to put recommendation 5 into action included establishing local knowledge hubs in support of the localisation agenda and capacity building of local institutions through small grants.

Barriers and challenges to put recommendation 5 into action included donor resistance or inability to commit funding as a result of the rigid humanitarian aid architecture. Furthermore, donors and others expect quick

⁹ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain>

¹⁰ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/moving-localization-agenda-forward-recommendations-charter-change>

impacts (often through reactive humanitarian programming) while localisation agendas and proactive programming to building resilient food systems take time to take shape. Also there may be potential conflicting interests between national and local level, and local priorities may not be aligned with national priorities.

2.2.1.10 Recommendation 6: promote longer term funding strategies that balance flexibility with accountability

Promoting longer term funding strategies that balance flexibility with accountability. This involves:

- *using a food systems lens with focus on HDP programming;*
- *funding for local food systems dialogues, envisioning and pathway development; and*
- *donors demanding coordinated action for investing in food systems resilience pathways.*

The group agreed with this recommendation, as they considered it important to integrate with changing dynamics and to contribute to sustainable food systems.

Opportunities to put recommendation 6 into action include getting a strong buy-in from key stakeholders (donors, governments, etc.) and having flexibility and potential for impact.

Key barriers / challenges to putting recommendation 6 into action include changes in institutional policies, extreme weather events (as a result of severe climate change), and / or armed conflict that may result in sudden dramatic increase of humanitarian needs.

2.2.1.11 Recommendation 7 – Develop a regulatory framework that guides and enables building food systems resilience

Develop a regulatory framework for building food systems resilience (FSR). This involves the following:

- *documenting good practice and develop FSR policy recommendations;*
- *developing norms and standards for FSR programming (including financing mechanisms); and*
- *developing guiding principles to build FSR.*

In general group participants agreed to this recommendation, as it's important to have governance in place and clear roles and responsibilities. It's also important to have a well-defined normative framework in place to create the space and opportunity for building food systems resilience including principled approaches and ideas on monitoring, evaluation, and learning. It does require political will by donors, government and implementing partners.

Key barriers / challenges to putting recommendation 7 into action include: realisation amongst donors and practitioners what building FSR is and how it is different from current regulatory frameworks guiding humanitarian, development and peace work; poor understanding of how local food systems function and the existing resilience of local communities therein (including potential loss of valuable indigenous knowledge); different priorities / interests by key influential stakeholders; lack of coordination on building FSR; lack of awareness on, and therefore interest in the need for, a regulatory framework to build FSR; and lack of ability to apply FSR across varying contexts.

Opportunities to put recommendation 7 into action include: increasing awareness amongst donors, policy and decision makers and practitioners on what FSR is and the added value of a systems approach over existing approaches (such as provision of humanitarian assistance and development); acknowledging the importance of community lived-in experience and contribution to FSR; empowering local communities and promotion of bottom up approaches; establishing local fora for building FSR; and leadership and empowerment of these fora in facilitating food systems dialogues and identification of pathways to building more resilient food systems.

2.2.2 Key takeaways

The presentations elaborated on the importance of building resilient food systems in protracted crises, and how this is approached in different settings. The collaboration of key stakeholders in the food system is key. This has already started with the national dialogues that were in preparation for the United Nations Food

System Summit in 2021. Food systems resilience dialogues and pathway development play an important role in this respect.

The World Café group work validated the seven key recommendations as critical to building food systems resilience. Based on the group work, it is therefore recommended to apply the seven recommendations in programmes that seek to promote the resilience of food systems in protracted crisis situations that aim for improved food systems outcomes, especially FNS.

The workshop findings also highlighted key challenges to putting the recommendations into practice. Some challenges are relatively easy to overcome while others are much more challenging. It is therefore recommended that programmes that aim for food systems resilience acknowledge these challenges, devise appropriate strategies to manage these challenges, and document good practices in effectively mitigating and overcoming potential challenges.

2.2.3 Further reading

van Uffelen, G. J., Malkowsky, C., Bolling, R., and de Steenhuisen Piters, C. B. (2021). Building Resilient Food Systems in Protracted Crises: Recommendations for Operationalizing an Integrated Local Food Systems Resilience Approach. Background paper.
https://www.nlfoodpartnership.com/documents/264/Building_Resilient_Food_Systems_in_Protracted_Crises_-_Background_Paper_KOXIT8k.pdf

2.3 Monitoring, evaluation and learning for food systems transformation: evidence-based and adaptive programming

2.3.1 Summary of the session

Cecile Kusters (WCDI, WUR) facilitated this session. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning are important in supporting processes for food systems transformation as these can help better understand the status of a food system but also in supporting processes that guide key stakeholders towards the outcome of transformed food systems. As food systems are complex and dynamic in nature, and many actors are involved, this requires a different approach to the way we often engage in monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Cecile therefore started the session by asking the participants to respond to a range of questions, and then gave a presentation on how WCDI-WUR uses M&E for evidence-based and adaptive programming.

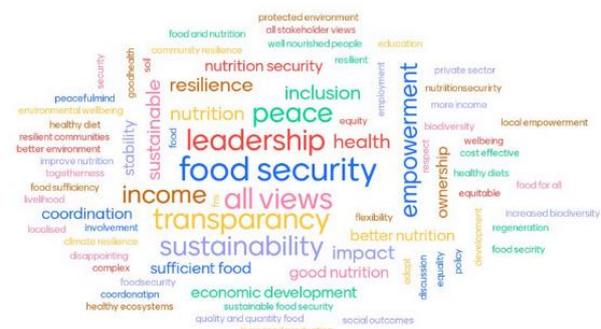
A different approach to monitoring and evaluation

In the first part of the session Cecile asked participants to respond to several questions.

Question 1. Food systems transformation: what are the important outcomes?

As one can see in the word cloud for the responses to the first question, there are a range of outcomes of food systems. Many responses relate to food and nutrition (security), but also to income/economic development, inclusion, environment, empowerment, resilience, and peace. These outcomes need to be sustainable and require leadership and coordination.

What are important outcomes and impact of (resilient) food systems transformation? (One word per entry)



countries explained how they have appreciated these sensemaking events and how these events have helped them to come up with a more integrated and comprehensive Theory of Change and annual plan for the next phase of the programme. This interaction provided a good basis for the presentation where some of these issues were stressed.

The WCDI 'Managing for sustainable development impact' approach

Managing for sustainable development impact

WCDI has worked with and further developed an evidence-based, adaptive programming approach, "Managing for sustainable development impact"¹¹ that has evolved over the years from supporting (sector) programmes to supporting food systems transformation processes and outcomes. The approach encourages stakeholders to actively engage in planning, monitoring and evaluation processes so that the evidence generated and related learning inform adaptive management. This is to be done flexibly, in response to changes in the context, and with attention to communication (which is the glue that binds it all together) and the capacities and conditions that are needed for these processes to contribute towards impact.

Sensemaking events for evidence-based, adaptive programming

In FNS-REPRO WUR organises and facilitates sensemaking events for evidence-based, adaptive programming.¹² The work in these sensemaking events is based on evidence from FAO (e.g. resilience index management analysis, M&E), WUR (e.g. food systems assessments, rapid value chain assessments and stories of change) as well as evidence from other sources (e.g. IPC information). This evidence is critically reflected upon with staff and stakeholders. The results then inform adaptations in the programme and the next annual plans.

Over time we have learned that M&E for food systems transformation needs to move beyond projects and programmes. It requires strategic thinking and strategic leadership at different levels of the food system and stakeholders along the HDP nexus need to be involved, which then also calls for conflict resolution.

Lessons from 2019 M&E & food systems conference

- Systemic thinking and systems approaches with multiple stakeholders, in multiple sectors at multiple levels
- Dynamic and flexible M&E for adaptive management
- Understand food systems, start from consumption and use complementary food system frameworks
- Zooming in and zooming out - sense making of critical drivers, interactions and dietary choices
- Understand trade-offs to support decision -making for inclusive and sustainable food systems
- Scenario thinking and forward-looking evaluations
- Theories of change for systemic change, from a multilevel perspective
- Collaborative sense making and learning
- Complexity sensitive/responsive evaluation approaches and principles
- Develop adaptive capacities for collaborative sense-making and food system transformation

WAGENINGEN University & Research
https://m4sdi.files.wordpress.com/2021/12/conference_report_monitoring_and_evaluation_for_inclusive_and_sustainable_food_systems.pdf

Conferences on M&E on the cutting edge

We have also learned from our "M&E on the cutting edge" conferences. Key insights from these conferences are indicated here. Some of these lessons resonate with ideas from participants at the learning event but there are also new ideas like scenario thinking and foresight which are getting more attention over the last years. The work that was done for the UNFSS has generated useful insights and led to a "Theory of Transformation" for food systems transformation. For more information please see the presentation and related background materials and also see our conference pages¹³.

¹¹ [Managing for Sustainable Development Impact, download the book: managingforimpact.org](https://www.managingforimpact.org/)

¹² See also: [The Learning Agenda: Reinforcing field activities while informing policy at the highest levels - Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme\(fns-repro.com\)](https://www.fns-repro.com/)

¹³ For the 2022 webinar with Patton and Woodhill please see: <https://www.wur.nl/en/show/Webinar-Transforming-Monitoring-Evaluation-to-support-food-systems-transformation.htm>

Theory of transformation for food system transformation (Patton, 2022)



Implications for evaluation (Patton, 2022)

- "To evaluate transformation, we have to transform evaluation"*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76dsKpQn8LA>
- 10 Evaluation Implications**
1. Contextualize transformation
 2. All evaluations address equity and sustainability
 3. Apply systems thinking
 4. Adaptive evaluation designs (developmental evaluation) based on complexity understandings
 5. Value diversity and engage inclusively
 6. Shift perspectives and change mindsets about evaluation (from DAC criteria to transformation criteria)
 7. Know relevant evaluation science (body of knowledge)
 8. Facilitate conflict resolutions and negotiate trade-offs.
 9. Generate a theory of transformation integrating multiple theories of change
 10. Acknowledge, own, and act on your *skin-in-the game*.

Transforming M&E for (food) systems transformation (Woodhill, 2022)

So – what M&E transformations are needed?

| From | To |
|---|--|
| Monitoring pre-determined results | Monitoring directions and application of systemic change principles |
| Primary focus on what is being done or achieved | Focus on interrelationships between context and interventions |
| Largely tangible changes | Tangible and intangible changes that create conditions for systemic change |
| Sector orientation | Systems orientation |
| Looking back | Exploring the future |

2.3.2 Key takeaways

Whilst M&E has had much of a focus on generating evidence on fixed indicators, the complexity of food systems call for a different approach for M&E; one that engages stakeholders at multiple levels not only in the generation but also in the analysis and sensemaking of evidence so as to inform evidence-based and adaptive programming. One that uses a systems perspective and helps us to not only look backward but also look forward so as to be more prepared for shocks and stresses. One that helps us to make informed and responsible decisions, so as to enhance synergies and minimize trade-offs between outcomes of the food system. This calls for leadership that is open to and capable of more strategic and systems thinking and collaboration with multiple actors in multiple sectors at multiple levels.

2.3.3 Further reading

Kusters, C. S. L., Batjes, K., Wigboldus, S. A., Brouwers, J. H. A. M., & Baguma, S. D. (2017). Managing for sustainable development impact. Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research.
<https://managingforimpact.org/>.

Kusters, C., ten Hove, H., Bosch, D., Herens, M., & Wigboldus, S. (2019). Conference report: Monitoring and evaluation for inclusive and sustainable food systems. Wageningen: Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, 10, 506604.
<https://edepot.wur.nl/506604>.

Webinar 2022: Transforming Monitoring & Evaluation to support food systems transformation
<https://tinyurl.com/2rsn8wdp>.

Other M&E on the cutting-edge conferences: <https://managingforimpact.org/archive-me-on-the-cutting-edge-conferences/>.



The Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue on the role of evaluative evidence in delivering on the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit, highlighting challenges, opportunities and ways forward for evaluation to contribute to sustainable food systems: <https://www.evalforward.org/webinars/fss-independent-dialogue-final> and https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/12/fssd_deep-dive_government.pdf.

2.4 Foresight, big data, and scenario planning for food system transformation

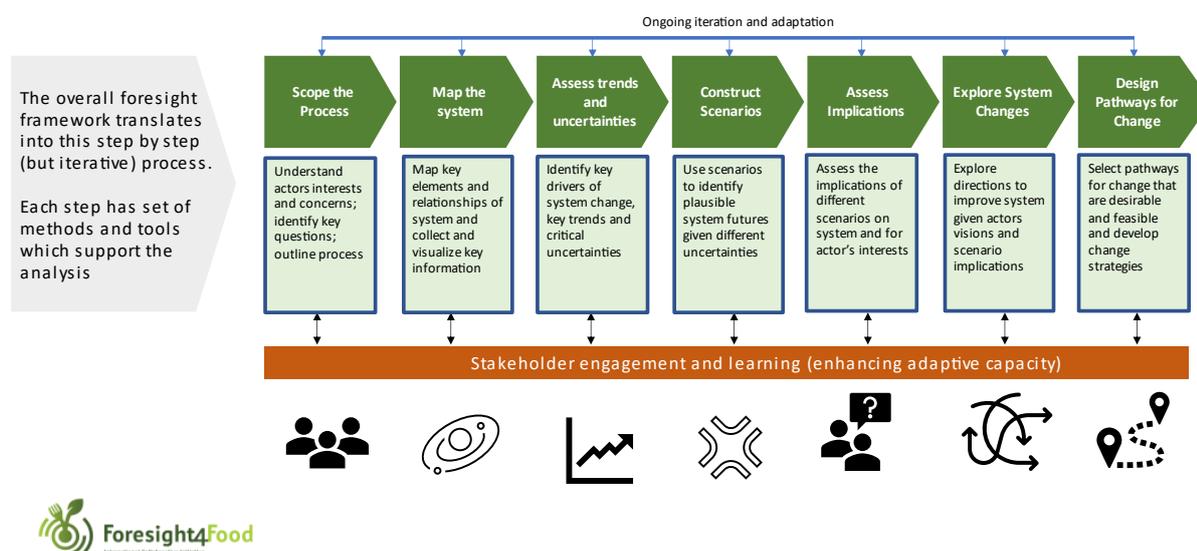
2.4.1 Summary of the session

2.4.1.1 Sketching the context - introduction to Foresight4Food

Herman Brouwer (WCDI, WUR) introduced the importance of foresight for food system transformation. We are all aware of the need for building food systems that achieve better nutrition, sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience. But the question is how to bring about such a food system transformation; this requires a systemic approach to policy making, and food system foresight and scenario analysis can play a critical role in building better food system policies. Foresight and scenario analysis is not about predicting the future. Foresight is thinking about the future to make informed choices today; scenarios are tools that can help to plan for alternative futures.

Herman then elaborated on the Foresight4Food initiative, which is “a collaborative global initiative of science institutions, international agencies, platforms and coalitions, and development organisations working to transform food systems. They all recognise the need to strengthen local, national, and global capabilities for food systems foresight and scenario analysis and the benefits of working together to do so”.¹⁴ The Foresight4Food Country Support Facility is a three-year scenario and foresight programme to help transform food systems in five countries: Jordan, Bangladesh, Niger, Kenya and Uganda (2022-2025). The aim is to strengthen foresight and scenario analysis for enhancing rural livelihoods at national and local scales. The programme is funded by the Netherlands, delivered through IFAD and Foresight4Food and implemented by the University of Oxford, Wageningen University & Research, FARA and in-country research partners. Herman also briefly explained the step-by-step approach for application of the foresight framework. This framework has also been applied in the Dhaka case (see below).

Step by step approach for application of foresight framework



¹⁴ <https://foresight4food.net/>

2.4.1.2 Case 1. Applying foresight and scenario analysis for the Dhaka food agenda 2041

Michiel van Dijk (Wageningen Economic Research) presented the foresight and scenario modelling approach that is used in the Dhaka Food Systems (Dhaka FS) project¹⁵. Dhaka FS is a four-year (2019-2023) project, funded by the Dutch Embassy in Bangladesh and implemented by FAO and Wageningen University and Research. The aim of Dhaka FS is to improve the performance of the Dhaka Metropolitan Area food system and contribute to the challenge of ensuring that all current and future citizens of Dhaka have access to sufficient safe, healthy, and nutritious food.

A core element of Dhaka FS is to inform the Dhaka food agenda 2041, a long-run strategy to support the transition to sustainable, affordable, and healthy diets in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area. For this purpose the project involves an extensive foresight and modelling process that consists of multiple steps (Figure 1). A key outcome of the process is a range of four scenarios that each present plausible but contradicting futures, with very different food and nutrition outcomes. To analyse trade-offs and synergies related to health, sustainability and food security outcomes, the scenarios are quantified using an integrated modelling framework (Figure 2), which includes a combination of a global economic simulation model, a land use change model, and a microsimulation model, each providing different indicators on key drivers and outcomes of future food security.

Michiel discussed the input data (e.g. household surveys and projections of population, economic development and structural change) and presented a selection of outcomes (e.g. development of food consumption, land use and income change) under different socio-economic scenarios. He also presented an example on how long-run modelling could inform climate risk and vulnerability assessments by overlaying subnational poverty projections with future climate change-induced heat stress maps (Figure 3).

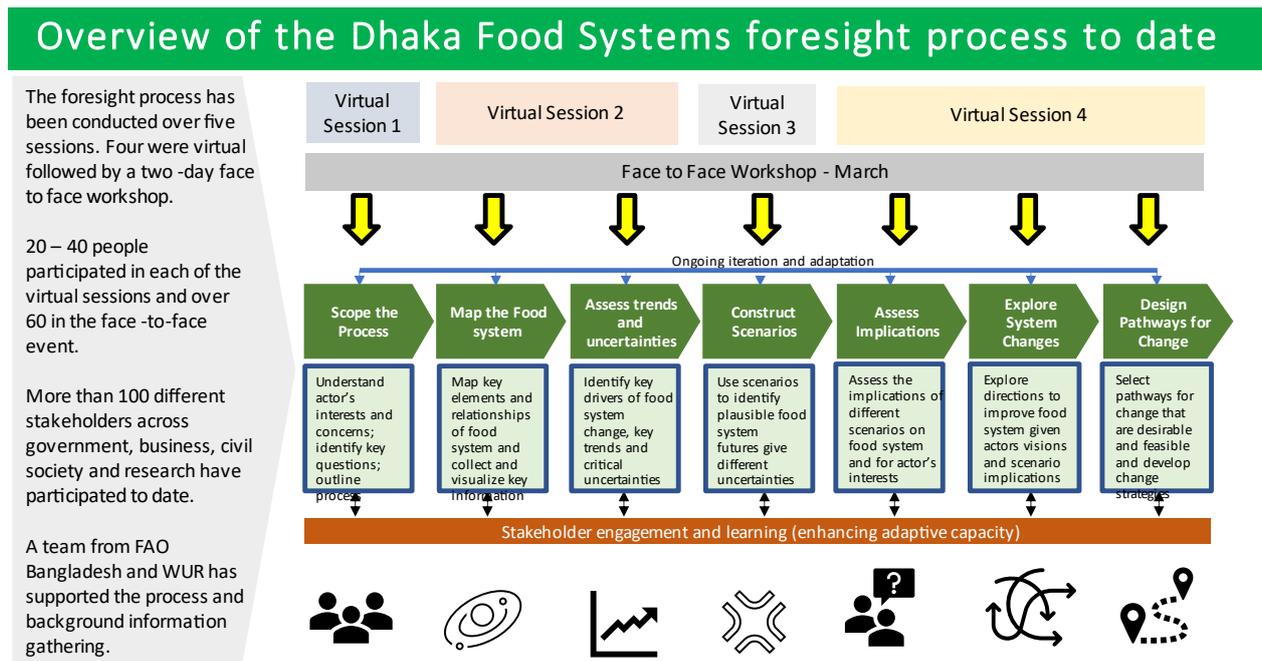


Figure 1 Dhaka food systems foresight process.

¹⁵ See also: <https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/research-institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/show-cdi/improving-dhakas-food-system.htm>

Integrated modelling framework

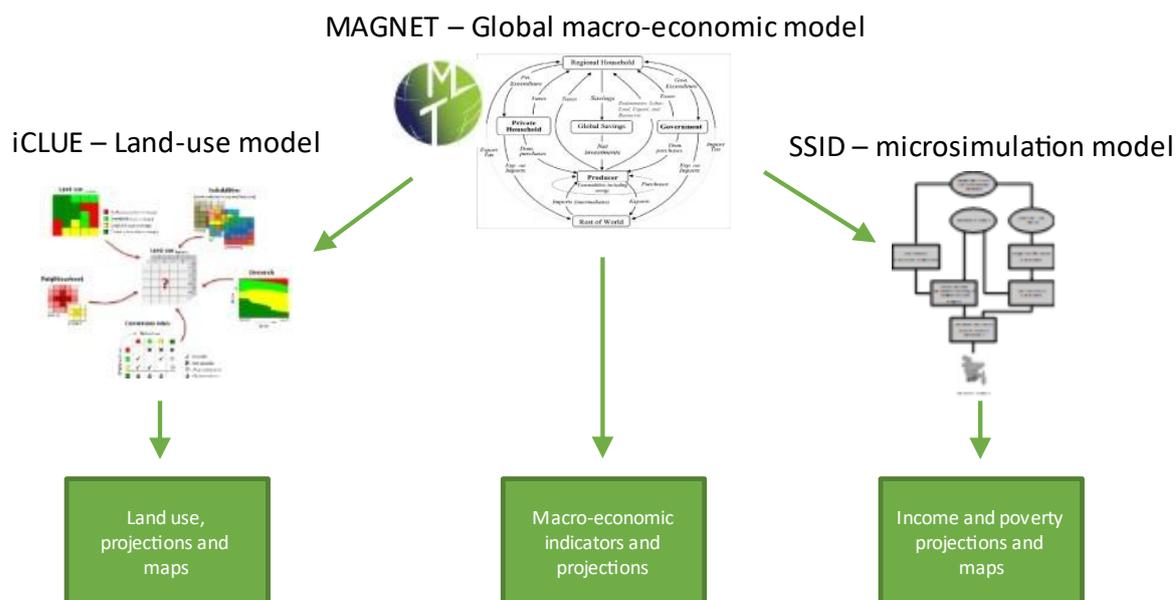


Figure 2 Dhaka food systems modelling framework.

Results can be used for climate risk and vulnerability assessments

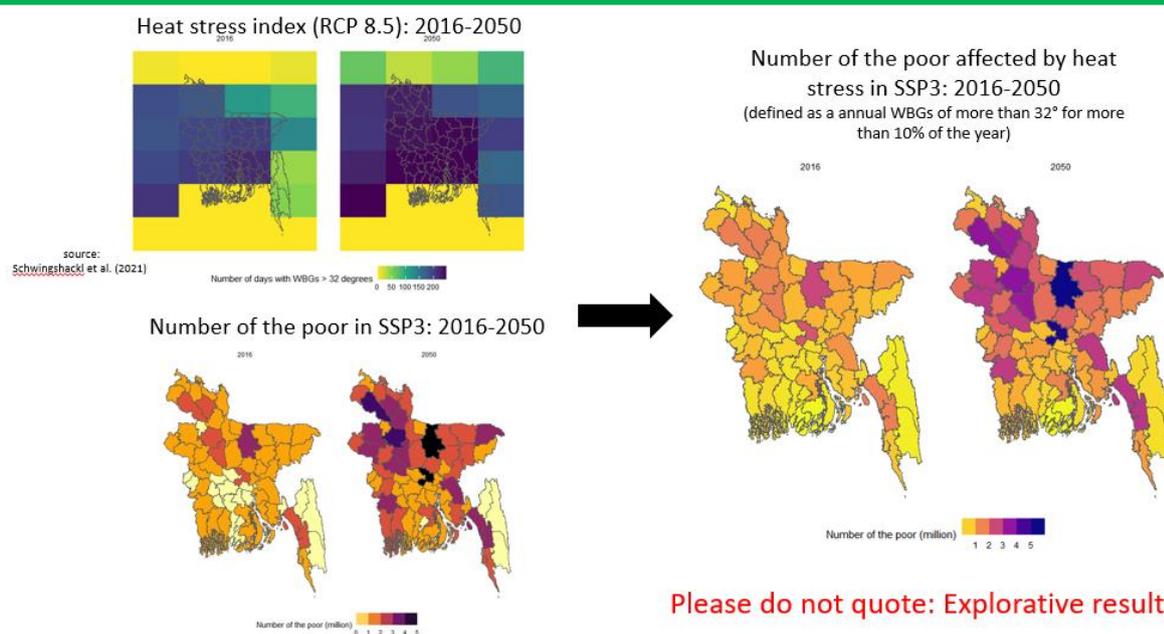


Figure 3 Potential to inform climate risk and vulnerability assessments (preliminary results).

Questions/discussion round Dhaka food agenda:

- South Sudan dialogues followed a similar logic. The only difference is that the Dhaka scenario is based fully on data and so is neutral; in South Sudan it might have been biased.
- Scenarios seems to be likely, but can conflict be predicted?
- The political party in power has a vision (middle income country by 2040) but the scenario might show that poverty may increase, so where do we place this? The reality of data and reality on the ground might cause conflict.

- Donors have strategies for every country, not sure if these strategies are built on the data; these strategies might conflict with unbiased data that is factual and not necessarily hinting towards particular favoured outcomes by particular donors.
- To what extent does the scenario play out in regard to different actors?
- How does this scenario translate into discussion on the ground, economic politics, donor politics etc.?

2.4.1.3 Case 2. How can data analytics be used to improve FNS in protracted crises? (Zero Hunger Lab)

In this session two representatives from WCDI partner Zero Hunger Lab (ZHL)¹⁶ of Tilburg University in the Netherlands presented some of their projects. ZHL is a data science driven institute that conducts research and collaborates with NGOs, UN organisations, universities, and research institutes to improve food security conditions, among others in the Horn of Africa. Its focus is both on emergency response and (most relevant for FNS-REPRO) on building more resilient food systems.

Frans Cruijssen (ZHL) briefly introduced ZHL and three running projects:

- optimization of sustainable, healthy, and affordable diets for WFP food aid;
- data literacy training; and
- anticipatory action.

Cascha van Wanrooij (ZHL) discussed his MSc thesis project about foresight for food security developments. Cascha built a machine learning model that uses unstructured public domain data (satellite imagery, newspapers and Twitter) to improve experts' forecasts of changes in IPC phases in a region. He found statistically significant relations between for example the number of tweets and increases in IPC level. In addition, it became clear from the data that the dynamics of lower IPC phases are very different from the dynamics of higher phases. The higher phases 4 and 5 are usually linked to shocks (natural or manmade) that are very different to forecast. Changes from phase 1 to 2 on the other hand are usually the result of a slower trend that is sometimes already observable in data beforehand. This is an example where data science can assist food security experts in making improved assessments and forecasts.

From insight to foresight

Zero Hunger Lab and Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation have published a position paper on using data to improve food and nutrition outcomes in the Horn of Africa. This report is important for two reasons. Firstly, the innovations in data science that are described have the potential to transform assessments and forecasts, support the localisation agenda, and take a food systems approach. This improved use of data offers ways to enable much more effective and efficient relief and development programmes. Secondly, this improved use of data supports programmes moving from mainly reactive to preventive/anticipatory actions (see also section 2.4.4 on further reading).

2.4.2 Results of group work

After the presentations there were different group sessions. The results are presented below.

2.4.2.1 Group session on foresight and modelling

The main questions raised by the participants included the following.

- What kind of data is needed to perform the analysis?
- Can this approach also be used in other settings, in particular regions characterized by conflict, where data availability is a problem?
- How can foresight, which has a long-run focus, be used to inform short-run programming and actions to support resilience of vulnerable people?

Michiel and his colleagues explained that the modelling approach is very data intensive. Nonetheless, a large share of the input data can be taken from global data products and maps (e.g. population maps and GDP projections). It is, however, essential to have access to a representative household survey that presents information on income and consumption of a large number of households in a country. For most countries, these surveys are available from national statistical agencies and the World Bank but global coverage is not

¹⁶ Zero Hunger Lab: <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/research/institutes-and-research-groups/zero-hunger-lab>

complete and for conflict countries recent surveys are often not available. In case all relevant data is available, the poverty maps and projections can be an interesting tool to inform policies to address vulnerability and resilience in a country.

2.4.2.2 Group session with Zero Hunger Lab on the role of data in improving food system outcomes

In the breakout session participants were invited to discuss and share their ideas about the role that data can play in improving food system and food security interventions. This discussion was done in two groups, and some of the insights are listed below.

- Climate change is a major factor for food systems. We could use data analytics more to optimize use of the carbon credit system.
- For data analysis, data quality has to be carefully considered. Having quality data depends on the data collection methods. For this purpose capacity building is needed, transparency (and avoidance of bias), good planning, and ethics.
- Various open-source data cover different time horizons. Some indicators have reliable forecast that can be included a forecasting model.
- Another issue is the institutionalization of data. Who collects the data, e.g. local collectors? Who owns the data? It requires a system of data verification to make sure incentives are right.
- It is very important to be transparent and informative to local communities about how that data is used and how it might help.
- A question is how far into the future we can make reliable forecasts.
- Respondents are requested to provide the same data for many surveys and they become tired with these surveys. It then becomes questionable how trustworthy the data are.
- It is important to have an enabling environment. This includes bureaucracies and policies so that there is a legal push and also institutionalization of these data processes.
- Participants have stressed the limitations of data, as decision makers may not always act upon the data provided.
- Respondents voiced concern regarding the reliability of FNS analysis and expressed a need for using data in improving quality of analysis.

2.4.3 Key takeaways

Foresight and scenario analysis can play a critical role in building better food system policies by providing a systemic approach for policy making towards food system transformation. It can provide evidence-based inputs into stakeholder dialogues, and can unlock constructive, critical, and creative thinking to imagine new solutions.

WUR has experience in the application of foresight and modelling approaches to assess food security and nutrition development under different socio-economic scenarios, which can be used to inform national food system strategies and plans. Although these approaches focus on long-run development, they might also be useful to inform short-run programming to support vulnerable segments of the population. This session provided an opportunity to bring these two fields together.

WUR is also working with ZHL on data science and in particular data literacy, data analytics and foresight. Data science is a powerful tool to enhance food system resilience interventions. If datasets have acceptable levels of reliability, quantitative tools can help farmers, NGOs, and policy makers to make better decisions.

Foresight, scenario planning and big data can be instrumental in assessing and addressing food and nutrition insecurity. For this to be effective, several issues need attention.

- There needs to be financial investment in improving data quality and the capacity of data analysts in order to have relevant contributions to policy processes.
- Foresight needs to be embedded in interactive stakeholder dialogues so that joint sense-making can take place.
- Provisions need to be made to adapt data and scenarios to local realities. Abuse or neglect of data can be a source of conflict.

2.4.4 Further reading

Foresight4Food initiative: <https://foresight4food.net/>.

Hebinck A. et al. (2018). Imagining transformative futures: participatory foresight for food systems change. *Ecology and Society*, 23: 16. <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol23/iss2/art16/>

Herman Mostert et al. (2022), Dhaka Food Agenda 2041 Foresight and Scenario development: Workshop Report Dhaka Food Systems project, Wageningen: Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. 73 p. (Report / Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation; no. WCDI-22-20) <https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/dhaka-food-agenda-2041-foresight-and-scenario-development-workshop>

Improving Dhaka's Food Systems. Support for Modelling, Planning and Improving Dhaka's Food Systems (DFS): <https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/research-institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/show-cdi/improving-dhakas-food-system.htm> and <https://www.fao.org/urban-food-agenda/projects-dhaka/en/>

Kaut, J., Bakker, E., van Uffelen, G. J., Crujssen, F., and Malkowsky, C. (2022). From insight to foresight: using data to improve food and nutrition outcomes in protracted food crises in the Horn of Africa (No. WCDI-22-217). Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. <https://doi.org/10.18174/576146>

Muiderman, K; Zurek, M; Vervoort, J; Gupta, A; Hasnain, S; Driessen, P. (2021) The anticipatory governance of sustainability transformations: Hybrid approaches and dominant perspectives. *Global Environmental Change* 73 (2022) 102452. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102452>.

2.5 North-South-South partnerships and the localization agenda (WUR)

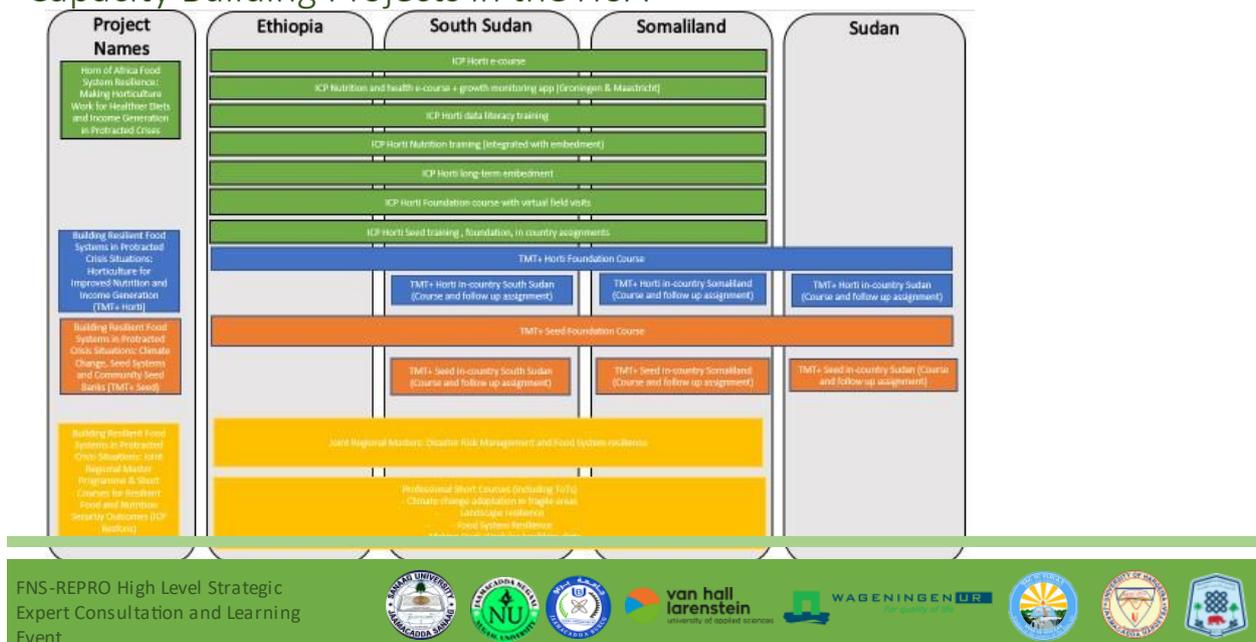
2.5.1 Summary of the session

Charleen Malkowsky (WCDI, WUR) introduced and led this session. Partnerships are important in food systems transformation. The question is, how can we establish equal partnerships, work together in constructive ways and with different stakeholders? This session focused on North-South-South partnerships and the localization agenda. The aim of this session was to discuss how we can take present and future partnerships to the next level, avoiding that "co-creation" and "N-S-S" collaboration do not become just buzzwords, but contribute to changing dynamics on the ground, building appropriate and needed capacities for improved FNS outcomes in protracted crises. This discussion was done by sharing experiences of capacity building projects from several perspectives, by jointly reflecting on the experience of partnerships, and by formulating recommendations for specific actor levels to creating more long-term, equitable partnerships. See also 2.5.2 results of group work.

Different food system resilience capacity building projects in the Horn of Africa were introduced by key people involved in four projects. The projects were as follows.

- Horn of Africa food systems resilience: making horticulture work for healthier diets and income generation in protracted crises. In Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somaliland.
- Building resilient food systems in protracted crisis situations: horticulture for improved nutrition and income generation (TMT+Horti). In Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somaliland, and Sudan.
- Building resilient food systems in protracted crisis situations: climate change, seed systems and community seed banks (TMT+Seed). In Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somaliland, and Sudan.
- Building resilient food systems in protracted crisis situations: joint regional master programme and short courses for resilient food and nutrition security outcomes (ICP Resfons). In Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Somaliland.

Capacity Building Projects in the HoA



The themes and geographical areas of these initiatives were largely overlapping with FNS-REPRO. There are some alignments, e.g. translated seed booklets and REPRO seed hub activities are aligned smoothly with FNS-REPRO. Two joint regional master students will take part in the next Food System Resilience Assessment (FoSRA). Furthermore, the capacity building programmes are working with the same partners That are also involved in the FNS-REPRO, and their capacities are being strengthened. As such the capacity building programmes are complementary to and aligned with FNS-REPRO.



2.5.2 Results of group work

Whilst the localization agenda (Grand Bargain) is high on the agenda, how equal do these partnerships really feel to everyone? Does capacity building really link to implementation as assumed? From where can alignment activities be steered best – Europe, regionally, nationally or locally? Where should the initiative come from, what works?

In order to respond to these questions, an honest critical reflection by actors at all levels was required.

Since power dynamics and accountability structures make it difficult to be critical openly in such a large group of interconnected stakeholders, an anonymous approach was taken. Several participants of the session from different backgrounds were asked to reflect on the biggest challenges when it comes to partnerships and share some statements they would like to be heard and to be addressed. These statements present some critical challenges in the creation of equitable partnerships as well as in linking capacity building with action.

In a World café workshop, participants were asked to reflect on one of the statements and to state to what extent they agreed / recognised / disagreed with it. They were asked to discuss the essence of the statement and underlying issues as well as to think about recommendations.

Statements on critical challenges in the creation of equitable partnerships and linking capacity building with action

- Statement 1: *I (local partner) was hesitant to state real priorities during the proposal phase, out of fear to lose the place in the consortium. There would have been other areas like fishery or bee keeping which would have met higher interest, but I was afraid to say this, I was intimidated by the Northern partners and their strong opinions. People in the Netherlands know of proposals before we do, so they have the main idea for the intervention, there is not often a possibility to take initiative from our side when it comes to designing a project. But we know the context best and they don't even have the time to travel to the country for an appropriate needs assessment, it's just based on policy themes.*
- Statement 2: *Projects are short, and real capacity building, especially on a regional level, takes a lot of time. I'm afraid that partnerships will slow down and then stop without further funding.*
- Statement 3: *Often, skills like non-content capacity building, e.g. on finance or admin, is required for an equal partnership. Or a stable internet connection, but such investments are often limited by the donor.*
- Statement 4: *Linking capacity building to implementation takes time and needs to be planned well. Often, content differs. Often, there is commitment to align on one level but not all. It's too many levels of actors and too many fragmented parts – it's not realistic to link everything with everything.*
- Statement 5: *I tried to link with implementing partners and other projects, but they were also doing capacity building. It's not that easy to make a distinction. But then we also do some implementation of projects. It's confusing.*
- Statement 6: *I tried to co-create the curricula but it was very difficult to get hold of some partners, I contacted them many times. Connectivity is bad, so smooth communication is difficult. I still feel the expectation is that we deliver a course, not a true co-creation.*
- Statement 7: *It is difficult to target the right people. Often, there are only a few people with the relevant background to take part, but then they end up either leaving or they take so many different courses that they cannot follow up on their responsibilities anymore. I tried my best to find the best candidates but it still wasn't effective.*
- Statement 8: *I am thankful for all the opportunities, but sometimes it is a bit much to have so many different projects, and then being asked to expand further and further, linking with more and more different local actors. I want to support the ambition to scale up all initiatives, but it's too quickly too fast. But I don't want to appear like we want to keep the knowledge to ourselves, so I don't know how to communicate to slow down and take more time, it's too ambitious.*

The discussions were very lively and the majority of participants agreed with the statements. Moreover, there was extensive e-mail follow-up afterwards, particularly Southern partners expressed their gratitude for bringing up their statements.

Recommendations included:

- Have needs assessments as part of the proposal; always have an inception phase to only decide on content when the context is understood.
- Ensure that expectations are managed from all sides. For instance, Southern partners need to be aware of time requirements and be able to make this time; not only receiving training but also vice versa; knowing what participants desire and expect; and how to balance expectations.
- Sometimes rather do a few things right and slow down instead of rushing many things. Take more time before scaling up ambitiously.
- Taking a system perspective is great but sometimes also overwhelming, so pick focal points and link around them.
- Advocate for more extensive non-content capacity building to create the foundational conditions required for more equitable partnerships.
- Find local resources, for instance via local government, to contribute actively to building more non-content (and content) capacities to even the playing field and reduce dependency on funding that's shaped by foreign policy goals.
- Make all actors aware that power imbalances exist and that they have consequences for the design of projects.

2.5.3 Key takeaways

Whilst North-South-South partnerships and localization are considered important, the reality in making these equal partnerships is still challenging. When it comes to equality of partnerships, perceptions still differ. Actors at all levels (local partner, government, INGO, or UN department) feel uncomfortable saying out loud

what they really think. The focus needs to shift to building more trust and encouraging more open, critical conversations. Even in the room, some initial resistance was present when it came to these critical statements; but it helps to keep these statements abstract and anonymous, as then suddenly everyone agrees (e.g. after clarifying that these are not all relating to FNS-REPRO or NUFFIC, but also to other NGO projects of people present). There is no simple solution to this, but we have to be very aware of persisting power imbalances in partnerships and minimise their negative influence on creating impact.

2.5.4 Further reading

The Grand Bargain: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>

2.6 FNS-REPRO emerging insights and good practices and lessons learned

2.6.1 Summary of the session

In this session country level FNS-REPRO managers shared their experiences, insights, and lessons for building food system resilience. They were asked to reflect on the following questions:

- What worked well in FNS-REPRO?
- What are areas for improvement?
- What was missing and what could be done in future programming?

2.6.1.1 FNS-REPRO in Sudan (Abdelmonem Kardash, FAO Sudan)

What works well

Programming

- The Learning Agenda and related adaptive programming (facilitated by WUR) helped the programme to make the annual work plan more dynamic, allowing for quick changes to the interventions based on the volatile situation. The learning agenda was aligned with FAO's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework and related processes, and the sensemaking events and reflection on the annual work plan (and related theory of change) offered opportunities to stakeholders to reflect on areas for improvement.
- The training on conflict prevention and management, as well as the continuous dialogues between various parties, helped the programme to be more conflict-sensitive and also to practise conflict-sensitive programming.

Collaboration with partners and stakeholders

- Collaboration with WUR, in particular training courses and capacity building programmes and collaboration with academia and local universities, went well.
- The implementation approach (having letters of agreement with implementing partners and strong collaboration with the government).
- Private sector engagement and investment along the gum Arabic (GA) value chain, so that the GA producer associations can be helped in producing high quality GA and linking up with micro finance.

Programme implementation

- Reducing natural resource management (NRM)-related conflicts through working with community-based NRM committees and supporting them in developing NRM plans that lead to good management of water and land.
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and stimulating nutrition-sensitive income generating activities, such as backyard gardening, community nurseries, cheese and yogurt making etc.
- Farmer field school activities were successful in building the capacity of local extension farmers.

Areas for improvement

Implementation

- The agroforestry component was technically acceptable where it allowed farmers to introduce cash crops with the Hashab tree. However, the readiness of the communities for such intervention was premature, due to the high price of cash crops compared to GA; funding issues regarding tapping and harvesting of GA trees (only 10% of the GA forest are tapped); and economic instability and the security situation, which discouraged the private sector to engage with GA producers.
- There is need for strong support for income generating activities in terms of provision of grants, revolving funds, and/or seed money.
- The project is very weak on resilience governance, by developing policy and strategy related to resilience and NRM.

In general

- Counterparts and community contribution to increase sense of ownership.
- Selection of target villages – some villages don't have high potential for GA and the project missed other villages in the same locality who have huge hashab forests and high GA potential.
- Visibility of the project is lacking and there is need for a communication officer.
- Lack of gender officer as part of the project team.
- Regular technical implementation support mission from the region.

2.6.1.2 FNS-REPRO in Somaliland (Jane Ndungu, FAO Somaliland)

What works well

Adaptive programming

- Use of context-specific studies such as FoSRA, multi-disciplinary context analysis and fodder value chain analysis (used in the learning agenda and for evidence-based and adaptive programming) is key and has informed and improved approaches and project activities.
- Complementing the project with other short-term/emergency activities has been pivotal in the promotion and overall progress of the project activities. These include cash transfers (conditional and unconditional cash), livestock treatment, range cube/mineral blocks and water trucking.
- Adopting a conflict-sensitivity approach at all stages of the project has reduced tensions and has improved cohesion within project activities.

Engagement and communication/information sharing

- Constant presence in the field and regular community consultation by the FAO Somaliland team for FNS-REPRO.
- Channelling of project information through the local authorities has ensured acceptability and compliance by all stakeholders with the project and community objectives.
- The relevance of the project activities, clear communication, and consultation on the objectives of FNS-REPRO and the process has been crucial during the implementation process.

Lessons learned

- Government leading the initiative is important, as this creates ownership and sustainability. They accompany the team to the field and are seen as leading while FAO provides the technical support. They also lead for ownership and acceptability. Consistent involvement and consultation with the governmental and local authorities at international, regional and district level and with the local elders is key to the successful design and implementation of projects in the region, and also assists with community buy-in.
- Community expectation management is important so as not to raise false expectations. This requires sharing project information and defining roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder.
- Adaptive programming helps the project to remain relevant to the needs of the community.
- Association/groups contribute to diverse positive impacts to beneficiaries such as community cohesion and cooperation, social safety nets, conflict resolution channels, networking, and knowledge sharing. FNS-REPRO facilitated structures which are also being used for the other interventions.

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- Synergy and complementarity is necessary and can be done by adopting lessons from other FAO projects (e.g. Somali Information and Resilience Building Action and projects by Rome-based agencies) that are similar to FNS-REPRO. Also integrating emergency /cash-based interventions is useful to ensure a comprehensive approach along the HDP nexus.

Future programming

Some suggestions for future programming include:

- engagement of local communities, government, and local technical teams during project development;
- undertaking baseline assessments to allow programmes to adopt context-specific approaches in design and implementation of projects;
- using an HDP nexus approach: programmes need to be conflict-sensitive and include humanitarian activities including having a crisis modifier to ensure they are responsive in times of crisis;
- adaptive programming and flexibility of budget allocation within the programme cycle;
- continuous stakeholder involvement. Stakeholder engagement, particularly the private sector, needs to be more deliberate to enhance results; and
- design projects addressing multiple sectors and layers for longer durations. This will increase the likelihood of the desired impact.

2.6.1.3 FNS-REPRO in South Sudan (Maurice Nyombe, FAO South Sudan)

What works well

Adaptive programming

- Context monitoring helps to identify emerging tensions, disputes, and conflicts, and to identify appropriate measures for adaptive programming.

Programme design and implementation – seed sector

- Building local capacities: training community-based peace structures for enhanced peace and promoting inclusive problem-solving.
- In the absence of the National Seed Authority, the formation and functions of the seed quality control boards are to be enhanced through increased engagement with seed enterprise groups and private seed companies in promoting quality seed production and marketing.
- Market-led approaches for foundation seed and quality declared seed production, for instance public-private partnerships in early generation seed, linkages of seed producer groups to seed aggregation centres, and seed fairs.
- Promotion of plant genetic conservation and utilization. This involves the identification, characterization, cleaning, purification, promotion, conservation (in-situ) and enhanced production and marketing of farmer-preferred landraces through seed fairs/vouchers.
- Production and marketing of nutrient-dense crops. This focuses on market-oriented vegetable and seed value chains. The engagement of women and youth is especially important.
- Improved coordination and layering of activities between resilience and humanitarian seed requirements, where FNS-REPRO can play a catalytic role in enhancing local seed production and further contribute to reduction of seed importation by at least 25% or 2000 MT. The intervention further creates opportunities for developing the local seed market through seed fairs and seed voucher systems that encourage interaction between bordering communities to promote peaceful coexistence.

Areas for improvement

The following areas that need improvement mainly relate to a more integrated approach for seed sector development.

- Enhancing seed market-opportunities for FNS-REPRO seed producer groups. These can be linked to humanitarian seed requirements.
- Better engagement with the private sector. This is needed to support investment in the seed sector in fragile areas and to collaborate with rural-based agro-dealers.
- Improved collaboration and coordination between humanitarian and resilience partners, leveraging partnerships, resources and contributing to enhanced development outcomes.

-
- Enhancing support to research and development through adaptive trials, small-pack demos for technology adoption.
 - Promoting integrated crop and livestock systems including pasture production to contribute to peaceful coexistence.
 - Integrating capacity building for students to harness knowledge and skills in improved agricultural technologies.
 - Enhancing the promotion of adaptive agricultural technologies to climatic variability, like climate smart agriculture and planting flood-tolerant rice as an adaptation practice for flood-prone areas.

What was missing in the programme

The following areas are considered to be missing in the programme design.

- A seed policy framework that addresses seed sector priorities and supports its development.
- A seed regulatory authority/administration unit.
- Harmonized seed guidelines, and co-ordinated action in implementing seed programming interventions by key stakeholders, are lacking.
- Extension and advisory services (government/private led extension systems) are weak.
- Access to credit/micro-credit, such as cooperative banks or village savings and loan associations, is limited.
- Investment support for value addition/seed processing and packaging is lacking.
- Weak capacities of the private sector to effectively promote local seed demand and markets, like increasing farmer awareness through crop demos, field days.
- Limited input distribution network within the private sector; most agro-input dealers are in Juba and very few in rural areas.

Maurice also elaborated on shocks and stresses that particularly affect the programme; rampant flooding, prolonged dry spells, inter-communal conflict and conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. These vary according to location. The programme tries to deal with these shocks and stresses through conflict-sensitive programming (wider awareness and capacity building); having a food security information system in place for evidence-based analysis for decision-making and adaptive programming; by having deliberate efforts to support and engage youth in agricultural income generating activities like vegetable production; and by distributing vegetable seeds for dry season planting and drought tolerant crops (cowpea, drought tolerant sorghum varieties).

2.6.2 Key takeaways

All in all, an integrated approach along the HDP nexus is needed to deal with the various challenges, shocks, and stresses that beneficiaries and stakeholders in FNS-REPRO areas face. This includes ensuring evidence-based and adaptive programming, in response to not only progress but also to emerging issues like shocks and stresses and conflict; capacity building of and collaboration with key partners and actors in a sector or value chain including the private sector for sustainable growth and contribution to value chain development; and ensuring an enabling environment (policies and regulations but also investment) further developing the seed sector (South Sudan), fodder value chain (Somaliland) and gum Arabic value chain (Sudan). Whilst FNS-REPRO is doing good work, the challenges are many and there are many opportunities to further enhance the work of FNS-REPRO in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

2.6.3 Further reading

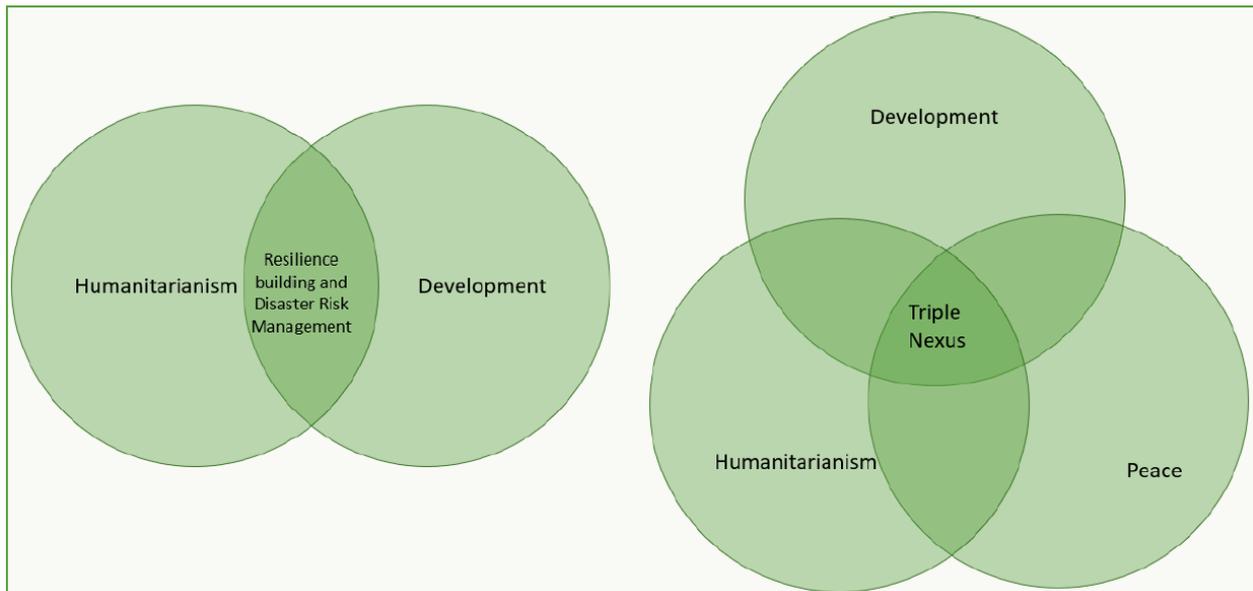
Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO): <https://fns-repro.com/>

3 HDP nexus and investing in fragile settings (day 3)

3.1 HDP nexus

3.1.1 Summary of the session

Charleen Malkowsky (WCDI, WUR) and Rojan Bolling (NFP) led this session. An open discussion was held to show how different actors attach different meanings to the HDP nexus.



Participants in the room were asked to share what it means to them, and answers included:

- *The HDP nexus is a recognition that life cannot be compartmentalized. People live in conflict affected, fragile, food insecure regions and this cannot be boxed into specific and rigid programming domains. Multi-faceted approach.*
- *It's a process of transition, from a sector approach moving towards a systemic approach to address the critical challenges we are facing.*
- *It takes "three" to tango – it is difficult to merge separate working streams but it is necessary.*
- *Put peace first, followed by humanitarian and then development aspect (PHD Nexus).*

Since the concept is well-known, and its relevance and importance very much accepted, the questions is why we still struggle to put it into practice? Responses include:

- *Cannot fix a humanitarian problem with a humanitarian solution.*
- *In development you can argue that you may support the country, therefore supporting the government might go against your humanitarian principle.*
- *Starting from a conflict angle is key – this is often where we overlook dynamics and rather just apply humanitarian aid.*
- *Habitual ways of staying with what we know, how much interaction do YOU have with other "silos"? Would love to see partners coming together like here in an informal setting in the target countries.*
- *A lot of humanitarian development interface comes from very short-term analysis, overlooking structural issues. You have to make a long-term development analysis for short term humanitarian projects.*
- *On the ground it doesn't make sense to work in silos and emergency and development providers already often work together, including the private sector. It's often only an issue when it comes to other levels.*

- *The HDP nexus can be perceived as something locals have to work with as other levels higher up use this approach, but it might not necessarily fit.*
- *Creating common understanding of the HDP nexus on the ground is needed (not a programme, but an approach), but contextual understanding is also a challenge; analyses are not conducted well; a multi-dimensional contextual analysis is needed.*
- *Development needs to happen hand in hand with peace projects as ground reality also changes rapidly.*
- *Targeting: for humanitarian aid, look at IPC levels. Humanitarian projects target one part of the communities, development targets another part of communities it needs to come together.*
- *We have to have better understanding of context, but also challenge the interlinking.*

Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) in Somalia

Nienke Hiemstra (Oxfam Novib) led this session. She explained that 14 Dutch NGOs started the DRA in 2015 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) started consortium projects (joint responses). This is all funded by humanitarian funding from the MoFA on humanitarian conditions with quite a lot of flexibility. In Somalia there are four DRA partners and eight local organisations. They support shared irrigation systems for farming cooperatives and try to link this with social cohesion. Rehabilitation and solarization of strategic boreholes help in reducing conflict /tension along with increasing access to water. Peace committees/women's forums also support this. There is also cash for work for youth that are often targeted by violent gangs. Resilience building is done in a context where displacement took place and includes support for setting up small businesses. As it is difficult to shift money for emergency responses, a NEXUS anticipatory emergency response fund has been set up which provides additional money so that reallocating of funds within a project is not necessary.¹⁷ It involves 250.000€ a year, and the process from alert to proposal and reporting takes a maximum of 48 hours. They also have a crisis modifier which is an emergency response mechanism for local partners so they can have quick access to new funding and design their own quality response programme. No extensive approval layers are needed; everything is in-country.

3.1.2 Results of open participatory exercise

Charleen and Rojan led this session. They explained that over the last year, critical statements were formulated on the basis of critical discussions with the wider community of practice, including participants of this session. People who contributed to the statements were from several levels: project participants, local NGOs, INGOs, UN departments and embassy staff. These statements give possible explanations on why we cannot overcome barriers, despite all efforts, pointing out the structural/human realities. Participants were invited to think further and challenge our assumptions.

Statement 1. Needs stated by participants are not always as urgent as we (INGOs/UN/IPC/local NGOs/etc) interpret them or communicate them.

Statement 2. When participants like one part of an HDP programme (e.g. humanitarian assistance) they tend to communicate they like every part of it (even if they do not like the development part) for fear of not being targeted next time.

Statement 3. In consultations with local actors (local CBOs/NGOs/universities/government) during the development of a new project, "the beggar takes what he gets" (even when he sees other priorities) out of fear not to be part of it otherwise.

Statement 4. Local implementing partners will not report that a change to a programme is needed if this means they will need to limit or stop their own implementation activities.

Charleen and Rojan asked participants to what extent they recognise the statements. The room was divided, left being "I recognise this", right "I don't recognise this", and everyone could find their place on that continuum. Each side was asked per statement to explain why they were standing there, and if they comfortable with doing so, to share this.

Overall, for all statements, there were patterns of bubbles around their own environment.

¹⁷ https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Reports/4. Anticipatory and Emergency Response Fund-10_29_43.pdf

Charleen and Rojan then asked participants whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements. Responses were as follows.

| Statement 1 | |
|---|--|
| Agree | Disagree |
| <i>In 20 years of experience encountered this often, due to the inflexibility of programmes and because of poor communications between programmes and beneficiaries.</i> | <i>The state won't say anything as they cannot provide anything either. If we don't believe them then we work against our principles.</i> |
| Statement 2 | |
| Agree | Disagree |
| <i>Depends on the maturation/understanding of community. Fear is always there, a beggar has no choice. They say that they like it due to fear of losing it. Power dynamics. Institutions also might not ask those questions because of fearing the answer and fearing losing their job. Participant says they like it because of other little incentives.</i> | <i>If it was during the war they would do that, but nowadays not anymore. Communities have evolved and matured.</i> |
| Statement 3 and 4 | |
| Agree | Disagree |
| <i>That usually happens when they were not part of the development of the programme, so they have no ownership. Trust. Inputs are not reflected.</i> | <i>We do hear things but it depends on how much we listen and try to communicate with people in powerful positions. When local partners know that adaptive management is needed they will also voice their concerns.</i> |

One comment was *there should be a middle column as we operate in complex environments, not that black and white* (Response: yes, but we wanted to provoke to encourage deeper thinking).

During the open discussion after the group work, participants were keen to share their responses to the statements. Various suggestions to overcome the barriers mentioned in the statements were made. There is a need to re-evaluate projects or verify assessment methodologies through neutral partners. Additionally, one has to be aware that the type of assessment determines the type of programme, including the biases that influence it. Changing the type of analysis also changes the type of programme. It is key to have a complementary and transparent analysis to keep the freedom of the approach. For that, flexibility within the project and funding is needed. Validation and recommendations from various partners are also important. This can also directly serve as reflection exercises. Another aspect that has been highlighted in this discussion is the lack of integration of local community members in the development of assessments, as important needs of communities can otherwise be overlooked.

Assessments, especially in conflict settings, must be developed with special attention to the sensitivity of protection issues. Recognising that standard surveys and assessments might not work in such a setting is crucial. Trust is what is important. It is difficult to quantify surveys and have reliable data. Another approach can be to establish a trusting relationship with the target population through local partners with the intent to listen rather than only to quantify data. One should value the quality of a small number of assessment participants as this can deliver better results. With a relation established one can use assessments not only as a tool to analyse the state of the art but also use it as a tool to come to a consensus on issues, understanding that within the same context different realities can exist. The assessments and research should be used as a process of consensus building. This can directly feed into tackling conflict issues within communities.

During crises, humanitarian aid is often used as a "safety blanket" as people are afraid to advise on and deliver the appropriate support communities need in case this fails, while handing out humanitarian aid is less likely to go wrong. Failing to deliver humanitarian aid might threaten other people's lives; no one wants to take the responsibility to not deliver emergency support in the short run, despite it being a risk to create long-term structural issues, e.g. by damaging local markets and other capacities. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to not suspend needs assessments during crises, but rather to ensure they are continuously conducted to make informed decisions.

3.1.3 Key takeaways

There is already a rich amount of knowledge. People know what the problems are and have tried to overcome them. A main agreement was on a required change of perception that would put the “p” of “peace” at the starting point, rather than as an afterthought.

However, working across the HDP nexus requires more than technical, conceptual, and practical integration and/or alignment of activities. It is also fundamentally important to trust the source of information that is used to inform the project. Often, actors sit too far away from the ground and think in these silos, whilst actors on the ground see reality more holistically, acknowledging that life and system processes cannot be artificially separated as such.

A key takeaway is that when it came to the critical statements and the voiced opinions by participants, it became obvious that we strongly shape our narratives and realities within our own groups. For example, in many cases, people from the same backgrounds, e.g. academic or INGOs, local or global, tended to stand at the same side with similar reasoning. One striking insight was that local actors from all institutional backgrounds, as well as HQ-based UN actors, were more often agreeing with the critical statements, while INGO actors were most commonly on the *disagree* side. It is important to not only think in bubbles or “humanitarian”, “development”, and “peace” actors, but also to consider the bubbles of locations and institutional belonging. It’s important to not only think about the reliability of the information on which actions are based, but also to minimise own biases and thus the meaning we give to this information through talking within our own bubbles. Hence, it is required to take a fresh look at how one gathers information, and how one can minimise getting the answers one wants to hear and give people the confidence to speak up their real thoughts.

3.1.4 Further reading

<http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/hdp-coalition/en/>

<https://www.thebrokeronline.eu/pathways-for-market-oriented-development-on-the-hdp-nexus/>

<https://www.thebrokeronline.eu/flexible-livelihoods-and-food-security-programming-in-fragile-settings/>

<https://www.thebrokeronline.eu/four-myths-about-flexible-programming-that-limit-i-ngo-effectiveness-in-protracted-crises/>

3.2 Investing in fragile settings

3.2.1 Summary of the session

As FNS-REPRO actively invests in improving production capacities of producers in selected value chains and works to address drivers for conflict, it sets a premise for private sector engagement. Although the FNS-REPRO context is complex, there are opportunities for the private sector – including Dutch companies – to engage and add value for FNS-REPRO beneficiaries but also themselves. In addition, private sector engagement and participation is one avenue to safeguard the gains made by FNS-REPRO in the long run, bearing in mind challenges and risk related to investing in the FNS-REPRO context.

FNS-REPRO intends to step up its efforts to strengthen partnerships with (and investments from) the private sector to close the supply-demand gap by contributing to the development of sustainable and fair value chains in areas characterized by protracted crises. Linking with private limited companies (called BVs in the Netherlands) could enable FNS-REPRO and its stakeholders to tap into the wide range of expertise available there.

During this event we took the first step and dived into questions and issues around how to do business and invest in fragile settings such as in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland (with examples from outside the

region as well). FAO and NFP brought a wide range of stakeholders to the event, including representatives from Dutch companies, NGOs, and research institutes as well as from the Somali, Sudanese and South Sudanese diaspora and embassies.

The objectives of this session were three-fold: to

- raise awareness on the viability of, and provide examples on, investing in fragile settings;
- identify needs, opportunities, challenges, and constraints for companies operating in fragile settings looking to attract investments; and
- identify needs, challenges, constraints and opportunities for investors interested in fragile settings, with a view to identify recommendations for policymakers and development partners.

FAO is widening the range of stakeholders in the FNS-REPRO programme, with a deliberate focus on the private sector. Having a wide range of actors is necessary for sustainable food system transformation, but also for the long-term sustainability of the investments made through the FNS-REPRO programme. This event was meant to serve as an eye-opener to the opportunities, challenges, and barriers that investors face in the East Africa region, as well as to explore what technologies and expertise is available in the Netherlands that could potentially be of added value in Sudan, South Sudan and Somaliland.

To set the scene, three presenters raised awareness on the viability of (and provide examples on) investing in fragile settings. The audience learned about the experience of **Fair & Organic Gum Arabic (FOGA)** in Sudan, which is a social enterprise that endeavours to bring more value in the gum Arabic value chain to smallholders and local communities in Sudan. This is done through buying, producing and selling gum Arabic based on fair trade principles with respect to the product, society, and the environment. In the past years, they have set up two factories in Sudan: a cleaning factory (in Nyala) and a spray dry factory (in Khartoum), thereby creating a lot of employment opportunities, while marketing and sales are done through the Dutch Organization FOGA Gum B.V. To enable this, several investments were made, including through the Netherlands Agency and Development Enterprise (RVO). Unsurprisingly, however, FOGA also encountered some challenges in their work, including difficulties in acquiring the required land for their factories, cumbersome rules and regulations (including permits and export requirements), and security issues.

PlusPlus, a crowdfunding platform to invest in agricultural small and medium enterprises, showed the participants that it is indeed possible and feasible to invest in small and medium companies in the agrifood sector. Set up by Solidaridad, Lendahand, Truvalu and Cordaid, the platform is now present in 46 countries with over a thousand staff. While Solidaridad enables sustainable production and investment readiness in several of its programmes, PlusPlus and other investors follow with investments, with examples including production of soap and palm fruit processing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, agro processing in Mali, and a dairy investment programme in Ethiopia. However, significant challenges and barriers remain, especially for the most fragile countries. This includes having to adhere to the European Compliance framework, complicated local policies and regulations, currency risks, risk/return expectations and shadow bookkeeping – all issues that increase the costs of investments and reduce the willingness to operate in countries like Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland.

The **Netherlands Agency and Development Enterprise (RVO)**, a government agency part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, helps entrepreneurs and organizations to invest, develop and expand their businesses and projects. Both in the Netherlands and abroad. RVO supports entrepreneurs, NGOs, knowledge institutes, policymakers, and other organizations by improving collaborations and strengthening positions through their funding and networks. RVO interventions increasingly take place in conflict-affected areas. However, the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of (potential) investments is often still based on the assumption of legitimate and well-functioning (central) government agencies and international NGOs – which is often not the case in such fragile settings. Using the case of FOGA, presenters illustrated how RVO was able to provide investment support by commissioning and using the recommendations of an in-depth conflict analysis and taking a tailored approach to the specific situation in Sudan and Darfur.

Following the introductory session, the audience witnessed joint presentations from the government and private sector from each of the three FNS-REPRO countries. These focused on five key questions.

-
- What does the value chain and business environment look like?
 - What are some of the opportunities for trade and investment in the selected value chain?
 - What are the needs of local companies?
 - How can increased investment and trade help?
 - What are the main challenges and risks to doing business?

All presentations have been included in Appendix 3.

During the final session of the event, a panel looked at how businesses and investors in fragile settings can positively contribute to peace while doing no harm. Experts from **Cordaid Investments, Atradius Dutch State Business, RVO, East West Seed, and Bureau van Dorp / London School of Economics** discussed a range of needs, challenges, and constraints. Opportunities on this were identified, with a view to identify recommendations for policymakers and development partners.

It was noted that over the past few years there is increased attention to doing business in fragile settings. This has gradually moved from “minimizing risks” (do no harm) to “making a positive impact” (contributing to peace). As an example, IFC has come up with a “fragility lens” mandatory for many of their investments in fragile settings. This fragility lens helps identify and navigate the complex workings of fragile settings, where risks and dangers are commonplace, but not always obvious. The Dutch government has also included conflict sensitivity in their plans and strategies. And even more recently, due to the Ukraine crisis companies have been forced to rethink some of their strategies and re-weigh benefits versus risks.

However, it should be noted that there is limited evidence that private sector investment (and as a result, job creation) automatically contributes to peace. However, the panel stressed that if one understands the context properly, includes a wide range of stakeholders in the projects, and is mindful of power relations in the area, there is a higher chance of success.

Other **recommendations** from the panel included:

- Local experience and contacts are key to success. Any business needs to become local and establish partnerships with local actors.
- Local politics often significantly affect business and trade, making it less attractive to invest in fragile settings. A case in point is the current situation in many countries in West Africa, where military coups have made it hard or even impossible to do business, pay back loans, get import/export approvals and so on. However, over the last decade, panel members have witnessed a movement by investors (as well as government agencies such as RVO) to work with a wider range of stakeholders, to still try to make investing in complex contexts worthwhile. One avenue to do this is by de-risking private investments.
- Much of the Dutch funding that is available for private sector development in fragile settings is for multilateral organizations or Dutch companies, and not for local entrepreneurs. Dutch policymakers should be aware of this and realize that local actors are often as well-placed (or better) as Dutch investors, and ideally policy around this should take note.
- Even in areas where there is no stable or reliable (national) government, there are opportunities to do business. The panel urged all stakeholders to get away from the notion of “there are safe and non-safe areas to work”; everything should be context-specific and targeted to the local situation.
- Africa is the future, and where investments should be made: The early bird gets the worm! Or as one participant put it: “Either you will come or the Chinese will”.
- The Dutch government should do the following to make investing in fragile settings easier.
 - Continue and enhance de-risking of investments.
 - Support creating an enabling environment by investing in education, infrastructure and markets, among others.
 - Support the wider sharing of opportunities and business cases for investments. These are many, but there are often information gaps.

3.2.2 Key takeaways

Key discussion points and recommendations from the session include the following:

- strengthening the enabling environment and supporting PPPs across the current (FNS-REPRO) and new value chains in East Africa;
- better understanding the return on investment as well as investment (and the timing as well as scope and amount of investment) horizons in fragile settings;
- better understanding barriers and assessing risks, while advocating for improved policies by development partners;
- ensuring win-win partnerships between international and local actors;
- keeping the social element as the key to success (people are at the centre, and not all should be about profit);
- developing value chains that can contribute to improved food and nutrition security in protracted food crises, including increasing benefits for primary producers and collectors; and
- the importance of enhancing youth employment in adding value across the value chain for improved FNS outcomes.

3.2.3 Further reading

Besada, H. (2013). Doing business in fragile states: the private sector, natural resources and conflict in Africa. <https://www.post2020hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Doing-Business-in-Fragile-States-The-Private-Sector-Natural-Resources-and-Conflict-in-Africa-FINAL-May-25-2013.pdf>

World Economic Forum and IKEA Foundation. (2022). Cultivating Investment Opportunities in Fragile Contexts: Catalysing Market-Driven Solutions to Strengthen Community and Economy Resilience. https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Cultivating_Investment_Opportunities_in_Fragile_Contexts_2022.pdf

4 Partnerships for building resilient seed systems (day 4)



4.1 Setting the scene

One of the critical aspects for the success of FNS-REPRO is to guarantee a stable and reliable market for small-scale producers engaged in the selected value chains. Although the FNS-REPRO context is complex and dynamic, there are opportunities for the private sector to engage and add value, benefitting not only farmers but also businesses themselves.

FNS-REPRO aims to step up its efforts to strengthen partnerships between actors of the private sector, the public sector, and civil society knowledge organizations, as well as farmers and their organizations, to close the food and also seed supply/demand gaps by contributing to the development of sustainable and fair value chains in areas characterized by protracted crises.

Given the complex nature of seed systems and seed system transformation, it is key to understand different interactions between seed sector actors and their roles in strengthening seed system resilience; to build resilient seed systems, partnerships are needed and actors need to complement each other. This day focused on partnerships for building resilient seed systems.

FNS-REPRO South Sudan works in partnership with many South Sudanese and international organizations; the lead organizations are FAO South Sudan, WUR, Bioversity – CIAT, and the University of Juba (UoJ).

Objectives for Day 4 were as follows.

- to identify required partnerships to contribute to seed sector transformation;
- to learn from the case of South Sudan regarding building resilient seed systems;
- to understand how humanitarian seed aid and the private sector can complement each other; and
- to identify opportunities for partnerships in education and training for building the capacity of stakeholders in the seed system.

4.1.1 Summaries of the sessions

There were five different presentations given to set the scene for discussions on partnerships for building resilient seed systems. Summaries of these presentations are captured below. In Appendix 3 you can find the different presentations.

4.1.1.1 WCDI: the seed sector in South Sudan: key constraints and pathways for improving performance of the seed system

This session was presented by Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen (WUR), in collaboration with Prof. Salah (UoJ), Abishkar Subedi (WUR) and Ronnie Vernooij (Bioversity International).

In the session it was explained that, in order to build a resilient seed system, integrated seed sector development is needed, paying attention to the formal, intermediary as well as informal seed systems. For example smallholder farmers in South Sudan depend to a large degree (over 85%) on informal seed systems that have shown remarkable resilience over the

long years of conflict and other shocks and stressors impacting seed systems; yet these informal seed systems have received little to no support by seed actors in South Sudan. FNS-REPRO's learning and capacity building programme in South Sudan has adopted the guiding principles on integrated seed systems development. These are provided in the box here.

WUR, in partnership with the UoJ, has undertaken various seed systems resilience dialogues and pathway developments, co-creating with relevant local seed actors, for a shared understanding on the function of the local seed sector (and the functioning and contribution of the informal/intermediary and informal seed systems therein). The seed systems resilience pathways provide advice and guidance to seed systems interventions that build seed systems resilience as relevant to current local contexts and envisioned scenarios.

WUR and the UoJ, with support of Bioversity International and ISSD-Africa, organised a three-day Seed Hub event in September 2022. During this event policymakers and practitioners reflected on current seed sector interventions in South Sudan (day one) and discussed experiences in seed sector development presented by key seed experts from Ethiopia, Uganda, and Sudan. The third day of the Seed Hub event was the policy dialogue that resulted in the establishment of the Seed Hub at UoJ and the adoption of 10 pathways (including strategic actions and required activities) to build a resilient seed sector in South Sudan based on current field realities and the promise of a peaceful South Sudan in the near future. See the box below.

Building a resilient seed sector

Integrated seed systems development; guiding principles ...

1. Foster pluralism and build programmes on diversity of seed systems.
2. Work according to the structure of the seed value chain.
3. Promote entrepreneurship and market orientation.
4. Recognize the relevance of informal seed systems.
5. Facilitate interactions between informal and formal seed systems.
6. Recognize the complementary roles of the public and private sector.
7. Support enabling and evolving policies for a dynamic sector.
8. Promote evidence-based seed sector innovation.



Ten pathways towards a robust, inclusive, and sustainable seed sector

1. Development of a national seed policy and regulatory framework.
2. Strengthening of seed sector coordination, digital inclusion, and partnerships.
3. Supporting the transition from seed relief to seed sector development.
4. Strengthening farmer-based seed production systems.
5. Supporting the development of the private seed sector.
6. Establishment of a decentralized seed quality assurance system.
7. Development of national gene bank linked to community seed banks.
8. Strengthening crop breeding and access to new varieties.
9. Establishing public-private partnerships in foundation seed production.
10. Capacity building of key government departments and public institutes.

4.1.1.2 FAO South Sudan: FAO programming for strengthening the seed sector in South Sudan

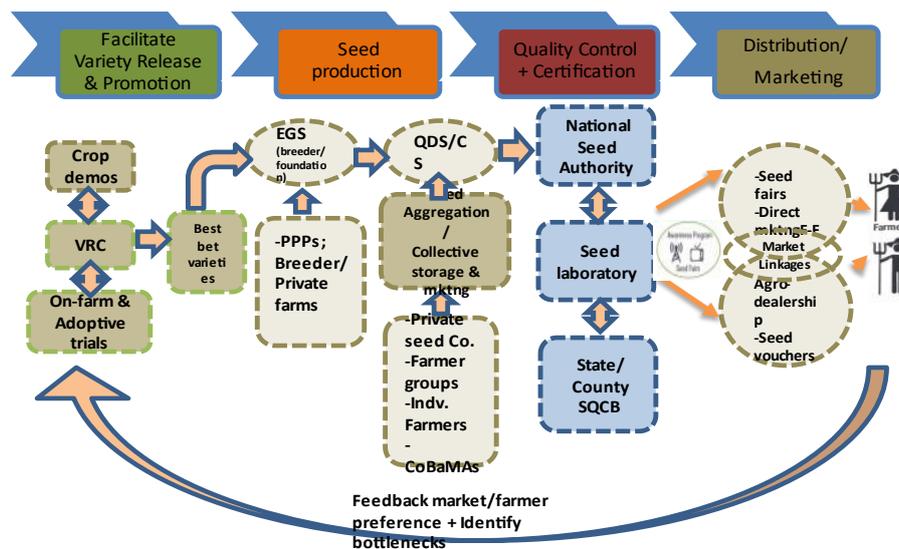
This session was presented by Maurice Nyombe (FAO).

Maurice sketched the current seed sector situation in South Sudan, where the national, annual demand for seed is between 50 000 – 80 000 MT of seed for five major staple crops (sorghum, maize, cowpea, groundnuts, and sesame). FAO annually covers 6000 – 9000 MT of this demand.

The role of the informal sector is important as it contributes about 85% of the seed sources, consisting of 51% own-saved, 21% local market, and 13% social network (SSSA 2019). The formal sector is still at an infant stage with less than 10 companies operating at low level (<3000 tons per year) and concentrating in the Equatoria region (1/3 of the country). The bulk of certified seed is supplied through humanitarian aid, and significant quantities are imported. Since about 75% of the population in South Sudan derive their livelihood from agriculture, seed is important, but agricultural production is highly affected by climatic variabilities, biotic constraints, conflict, and economic hardships.



Seed VALUE CHAIN



FAO in South Sudan contributes to different areas in the seed sector in South Sudan through a variety of initiatives:

- emergency response (due to flooding, pests and diseases, conflict and displacement); seed and tools provision, including procurement and direct distribution of emergency seed kits (assorted crop/vegetable seeds and tools), and seed fairs and cash for seed where adequate quality seed of adapted varieties is available;
- seed production and supply: EGS production and community-based seed production;
- capacity development and infrastructure support (laboratory, community seed stores);
- inputs and supplies;
- quality assurance;
- collaborative research with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of South Sudan (MAFS), the global research partnership CGIAR, the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and academia, on adaptive and on-farm trials;
- policy and a regulatory framework; and

- partnership and collaboration (implementing partners, training institutions, other sectoral investments, private seed companies, CGIAR and NARS, and various donors).

Challenges observed include: limited research on new varieties that are appropriate to diverse agro-ecologies; most of the 33 newly released varieties remain on the shelf of research; low level of production of quality seed (<3000 tons per annum) and limited crop and varietal diversity with seed companies; production by only a few companies, concentrated in the Greater Equatoria region; limited distribution network within the private sector; only a draft seed policy; and no legal framework to guide different stakeholders in the seed sector.

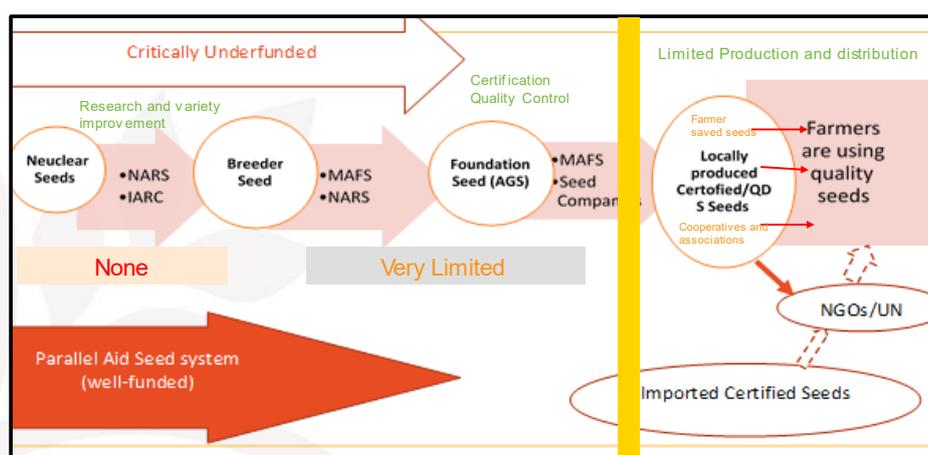
Suggestions for the way forward include working towards an all-inclusive and integrated seed sector development approach that taps into both the formal and informal systems. For FAO this also means reconsidering their approach to seed aid. Furthermore, there is a need for strong institutions including finance organisations, and for providing a conducive policy and legal environment for a transition towards more resilient seed systems. This requires effective collaboration and partnership in supporting seed sector development.

4.1.1.3 IFDC: taking a private sector approach towards building a vibrant and robust seed sector in South Sudan

This session was presented by Justin Miteng (IFDC).

Whilst there is a lot of potential for the seed sector, only 40% of the national demand for seed (40,000MT) is met. Justin explained that the seed sector heavily relies on import and is dominated by free seed relief, which is imported. Farmers have consistently complained of poor quality of the seeds they receive. Farmer-saved seeds cover the bigger part of demand for seed. There is limited research on local varieties, but engagement of the private sector (seed companies, agro-dealers etc) is emerging. Limited access to financial capital for private investment is limiting upscaling efforts. There are poorly developed distribution networks, and usually there is distortion of the local seed market by uncontrolled free relief seed distributions. Furthermore, postharvest handling is poor and the infrastructure for post-harvest is lacking. There is no operational government financed extension system.

Seed Value Chain in South Sudan



5



Justin called for development partners to consider addressing the above challenges and ensure a gradual move towards making South Sudanese self-sufficient. This can be done by locally commercializing the seed sector,

private sector investment, focusing resources on seed production/multiplication, and devising innovative channels for seed distribution/marketing. At the same time the public sector can invest in education, equipping research institutions, and invest in breeding and variety improvement programmes. Furthermore, it's important to make sure that quality EGS and foundation seed are available.

Through the A3SEED project, IFDC supports existing/emerging private sector seed companies and individual commercial seed producers to improve seed production and marketing through private sector extension and distribution down to the last mile.

Justin also indicated the need to strengthen the Seed Trade Association of South Sudan (STASS) to ensure that they hold their members accountable for the quality of the seeds they produce. Moreover, their investment portfolio will increase if humanitarian and relief organizations promote domestic seed procurement policies and mitigate market distortion created by uncontrolled free seed distribution. He furthermore suggested coordination with the South Sudanese Government and other stakeholders to ensure that a business-friendly regulatory environment is in place. Coordination needs to be strengthened with regional initiatives such as research institutions, seed hubs, ISSD Africa, and the Seed Trade Association.

He then elaborated on a variety of private sector actions along the seed value chains, from quality seed production up to harvesting, post-harvest handling, and marketing and distribution and described the collaboration between STASS and MAFS on developing a seed certification protocol.

He concluded with mentioning investment opportunities in seed production; developing inspection and other quality control measures; working with agro-chemical companies that offer solutions for pests and diseases; capitalizing seed companies; the stability which is slowly returning in most parts of the country; and a liberal investment climate.

4.1.1.4 EWS-KT: strengthening farmers' capacities on vegetable production to create demand for quality seed

This session was presented by Rutger Groot of East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer (EWS-KT).

Rutger explained that EWS is a family-owned, for-profit company with 40 years of experience in tropical vegetable seeds. Their mission is to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers. So far they have served some 23 million farmers worldwide. They focus on local markets and local needs. Their seeds can produce higher yields, have a strong disease resistance, are adaptable to climate change, and can increase farmers' competitive position in the market.

EWS-KT is their non-profit foundation and they aim to train 1 million farmers between 2021 and 2025 (directly and online). They work in areas where farmers struggle with poor-quality yields and where EWS has a vision to develop new vegetable markets. They aim to catalyse the development of competitive agricultural-input markets and increase the availability of safe-to-eat and affordable vegetables in markets supplying lower-income consumers.

He then explained the work they are doing in West Nile (Northern Uganda) where they have trained South Sudanese refugees in commercial vegetable production for improved nutrition and income. In South Sudan they have established learning plots at UoJ and Dr John Garang Memorial University; trained some 1,509 sector professionals in good practices since January 2022; and have accelerated the spread of improved farming techniques to farmers.

The vision of EWS-KT is to also offer opportunities for farmers and traders in South Sudan, as there is a high demand for vegetables in the region and short crop cycles of vegetables are attractive when people are unsure if the security situation is stable enough to plant crops. This requires the following: capacity development for smallholder farmers and sector professionals; accelerated development of a competitive seed and other agro-inputs market, resulting in improved access to quality resilient vegetable seeds; and considering redirecting seed aid through vouchers designed to stimulate local seed market and improving access to seeds for farmers.

4.1.1.5 Afrogenics: sharing perspectives from the private seed sector on key challenges and opportunities

This session was presented by Margaret Itto Leonardo from Afrogenics Seeds Company Ltd.

She explained how the seed sector in South Sudan developed over time (as shown in the box below), and how humanitarian seed aid came into play. Currently the private sector engages in quality seed production.

Partnerships for building resilient seed systems': Setting the scene for Private Sectors in South Sudan

*Presented By Margaret Itto Leonardo
Afrogenics Seeds Company Ltd
22.09.2022*

Overview of Seed Sector

- Before 1972: South Sudan was seed insecure and was relying only on the informal seed system.
- From 1972 – 1974: As a post conflict peace dividend, support came from developmental partners, the South Sudan Regional Government established some Agricultural Projects (Project Development Unit (PDU) -1972, and followed by the Equatoria Regional Agriculture Project- ERAP -1974), this gave a little addition of Public Seed Production to the informal seed system.
- The 1983 -2005 and 2013 -2016: Destroyed all the systems in the Country, Humanitarian Partners and FAO started to import seeds to bridge the gap.
- Between 2012 – to Date partners like AGRA (the project ended) and IFDC, have invested some resources to developed the seed system and support the Private Sectors (PS), but these have also some resource limitations.
- Quality seeds produced by private sector in South Sudan

Current Private sector activities



There are many opportunities for seed sector development, including: availability of land and water; government commitment; draft policies; communities willing to collaborate with private sector; vibrant private sector under STASS; and high seed demand. However, there are also challenges. These include inadequate/limited finances; technical knowledge gap within staff; limited modern technologies to enable private sectors to expand seed production; low knowledge amongst South Sudanese or limited research activities; a weak enabling environment, despite high commitment by government; weak infrastructure (poor roads to access markets, poor storage facilities etc); climate change; and high inflation of the cost of imported agricultural inputs.

In terms of the way forward, the following is proposed: map all areas of resilient communities; develop strong coordination with developmental partners; developmental partners to provide emergency seeds to the vulnerable communities; donors and developmental partners should support and strengthen the private sectors and seed systems for a sustainable seed programme in South Sudan; invite regional and international investors; venture into PPP; donors and development partners to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to complete the remaining policies and guidelines.

4.2 Working groups on moving the seed sector forward

4.2.1 Summary of the session

The different presentations set the scene for discussions in working groups on required partnerships for the following topics:

- Moving from humanitarian seed aid to long-term investment in the development of a robust and resilient seed sector with local seed entrepreneurship;

-
- Strengthening the capacities of public institutions (government, universities, colleges and training centres) to contribute to building a resilient seed system; and
 - Increasing the engagement of international seed companies, domestic seed enterprises and local seed businesses in the development of a robust private sector.

Participants were encouraged to think about both short- and long-term opportunities. They could choose which group they wanted to join to contribute to addressing the questions posed. The results are presented in the next section.

Note: whilst the focus was on the seed sector in South Sudan, some of the issues raised are also relevant for the other countries involved in the discussion.

4.2.2 Results of group work

4.2.2.1 From humanitarian seed aid to the development of a robust and resilient seed sector in South Sudan

This session was led by Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen (WUR) and Tony Ngalamu (UoJ).

Key questions included:

- How can national governments, international organizations, NGOs, farmer organizations and the private sector collaborate to support this transformation?
- What has to be done and who are the main actors to do it?

From seed relief to resilient seed systems

Quality seed is a key factor in any agricultural production system and successful agricultural development. An effective seed delivery system should guarantee the availability of quality seed to farmers according to their demand, in the right time and place, and at affordable prices.

In South Sudan emergency seed aid has been provided for a long time to large numbers of food-insecure farmers, internally displaced people, and returnees. At the same time the relevance of large-scale direct seed distributions to states that were not directly conflict-affected, and in which the functioning of seed markets was less disrupted and where there was minimal displacement, has been questioned. This has urged FAO and others to rethink its emergency seed aid provisioning in the context of South Sudan's protracted crisis.

This session discussed the potential of current relief seed programming in South Sudan to becoming instrumental and catalytic to seed sector transformation to achieve a resilient seed sector providing timely, affordable and farmer-preferred varieties to South Sudan's smallholder farmers.

The key challenge is that if not carefully managed and properly designed, seed relief may do farmers more harm than good, and potentially undermine the development of a resilient seed sector in South Sudan. There is therefore a need to transition from seed relief (currently heavily reliant on seed importation and free seed distribution approaches) to long-term investment in the development of a robust and resilient seed sector with a vibrant local seed industry in South Sudan.

Seed relief when provided in times of emergencies, such as floods, drought and conflict-induced displacement, should be based on proper seed assessments. Seed when provided should do no harm (e.g. provision of seeds of poor quality or not fitting the local agro-ecological context). Seed could also be prepositioned preparing for potential emergencies for example on the basis of IPC projections – IPC based info can be used to provide a rapid assessment of the potential demand for seed availability. Access to quality seed can be improved by providing cash or vouchers.

In 1983 and in 2015-2018 "foreign" seed has been introduced to respond to emergencies. Rather this being the norm it should be the exception. More focus and efforts are needed to revitalize in-country and local seed systems to become more resilient in the face of shocks and stressors. Informal seed systems can be enhanced by strengthening farmer-saved seed systems, especially by building the capacity of women in production and management of quality seed. Intermediary seed systems can be strengthened by FAO and

aid agencies supporting community-based seed production including establishment of local seed businesses (LSBs).

Demand for good quality seed of preferred varieties is strong but should be affordable. This can be facilitated by introducing different seed classes including quality declared seed (QDS) which can be produced locally and for which quality assurance is much less expensive as compared to certified seeds. Decentralised quality assurance mechanisms should also enable humanitarian agencies to purchase locally produced seeds for seed relief if and when required in the absence of other local mechanisms for farmers to assess quality seeds in a timely fashion.

There is a need for better understanding how local seed systems work and what the comparative advantages and challenges are of the different seed systems. The seed systems resilience assessment implemented by UoJ and WUR provide a solid foundation for developing more resilient seed systems including improved access to quality seeds through different seed systems. Assessments include the identification of well-performing popular landraces in demand by smallholder farmers and informal social seed networks through which farmers access seeds. Note: see 4.4 for further reading on the approach used (<https://edepot.wur.nl/528796>) and for the Torit County case study (<https://edepot.wur.nl/575682>).

There is an important role to be played by the private sector to serve an emerging market (although still dominated by humanitarian actors) and to tap into increasing demand for locally produced seed with FAO increasing its percentage of locally produced seed for emergency seed provision. Purchase of locally produced seeds, either QDS or certified seed, by FAO, NGOs, and government, will enhance and strengthen the local seed industry. To make the system sustainable and also useful for the private sector to be engaged in, a pre-ordering system is needed so as to better plan for production for quality seed in line with demand.

The transition from humanitarian seed provision to the development of a robust and resilient seed sector requires legislation (in particular seed policy, law and regulatory frameworks) as well as capacity building of relevant government bodies, including the provision of tools to strengthen community-based seed production and decentralised quality assurance.

As the transition to resilient seed systems is complex and many actors are involved, there is need for a seed systems dialogue involving government (in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Agricultural Research Directorate), universities and training centres, UN and NGOs, the private sector, and the Seed Traders Association of South Sudan (STASS), representatives of farmer organisations, and co-operatives, including women. The recently established Seed Hub at UoJ can facilitate seed systems dialogue and pathways development and play an important role to capture good practice and develop policy briefs for decision makers.

In conclusion, there is ample opportunity to transition out of seed relief and build a more resilient seed system across South Sudan. In particular the decentralisation of locally produced seed with quality declared seed produced by local seed businesses can play an important part in this respect.

4.2.2.2 Strengthening the capacities of public institutions to contribute to building a resilient seed system

This session was led by Prof. Salah (UoJ) and John Kanisio (MAFSS).

Key questions included:

- Which partnerships and programmes are needed to support this effort?
- What has to be done and who can do it?

Public institutions include government, universities, colleges and training centres. Capacity strengthening includes education and training of seed sector professionals.

There are different issues, functions and actors in the seed system that require different approaches for capacity strengthening.

Capacities that need to be strengthened

- public-private partnerships (how can one set up a PPP and make it work effectively?);
- designing policies and regulatory frameworks;
- plant breeding, with a focus on participatory (demand-driven) approaches. Effective plant breeding requires the support of fast registration and fast release procedures of new varieties;
- foundation seed production;
- quality seed inspection and certification;
- the national gene bank and seed testing facility;
- action research (this requires learning by doing);
- enforcement capability (effective implementation of policies, laws, and regulations); and
- knowledge transfer (such as extension services).

Different ways to implement the capacity strengthening

- Through collaboration between the government, universities, and the private sector. This requires improved coordination, building linkages, and focusing on seeds (but also on other sectors).
- In South Sudan, having a seed policy towards 2040. This involves having the following in place.
 - a central, independent seed administration unit that oversees all seed related issues;
 - a seed regulatory authority;
 - a national seed knowledge hub. This can be led by and operationalized by UoJ, for instance in collaboration with knowledge centres in the different regions of South Sudan; and
 - a national gene bank and laboratory.

There is much to learn between different countries. For example, Sudan has a well-defined set up and this can be used as a learning case. In Somaliland, there is still little coordination in the seed sector. Learning exchange visits could support capacity strengthening across the countries.

4.2.2.3 Increasing the engagement of international seed companies, domestic seed enterprises and local seed businesses in the development of a robust private sector

This session was led by Justin Miteng (IFDC) with contributions from STASS, KIT, NABC and WUR / ISSD.

Key questions included:

- How can the private sector better cater for local consumer and market demands, also considering nutrition security (for instance, focusing on nutrient-dense crops, indigenous (food) crops, fodder / forage)?
- What has to be done and who can do it?

The group looked at different actors in the seed system, their roles and issues in relation to increasing the engagements of the private sector in the seed sector and ensuring local consumer and market demands as well as nutrition security are better catered for.

Private sector

There is currently market distortion by (poor quality) seed that is provided by the private sector. The private sector can act on this with the following strategies.

- Quality seed for farmers: this involves ensuring that quality seed (for the right crop, right variety, and good quality certified seed), is produced for farmers and reaches them in a timely fashion. EGS breeders are controlled by the government; the private sector can do internal quality control based on a code of conduct.
- Seed for the humanitarian sector: the amount of quality seed offered to the humanitarian sector needs to be increased, and marketing strategies need to be diversified (for instance, through agro-dealers). This requires the engagement of development organisations, STASS (Seed Traders Association) or farmers associations, business development partners, and seed traders.
- Capacity building: this is needed to help increase the amount of quality seed being produced.

Consumers

Market research is needed to assess the specific needs of consumers. What do farmers want? How are they going to pay for the quality seed? This requires the engagement of seed companies, STASS, and development partners.

Furthermore there is a need to build trust among farmers on quality seed that is being produced, as they have experienced receiving poor-quality seed.

Variety selection needs to be participatory, using multiple criteria for selection (production, nutrition, and so on). For this, research institutes need to collaborate with farmers.

Policy

Policy interventions need to be supported. For example Mercy Corps listed 10 pre-conditions for seed aid. Furthermore, partnerships need to be strengthened. STASS can lobby for a code of conduct or guidelines by the government and/or ministries.

Other

Other suggestions and discussion points include:

- ensuring promotion packages. This includes demonstration plots to inspire farmers; micro-packages of seed (for farmers to try out); and linking farmers to village-based advisors/agro-dealers;
- working with outgrower farmers;
- nutrition: should companies include new, more nutritious crops (like particular nutritious vegetables) in their portfolio?
- partnerships are needed between local and international companies so that they can expand their portfolio (such as East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer partnerships with local companies); and
- storage facilities, handling, and transport need to be improved.

4.3 Key takeaways

There are many challenges that the seed sector in South Sudan faces. The role of the informal sector is important as it contributes about 85% of the seed sources. The formal sector is still at an infant stage. The bulk of certified seed are supplied through humanitarian aid, and significant quantities are imported. Since about 75% of the population in South Sudan derive their livelihood from agriculture, seed is important, but agricultural production is highly affected by climatic variabilities, biotic constraints, conflict, and economic hardships. There are many opportunities to strengthen the seed sector in South Sudan. All in all, there is need to transition from a seed aid-dependent seed system with poor-quality, imported seed, towards a more resilient seed system in South Sudan. This calls for integrated seed sector development linking the formal, intermediary and informal system. There are ten pathways towards a robust, inclusive, and sustainable seed sector. It requires all key stakeholders (government, academia, private sector, etc.) to collaborate and coordinate their actions at different levels in the seed system, from production of EGS to quality seed production by farmers and the private sector, to marketing and distributing the quality seed, as well as ensuring an enabling environment (like seed policy). The demand and opportunities for quality seed is high. Farmers have the right to access good quality seed that can increase agricultural productivity and support their households in improving nutrition and gaining an income for more resilient livelihoods.

An online, real-time assessment of key insights by participants at the seed event was undertaken using Mentimeter.¹⁸ Overall, people underline the need for availability of quality seed to enhance food security. The seed system in South Sudan needs to transition from seed aid with foreign, often poor-quality seed, towards a more resilient seed system that includes an improved informal seed sector, that produces quality seed locally. This locally produced seed can then be bought by agencies like FAO and NGOs that provide seed aid. This transition towards a more sustainable and resilient seed system in South Sudan requires collaboration and coordination with different stakeholders in the seed system. There is a need for North-South-South collaboration. This includes the need for partnerships between. For instance, the government, the private sector and academia. Particular attention needs to go to the private sector; it can play an important role in quality seed production, but needs to be linked to other stakeholders (including finance institutions) and its capacity needs to be further enhanced. Foreign companies can provide support by bringing in state-of-the-art genetics that can benefit farmers or by providing mentorship. In order to deal with the diversity of perspectives and interests of the different stakeholders, dialogue is important; this can be done, for example,

¹⁸ <https://www.mentimeter.com>

in seed hubs. The government needs to provide overall guidance and ensure there is a clear need for a policy and regulatory framework for the seed system. It also involves capacity development of the different actors in the seed system.

Participants enjoyed the interactive seed event and indicated that people learned a lot from each other. In spite of this learning, there was also the realization that there is still a lot to be done to move the seed sector in South Sudan forward.

4.4 Further reading

Subedi, A., van Uffelen, G. J., and Malkowsky, C. (2020). Building seed system resilience in protracted crisis situations. Seed system resilience assessment and facilitation tool (SSRA-FT) (No. WCDI-20-120). Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. <https://edepot.wur.nl/528796>

Ngalamu, T., Subedi, A., and van Uffelen, G. J. (2021). Seed system resilience assessment in Torit County, South Sudan: Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (REPRO) South Sudan Programme (No. WCDI-22-210). Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. <https://edepot.wur.nl/575682>

5 Exposure visits to the Dutch private sector (day 5)

5.1 Background to exposure visits

The final day of the programme consisted of visits to selected Dutch companies active in the FNS-REPRO value chains. Approximately 30 participants were spread over two parallel programmes: one “feed and fodder” and one “seeds” track. This allowed participants to experience the latest innovations, practices, and technologies relevant to them. Ultimately this might also lead to identification of potential business linkages and investment, but at the very least inspired and demonstrated the potential for private sector collaboration in the FNS-REPRO value chains in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland.

5.2 Some highlights of the visits

5.2.1 Field visits on seeds

Syngenta

The first visit of the seeds group was to Syngenta in Enkhuizen in the Seed Valley. The Seed Valley is the world’s leading centre of plant breeding and seed technology. It is home to dozens of innovative companies that work on the development of new vegetable and flower varieties; about 40% of vegetable seeds worldwide have their origin in the Seed Valley. At Syngenta, the Commercial Head of Africa and Middle East, Gerard Eysink, received the group and provided a presentation about Syngenta. The presentation shed light on the worldwide presence of Syngenta, their innovations in breeding, and cooperation with growers and retailers to support the grower in terms of production planning and marketing. The presentation was followed by a factory tour. During this tour, the delegation learned about the process from seed delivery to quality check, cleaning, coating, and packaging. After the tour, the delegation received a sneak preview of Syngenta’s Fields of Innovation which were to be open from the 27th -29th of September. At these open field days, Syngenta’s vegetable varieties are showcased, a spectacular demonstration site displaying Syngenta’s innovations in vegetable breeding.

Koppert Biological Systems

After Syngenta, participants visited Koppert Biological Systems, the world market leader for biological crop protection. Here the group received a presentation from Yassin Lahiani, export manager for the MENA and Middle East, about the company, their system’s approach and mission (to partner with nature). Koppert offers the following types of products: pest control products, pollination products (mainly for protected cultivation), plant growth promotion and crop resilience products, biological seed dressing products, and disease control products / monitoring solutions such as sticky traps. The presentation was followed by a round of questions, for example on available solutions for small farmers; natural enemies and their populations in African countries; local pests and diseases; and Koppert’s work in Sudan on fall army worm. Luckily, plant growth promotion and crop resilience products are available in small quantities. Koppert’s Africa strategy and presence in various African countries was also discussed. The delegates asked to hear about Koppert’s decisions on whether to access a market or not. Yassin responded that this depends on the potential market size and public sector (import) regulations for insects and micro- organisms. After the presentation and questions the delegation visited the Koppert Experience Centre where they received a visual tour about the companies’ history, approach, and solutions.

5.2.2 Field visits on feed and fodder

Aeres University of Applied Sciences

The Feed and Fodder day of company visits kicked off in Dronten where the delegation visited Aeres University of Applied Sciences. Aeres University is an education institute that has, for over 60 years, provided Dutch as well as international students extensive educational programmes in a wide variety of

subjects such as agribusiness, food business, horticulture, and animal husbandry. The programmes combine theoretical study with practical training. The company visit started with a tour on Aeres Farms given by Jan van Beekhuizen, independent strategic consultant and lecturer in globalization and economics at Aeres University of Applied Sciences. During this tour, Jan explained the concentrate feed composition that they supply to their cattle and young stock, the way they monitor this intake, and the difference between conventional and biological ways of dairy farming. This tour shed light on the various technologies and equipment used in dairy farming in relation to feed, fodder, animal health monitoring, and milk systems. After a five-minute bus ride, the delegation arrived at the main building of Aeres where first Daan Westrik provided a presentation on the wide range of training courses and education programmes that the Aeres Groups provide. This presentation was followed by an explanation by Marian Peters on how to produce and keep insects. The delegation was intrigued by both presentations and various questions were asked.

Olmix Group

After a one-hour drive, the delegation arrived at the second company visit of the day which included a presentation and factory tour at Olmix Group in Rogat. Olmix develops concrete solutions for worldwide agricultural transition towards better practices which Jaap de Vries, Manager of operations at Olmix Group, in his presentation demonstrated by explaining the use of algae and insect compost waste for bio-solutions. Various questions were posted after his presentation such as where Olmix received their algae supply from and on which way they were operating in Africa. During the factory tour, the delegation got to see the various steps in the process of transforming chicken manure into fertilizer.

Royal Eijkelkamp

The last company visit of the feed and fodder track was in Giesbeek at Royal Eijkelkamp where Fons Eijkelkamp gave a presentation about the mission and vision of the company, the technologies that they offer, and the various projects that they are running. After his presentation the delegations asked various questions in relation to the drilling equipment that Royal Eijkelkamp can offer and the online training app Royal Eijkelkamp has developed. This presentation was followed by a factory and field tour. During this tour, the delegation members could see the 6.5-hectare demonstration site, where Fons showed all kinds of innovative developments in the field of soil, water, plants, climate, and agriculture, such as the soil testing and sonic drilling equipment that Royal Eijkelkamp offers.

Some highlights of the visits

Feed and fodder programme



Participants at the Aeres farm getting information on different feeding practices.



Participants being shown silage feeding at the Aeres farm.

Seeds programme



Introduction to the Sygenta scope of work across the world and specifically its operations in Africa.



The Sygenta field of innovation (a demonstration site displaying new vegetable breed varieties).

6 Key insights and feedback on the expert consultation and learning exchange events

6.1 Introduction

A final survey using Mentimeter was done to reflect on the whole week. In general participants were very positive about this week. They thought the event was inspiring, informative, insightful, and interactive. It was not only enjoyable and stimulated learning but it also helped in coordinating actions. Feedback on the different sections of the week is provided below. See Appendix 1 for details.

6.2 Key insights on specific events

6.2.1 Key insights and feedback on food systems transformation (first two days)

Participants appreciated the two-day expert consultation and learning event on food systems transformation. They enjoyed the interactive approach, meeting face to face with people from different countries and different expertise and being able to connect theory to practice.

Key insights included understanding that food systems are dynamic and complex; some participants referred to learning from the transitions of the Dutch food systems. Most insights related to what is needed to transform food systems (a holistic approach where different stakeholders collaborate and coordinate their efforts so that different elements of a food system are integrated). This requires systems thinking, inclusivity and a bottom-up approach. It also requires commitment and willingness, especially by the government, to support food system transformation processes. In this respect political and power dynamics will need to be addressed and there is a need for behaviour change and aligning resources by different stakeholders.

Other insights relate to the value of having reliable information as a prerequisite for planning and FNS programmes, but that people are also aware of the pitfalls (as the lessons from the information are not easy to apply) as well as the opportunities.

Also some critical thoughts were shared. Some referred to discussions that were held around critical statements by partners, including one who indicated that they felt it is a burden to have to connect to so many activities whilst being afraid to say no for fear of losing funding. Another person questioned how we can change business as usual, because although overall we seem to agree, changes are minimal. Furthermore it was mentioned that there is a lot of attention to assessment of food systems but less attention to the transformation of food systems - how do we get the latter done in practice? People agree on the overall idea food system transformation but we still seem to go back to business as usual.

6.2.1.1 Feedback on day 1

At the end of the first day people were requested to write some feedback on the first day of the event on a card (green = positive, red = negative/what could have been better). In general the day was much appreciated. Participants liked the interactive approach and indicated the day was very informative. However, as there was a lot to be covered, there was not enough time for each session, especially the last session on M&E for food systems transformation.

Table 1 Feedback on day 1 of the event.

| Learning | Approach | What needs improvement | General |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| The first day was very informative | The first day was very entertaining | The first day though enjoyable is a little bit squeezed | Keep it up! Ethiopia |
| Good idea to stimulate discussion around the Dutch experience (Bart's presentation) | Great facilitation and interactive! | Time management | Superb! |
| Great example of food system transformation in the Netherlands, and how this relates to East Africa | | Document indigenous knowledge | Meeting people I have never met in person! |
| Rich! | I liked the facilitation process | Last session (on M&E) too quick! | Good organization |
| M&E (but too short?) | (I liked:) Not lecture, only mixed | | Nice food |
| All sessions are interesting | Participatory session | | |
| We learned a lot of information | Mentimeter (used in M&E session) | | |
| The sessions have been great – providing insights & approaches to food systems resilience | Face-to-face | | |
| It was great insight to hear and see different information from different people | I liked the active participation | | |

6.2.2 Key insights on HDP nexus and investing in fragile settings (third day, The Hague)

The third day of the event focused on the humanitarian development peace (HDP) nexus and on investing in fragile settings.

HDP nexus

The insights were quite mixed. Some talked about what it means to work along the HDP nexus: putting people at the centre, and recognising that their experience, and humanitarian, development and peace issues are very much linked in their everyday life, and not in silos. This also calls for an integrated way of working: linking humanitarian, development, and peace issues in programmes. This requires attention in budgeting and programme implementation. Paying attention to the underlying causes of conflict is important in addressing both the humanitarian as well as development needs and approaches so as to ensure resilience. This calls for proper planning and also flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances during programme implementation.

There were also some critical notes. One person indicated that “Those that talk about the HDP nexus in their headquarters are far removed from reality on the ground. The discussions are too theoretical and conceptual to be of much use on the ground.” Another one indicated that the HDP confuses people and more work is to be done.

Investing in fragile settings

Investing in fragile settings was considered to be important, as relief is not sustainable and can lead to the dependency syndrome. With deliberate and targeted private sector led investments things could be turned around. There are creative and dynamic approaches that we can learn from. However, there are many challenges and barriers to be overcome. One has to be brave to be the first one to invest but there are also many opportunities. “Invest in FNS-REPRO settings before the Chinese do.”

There are opportunities for investments and these can also be localised. There is willingness from Dutch entities but it requires a reliable partner on the ground. There is need for more joint ventures between North-South companies and also for fast tracking a policy environment / framework that is beneficial to investments.

One person was disappointed that Somaliland was not represented.

6.3.2 What should we do less of?

Suggestions on what we should do less of refer to how we work together, including working in silos and talking (too much). They also refer to having less lengthy meetings, presentations, trainings, and reports.

In general, what should we do less of? (one word per entry, multiple entries)



6.3.3 What we should stop doing

Whilst the majority of respondents indicated that we should not stop doing certain things, there were also a variety of other ideas. See the picture below.

In general, what should we stop doing? (one word per entry, multiple entries)



Appendix 1 Programme and objectives

For the full concept note of the event, including the programme, see:

Day 1 and 2 – food systems transformation and building resilient food systems

On 19 and 20 September 2022, FNS-REPRO will organize an expert consultation in Wageningen. The consultation is organized to gather input on the latest insights on food system resilience thinking for the implementation of the programme(FNS-REPRO) but will also be used to disseminate the lessons learned in FNS-REPRO to a wider audience. Experts from academia, NGOs, UN, learning institutions, public institutions and the private sector involved work related to food systems (resilience), protracted crises and resilience, triple-nexus and area-based approaches, food security and nutrition food security and resilience building will participate to give input and share their experiences.

The outcomes of this consultation will be taken up in the last year of implementation of FNS-REPRO and contribute to the continued development of Food System Resilience Analysis and Assessment tools as well as the overall and emerging agenda for building resilient food systems to improve food security. Commitment, insights, and inputs will be sought for among experts, practitioners, and policymakers in the Netherlands and beyond. In this way the approaches and tools used and emerging lessons from FNS-REPRO can be further disseminated and developed.

Main objectives on day 1 and 2

- To set the scene for the urgent need for food systems transformation;
- To demonstrate what the concept of food system resilience means in practice and how it can contribute to systems change;
- To identify co/create potential pathways to contribute to building resilient food systems / systems change / food systems transformation;
- To share lessons learned from implementing evidence-based and adaptive programming and underpinning its importance for food systems transformation;
- To explore emerging experiences with scenario planning and foresight for food systems transformation;
- To share experiences and identify emerging lessons from north-south-south partnerships and the localization agenda;
- To present lessons learned and remaining challenges related to the experiences of FNS-REPRO.

In addition, this event will specifically look at some of the core elements and achievements of the FNS-REPRO Learning Agenda and Capacity Building in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somaliland, including:

- The Food / Seed System Resilience Assessments, initial findings, how to bring it forward and how to contribute to food systems transformation;
- Localization and local knowledge co-creation, and North-South-South strategic partnerships; Synergies and alignment between FNS-REPRO and the NUFFIC programs; linkage Global Network Against Food Crisis;
- Insights from implementing the evidence-based and adaptive programming cycle of FNS-REPRO;
- The role of big data, foresight, and scenario planning for building resilient food systems;
- Lessons learned, emerging best practices and the way forward for FNS-REPRO. How can programming contribute to building resilient food systems in protracted crises?

Responsible: WUR-CDI

Location: Wageningen

- Monday 19th September – WUR campus – Omnia building - Hoge Steeg 2, 6708 PB
- Tuesday 20th September – Wageningen International Conference Centre - Lawickse Allee 9, 6701 AN

Participants: WCDI/WUR, FAO HQ/RTEA/Country Offices, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NFP, NGOs (Dutch Relief Alliance), Horn of Africa Universities, Rep of Global Network Against Food Crisis.

Day 3 – HDP nexus and investing in fragile settings

This day will include:

1. FNS-REPRO GPSC meeting (by invitation only)
2. Dutch Relief Alliance expert consultation on localization and HDP nexus operationalization
3. Bilateral meetings between FNS-REPRO and Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Learning event on investing in fragile settings: private sector engagement in contexts of protracted crises
- how to do business and do no harm?

FNS-REPRO's Global Programme Steering Committee (GPSC) provides policy and strategic guidance to the programme. It ensures that the programme remains on track vis-à-vis its objectives, and approved work plans, provides strategic guidance to the implementation of the project and maintains coherence with the work of the Global Network Against Food crises and its three dimensions. The GPSC also has an important quality assurance and strategic guidance function. The GPSC meets on a bi-annual basis, and initially (a minimum of) one face-to-face meeting per year was envisaged. Now that the COVID-19 situation allows travel, the fifth GPSC meeting will be held in-person in The Hague.

The afternoon will be dedicated to an expert consultation with Dutch Relief Alliance members on localization and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus operation, as well as a learning event on investing in fragile settings: private sector engagement in contexts of protracted crises - how to do business and do no harm?

Objectives for this day are:

1. To provide strategic guidance to the FNS-REPRO programme through the first in-person GPSC meeting;
2. To create awareness on and interest in FNS-REPRO among policymakers at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
3. To build a common ground on HDP nexus programming and taking it further;
4. To come up with recommendations on how to invest in contexts of protracted crises.

Responsible: FAO-RTEA (for the GPSC and bilateral meetings) / WUR-CDI (for the HDP nexus consultation)

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands, Babylon Hotel (Bezuidenhoutseweg 53, 2594 AC)

Participants: WCDI/WUR, FAO HQ/RTEA/Country Offices, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NFP, NGOs (Dutch Relief Alliance)

Day 4 – partnerships for building resilient seed systems

One of the critical aspects for the success of FNS-REPRO is to guarantee a stable and reliable market for small-scale producers engaged in the selected value chains. Although the FNS-REPRO context is complex and dynamic, there are opportunities for the private sector to engage and add value, benefitting not only farmers but also businesses themselves.

FNS-REPRO aims to step up its efforts to strengthen partnerships between actors of the private sector, the public sector, civil society knowledge organizations, as well as farmers and their organizations, to close the food and also seed supply/demand gap by contributing to the development of sustainable and fair value chains in areas characterized by protracted crises.

Given the complex nature of seed systems and seed system transformation, it is key to understand different interactions between seed sector actors and their roles in strengthening seed system resilience; to build resilient seed systems, partnerships are needed and actors need to complement each other. This day will focus on partnerships for building resilient seed systems.

FNS-REPRO South Sudan works in partnership with many South Sudanese and international organizations; the lead organizations are FAO South Sudan, WUR, Bioversity – CIAT, and Juba University. The event will help to improve collaboration between partners and provides an opportunity to tap into the wide range of expertise available in the Netherlands. This will contribute to better understanding and know-how for building more resilient seed systems, not only for South Sudan but also going beyond.

The different components of the day are:

1. Learning event on seed sector transformation; How to get it done? What partnerships are needed? What can be learned from the case of South Sudan? What is the role of the private sector and what is the role of the humanitarian sector?
2. Farm visits to an organic farm: Veld & Beek. Exposure to Dutch (organic) farming practices with a tour around the farm, presentations, and an opportunity to purchase food products from the farm.

Objectives for this day are:

1. Identification of required partnerships to contribute to seed sector transformation
2. To learn from the case of South Sudan regarding building resilient seed systems
3. To understand how humanitarian seed aid and the private sector can complement each other
4. Identification of opportunities for partnerships in education and training for building the capacity of stakeholders in the seed system.

Responsibilities: WUR-CDI, with inputs from working group leads

Location: Wageningen – Fletcher Hotel de Wageningsche Berg (Generaal Foulkesweg 96, 6703 DS)

Participants: WCDI/WUR, FAO RTEA/Country Offices, NFP, EWSKP, WPR, NABC, RVO, KIT, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, South Sudan Seed Traders Association, IFDC, Ministry of Agriculture of South-Sudan, Seed Companies South Sudan

Appendix 2 Download links for the presentations shared during the event

| Day | Session | PowerPoint |
|---|--|---|
| Day 1 – Food systems transformation and building resilient food systems | 1.1 Food systems transformation – notoriously hard, but urgent (Bart de Steenhuijzen Piters and Herman Brouwer) |  |
| | 1.2 FAO’s approach to building resilient food systems in protracted crises (Luca Russo) |  |
| | 1.3 The current context of The Horn of Africa: dynamics of shocks and stressors and increasing food insecurity (Cyril Ferrand) |  |
| | 1.4 The Food Systems Summit National Dialogues – the case of South Sudan (John O. Kanisio) |  |
| | 1.5 The Food Systems Summit National Dialogues – the case of Sudan (Abdelmonem Kardash) |  |
| | 1.6 Making food systems resilience work: the FNS-REPRO community of practice; building resilient food systems in protracted crises: operationalizing a local food systems resilience approach (Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen and Rojan Bolling) |  |
| | 1.7 Monitoring, evaluation and learning for food systems transformation: evidence-based and adaptive programming (Cecile Kusters) |  |
| Day 2 – Big data and scenario planning and foresight, localization agenda and partnerships, FNS-REPRO lessons learned | 2.1 Sketching the context - introduction to Foresight4Food (Herman Brouwer) |  |
| | 2.2 Case 1. Applying foresight and scenario analysis for the Dhaka Food Agenda 2041 (Michiel van Dijk) |  |
| | 2.3 Case 2. How can data analytics be used to improve FNS in protracted crises? (Zero Hunger Lab) (Frans Cruijssen and Cascha Wanrooij) |  |
| | 2.4 North-South-South partnerships and the localization agenda (Charleen Malkowsky) |  |
| | 2.5 FNS-REPRO emerging insights and good practices and lessons learned - Sudan (Abdelmonem Kardash) |  |
| | 2.5 FNS-REPRO emerging insights and good practices and lessons learned - Somaliland (Jane Nudngu) |  |
| Day 3 – HDP nexus and investing in fragile settings | 3.1 HDP nexus (Charleen Malkowsky and Rojan Bolling) |  |
| | 3.2 Investing in fragile settings (Cyril Ferrand, Koen Joosten, Rojan Bolling) |  |
| Day 4 - Partnerships for building resilient seed systems | 4.1 WCDI: the seed sector in South Sudan: key constraints and pathways for improving performance of the seed system (Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen) |  |
| | 4.2 FAO South Sudan: FAO programming for strengthening the seed sector in South Sudan (Maurice Nyombe) |  |
| | 4.3 IFDC: taking a private sector approach towards building a vibrant and robust seed sector in South Sudan (Justin Miteng) |  |
| | 4.4 EWS-KT: strengthening farmers’ capacities on vegetable production to create demand for quality seed (Rutger Groot) |  |
| | 4.5 Afroganics: sharing perspectives from the private seed sector on key challenges and opportunities (Margaret Itto Leonardo) |  |



Wageningen Centre for Development
Innovation
Wageningen University & Research
P.O. Box 88
6700 AB Wageningen
The Netherlands
T +31 (0)317 48 68 00
wur.eu/cdi

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation supports value creation by strengthening capacities for sustainable development. As the international expertise and capacity building institute of Wageningen University & Research we bring knowledge into action, with the aim to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life. With approximately 30 locations, 7,200 members (6,400 fte) of staff and 13,200 students, Wageningen University & Research is a world leader in its domain. An integral way of working, and cooperation between the exact sciences and the technological and social disciplines are key to its approach.

Report WCDI-22-228



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the potential
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Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation
Wageningen University & Research
P.O. Box 88
6700 AB Wageningen
The Netherlands
T +31 (0) 317 48 68 00
wur.eu/wdci

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