

FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUES (FSDs)
KATOWICE, COP24, 07 DECEMBER 2018

SUMMARY REPORT*

Executive Summary	2
Proposals	3
Proposal 1 - Support and scale cultural change for climate-sensitive food production	3
Proposal 2 - Create visibility on externalities	3
Proposal 3 - Create a UN Declaration on food systems	4
Proposal 4 - Build a system of transparency and traceability	4
Proposal 5 - Emphasize a people-centric approach in changing food systems	4
Proposal 6 - Create a knowledge base for individuals and organizations	5
Proposal 7 - Adopt a systems-based vision	5
Proposal 8 - Incentivize positive climate behaviors	6
Proposal 9 - Increase farmer participation in decision-making	6

*The format of FSDs Summary Reports is under development. This report may be subject to change

Executive Summary

On 07 December 2018 a Food Systems Dialogues (FSDs) event took place in Katowice, Poland, coinciding with the COP24 Climate Conference. This was the first opportunity for dialogues to be held in the context of a major global event focusing on climate.

Approximately 40 participants attended, reflecting a range of actors working in Food Systems, with an emphasis on climate and environment.

The following is a summary of the tables' proposals for food systems transformation as well as the discussions that led them to their conclusions.

As is the norm at FSDs events, all Proposals outlined in this Summary Report are not attributed to any particular individual or organization. Each Proposal did not necessarily receive universal support from all participants at the event; rather, the aim of this report is to capture recommendations made at the event, in order to allow continuity and consensus - a 'red thread' - to emerge across all FSDs events.

Proposals

Proposal 1 - Support and scale cultural change for climate-sensitive food production

Cultural change among populations should be supported in order to achieve large-scale shifts in behavior, especially among the emerging middle class in the global south. This could be done in several ways:

- Provide a sustainability navigation system for individuals; the expertise of investors may be used to generate such a system
- Emphasize the link between environmental health and personal health
- Build into the social network culture, and scale the change that is already occurring via movements and trends on social media, especially among young people

Positive developments in cultural change would be detectable in any of the following ways:

- if a reduction in meat consumption in obese countries was observed
- if food waste is reduced
- if sustainable agriculture has expanded
- if individuals are beginning to pay for ecosystem services
- if healthy nutrition starts becoming available for all people

Using a systems approach, social change could be supported by a range of organizations by conducting research on indicators, supporting transparency of information and governance.

In pursuing social change, gender should always be considered.

Proposal 2 - Create visibility on externalities

Create visibility on externalities, for example make supply chains more transparent. To do this, it would be helpful to build a focus group, comprised of big business, policy makers and investors.

Positive developments will be detectable when food systems have been stabilized for a decade, according to the UN's Sustainable Development goals.

Proposal 3 - Create a UN Declaration on food systems

There should be a UN Declaration on food systems laying out rules of the game in order to deliver on the SDGs and link together UN initiatives. Global consultation should occur to achieve this, with particular effort made to include farms and farmer communities.

Signs of having achieved this could be the publication of a report by the UN.

Other organizations involved in food systems could support this initiative politically, technically and financially.

Proposal 4 - Build a system of transparency and traceability

Introduce global transparency and traceability of agricultural commodities and food systems. Specifically, this should focus on transparency for supply chains, and for jurisdictions encompassing land conversion, land use, degradation, food loss and waste and transportation.

Once this system of transparency is achieved, it would incentivize new behaviors. It would also enable more efficient activities to promote sustainable food production in finance and investment communities. For example, using the system could be used as a platform for things such as payment for environmental services.

The system would also provide more clarity and insight to governments and consumers, and help ensure that food producers are receiving fair incomes, to protect their livelihoods.

Proposal 5 - Emphasize a people-centric approach in changing food systems

People should be placed at the center of the process of systemic change towards enabling everyone access nutritious and healthy diets from food produced in a sustainable manner. We could do that by creating policy and incentives that balance out finance and information flows in order that that are not simply focused on national or institutional change but that equally incentivise and support individuals as producers, market enablers and consumers towards bringing about systemic change.

We will know we have succeeded when there are business models, policy and investment drivers in place that support the individual to proactively drive change towards healthier diets that are produced sustainably at a scale in a way that accelerates systemic change.

Other organizations should support food systems innovations that actively empower farmers and individuals to access information and technologies that support uptake of a food systems approach.

Proposal 6 - Create a knowledge base for individuals and organizations

There should be a powerful knowledge base to help people better understand the linkages between individual actions and the collective impact of those actions on wider society and the environment. This would help to accelerate both a personal and systemic connection around the need to transform food systems. For example, the knowledge base could illustrate how changing your diet for health reasons may, as part of a broader whole, have a significant impact on other interconnected issues such as greenhouse gas mitigation, biodiversity, nutrition or regional socio-economic development.

If this initiative is successful, it should lead to widespread personal and emotional connection around the need for food systems transformation and the impact of our individual actions in bringing that about.

Organisations should proactively work together to collectively simplify the narrative around complex systems change and the role of the individual as a systems change agent.

Proposal 7 - Adopt a systems-based vision

Institutions should actively support a cross-sector vision around mitigation and adaptation in regards to climate change, linking environmental considerations with other systems and to build a next generation of systems leadership.

Success in this initiative would be detectable when institutions are collectively working to adopt a food systems approach. There was a strong sense that at COP there was not a focus on the systems aspect of change required to achieve transformation.

All organizations can contribute to this change by making efforts to break the existing siloed approaches. Within intergovernmental institutions, there has been some shift towards adopting a food systems approach and viewing all aspects of food production and consumption as part of a wider interconnected cross system agenda however this needs to be accelerated and scaled significantly if genuine progress is to be made.

Proposal 8 - Incentivize positive climate behaviors

Measures should be taken to incentivize agroecology, agroforestry, forest-sparing, and grassland management in areas with low rainfall. Incentives may come in the form of better risk management, transition support or education. This should be put into all agriculture policies.

It is important to make certain that actions are properly monitored. Monitoring should be conducted through observing changes in tree cover, grassland cover and the degree to which land becomes degraded.

Proposal 9 - Increase farmer participation in decision-making

Farmers generally are very low in the ladder of political importance, and they need to be afforded greater respect, and participation in decision-making.

Specifically, more emphasis should be placed on farmers' traditional knowledge in regards to sustainable farming practices and there should be more attention to who represents farmers in forums. Farmers tend to be represented by agricultural associations rather than farmers themselves. Therefore, there should be true farmer participation at events such as the Food Systems Dialogues and in farmers' forums.