

ACTION TRACK 4 – Advancing Equitable Livelihoods
Group of Friends of Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) workshop
Monday, 2 November 2020 14:30-17:30 CET

Chair's Summary

1. On 2 November 2020, the informal Group of Friends for the UN Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) hosted a workshop on *Action Track 4 (AT4) - Advance Equitable Livelihoods*, co-moderated by Ambassador Alex Bugailiskis of Canada and Chargé a.i. Benito Jimenez of Mexico, who succeeded to outgoing co-convenor Ambassador Carlos Cherniak of Argentina. Some 140 participants representing over 44 countries and observer organizations attended. Five questions were provided in advance to guide short interventions with a view to identifying any gap (missing or glaring issue) in the AT4 papers, to be complemented by written comments if desired. As the UN anchor organization for AT4, IFAD Associate Vice President for Strategy and Knowledge, Meike Van Ginneken, commented on the points raised by Member States at the end of the discussions.

2. **[Presentation](#) by AT4 Chair Michelle Nunn, President and CEO of CARE USA on the [discussion starter](#).** The AT4 Chair introduced Vice-Chair Shakuntala Thilsted, Research Program Leader for Value Chains and Nutrition, WorldFish, and Youth Vice Chair Mai Thin Yu Mon, UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus. Michelle Nunn stressed the importance of prioritizing those who are the poorest and most vulnerable (small-scale food producers, fishers, agricultural waged workers, those engaged in micro, small and medium enterprises along food value chains, youth and Indigenous peoples), and recognizing power imbalances at all levels in order to deliver equity in food systems. She emphasized the need to address gender-based inequality, including by putting gender at the center of AT4 analysis, and highlighted the significant barriers that youth and Indigenous peoples' face. She outlined that solutions will focus on: creating jobs; raising incomes across food value chains; reducing risks for the poorest and most vulnerable; and increasing value distribution.

3. **[Presentation](#) by Juan Echanove, Senior Director for Food Water Systems with CARE on the AT4 process and structures.** Mr. Echanove explained the AT4 ways of working, the team architecture, the various constituencies engaged, and the three Chair nominees. He mapped areas of work: small-scale production as anchor; addressing specific barriers; coherent and coordinated multi-sectoral approach; policy explicitly recognizing rural women, and the role of Indigenous peoples; pro-poor nature-based solutions; decent employment through inclusive value chains and improved resilience through social protection; and addressing the legal, institutional and market constraints to equity in food systems.

4. **[Presentation](#) by Dr. Lynette Neufeld, Director of Knowledge Leadership at GAIN on the [science paper](#)** on behalf of the five members of the AT4 science team. She discussed the conceptual framework and five drivers that impact equitable livelihoods, drawing from the diagram in the *CFS 2020 HLPE report*: biophysical and environmental; innovation, technology, and infrastructure; political and economic (in areas such as conflicts and crises, leadership, land tenure and institutions, globalization and trade, food prices and volatility, social protection); socio-cultural; and demographics (women, youth, disabled, aged and Indigenous peoples, women-owned businesses). She explained that evidence will be collected on solutions for each driver, as well as examples of progress in different regions, and opportunities across the value chains from rural to urban areas.

5. **Discussions.** The following key points were raised by several delegations, and are organized below along the five guiding questions formulated for each Action Track:

1. Does it clearly articulate the key objectives and targets it wishes to achieve

- The papers need to move from vision to action in order to identify concrete evidence-based and actionable solutions and indicators.

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- Using international standard language and consistent terminology was stressed as important.
- Solutions need to be context-specific.

2. Does it identify ALL of the key issues: the political, economic, social and environmental factors that can assist or impede success

- Addressing poverty and rural development throughout the whole value chain is important.
- Language should be more nuanced and balanced on the role of trade, innovation, and technology - including digital technology -, looking also how to promote equitable access.
- Fisheries should be further considered, regarding IUU fishing, coastal communities and small fishers.
- Education and literacy, infrastructure, and access to land and land tenure were highlighted as key considerations.

3. Does it identify All of the key actors and stakeholders (and/or do they exclude any considerations from any key stakeholder groups that should be accounted for now)

- Constituencies to engage should include: smallholders, Indigenous peoples, rural cooperatives, SMEs, land holders, rural women and farmers, elderly, girls, migrant workers, peoples with disabilities, SIDs.
- It is important to recognize the existing capacity, strength, and contributions of groups like women, youth, and Indigenous peoples, and the fact that they are not monolithic.
- Engaging the private sector, and looking at the interaction of smallholders with larger players, is important.

4. Does it sufficiently address all cross-cutting levers of change such as gender, innovation and financing

- The recognition that discriminatory social norms and institutional barriers are primary barriers to gender equality in food systems and a major cause of poverty and food insecurity was welcome.
- The situation of vulnerability of women and girls should be further reflected to address their specific challenges and needs.
- Sex- and age- disaggregated data and indicators should be integrated in all follow-up actions and inform policies and decisions.
- Improving financial services to meet the needs of women and improving their access to such services should be further highlighted.

5. Does it identify synergies and/or trade-offs within the key elements of the AT and with other ATs

- The importance of maintaining connectivity with other Action Tracks to ensure that crosscutting issues are appropriately and coherently developed was emphasized.
- The need to avoid duplication and take into account existing UN efforts and initiatives, including CFS products, was noted.
- The importance of considering social protection and safety nets not as stand-alone solutions but together with agricultural yields and productivity gains/raising incomes was highlighted.