

ACTION TRACK 5 – Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses
Group of Friends of Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) workshop
Thursday, 5 November 2020 14:30-17:30 CET

Chair's Summary

The Informal Group of Friends for the UN Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) hosted a workshop on Action Track 5 (AT5) - *Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses* on 5 November 2020. The session was moderated by Ambassador Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino of Malaysia and attended by 132 participants.

Five questions were provided in advance to guide interventions from delegations to identify any gap, missing or glaring issue in the AT5 papers. **The workshop invited *Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome as the Vice Chair of AT5, Mike Khunga from SUN Global Youth Leader for Nutrition and Stephanie Hochstetter, the Director of Rome-Based Agencies and Committee of World Food Security, from WFP to comment on the points raised by Member States in the deliberations.***

2. Presentation by AT5 Chair Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development and also the Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development on the discussion starter. Dr. Saleemul Huq stressed the policy coordination for fostering food system resilience which also involves fostering regionalized food distribution networks and waste reduction and the link between human nutrition and agriculture production policies. He emphasized that issues with food systems are complex and the need to look at the subject from a holistic approach taking into consideration full life cycle impacts, including social and cultural understanding to provide a win-win situation rather than compromising trade-offs between people-planet-prosperity. Dr. Saleemul Huq also reiterated the importance for a comprehensive approach that integrates the necessary responses to climate, biodiversity loss, conflict, epidemics, economic crises, food insecurity and malnutrition and structural inequalities.

3. Presentation by Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General of International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and Prof Thomas W. Hertel, Distinguished Professor of Agriculture Economics at Purdue University on the scientific paper. Dr. Ismahane explained that the aspiration behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability and participate in a food systems that, despite shocks and stressors, delivers food security, nutrition and equitable livelihoods for all. She emphasized five (5) focus areas, namely economic, social and environmental resilience, the importance of context specificity, and innovation and partnerships. She underlined the need for social resilience to empower all actors within a food system to withstand and recover from instability.

Prof. Thomas emphasized the policy coordination for fostering food system resilience including the integration of gender equity and social justice into food security research and innovations, increasing the use of ecological processes to foster adaptive capacity, fostering regionalized food distribution networks and linking human nutrition and agriculture production policies. He summarized that building resilience to shocks such as extreme weather events, civil conflict and pandemics requires many different measures including the

Chair's Summary

investment in information systems, institutional innovation, coordination of public and private together with the significant investments in marginal areas and disadvantaged individuals.

4. **Discussions:** During the workshop, delegations raised several key points based on the five guiding questions provided by the secretariat and the feedbacks and remarks were as follows:

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

- The paper has a clear statement of the objectives of building resilience in the food system. However, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clarified.
- The need to emphasis on a bottom-up approach, instead of a top down approach that will limit buy-in and is counter-intuitive due to the reality that the food system resilience is highly dependent on local contexts.
- Other than sustainability, there are other crucial factors to be considered for example the existence of “safety mechanisms” within the food system (such as shock-responsive social protection systems, or food assistance mechanisms).
- The need for political aspects of building resilient in food systems (aspects of better natural resources access and distribution, regulations and policies that can enable and foster resilient systems).
- Food systems are inherently social and the aspects of local/indigenous knowledge need to be more explored and clearly understood.
- The need to include poverty and inequalities in this problem-statement as structural root causes of increased hunger and malnutrition.
- The need to have transparent peer-reviewed research and references.

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

- The need to address water in a substantive way and its correlation with resilience in the food system.
- To involve the representatives of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) in Food Systems Summit preparations.
- There is a general lack of regional considerations in the paper on how different regions and food systems manage shocks and stresses and whether different considerations need to be applied to different regions.
- The need to introduce relevant existing “tools” or approaches that may facilitate action.

Chair's Summary

- The technological dimension is not sufficiently addressed. Increasing digitization and advances in artificial intelligence will have impacts to value chain, labour, disruptions, and production.
- Genetic diversity among crops and livestock is key, as well as access to such resources and their sustainable use. However, the importance of genetic resources for resilience is not elaborated.
- A greater focus on sustainable fisheries and marine-based food sources to SIDS and coastal or river-based communities.
- Some reservations about the references to 'animal based diets' as animal-sourced foods and livestock industries play in local food systems.

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)

- The need to consider gender issues, youth, and indigenous perspectives and input in this paper.
- It is important to draw attention to providing more international humanitarian assistance in the current situation of the deepening global hunger crisis due to conflicts, climate change and Covid-19 pandemic.
- To highlight the local and indigenous knowledge and the interaction between relevant social actors in fostering resilience learning.
- The need to explicit reference to micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) in both papers are encouraged.
- Stress the importance of multilateral organizations and frameworks and of international cooperation in supporting the resilience of vulnerable communities.
- The need to highlight the importance of well-functioning international markets in facilitating smooth trade flows.
- To underline the implementation of innovation in information and communication technology (ICT) to strengthen the food supply chain.

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

- Limited mention of gender equality, which is critical when it comes to building the resilience of food systems.
- To consider how blended finance facilities and public private partnerships (PPP) have had limited success in mobilizing finance for the under-resourced micro, medium and small enterprises sector.

ACTION TRACK 5 – Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses

Group of Friends of Food Systems Summit (GoFFSS) workshop

Thursday, 5 November 2020 14:30-17:30 CET

Chair's Summary

- Innovations should be inclusive and follow the participatory approach. National priorities should be respected and development proposals should be elaborated together with local communities.
- The importance to include financial assistance and funding mobilization in the paper to strengthen the paper to be comprehensive and inclusive.
- The need to highlight the roles of trade, innovations and investments in resilience building while enhancing significant investments in marginal areas and disadvantaged individuals and groups.

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

- The need to better identify synergies with other initiatives, for example, the Global Commission on Adaptation's Action Track on Food Security and Rural Livelihoods, and the Just Rural Transition initiative
- Looked forward to discuss the link between Action Track 5 with the other Action Tracks and consequently identify any crosscutting issues that could be incorporated for all Action Tracks to be looked in totality.