

Chair's Summary

Group of Friends for the 2021 Food Systems Summit Workshop

On Action Track 3

The workshop on Action track 3 was held on Wednesday from 14:30 to 17:30 pm and was moderated by H.E Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Joao Campari, the chair of AT3, Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, Vice-chair of AT3, Ms. Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo, Mr. Rattan Lal and Mr. Urs Niggli, members of the Scientific Group on AT3. Ms. Rachel Waterhouse also attended the workshop to give a presentation about the UK COP26 Campaign.

The moderator stressed at the beginning of the workshop the importance of successful outcomes, especially action oriented outcomes. The moderator also mentioned that the main objective is to identify any gaps or key missing elements in the papers.

The moderator also highlighted the need for innovation, creativity and upscaling of appropriate actions.

AT3 Chair presented the challenges in food production systems, solutions propositions and the way of working in AT3. He laid emphasis on the synergies among the action tracks and mentioned that the goal is to work synergistically among all the five action tracks in order to provide action oriented and game changing solutions. He also said that the goal of AT3 is to boost nature-positive production systems at scale to globally meet the fundamental human right to healthy and nutritious food while operating within planetary boundaries.

AT3 Chair stressed the importance of nature-positive production systems and presented the proposed work streams for AT3, these reflect three necessary conditions to boost nature-positive production at scale, within a landscape approach:

1. Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production;
2. Manage sustainably existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people;
3. Restore and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and soil function for

sustainable food production.

AT3 Chair highlighted the importance of engagement of member states and other stakeholders in AT3 in order to make the Food System Summit a success. Stakeholders could engage with AT3 through participation in the above mentioned 3 Areas of Collective Action & Innovation.

AT3 Chair presented several institutional, behavioral and technological lock-ins and mentioned that these lock-ins keep the current unsustainable food production system in place. Some of these lock-ins are: export orientation, the expectation of cheap food, compartmentalized and sectoral, short-term thinking.

AT3 Chair stressed the importance of change, he presented 10 elements which can provide guidance when working on transformations and nature-positive solutions. These 10 elements are: diversity, co-creation and sharing of knowledge, building synergies, efficiency, recycling, resilience, human and social values, culture and food traditions, responsible governance and circular and solidarity economy. AT3 Chair also provided some expected outcomes for AT3.

AT3 Chair Ms. Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo of the Scientific Group complemented by stressing that the team is focusing on providing science based knowledge and solutions and make use of new technology and innovations to produce more with less. She also emphasized the benefits of digitalization in agricultural systems. The members of the Scientific Group also want to promote bio inputs, agro biodiversity, and the importance of adding value locally. AT3 Chair also stressed the importance of gathering all kinds of knowledge, from traditionally knowledge to all the advances of science and technology in order to boost nature-positive production.

AT3 Chair Mr. Urs Niggli of the Scientific Group added that the team is looking for input from the members on the question of: which approaches are needed to optimize the tradeoffs between productivity and sustainability.

Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, Vice-chair of AT3, highlighted the adding value in terms of climate negotiations to AT3. He said that there is a strong link between climate change and sustainable food production. The climate change negotiations are based on science and law and could give input to AT3. Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu mentioned that there are three main elements of

implementing climate actions, which can help to achieve sustainable food production. Those elements are: Capacity building; Climate finance; Technology transfer

Ms. Waterhouse said that the nature campaign of UK COP26 links most directly with the UN Food System Summit. She stressed that there is a need to feed the people and to achieve the SDG's, but in order to do that, there must be a change and the balance between food, nutritious diets etc. have to be reset. She also said that this is the challenge of the nature campaign and that they will work together with governments, private sector and others to scale up nature based solutions and start the transitions that is needed. Ms. Waterhouse mentioned the different objectives: Raising political awareness; Delivering tangible actions; Increasing financial support; Reducing harm to nature through a new dialog between producing countries

The interventions of the members stressed on the need to focus not only on the innovation side, but also on the economic side of sustainability, especially for small holder farmers. The interventions also stressed the importance of science and the use of existing knowledge. The members also emphasized the importance of the use of agreed language.

Furthermore, the interventions focused on the following issues:

- The need to focus on science and evidence based sustainable solutions: it is recommended that the language used in the papers be clearly defined and grounded in evidence.
- The importance of the use of agreed language, definitions and concepts aligned with the sustainable development goals and targets: it is important to use the internationally recognized language.
- The need to focus on the economic and social drivers, the social aspect should be included as a key objective and target: promotion of 'nature-positive' food production is not possible without taking into account the economy-positive" and the "people-positive" aspects as well. The three dimensions of sustainable development are intertwined and cannot be elaborated separately. The need to prepare overall sustainability assessments of all food systems, covering all three dimensions: economic, environmental and social; bearing in mind that economic viability is to a certain extend determined by subsidies. Governments worldwide spend around USD 700 billion (OECD Economic Outlook 2019) every year on farm support. Results of

these assessments could be a solid foundation for policy decisions to reorient subsidies, to elaborate and apply appropriate policy incentives to help orient stakeholders to take the appropriate decisions towards sustainability.

- Further develop the connection with other action tracks and reflect on the synergies among the five action tracks in the papers: sustainable development in its three dimensions should be really streamlined across all the FSS and its action tracks.

- In terms of climate change and nature, more focus on the impacts of fossil fuels and industrial processes instead of food production and agriculture. Also, the need to address other major economic sectors that highly impact nature. It is important to mention the positive and negative sides of all sectors, not only agriculture.

- Consider a bottom up approach, it would be desirable to invite the representatives of the civil society and the private sector in the action track discussions.

- More focus on addressing key actors and stakeholders: the discussion paper does not identify the relevant actors too precisely, consider to involve farmers, fishers, foresters at all scales. Include also indigenous knowledge.

- The need to clearly articulate the key objectives and targets of AT3: to ensure success, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clarified. Most of the actions rightly address governments in their capacity to set the appropriate policy framework for the transformation of food systems, but there is a need to address and mobilize non-governmental organization and the private sector in the objectives and targets.

- Priority to achieve synergies with all related international processes, including CFS and HLPE report, build further on existing international initiatives. Also, the Global Commission on Adaptation's Action Track on Food Security and Rural Livelihoods, and the Just Rural Transition initiative could be included.

- More attention to agricultural and rural training: digital agriculture should be more emphasized.

- Promote initiatives aiming at reducing the use of antibiotics and pesticides.

- More emphasize on fighting deforestation and land degradation for the benefit of biodiversity, indigenous peoples and local communities.

- ACAI 2 on 'manage' should also consider the role of biodiversity protection, as production and protection are not mutually exclusive.
- More attention to responsible deforestation free agricultural and forest related supply chains, could be highlighted more in the scientific paper and action track discussion starter paper.
- The need for more focus on environmental and social standards in international trade and trade policies on nature- positive production has to be further analyzed. Also, the need to include a reference to relevant international trade rules on subsidies and domestic support, and an analysis of the negative repercussions that might follow if schemes do not align with those rules.
- More priority to actions related to reduce food insecurity. The principle of the right for food should form the basis for all action track discussions.
- The need for a stronger connection between the science paper and discussion starter paper. The need to expand the focus of the paper in terms of food, include not only land based food production, but also aquatic food production.
- More attention to Land degradation and healthy soils.
- The need to focus on the crosscutting issues such as gender, innovation, financing. The need to effectively promote women's equitable access and control over resources, property and assets, including through secure and non-discriminatory land-tenure systems.
- The need for a broader framing of the problem definition: not only a focus on sustainable production, but also transformation in order to be climate resilient, protect nature and also deliver on the SDGs, particularly food and nutrition. Also, while there is an agreement on the 10 characteristics of food systems listed in chapter 6 (Lock-ins and synergies) of the discussion starter paper, the first paragraph needs to be streamlined with other Action Tracks. Currently it seems to neglect important challenges for the transformation of food systems.
- The need for a broader systems perspective in order to recognize and address the structural drivers of unsustainable food systems.