



SESSION DESCRIPTION

D4 The need for a holistic approach to achieve sustainable food systems

Panel

Date: Thursday, 27 April 2018

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Rooms: S25-26

Language: English

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Organized by: UN Environment, Hivos and Biovision

OBJECTIVE

Food systems need to function within the context of a finite and shrinking resource base. Currently collaboration across the food system is rare with silo-thinking predominant and insufficient interconnectivity among a variety of food system's issues and impacts such as food production, environmental degradation, diets, nutrition, poverty, education, trade, etc. As a result of incoherent or inadequate policy planning, many food systems are exploiting more resources, externalizing costs to the environment or vulnerable communities, producing inefficiencies and mainly focusing on end-of-pipe solutions.

Based on that UN Environment, in partnership with Hivos and Biovision, developed a proposal for a Transformative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems (or SFS Transformative Framework), which proposes key policy-levers, methodologies, tools and collaborative activities across the food system, exploring how a transition to sustainable food systems could be stimulated by local and national governments. The objective of this initiative is to engage governments and other actors (industry, civil society, academy, etc.) towards building consensus concerning the urgent need for the adoption of a more holistic approach and integrated policy making in order to achieve sustainable food systems. This activity happens in the context of the "10 Years Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)", a global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards SCP in both developed and developing countries.

In this session, facilitated by Hivos, UN Environment gave a presentation of the SFS Transformative Framework. After that, key experts and partners that work at city level and from different sectors provided comments on the proposed Framework. The plenary discussion focused on receiving feedback from the audience in relation to the SFS Transformative Framework and on how a more holistic approach to food systems can be scaled up and replicated.

OUTCOMES

Participants left the session with:

- A good understanding on how a food system's approach can help local governments to improve their food systems' policies planning and implementation
- Examples of key elements and actions towards a food system's approach
- How local government and other partners can engage in the initiative



METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided welcome remarks and also introduced the audience about the context of the sessions' discussion: the need for the uptake of a more food system's approach. **(5 minutes)**
- Presentation and comments on the proposal for a Transformative Framework of Actions for Sustainable Food Systems, and how this Framework can support local governments to more effectively assess their food system's and deliver sustainable food system's polices. **(30 minutes)**
- Video intervention and comments. **(10 minutes)**
- General discussion with the audience to address questions like:
 - is this Framework practical?
 - what is missing?
 - what are the gaps for the adoption of a more holistic approach? **(40 minutes)**
- Wrap up and closing remarks **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator	<i>Nout van der Vaart, Advocacy Officer Sustainable Food, Hivos, The Hague, The Netherlands</i>
Panelist	<i>James Lomax, Programme Officer, Food System and Agriculture, UN Environment, Paris, France</i>
Panelist	<i>Guido Santini, Program Coordinator, Food for the Cities, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy</i>
Panelist	<i>Tori Okner, Head of Strategies and Partnerships, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany</i>
Panelist	<i>Marielle Dubbeling, Director, RUAF Foundation, Leusden, The Netherlands (video intervention)</i>
Panelist	<i>Saul S. Morris, Director, Programme Services, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, London, UK</i>

Further recommended reading

Sustainable Food System (SFS) Programme: <http://web.unep.org/10yfp/programmes/sustainable-food-systems-programme>
