

Session title:	Food Systems and Integrated Policy
Session number:	28
Type of session:	Livestreamed
Day:	Monday, 6 September 2021
Time:	16:30-18:30 EAT
No. of participants:	08
Session Organizers:	Rockefeller Foundation & IKEA Foundation
Moderator:	1. Amandla Ooko-Ombaka. Associate Partner, Nairobi, Mckinsey & Company.
Rapporteur:	Fiona Kajuju
Relevant outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity and inspiration for governments and policy makers pondering the most effective policy approaches to food systems transformation in their countries or subnational units • Spotlight on the need for food policy integration and coherence and the experiences of countries that have already made progress on this journey
Objectives:	The momentum generated by the Food Systems Summit has put food systems transformation at the center of global discourse and many African national agendas. Food systems in Africa are still maturing and can be steered in a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable direction through integrated and coherent policy. Despite progress in cross-sectoral policy coherence in several African countries, these strategies have focused primarily on agricultural production or maternal and child nutrition. Food systems transformation requires systems thinking and a new level of inter-sectorality and inclusivity in policy development and implementation. This session will explore various experiences and approaches towards food system policies that are integrated and transformational.
Speakers:	(*Name, Title, Organization)

1. Dr. Katrin Glatzel
Director, Department of Policy Innovation, AKADEMIYA2063
2. Mr. Peiman Milani
Consultant- Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation.
3. Dr. William Asiko
Managing Director-Africa Regional Office, The Rockefeller Foundation
4. Dr. Jeroen Candel
Assistant Professor, Food & Agricultural Policy, Wageningen University
5. Dr. Brenda Shenute Namugumya
Advisor Facilitating Stakeholder Partnerships, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation
6. Dr. Namukolo Covic
Senior Research Coordinator at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)
Senior Research coordinator, IFPRI
7. Hon. Dr. Mandefro Nigussie
Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Ethiopia

Main highlights:

(*For Insights and newsletter. To be based on the theme of the day. Fill in in bullet form)

KEY CHALLENGES

- National level policies are coherent on paper, but there is less coherence that is trickling down within the local governments.
- Many interpretations from different actors vary, thus resulting to conflict among policy makers.
- Insufficient communication between what is said within the national level agendas and priorities.
- Food Systems and Nutrition Strategies in Africa were not fully implemented nor adopted in many Countries.
- The rush by countries to put up institutional structures that rely heavily on external fund and overlook business, pose a challenge to achieving long-term national agendas.
- The lack of resources to build capacity for correct, accurate, evidence-based, hinders achievement of sustainable policies that transform food systems in Africa.

INNOVATIONS PROPOSED

- Dr. Namukolo Covic proposed the need to have innovations driven by the private sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ NEXT STEPS

- Policy coherence shouldn't stop at paper policy. More learning needs to be done, based on that learning we feed back into the policies being developed so that stakeholders can be able to adjust and rethink the vision that is put in place.
- Learning shouldn't be by accident, it should be intentional. These arenas need to be set up as we engage in conversations regarding to transforming the food systems. There is need to have all stakeholders on board so that there is more inclusive learning and contribution. we learn from the experiences of actors on the ground, actors in the technical arena
- There is need to bridge the gap, when we talk about coherence, it shouldn't just be at the national level but it needs to trickle down to the policy processes at the local government level and within the community.
- There is urgency to ensure that vertical coherence is in place. The bottom-up approach as well as top-down approach should be integrated for the ultimate goal.
- Donor funding should be complemented by public expenditure and private sector investments and funding, to meet overall needs to transform food systems.
- Need for good governance and leadership.
- Need to monitor and assess the impact of integrated food systems policies.
- There is need to have more focus on policy coherence, learning and feedback into policies that are being developed.
- Learning should be inclusive and intentional, and the learning arenas need to be set up for actors to adjust policies where need be, so as to transform the food systems.

Session Summary:

(*To go in final report. Max 300 words. Fill in prose)

Policy coherence is a dynamic process hence the need to monitor and assess impact using the suggested indicators across countries. New accountability mechanisms are crucial and monitoring capacity at national and implementation level needs strengthening. There is also the need for integrative and transformative leadership capacities to sustain policy coherence. The capacities include: Capacity to relate and partner, to address diversity and achieve coherence, allocate resources, act and deliver and to adapt, learn and self-renew. Intentionality is key and that policy coherence needs to go beyond paper policies to policies to deliver on promised progress.

In addition, if we have to change the food systems, we have to also change the political systems. Good political systems will ensure inclusivity in the development of sustainable policies and proper utilization of donor funding that will transform food systems.

Tweetable quotes with timestamp:

(*For podcast and to go to AGRF Communication for social media. Minimum 3 per

session)

- "The Future is in our hands" Dr. Jeroen Candel 05:20 PM
- "Africa is at an a reflective point" Dr. William Asiko 06:08 PM
- 'There is need for collaboration across institutions public and private to develop effective leadership for food system change, and resource for food system transformation.' Dr. Mandefro Nigussie

How has the session contributed to the AGRF outcomes?

*(For end of AGRF communique/ Press release. List 3 - 5 top outcomes)

- Desire for government and policy makers to embrace inclusivity in designing and implementing polices to transform food systems.
- There will be need for interdependencies of multi-sectorial approaches towards achieving integrated policies that enhance food system transformation in Africa.
- Well-coordinated, national level policies facilitate success of food systems in Africa.

COMMITMENTS

Attention will be paid to food systems transformation that enhance nutrition outcomes, improves livelihoods in the rural and urban areas, and protects and enhances the environment at the same time.