



Quarterly Newsletter

December 2021

Dear JRT Community,

This year marked significant milestones and achievements for the JRT community.

Through extensive multi-stakeholder and government-to-government consultations as part of the UN Food Systems Summit and the COP26 Presidency's Nature Campaign, our collective efforts helped galvanise global momentum for a just rural transition. Some highlights include:

- Launch of the [Policy Action Agenda for Transition to Sustainable Food and Agriculture](#), now endorsed by 17 governments and many non-state actors, setting out the pathways and actions for countries to repurpose public policies and support for food and agriculture;
- UK announcement of a [£65 million Just Rural Transition support programme](#) to help developing countries move towards more sustainable methods of agriculture and food production;
- Establishment of the [Good Food Finance Network](#), a platform for the public and private sectors to engage on financing sustainable food systems;
- Publication of new reports, case studies, blogs, a social channels toolkit, and guidance to provide the evidence, experience, and tools to policymakers, farmers, investors, and others. Visit the [JRT Knowledge Hub](#) to catch up.

But much remains to be done to turn momentum and commitments into ambitious action that transforms food systems to deliver better outcomes for people, nature, and climate. While it was a step forward to see these issues feature strongly in a COP Plenary, transition pathways for food and agriculture are still largely missing from countries' Nationally Determined Contributions. We saw a welcome focus from governments on the importance of a [just transition](#), but much of the focus continues to be on the energy sector. And the finance community's growing interest will only translate to investments reaching rural communities at scale if the right enabling conditions are in place.

We are excited to continue working with you to build on these opportunities and advance our collective agenda. This newsletter sets out a few ways for our community to get involved. In the coming months, we will share more detailed plans with a focus on accelerating policy action, catalysing investment partnerships, and mobilising a global community.

In the meantime, we wish you a happy holiday season and 2022!

Sincerely,
JRT Secretariat

[Discover the JRT Toolkit!](#)

Please share our new toolkit with your Communications Team, or post our text templates to your own social channels using the hashtag **#JustTransition2030**



Policy Action

In 2022, we will continue to mobilise broader stakeholder support for the [Policy Action Agenda](#) to build further momentum at the global level and help countries make practical progress in repurposing public support for agriculture to deliver better outcomes for people, nature and climate. We will focus on inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations and amplifying farmers' voices in policy process as well as knowledge production, uptake, and exchange.



“We need the rich, variegated experiences of farmers to craft policy that works.”

- Diana Lenzi, President of the European Council for Young Farmers (CEJA)

Insight | For a refreshed and more inclusive agricultural policy

Europe's farming population is aging. With nearly 90% of farmers now over the age of 40, it is more critical than ever to include young producers in policy discussions. In the latest JRT insight post, Diana Lenzi, President of the European Council for Young Farmers (CEJA), shares a producer's perspective on making more inclusive agricultural policies.

See the full blog in our [JRT Insight Post](#)

To learn more about our policy action work, please contact Chrisitan Man, Policy Action Lead, at pac@merid.org.

Investment Partnerships

As part of our regional scale-up project on the Great Green Wall, JRT conducted a deep dive of the WBCSD co-hosted Agri-SME Investment Platform, focusing on the shea value chain. Strengthening small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises (agri-SMEs) provides a critical lever to drive a just rural transition, creating rural jobs, enabling value from agricultural products to be captured locally, and building the resilience of supply chains.

The deep dive was conducted in collaboration with the [Global Shea Alliance](#), WBCSD, and Acacia Sustainable Business Advisors. It included a briefing paper (in [English](#) and [French](#)); the development of a portfolio of shea agri-SMEs and partners; a series of trainings for shea agri-SMEs on the Agri-SME Investment Platform tool which links SMEs and investors; a whole value chain dialogue attended by over 70 participants; facilitated networking between shea SMEs and potential partners; and an investment analysis based on learning from the deep dive, which will be published shortly.

JRT Investment Partnerships plans to host a series of deep dives over the coming year; please contact [Victoria Crawford](#) to suggest topics or for further details of this work.



“[Investment] will help us to cater to more demand from our target audience and provide training and work to the youth in the industry sector as a form of creating employment and contributing to sustainability.”

- Abena Yankah, Founder of Sheer Babe

Article | We can't win the race to zero without financing a just rural transition

During COP26, banks and asset managers representing \$130 trillion—40% of the world's financial assets—pledged to align with net zero carbon emissions by mid-century by joining the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ). But the real work is yet to begin. In a new article, Victoria Crawford, JRT Investment Partnerships Manager, writes on why net zero projects need to include scaled-up finance for people-centred food systems.

See the full article in [Business Fights Poverty](#).

Land Tenure, Social Equity, and Inclusion

JRT is very pleased to announce the reconvening of our Working Group on Land Tenure, Social Equity, and Inclusion which brings together over a dozen experts in land tenure security, gender equity, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities rights from leading NGOs, coalitions, and multilateral institutions. The Working Group aims to promote effective collaboration, provide strategic advice to the JRT's policy and investment workstreams, and co-develop knowledge products to support our outreach and engagement.

In early December, the Working Group gathered virtually to share COP26 reflections and plans for building on the momentum gained in Glasgow throughout next year. 2022 has the potential to be a substantial year for progress on the global land tenure agenda, following the announcement of the [COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement](#) and as we approach the 10th anniversary of the Committee on World Food Security's [Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure](#).

Together, the Working Group reflected on these upcoming opportunities, identifying new areas for collaboration and alignment across our 2022 strategic priorities. We look forward to building on this initial conversation with future convenings in the New Year.

For further details and information on how to become involved in the Working Group, please contact Hanna Khalil at hkhalil@merid.org.

COP26 Events & Announcements

The JRT team was proud to attend COP26 and support a major focus on sustainable agriculture as part of the UK Government's Nature Campaign.

Thank you to everyone who attended our events both virtually and physically. We are excited to see a growing interest around the concept of a just transition and look forward to increasing our momentum in the New Year, particularly following the UK's Nature Day announcement of a [£65 million just rural transition support programme](#).



If you missed us live in Glasgow, recordings for all of the events involving JRT are currently available online:

[UK Presidency | A just transition to sustainable agriculture for people, climate and nature](#)

[Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action | Transforming the land use system with nature and health at the center of the climate crisis and global recovery](#)

[Just Rural Transition & Tropical Forest Alliance | A just rural transition towards sustainable agriculture and halting deforestation and conversion from agricultural commodities](#)

Just Rural Transition, Resilience Hub | Integrated Solutions for Just and Resilient Food Systems

Knowledge and Tools

Our [Knowledge Hub](#) is home to cutting-edge research, analysis, and tools to help enable food systems transformation and support the Sustainable Development Goals. In November, we published a brand new set of [Case Studies](#), which showcase actions countries and companies have taken to accelerate a just transition towards sustainable agriculture.

We are also excited to have launched the [JustTransition2030 Toolkit!](#) This is a digital toolkit for our community to collectively promote the ideas behind a just rural transition and the need to place justice, equity, and rural livelihoods at the centre of efforts to transform food systems. It contains template posts for each social channel, along with a range of shareable assets including an explainer video, infographics, and quote cards from food producers.

[Discover the JRT Toolkit!](#)



The [JRT Vision Statement](#) remains open for endorsement by governments and other key stakeholders. Endorsers will join the growing JRT community to promote learning, build momentum, and forge new partnerships to accelerate just rural transitions around the world.

To get involved, please [submit an application here](#) or contact the JRT Team for more information at jrt@merid.org.

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