

JRT Newsletter

August 2022



Just
Rural
Transition



Dear colleagues,

The [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report provides a sobering analysis of the food insecurity crisis and its devastating impact on the world's most vulnerable people. The report confirms that 828 million were affected by hunger in 2021 – an increase of approximately 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alongside this, the climate risks for food and agriculture are also rising. [Record temperatures](#), rapid changes in rainfall patterns, [increased incidence of pests and diseases](#), and [frequent extreme weather events](#) are all having a significant impact on production and farmer livelihoods, and place further pressure on food security.

While countries are now under enormous pressure to respond to the food security and cost of living crises, it is vital that short-term fixes do not undermine efforts to ensure food systems are more resilient long-term.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the succession of crises, and to see global goals such as SDG2 move further out of reach. But there are some bright lights. Travel and in-person meetings, while still complicated, are now possible, and this has enabled the JRT Secretariat to engage directly with many of our member organizations.

At the World Farmers' Organization General Assembly, for example, we heard many inspiring stories. Food producers are proactively responding to challenges through innovation, collaboration and applying traditional knowledge to twenty-first century challenges. These stories give me hope and sustain me through such troubled times.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Pinfield,
Executive Director,
Just Rural Transition

Events

Deep Dive to mobilize capital for women-owned agri-SMEs in Indonesia

September

Virtual

The 'Deep Dive', organized by JRT and the Agri-SME Investment Platform, and hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), in partnership with Grow Asia and CrossBoundary, will provide an online training session on the [Agri-SME Digital Finance Tool](#) (1 September); a virtual value-chain dialogue on opportunities and barriers for investment (15 September); and a networking week linking agri-SMEs to investors and service providers (26–30 September).

For further details on the 'Deep Dive' contact Melanie Levine: levine@wbcsd.org

AGRF 2022 Summit

Grow. Nourish. Reward – Bold Actions for Resilient Food Systems

September 5–9

Kigali, Rwanda

More information coming soon.

Climate Week NYC 2022

September 19–25

New York, USA

More information coming soon.

Policy Action

JRT has continued to mobilize support for policy reforms for the transition to more equitable and sustainable food systems. Over the past year, JRT has been supporting a dialogue convened by the World Bank and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, '**Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture through Redirecting Public Policies and Support and Scaling Innovation.**'

Through this process, governments have been exploring what success criteria and milestones can be put in place to support policy reform and repurposing of public support to deliver **positive outcomes for people, nature and climate.**

JRT's multi-stakeholder Working Group on Repurposing Public Support to Food and Agriculture has also been very active over recent months, providing a platform to coordinate multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange and global collaboration. In recent months, the group has facilitated presentations from the lead authors of the [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report and the [Global Food Policy](#) report.

Amplifying farmers' voices

Given the critical importance of farmer perspectives and ideas in any policy reform process, JRT has kickstarted a consultative process – **Practical Perspectives** – to engage farmer organizations from around the world on how policy reform and repurposing public support can boost their efforts in the face of the food security, climate and nature crises.



Participants at the regional Practical Perspectives dialogue in South Africa

Our first dialogue was a global meeting at the General Assembly of the World Farmers' Organizations, followed by a regional dialogue in Johannesburg. These productive discussions are already leading to mobilization of action for a transition to equitable and sustainable food systems. Read about the key insights from these dialogues in our latest blog.

[Read more](#)

To learn more about JRT's policy action work and find out how to get involved, please contact: pac@merid.org

Investment Partnerships

Building on its work to unlock **private sector investments** in soil health, JRT's Investment Partnerships team recently held a workshop to learn from **successful soil health initiatives**, hear about the challenges of accessing finance and identify how the financial sector can contribute to soil health and a just rural transition.

Soil-related greenhouse gas emissions account for an estimated **21% of total emissions** stemming from agriculture, land use and land use change. Addressing this is critical for meeting climate and sustainability goals – and finance for agricultural actors is a vital way to both reduce emissions and adapt to changing environments.

The workshop was organized with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Soil Investment Hub, the **Good Food Finance Network (GFFN)**, the University of Glasgow's Global Soil Health Programme, and the Investment Centre of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Financing good food

JRT continues to support the GFFN, which aims **to mobilize both public and private sector financial communities** to contribute to sustainable and equitable food systems. We participated in the network's Good Food Finance Week in April, marking the start of GFFN's implementation phase, which focused on catalyzing good food finance to address COVID-19, climate change, and conflict-related risks. New GFFN co-chairs were also announced, and we look forward to working with Wiebe Draijer, Rabobank Chairman, and Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in their new roles.

Scaling-up sustainability

Finally, through the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, JRT supported several sessions at Stockholm +50, culminating in the **Stockholm Action Agenda (SAA)**, a new initiative that identifies practical ways businesses can **overcome roadblocks and scale-up sustainability** across global value chains, including food and agriculture.

The SAA involves 70 global sustainability leaders from 34 businesses and organizations and directly aligns with the work of JRT. It identifies a set of three practical Action Priorities that will help businesses around the world **transform the sustainability and resilience of value chains** and has adopted key JRT insights; namely that linking small-scale growers of climate-smart crops to processing opportunities and markets can enhance rural resilience and promote food security.

The agenda will initiate engagement with the UN system, foundations, and the wider business community to explore how its recommendations can be taken forward.

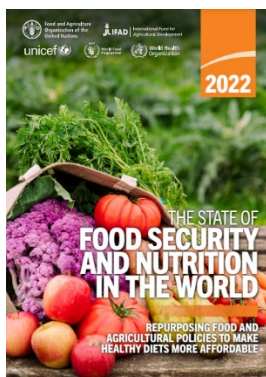
For further details on Investment Partnerships, contact Victoria Crawford, Investment Partnerships Senior Manager, at crawford@wbcsd.org

[Read more](#)

Knowledge Shared



The [2022 Global Food Policy Report](#), recently published by the International Food Policy Research Institute, identifies six priorities to accelerate food systems transformation, build resilience and strengthen adaptation.



The 2022 [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) report offers a sobering read on the scale of the current food insecurity crisis. It confirms that the number of people affected by hunger globally rose to 828 million in 2021 – an increase of approximately 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The [OECD-FAO Agricultural outlook 2022–2031](#) emphasizes the importance of public spending and private investments in production, information technology and infrastructure to help global commodity markets navigate the combined challenges of the climate crisis, unsustainable population growth and disruptions to food supplies resulting from the conflict in Ukraine.

Interested in being part of the just transition?

The JRT Vision Statement is open for endorsement by governments and other key stakeholders and we welcome your support.

[Read our Vision Statement here](#), and click the button below to submit an application.

[Click here to submit an application](#)

Connect with us



Website: <https://justruraltransition.org/>

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