

JRT Newsletter

October 2022



Just
Rural
Transition



Dear JRT,

We are now less than 20 days from the start of COP27 and the importance of what we need to achieve is clearer than ever. Last year, at COP26, we saw a raft of announcements on nature, the launch of the [Policy Action Agenda for Transition to Sustainable Food & Agriculture](#) and new finance commitments. These included leveraging over US\$4 billion of new public sector investment into agricultural innovation to develop climate resilient crops and regenerative solutions to improve soil health, as well as making techniques and resources affordable and accessible to hundreds of millions of farmers.

Since then, the global food crisis – already deepening as climate change accelerates – has been exacerbated further by the conflict in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. This underscores the urgent need to adopt and invest in longer-term measures and a transition towards sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems.

With its focus on implementation and attention to food systems, COP27 offers an opportunity for governments, businesses and civil society to demonstrate how they are making true on their promises and to showcase progress towards their goals. Reports such as the new research by the Rights and Resources Initiative shows that [only 17% of global climate and conservation funding](#) intended for Indigenous peoples and local communities actually reaches them. We urgently need to close this gap.

I hope to see meaningful inclusion of communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis, such as smallholder farmers; Indigenous peoples and local communities; and women and youth. Their voices are critical to identifying and investing in solutions that enhance their resilience in the face of rising challenges; tapping into existing solutions on the ground; and creating inclusive, regenerative food systems for all.

All the best,

Melissa Pinfield,

Executive Director,
Just Rural Transition

Events

6–18
November

COP27 Food Systems Pavilion

  Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

JRT is a proud partner in COP's first-ever **Food Systems Pavilion**. Over ten thematic days the pavilion will act as a focus for discussions on actions, strategies and solutions for **sustainable and equitable food systems**. We will be hosting sessions on key issues, from boosting nature-positive production to sustainable investment and financing. Find us in the **COP27 Blue Zone**, either online or in person for UNFCCC accreditation holders.

[Find out more](#)

26
October

Enhancing Agricultural Policies and Support: Practical Perspectives from Food Producers

 08:00 EDT | 13:00 BST | 14:00 CEST | 15:00 EAT

 Virtual Dialogue

Join the World Farmers' Organisation and JRT for a lively dialogue presenting views on agricultural policies from a wide range of farmer organisations. We will be discussing what is working with policy, what needs to change, and how farmers can be at the centre of the process.

[Register here](#)

Policy Action

Hearing from farmers in North Africa and the Sahel

Last month, JRT co-hosted a dialogue in Morocco bringing together farmers' organisations from North Africa and the Sahel region to understand how governments can better support them to achieve a full transition to fair, sustainable and resilient food systems. This is the third in a series of multistakeholder consultations we have convened this year, bringing together farmers, researchers, and private sector and government representatives for a frank exchange of ideas as well as yielding clear recommendations for policymakers that we will take to COP27.

A key insight drawn from the dialogue includes a clear call for policymakers to listen to farmers' organisations, including those representing women and youth, ensuring that they fully participate in all aspects of food systems development. The group also highlighted that public support for agriculture should be based on research and innovation that includes all stakeholders, building evidence-based, sustainable food systems that have positive impacts for people, nature and climate.



Participants at our Morocco dialogue enjoying a delicious local couscous dish.

Africa Green Revolution Forum 2022 Summit

JRT was thrilled to attend the 12th annual summit of [AGRF](#) in Kigali, Rwanda alongside food systems leaders, producers, and policymakers from 5–9 September. Across two sessions, JRT's Executive Director Melissa Pinfield explored food systems **strategies, investment plans and coordination mechanisms** that can accelerate action on the ground for people and business. Find out more about the week's outcomes in the official [Summit Declaration](#).

For more information on our policy action work, contact: pac@merid.org

Investment Partnerships

Insights from Indonesia

JRT's Investment Partnerships team continues to discuss a just rural transition with businesses and investors. At a recent value chain dialogue on **mobilizing capital for women-owned agri-SMEs in Indonesia**, which we held with our partners Grow Asia, WBCSD and CrossBoundary, we heard from Ika Juliana, CEO of **sustainable furniture manufacturer Greenie**. Ika explained how Greenie uses agroforestry waste to produce home furnishings and made a pitch to raise funding and expand her business. To give more agri-SMEs and investors the opportunity to connect, we recently held training sessions on a **digital finance tool** and supported a **networking week** for investors, capacity building organizations, and Indonesian women working as agricultural entrepreneurs. Read more about this work [here](#).

Finance for resilient rice landscapes

JRT is also working with the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative partners, including WBCSD and FAO, to develop a **blended finance facility for resilient rice landscapes**. This facility will support around 1 million people by delivering adaptation benefits over an estimated 2–4 million hectares. Over the past few weeks, JRT has been supporting the consultation process which will inform the design of this finance facility, including in-country consultations in Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh and a regional level private sector consultation on 3 October.

It pays to invest in a just rural transition!

Food systems are being increasingly recognized as prime targets for impact investment where companies can create long-term value by considering the needs of stakeholders – as well as wider society and nature. Our **latest blog** shows how farmers, agri-SMEs, policymakers, investors and more can work together to create new partnerships leading to innovative and sustainable food systems.

For more information on investment partnerships, contact JRT Investment Partnerships Senior Manager, Victoria Crawford: crawford@wbcSD.com

Knowledge shared



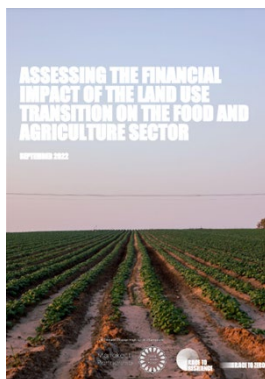
Policy recommendations to reverse declining food and nutrition security

This JRT policy brief outlines practical steps governments can take to centre improved nutrition in their policies and investments across the entire food system – from production and processing to marketing and consumption. Recommendations include bringing together stakeholders from across the food system and promoting diversity in crop production and consumption.



Funding with Purpose

This report by **Rights + Resources** argues that the effectiveness of donor funding for climate, conservation and rights can be improved by making it more appropriate for **Indigenous and local communities**. It finds that only a small proportion of such funds are currently under the management of Indigenous and community organizations.



Assessing the financial impacts of the land use transition on the food and agricultural sector

A new report from the **UN Climate Change High-Level Champions** warns that food and agriculture companies could **lose over a quarter of their value by 2030** due to unsustainable land use practices – a multibillion dollar loss equivalent in scale to the 2008 financial crash.



Mobilizing capital for women-owned agri-SMEs in Indonesia

This briefing note, co-authored by JRT, showcases the diversity and potential of Indonesia’s women-owned agri-SMEs and their role in the country’s recent economic growth. It also investigates how **subsidized technical assistance and investment facilitation** can overcome barriers to investing in Indonesia’s female agripreneurs.



[Exploring Potential Benefits of Repurposing Agricultural Subsidies in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

The latest brief from [Global Panel](#) explores how repurposing subsidies directed to food and agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa can have positive impacts on health and the environment. New modelling demonstrates the case for policymakers to adopt a nuanced approach that is informed by research and evidence to address trade-offs and avoid any pitfalls.

Community

Through our partnership with the [Good Food Finance Network](#) we invited the private sector and finance community to join us at an [event at Climate Week New York City](#) in September to discuss finance for sustainable and climate-resilient food systems. This subject will now be explored further at a [joint event at COP27](#).

Our community continues to expand! We would like to welcome the [Kayirabwa Chimpanzee Conservancy Association](#), a Ugandan NGO that works with local communities to protect endangered species outside of protected areas.

The [JRT team](#) is also growing – follow developments within our team [here!](#)

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/>

Email: contact@justruraltransition.org

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