

# JRT Newsletter

December 2022



Dear JRT,

As 2022 draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to reflect. A just rural transition was never going to be simple, and climate change, global conflicts and the nature crisis are putting food security and farmers livelihoods under ever-increasing threat.

But while we know that the road ahead will not be easy, we can also take stock of what has been achieved so far and look towards all that is to come. Just this month, we saw a significant win for sustainable food systems as the European Union announced its [new law](#) to ban the import of products linked to deforestation. The rules cover palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, and other imported goods, and will protect at least 71,920 hectares of forest annually, according to estimates, and reduce annual global carbon emissions by 31.9 million tonnes per year.

This year has also marked significant milestones and achievements for the JRT community — from global events to regional dialogues, as well as the increased application of just transition frameworks and concepts across the food and agriculture sector. Below you will find just a few of the highlights, and as you can see by this inspiring action, momentum is building for a transformation to sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems around the world. Here's to a 2023 when we see it truly in motion.

Wishing you happy holidays and all the best for the new year,

JRT Secretariat

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## Building momentum at COP27

It is vital that governments make the best use of public funding to drive forward a **transition to sustainable food systems**. That's why, at COP27, we held a joint event with the **Food System Economics Commission** and the **International Food Policy Research Institute**, [Repurposing Public Support to Food and Agriculture to Enable a Just Rural Transition](#). We heard from policymakers, researchers, business leaders and

farmers at the heart of food systems. Ishmael Sunga, CEO of the **Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions**, who represents farmers from across that region, pointed out that: “Farmers have not been part of the conversation around repurposing government support, yet this conversation is about them.”

It's for that very reason that we partnered with **World Farmers' Organisation** in 2021 and 2022 to convene a series of virtual and in-person **dialogues with farmers**, farmers' organizations, researchers, civil servants and other key stakeholders in agricultural policy. Our **policy brief** distilling their insights and recommendations was launched at COP27 and used to spark discussion at the **Regional Farmers Forum East and Southern Africa** last week, during the side event: **Engaging Farmers in Policymaking Processes**.

**“Make the decision with the farmer, not for the farmer.”**

***Daphne Muchai, Women Farmers Association of Kenya***

A key part of bringing equitable and inclusive food systems higher up the agenda at COP27 was ensuring that food producers were an integral part of the discussions. In partnership with the World Farmers' Organisation and with support from ClimateWorks Foundation, a delegation of smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women and others from frontline communities attended the conference and shared their unique insights and knowledge. For those unable to attend in-person, we produced a range of hybrid events, videos and blog posts to make sure their voices were heard.

**Hear farmers voices from the field**



## Amplifying the voices of critical stakeholders through farmer dialogues

A just rural transition cannot be achieved unless farmers are meaningfully included in policy processes. It is for this very reason – the importance of listening to the insights of farmers themselves – that we partnered with World Farmers’ Organisation, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and Morocco’s National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) this year to convene a series of five virtual and in-person dialogues with over 100 people representing 39 countries, including farmers, farmers’ organizations, researchers, civil servants and other key stakeholders in agricultural policy. The dialogues allowed us to amplify the voices of these critical stakeholders while demonstrating the importance of taking an inclusive approach to transition planning.

[Read our latest policy brief](#)

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## Targets set for financing a sustainable and just food system transition

Public and private financial institutions likewise play a vital role in raising the ambition in finance for sustainable and equitable food systems. At a joint event at COP27 with the Good Food Finance Network (GFFN), members of GFFN’s High Ambition Group – investors who together oversee more than \$113 billion in assets in the agri-sector – presented their **specific and time-bound targets** for sustainability and social justice, which include key issues such as zero deforestation, carbon removal and gender equality.

***"This new generation of high ambition targets can enable a cleaner, greener food and agriculture sector."***

***Eric Usher, Head of UNEP Finance Initiative.***

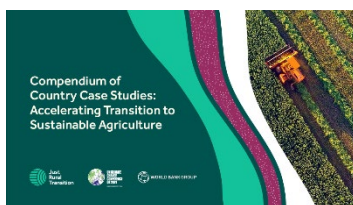


Highlighting the critical role played by private sector investment in more sustainable food systems, we also co-produced a new report with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP). To ensure that farmers are not left behind in the shift to regenerative food systems, a mix of funding sources and instruments will be required, and two new finance tools are already being developed based on the report's findings: a blended finance facility and an accelerator for nature-based rice solutions.

[Read the new report](#)

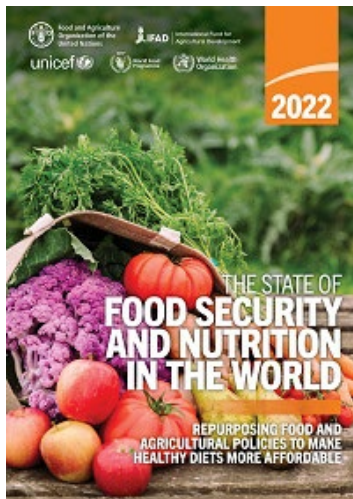
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## Knowledge shared by the JRT community in 2022



### [Compendium of Country Briefs: Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture](#)

This new compendium showcases the ways in which governments have enacted policies for sustainable agriculture. Compiled by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the World Bank, the compendium brings together evidence, knowledge and experiences from around the world with the aim of inspiring similar policy efforts in other countries.



## The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

Increases in world hunger levels reflects exacerbated inequalities across and within countries, resulting in the projection that nearly 670 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030. Recent setbacks indicate that policies are no longer delivering increasing marginal returns in reducing hunger and food insecurity. If we are to create more resilient and sustainable food systems, governments must start examining their current support to food and agriculture.



## Exploring Potential Benefits of Repurposing Agricultural Subsidies in sub-Saharan Africa

Modelling presented in this brief argues that reallocating agricultural support within the sector should become a key part of the ongoing dialogue on food system transformation and demonstrates a case for Africa's policymakers to consider repurposing existing subsidies, and even to increase the overall level of subsidies provided towards healthier foods.



## Food Affordability - The role of the food industry in providing affordable, nutritious foods to support healthy and sustainable diets

Food affordability is an important determinant of food choice and access, driving dietary patterns, nutrition status and overall health and environmental outcomes. This paper highlights the opportunities for the private sector to help build food system resilience and increase the affordability of the nutritious foods.



### [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031](#)

The 2022-2031 Agricultural Outlook report highlights the socio-economic trends driving the global agri-food sector over the next decade with key findings that underscore the crucial role of additional public spending and private investment in production, information technology, and infrastructure as well as human capital to raise agricultural productivity.



### [Global Food Policy Report 2022: Climate Change & Food Systems](#)

Climate change is a critical threat to our food systems and action is urgently needed, both to increase adaptation and resilience and to achieve major emissions reductions. This report showcases opportunities for accelerating innovation, reforming policies, resetting market incentives, and increasing financing for sustainable food systems transformation, as well as promoting healthy diets and building resilience.

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## Interested in being part of the just transition in 2023?

We were thrilled to have engaged with so many of members of the JRT community in 2022, whose commitment to turn momentum into ambitious action continues to inspire us and excite us for the opportunities to work together to advance our collective agenda next year. The JRT Vision Statement remains open for endorsement by governments, farmers organizations, civil society groups, and other key stakeholders, and we welcome your support! Read our [2030 Vision Statement here](#) and click the button below to submit an application.

[Join the JRT community in 2023](#)

# Connect with us



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