

JRT Newsletter

November 2023



Dear <<First Name>> ,

"We have an enormous opportunity to unlock the transformative benefits of food systems and safeguard food and nutrition security, build resilience to climate impacts, contribute to climate mitigation, protect and restore nature and biodiversity and create more inclusive, equitable and prosperous economies and societies."

With thanks to all those in the Just Rural Transition (JRT) community who provided feedback on the [Non-State Actor Call to Action](#): Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate, the draft is now being finalised by the Climate Champions for endorsement in the weeks leading up to COP28. Alongside the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, now on the desks of Government Leaders, COP28 will set out a clear agenda and priority actions for both state and non-state food systems actors through the coming decade to respond to accelerating risks and challenges — and centre the efforts of frontline food systems actors.

As a multi-stakeholder platform, JRT creates space for dialogue to promote shared understanding of the key challenges and what it would take to build more equitable and inclusive food systems. Recent discussions at [Africa's Food Systems Summit](#) (AGRF) and the [UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment](#) (UNFSS+2) focused on the importance of engaging farmers and other frontline food systems actors in policy processes. This week's [Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2023](#) indicates that public support for agriculture reached record levels in response to global crises last year, but that more work is required by governments to fill adaptation and monitoring gaps to best serve those working on the frontlines of climate change.

If you're also attending COP28, the JRT Secretariat (Melissa, Sareh, Holly and Alejo) would love to meet you in person and hear about your activities, events, and announcements. Please reach out to us or join the discussion during our [upcoming Community Dialogue](#). You can also stay tuned on the [JRT Website](#) to learn where you can find the JRT Secretariat next month.

Thank you for your support,

You're invited to a JRT Community Dialogue!

Join us for our next Community Dialogue on 16 November at 13:00 – 14:00 GMT

During this virtual session, we'll be looking ahead to COP28 and sharing our plans, as well as hearing from the wider JRT Community. We'll look at how farmer voices have been amplified through high-level events throughout 2023 and discuss how we can come together between organisations to centre the voices of frontline communities at COP28 and into the new year as we work towards a just rural transition for all.

A more detailed agenda will be available soon, but you can register now to receive your invitation.



[Register Here!](#)

Take action together at COP28

Non-State Actors Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate

The [Climate Champions Team](#) are leading the development of a Call to Action in collaboration with Non-State Actors to mobilise collective efforts around a shared vision for food systems that deliver significant, measurable progress for people, nature, and climate by 2030.

A draft Call to Action has been developed over recent months based on input and feedback from groups representing farmers, indigenous peoples, cities, consumers, civil society, youth, financial institutions, businesses, philanthropy, and others. It includes priority actions that need to be taken for food systems transformation, the vital role of frontline food system actors, and the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership approaches.

the package of announcements on food systems transformation at COP28.

Learn more about the Call to Action and get involved

Africa Food Systems Summit

JRT joined the conversation on building more inclusive food systems at [Africa's Food System Summit](#) (AGRF). Throughout the summit, we were glad to see farmers, women, and youth featured on panels and recognised for their diverse knowledge and experience, which are instrumental for inclusive policy processes and truly just food systems transformation.

At a side event co-hosted with the Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), IKEA Foundation, and World Resources Institute Africa, we spoke about a [principle-based approach](#) towards thinking about the future of jobs in food systems and saw the launch of FSEC's latest [Policy Brief on Africa](#). The brief underscores how food systems transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa towards health and environmental benefits must be balanced with livelihoods and labour issues, including those affecting small-scale producers.

We also joined the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the World Bank to co-host a side event on inclusive policy action for transformation in agriculture. The session brought together a multi-stakeholder panel to discuss how policy frameworks set by governments can provide enabling environments for food and agriculture transition pathways to create resilient rural communities, food security, and healthy economies and landscapes.

The discussion was built on the foundations of a Policy Dialogue convened by the UK FCDO and the World Bank, and facilitated by JRT on the sidelines of AGRF, which saw participants from ministries of agriculture exchanging their experience of designing and implementing policy approaches to sustainable agriculture that achieve triple wins for people, nature, and climate.

[Read more about JRT at AGRF](#)



UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment

We were excited to see governments, farmers, and civil society from over 160 countries congregate in Rome for the [UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment](#) (UNFSS+2), a number of whom were participating in the summit for the first time.

JRT hosted a side-event on [ensuring genuine farmer involvement and inclusion in food systems national pathways](#) alongside WWF International, the UK FCDO, the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), and the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). We highlighted multi-stakeholder experiences in participating in national pathways, featuring positive examples from countries while highlighting challenges to genuine farmer influence over design and implementation of national pathways.

The [main session on stocktaking](#) showcased government action on policies and practices along the food chain; the way that food systems are now featuring in national development plans and strategies; and new processes on government coordination, inclusive participation, and financing of food systems transformation. However, through meetings with farmers, we heard a clear call for them to be better consulted by governments on public spending on agriculture. There were also concerns about the 'implementation gap' and translating commitments in action.

Progress cannot be taken for granted during such a challenging moment for our planet, but we will need a truly ambitious vision for future food systems if we are to achieve a just

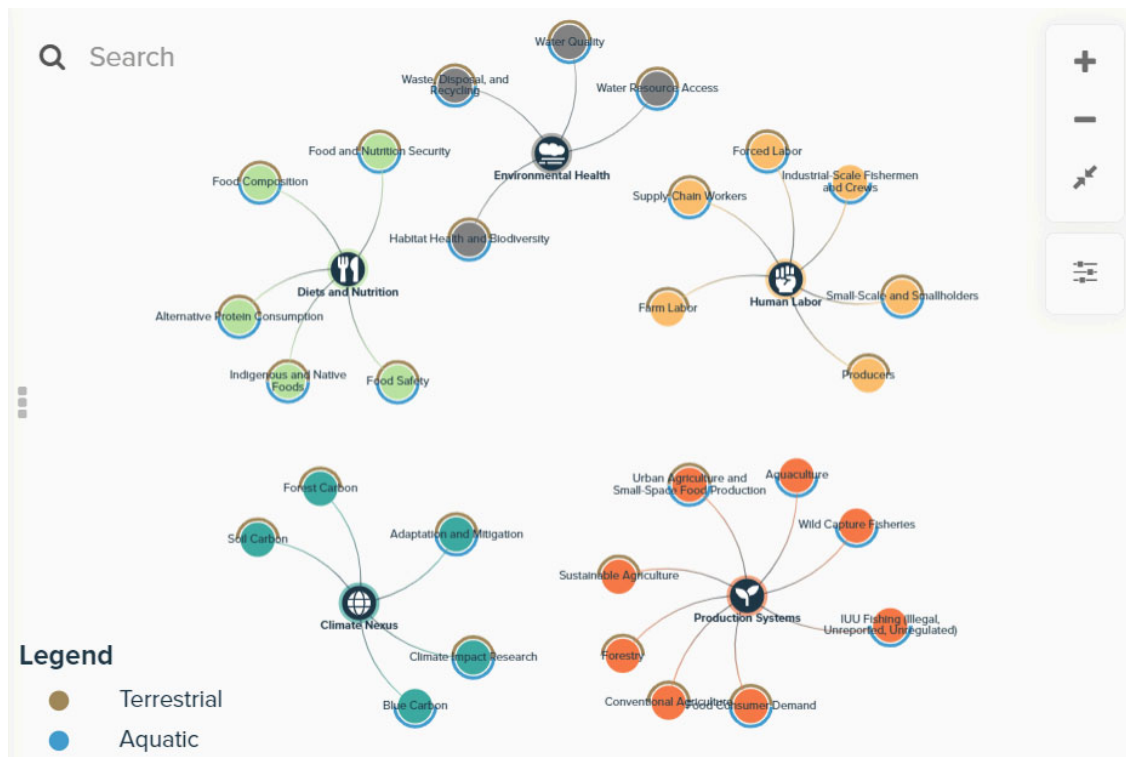
Read our take on the outcomes of UNFSS+2

Global Food Systems Network Map

We are excited to see the launch of Meridian Institute's new [Global Food Systems Network Map](#) – an online tool designed to visually represent the relationships amongst stakeholders involved in food systems-related efforts worldwide.

Built through a network of food systems partners, the map aims to alleviate the challenges of navigating the dynamic and varied actors working in the food systems space by illustrating the landscape of multi-stakeholder initiatives, including the issues that these initiatives are working on and how they are driving change.

Learn more and explore the map



Knowledge Sharing

climate change adaptation, identifying measures adopted by governments while underlining that more action is required to advance the implementation, monitoring, and assessment of adaptation measures.

- [**2023 Food and Agriculture Benchmark**](#) analyses 350 of the world's most influential food and agriculture companies to ensure they are held accountable for managing their climate impact, improving the healthiness of their food products, and providing decent working conditions.
- [**Just and robust transitions to net zero: a framework to guide national policy**](#) presents a framework to guide national policymakers to prepare a coherent programme for such a transition, with a principal focus on Europe.
- [**Putting jobs at the heart of food system transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa**](#) estimates through FSEC's innovative modelling that in Sub-Saharan Africa, a feasible food systems transformation scenario could lead to a significant reduction of the food system's hidden costs with respect to current trends, amounting to 334 billion USD per year by 2050.
- [**Pursuing food systems transformation despite financial constraints**](#) is the latest policy brief from the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition setting out a diverse range of actions for transformation that are relatively low-cost, or even cost neutral.
- [**Financing the good food transformation**](#) examines the true costs of current food production, diets, and waste. The Good Food Finance Network's research, developed by Food Systems for the Future, demonstrates the urgent need to transform unsustainable food systems, which are projected to incur substantial damages.
- [**The political economy of food system transformation: Pathways to progress in a polarized world**](#) takes an in-depth look at the dynamics impacting food systems transformation, from contested policy pathways to enabling conditions for implementation.

Join the JRT Community

(COVID) as our most recent member of the JRT Community! COVID is working to amplify the voices of marginalised communities, strengthen local capacities, and effect change through policy influence at local, national, and continental levels.

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. Please [submit an application here](#) or contact the JRT Secretariat at jrt@merid.org

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.

Join the JRT Community

If you have any questions about joining the JRT Community, please contact the JRT Secretariat at jrt@merid.org.

Connect with us



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

Email: contact@justruraltransition.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).