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JUST RURAL TRANSITION

Newsletter | November 2020

This newsletter provides key updates and upcoming engagement opportunities for the JRT community. We will be holding a virtual JRT Community Exchange next month, focussed on how we can advance the JRT agenda through key international events and processes in 2021, including COP26. We are seeing growing momentum around policy reform and repurposing public agricultural support as well as sustainable investments. We are also delighted to be kicking off a new workstream on land tenure, social equity, and inclusion.

Making Progress To and Through COP26



opportunity for the JRT Community to raise awareness and galvanise action around people-centred approaches to food systems transformation.

COP26 is an opportunity to build momentum around the land use revolution, matching the scale and ambition of the clean technology revolution. This agenda is universal. It applies to both developed and developing countries and creates a positive opportunity for partnership across these lines.

-- Lord Callanan, UK Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility

This element of the COP26 Campaign will encourage countries, international organisations, companies, NGOs, farmers' organisations and others to share experience, raise ambition, and accelerate efforts around three themes:

- increasing government engagement in policy reform;
- mobilising new public and private funding for sustainable agriculture;
- increasing effort and investment in research and development.

The JRT Secretariat has invited representatives from the UK Government to provide an overview of this element of the COP26 Campaign at our next webinar, **JRT Community Exchange: Gearing up for the 2021 Super Year**, on Wednesday 2 December at 8:00EST/13:00GMT/16:00 EAT. **Register [here](#) today.**

Repurposing Public Agriculture Support for Healthy People, Planet and Economy

Agricultural policy is a critical lever for strengthening farmer livelihoods, supporting human and planetary health, and driving economic transformation. But to realize this 'triple win,' public support to agriculture—direct subsidies as well as pricing and other fiscal measures—must be substantially repurposed to deliver public goods like GHG mitigation, environmental sustainability and improved nutrition.

On 15 October, the JRT joined forces with the World Bank and the World Farmers' Organisation to share these key messages at a [Committee on World Food Security](#) Partners Event in the margins of the CFS high-level special event on Strengthening Global Governance of Food Security & Nutrition. The discussion included farmer representatives at the global, regional and country level, as well as senior representatives from Ethiopia, Togo, and the United Kingdom.

the meal.

--Theo de Jagar, President, World Farmers' Organisation

The JRT's Ann Tutwiler observed that the lively panel discussion was an example of how food producers and policymakers are engaging constructively on this topic, valuing the role of food producers in driving the transformations that will improve the health and wellbeing of both people and planet.



Scaling Investments for a Just Rural Transition

Finance for sustainable agriculture is not reaching rural communities at the scale required. Through its work on scaling investments, the Just Rural Transition seeks to address this critical challenge.

Finance is an important driver of resilient and sustainable supply chains and landscapes. The need for capital is vast: the investment opportunity in transforming our food and land use systems is estimated at \$300-\$350 billion a year until 2030. Currently, only a tiny proportion of the value of investments in foods systems reaches farmers, fishers and rural

As our work on scaling investments is getting up and running, we have focused on bilateral consultations and engagement events in order to better understand the perspectives of the key stakeholders in this space and to raise awareness of the business case for investing in the Just Rural Transition amongst different groups.

Specifically, our soft launch comprised of a series of events during the first week of November. Through our presence at the [Innovation Forum's Sustainable Landscapes and Commodities Forum](#) and the [FT's Global Food Systems](#)

communities at the heart of our food systems in order to be resilient and sustainable.

In collaboration with the investor community, we are working to ensure private sector investments support transition to sustainable, resilient agri-food systems by identifying and communicating the business case for people-centered food systems, developing useful knowledge products and tools to support investor decision making, and catalyzing investor partnerships that scale agriculture production while improving farmer livelihoods.

simultaneously reach the sustainable agriculture and finance communities. A highlight of this collaboration was a high-level roundtable bringing together finance leaders with UK Environment Minister, and Champion of the Just Rural Transition, the Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith. This discussion will shape priorities for our work going forward.

We are eager to connect with investors and other key stakeholders interested to join us in scaling investment for a Just Rural Transition. For further details, please contact Victoria Crawford, the Investment Partnership Network Manager, at crawford@wbcso.org.

Land Tenure, Social Equity and Inclusion

The Just Rural Transition focuses on solutions that put people—particularly the most vulnerable—at the center of international efforts to deliver climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals. Integral to these solutions is secure land tenure and community land rights.

A growing body of research shows that when indigenous and local communities have secure tenure over their land, they are able to act as its most effective stewards—managing it sustainably, preventing deforestation, and protecting vulnerable ecosystems. Strong land rights allow communities to proactively invest for the long-term, confidently knowing that they can plan for prosperous futures. Simultaneously, secure land tenure enables the private sector to scale up the investments needed for sustainable agriculture production, knowing that solutions will be effectively implemented on the ground.

When governments and private sector leaders integrate land tenure, social equity, and inclusive engagement into their policy and investment decisions, they can provide a path towards an equitable transformation of food and land systems, which can ultimately support global climate and development goals. As an international, multi-stakeholder initiative, the JRT is well-positioned to help integrate land tenure considerations within spaces focused on related climate, biodiversity, and economic development policy.

Following a webinar on this topic in June, the JRT Secretariat consulted with a number of organisations working in this space to explore options for collaboration. With global

opportunities to advance land tenure, community land rights, social equity and inclusion as part of policy reform and investment partnerships.

If you are interested in being part of a small working group of experts to develop clear and compelling knowledge products targeted at specific stakeholder audiences, please contact jrt@merid.org.

New Endorser Highlights



Over 50 entities have endorsed the JRT 2030 Vision statement, joining a growing community of purpose of governments, food and agriculture value chains, knowledge and implementation partners, stakeholder associations, and financial entities. Governments and other relevant entities who wish to get involved are encouraged to contact the JRT Secretariat and submit an application [here](#).

Over the last few months, we've been delighted to receive applications from a number of organisations. This includes [CIFOR-ICRAF](#), a global research organisation providing inclusive, science-based solutions to scale up investments in sustainable development and respond to the complex challenges resulting from climate change, land degradation, food insecurity, and the need for good jobs.

Their statement of support notes:

We are responding actively and strongly to the global recognition that forests and trees help combat climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. We know that forests and trees help to assure food, nutrition and energy security. Conserving forests, planting, growing and managing trees, maintaining the health of the soils and the land generate benefits that can flow equitably to rural livelihoods. Helping to create decent jobs for men, women and young people are critical elements of our strategy. As we continue to generate evidence and use our experience to unlock the potential of trees and forests, we will be delighted to partner with Just Rural Transition to help deliver what we recognize and endorse as our common vision and

roots. Now, together, we can harness their contribution to a Just Rural Transition.

Twitter

Follow the Just Rural Transition on Twitter [@JRTransition](https://twitter.com/JRTransition).

Contributions to the Newsletter

Please contact the JRT Secretariat at jrt@merid.org if you have feedback or ideas for content that can feature in the next JRT newsletter. This could include upcoming webinars and events, new initiatives and work, relevant blogposts and research or other important information of interest to the growing JRT community.

Community News



- On 20 November, **London Climate Action Week** will host an interactive webinar on the importance of vertical collaboration in sustainable food systems. Register [here](#).
- **The Equator Initiative**, led by the UN Development Programme, announces the [ten winners of the 2020 Equator Prize](#), recognizing community and indigenous-led nature based solutions.
- **The UN chooses 5 experts** to lead the Food Systems Summit priority areas.
- **WWF announces the launch of its new platform, [Planet-Based Diets](#)**. Recognizing that diets are highly context-specific, Planet-Based Diets is a flexible

- **#Imaginefor1Minute Film is now [live](#).** Featuring voice-notes sent in by high-profile narrators during lockdown including Christiana Figueres, Greta Thunberg, Imam Mohammed Mahmoud, and Pope Francis among others, the film asks viewers to take a minute to visualise the better future we could have, and then talk about it. Produced by the award-winning Gripping Films team, the film was made possible thanks to the support of Food and Land Use Coalition, Nature4Climate (N4C), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and many more.
 - **ClimateWorks Australia** completed a [series](#) of papers exploring FOLU's ten critical transitions.
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