



THE FUTURE OF FOOD IN A CLIMATE CHANGING WORLD

2ND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE SUMMARY REPORT

1-3 MAY 2017
[#GAID2017](#)

GLOBAL
ALLIANCE
FOR THE
FUTURE
OF FOOD

In early May 2017, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food hosted its 2nd International Dialogue: The Future of Food in a Climate Changing World, bringing together over 250 experts and leaders from the local to the global to gain deeper insights into the connections between climate change and food systems, to craft visions of the food systems we need today and tomorrow, and to chart potential pathways to get there.

This report is an overview of the dialogue, the opportunities explored, and the potential actions we can take collectively to transition to a more sustainable, secure, and equitable future of food.

This report was written by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food based on inputs from speakers, panelists, and participants at the International Dialogue. The Global Alliance has chosen to make it available to the broader community to contribute to thinking and discussion about sustainable food and agriculture systems reform. Any views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views, in whole or in part, of participants, nor of the Global Alliance and its members.

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The Global Alliance for the Future of Food cultivates healthy, equitable, renewable, resilient, and culturally diverse food and agriculture systems shaped by people, communities, and their institutions.

We are a unique collaboration of philanthropic foundations that have come together to strategically leverage resources and knowledge, develop frameworks and pathways for change, and push the agenda for more sustainable food and agriculture systems globally. Representing countries across the globe – with diverse interests and expertise spanning health, agriculture, food, conservation, cultural diversity, and community well-being – the Global Alliance shares a belief in the urgency of advancing sustainable global agriculture and food systems, and in the power of working together and with others to effect positive change.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Global Alliance for the Future of Food hosted its 2nd International Dialogue: The Future of Food in a Climate Changing World for a simple reason, to further strengthen our collective resolve to tackle one of the most defining issues of our time – ensuring the sustainability, security, and equity of our food systems.

Critical to ensuring this future of food is the need to address the stark and urgent realities of climate change. Food systems and climate change are inextricably linked. The way we grow, process, distribute, eat, and dispose of food contributes to climate change, and climate change affects the future sustainability, security, and equity of the food system.

Fortunately, food systems are not just a source of the problem but can be a brilliant pathway to the solutions. As Nadia El-Hage Scialabba from the FAO rightly noted in our short [#GAID2017 video](#), “The Food system is the only sector which contributes a lot to climate change...[and] the only one that can really bring solutions if done properly.” But what are those solutions? And what can we do to shape positive and lasting change?

One thing is clear: single-focused interventions in complex systems are insufficient and are bound to have unintended consequences. Shifting the food system towards a more sustainable future requires a better understanding of the interdependencies of the system and a deeper recognition that the food system is not the exclusive domain of any given sector or public agency. Effective solutions can only come from the confluence of perspectives and an honest effort from everyone to understand the different perspectives and seek a collective path forward.

This is why we established the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. In the philanthropic world, we don't have many incentives to collaborate and our idiosyncrasies make it hard to combine efforts. We have come together because we agree that the future of food – the future of our planet – hinges on breaking from the status quo, and that only together can we move towards food systems that are renewable, resilient, diverse, equitable, healthy, and interconnected.

For us, “together” is a big tent. Our 2nd International Dialogue marked an opportunity for us to bring diverse stakeholders to the table in order to build understanding, work through tensions, and co-create innovative solutions; and it confirmed for us the role we can play in the urgent need to transition to more sustainable food systems, and the imperative that we work together as a global community to make change happen.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Castilleja'.

GUILLERMO CASTILLEJA

Chair, Global Alliance for the Future of Food

Effective solutions can only come from the confluence of perspectives and an honest effort from everyone to understand the different perspectives and seek a collective path forward.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inaction is not an option. If we as a global community are going to meet our Paris commitments and realize a climate- and food-positive future, we must navigate potential obstacles and opportunities and weigh associated environmental, economic, social and cultural implications, together – immediately.

As one of our keynote speakers at the Global Alliance’s 2nd International Dialogue, Sonja Vermeulen, stressed, no matter what we do, systems will transform in this century and the direction in which this transformation will go depends largely on what we do now.

This is why the Global Alliance hosted the 2nd International Dialogue: to bring together diverse stakeholders to wrestle collectively with the direction of food systems transformation. What surfaced throughout the Dialogue was that we must pursue a holistic systems approach that recognizes the food system’s interrelationships, build trust and create safe spaces for dialogue amongst system actors acknowledging issues of power and voice, and identify solutions informed by knowledge, experience, and diverse evidence from the scientific community, grassroots movements, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and others.

More than 250 participants surfaced many ideas at #GAID2017, such as: adopting systems approaches that assess priorities, risks, and trade-offs; prioritizing food systems as part of the climate agenda at all levels, from the local to the global; and, better understanding and supporting models and good practices of transitions to more sustainable, secure, and equitable food systems.

There are a myriad of other opportunities documented in this summary report as well as in our short [#GAID2017 video](#) and [BCFN Alumni Q&A’s](#) with experts and leaders. We hope you’ll review the dozens of thoughtful, articulate, and informed suggestions.

Since the Dialogue we’ve been thinking deeply about the role of philanthropy in all of this, and, more specifically, what our alliance of foundations can do to better support positive and lasting food systems transformation. Some of the opportunities we will actively pursue are: strengthening and promoting dynamic and adaptable frameworks that serve as effective tools to help shift systems; convening system actors for “deep dives” into specific priorities; and, amplifying our global voice for what we believe should define the future of food – renewability, resilience, equity, diversity, health, and interconnectedness.

We at the Global Alliance are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and passion that each participant brought to the gathering. We look forward to building on the relationships we made, answering the challenges that were provoked, and helping to advance the solutions that were tabled.

With appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Richardson".

RUTH RICHARDSON
Executive Director

We’ve been thinking deeply about the role of philanthropy in all of this ... we look forward to building on the relationships we made, answering the challenges that were provoked, and helping to advance the solutions that were tabled.

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Climate change is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed immediately by taking an approach that assesses priorities, risks, and trade-offs.**
- 2. Food systems and climate change are inextricably linked. The way we grow, process, distribute, eat, and dispose of food contributes to climate change; and climate change affects the future sustainability, security, and equity of the food system.**
- 3. Food systems offer solutions to climate change and must be prioritized as part of the climate agenda at all levels, from the local to the global, and should be integrated as a central strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- 4. Transitioning to more sustainable food systems will require a holistic systems approach that recognizes the food system's interrelationship with other critical systems. There are many models for what sustainable food systems look like and how transitions can be facilitated, and these can be better understood, documented, shared, and supported.**
- 5. Diverse stakeholders must work together across contexts and scales to build understanding, work through tensions, and co-create innovative solutions for sustainable food systems, acknowledging issues of power in order to build trust and create safe spaces for dialogue.**
- 6. Policy, research, and good practice must be informed by knowledge, experience, and diverse evidence from the scientific community, grassroots movements, farmers, and Indigenous Peoples.**
- 7. Philanthropy and other actors can coalesce and take action around shared principles for what we want food systems to provide: renewability, resilience, equity, diversity, health, and interconnectedness.**
- 8. Inaction is not an option.**



RENEWABILITY

Address the integrity of natural and social resources that are the foundation of a healthy planet and future generations in the face of changing global and local demands



DIVERSITY

Value our rich and diverse agricultural, ecological, and cultural heritage



HEALTHFULNESS

Advance the health and well-being of people, animals, and the environment, and the societies that depend on all three

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOOD SYSTEMS PRINCIPLES

RESILIENCE

Support regenerative, durable, and economically adaptive systems in the face of a changing planet

EQUITY

Promote sustainable livelihoods and access to nutritious and just food systems

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Understand the implications of the interdependence of food, people, and the planet in a transition to more sustainable food and agricultural systems



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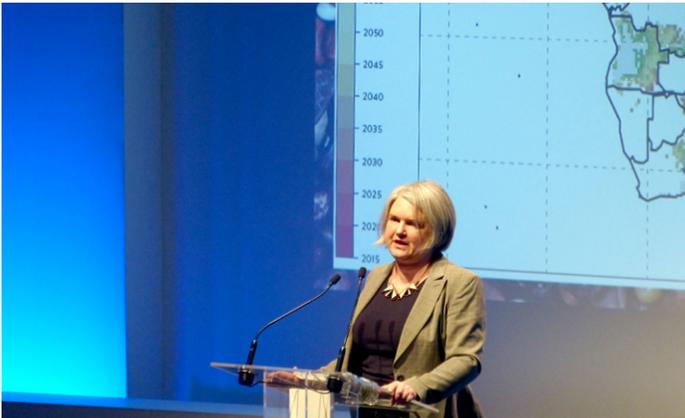
31 **PARTICIPANTS**



MAKING THE CASE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Food systems and climate change are linked in two profound ways: food systems affect the climate, and climate affects our ability to support healthy food systems. But as the opening plenaries under-scored, food systems also provide pathways to solutions to our climate crisis. The Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals serve as an urgent call for actors across sectors to address climate change and other pressing global concerns – and an opportunity for us to harness the power of sustainable food systems to do so.





Our three opening keynote speakers established indisputable connections between climate change and food systems, setting the stage to help us understand the opportunities and constraints we need to consider as we wade into solutions.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Acknowledge significant impacts food system value chains have on climate change through greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and aquaculture
- Demonstrate links between climate change and its effect on food systems, market volatility, and shifting trade routes
- Fully understand climate change impacts on food security, trade, livelihoods, and health
- Further research effects of climate change on agriculture in terms of yields, crops per season, amount of available arable land, year-to-year volatility, disease spread, and increase of extreme climate shocks
- Recognize that regions already vulnerable because of struggling economies and food insecurity will be most impacted
- Act with speed and at scale towards negative emissions models, while also understanding implications of solutions at the systems level
- Address environmental, socio-economic, political, and ethical consequences, risks, and trade-offs of geo-engineering and other proposed large-scale human interventions
- Surface and address ethical and social questions around the role of technology, intensification (an increase in agricultural production per unit of inputs), and who is at the decision-making table

MODERATOR

**Ruth Richardson, Executive Director,
Global Alliance for the Future of Food**

**Sonja Vermeulen, Climate Change,
Food and Agriculture Specialist**

**Janos Pasztor, Executive Director,
Carnegie Climate Geoengineering
Governance Initiative**

**Rajasvini Bhansali, Executive Director,
Thousand Currents**

- Acknowledge crucial role diverse voices, small-scale farmers, and Indigenous knowledge must play in research, charting solutions, and informing policy and other decision-making processes, especially those “at the sharp end of climate change impacts and solutions”
- Integrate food systems thinking as a cross-cutting theme relating to climate change agenda and SDGs
- Make transparent what is already known about the positive benefits of increased agricultural biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and sustainable animal agriculture and livestock production
- Raise awareness and draw linkages between changes in diets and lifestyles and the impact these have on food systems and climate change
- Explore economic models and farming balance sheets that calculate the externalities of food systems as levers for change



Kari Hamerschlag

@KariHamerschlag

“Climate change is no longer an issue of the future, it is an issue of the present” @jpezstor @CarnegieCouncil #GAID2017



Rajasvini Bhansali

@rajasvini

@futureoffoodorg: Status quo is not likely to get us to a more sustainable food system. We need to be led by principles #GAID2017



Tori Okner

@toriokner

SDGs are the framework we can all use to talk about trade offs @MPB_WBCSD #CITYFOOD @ICLEI @ruaf #GAID2017

CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SYSTEMS: ASSESSING IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



A food systems approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation can drive positive changes and inform decision-making, helping us avoid unintended effects from narrowly targeted interventions.

Meridian Institute presented *Climate Change & Food Systems: Assessing Impacts and Opportunities*. One of the central contributions made by the report's authors is identifying eight key climate change and food systems principles to support stakeholders as they make choices about adaptation and mitigation interventions through a food systems lens: interconnectedness, equity, resilience, renewability, responsiveness, transparency, scale, and evaluation.

Through a plenary session and a smaller evening side event, participants were given an opportunity to share feedback to the project team. Meridian is continuing to refine the paper for release in Fall 2017.

EMERGING KEY MESSAGES:

- The Paris Agreement and SDGs present significant opportunities to integrate principles of sustainable food systems; a food systems perspective will support transformations required to achieve the SDGs
- Food and agriculture systems are heavily affected by climate change in complex ways and the impacts of climate change on food systems are geographically unevenly distributed
- Food and agriculture have significant, adverse effects on climate change; estimates of agriculture and food system activity emissions are up to nearly 33% of all global greenhouse gas emissions
- Immediate, incremental action is possible and needed as a stepping stone to broader food systems transformation, e.g., a range of near-term mitigation and adaptation opportunities in agriculture, post-production, consumption, and food loss and waste have been well documented
- Equity issues should be central to decisions aimed at achieving sustainable food systems transformations
- A broad range of stakeholders should be engaged in transformations to create sustainable food systems, and actions should consider local, traditional, and practitioner knowledge

PLENARY SESSION

MODERATOR

Todd Barker, Senior Partner,
Meridian Institute

Richie Ahuja, Regional Director, Asia,
Environmental Defense Fund

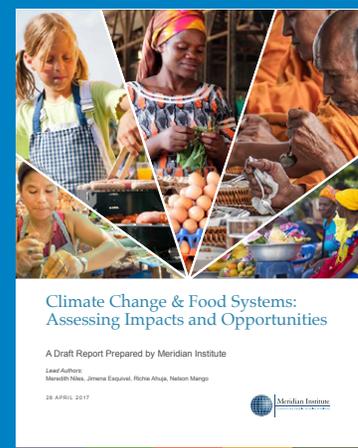
Meredith Niles, Assistant Professor,
University of Vermont

Pavan Sukhdev, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador

Charlotte Streck, Co-Founder and Director,
Climate Focus

Keith Tuffley, Managing Partner and CEO,
The B Team

Olivia Yambi, Co-Chair, IPES-Food



Meridian Institute welcomes input and feedback on the draft report, *Climate Change & Food Systems: Assessing Impacts and Opportunities*. [Click here to contact Meridian.](#)

- More research is needed on systems-level understanding and to fill other major knowledge gaps, particularly in low-income and middle-income economies
- Governance and institutional innovations are required for systems transformation

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Include global economic systems, profit, and shared prosperity, as well as energy and water, as food systems drivers
- Develop a clear vision of sustainable food systems and pathways that can speak to stakeholders, including local communities, Indigenous Peoples, farmers, and the private sector
- Apply systems thinking as a way to bring diverse stakeholders and actors from across sectors to the table, including civil society, business, and private sector stakeholders
- Assess local, traditional, and practitioner’s knowledge of food systems and climate change to identify mechanisms and experiences that support food systems transformation; bridge academic and local, Indigenous, practitioner knowledge systems
- Utilize systems dynamics models to integrate food systems and climate change policy interventions and ensure that they contribute to the SDGs
- Address nutrition, dietary changes, and micronutrient deficiencies through climate change and food systems solutions
- Address gaps in engaging financial sector in strategies and investments that support food systems transformation
- Conduct targeted briefings with country delegations to explore how they could use a food systems framework to develop better climate, food security, and health programs and policies

Governance and institutional innovations are required for systems transformation.



SIDE EVENT

MEETING OF ART AND SCIENCE

Sponsored by Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso

At a time when turmoil is too fast and systems too complex for science alone to trigger a systems shift in due time, this session, led by Jean-Marc Chomaz together with the artist Aniara Rodado, invited participants to think about how practices and perspectives can be enriched by marrying art and science, creating new, intimate dimensions and critical perspectives. The evening session challenged the role and vision of “experts” by opening room for intimate conviction, intuition, and the questioning of scientific beliefs, renewing the role of science in the wake of the Anthropocene.

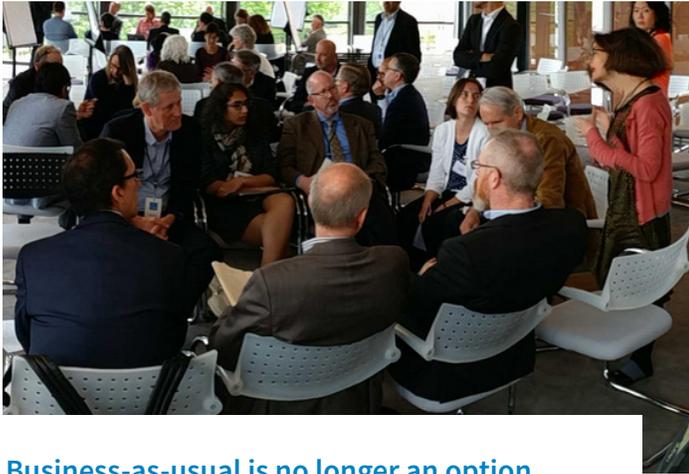


CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SYSTEMS: DEEP DIVES

During the context-setting plenary sessions on Day 1, participants were invited to submit questions, topics, and themes they had an interest in exploring further in “deep-dive” sessions. Three break-out groups formed around themes that emerged through plenary and online discussions, with participants designing the questions through an interactive and engaged process.



ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODELS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS



Business-as-usual is no longer an option. Leading progressive companies are realizing this and are increasingly looking for ways to rethink short- and long-term risks, as well as include external costs and impacts on their balance sheets, yet profits and investor interests still drive much of the decision-making.

This session explored how to account for externalities, potential strategies to enhance corporate accountability, how to leverage more private investment, and how to engage “big business” in helping to propel solutions.



Katarzyna Dembska

@kd_dietista

Peter Bakker: to change the #foodsystem, we need to collaborate, thus, we need #trust #GAID2017 @MPB_WBCSD @futureoffoodorg @BarillaCFN

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

COMMUNICATE THE TRUE COST OF UNSUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

- Inform consumers of the costs on the environment, livelihoods, communities, and health
- Make risks associated with business-as-usual approaches transparent vis-à-vis research related to forecasting, actuarial science, and changing consumer demands
- Demonstrate proof of concept for sustainable models

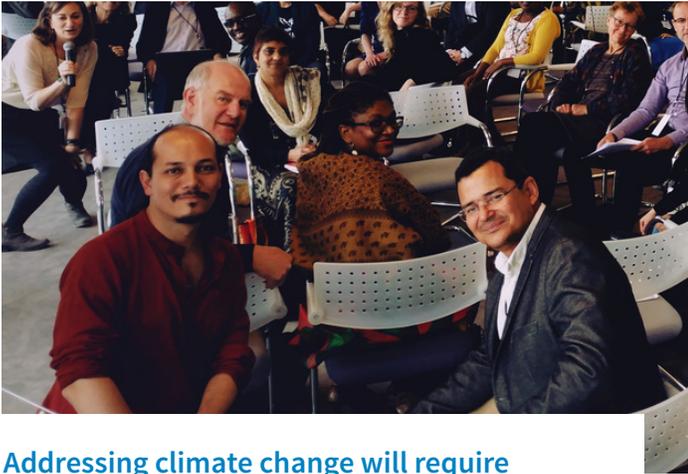
ADDRESS STRUCTURAL AND POLICY BARRIERS

- Identify government regulations and other (tax) incentives that are antithetical to sustainability
- Show how transitions and innovations have worked so that there are models to work from
- Embed sustainability principles, progressive business models, and leadership into business management training and post-secondary curriculum
- Reconstruct the relationship between business and farmers
- Attract and support new farmers
- Provide seed funding and invest in social sector and innovative social sector funding

EMPOWER GRASSROOTS ACTORS AND CITIZENS TO UNDERSTAND AND TAKE ACTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND FARMING

- Promote community-based and community-controlled food systems, including markets, businesses, policies, etc.
- Conduct research to make visible and transparent the corporate system and how it works
- Support farmers' organizations and social movements that promote food sovereignty
- Develop strategies for supporting independent media and journalism

LINKING LOCAL AND GLOBAL EFFORTS



Addressing climate change will require elevating local knowledge and good practice to inform how we can transition to more sustainable, secure, and equitable food systems – we also need to build connections between local efforts and global systems and processes.

This session explored how to close the gap between policy debates and farmer initiatives, make connections between grassroots, policy, philanthropy, and research, and advance strategies to move from local knowledge to political will and action.



“We need to build the voice of the peasants” asserts Elizabeth Mpofu of @via_campesina to #GAID2017 @futureoffoodorg

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

VALUE LOCAL AND FARMER KNOWLEDGE

- Build capacity of scientific community to engage communities and farmers
- Include farmers in developing research questions and give them tools to translate traditional/local knowledge
- Train researchers to better understand local contexts to bolster practical application and relevance

ENGAGE YOUTH, WOMEN, AND OTHER DIVERSE VOICES

- Improve education at all levels; incorporate food systems information into core curriculum
- Share messages with youth audiences by meeting them where they are (i.e. public events/festivals)
- Empower local people to connect with global knowledge and build functional and leadership literacy

BUILD A MOVEMENT

- Foster trust and dialogue; be open to different models of organizing/organizations
- Support and establish guidelines for local leadership and grassroots engagement in global platforms and avoid exclusively top-down approaches
- Engage key influencers to “glamorize” the issues
- Identify mechanisms that can be put in place to facilitate the local system to influence the global industrial system (i.e., through government policy)

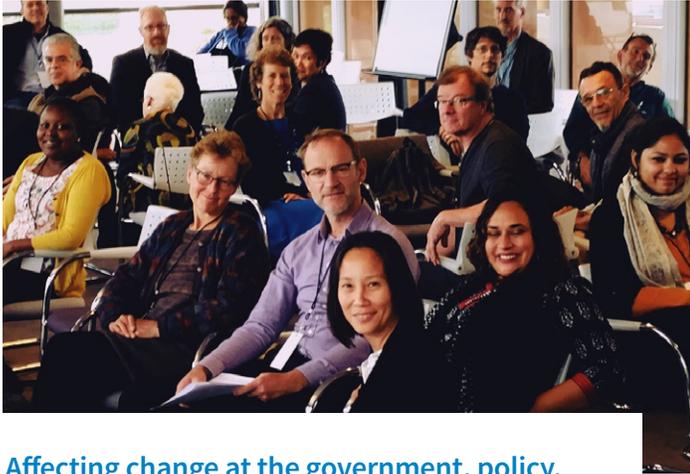
HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSES

- Generate a body of evidence for successful transitions to sustainable food systems
- Promote peer-to-peer learning on what has worked and not worked in transitions processes
- Engage model farmers and farmer groups to share knowledge and amplify messages at national scale

IDENTIFY ECONOMIC LEVERS AND PRIORITIES

- Promote true cost accounting for food
- Support rural farmers to achieve decent livelihoods

AFFECTING CHANGE AT THE GOVERNMENT, POLICY, AND GOVERNANCE LEVELS



Affecting change at the government, policy, and governance levels requires us to integrate food systems thinking into policy processes at all levels, develop strategies for connecting sustainable small-holder farming practices to global target benchmarks, and establish what metrics can drive better performance in food systems.

This session explored the role of governments, policy, and governance in mitigation and adaptation goals, and what is needed to build political will to incentivize the change that is needed to reach those goals.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

RAISE AWARENESS AND STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY

- Analyze dominant narrative to understand how it can be shifted to support more sustainable systems
- Conduct analysis of where successful transitions have happened and show how they can be replicated
- Show different stakeholders how to apply political pressure

IDENTIFY WHERE THE BARRIERS ARE, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REMOVING THEM

- Evaluate and address power imbalances and the limitations of the international legal landscape to empower rural communities
- Use the SDGs as an opportunity to embed principles of sustainable food systems within political decision-making

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL AND FARMER COMMUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

- Support the creation of farmer-to-farmer platforms so that a shared vision is identified
- Engage farmer communities authentically in policy processes
- Include more farmer-driven data in decision-making

UNDERSTAND CITIES AS MODEL ECOSYSTEMS WITH CLIMATE MANDATES AND STRONG LINKS BETWEEN ACTORS

- Leverage existing mayoral networks
- Draw from existing models where municipal and regional food councils/policies cut across portfolios such as water, infrastructure, food security/access, and public health



Tori Okner

@toriokner

You cannot address food without addressing cities @janospasztor #CITYFOOD @ICLEI @ruaf #GAID2017



FRAMEWORKS FOR CHANGE

Food systems are complex. Understanding this complexity is a necessary first step in the process towards positive change – but that alone does not lead to action. We need tools to help us understand, analyze, and shift systems through their ability to highlight the short-comings or deficiencies of the current system and point to changes needed to bring about a more desirable future. Leaders in philanthropy, civil society, business, government, and research presented the tools and approaches that, they argue, have the potential to address the significant challenges we face.





Leading foundations in the climate change space presented innovative, effective, and diverse ways philanthropy is making the connection between climate change and food systems.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Highlight philanthropic examples in which theories of change and approaches balance economy, community, ecology
- Support and better understand how to support and enhance existing movements
- Organize local communities and local markets for agroecological production
- Build understanding within the philanthropic community, including at the board level, that systemic change is a long-term process and demonstrates different kinds of outcomes/impacts measures
- Understand the distinctive role philanthropy can play in breaking down siloes and opening spaces where diverse voices come together and where tensions are surfaced

MODERATOR

Guillermo Castilleja, Senior Fellow and Advisor to the President, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Chris Elliot, Executive Director, Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA)

Sanjay Kabir Bavikatte, Executive Director, The Christensen Fund

Ana Yang, Acting Director, Climate Change, Children's Investment Fund Foundation

Sarah Bell, Program Director, Schmidt Family Foundation



Faris Ahmed

@FarisAhmedUSC

#GAID2017 Philanthropy should learn from social movements who are already working intersectorally - Sanjay Bavikatte @christensenfund



Thought-leaders from business, civil society, research, and government came together to discuss tangible recommendations on how to craft pathways forward to the food systems we need today and tomorrow.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Leverage political will and opportunities presented by the Paris Agreement and SDGs
- Develop engaging tools to make civil society and research more relevant to decision-making
- Leverage a shift in thinking from “agriculture” to “food systems” and better define systems’ boundaries
- Apply an intersectoral and interdisciplinary approach to the issues and solutions
- Explore divides between interests, issues, and perspectives between Global North/South and industrialized/emerging economies
- Define what we are trying to achieve through targets and explain what is meant by “sustainable diets”
- Understand and develop approaches that address existing barriers to reaching private sector
- Empower actors across interest groups to make stronger connections to private sector
- Co-create systems of knowledge-sharing, with support from farmers and researchers

MODERATOR

Marie-Stéphane Maradeix, Executive Director, Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso

Duncan Pollard, AVP Stakeholders Engagement in Sustainability, Nestlé S.A.

Alice Ruhweza, Executive Director, Vital Signs, Conservation International

Tara Garnett, Founder, Food Climate Research Network

Jean-François Soussana, Scientific Director, Environment, INRA



Edie Mukiibi

@Ediemukiibi2

@aruhweza There are many small techniques and technologies that are working for people in Africa but we need to scale them up #GAID2017



PATHWAYS OF INFLUENCE

Food systems touch all aspects of our culture, economics, geo-political and ecological landscapes, with local, national, and international impacts. How do we navigate this complexity and find the right pathways of influence? The following sessions explored six opportunities for change, bringing together diverse actors working across regions, scales, and sectors to share their knowledge and expertise.

AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY



There is an urgent need to integrate agricultural biodiversity into climate change solutions.

This session pointed to the crucial role of agricultural biodiversity in climate resilience, the impacts large-scale monocropping has had on food systems and climate, and the potential traditional farming practices and community-based seed systems have to support sustainability, health, livelihoods, and local economies.

MODERATOR

Kyra Busch, Program Officer, Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty and Resilient Biocultural Landscapes, The Christensen Fund

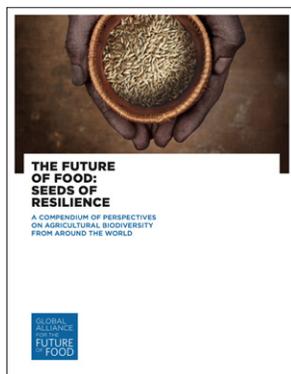
Ronnie Vernooy, Genetic Resources Policy Specialist, Bioversity International

Nori Ignacio, Executive Director, SEARICE

Yiching Song, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Javier Carrera, Founder, Red de Guardianes de Semillas (Seed Guardians Network)

Pascal Kosuth, Director, Agropolis Fondation



Explore [The Future of Food: Seeds of Resilience, A Compendium of Perspectives on Agricultural Biodiversity from Around the World](#)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Understand more deeply the issues and threats, such as: understanding seeds as culture/tradition; the mis-use of public research by the private sector; seed and intellectual property policies and legislation; performance measures mainly focused on yields; and, the implementation of subsidized crop insurance programs, etc.
- Promote diversified agroecological systems as alternatives to industrial agriculture
- Organize farmers to give them an effective voice in policy settings and to better integrate knowledge
- Make agricultural biodiversity relevant to the broader public by communicating its importance for climate resilience, nutrition, taste, etc.
- Combat threatening and/or inappropriate legislation and policies, including Intellectual Property/seed legislation and restrictive trade agreements
- Create links between local, national, and global policies and address power imbalances amongst ministries and at the international level
- Strengthen agrobiodiversity and agroecology in research/community education, and through participatory plant breeding
- Network different platforms and successful models for supporting agrobiodiversity and agroecology and disseminate relevant information



Rachel Bezner Kerr

@rbeznerkerr

“Cannot sustain agrobiodiversity without sustaining peasant systems – dynamic farmers, seed systems are what need protection”
#GAID2017

SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL AGRICULTURE AND MEAT CONSUMPTION



It is increasingly recognized that livestock production and meat consumption have a unique relationship to the climate crisis, both in terms of their negative impacts, and the potential for sustainable animal agriculture to contribute to climate solutions.

This session pointed to the need to address issues of production, consumer behaviour, and regulations, and ways we can engage diverse stakeholders in transitions to more sustainable animal agriculture.

MODERATOR

Christine Chemnitz, Department Head International Agriculture Policy, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Shefali Sharma, Director Agricultural Commodities and Globalization, Institute for Agriculture Trade and Policy (IATP)

Fawn Jackson, Executive Director, Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

Roba Bulga Jilo, Graduate Student, Researcher, Slow Food International/Labata Fantalle (LaFO)

Patrick Holden, Founding Director and Chief Executive, Sustainable Food Trust

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Affect regulatory and trade environment as well as other incentives that promote unsustainable practices
- Assess and present varying models for livestock systems that highlight sustainable solutions, such as natural resource conservation and integrated management of pastoral and grassland systems
- Understand opportunities for small and large farms to create positive inputs to the environment and incentives that will contribute to transition success
- Develop clear messages for consumers around meat consumption and what makes a responsible choice
- Address the pricing of meat and the fact that cheap meat comes at a high cost



Andrew Gunther

@Farmerssustain

#GAID2017 #Patrick Holden @SusFoodTrust reiterating the need for managed livestock in a sustainable system!



ANIMAL AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Find out more about the Global Alliance's work on [Animal Agriculture](#) and read our [Statement on Sustainable Animal Agriculture](#).

BEACONS OF HOPE



Throughout the International Dialogue, participants reinforced that there are many examples of sustainable food systems that are resilient, renewable, diverse, equitable, healthy, and interconnected. We need to better understand and elevate them as models.

In this session, the Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development shared early findings from a project exploring and documenting “Beacons of Hope,” exemplars of sustainable food systems. The project, commissioned by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, aims to better understand the transition towards sustainable food systems undertaken by initiatives around the world. The session engaged participants in a discussion of different examples of “Beacons of Hope” and the transition process.

MODERATOR

Oliver Oliveros, Senior Officer for Partnerships and International Relations, Agropolis Fondation

Barbara Gemmill-Herren, Team Leader, Biovision Foundation

Pat Mooney, Executive Director, ETC Group

Mariana Alem Zabalaga, Fundación AGRECOL Andes

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Luca Virginio, Vice Chairman / Marta Antonelli, Research Programme Manager, Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition



Danielle Nierenberg

@DaniNierenberg

To successfully transition food systems, need a multiplicity of road maps. Not one size fits all @barbaragemmill #GAID2017

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Include diverse “Beacons of Hope” initiatives to demonstrate a wide range of efforts in terms of scale and geographies, including civil society, government-led, private sector, and cross-sectoral initiatives
- Support and protect the many sustainable food systems that exist, particularly those of Indigenous Peoples
- Ensure the transition framework applied to the “Beacons of Hope” is simple and easy to apply across scales and contexts and that it encourages inquiry about the transition process, explores key levers, enablers, and barriers, and takes a historic perspective to understand how transitions occur and how they can be facilitated
- Explore and document the multiple benefits of sustainable food systems included in the process, including the social, cultural, ecological, economic, and governance contributions of “Beacons of Hope”
- Ensure that the transitions framework is applicable across multiple contexts, useful for decision-makers, and illustrative of the inherent complexity of sustainable food systems
- Maintain accessibility of the transitions framework for the “Beacons of Hope” through the analysis and review processes



BEACONS OF HOPE

Learn more about the “Beacons of Hope” project and the transitions framework.

HEALTH, CLIMATE, AND FOOD SYSTEMS



Profound changes in the global food system over the last decade have produced significant negative impacts on health and well-being. Re-creating a food system that advances well-being will require global action, coordination across multiple sectors, attention to local and global equity and cultural lifeways, and a strategic focus on policy and systems to support sustainable change.

In this session, panelists explored the food system-health nexus from a variety of perspectives. They highlighted the diverse ways that food systems affect health, the high cost of these impacts, and how poverty, inequality, and other factors compound the influence of food systems on health. Participants also explored the challenges of gaps in evidence, and the need to take a public health approach by enlisting the precautionary principle.

MODERATOR

Mathilde Douillet, Sustainable Food Systems and Diets Program Officer - International, Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso

Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen, Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, UCLA

Nadia El-Hage Scialabba, Senior Officer for Environment and Sustainable Development, FAO

Cecilia Rocha, Director, School of Nutrition, Ryerson University, IPES-Food

Marcia Ishii-Eiteman, Senior Scientist, Pesticide Action Network North America

Alejandro Argumedo, Program Director, Asociación ANDES

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Understand power dynamics across the food system, as well as what motivates shifts in decision-making in the context of strong voices working to maintain the status quo
- Develop an economic analysis of the health costs of unsustainable food systems and the benefits of sustainable systems
- Involve local level stakeholders in governance as it relates to reforming food systems and building healthy alternatives
- Demonstrate the interconnections between different approaches to production, nutrition, and the environment, and understand consequences and trade-offs of these different approaches in relation to health impacts and costs
- Connect messaging and build information-sharing platforms between government ministries of agriculture and health
- Engage the private sector in a cross-sectoral discussion about how to improve food systems practices, render “invisible” health impacts visible, and account for externalities
- Enlist the precautionary principle to advocate for regulations that curb health impacts
- Support research focused on behavioural science and understanding of younger generations
- Promote education programs for children to improve nutritional awareness, especially in the school system
- Engage and educate consumers, media, and the broader public through storytelling, testimonials, and spokespeople



Ricardo Salvador

@cadwego

Illness results from occupation hazard, environment/food contamination, unhealthy diet, insufficient food. All affect farm workers #GAID2017

HEALTH EXTERNALITIES AND IMPACTS RESEARCH PAPER DISCUSSION



Building on the morning concurrent session, *Health, Climate, and Food Systems*, this side event provided an opportunity to interact informally with members of IPES-Food, who presented a Global Alliance-commissioned paper on Health Impacts and Externalities.

EMERGING KEY MESSAGES:

- The negative impacts of food systems on human health is an area of growing attention and concern
- There are five channels of health impacts of food systems: occupational hazards, environmental contamination, compromised and contaminated foods, unhealthy dietary patterns, and insufficient diets
- While some evidence gaps remain, these health impacts are severe, widespread and increasingly well-documented in each of these channels – an urgent case for reforming food and farming systems can therefore be made on the grounds of protecting human health
- Within the food-health nexus, there are mutually reinforcing obstacles/challenges holding back comprehensive action to build healthier food systems, including factors like: climate change, poverty, inequality, and poor sanitation; the power and visibility of those affected; and the disconnect between food consumption and production that allows various health impacts to appear as discrete and unrelated problems
- Power and equity are at the heart of the food-health nexus, with negative impacts



HEALTH IMPACTS & EXTERNALITIES

Find out more about the upcoming IPES-Food paper on Health Externalities & Impacts, commissioned by the Global Alliance.

disproportionately effecting poor and marginalized communities; and shaping how we account for these impacts, frame health narratives, and influence policy

- Solutions for addressing health impacts in food systems must be systemic enough to address not only the question of inter-connected and self-reinforcing impacts in and around food systems, but also the power relations and disparities in how impacts accrue and are reported
- The evidence base on food system impacts must continue to grow, providing an ever-stronger basis for action, and in parallel, we need a new basis for reading, interpreting, and acting on that evidence, in all of its complexity
- Steps to build understanding of the inter-connected nature of food systems and to build a healthy science-policy interface may be just as important as steps to reform food system practices - and may be a condition for those reforms to occur
- Leverage points to build increased understanding of the health impacts of food systems and for building healthier food systems include: focusing on systemic risk factors and promoting the precautionary principle; building integrated food policies; encouraging food systems thinking; reasserting scientific integrity; fleshing out the alternatives; and, building and mobilizing alliances for sustainable food systems

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Acknowledge diverse sources of evidence and enlist the precautionary principle, not always seeking causal links which in a complex system are often impossible to trace
- Apply public health approaches to comprehensively understand the wide variety of evidence and advocate for food systems reform
- Better understand how food systems perspectives can be applied to demonstrate inter-connections, compounding factors, and complexity
- Address governance as a lever for change, acknowledging that there is a need to create new governance mechanisms that link communities affected by the health impacts of food systems into decision-making processes, and to balance the power of the private sector in current decision-making fora

Steps to build understanding of the inter-connected nature of food systems and to build a healthy science-policy interface may be just as important as steps to reform food system practices – and may be a condition for those reforms to occur.

WORKING ACROSS MOVEMENTS



We won't achieve the change we need "at scale and at speed" unless we effectively engage diverse actors and stakeholders across strong and dynamic movements pushing for social and environmental change together.

This dynamic session led by leaders from various movements – grassroots, food, justice, Indigenous – sparked lively discussion on the potential of common goals, opportunities to work collaboratively, examples of success, and engaging diverse stakeholders.

MODERATOR

Jennifer Astone, Executive Director, Swift Foundation

Ricardo Salvador, Program Director and Senior Scientist, Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists

Elizabeth Mpofu, General Coordinator, La Via Campesina, Zimbabwe

Shalmali Guttal, Executive Director, Focus on the Global South

Phrang Roy, Director, The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty, IPES-Food

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Align movements in order to build critical mass and political power
- Integrate responses to cross-cutting and interconnected issues like sustainability, food security, biodiversity, land grabbing, water, etc., understanding them more broadly as political/justice issues
- Apply an equity and power analysis identifying who has power and how they use it as a way to bridge the movement and its actors/stakeholders
- Build trust, surface tensions, and look for models of how to work together in order to build a powerful and growing movement
- Develop a shared language and analysis between food/systems and climate change
- Understand that food has meaning beyond nutrition; it links nature and human beings and connects culture, social structures, and environment



Anna Lappé

@annalappe

Yes, this! : Community organizing is integral to how we build power for social change - Sarah Bell @11thhourproject #GAID2017

TRUE COST ACCOUNTING



True cost accounting is a powerful tool for measuring and making the case for more sustainable systems in economic terms.

This session surfaced diverse perspectives on the potential of TCA frameworks, challenges and opportunities for applying true cost accounting across regions and scales, and the role true cost accounting can play in supporting a paradigm shift towards more sustainable food systems.

MODERATOR

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Mark Campanale, Founder and Executive Director, Carbon Tracker

Francisca Acevedo Gasman, Coordinator, Risk Assessment and Biosafety, CONABIO

HariPriya Gundimeda, Professor, IIT Bombay

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EXTERNALITIES & TRUE COST ACCOUNTING

Find out more about [TEEBAgriFood](#) and how calculating the externalities of food systems can support a transition to more sustainable food systems.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- Apply true cost accounting frameworks across diverse food systems, contexts, and geographies to better understand the economics of the food system, as well as business, practice, and policy levers for change
- Understand and be transparent about implications of implementing true cost accounting in food systems
- Engage diverse stakeholders in the movement towards true cost accounting
- Highlight levers that can help private sector, countries, governments, and regulatory/subsidy bodies to take up true cost accounting
- Develop a narrative and focus for true cost accounting that is about valuation, not monetization
- Identify opportunities to build solid application metrics that can be integrated into true cost accounting narratives (i.e., soil carbon)
- Integrate water and other interdependencies along the food value chain into TCA frameworks
- Develop models where there is a convergence of metrics among different sectors



Jes Weigelt

@jes_tmg

How expensive is cheap #food? @ajm55 at #GAID2017 - crucial question to identify #sustainable #foodsystems @futureoffoodorg

MOVING TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

It is our hope that each participant is able to meaningfully integrate the insights generated at the gathering into their approaches and priorities, and effectively utilize the momentum created in their own work.

The Global Alliance for the Future of Food's 2nd International Dialogue was a unique opportunity to bring food systems experts together to address the critical question: how do we build a climate- and food-friendly future?

Our evaluation showed that the International Dialogue created momentum for further dialogue, deepened knowledge, and stimulated action for many participants, especially to build and expand their networks. Despite real tensions that surfaced from the diversity of ideologies in the room, the momentum generated by #GAID2017 was considered “rejuvenating” and “encouraging,” especially related to generating new ideas and sharing these with others.

For the Global Alliance, five main themes emerged that we are committed to integrating into our own pathways forward:

- 1. WE NEED TO REMAIN CONSTANTLY VIGILANT IN MAINTAINING A SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE.** Food systems are complex and require a systems perspective to understand that complexity so we can move toward a sustainable, equitable, and secure future of food. For many organizations this is hard, but without it we risk siloed approaches, unintended consequences, and inadequate solutions.
- 2. WE MUST START PLACING FOOD SYSTEMS AT THE CENTRE OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA AS A WAY TO INTEGRATE, ALIGN, AND COHERE ACROSS ISSUES THAT ARE INTERCONNECTED IN THE GLOBAL SYSTEM.** Food systems are the centre of the critical issues we face today as a global community, from climate change and demographic shifts to political unrest and economic vulnerabilities. We are discovering that our food systems are a significant factor in the creation of these massive challenges and that – importantly – they can be a brilliant pathway to the solutions.
- 3. WE NEED TO DEVELOP ACTIONABLE FRAMEWORKS THAT HELP US EFFECTIVELY MAINTAIN A SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE AND PUT FOOD AT THE CENTRE.** Understanding complex food systems and their centrality to climate change and other critical issues is not enough. We need practical tools to help us understand, analyze, and shift systems through their ability to highlight what's wrong with the current system and point to changes needed to bring about a more desirable future.
- 4. WE NEED THE ALCHEMY OF DIVERSE INTERESTS WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND NORTH.** Diverse and often competing views of the future of food were present at #GAID2017 and, indeed, exist in greater diversity and intensity across the broader landscape. For deep and lasting change, these diverse interests need to come together to find common ground and more effectively identify needed solutions.
- 5. IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED.** The consequences of inaction are formidable, and we know enough to move forward. Solutions need to be informed by the knowledge and experience of a broad range of actors and defined by what we want food systems to provide: renewability, resilience, equity, diversity, health, and interconnectedness.



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