# Presentation of our project results: FORESEE (4Cs) Report Series on Food Systems Transformation, July 2021 – Dec. 2024

TMG Research gGmbH

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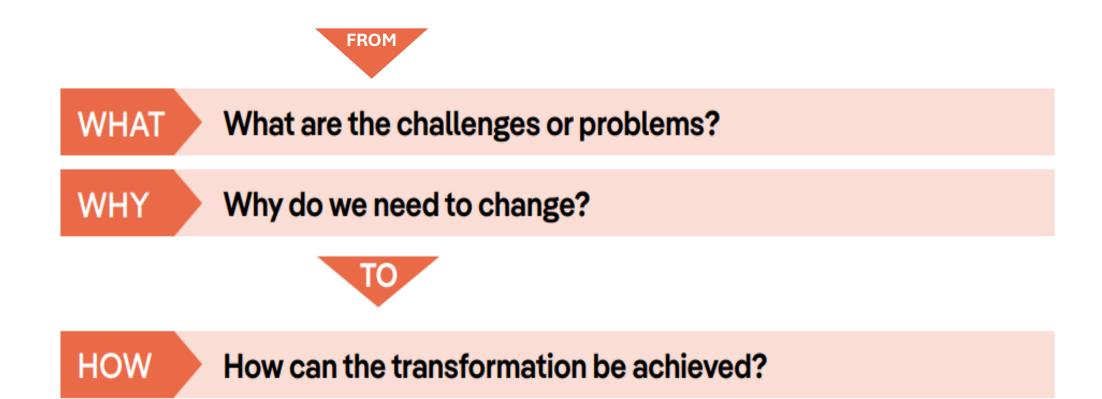




based on a decision of the German Bundestag



# Understanding the transformation context



WHO Who bears most responsibility & who will provide the funding?





# The FORESEE Report Series

### Problem analysis

- No consensus on transformation pathways
- Weak governance structure
- Lack of understanding on the HOW

### Approach

- Literature review
- Framework analysis
- 3 Workshops with Expert Advisory Group
- Online expert consultations

#### Results

- 2 Scoping studies
- 5 Strategic
   Reports for
   food systems
   transformation
- Blog series

### Dissemination

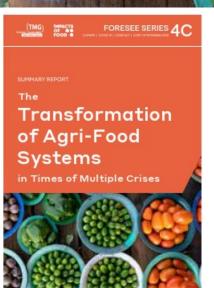
- 17 Webinars
- 4 High level events
- Policy & stakeholder dialogues
- Media outreach

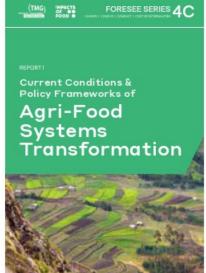


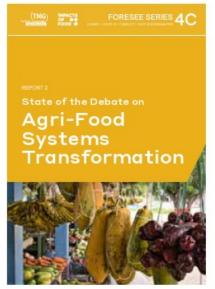


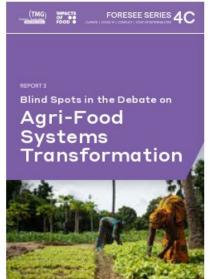
## FORESEE (4C) Report Series

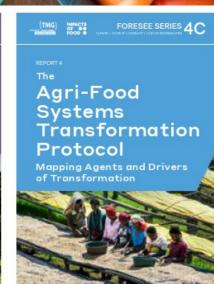
# The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises

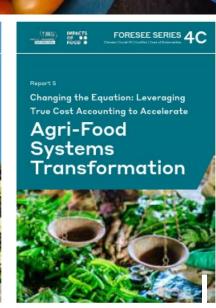


















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# Report 1: Current Conditions and Policy Frameworks

4Cs **CLIMATE** CONFLICT COVID-19 COST OF EXTERNALITIES The 4 Cs impact agri-food systems by

Harvest losses, breakdown of supply chains and food shortages

Agri-food systems aggravate the 4 Cs, for example, by

Current agri-food systems are responsible for one third of total anthopogenic greenhouse gas emissions

Disruptions in agri-food systems and food supply chains can spur territorial conflicts and worsen existing ones

Land use change leads to destruction of wildlife habitats and increases risk of infectious disease (zoonosis)

Dominant practices in agri-food systems levy huge externalized costs through pollution, biodiversity loss and soil degradation

AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

**AGRICULTURE** 

MANUFACTURING & PROCESSING

DISTRIBUTION, MARKETING & RETAIL

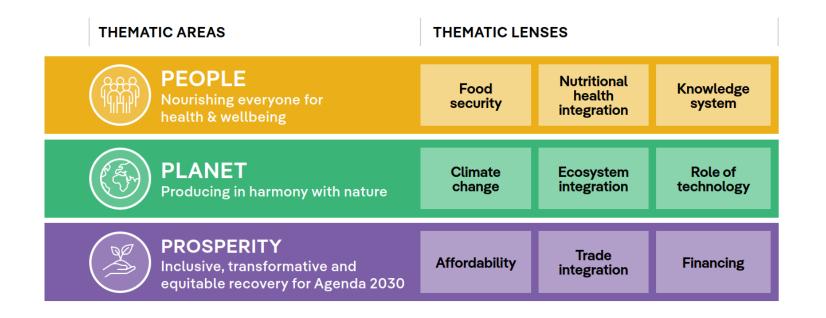
CONSUMPTION





# Report 2: State of the Debate

3 Areas of Interest



# 3 Groups

- Those that advance structural change
- 2 Those that advance technical or technological fixes
- 3 Those that combine both approaches



# Report 3: Blind Spots in the Debate

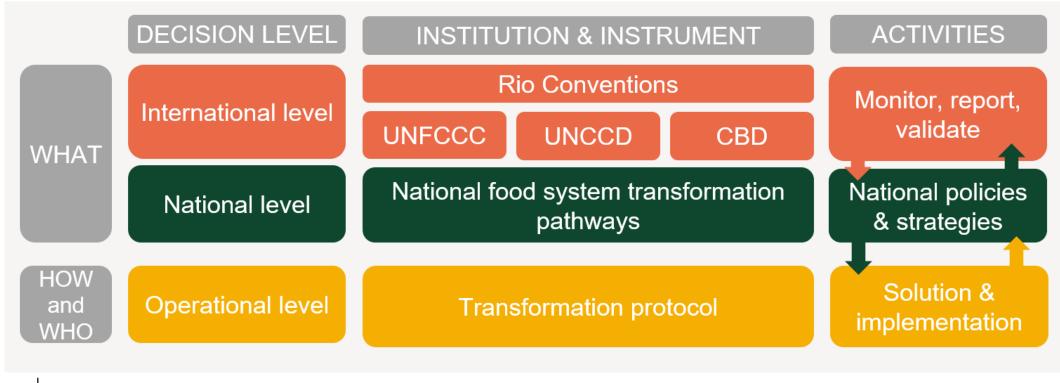
IDENTIFIED GAPS & BLINDSPOTS		Relevance to agri-food systems transformation
1	Governance	Empowering people and communities to engage with <b>decisionmaking</b> in agri-food systems
2	Corporate interests	Resolving the <b>power imbalances</b> , particularly, in view of the multistakeholder approach
3	Polarization	Addressing polarization by bringing <b>everyone</b> to the table
4	Human rights-based approach	Approaching agri-food transformation from a human rights perspective
5	Resilience	Building resilience in the agri-food systems to <b>avoid breakdowns</b> in the face of crises and shocks
6	Indigenous & traditional systems	Acknowledging the role of <b>Indigenous and traditional systems</b> in the transformation
7	Accounting for externalities	<b>True Cost Accounting</b> (TCA) of the externalities of the agri-food systems
8	Trade dynamics	Modifying <b>trade regulations</b> to acknowledge food as more than a trade commodity





# Report 4: The Agri-Food Systems Transformation Protocol

### Multi-level Governance Framework



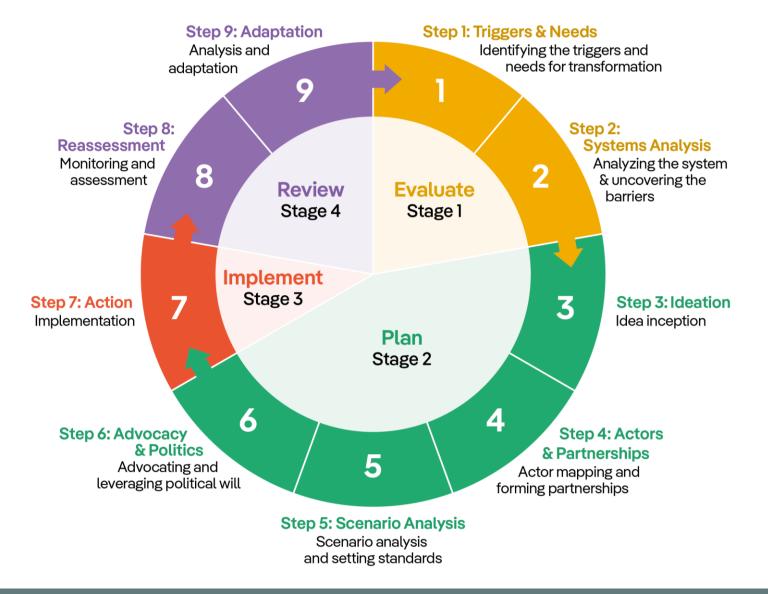






# Report 4: The Agri-Food Systems Transformation Protocol

The protocol includes four stages and nine steps



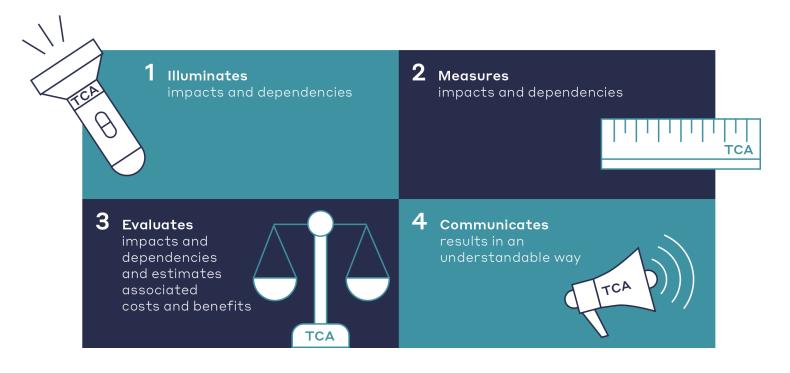




# Report 5: Leveraging True Cost Accounting to Accelerate the Transformation

- The TCA approach reveals the hidden impacts of policies, investments and business decisions
- It measures and values the hidden impacts of economic activities on the environment, society and health
- Its application can help creating a new economic framework that promotes sustainability

True Cost Accounting can be imagined as a toolbox





## Report 5: Leveraging True Cost Accounting

#### Local policymaking

- Agricultural practices
- Crises evaluation and prevention
- Policy evaluation
- Procurement

#### National policymaking



- Agricultural practices
- Crises evaluation and prevention
- Dietary patterns and consumer information
- Policy evaluation

#### International policymaking

- Crises evaluation and prevention
- International policies (e.g. trade, EU subsidies)

Different Entry Points for TCA

#### **Business**



Business performance and risk management and reporting



Context Entry points for True Cost Accounting (non-exhaustive)

#### Consumption / civic engagement



- Dietary patterns and consumer information
- Advocacy

#### Farm-level decision-making



Agricultural practices and marketing

Micro-economic level (Investments & business)



- Accounting and reporting practices
- 'True pricing'











# **Engagement & Outreach Activities**

#### **National Events**

- Invited presentations at 4 German universities
- Invited presentation in the FONEI Forum hosted by the BMEL in 2024
- 2 sessions at the Biofach Congress 2023 and 2024

#### **International Events**

- 3 expert workshops on the current conditions of agri-food systems, food system governance and the role of hidden costs
- Inputs at the Stockholm +50 Conference and at the "Earth Dialogues" in 2022
- Side-Events at UNFCCC COP 27 and COP 28
- Part of the German delegation to the HLPF 2024 + keynote at the German Side Event









Berlin, 16.05.202

Food Systems Transformation Requires Strong RIO Conventions!

In 2022, all Conference of the Parties (COP) sessions to the three Rio Conventions held a dedicate "Food Day." This drew greater attention to the interlinkages and interdependencies of climate, lanbiodiversity, and food systems transformation.

We at TMG Research gGmbH – a not-for-profit research organization of the Berlin-based TMG-Thinkank for Sustainability – work with diverse partners at local, national and global levels to explor systemic entry points and pathways for strengthening food systems governance.

Having actively participated at all three Food Days, our main takeaway is that Food Days can be the starting point for a strategic and impactful involvement of the Rio Conventions in transforming food systems. A stronger role for the Rio Conventions will strengthen their respective roles as stewards of climate, land and biodiversity in all efforts to transform food systems.

We specifically propose that – within their respective, and internationally agreed, mandates – the Rio

- Jointly monitor and assess the progress made in lood systems transformation regarding climate, land, and biodiversity.
- Present, in an annual report, the status or negative and positive externalities or rood systems and their impact on climate, land, and biodiversity.
- Make proposals on how food system transformation pathways can and need to contribute to achieving the internationally agreed targets of the conventions.

We are convinced that a different and stronger role for the Rio Conventions in the ongoing debate about food systems transformation is indispensable to achieve their mandate and to achieve "Zero Huncer" in a sustainable way.

lased on our research and intensive discussions with local, national and international stakeholders, we call for the following actions:

#### 1. Position the Rio Conven

With the proposed armul reporting on the interfinial-spec between food proteons and climate, load and toolwestly the Bol Conventions could fether develop the Food lays as in cludew monatoring platform. The role of this platform would be to track progress towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, land dependation nearbilly and the conservation and sustainable use of blodwisersly in food systems. Hence, the Rio Conventions will serve as stewards of the natural resource base of food production and borner—within their respective mandates—independent and neutral advisers on

2. Assess the real costs of unsustainable food systems with True Cost Accounting Todays food systems prevails an event issued used any small or plained ISS and controlled to its estimated 6-10 trillion ISS in regarder externalises for retural, social and human copital annually. The environmental costs emanstain from food systems are estimated to be in the range of small protects than 9 trillion ISS annually. This take environmental damage caused by unstainable food systems will hampe the achievements of the time food Conventions. Transferring food systems is concluded to the convention contained and the convention contained and the convention contained and the convention contained the convention contained the convention contained the convention contained to the convention contained the convention contained to the convention convention convention conventin

# Engagement & Outreach Activities

### **Engagement in key global platforms**

- Speaker at a World Bank/CGIAR Webinar
- Member of the advisory group and panel of external experts of FAO's SOFA reports 2023 and 2024

### Outreach to key global platforms

 Open letter to the heads of the Rio Conventions, response by head of UNFCCC





# Extending our impact: opportunities for future collaboration

**Broader impact** (adoption and integration of project outcomes)

- FAO SOFA reports → health costs focus
- Formation of the TCA Alliance
- Current blog <u>series</u>: Critical reflections on TCA
- Interest by GIZ in the Transformation Protocol
- Conversation with DRSC on business reporting & accounting

Looking ahead (advancing ideas inspired by our work)

- Front end for TCA Database covering 208 products from 81 countries
- EU agri-food benchmarking
- Climate adaptation and diets



Vested interests, such as agribusiness influence over research, skew food system governance and priorities.

Both the financial and societal impacts of this must be fully measured.

True Cost Accounting exposes these hidden costs, fostering transparency and enabling governments to prioritise public needs over private interests.



Nadia El Hage Scialabba

Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems







## Find out more about our work



Selection of links related to our work on Food Systems and True Cost Accounting





## **Bibliography**

- Slide 5: Graphic; Riemer, O., Shah, T.M. and Zitterbarth, S. (2023). Current Conditions and Policy Frameworks of Agri Food Systems Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of Externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 1: FIGURE 5 The relationship of negative impacts between agri-food systems and the 4 Cs. (Report 1 Current Conditions & Policy Frameworks of Agri-Food Systems Transformation March 2023)
- Slide 6: Graphic; El-Hage Scialabba, N., Zitterbarth, S. and Shah, T.M. (2023). State of the Debate on Agri-Food Systems Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) –The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 2: FIGURE 2 The three major thematic areas of interest and associated thematic lenses. (Report 2 State of the Debate on Agri-Food Systems Transformation March 2023)
- Slide 7: Graphic; Caron, P., Gitagia, M., Hamm, M., Hoffmann, U., Kimani-Murage, E., Martinez-Cruz, T., Merrigan, K., Mooney, P., Riemer, O., Scialabba, N.E.H., and Shah, T.M. (2023). Blind Spots in the Debate on Agri-Food System Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 3: FIGURE 1 Addressing the current gaps in the transformation discourse will help advance the transformation and make agri-food systems more inclusive, sustainable and resilient. (Report 3 Blind Spots in the Debate on Agri-Food Systems Transformation March 2023)
- Slide 8: own illustration; based on Shah, T.M., Riemer. O., El-Hage Scialabba, N., and Müller, A. (2023). The Agrifood Systems Transformation Protocol Mapping the Agents and Drivers of Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 4: FIGURE 7 The proposed multilevel governance of agri-food systems transformation. (Report 4 Agri-Food Systems Transformation Protocol December 2023 Policy Frameworks of Agri-Food Systems Transformation March 2023)
- Slide 9: Graphic; Shah, T.M., Riemer. O., El-Hage Scialabba, N., and Müller, A. (2023). The Agrifood Systems Transformation Protocol Mapping the Agents and Drivers of Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 4: FIGURE 10 The four-stage transformation process as presented by the Transformation Protocol and its nine steps. (Report 4 Agri-Food Systems Transformation Protocol December 2023 Policy Frameworks of Agri-Food Systems Transformation March 2023)
- Slide 10: Graphic; Klaus, L. M., Riemer, O. & Müller, A. (2024). Changing the Equation: Leveraging True Cost Accounting to Accelerate Agri-Food Systems Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 5: Figure 5: The tools of True Cost Accounting. (TMG\_FORESEE\_series\_Report5\_TCAforAgri-foodSystemsTransformation.pdf)
- Slide 11: Graphic; Klaus, L. M., Riemer, O. & Müller, A. (2024). Changing the Equation: Leveraging True Cost Accounting to Accelerate Agri-Food Systems Transformation. In FORESEE (4C) The Transformation of Agri-Food Systems in Times of Multiple Crises (4 Cs: Climate, Covid-19, Conflict, Cost of externalities). Berlin: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Report 5: Figure 7: True Cost Accounting Entry Points (own illustration). (TMG\_FORESEE\_series\_Report5\_TCAforAgri-foodSystemsTransformaiton.pdf)
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- Slide 14: Screenshot; Post on LinkedIn by TMG Research on a think piece written by Nadia El Hage Scialabba from 27.11.2024, available under https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tmg-think-tank-for-sustainability\_tca-thinkpiece-sustainability-activity-7265384636426473472-A3Ft?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=member\_desktop





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