

EVENT SERIES

# Governance of Food Systems Transformation

January 2023





## The issue

It is undeniable: our food systems face the 'most catastrophic crisis in 50 years'.

Despite an abundance of food, more than 800 million people, or roughly 10% of the global population, suffer from hunger. And the number keeps rising. Our unsustainable agrifood systems are at the heart of this paradox. Agriculture contributes to roughly 60% of biodiversity loss, 80% of deforestation, and up to 21% of greenhouse gases, including through land use and forestry.

The ongoing global food crisis — exacerbated by the intersecting crises linked to the war on Ukraine—underscores the need to radically transform how we produce, distribute, and consume our food.

## Food Systems Transformation

Over the past decade, there have been growing calls for a food systems approach that encompasses the entire spectrum of food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal. A food systems perspective seeks to go beyond siloed thinking and reconciles the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of food systems.

Calls for systemic approaches to transform the food system gained political traction with the [United Nations Food Systems Summit \(UNFSS\)](#) held in September 2021. More than 150 UN member states committed to draft so called *national pathways* that shall outline the route to food systems transformation (FST). But what has been achieved so far and how progress on FST will be measured and compared is still unclear.





## A workshop series on the Governance of Food Systems Transformation

Debates around food systems transformation (FST) have for a long time primarily focused on technological innovations as well as changed production and consumption regimes. In contrast, more detailed analyses, or recommendations, for the governance of FST are largely lacking. Against this background, this event series seeks to provide a forum for key food systems actors from different fields, sectors, and countries to exchange on how to steer transformation processes and what different stakeholders require to assume their role in such processes.

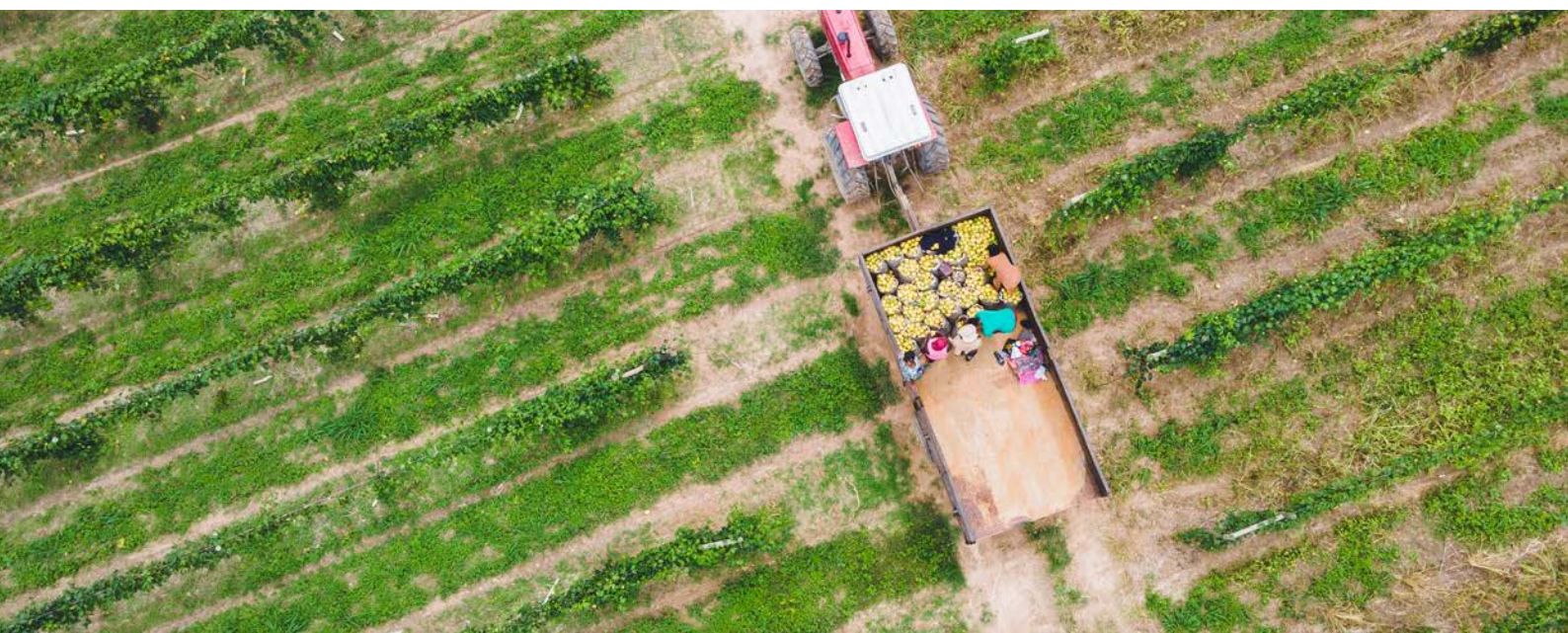
More concretely, the discussions aim to highlight:

- Practical examples of political structures and steering instruments (*governance*) that can deliver food systems transformation;
- which stakeholders must be at the table and what they need for effective participation (*participation*);
- how vulnerable groups are involved (*inclusivity*); and
- how external actors can effectively support necessary transformation processes (*international cooperation*).

A large number of workshop participants will be key actors from SEWOH\* partner countries, namely Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Cambodia, and India. They will represent different actor groups (i.e., government, civil society, private sector, research) and fields within the food system (e.g., production, retail, consumption). The partner countries have been selected based on their broad SEWOH portfolio in agribusiness, food security, and rural development as well as future orientations towards the transformation of agri-food systems. In addition to two to three partner country representatives, representatives from German and European development cooperation – the largest donors in food security after the United States – will participate in the discussions.

The discussions will be informed by ongoing processes in a number of countries to elaborate *national pathways* for FST, as was agreed during the UNFSS.

\*SEWOH stands for the One World, No Hunger special initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) that started in 2014 and has supported around 300 projects in 17 partner countries. More information at [www.bmz.de/en/issues/food-security/one-world-no-hunger](http://www.bmz.de/en/issues/food-security/one-world-no-hunger)



## FORMAT OF EVENT SERIES

# Governance of Food Systems Transformation

## Food Systems Governance. Towards a common understanding

17–18 January 2023

The first event of this series will be a closed 1.5-day workshop, with around 20 to 25 participants. Together with SEWOH partner and implementing organizations, workshop participants will build a common understanding of what effective and inclusive governance of food systems transformation (FST) means, agree on a framework for the assessment of food systems governance, make proposals for support of FST through international cooperation, and reflect their respective roles within the process. The 1.5-day workshop will culminate in a chair's conclusion, summarizing the joint position of workshop participants on the way forward for food systems governance based on concrete experiences in the participating countries.

## Food Systems Governance. Creating alliances for transformation

19 January 2023

The second event will be a closed-door, high-level roundtable event with around 30 to 40 participants. During this 2-hour roundtable, nominated representatives from SEWOH partner countries will present the chair's conclusion of the previous workshop on proposals for FST governance and discuss it with representatives of BMZ and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission. This high-level event that brings donors and food system stakeholders together will be a unique opportunity to discuss how international cooperation can sustainably support more effective governance of food system transformation.

## Emergency solution or silver bullet?

### National pathways for food system transformation 20 January 2023

The workshop and roundtable will culminate in an expert panel held at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin. The panel will discuss how the necessary transformation processes can be designed and implemented to reach measurable and comparable results, as well as questions of stakeholder participation and inclusion. Contributions from government representatives, farmers organizations, and civil society actors will be complemented by inputs from research. As a concrete approach, recommendations from a [study](#), commissioned by the EU, on the governance of food systems transformation will be mirrored with practical experiences from partner countries.

All events will be in person events (no online participation).

