Catalyzing the sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems: PERSPECTIVES

June 10th, 2021
The use of the assessment’s results:

- It takes time to adopt a **multidimensional** (and **territorial**) perspective and develop an (initial) understanding on how the food system ‘works’, and increase overall **food systems literacy**

- It’s not so much about generating new knowledge but rather about **uncovering linkages** between system dimensions & components and revealing **FS dynamics** and **subnational heterogeneities** (including eventual disparities)

- The process ‘**per se**’ is important: **bringing together** decision makers, stakeholders, civil society actors, development partners to **trigger a dialogue on FS challenges and perspectives**,  

- Government **engagement is key** (mobilizing force + ownership) as well as the EU/ FAO/CIRAD to facilitate the process and deal with trade-offs in terms of approach and expectations.
The use of the assessment’s results:

Achieve a common understanding on key FS challenges and systemic levers in 50+ countries:

- Close participation and contribution of key policy decision makers and stakeholders to the assessment of four core FS dimensions,
- Shared sets of evidences and validation of key food system challenges,
- Food system briefs identifying leverage points and priority intervention areas (for 8 countries also at subnational level),

Deepen partnerships at country level on food systems transformation:

- demonstrate the value and usefulness of an analytical approach that couples food systems analysis with a territorial perspective, in order to...
- guide stakeholder conversations while complementing the UNFSS dialogues on food system
- broaden communication about FS challenges and the need for systemic transformation
Perspectives:

- Effective programme development will likely require additional analysis of key sustainability questions (ex. interactions between (sub)sectoral & territorial dimensions, ..) and support the co-creation of a shared vision about the transition (multidimensional and territorial)

- Post-summit, analytical insights will feed into the development of policy, capacity development and investment agendas:
  - Capacity development to formulate strategies for more and better investment decisions and develop strategic partnerships (between national governments, financing institutions (IFIs), private sector, civil society organizations and producer organizations)
  - Investment policy support to create an environment favorable to public and responsible private investments (for example, into specific food chain links or territorial food systems)
  - Investment programme support to facilitate the design and implementation of public investment operations supporting the transition to sustainable and inclusive food systems

- Timeline:
  - 2021: completing assessments in 50+ countries (support to EU programming), capitalization for pre-summit (end July) and summit (Sept)
  - 2021-22: on demand support for programme development (e.g. annual action programmes)
  - 2022-27: scaling-up of capacity development, policy and programme support for sustainable and inclusive transformation
...the initiative is one of the first steps in a longer journey towards the sustainable and inclusive transformation of FSs..