Organizer

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Background

Faced to the decline and degradation of natural resources and to the evolution of the global food demand, agricultural and food systems need to provide rapid answers to economic, social and environmental sustainability challenges. The growing stakes at hand impose to think through a real transformation of current systems. Altering ongoing trajectories will though not be feasible without involving a whole new community of actors in the development of alternative pathways at the national and subnational levels.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative has been fostering innovative alliances between conventional and unconventional partners to develop and implement transformation pathways towards SDG-compatible systems, in countries as various as Uruguay, China, Tunisia, France, the UK, and the Netherlands.

Together, these communities of actors have developed tools and methodologies based on participatory backcasting exercises, where a diverse group of stakeholders (academics, governmental, industrial actors as well as farmers and NGOs, from various national and subnational levels) interacts to prioritize goals, set levels of ambition, and discuss concrete steps of implementation, as well as obstacles and solutions. Relying on future studies approaches enabled to raise the level of ambition and to connect future targets to concrete actions that needed to be rapidly taken.

This interactive planning approach enabled a wide community of actors whose activities are linked to the agricultural sector to start taking ownership of the SDGs at the national and subnational levels, and to start developing and implementing transformation pathways towards SDG-compatible agrifood systems in 2030.

Objective

This session aims at bringing together presentations by people who have been part in this initiative, so that they can share their experience and discuss the approaches and tools that they have developed with the audience.

Program

Introduction: Marie-Hélène Schwoob, IDDRI:
The Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative and its methodological logic (15 minutes)

Perspectives and lessons learned (10 minutes each: 40 minutes in total)
•   Bruno Lanfranco, INIA (Uruguay): Developing transformation pathways for the beef, dairy and rice sectors and implementing regional task forces
•   Mohamed Elloumi, INRAT (Tunisia): Prioritizing goals and developing a roadmap for action at the national and local levels
•   Pytrik Reidsma, Wageningen University (Netherlands): Proposing indicators based on the SDGs to foster debate and decision
•   Andy Whitmore, Rothamsted Research (United Kingdom): Modelling approaches to support participatory backcasting

Interactive debate (30 minutes)

Discuss the usefulness of the back casting technique and the four different steps/tools presented to deal with synergies and trade-offs between SDGs.

Conclusion, Reporting, wrap-up (5 minutes)