



# Food System Transformation: How to produce more nutritious food with less environmental impact

What does this mean for farmers and what do they need from companies to meet the challenge?

Summary report

Kathmandu Roundtable: 7 – 8 November 2019

Nairobi Roundtable: 26 – 27 November 2019

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# WBA Farmer Roundtables 2019



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## Background and summary



The [World Benchmarking Alliance](#) (WBA) was established to drive wider and deeper participation from the private sector in the global efforts towards a sustainable future for all. In 2015, the United Nations developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which guide the agenda. WBA is working to incentivise and accelerate companies' efforts towards these goals, developing transformative benchmarks which will track and compare companies' performance on the SDGs.

The WBA Food & Agriculture Benchmark will rank 350+ global companies across the global food value chain. These have been identified on the criteria that they are keystone actors – companies with a disproportionate impact on the structure and function of the system in which they operate. Most of these large companies work with thousands of business partners through subsidiaries and their own production and distribution networks. By holding these

companies to account, they will drive business action where it matters most and act as a catalyst for change.

WBA welcomes input from all stakeholders in the development of its benchmarks, from civil society and governments to companies and investors. For the Food & Agriculture Benchmark, it is also vital to include the perspective of farmer communities from across the globe. This report details the insights from the two WBA Farmer Roundtables held in November 2019; the first in a series of roundtables that will take place throughout the development of WBA's Food and Agriculture Benchmark.

WBA thanks the following partners who made the farmer roundtables possible: Agriterro, NACCFL, EAFF, SACA, SUN Business Network and the Access to Seeds Index. A special thanks goes out to Mr. Khem Bahadur Pathak, Chairperson NACCFL, Ms. Ilse van Dijk, Agricultural Attaché, Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi and Dr. Yubak Dhoj G.C, Secretary of the Nepalese Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development who opened the farmer roundtable in Kathmandu. We also wish to thank Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Gerda Verburg and Ms. Diane Holdorf, Director Food & Nature of WBCSD who opened the dialogue between farmers and businesses at the second day of the Kathmandu Roundtable. And finally, thanks goes out to Mr. Philip Kiriro, former President of EAFF, of who opened the roundtable in Nairobi.

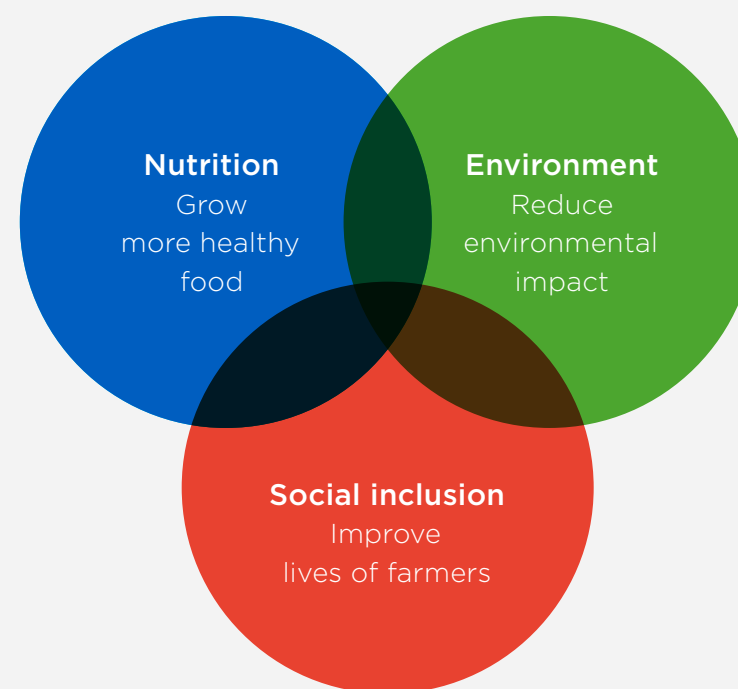


# Food system transformation and the role of smallholder farmers

It is one of the most pressing questions of our time: how to feed a growing population without depleting the planet's resources? Scientists tell us it's possible, but it will require no less than a 'food system transformation'; a shift towards more nutritious diets and methods of sustainable production whilst ensuring the livelihoods of farmers are prosperous. In the last year we have seen a proliferation of major scientific and economic reports, such as the reports by EAT/Lancet, WRI, FOLU and IPCC, calling for urgent action. Each propose a set of priorities, targets or strategies to work towards achieving a sustainable food future. They include the perspective of civil society, scientists, government and business leaders, yet we are still to hear the voices of farmers on the issue.

Out of the 600 million farms in the world the majority are small<sup>1</sup>, meaning smallholder farmers play an essential role in ensuring food security and nutrition across the world. They also play a key role in the sustainable management of the environment, and their livelihood relates to social issues such as employment and poverty reduction<sup>2</sup>. The role of the farmer is therefore central to the three main dimensions of the Food & Agriculture benchmark: nutrition, environment and social inclusion<sup>3</sup>. Only by listening to farmers about their experiences across these three dimensions, will we start to understand the food system and what is needed to enable its transformation.

Figure 1: The three dimensions of food system transformation



<sup>1</sup>CFS (<http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/activities/smallholders/en/>)

<sup>2</sup>CFS (<http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/activities/smallholders/en/>)

<sup>3</sup>See WBA Food & Agriculture scoping report for more information on the dimensions:  
<https://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/WBA-Food-and-Agriculture-Benchmark-scoping.pdf>

## The purpose of farmer roundtables

Farmer roundtables are key in the process of WBAs methodology development. This is built on the experience of the Access to Seeds Index<sup>4</sup>, one of the first SDG benchmarks published by WBA, which measures and compares the efforts of the world's leading seed companies to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers. Since 2013, the Access to Seeds Index has held farmer roundtables across Western, Central & Eastern Africa and South East Asia, leading the way in interacting with farmers and helping to bridge the gap between them and the private sector. The first roundtable in Addis Ababa in 2013 resulted in a definition of access to seeds from the perspective of smallholder farmers that formed the starting point of the Index' methodology. During following roundtables results have been discussed to further refine the methodology and discuss priority areas for where the private sector - in this case the seed industry - should step up its efforts.

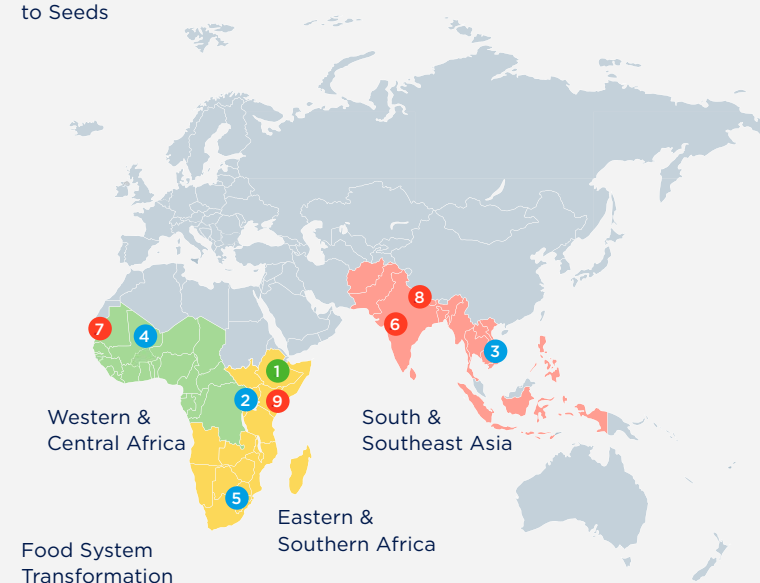
Also for WBAs Food & Agriculture benchmark, including the farmers' voice in the development of the benchmark and its methodology is essential. Farmers produce the bulk of the food that is consumed and changing food production and consumption cannot be achieved without active role of farmer communities. However, the farmers' voice is hardly heard at international conferences about food system transformation or in the many reports that are published on the subject. By actively reaching out to farmer communities across the globe, WBA aims to ensure that the farmers are well involved in the

development of the Food & Agriculture Benchmark, in identifying issues and setting priorities. Additionally, it has been expressed by participants that farmer roundtables provide a great opportunity for farmers to network with other farmers and cooperatives. Where the Access to Seeds Index has focused on the global south, it is the intention of WBA to extend the farmer roundtable practice also to other regions, such as Europe and the Americas.

Figure 2: Mapping of Access to Seeds/WBA roundtables

- 1 **Addis Ababa**  
September 2013
- 2 **Goma**  
July 2016
- 3 **Hanoi**  
August 2016
- 4 **Ouagadougou**  
October 2016
- 5 **Johannesburg**  
November 2016
- 6 **Aurangabad**  
March 2019
- 7 **Dakar**  
April 2019
- 8 **Kathmandu**  
November 2019
- 9 **Nairobi**  
November 2019

Access  
to Seeds



<sup>4</sup>(<http://www.accesstoseeds.org/>)

## Who participated in the Kathmandu Roundtable?



The World Benchmarking Alliance, along with local partners Agriterro and NACCFL, held the first farmer roundtable in Kathmandu, Nepal on the 7-8 November 2019. As an agricultural country with 66% of the population directly engaged in farming and a rich practice of agrobiodiversity<sup>5</sup>, Nepal is a relevant choice for such a discussion. However, this week was particularly special as the SUN Global Gathering<sup>6</sup> was taking place, bringing together 1200 delegates and 70 nationalities from governments, academia, civil society as well as the private sector to Kathmandu. This flagship event, titled “Nourishing people and planet together”, gave members and stakeholders the opportunity to take stock, share innovations and map progress on the fight against malnutrition worldwide. We were proud to host our roundtable alongside an event aligned with the values of the WBA, ensuring multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The first day of our roundtable brought together 14 farmers from 6 countries across South East Asia - Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh - to give their perspective. The second day of our event saw the farmers joined by 21 representatives from the SUN business network, multinational companies, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and civil society representatives. The second day was opened by Gerda Verburg, Assistant General Secretary to the United Nations, and remarks were given by Dr. Yubak Dhoj G.C, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in Nepal, as well as Diane Holdorf, Director of Food & Nature at WBCSD. Their words brought a sense of urgency to discussions and reiterated that a sustainable food future was only possible if we all work together.

<sup>5</sup><http://www.fao.org/nepal/fao-in-nepal/nepal-at-a-glance/en/>

<sup>6</sup>This is the flagship event of the Scaling Up Nutrition network. See here for more info: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/sungg2019/>





## Who participated in the Nairobi Roundtable?

Along with local partners Agriterra, the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) and the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), the WBA hosted its second roundtable in Nairobi, Kenya on the 26-27 November 2019. Agriculture is key to Kenya's economy, employing more than 40% of the total population and more than 70% of Kenya's rural people<sup>7</sup>. With a predicted doubling of Kenya's population by 2050<sup>8</sup>, agriculture is therefore important not only for food security but strongly relates to issues such as poverty, human rights and women empowerment.

The first day of our roundtable brought together 11 farmers from 8 countries across Eastern & Southern Africa; Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Lesotho, Uganda, Botswana, Rwanda, and Malawi. Additionally, we were joined by another 23 participants from the

SUN Business Network in Kenya, who were farmers by trade but also owners of small enterprises. The number and diversity of small-holder farmers and owners of small enterprises meant we had a very informative and insightful discussion around livelihoods and the potential to be prosperous. On the second day, 12 more participants attended, representing additional agribusiness from SUN Business network, multinational companies, small-medium enterprises (SMEs) and civil society. Mr. Nicholas Ambanya from Twiga foods gave a presentation to give insight into how the marketplace can be shaped by companies to become fairer and more transparent, thus empowering farmers who are usually at a disadvantage.

<sup>7</sup><http://www.fao.org/kenya/fao-in-kenya/kenya-at-a-glance/en/>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2010/04/28/demographic-transition-growth-kenya>



# The discussions at the farmer roundtables

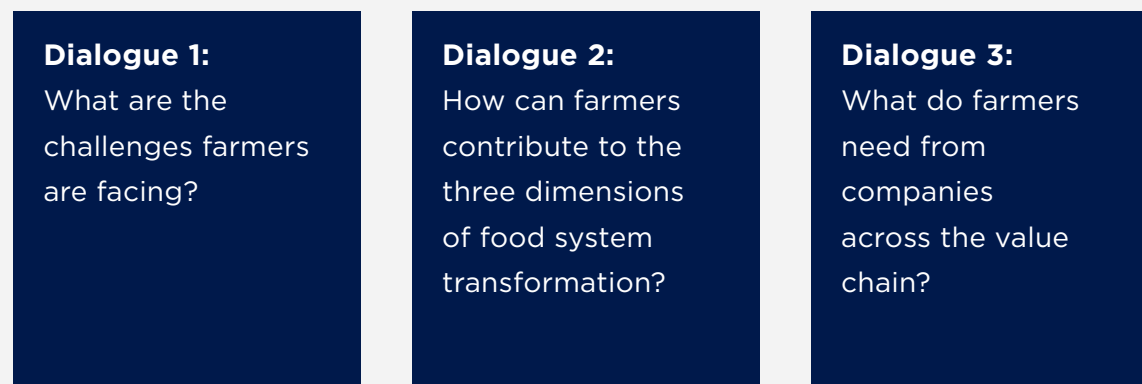
WBA hosted two farmer roundtables to ask farmers: What does ‘food system transformation’ mean to you and what do you need from companies to meet the challenge? In total, 49 farmers from 14 countries across South East Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa were involved in the process.

Each roundtable was across two days; the first day invited farmers to verify whether the global agenda for sustainable change is

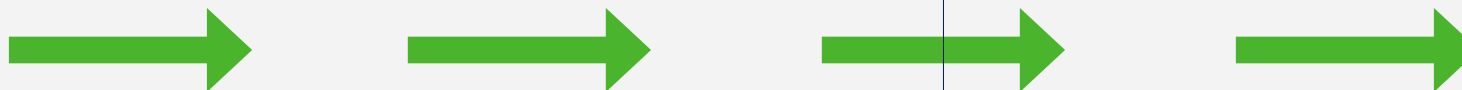
supported in the region, gather their perspective and build the priorities for the following day. The second day invited companies to join creating an opportunity for farmers to discuss with companies how they can work together to meet the challenge. It was the first time WBA had invited companies to the farmer roundtables, as their presence was requested by farmers at previous roundtables we had hosted.

*Figure 3: Overview of the dialogues at the farmer roundtables*

## Day 1: Farmer perspective



## Day 2: Farmer & Company Discussions





# Farmer Perspective

## Dialogue 1:

What are the challenges farmers are facing?

Leading challenges put forward included the need for access to quality and affordable inputs, the prerequisite for farmers to make a profitable business, as well as the need for education and training. Farmers often mentioned in order to scale up the production of nutritious and healthy crops, consumers needed greater awareness of what nutritious food is and why it is important. Organic farming being more costly is another related challenge that was commonly raised. Whereby poor water management and increasing water scarcity resulting from climate change was stressed at the Kathmandu Roundtable, farmers at the Nairobi Roundtable highlighted the need for tailored and affordable financial and insurance services, as well as the lack of access to markets and opportunities to process and add value to their products.



## Dialogue 1:

What are the challenges farmers are facing?

### Challenges mentioned at the Kathmandu Roundtable:

<b>Fertilisers and pesticides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High fertiliser and pesticide use are bad for the health of farmers, consumers and the environment</li> <li>- How can this trend be reversed when the pressure of pests and insects is increasing?</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In India, farmers are experiencing both decreased rainfall and reduced ground water levels</li> <li>- In Bangladesh, poor water management is limiting the availability of land for agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer preferences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of consumer awareness on nutrition, and how eating quality nutritious food is better than simply filling your stomach</li> <li>- 'Toxic products' are cheaper than organic crops</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of harvests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change: not just changing weather conditions, also increase of pests and diseases</li> <li>- Post-harvest losses because of storage</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A lot of farmers lack education and training, or have learnt poor agricultural practices in the past</li> <li>- Who grows food in the future? Young people are moving away from careers in agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition vs productivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crops, such as mung bean and green bean, are highly nutritious but less productive</li> <li>- More nutritious products do not automatically result in higher incomes</li> </ul>
<b>International competition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to compete with cheaper imported crops from countries with higher productivity</li> </ul>
<b>Inputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is not enough seed production for local needs and requirements</li> <li>- Cost of seeds, fertilisers and labour limits the potential of increased production</li> </ul>

### Challenges mentioned at the Nairobi Roundtable:

<b>Access to quality inputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeds are not tailored to local needs</li> <li>- Access to information on which seeds and fertiliser to use is needed</li> </ul>
<b>Access to markets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmers are lacking access to processing to add value</li> <li>- Farmers are lacking access to larger markets</li> </ul>
<b>Access to finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farming is capital intensive, but smallholder farming is not attractive for banks</li> <li>- Crop insurance does not cover for pest and diseases</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of harvests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change: not just changing weather conditions, also increase of pests and diseases</li> <li>- Post-harvest losses because of storage</li> </ul>
<b>Profitability of farming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional farming practices result in low yields</li> <li>- Late payments by processing companies trickle down to farmers</li> <li>- Prices in the market are volatile and unpredictable</li> <li>- Organic farming is costly</li> </ul>
<b>Enabling environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of infrastructure, such as electricity</li> <li>- Certification processes for new crops (e.g. chia seeds) are long and costly</li> </ul>
<b>Farmer training and capabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmers are reluctant to move into crops like sorghum as it is considered a 'poor man's crop'</li> <li>- Farmers are reluctant to change farming practices or use better inputs</li> </ul>
<b>Food safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of good storage facilities</li> <li>- High chemical use and toxic food (Aflatoxin)</li> </ul>

# Farmer Perspective

## Dialogue 2:

How can farmers contribute to the three dimensions of food system transformation?



To produce more nutritious food, farmers in both events emphasised the need for affordable and nutritious crop and input varieties, accompanied with the strong need to make growing of nutritious food profitable. Sensitisation of communities and consumers to nutritious food was also a reoccurring theme.

With regards to reducing the environmental impact of food production, organic farming and good agricultural practices, including circular solutions were put forward by farmers in both regions. The need for improved infrastructure and markets to reduce food loss and waste was voted as a key issue in Kathmandu.

On the social dimension the empowerment and inclusion of women and youth in agriculture was raised by participants from both events. Respect for the farmer as an entrepreneur and greater cooperation between farmer cooperatives and the private sector is key to this. Fair prices and reliable contracts were another aspect commonly elevated in Kathmandu as well as Nairobi.

## Issues prioritised at the Kathmandu Roundtable:

Nutrition Grow more healthy food	Environment Reduce environmental impact	Social Improve communities and farmers' lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the production and consumption of <b>traditional crops</b></li><li>• Better price for <b>organic and nutritious</b> crops compared to unhealthy processed foods</li><li>• Make it <b>attractive</b> for farmers to move into the production of <b>nutritious food</b></li><li>• <b>Better standards</b> for nutritious food (e.g. fair trade) that farmers can follow</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Train farmers on <b>better agricultural practices</b></li><li>• More R&amp;D on quality seeds that can <b>reduce environmental impact</b> and grow resilience</li><li>• Reduce the costs, improve price, better markets for <b>organic products</b></li><li>• Improve markets for fresh produce like vegetables to prevent <b>food loss and waste</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>More respect for farmers</b> as producers of nutritious food for all</li><li>• <b>Work with farmer organisations</b> to make agriculture attractive for youth</li><li>• Agree on <b>fair/minimum prices</b> or a price system with the industry for agricultural products</li><li>• Improve <b>gender equality</b></li></ul>

## Issues prioritised at the Nairobi Roundtable:

Nutrition Grow more healthy food	Environment Reduce environmental impact	Social Improve communities and farmers' lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sensitise communities</b> on what nutritious food is</li><li>• Access to <b>quality seeds of nutritious varieties</b></li><li>• Producing nutritious crops (value added) should be <b>profitable for farmers</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adopt circular solutions</b> (reuse residues, biogas)</li><li>• Introduce <b>organic farming</b> and the use of organic fertiliser/pesticides</li><li>• Raise <b>awareness among farmers</b> around environmental issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Capacity building</b> for farmers for good agricultural practices (GAP)</li><li>• <b>Empower women and youth</b> in agriculture</li><li>• Leverage benefits of working in <b>cooperatives</b></li></ul>



# Farmer Perspective

## Dialogue 3:

What do farmers need from companies across the value chain?



Farmers in both roundtables concluded that more cooperation and partnership with business is needed for them to contribute to food system transformation. In addition to the need for quality products at fair prices, farmers also seek collaboration and corporate efforts to access credit and insurance. Similarly, to reduce their environmental impact farmers need eco-friendly inputs, such as organic fertiliser, more training on good use, as well as suitable and affordable machinery. Crucially, food system transformation can only be achieved when farming is presented as a viable and attractive livelihood opportunity, particularly for women and youth. At the Nairobi Roundtable particularly, the red thread raised for all business across the value chain was to respect farmers as entrepreneurs and equal partners in the value chain.

Figure 4: Categories of companies across the value chain in relation to farmers



## Points raised at the Kathmandu Roundtable:

Input providers Seeds, fertilizer, agro-chemicals	Machinery Farming equipment	Off-takers Processors, retail, restaurants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assurance system for supply of quality seed</li> <li>Training on appropriate use of fertilisers and pesticides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop machinery that use <b>renewable energy</b> sources</li> <li><b>Small/portable machinery</b> that can be transported to remote areas</li> <li><b>Reduced cost of initial investment</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-takers should <b>buy and collect produce directly from farmers</b> (avoid the middle men)</li> <li><b>Buy-back agreements in place between farmer and buyer</b></li> </ul>

## Points raised at the Nairobi Roundtable:

Input providers Seeds, fertilizer, agro-chemicals	Machinery Farming equipment	Off-takers Processors, retail, restaurants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Affordability</b> of quality inputs</li> <li><b>Access to finance</b> through risk sharing, credit, insurance</li> <li>Trust and <b>quality guarantees</b> for products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Affordability</b> through farmer-friendly repayment schedules</li> <li><b>Eco-friendly</b> machinery with renewable energy source</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer <b>fair prices</b></li> <li><b>Timely payments</b></li> <li>Ensure <b>quality at the farm gate</b></li> </ul>

# Farmer & Company discussions

## Dialogue 4:

How can farmers and companies work together across the three dimensions of food system transformation?



The most prevalent ways companies and farmers could collaborate include knowledge sharing and capacity building of consumption of nutritious food across the value chain and the education of environmental impacts of products, promoting the production and communities about healthy dietary patterns. Securing off taking through contract farming; a stronger collaboration of companies with farmer cooperatives that strengthens the understanding of each other's business models as well as special programs for women and youth, were highlighted all on the social dimension of food system transformation. On environment, the most important answers were fostering organic farming, soil testing and soil quality assessment, mitigating climate change, strengthening farmer resilience and providing equal access to new technologies.



# Farmer & Company discussions

## Dialogue 4:

How can farmers and companies work together across the three dimensions of food system transformation?



### Solutions prioritised at the Kathmandu Roundtable:

Nutrition Grow more healthy food	Environment Reduce environmental impact	Social Improve communities and farmers' lives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Better technology</b> to reduce loss of nutrients at the farm level</li> <li>Increased <b>production, availability and affordability of biofortified seed</b> to improve nutritional value of crops</li> <li><b>Consumer education and awareness</b>, through product labelling, packaging and certification, to increase awareness and attractiveness of nutritious products</li> <li>Promotion of <b>local products and varieties</b></li> <li><b>Competitive pricing strategies</b> to make nutritious food production viable for farmers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Climate-smart agriculture</b>, supplemented with the use of early warning systems</li> <li>Use of <b>affordable environmentally friendly inputs</b> (fertilizers/pesticides), and the creation of an enabling environment by providing farmers with access to credits and subsidies</li> <li>Companies should invest in <b>R&amp;D</b> for the development of climate resistant varieties</li> <li>Promote the use of <b>alternative and renewable energy sources</b> such as solar and wind</li> <li>Availability &amp; affordability of <b>digital platforms</b> so that smallholder farmers can utilise new technologies</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage <b>greater respect for farmers</b>, through a variety of means; tailored training to help those with lower education, equitable sharing of risks and benefits in contracts, and fairer bargaining positions</li> <li>Particularly difficult for women to negotiate prices and bargain; <b>female capacity building</b> needed in skill development and negotiation as well as practical training-value of crops</li> <li><b>Improved digital infrastructure</b>, is crucial e.g. SMS, training, better access to information</li> <li>Greater mechanization may be a way to <b>attract youth</b> back into farming</li> <li>Joining a cooperative can help by farmers through <b>collective bargaining</b></li> </ol>

### Solutions prioritised at the Nairobi Roundtable:

Nutrition Grow more healthy food	Environment Reduce environmental impact	Social Improve communities and farmers' lives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Promote production of nutritious food throughout the value chain:</b> companies should do research on what nutritious food is and inform farmers/cooperatives to promote production of healthy food</li> <li>Raise awareness on relevance of <b>soil nutrition and soil testing</b></li> <li>Companies should invest in farmer <b>training on technology application of quality inputs</b> for safe use and faster absorption</li> <li>Companies should educate families on <b>healthy diet patterns</b></li> <li><b>Quality standards assurance</b> for products</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embrace <b>organic farming</b>, train farmers and build market linkages for organic products</li> <li>Partnership between companies and farmer organizations on measures to <b>mitigate effects of climate change</b></li> <li>Promote <b>renewable sources of energy</b> like solar power, biogas and wind</li> <li>Building the capacity of farmers to <b>prevent environmental degradation effects</b> of agriculture</li> <li>Promote <b>climate change resilience</b> through technologies: weather data, water supply and irrigation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen <b>collaboration companies and cooperatives</b>, strengthen farmer groups, understand each other's business model</li> <li>Secure off taking through <b>contract farming</b>, with agreements on prices, quantity, quality, training</li> <li>Special programs for <b>women and youth</b></li> <li>Companies to develop Corporate Social Responsibility (<b>CSR</b>) <b>programs</b> focused on health, housing, infrastructure</li> <li><b>Sensitization on social inclusion</b> through leaflets, tournaments, shows</li> </ol>



# Farmer & Company discussions

## Dialogue 5:

What are the priority issues for company and farmer collaboration?



Participants in Nairobi continued to deepen their discussion on how to advance six priority issues that came out of the morning discussion. Following the table discussions and presentation of discussion points, participants voted for their priority issue. These are listed below in order of most popularity.

- 1 Promote nutritious **food throughout the value chain** through collaboration was voted to be the most important priority: from research on what nutritious food is, supporting farmers to produce nutritious crops to consumption and educating communities on healthy food patterns.
- 2 Strengthen **collaboration between companies and cooperatives** and understand each other's business model by building partnerships across the value chain was emphasised as the second priority.
- 3 Secure off taking through **contract farming**, with agreements on prices, quantity, quality, training, clear and reliable contracts and trust in business relationships.
- 4 **Embrace organic farming**, using natural farm inputs and the use of organic fertilisers and pesticides, train farmers and build market linkages for organic products. With respect to farming practices, examples of permaculture, agronomic practices such as crop rotation and the use of integrated pest management were raised.

- 5 Raise awareness on relevance of **soil quality, soil nutrition and soil testing**, whereby companies can provide soil testing kits and advise farmers on adequate plant types tailored to the respective soil.
- 6 Partnership between companies and farmer organizations to **mitigate the effects of climate change** through mitigation measures such as green energy, afforestation, zero tillage and the protection of natural habitats as relevant mitigation activities and adaptation measures including the usage of drought resistant crops, rain water harvesting techniques and temperature sensors to increase awareness and preparedness.



## What's next? Concluding remarks



We were very pleased and proud for the vast amount and depth of knowledge that was shared during both roundtables. Not only was the term ‘food system transformation’ very well understood by everyone, but we found a lot of common ground and local knowledge and experiences that matches and underlines the scientific knowledge of global reports on food system transformation.

The discussions at the farmer roundtables really emphasised the social and economic issues tied to the food & agriculture sector, stressing that if we are going to work together to transform the food system the social dimension needs to be addressed in equal importance to the environmental and nutritional aspects. This strongly supports the decision of the WBA to include a social dimension in the benchmark, where many reports on food system transformation

primarily emphasize the nutritional and environmental dimension, and inspires us to keep the perspective and needs of the farmers at the heart of our work going forward.

Overall, the great depth and breadth of discussion will be very helpful in informing the methodology for WBA’s Food and Agriculture Benchmark, as well as for the review of the methodology of the Access to Seeds Index. Farmers participating in the roundtables and our organizing partners underlined the willingness to stay involved in the benchmarking process and encouraged WBA to set up coalitions with farmers’ organizations to ensure that their involvement will be organized in a structured manner. It also encouraged WBA to continue the practice of farmer roundtables and to extend these to other regions, such as Europe and the America’s to ensure that local perspectives are addressed.

WBA, and its predecessor the Access to Seeds Index, has since 2013 organized the farmer roundtables with local farmers’ organizations, with global farmers agencies such as Agriterra and with the Agricultural Councillors of the embassy network of The Netherlands. For the first time in Kathmandu and Nairobi, WBA partnered with the SUN Business Network, which enriched the business perspective of the discussions. WBA will explore further collaborations on with global business communities, such as with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

## What's next?

### Concluding remarks

- 1 Incorporate the issues and priorities raised throughout the farmer roundtables in the methodology development
- 2 Emphasise the importance of the social dimension in discussions around food system transformation
- 3 Set up ways to keep farmers and their representative organizations involved in the dialogues and linked to the development of the Food & Agriculture benchmark, such as through farmer coalitions
- 4 Continue the series of farmer roundtables, looking for opportunities to work with partners, to host events in Europe and the Americas.
- 5 Explore further collaboration in the farmer roundtables with business networks such as the SUN Business Network and WBCSD

In this report we have summarised the input of our participants for each dialogue. For a full list of discussion points please see WBA Farmer Roundtable Annex posted on our [website](#).

For any questions about the Food and Agriculture benchmark reach out to Mr. Ido Verhagen at [i.verhagen@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](mailto:i.verhagen@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org)

For any questions related specifically to the methodology of the benchmark reach out to Ms. Carla Hommes at [c.hommes@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](mailto:c.hommes@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org)





# Annex: List of participants

## Kathmandu Roundtable

Facilitated by Mr. Binod Bhatta

On behalf of WBA: Mr. Ido Verhagen,

Ms. Charlotte Reeves & Mr. Nathan Cable

## Farmer & translators

Name	Country
Mr. Kahndaker Shahed Ali	Bangladesh
Ms. Epy Rani Adhikary	Bangladesh
Mr. Sultan Mahmud Khan	Bangladesh
Mr. Hery Sugiarto	Indonesia
Mr. Heridan Anthocyana	Indonesia
Ms. Meiza Fujiati	Indonesia
Mr. Shiv Kumar Shukla	India
Mr. Shiv Kumar Singh	India
Ms. Feeva Iqualdo Egsan	Phillipines
Mr. Ben Roger Lucas	Phillipines
Mr. Truong Cam	Vietnam
Mr. Tran Thanh Son	Vietnam
Ms. Ly Thi Diu Thoung	Vietnam
Mr. Maheshwor Subedhi	Nepal
Ms. Bennidhi Capagain	Nepal
Mr. Srijana K.C	Nepal
Mr. Hari Adhikari	Nepal

## Companies

Name	Title	Company	Country
Mr. Andreas Bluethner	Director Food-Fortification & Partnerships	BASF	Germany
Mr. Ope Olanrewaju	CEO	Kennie O Cold Chain	Nigeria
Ms. Halatou Dem	Founder	Les Cereals de Tatam	Mali
Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Sinha	Head Agri-Business	LT Group	India
Mr. Dilip Rajan	Managing Director	East West Seed	India
Mr. Manas Bhattacharjee	Business Manager	Advanta	India
Ms. Moushumi Shrestha	Founder	Shreenagar	Nepal
Mr. Abdur Rashid	GM, Project & International Business	Lal Teer	Bangladesh

## Special guests & civil society

Name	Title	Organisation	Country
Ms. Navneet Mittal	Kenya Country Coordinator SBN	GAIN	Kenya
Ms. Uduak Igbeka	Senior Associate, Nigeria	GAIN	Nigeria
Ms. Efi Chatzinikolaou	Programme Manager	Access to Nutrition	Netherlands
Ms. Diane Holdorf	Managing Director of Food and Nature	WBCSD	US
Ms. Gerda Verburg	UN Assistant Secretary General	UN	Netherlands
Ms. Ilse Van de Bijl	Agricultural Attaché	Embassy of Netherlands, Delhi	Netherlands
Mr. Khem Bahadur Pathak	Chairperson	NACCFL	Nepal
Mr. Yubak Dhoj G.C	Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development	Nepal
Ms. Meena Pokharel	Deputy General Manager	NACCFL	Nepal
Mr. Diwakar Rupakheti	Program Manager	NACCFL	Nepal
Ms. Neem Lal Pandey	Program Manager	NACCFL	Nepal
Mr. Abinash Paudel	Program Manager	NACCFL	Nepal
Mr. Deepak Lohani	Program Manager	NACCFL	Nepal

# Annex: List of participants

## Nairobi Roundtable

Facilitated by Mr. Steven Otieno

On behalf of WBA: Mr. Ido Verhagen,

Ms. Charlotte Reeves & Ms. Carla Hommes

## Farmers

Name	Country
Ms. Diane Sibanda	Botswana
Mr. Hadison Gadi	Malawi
Mr. Hajasoanirina Rakotomandimby	Madagascar
Mr. Hakuzimana Francois	Rwanda
Ms. Judy Makena	Kenya
Ms. Margaret Lawerence	Lesotho
Ms. Miriam Makeba Opio	Uganda
Mr. Nuwagaba Rogers	Uganda
Ms. Uwambayeneza Nzabinimpa Charlotte	Rwanda
Ms. Zainabu Saidi	Tanzania

## Kenyan Sun Business Network farmers/entrepreneurs

Name	Business name
Mr. Alfonse M Musango	Green East Traders
Ms. Silpah Wilson	Zamange Food
Mr. Nahson Moturi	United MCS Ltd
Ms. Beverly Patricia	Dvakoioy Supplies
Mr. Julius Ndogari	Aberdare aquafisheries
Mr. Bennis Nderitu	Aberdare aquafisheries
Mr. Dennis Hderitu	NA
Mr. Luke Kiragu	Superior Mwitha
Mr. Seth Marita	Grake Farmers
Mr. Peter Njau	Penja Limited
Mr. Morrid Ikonya	Mushroom Farmers

Mr. Martin Ogangp	Flying Food Farms
Ms. Margaret Wamboi Njoroge	Betkam Fruits & Grain Processors
Mr. Steven Gatimur	Chia Seeds
Ms. Clara Sarah Kigamwa	Community based organisation
Ms. Florence Alice Mathingua	Agribusiness Solutions Ltd
Ms. Veronica Kimotho	Favor Dairy
Mr. Robert Muriidhi	Romwate
Ms. Eugene Nduriga	Farmshare
Mr. Felix Ouma	Fisco Farm Solutions
Mr. Franklin Gubeunda	Happi Food Farms
Mr. Levi Chikdabe	Kedo Solutions
Mr. Alex Kiragu	Rafiki Microfinance Bank
Ms. Agnes Theuri	NA

## Companies

Name	Title	Company	Country
Mr. Rogers Mugambi	Chief Business Officer	East African Seed	Kenya
Ms. Peninah Muthoni	Founder	Jupiter Farm Supplies	Kenya
Ms. Rosslynne Nyangi	Marketing Operations Lead	Syngenta	Kenya
Mr. Nicholas Ambanya	Chief Production Officer	Twiga Food	Kenya
Ms. Hellen Oyango	Founder	Agospace Limited	Kenya
Mr. Luke Nyaleng	Founder	Chulaimbo Agrodealer	Kenya
Ms. Angela Ndereyerio	CEO	Muavo Seeds	Kenya

## Civil Society and Special Guests

Name	Title	Organisation	Country
Mr. Philip Kiri	Ex-President of EAFF	EAFF	Kenya
Mr. Hilary Kibet	Program Manager	EAFF	Kenya
Mr. Rogers Kubai	Program Manager	EAFF	Kenya
Ms. Sigrid Meijer	Project Manager	SNV	Kenya
Ms. Brenda Mareri	Agricultural Advocacy Advisor	SNV	Kenya
Ms. Anne Majana	Project Manager	Hivos	Kenya