

Evidences

Study #4612

Contributing Projects:

- P1555 - Development of toolkit and WLE Decision Framework.

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: Youth and Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) networks use and benefit from the Innovative Food Systems Solutions portal to connect, learn, share and move to action around the world

Short outcome/impact statement:

The Innovative Food Systems Solutions Portal has empowered youth networks (Act4Food Act4Change, Social Gastronomy Movement, World Food Forum) and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) networks (SUN Business Network, African Start-up Awards Network, Agrobiodiversity Accelerator) with resources and support to connect and take action around food systems solutions. This has led to changes in behavior by these networks, further connecting nutrition, environment and equity in food systems solutions, and new ways of interacting and solution sharing among food system actors.

Outcome story for communications use:

<Not Defined>

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome: <Not Defined>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : No

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 1

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDs:

- Increased capacity for innovation in partner development organizations and in poor and vulnerable communities

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Global

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- WLE - Water, Land and Ecosystems
- A4NH - Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Contributing Flagships:

- F5: Enhancing Sustainability Across Agricultural Systems (ESA)

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- GAIN - Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- EAT - EAT Foundation
- Cornell University
- CSIRO - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

This is an application of an innovation reported in 2020 (P1555): Food Systems Dashboard with integrated environmental layers as decision-support tool is available online and linked to support UN Food Systems Summit processes.

Innovations:

- 2156 - Food system environmental data layers compiled and adapted to further innovate the Food Systems Dashboard

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

The Innovative Food Systems Solutions Portal (IFSS) was launched in May 2021 (1). It was co-developed by WLE/Alliance, GAIN, the EAT foundation, Cornell University, CSIRO and Wageningen University. The IFSS portal builds on results from Project Disrupt led by GAIN and the Alliance, the Nature Sustainability Panel on Innovations led by Cornell and the Wild Futures project led by CSIRO (2-6).

The portal was set up to help articulate and connect food systems solutions that can benefit both human and environmental health. To date, over 100 solutions have been uploaded with over 200 on-the-ground examples (1). By connecting multiple food systems actors, the IFSS portal has continued growing in multiple dimensions:

1) A growing number of core partners actively use and contribute to the portal, including the Social Gastronomy Movement, the SUN Business Network, Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI) and Act4Food Act4Change (7,8).

2) Portal functionalities have expanded with additions from investors, such as a database with potential funders and investors that want to connect more into this space; CoSAI studies on the investment landscapes for agricultural innovations; and, in collaboration with youth network Act4Food Act4Change, a page dedicated to youth engagement in food systems solutions (9).

3) Collaboration with SME networks including the SUN Business Network, African Start-up Awards and Accelerator4Impact has created a space for innovation challenges, including an upcoming EatSafe challenge and a collaboration with the Agrobiodiversity Innovation Challenge (7,8,10).

5) Together with multiple partners, the Moving to Action space of the portal has been expanded, e.g., with an interactive pathway-to-impact building tool which has already seen more than 20 pathways uploaded for different solutions (8).

Through this joint co-development and use of the IFSS portal, the youth and SME networks have said that the portal empowers them with resources on food systems solutions and support with a network, tools and expertise to take action and serve as food systems champions (9). Based on their demand, a specific youth group that directly engages with the portal team has been established and actively connects the broader youth actions and movements with the portal (9).

Taken together, this outcome highlights the empowerment of youth and SME networks through the IFSS portal, with resources, support and co-development of new joint functions to connect, learn and take actions around food systems solutions.

References cited:

- [1] GAIN. 2021. Project DISRUPT: Healthy diets on a healthy planet. (<https://tinyurl.com/ybd3hk95>)
- [2] Pedersen, C.; Remans, R.; Zornetzer, H.; De Hemptinne, M.; Brulé-Champagne, E.; Jensen, S.; Pedro, C.; Gonzalez, W.; Falla, A.; Laporte, M.A.; DeClerck, F. 2020. Game-changing innovations for healthy diets on a healthy planet: Insights from a Delphi Study. GAIN Working Paper #15. (<https://doi.org/10.36072/wp.15>)
- [3] IFSS. 2021. Backcasting tool. (<https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org/moving-to-action/backcasting-tool>)
- [4] GAIN. 2021. Innovative Food System Solutions (IFSS) Portal – Bringing people together across the food system around solutions that ensure both human and planetary health for all (UNFSS pre-Summit webinar). (<https://tinyurl.com/ydx8p3k9>)
- [5] IFSS. 2021. Agrobiodiversity Innovation Challenge. (<https://tinyurl.com/y8kc2z5d>)
- [6] Herrero, M.; Thornton, P.K.; Mason-D’Croz, D.; Palmer, J.; et al. 2021. Articulating the effect of food systems innovation on the Sustainable Development Goals. Lancet Planetary Health 5(1): e50-e62. ([https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(20\)30277-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30277-1))
- [7] IFSS. 2021. Youth engagement. (<https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org/youth-engagement>)
- [8] Barrett, C.B.; Benton, T.G.; Cooper, K.A.; Fanzo, J.; Gandhi, R.; Herrero, M.; James, S.; Kahn, M.; Mason-D’Croz, D.; Mathys, A.; Nelson, R.J.; Shen, J.; Thornton, P.; Bageant, E.; Fan, S.; Mude, A.G.; Sibanda, L.M.; Wood, S. 2020. Bundling innovations to transform agri-food systems. Nature Sustainability 3: 974-976. (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-00661-8>)
- [9] Herrero, M., Thornton, P.K., Mason-D’Croz, D. et al. 2020. Innovation can accelerate the transition towards a sustainable food system. Nat Food 1, 266–272. (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-0074-1>)
- [10] IFSS. 2021. Innovative Food Systems Solutions Portal. (<https://ifssportal.nutritionconnect.org>)

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: Gender and equity are specific focus points and criteria of the IFSS portal and the solutions listed and are prompted by the backcasting and other Moving to Action tools of the portal (1,8,9).

Youth relevance: 2 - Principal

Main achievements with specific **Youth** relevance: Youth networks are actively involved and empowered (9).

CapDev relevance: 2 - Principal

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: Youth and SME networks note that they are empowered through the IFSS portal by the resources and support provided. Innovative capacity development through co-creation is actively promoted, used and increasingly demanded by multiple actors – e.g., by SME networks to provide facilitations session on backcasting and pathway-to-impact builders (2,9,10).

Climate Change relevance: 1 - Significant

Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: Climate mitigation and adaptation are specific focus points and criteria of the IFSS portal, and the solutions listed, and are prompted by the backcasting and other Moving to Action tools of the portal (1-6,8).

Other cross-cutting dimensions: <Not Defined>

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #4612](#)

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