

GRP/EAT Stockholm Food Forum 2019

Side Event Report

Food Transformation for All: What can business do to build resilience?

Objectives

Capitalizing on the presence of agri-business and private sector actors at the EAT Forum, GRP and its partners are hosting a side event in order to:

1. share the latest proposed actions on building resilient food and agriculture supply chains, and engagement opportunities to take action forward under the **UN Climate Action Summit and beyond**
2. capture ideas on **advancing on action and innovations from agri-business leaders**, senior policy makers and others stakeholders on building resilient food and agriculture value chains.

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item	Who and how
3 min	Compare/Moderator	Maya Rebermark , Head of Communications, GRP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agenda, objectives for the day, Mentimeter tools, speakers</i>
5 min	Welcome and Introduction	Line Gordon , Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GRP introduction</i>
20 min (10 min)	2 x Inspiration Talk <i>(High-level overview of scientific and political trends)</i>	Johan Rockström , Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam & Advisory Council Chair, Global Resilience Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What science tells us: Why is it imperative for business to build resilience into supply chains?</i>
(10 min)		David Nabarro , Strategic Director, 4SD & co-facilitator for Nature-based Solutions Workstream, UN SG Climate Action Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the 2019 opportunities for action to transform food systems?</i>
20 min	4 x Speedtalks presentation at tables by table heads Each speaker at a different table (4 min each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assan N'gombe, Resilience Officer, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) <i>How can businesses help make food and agriculture chains in Africa more resilient?</i> • SUN Movement representative: Mx. Laxmi Ghimire, Program Director- Health/Nutrition, National Planning commission, Nepal and Mrs. Shantha Wijeratne, Secretary to the State Ministry, State Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Economic Affairs <i>How building resilient food systems delivers nutrition benefits</i> • David Howlett, Head of Policy, GRP <i>The need for a transformation to resilient food and value chains.</i>

30 min	Small group discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation at each table by “Table Head”. Each table will consider two questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the initiatives that you are working on – or are aware of- to build resilience in food and agricultural systems? How are these initiatives building resilience for smallholder farmers and local communities, in particular in the least developed countries?
10 min **5 min buffer	Wrapping up and Closing Remarks	<p>Deon Nel, CEO, Global Resilience Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathers short feedback from each table and the facilitators Wrapping up thoughts, future vision and opportunities for business to engage with GRP and partners. Close the session

Meeting Report:

Line Gordon welcomed the participants to the side event. She said that:

- Building resilient food systems is critical for resilience building and that it needs to be embedded in value chains.
- Mobilizing climate finance and business is critical for this agenda.

Johan Rockström on *What the science tells us: Why is it imperative for business to build resilience into supply chains?*

He says there are five priorities to build resilience in food supply chains:

1. Create urgency,
2. Transformative change vs. incremental change,
3. Raising food systems on the agenda,
4. Progressing an integrated human-nature agenda, and
5. Investing in resilience

David Nabarro on *What are the 2019 opportunities for action to transform food systems?*

- Drivers of system disturbance:
 - Violent conflict
 - Extreme weather
 - Economic collapse
- Systems under threat:
 - Livelihood systems
 - Food and water systems
 - Health systems
- Acting for resilience:
 - Connecting with nature
 - Nabarro gave the example of mangroves and how they previously have been seen as an impediment and been removed to allow for easier shore access and to create space for boats to dock. However, it has been discovered that they provide a natural barrier against storm surges and protect coast communities. Thus connecting with nature can build resilience.
 - Technologies (i.e. knowing in advance when a disaster will hit, the market will crash, or conflict might break out)

- Insurance, special financing schemes, governance
- Opportunities:
 - UNSG Climate Action Summit 2019
 - Biodiversity summit 2020
 - Food systems summit 2021
- Who is acting, what does it mean?
 - Communities
 - Business
 - Governments
- Deon Nel added that equity is also needed to build resilience.

Assan Ng'ombe on *How can businesses help make food and agriculture chains in Africa more resilient?*

Ng'ombe says the role of business is key. AGRA identifies farmers to work with businesses. Businesses are more agile and have the ability to innovate where governments cannot. [AGRA has created a network of village-based advisors](#). They have created the connection between businesses and smallholder farmers. Mobile money is another aspect that has been beneficial to smallholders as it has given them the ability to save and accountability with their money.

Laxmi Ghimire and Shatha Wijeratne on *How can building resilient food systems deliver nutrition benefits?*

Small group discussion around two questions:

1. What are the initiatives that you are working on – or are aware of- to build resilience in food and agricultural systems?
2. How are these initiatives building resilience for smallholder farmers and local communities, in particular in the least developed countries?

Jon Banner, executive vice president of Global Communications at PepsiCo and president of PepsiCo Foundation

- 4 initiatives that Pepsi Co is working on:
 1. They are working with [Oxfam in Indonesia to raise revenue for smallholder farmers in the palm oil industry](#) to enable them to get fair prices and enter the global market chain. Big business typically dominate the global market chain forcing the smallholders to drive down their prices to unsustainable levels. This work is also tied with human rights elements like the right to dignity and fair wages, among others.
 2. They have also established a sustainable farming program with a focus on the supply chain.
 3. [Pepsi Co just recently signed an MOU with USAID to advance sustainable agriculture](#) and tackle gender inequality in farming as part of their work to build a more sustainable food system.
 4. They also partner with CARE on the *She feeds the world* initiative. This part of the company's broader effort to support a more [sustainable food system by](#)

[empowering women in the agricultural supply chain](#) and by investing in multisector programs with the potential to achieve change at scale.

[SUN initiatives in Liberia:](#)

- They working with smallholders and business to connect the smallholders to the market value chains.
- They are also encouraging diversified cultivation system as part of the strategy (mixed tree and food crops) to increase sources of income.

Talia Smith FOLU/Systemiq:

She mentioned several [initiatives that they are working on in Colombia:](#)

1. They are working with coalition partners on farming opportunities in post-conflict areas to create partnership with businesses and smallholder dairy farms. Used a deliberative process that was co-developed by all the partners involved. It is important to bring all stakeholders together including businesses to discuss the priorities of the communities but also to collectively define the most appropriate strategies to set things up in the that context to alleviate the perceived or real level of risk to investments/funds (to ensure that business/investors don't shy away from these areas).
- In Colombian, they were surprised the food-health safety was a concern as they used 300 times the amount of pesticides in tomato farming than the rest of Latin America. Thus land regeneration became a priority.
- They have also introduced models for reinvesting in soils and reducing pesticides and fertilizer in tomato farming.

David Howlett GRP:

- Initiatives from WEF on Resilience Food Value Chains
- Initiative from WBCSD on Climate Smart Agriculture
- Initiative from B4SD

What are the biggest challenges of bringing in big business?

- Biggest opportunity is to design some sort of metric, or framework for smallholder farmers. The technical knowhow is available, but the frameworks are not always the same. Consistency is an opportunity.