CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

How can FAO better support countries in addressing governance of agrifood systems transformation to make them more sustainable, inclusive and resilient?

Template for submissions

This online call for submissions is being organized jointly by the Office of SDGs, the Food Systems and Food Safety Division, the Governance and Policy Support Unit, and the Development Law Service, to engage various stakeholders and gather examples of governance-related measures and interventions with transformative impact for agrifood systems.

The results emerging from the received submissions will contribute to informing FAO's work at country level related to policy, law, and governance for more inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable agrifood systems.

To take part in this Call for submissions, please register to the FSN Forum, if you are not yet a member, or “sign in” to your account. Please download the submission template in any of six UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese) and upload the completed form (in Word document format) in the box “Post your contribution” on the call webpage. Please keep the length of submissions limited to 2,000 words and feel also free to attach relevant supporting materials.

For any technical questions or assistance please contact fsn-moderator@fao.org.

The Call for Submissions is open until 1 April 2024.
How can the hidden costs and benefits of agrifood systems be effectively incorporated into decision-making for transformation?

**Template for submissions**

*Please note that “transformative impact” refers to innovative, pro-active changes away from “business as usual”*

1. **Proponent (name/institution/unit)**

   Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)

2. **Title of the example presented and the type of governance-related transformative intervention/measure (policy, legal, institutional, financial...)**


   Third party transformative project undertaken: Leveraging the benefits of multi-stakeholders’ partnership to support rural women and youth in the dairy sector in Kenya.

3. **Location of the transformative intervention/measure (global/regional/national/sub-national; urban/rural)**

   Kenya: In four Counties namely: Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kirinyaga and Embu

4. **Which aspect, problem or challenge of the agrifood system was the transformative intervention/measure aiming to address?**

   Low milk production, Limited financial access for women and youth to invest in the dairy value chain. Limited engagement of women and youth in formulating dairy sector specific laws and regulations. Poor access to markets and farm inputs. Limited engagement of women and youth in governance in the dairy sector.

5. **What transformational impact was the intervention/measure aiming to achieve (including in terms of the three pillars of sustainability)?**

   Upgrading the dairy value chain from a low production system to a more cost effective high output technology which is a market oriented commercial system. The intervention took into account of the three pillars of sustainability as follows:

   **Social**: Involvement of youth and women in membership and governance of dairy cooperatives. Capacity building of youth and women on group dynamics and good agricultural practices for food security.

   **Economic**: Ensuring increased milk production which in turn will increase income, increase job opportunities thereby improving livelihoods of women and youth smallholder dairy farmers.
Lobbying for favourable tax policies in the dairy value chain. Enhancement of market access for dairy products through policy, technological advancement and innovations.

**Environment:** Adoption of climate smart dairy production practices. This entails:

- **a)** Silage and hay making – Harvesting and preservation of animal fodder during the high production season to use during low production season.

- **b)** Compost manure making – Encourage farmers to use organic manure in fodder production.

- **c)** Climate smart fodder production practices/strategies – Established five fodder crop demonstration sites for training farmers on climate smart agriculture (CAS) practices (Three sites have been supplied with 1000 litre water tanks for irrigation).

### 6. What was the impact achieved in practice?

According to AIRTEA TP_010 status of the indicators Report 2023, several positive outputs and outcomes were observed in the process of project implementation. At the end of the project in November 2024, after the monitoring and evaluation report has been done and documented, the impact will be highlighted.

### 7. How was the transformative change obtained by the intervention/measure? (a) data and evidence collected, b) concrete ways to measure, c) actors involved)

The transformative change was achieved through creation of a multi-stakeholder partnership and establishment of a collaborative platform connecting all dairy value chain actors known as a Dairy Innovation Platform (DIP). This platform was used to address issues of low dairy production, limited economic service access and smallholder farmer involvement (women and youth) across the value chain when also providing a channel for inclusive knowledge, technology transfer and policy dialogue. The collaborative platform established an updated knowledge-sharing mechanism for smallholder dairy farmers and other dairy value chain actors that improved technical capacities of youths and women smallholder farmers.

- **a)** Data and evidence collected: Project progress reports, AIRTEA TP_010 status of the indicators 2023.

- **b)** Concrete ways to measure: Number of farmers who have adopted, Improvement in dairy milk production, Farmer records.

- **c)** Actors involved: Direct and indirect actors involving - Industry practitioners, Researchers, Farmer cooperatives, Dairy input and service providers, Financiers, Milk processors, women and youth dairy farmers, public authorities from county to national level.

### 8. What were the key challenges and trade-offs identified and how did a measure/intervention succeed in producing co-benefits and synergies [delivering
How can the hidden costs and benefits of agrifood systems be effectively incorporated into decision-making for transformation?

on economic, environmental and social (including gender equality) sustainability] rather than favoring one option over the other?

One key challenge was erratic weather conditions that affected some project target areas. This led to decreased fodder production that affected dairy milk production. The challenge was addressed by the use of fodder crops that were able to escape drought and use of preserved silage or hay. Farmers were encouraged to practice irrigation of fodder crops for their animals where possible. In the demo sites, irrigation was practiced purchased water supplemented by provision of 1000 litres water tanks by the project.

National general election in August 2022 halted the initial project implementation phases. However, after smooth transition that took place in mid-September 2022 the project activities were able to resume.

9. Who were the key actors and stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of the intervention/measures in question, and what were their respective roles and capacities to exert power and influence?

1. Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)- It was the leader of the innovative partnership involved in coordination of the activities of the consortium.

2. Kenya Agricultural and Livestock research Organization (KALRO), Dairy Research Institute, Naivasha-Tasked with provision of Dairy Technical Support Services, Introduction of appropriate sustainable innovations and cost effective technologies on efficient pasture and fodder production, disease control and nutrition challenges to enhance increased milk production.

3. Kenya Animal Genetic Resources Centre (KAGRC) – Tasked with provision of action research for animal genetic improvement. Undertaking of input supplies for Artificial Insemination (A.I), extension services to farmers, refresher courses to AI service providers and networking with other players along the value chain.

4. New Kenya Cooperative creameries (NKCC) - Contribution to the provision market access for farmers. Undertaking capacity building in areas of milk aggregation, quality control and artificial insemination.

5. Coop consultancy bancassurance intermediary (CCBI) - Contribution to financial service delivery, advisory services and training. Developing specific-savings and e-credits products for women and youth in selected cooperatives.

Others:


2. The National Government.

3. County government officials (Embu, Kirinyaga, Nyeri and Nyandarua).

4. Farm input suppliers (Simlaw Seeds, KALRO Embu, KALRO Oljororok, KALRO Lanet)

5. Kenya Dairy Board (KDB)
10. Did any of these key actors and stakeholders oppose or resist the envisioned transformative intervention, and if so, what were their main motivations and interests, and how was this resistance addressed?

No, all the stakeholders cooperated well toward the transformative intervention.

11. To what extent is this measure transformative in improving the livelihoods of the most disadvantaged, and how does it contribute to a more inclusive food system?

Progress reports, continuous observation during field visits and interviews done in the process of implementing the project showed that there was great improvement in milk production and animal husbandry practices among women and youth.

12. What means were used to demonstrate positive changes in the most disadvantaged sectors of the population, and what monitoring and accountability mechanisms were put in place to ensure proper implementation?

Means used to demonstrate positive change:
1. Observation - Pictures and videos
2. Interviews
3. Project Reports

Monitoring and accountability mechanism used:
1. Baseline survey
2. Farm records using farm monitoring tool

13. Key lessons that can be learned from your case (both positive and negative) and whether these could be applicable in other contexts with similar characteristics

1. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can work to bring transformative change in addressing community challenges.
2. Connecting research findings from research institutions with farmers is key in enhancing farm production.
3. Engagement of all stakeholders in reviewing appropriate policies is fundamental to the improvement of the dairy sector.
4. Involvement of women and youth in dairy sector value chain is a source of empowerment (social, economic and environmental).
5. Lack of proper project coordination in the multi-stakeholder partnership can lead to stagnation of project progress.

14. Based on your experience, what gaps/areas of improvement still remain that need further action?

Due to financial constraints and short project duration, the project couldn't fully achieve all of its objectives and thus, the following areas need further improvement:

At policy and governance level, there are gaps in:
1. Formalization of a national working innovation platform through formation of a dairy federation to influence and operationalize policies at both county and national level in dairy sector. This process involves a consultative process involving development of by-laws and public participation, subjecting by-laws for registration and recruitment of members to the federation
2. Capacity building of the dairy cooperatives on governance so as to involve women and youth at leadership level and value addition
3. Climate change adaptation – Harmonization of policies, activities, projects, interventions being implemented and formulated by government and other stakeholders in addressing climate change sustainability in the dairy sector such as the use of renewable energy through production of biogas, use of solar energy for farm operations
4. Sustainable climate smart agriculture practices such as circular agriculture, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture and organic agriculture

15. What are your key messages/takeaways from this intervention/measure?

1. Functional multi-stakeholder partnership and coordination is key to success of the project
2. Having appropriate and consultative policies in place that support dairy-subsector value chain enhances inclusivity and productivity
3. Knowledge sharing and innovation are key strategies to bring transformation and address emerging challenges in the dairy sector to ensure sustainability (Social economic and environmental)
4. Use of cost-effective and farmer friendly technology is helpful in various farm operations such as record keeping, integration of farmer interface at cooperative level, market access and information sharing.
5. Continuous capacity building and inclusion of women and youth contributes to great success to dairy sector due to their involvement in dairy primary production
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16. Please feel free to share relevant links to resources and documentation regarding your intervention.

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<td>2.</td>
<td>AIRTEA TP_010 status of the indicators Report 2023 (Attached)</td>
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