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.
How can the hidden costs and benefits of agrifood systems be effectively incorporated into decision-making for transformation?

The Call for Submissions is open until 1 April 2024.

Template for submissions

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

1. Proponent (name/institution/unit)

| National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka |

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

| Promoting SCP in Sri Lanka Through Facilitating Accessibility to Information. |

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

| Sri Lanka |

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

| SCP practice can play an important role to change current unsustainable practices in Sri Lanka’s agriculture and food sector. Agriculture in Sri Lanka, utilizing 43% of the total land area of the country, is one of the key environmental concerns; having a tremendous impact on everything from climate change to soil deterioration. The lack of awareness sustainable produce among consumers, the lack of standards, limited certification systems at affordable prices and the lack of third party verification have so far hindered the switch to environmentally sustainable and healthy practices in the agriculture sector. Progress towards environmentally sustainable agri-food systems in Sri Lanka requires improving the methods for quantitative, integrated assessment, and promoting the use of these methods in different domains. But the shortage of data has restricted Sri Lanka in its analysis of a number of food-related challenges and to advance the currently available approaches and methods. |
5. **What transformational impact was the intervention/measure aiming to achieve (including in terms of the three pillars of sustainability)?**

The above project aimed to develop a methodological framework to improve sustainability in Agri-food sector of Sri Lanka through improving accessibility to information.

- Developing LCI databases for rice processing, tea and dairy
- Developing certifiable green product criteria and green product certification for a selected product category
- Increase consumer awareness on sustainability issues, use of information, and available green product certification

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

- Development of LCA database for the Agri-food sector (tea, rice, and dairy) in Sri Lanka
- Introduction of eco-labeling Scheme for dairy and tea industry

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

Introduce Type 1 ecolabel to the Agrifood subsectors of diary and tea thereby improving the best practices through the companies and sending the message to the companies

8. **What were the key challenges and trade-offs identified? How did a measure/intervention succeed in producing co-benefits and synergies [delivering on economic, environmental and social (including gender equality) sustainability] rather than favoring one option over the other?**

Improving the environmental best practices and certifying Eco-labeling to the tea and dairy sector companies in Sri Lanka

- through showcasing the business benefits of ecolabels
- develop champions (pilot companies) and promote their success story
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?

- Industry associations
- Planters’ associations
- Government stakeholders
- Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka
- Universities

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?

Despite initial reluctance from certain industries, the explanation of the business benefits of eco-labeling served as a motivating factor for their adoption.

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?

This measure demonstrates a significant transformative impact on improving the livelihoods of the most disadvantaged, while adopting a more inclusive food system. By promoting the production of healthy food products, particularly within the tea sector, it directly enhances the working environment for workers involved in cultivation. Implementation of measures such as improved fertilizer application at the cultivation stage not only reduces environmental harm but also minimizes health impacts on workers, thus contributing to their overall well-being.

Furthermore, the reduction of pesticides and residues in tea production not only ensures the safety and health of consumers but also contributes to the availability of healthier food options in the market. This shift towards healthier practices not only benefits consumers but also supports the livelihoods of small-scale farmers who may have been disproportionately affected by conventional, less sustainable agricultural practices.

Overall, by prioritizing health and sustainability in tea production, this measure promotes inclusivity by improving the conditions for workers and ensuring access to healthier food choices for consumers, thus contributing to a more equitable and inclusive food system.
12. 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

Globally, there are fewer ecolabel schemes available for the food sector. This project focused on developing Eco-labeling schemes specifically for the tea and dairy sectors, which were subsequently introduced to relevant companies. Notably, this initiative marks the first ecolabel for tea in the world and contributes to enhancing environmental standards within the industry.

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

There are still gaps and areas for improvement that require further action to expand eco-labeling initiatives to other food sectors beyond tea and dairy. These include:

- **Research and Development**: Conduct additional research and development to create Eco labeling schemes tailored to different food sectors, considering their specific environmental impacts and sustainability challenges.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**: Engaging with stakeholders across various food sectors to raise awareness about the benefits of Eco labeling and garner support for its implementation.

- **Regulatory Framework**: Developing or enhancing regulatory frameworks to support the adoption of eco-labeling in other food sectors.

- **Capacity Building**: Providing training and capacity-building programs to companies within other food sectors to help them understand and comply with eco-labeling requirements.

- **Consumer Education**: Educating consumers about the importance of Eco labeling and empowering them to make informed choices when purchasing food products, thereby creating demand for goods that possess Ecolabels across a wider range of sectors.

Addressing these areas of improvement will be crucial for the successful expansion of eco-labeling initiatives to other food sectors, ultimately contributing to broader sustainability goals within the food industry.
15. What are your key messages/takeaways from this intervention/measure?

Utilizing tools that employ a life cycle (supply chain) approach, which also encompass consumption, can yield numerous benefits, including enhanced communication and reporting of sustainability advantages. This approach facilitates engagement with both manufacturers and consumers, adopting greater understanding and participation in sustainable practices throughout the product lifecycle.

16. Please feel free to share relevant links to resources and documentation regarding your intervention.


https://www.ncpcsrilanka.org/projects/promoting-scp-sri-lanka/