


Strengthening inclusive MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION for meaningful impact

What works? How to support more?

The points below represent the **KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES AND INSIGHTS** of the virtual dialogue “*Stories of practice, learning and change from Uganda*” held on 5 July 2023.

Rather than read them as tips, guidance or recommendations, hold them up like a “mirror” to your own mental models and dominant collective discourse. How might these insights pivot your thinking down new pathways? More importantly, how might they nudge your practice or behaviour?

Coordination in one place, at one time, at one convening table is not what’s happening. Coordination is effectively and swiftly happening in a multitude of diverse systems (youth, CSO, private sector, etc.) across the agri-food transformation eco-system. Perhaps we have misunderstood coordination governance.

 What might you think of that?


The fallacy of coordination hierarchy

National food systems convening chairpersons and champions have convening power, significant power. The thoughtfully structured convening platforms strengthen trust in one another, and in transformative power, by holding one another peer accountable to do what we said we would do when we would do it. They embolden requisite radical shifts by sensing emerging opportunities and constantly re-visioning and refining impact intentions. Transformation is an Extremely Radical Change. Radical Game Changers/Champions are required.

The role of the national food systems convening platform is to nurture trust and embolden radical shifts

To what extent are you prepared to let go of your attachment to pre-defined outcomes and rather be open to emerging outcomes?

Youth committed to participating the impactful agri-food system transformations and are well aware of the systemic challenges of lack of financing, lack of credit, lack of land and lack of inclusion. Youth aren’t focused on “lack”, youth are focused on growth and opportunities. Youth are stepping up to advance young women farmers in climate smart, nutritious food production and added value processing and packaging.

 Listen-up. What diverse young agri-preneurs are at your dialogue, decision, design and delivery table?

Youth are tapped in and sense when opportunity knocks



CSO and citizens welcome the opportunity and prepare to bring experience-proven voice to, and influence decisions at, the national food systems convening platforms. This requires mapping relevant CSO eco-system players to determine who has a combination of the most concise and impactful knowledge messages and the skill to influence decision-makers.

Mobilizing voice is very different than mobilizing noise

How are you meaningfully supporting the CSO community in mobilizing voice?

Language and engrained mental models matter, especially when they mutually reinforce existing personal and systems biases and unconscious affinities. The private sector started at fork and moved along the agri-food system chain to farm. This resulted in attention and purposeful action being brought to ensuring quality and standard controlled inputs (seed, fertilizer, climate-smart processing, packaging and labelling, etc.) to achieve quality outputs.

What prevalent and all-consuming mental models you might need to clean out of your head?

"Farm to Fork" flipped on its head as "Fork to Farm"

One "bright spot" concerning COVID19 is the openness to using new web-based mechanisms to mobilize and coordinate voices virtually. Civil society, farmers' organizations, research institutions, private sector, youth, and other diverse organizations can be quickly brought together in timely fashions.

COVID 19 "bright spot"

What are we doing to support secure and reliable access to convening e-platforms?

In Uganda, the Parish Development Model can be considered the last (and probably most intimate) level at which people collectively come together. It is where very practical capital and resource investments can be made to the cooperative/collective change. Examples include cold storage facilities, small processing facilities, financial investments, marketing know-how and assistance, food handling and safety training, etc.

What needs to be known and humbly respected about effective change players at the subnational level?

Suspend the question of how to reach the sub-national level, rather ask who at the subnational level has established reach

Development partners have useful technical know-how to offer but might need to own the disruption they can inadvertently activate within systems transformation work. Arriving with new frameworks or conditional funding can divert attention from healthy systems change processes already well underway.

Development partners can inadvertently disrupt country-level change intentions and processes

To what extent are development partners behaving with due no harm diligence?

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

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