



THE RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS ALLIANCE

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

Dear Partners of the Resilient Local Food Supply Chains Alliance,

We hope you are all keeping well.

As we bid farewell to 2023, we should reflect on the importance of fostering and contributing to transformation of food systems. 2023 has been a year marked by your collective input to fostering resilience, sharing innovative practices and transformative moments, and encapsulating the diverse ways that we have defined the past twelve months.

Commencing the year 2024, we are pleased to invite you to the **Alliance General Meeting scheduled for the 30th of January 2024**. Your presence will be highly valued as we collectively embark on the strategic discussion that will shape the course of the Alliance in the coming year and elect a chair and co-chair for 2024.

We expect to announce a high-level champion of the Alliance to strengthen advocacy for the Alliance's work with countries and its partners.

A great big thank you goes out to all our partners and members of the Steering Group, ably chaired and co-chaired by the Democratic Republic of Congo (Mr Mike Limbuko) and Italy (Dr Giaime Berti), respectively.

Thank you to the [World Farmers Markets Coalition](https://www.worldfarmersmarketscoalition.org/rlfsca/) for hosting our [webpage](https://www.worldfarmersmarketscoalition.org/rlfsca/) <https://www.worldfarmersmarketscoalition.org/rlfsca/>; thanks also go to IntelliDigest for the design of the Alliance logo.

As committed partners, you have participated in our activities and advocated, steadfastly, for the Alliance objectives. Your invaluable support and dedicated advocacy for resilient local food supply (and value) chains are taking root. Countries are focusing on local food production and how to address the challenges and constraints governments and farmers face – finance, climate, access to technology and local capacities. Strong local food supply chains, increased production of local, nutritious and climate resilient food, inclusive approaches within territories that support farmers, young entrepreneurs and women are imperative for the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 and contribute to the other SDGs (3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 17) that the Alliance targets.

2023 - the year of growth!

Accomplishment and Activities

Strategic Retreat – March 2023

The Alliance held a retreat – in person and online - in Rome, FAO HQ in March 2023; reaffirming countries' needs, expectations, and contributions and the action areas that should be addressed. The Task Forces were launched at this retreat. Appreciation to [AUDA-NEPAD](#) and all the partners who travelled to Rome for the Retreat and the partners who stayed on line for three days! Thank you to Dr Giaime Berti, the Co-Chair of the Steering Group who facilitated the **“Italian Roundtable on Supply**



The Alliance Steering Group during Strategic Planning Retreat in Rome March 2023. Source: RLFSCA.



Chains” and to Carmelo Troccoli for a splendid **Campagna Amica/Coldiretti field visit.**

If you want to read the summary of the Retreat, you can access it [here](#).

Field Visit to Mercato Campagna Amica supported by World Farmers Market Coalition during the Alliance Strategic Planning Retreat in Rome March 2023. Source: RLFSCA.

Scoping Missions – April 2023

Members of the Alliance Coordination Team went to the DRC for a scoping mission with the support of AUDA-NEPAD. An Aide Memoire of the Mission was conveyed to the Alliance through AUDA-NEPAD, reaffirming the findings of the Mission and a letter from the Minister of Agriculture has been sent to AUDA-NEPAD requesting support to implement the identified priorities. As part of our collaborative efforts to mobilise support, with other members and partners, preliminary discussions have started with the CGIAR and the World Farmers Market Coalition of how the Alliance can facilitate support to the DRC. This activity will be scaled up in the New Year.



The Alliance and DRC representatives during scoping mission in April 2023. Source: RLFSCA.

The Alliance also planned for a scoping mission to Nigeria. Nigeria, facilitated by the Alliance Steering Group member, Dr Sanjo Faniran, National Food Systems Convenor of the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, has written to AUDA-NEPAD requesting an Alliance Mission to explore how to support capacity building in building local food supply chains. This is an activity also for scaling up in 2024.

The 2nd Youth Dialogue Webinar – April 2023



Makandi Laiboni (Moderator)

Makandi Laiboni (One Acre Fund) moderated the 2nd Youth Dialogue Webinar. Source: RLFSCA.

The 2nd Youth Dialogue webinar aimed to explore the role of young people in local food supply chains/local food systems, share examples of successful good practices and experiences as entrepreneurs, and facilitate a discussion on opportunities and challenges for start-ups and small entrepreneurs. This dialogue built on the success of the 1st Youth Dialogue held in 2022.

Mastercard Foundation, CDC Benin, La Huertica Urbana, JR Farms, and ACOREC participated as panellists during this webinar.

Read the full report [here](#).

UNFSS 2+ StockTaking Moment



His Excellency Francesco Lollobrigida, The Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry of Italy (2nd from left), Her Excellency Jeanine M. Cooper, The Minister of Agriculture of Liberia (3rd from left), Mr Olawale Rotimi, The CEO and Founder of JR Farms (4th from left) and Dr Shenggen Fan, CGIAR System Board Member (2nd from right). Source: WorldFMC.

Richard McCarthy, the President of the World Farmers Markets Coalition made an intervention during the plenary. Credit: WorldFMC.



Alliance partners Mary Mpereh (3rd from left), Dr Giaime Berti (4th from right), Carmelo Troccoli, the Director of the World Farmers Markets Coalition (3rd from right) and Richard McCarthy, the President of World Farmers Markets Coalition (2nd from right). Source: WorldFMC.

During the UN Food Systems Summit 2+ StockTaking Moment (UNFSS 2+ STM) the Alliance was strongly represented within the WFP led Plenary 2 session **“Reversing the food and hunger crisis: building more resilient food systems”**. This event featured five partners of the Alliance as speakers and also from the floor.

Watch the session [here](#)

Additionally, partners and members of the Alliance’s steering group spoke and advocated for the Alliance in three other side events:

“Scaling up multi-stakeholder investments in the food systems in Nigeria”

Watch the session [here](#)



Partners of the Alliance at UNFSS 2+ Stock Taking Moment. From left to right: Dr Manyewu Mutamba, AUDA-NEPAD; Ms Kefilwe Moalosi, AUDA-NEPAD; Dr Clement Adjorlolo, AUDA-NEPAD; Dr Simon Heck, CIP, CGIAR; Samira Hotobah-During, WFP; Dr Sanjo Faniran, Federal Republic of Nigeria; Ms Joyce Maru, CIP, CGIAR;

“Farmers Markets: A strategic tool to develop resilient local food systems”

Watch the session [here](#)

“City, subnational and national governments towards sustainable food systems”

Watch the session [here](#)

Discussion with Ghana and World Farmers Market Coalition – September 2023

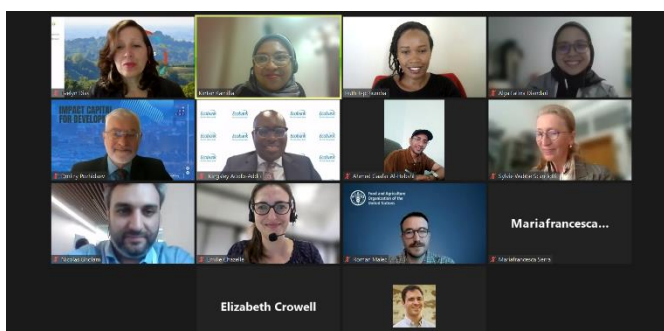
The Alliance connected WFP Ghana Country Office, Ghana food systems national convenor and World Farmers Market Coalition to discuss the possibilities of collaboration on supporting smallholder farmers and building local food supply chains. This collaboration will be deepened in 2024.

Discussion with LAC Region – September 2023

To expand and bring new partners in the Latin America region, the Alliance held a discussion facilitated by CGIAR, spearheaded by Dr Simon Heck, Director General of CIP/CGIAR and lead of the research and innovation task force. The discussion included research institutions and countries' representatives in the LAC region. A follow up to this discussion will continue, to culminate in an in-person meeting in the region in 2024; using the mobilising influence and networks of the CGIAR.

World Food Forum – October 2023

The Alliance held a side event and during the World Food Forum 2023 at FAO, in collaboration with the HDP Nexus Coalition. The side event was in the form of a dialogue that highlighted the importance of sharing examples of successful experiences of youth involvement in addressing local and national crises that affect food supply, also illustrating obstacles and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in agriculture along the food supply and value chains in conflict affected countries. The dialogue facilitated a discussion about opportunities and possible collaboration for young people to access support in funding, networking opportunities and knowledge exchange, providing concrete examples that can be brought to scale.



Panellists of Youth Dialogue at World Food Forum 2023. Source: RLFSCA.

The partnership with the HDP Nexus Coalition enabled the Alliance to tap into their networks in Lebanon and Yemen.

ReFood Network, EcoBank, UNCDF Uganda, Surplus Indonesia, Mawsam Beirut, BeFarm Yemen, and Coldiretti Donne Impresa Italy participated as panellists for this side event.

COP28 – December 2023

The Alliance contributed to two events led by a strong partner and Steering Group member, SNV, and was invited to participate as speaker at these events in the Food Systems Pavilion. **“Money talks: What’s holding us back to better harness climate finance to build resilient food systems?”** Watch the session [here](#)

“Putting smallholder producers first: How can we ensure the future of farming and food amidst the climate crisis?” Watch the session [here](#)



Volli Carucci, Director of Resilience and Food Systems in the Programme – Humanitarian & Development Division, WFP represented the Alliance in Food Systems Pavilion side event. Source: Food System Pavilion.

Mr Volli Carucci, Director of Resilience and Food Systems in WFP was a panellist at both events, speaking on these subjects and in relation to the Alliance objectives.

The Alliance Steering Group member, Dr Sanjo Faniran, National Food Systems Convenor in the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria and Steering Group member, organized a side event **“Mainstreaming Nationally Determined Contribution into Development Planning and Budgeting”** in the Nigeria Pavilion. At this event, the WFP

Director, Volli Carucci, also contributed as panellist.

AUDA-NEPAD – a committed member of the Alliance and member of the Steering Group, organized an event **“Attracting Largescale Investment to Accelerating Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Agriculture and Food Security in Africa”** in the Africa Pavilion. Again, Volli Carucci participated as a panellist.

Watch the session in [English](#) or [French](#)

2024, the New Year and action!

Looking Forward

The Task Forces

As the established task forces achieved their respective goals of defining their objectives and plan of action, there is a need to develop them into thematic areas to place emphasis on actions to support members and partners. Deep appreciation to: Dr Simon Heck - CIP/CGIAR as the lead of Research and Innovation Task Force, Dr Krishan Bheenick – Regeneration Mauritius as the lead of Finance and Investment Task Force, and Ms Ruth Jepchumba – ReFood Network and Ms Lieve Claessen – ReFood Network as the leads of Short Value Chains Task Force.

Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilization is imperative to provide technical support to countries, based on the priorities identified following the missions and priorities in their national pathway documents; to provide studies that will address the thematic areas and to enable the Alliance Secretariat to leverage support for countries and its function of mobilising partners, facilitating knowledge exchange and addressing the action areas that were identified by partners in the Retreat. Partners will be mobilised to support this activity.

We implore all partners to join in mobilising resources, technical and financial, to keep the momentum to support countries, facilitate exchanges among members, the youth as we look forward. There are already preparations for a UNFSS Stocktaking in 2025 where the Alliance should be showcasing concrete outcomes.

Webinar Series

The Webinar series will be launched to scale up the knowledge sharing objective among Alliance partners and other stakeholders. The series will seek to include other coalitions: [HDP Nexus](#), [School Meal Coalition](#), and [Agroecology Coalition](#).

On the short value chain area, the Alliance will begin a **series of knowledge sharing webinars** of topics in value chain such as Post Harvest Loss (PHL) Management and Value Chain Analysis (VCA) led by and drawing on WFP's expertise in these areas and its work in countries.

For the research and innovation area, **CIP/CGIAR will lead in bringing research partners to exchange on technical knowledge and research results in different regions** – successes and challenges, sharing in several areas focusing on building local food supply chains highlighting the linkages between – resilience, value chains development and school meals (home grown).

The Youth Dialogue series will be used to amplify the voice of young people, gather different knowledge and collaboration opportunities, and provide support for young people.

Miscellaneous

Updates from partners

JR Farms

JR Farms launched Food for Nations platform. The platform is now live –to connect with export market, standardization support, access to export financing among others– we invite you to register as a member here: <https://foodfornations.com/membership/setup>

Kindly find below the link for visual demonstration of the platform: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycIgZrzvz58>

IntelliDigest

The webinar on Financing a Sustainable Food System in recognition of World Soil Day and International Day of Banks as well as contributing to COP 28 and celebrating the Global AgriFood TechPreneur 2023 Cohort can be accessed using the following links:

Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/4SHJMzco0>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0epgORwTa4>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7136020804080709632>

The next quarterly webinar on Engineering a Sustainable Food System will be on March 4 2024 to recognise World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. More information will be shared in the new year.

Do you know someone that could benefit from the Global AgriFood TechPreneur Programme? Kindly advise them to sign up here: <https://intellidigest.com/services/food-system-sustainability/agrifood-techpreneur-club/>

Do you want to adopt more sustainable practices in food production, distribution and consumption or wish to support stakeholders across the food system? Sign up to the World Food Tracker today: www.worldfoodtracker.com.

World Farmers Markets Coalition

WorldFMC Academy is a connecting place for a community of practice providing a diverse and useful toolbox, to provide members, advocates, and strategic partners to grow the capacity of farmers markets, to exchange tried-and-true best practices and innovations, and to advance farmers markets into the global food systems.

Do you want to join the WorldFMC Academy? Kindly check the programme here: <https://www.worldfarmersmarketscoalition.org/our-programs/academy/>

The Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV)

The SNV paper produced in March 2023 on Informal Food Systems, highlights the importance of informal food systems in low-income countries and the challenges for farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. These informal food systems are important components of local food supply chains. Read it [here](#)

UN Food Systems Coordination Hub – Call for expression of interest

Food Systems Youth Leadership Program. Are you or someone you know an early career professional eager to drive positive change in food systems? Apply for our new youth leadership program to accelerate food systems solutions in the Global South [here](#).

The Alliance's summary at UN Food Systems Coordination Hub – [check here](#).

Grants for projects – information on some grants below that partners can explore

- ✓ Grants for nature conservation and species preservation: [Dierenpark Amersfoort Wildlife Fund](#)
- ✓ Local Funding in South Africa for Community Empowerment: [German Mission in South Africa](#)
- ✓ Grants for addressing challenges in climate action, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation: International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Communication support

If you have any information or activities for dissemination, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will publicise your activity.

Once again, we extend our sincere appreciation to every partner and supporting country. As we step into 2024, the lessons and accomplishments of 2023 reminded us of the power of collective strength and will shape our journey forward. Thank you for your support to the Alliance. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and an inspiring start to 2024. Happy New Year!

The Resilient Local Food Supply Chains Alliance Secretariat.



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