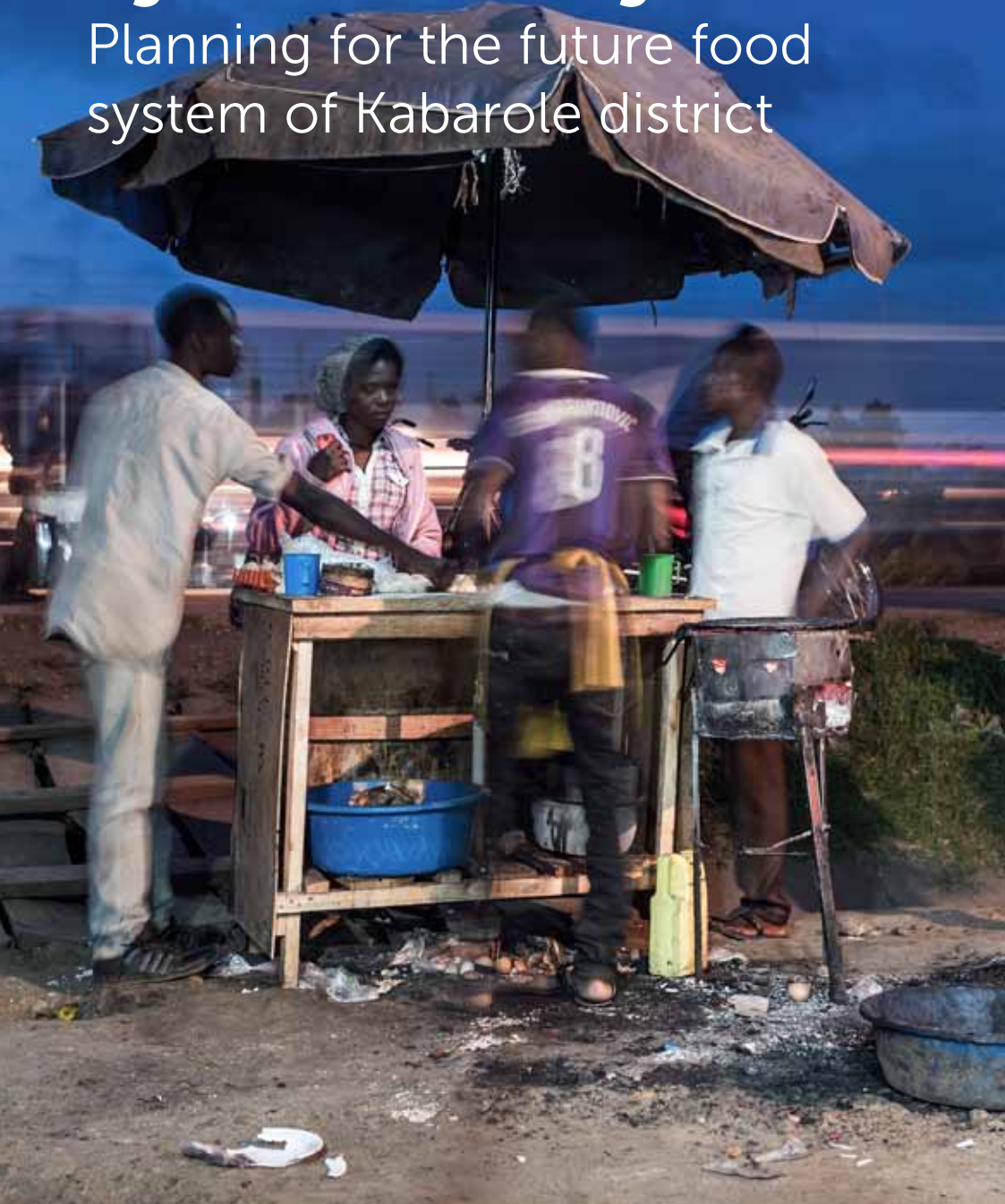


Uganda Food Change Lab: Planning for the future food system of Kabarole district





The landscape of rural Kabarole, shaped by smallholder farming of maize, cooking banana (matooke), cassava and other crops for the household and the market.

Why a Food Change Lab?

The world is producing record amounts of food. Yet despite this, we are even further away from a world where all people have access to sufficient, affordable and healthy food, produced in a manner that ensures food security now and in the future. The alarming pace of agricultural ecosystem degradation, the persistence of food and nutrition insecurity, and the growing burden of diet-related diseases, make a compelling case for re-examining food systems from a perspective that integrates natural resources, food security, public health and equity.

The crisis of our current food system is an example of a complex 'wicked' problem, interconnected with poverty, social exclusion and climate change, that is difficult to tackle with the usual levers of policy. Breakthroughs are possible, however, especially at the local level, through social innovation and design that involves as much of the food system as possible.

Change Labs are one method for getting such systemic social innovation underway. By 'putting the system in one room', they can focus knowledge and evidence from multiple actors, including those rarely given validity or a voice in policy.

In 2014, Hivos and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) entered into a partnership to develop, test and design social change labs that bring together various stakeholders to address systemic issues. The two organisations have supported local partners in convening Change Labs in a number of countries. Hivos has a track record in social innovation processes and both organisations have a longstanding interest in sustainable food systems. In the Change Labs,

Why a Food Change Lab?

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both organisation's key interests in bottom-up approaches and citizen empowerment are combined by designing an inclusive process informed by solid evidence.

In the Uganda Food Change Lab, Hivos and IIED partnered with the Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC). This publication describes our findings and experiences.

Our Food Change Lab approach allows a diverse set of stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the system around them, including their own role, by taking different perspectives. Hivos, IIED and KRC believe that deeper systems change and transformation starts bottom-up, where actors in a Lab process arrive at perceptions and solutions that address the multidimensional and complex character of a system. A food systems perspective helps to systematically uncover the drivers of consumption and production, as well as the complex web that links consumers to vendors, processors, traders, marketplaces and farmers. Participants are invited to speak and listen with an open mind to differing voices and perspectives.

The focus of the Uganda Food Change Lab is a district in western Uganda – Kabarole – a fertile agricultural area close to the Rwenzori Mountains, including the regional urban centre of Fort Portal which is also centre of the Toro Kingdom. The region is a microcosm of the opportunities and challenges of reconciling food production, economic transition, employment, poverty reduction, diet and health, and natural resource protection; set against the backdrop of rapid population

growth and urbanisation. The region benefits from longstanding civil society presence, including KRC, and a tradition of progressive local government.

Uganda's national planning document, Vision 2040, calls for "A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years". It also calls for rapid urbanisation, with a dramatic growth of the urban population from 13 per cent to 60 per cent. For example, Fort Portal is slated to grow ten-fold by 2040, from 50,000 to 500,000 inhabitants. Vision 2040 sees a shrinking agricultural labour force from 66 per cent to 31 per cent. The remaining farmers and workers will be involved in commercial rather than subsistence agriculture. Taken together, Vision 2040 has profound implications for the food system of Fort Portal and rural Kabarole, and provides an important context for a Change Lab.

KRC, Hivos and IIED convened the Change Lab in 2015. The process in the first year culminated in the country's first People's Summit on Food, the outcomes of which will be described in this publication. We start by summarizing key pointers of the evidence that was collected by KRC and IIED, taken both from the field and literature and covering rural food insecurity, trade, environmental health and urban food provision. After this, a chapter is devoted to describing the process steps of our Change Lab approach and to touch upon other Food Change Labs that Hivos and IIED are running. It ends with a report of the People's Summit on Food and a list of commitments that were made by diverse stakeholder groups. We invite you, our reader, to get involved.

Uganda in East Africa's food system

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A combination of urbanisation, population growth and changes in the demand for food have had a huge impact on the size and structure of Africa's food economy.

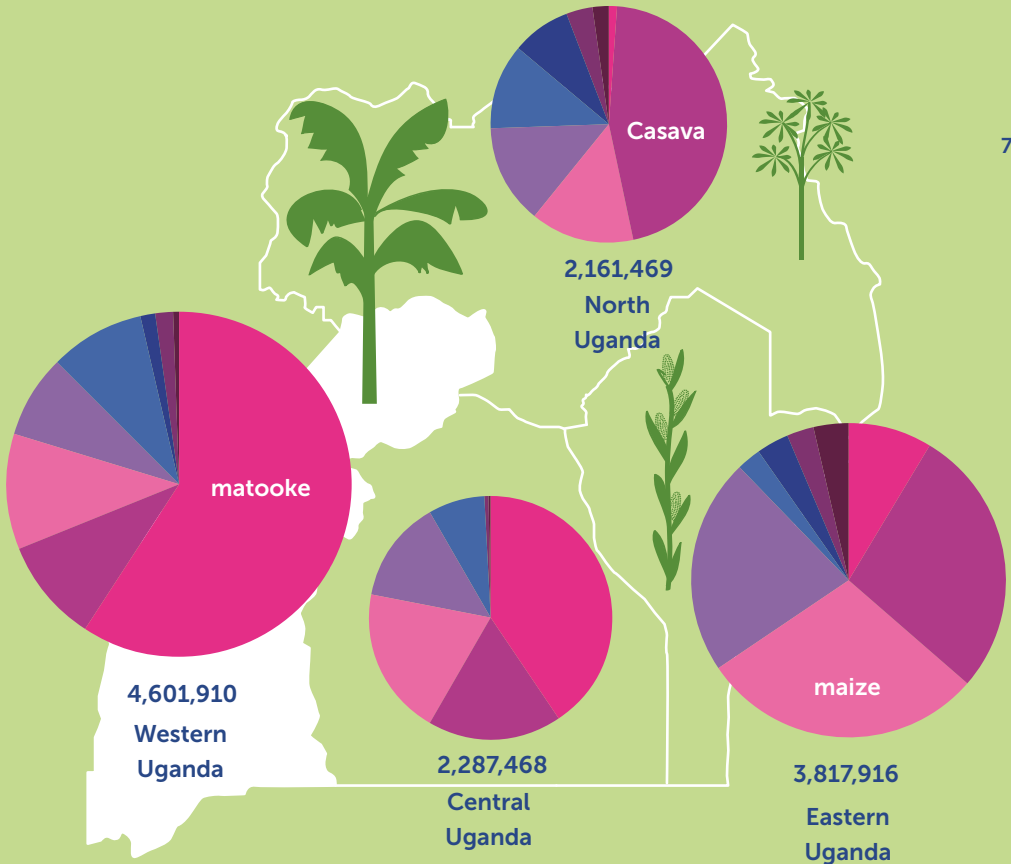
In East Africa, Uganda's rapidly growing population is still predominantly rural, despite urbanization and the rapid growth of the capital Kampala. Uganda is the food basket of East Africa. In 2013, the country supplied 72 per cent of total regional commodity exports, including 90 per cent of regionally traded maize, 74 per cent of beans, and 95 per cent of sorghum. Cross-border trade of food staples within eastern Africa is growing fast.

Despite the existence of regional free trade agreements, most of that trade is informal, bypassing official channels. The majority of the food exiting Ugandan borders comes from small-scale farmers, who are becoming more commercial, growing for the market as well as for their own household needs.

The western and eastern regions of Uganda are the most important producers of staple foods: maize in the east and cooking bananas (matooke) in the west. Maize is exported to Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and other neighbouring countries. Most matooke from western Uganda is traded domestically. Rapid urbanisation and improvements in roads are driving a massive growth in trade from the rural hinterlands to the capital. Ten years ago, seven lorries of matooke left for Kampala from the western regional centre Fort Portal each week. By 2015 that number had reached almost five hundred.

Agricultural Production by Region 2008-9¹

Annual crop production in metric tons



- Banana (matooke)
- Sweet potatoes
- Finger millet
- Cassava
- Beans
- Rice
- Maize
- Sorghum

Food system of Karabole region

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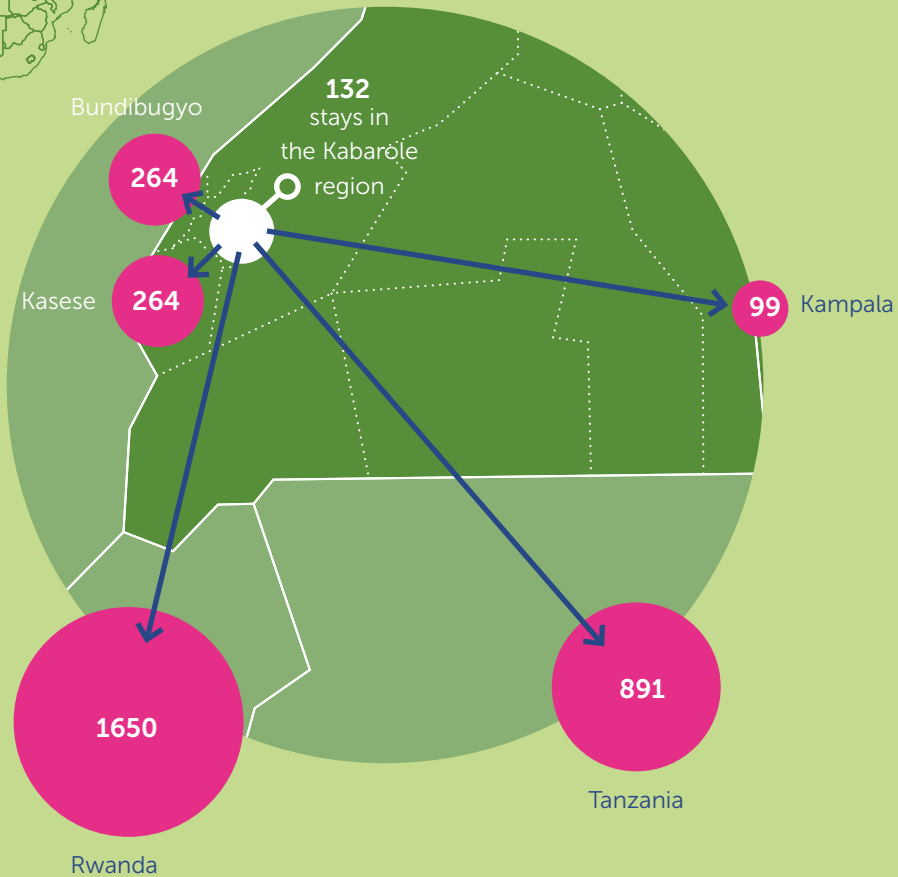
The district of Kabarole contributes large amounts of the food that moves to Uganda's cities and neighbouring countries. Important weekly markets such as Mugusu 12 km from Fort Portal - one of the biggest in the region - attract traders from Kampala and the wider region, including South Sudan. Trading centres such as Rwimi have grown up around this trade in an ad-hoc way, with policy having played little role in this development.

These trading centres offer important market stability to farmers, by greatly improving the likelihood of finding a buyer for their produce. Rwimi has become a major hub for cereals and is just one of many trading hubs that are emerging for different agricultural products. These hubs are also important service centres, and are likely locations for investments in first level processing such as maize flour milling. There are now about ten speciality markets for matooke bananas in Kabarole district that are closing the gap between production and market points. KRC conducted a survey of traders in Rwimi to find out where they were shipping produce. The figures are striking. In the case of maize, only four per cent is destined to stay in the district, with another 20 per cent to neighbouring districts of Bundibugyo (near the DRC border) and Kasese. Half is destined for Rwanda, and a quarter goes to Tanzania. Despite this large and growing trade in food, the irony is that the population of Kabarole is food insecure.

The municipal authorities of Fort Portal have tried to establish markets for the region's farmers closer to home. Every Monday for three hours, farmers can now sell their produce directly to traders and customers at the Kabundaire town market.

Export of maize from the region²

Tons maize trade from Rwimi trading centre in 2015



Nutrition dimension

10

In sub-Saharan Africa, the nature of food consumption is changing in both rural and urban areas.

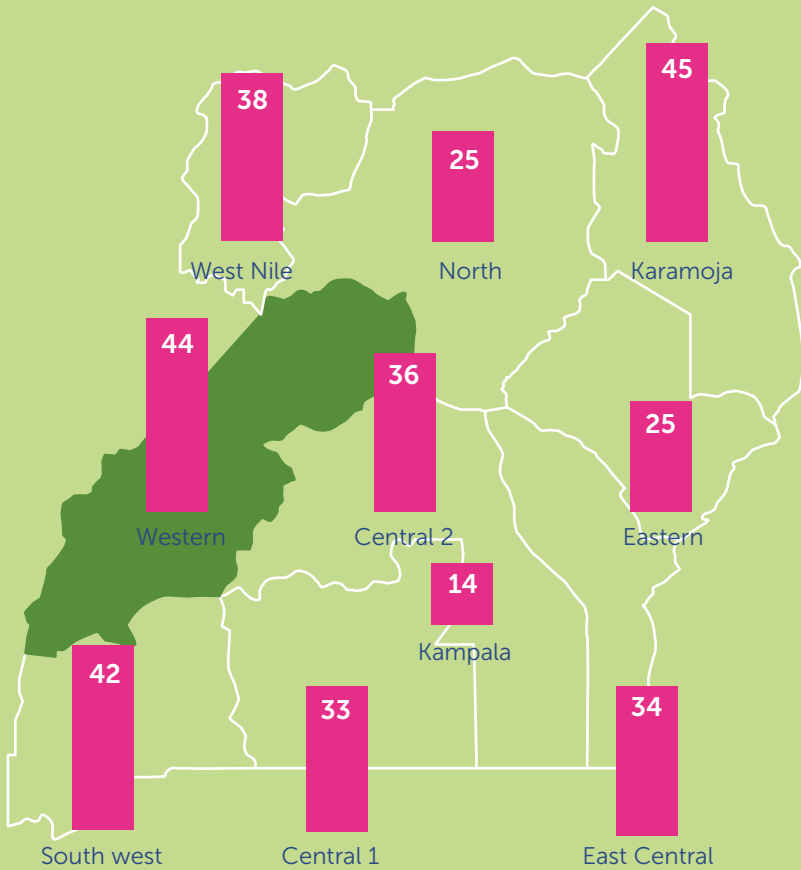
In the countryside, rural people are increasingly buying food instead of growing it. These “net food buyers” may have too little land or have livelihoods that are more oriented to work off the farm. Both adults in a family are likely to be working and therefore time has a higher premium. Traditional foods like millet which are rich in micronutrients like iron but require more labour to produce and take longer to prepare, are in decline. With the partial withdrawal of the state from public service provision, cash is more important – especially to cover school fees and health costs – so households are often obliged to market their crops.

Urban areas are seeing a rise in food insecurity -- malnutrition is also becoming an urban phenomenon. Casual workers on daily wages are particularly vulnerable. Low-income urban consumers may also lack space to store food and may struggle to afford fuel for cooking. Typically, they buy food every day from informal traders and street vendors. Traditional foods that require more time to prepare are losing out to ‘faster’ foods.

According to the 2016 Global Nutrition report, Uganda ranks 104th in the world (out of 132) for the prevalence of child stunting, which on average affects 34 per cent of under-fives. Child stunting is associated with chronic malnutrition early in a child’s life – often beginning before birth. Despite its agricultural wealth, Western Uganda has an even higher incidence of stunting than the national average, at 44 per cent. Uganda’s Nutrition Action Plan has a target to get stunting incidence down to 15 per cent by 2025. Vision 2040 has a target of zero per cent child stunting.

Child Stunting in Uganda³

% under-fives, 2014



Rural nutrition

What about the nutritional status of households in rural Kabarole?

The concept of 'food diaries' was introduced by KRC in 2015, when they supported 200 rural women in nine sub counties in the district to keep a record of each of their household's meals over the course of seven days, and to report the origins of that food. The results of this collaborative science have been very insightful.

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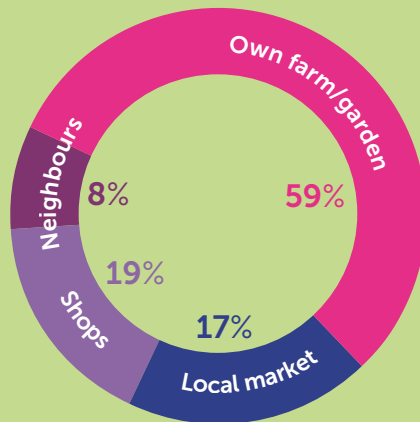
They show that – much as the rest of rural Africa – farming households are relying increasingly on the market rather than their own farms for their food. In this region, their home gardens provided on average just over half of the household's food consumption.

KRC analysed the results using the World Food Programme's Food Consumption Score (FCS), which is based on the dietary diversity, food frequency and nutritional importance of the food groups consumed. It shows that on average only 40 per cent of households were achieving an acceptable level of food consumption.

There was a big difference between communities. Busoro – in the tea growing region close to Fort Portal municipality with off-farm labour opportunities – had a much better levels of nutrition than the more remote area of Hakibale. Equally, Kabonero and Karangura subcounties, where 70 per cent of households exhibited borderline to poor food consumption, are remote and focus on coffee production, paying less attention to food crops.

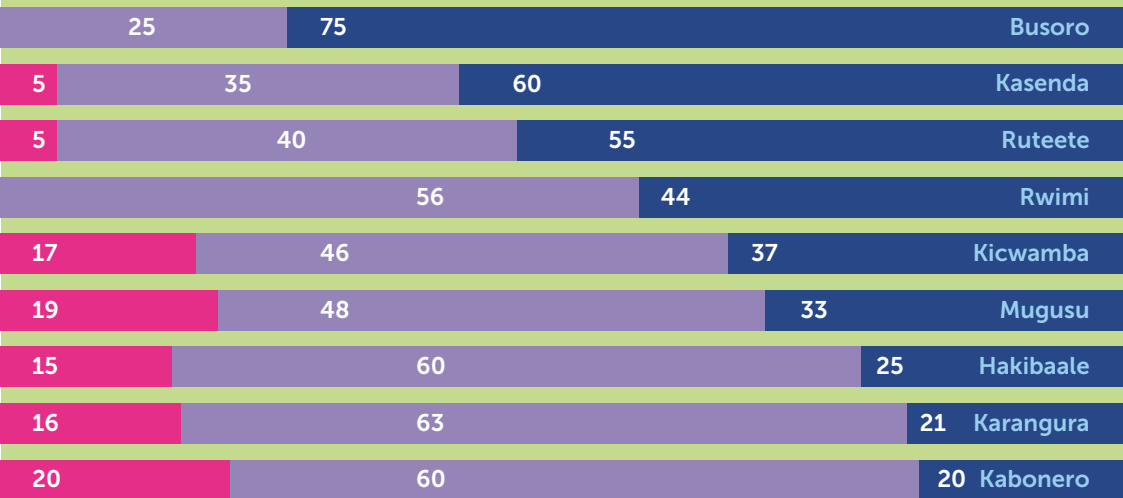
Focus group discussions held in association with the research verified that mothers know what good food is, contrary to what is often assumed, when 'sensitization' is presented as a solution to nutrition issues. However, there are barriers to bridging the gap between knowledge and practice: time constraints, limited household labour, selling of food for urgent cash needs, and poor yields due to soil exhaustion. One area where there appears to be a knowledge gap however is around matooke, which is a poor source of protein for children, compared to traditional staples like millet.

Food sources of farm households in Kabarole ⁴



13

Food consumption status of farm households in Kabarole %⁵



Poor Borderline Acceptable

Urban nutrition

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The anticipated rapid growth of the town of Fort Portal will include large numbers of working poor, along with other low-income residents, including students. The municipality is already struggling to deal with an influx from rural areas of people looking for work. The food system is adapting, with the appearance and rapid growth of street vending. As in other urban areas across Africa, street food is attractive to people who do not have the money (including for cooking fuel), space (living in crowded accommodation without a kitchen) or time to cook for themselves. A KRC survey of 600 urban consumers found that price and accessibility drive their choice for street food.

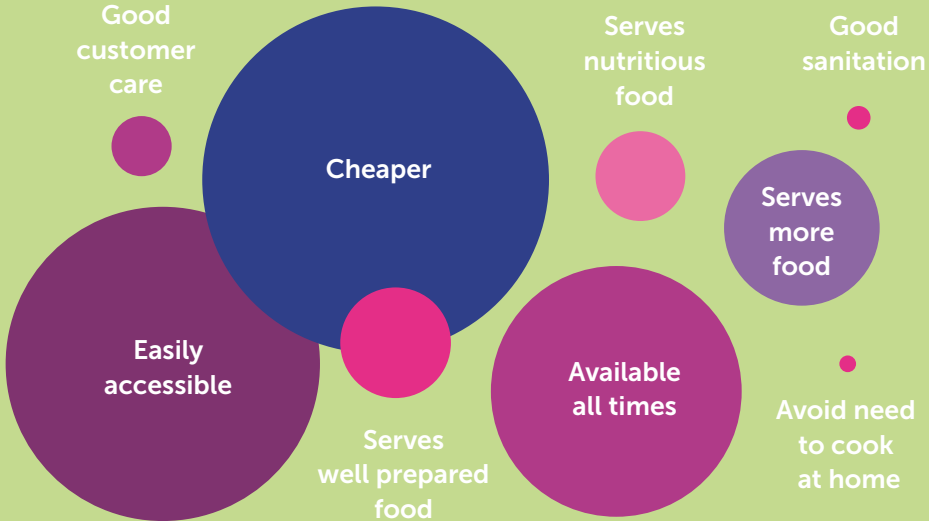
Some street foods such as the popular chapatti are high in energy but low in nutrition. But perceptions of street food as an unhealthy shift to a fast-food diet are not the whole story. Some of the cheapest street food is nutritious, especially the traditional stews of beans and vegetables served with maize meal, peanuts, matooke or potato, that are predominantly served by women vendors.

The municipality of Fort Portal estimates there are between 280 and 300 food vendors active each evening. The sector is providing self-employment to many young entrepreneurial people, including women.

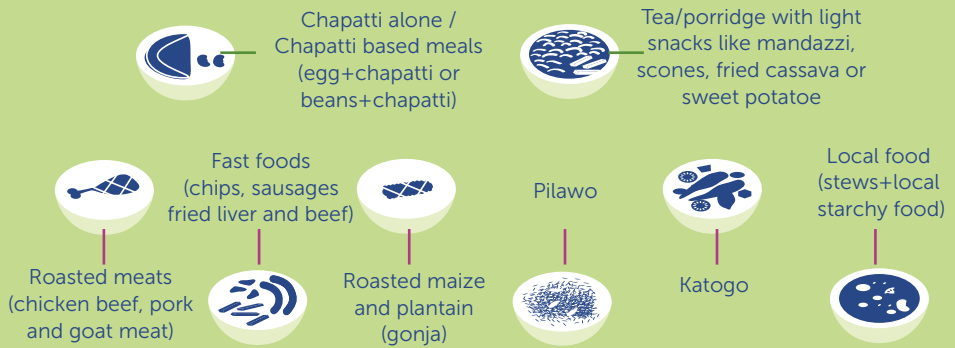
In Uganda, colonial era legislation outlaws street vending for reasons of public health. But municipal authorities have taken a progressive view in moving from conflict to coexistence with street vendors, acknowledging that informal food provision is a necessity for a large part of the urban population. The deputy mayor of Fort Portal has assisted the street vendors to form their own association, to address concerns like security, food hygiene, waste and cleanliness of the streets, and to bridge the communication gap between officials and vendors.

Efforts by authorities to (semi-) formalize the street vendors are, however, not perceived positively by all the (often very poor) vendors as it would require them to pay a daily tax, and to invest in compulsory uniforms, ID cards, and regular medical checks. The Public Health Act remains a large issue. The Food Lab is playing an important role in this contested area of policy.

Reasons for choosing street food in Fort Portal municipality⁶



Available street food in Fort Portal municipality⁷



Environmental connections

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Kabarole is exporting the fertility of its soils along with food. Years of harvests with poor soil management and without replenishment have stripped many soils of their nutrients and organic matter. Currently farmers expand production through expanding the cropped area rather than increasing productivity on existing cropped area. The declining productivity and health of the region's soils are widely reported by farmers.

The 100 trucks of matooke bunches that reach Kampala every day deplete 1.5 million kg of potassium and 0.5 million kg of magnesium from the rural soils, annually.¹ Larger losses of nutrients from Kabarole's soils are caused by leaching and erosion due to poor soil management. A study published in 2000 by IIED estimated that typical Kabarole soils lose 105 kg of nitrogen per hectare each year from leaching and 55 kg of phosphorous from soil erosion.² In sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda is among the countries most severely affected by nutrient mining.³

If the development of the region is to be built around agriculture -- as well as tourism, which is also foreseen in Vision 2040 -- then this mining of the region's soils must be reversed through soil conservation and regenerative farming techniques.

Export Growth 2005 -2015⁸

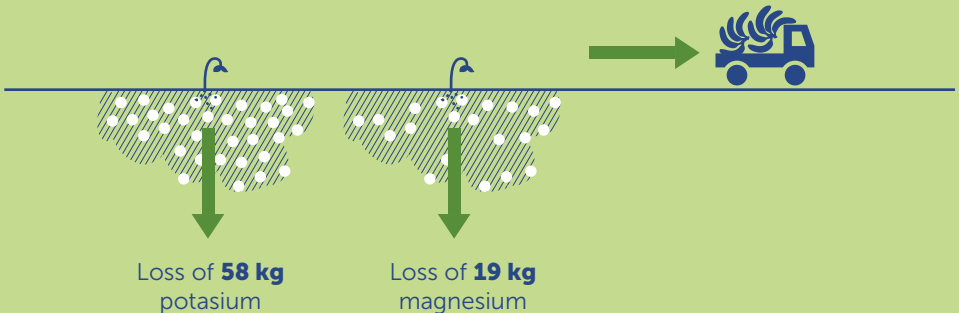
2005: 

2015: 

497 lorries with matooke leave every week along Fort Portal road for Kampala

Nutrient mining from Kabarole soils⁹

with every truck leaving with matooke



Economic angle

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Despite its location within an agricultural heartland, Fort Portal's direct economic connections to agriculture are weak. The town has grown around administration and education services rather than being a hotbed for the sort of small and medium scale industry that can add value to the region's agricultural production. Current processing capacity in Fort Portal is rudimentary. In this maize growing area, the preferred finely milled maize flour (which actually has a lower nutritional value) is trucked in from Kampala.

A thriving food processing and manufacturing sector can provide a more secure market for farmers, and help develop a regional reputation for quality. Even more importantly, it can provide quality off-farm jobs, which are key to inclusive development, national security and the achievement of Vision 2040.

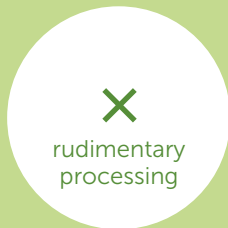
Without local processing, growing urban demand may pull in processed foods or cereals from outside of the region, including imports from other countries. This can cut off the region's farmers from their own urban markets, and miss a big opportunity for positive 'virtuous' circles that connect rural and urban development.



Transformation route for Fort Portal

Fort Portal 2016

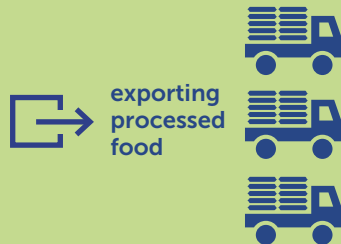
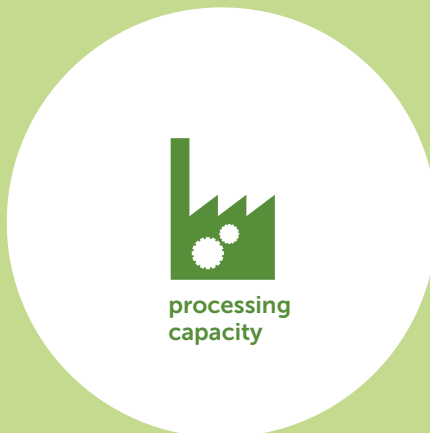
50.000 inhabitants



19

Fort Portal 2040

500.000 inhabitants



Planning for the food system of Fort Portal and Kabarole

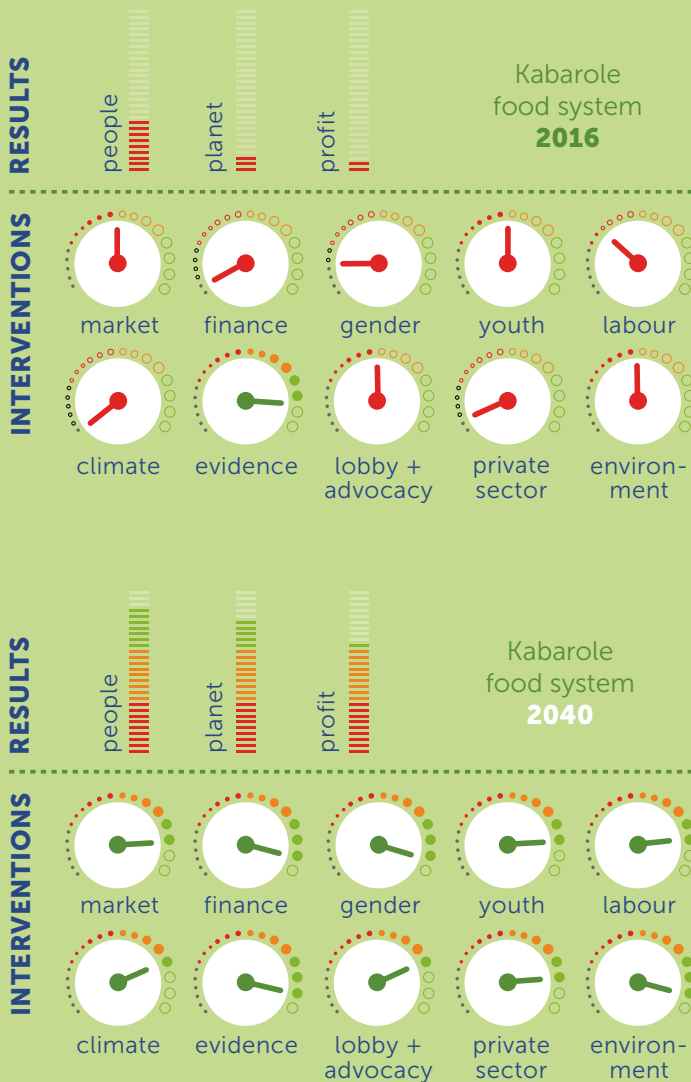
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To drive growth and modernisation, Uganda, in common with other African countries, is planning for rapid urbanisation. For rural areas, the plans involve an accelerated shift from small-scale semi-subsistence farming to commercial agriculture and industry. Evidence to date from Fort Portal city and Kabarole district are showing warning signs of an area pushing for growth without a joined up plan for a 'virtuous circle' of rural-urban local economic development.

Rural nutrition is poor despite big improvements in farmers' connections to markets. Rural households are cash-strapped and are faced with difficult choices to achieve financial and food security. Exports of food to the capital and to the region are being achieved at the cost of natural resources and the capacity of the region to sustain production over the long term. The enormous opportunities to capitalise on the region's agriculture through value added and food processing are being overlooked. National plans for urbanisation focus on hard infrastructure (especially roads) and a growing formal economy, but all around the developing world we can see that with the expansion of urban centres comes a growth of the informal economy, including the food system.

The informal food economy is seen by most municipal authorities as unhygienic, poor in nutrition, tax-avoiding, traffic congesting and disorderly. Authorities may be drawn into conflict with the informal traders and vendors who constitute the food system of the urban poor. The informal food sector can and should be brought into the fight against the double burden of under-nutrition and obesity, and its huge associated costs in preventable disease. >>

Dashboard: actual situation and vision for inclusive change



Planning for the food system of Fort Portal and Kabarole

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>> Fort Portal is early enough in its growth cycle to install the soft infrastructure of food as it moves to city status, and to achieve orderly urban development that works for all, including the working poor.

Fort Portal is an exception among local authorities in its tradition of progressive policymaking. It is making the links between informality, food and nutrition, and urban planning. But making plans for soft infrastructure and positive urban-rural links is no straightforward process. In our Food Change Lab process, which incorporates evidence generation and dialogue between actors that not normally meet, policy choices by local and national authorities can direct plans to work with rather than against the interests of food security and inclusive green growth for town and country.

This is an exciting opportunity for leadership in Uganda and the wider region, to bring food systems into planning under Vision 2040. During the first stages of our Food Change Lab and the People's Summit on Food, this need came out strongly. It was seen as possible to build 'virtuous circles' of development that factor in an urban food system of the working poor, add value through processing, and promote a more regenerative model of agriculture.



Kabundaire farmers' market in Fort Portal takes place every Monday and Thursday.

The Food Change Lab process

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Over the last decade, civic labs, or social change labs have developed into a force for addressing social and public needs. Typically, they are multi-actor innovation processes that aim to better understand complex problems, generate ideas, and test them on the ground. Change labs aim to be a safe social space, a laboratory where new ideas can emerge by facilitating interaction between different stakeholders in a system.

The issues facing today's world are complex and extremely difficult to navigate. The 'food system of Fort Portal and Kabarole region' is an example of how local issues are in fact linked to a much wider web of actors and drivers. If interventions are to be meaningful, we need to take a systems approach, recognising complexity and designing a process that can accommodate new combinations of thinking, relating and doing.

In our Food Change Lab, Hivos, IIED and KRC have convened not only the innovators or 'change makers', but all stakeholders in the food system, including those not normally given voice. From earlier collaborations⁴ we know that if planners and policymakers don't meet people where they are, their plans can overlook and work against the vast but often invisible food systems of low income people, including the women who play such a critical role in food production, trade, vending and consumption.

Another defining feature of the Food Change Lab is the explicit inclusion of advocacy in the process. While we aim for a representation of sectors in the core group, we cannot assume that the group's commitment and solutions will be taken up by the wider system. In the Uganda Food Change Lab, two parallel processes have taken place: regular meetings and visits of the diverse core group, and convening sessions with political stakeholders on higher levels, up to the capital – culminating in the People's Summit on Food.

Informed by existing literature and practice, the convening organisations followed a model of a lab process to generate understanding and ideas, and to build coalitions for change. Because we recognize that social change processes are never linear, the defined 'steps' are not to be read as a recipe or absolute process. They are components of an iterative action-learning cycle where feedback loops respond to emergent characteristics of the system. The process as visualised follows a U-shape, originating from Theory U, a social field theory that has flagged the need for 'collective leadership'.

**Acknowledge an issue or inequality /
Uncover a common intention to change**

**Define 'the system' on a micro level.
Invite the system into the room.**

**Immersion, listening.
Challenge assumptions**

Collect stories & evidence

**Arrive at common understanding of needs
and priorities**

**Generate commitment,
connect with personal values.**

**Build a
coalition
for change**

**Jointly act.
Prototype,
adapt, learn.**

**Visioning
and ideation**





Learning Journey on day 1
of the People's Food Summit

People's Summit on Food

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In the Food Change Lab of Uganda, the starting point was Vision 2040, and the need to include the food system in plans for the development of town and countryside. Already alerted by rates of malnutrition in the countryside and the rapid growth of street food vending in the town, a group of diverse actors – CSOs, local politicians, food vendors, farmers, traders – set out to explore the issues. This was done by means of food dialogues, research and workshops. This process of immersion functioned to generate stakeholder awareness, and led to first ideas and practice for progress. An example of this is the move from confrontation to coexistence between local government and informal food vendors.

Uganda's first People's Food Summit, exactly one year after the start of the Lab, opened the process to a much bigger audience. The Summit resulted in a range of commitments from all stakeholder groups and paved the way for a coalition of the willing that will take the process further in the coming year. Looking at our U-shaped process, the People's Food Summit can be placed in the bottom of the U.

The Summit, which took place over two days in April 2016, drew over 100 people representing different stakes in the Fort Portal, Kabarole and national food system. They included members from the national parliamentary forum on food security, the head of the National Planning Authority, religious leaders, district politicians, representatives of the Toro Kingdom, school children, farmers, CSOs, and street vendors. Fort Portal Municipal Council hosted the event, that was organised by KRC in partnership with Hivos and IIED. Reos Partners - who have developed a track record in the social lab methodology - facilitated the Summit.

The event engaged people around the evidence, sensitised them through learning journeys, and engaged them in group work with actors they would normally not speak to. Day one set the scene, with speeches, evidence sharing and immersion; among others, trips were made to the Health Inspectorate for Fort Portal municipality, to a rural farmers' group, a farmer household, and to food processors and traders in rural trading hubs. Day two moved people towards visioning the food system they want and making commitments to realize it. In a dramatic finale, representatives from key stakeholder groups voiced their commitments live on KRC FM radio. Street food vendors hosted a food festival to provide their food to the guests.

Commitments

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On day two of the People's Summit, representatives from different societal groups took turns to pronounce their commitments live on KRC FM Radio. These form part of the work for follow up in the Food Change Lab, along with the opening up of space for more inclusive participation of the different actors in the regions' food system. Below is a summary of the commitments.

Religious leaders As part of our ministry, we will talk about food and nutrition, reaching large numbers of people. We will pay attention to socio-economic issues at the household level that are barriers to sufficient food and nutrition intake. We will put to use the large areas of land we own, to engage in commercial agriculture and to teach others how to do it.

Children We will use spaces in towns and cities creatively to grow food so there is enough food for the growing population (i.e. urban farming). We will sensitise family planning to ensure enough food for the population by 2040.

Elected leaders We commit to pursuing the amendment of the 1935 Public Health Act so it reflects the new realities of the emerging food system. By 2040, the government commits to establishing an agriculture bank to improve access to farm credit. We commit to establishing a byelaw to ensure that every household has a granary for storing harvest, and government to establish silos for selling grain when market price is favourable. Local authorities commit to support vendors with infrastructure (including public toilets, water points and night lights) and assigning land where vendors can operate. We commit to establish seed banks where farmers can access seeds at subsidised prices.

Street food vendors We commit to strengthening our groups to collectively improve our reputation, for example by better handling of equip-

ment, plates and cutlery, and water containers, giving the consumer more confidence in our food and boosting our business. We commit to improving general hygiene – by wearing uniforms, and cleaning up after ourselves. We commit to increasing compliance with existing and new rules, through awareness and self-regulation.

Civil servants We commit to improving working conditions for vendors on the streets, e.g. lighting, water points, toilets. We commit to raising awareness of food, nutrition and markets. We commit to improve information to farmers – on production, post-harvest handling, and market access.

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Farmers We commit to mobilising farmers at all levels, to boost production, improve access to information on prices, training, and agricultural technologies. We commit to working in groups to overcome some of the problems we face such as [volatile] market prices, and lack of value addition. We commit to encourage government to form policies that are farmer-friendly such as access to credit, planting materials, genuine inputs, silos, roads. Farming can also then become a tourist attraction and source of food, and add to the Fort Portal Tourism City vision.

Civil society We commit to awareness raising on food value chains. We commit to including stakeholders in planning processes at every stage. We commit to sharing lessons and make information, good practices and technologies known.

National Planning Authority (not live on radio) We commit to liaise with the national Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) to include lessons learnt from the summit; and will develop a case study of integrating food systems in Fort Portal planning systems and incorporate their learning in the next 5 year plan.

These commitments leave the Food Change Lab and its convening parties with two tasks for the future. Firstly, to undertake advocacy efforts to have these commitments placed at the centre of the agenda of the institutions that made them, and secondly, in the coming years, the Lab will continue to ask the bigger questions, broaden its coalition for change on the ground, and facilitate new solutions that work for the region's food and farming.

Labbing around the world

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Uganda isn't the only place where Change Labs are being convened to tackle the complex challenges of the food system. In the food domain, Hivos and IIED have convened, together with local partners, change labs in Indonesia, Zambia and Uganda, with a fourth one currently in development in Bolivia.

In Indonesia, the Food Change Lab process has focused on food availability for low income citizens in Bandung city, specifically looking at the position of street vendors in ensuring that the city has an inclusive food system that meets poorer people's needs. The Lab has partnered with Laboratorium Riset Indie, an innovation space in the city. In a series of meetings and events, 'the system' – local government, food vendors, producers, consumers and community organisations – was facilitated through the first stages of a lab process. Simultaneously, the Food Change Lab partnered with a local university and commissioned research to understand the context, street vendors' profile, their consumers, and the value chain of the food sold by them. Among others, 308 female factory workers kept a food diary, which gave insight into the importance of food vendors in their nutrition. By bringing in this special type of evidence and by building a safe space for discussion, the Lab is aiming to bridge the conflicting demands of city modernisation, food security of low income consumers and livelihoods of street vendors.

The Zambian Food Change Lab was convened in Chongwe District of Lusaka Province. The Lab was convened as a platform to address the lack of inclusive local food policies that work for the urban and rural poor. Chongwe is dealing with a growing and urbanising population, where the majority of farmers' yield is shipped to Lusaka. Farmers sell their

food for cash and often do not compensate nutritional values lost in the process. Traditional, nutritious food is disappearing from diets, although generally, the Lab has found good understanding of what a good diet is. To assess these local issues of food production and consumption, the Lab facilitated a series of meetings with a diverse group – consumers, farmers, traders, traditional and civic leaders, central and local government – that prototyped and eventually organised a Food Festival to celebrate food diversity and cultural gastronomic heritage. The Lab also partnered with a local radio station to air live food talks, with an overwhelming level of engagement of citizens expressing concerns on food. On a policy level, the Lab facilitated exchange between traders and local authorities to work on an improved food selling infrastructure and develop the first ever Chongwe District Food Policy.

In Bolivia, Hivos and IIED support multi-stakeholder, ground-breaking ‘food councils’ in the cities of La Paz and Sucre. These councils work with the respective city governments to co-create inclusive urban food policies that work for food security of the urban poor. In another project, Hivos is involved in a complicated labbing process with farmers, government and CSOs around Andean grains (such as quinoa), ensuring a balance between (global) demands, farmer’s income and affordability for consumers.

Sources

Endnotes

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About the convening partners

About KRC

Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC) is an established NGO based in the town of Fort Portal, western Uganda. Founded in 1996, KRC derives its strength in evidence generation and in engaging local and national public policy players around a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: food security, climate change, peace and conflict and agribusiness development. Our interventions are always based on community analyses of the activities, which is most helpful in achieving sustainable and equitable socio-economic development. KRC operates in the Rwenzori region and recently extended its work to the greater Albertine region of Uganda. www.krcuganda.org

About Hivos

Hivos is an international organisation that seeks new solutions to persistent global issues. With smart projects in the right places, we oppose discrimination, inequality, abuse of power and the unsustainable use of our planet's resources. Counter-balance alone, however, is not enough. Our primary focus is achieving structural change. This is why we cooperate with innovative businesses, citizens and their organisations. We share a dream with them of sustainable economies and inclusive societies. www.hivos.org

About IIED

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions. www.iied.org

About Sustainable Diets for All

In 2016, Hivos and IIED partnered in 'Sustainable Diets for All', a global five year programme, where we work with others to influence policy and practices of markets, government actors and international institutions through citizen action for the promotion of sustainable diets. Three strategies are core to our approach: working with frontrunners, supporting local actors to generate their own evidence, and creating coalitions of the willing through a Change Lab approach.



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