

UN Climate Action Summit: Resilience and Adaptation strand

Resilient livelihoods and landscapes

Goal: Deliver the transformative shift through a *Just Rural Transition* to climate resilient, sustainable food production, land-use and eco-systems urgently needed to feed a growing population without collapse of the natural systems that sustain life.

Context

Feeding over 9bn people by 2030 while protecting the natural systems which sustain life will be a defining challenge of the next decade. Climate change is increasing pressure on already stressed rural communities, food production and ecosystems. As the new IPCC report on climate change, land use and food security explains, the climate crisis is reducing the land's ability to sustain humanity and this crisis itself is linked to unsustainable food and land use systems. The recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report further warns a pending collapse of nature, with land use change as the main driver. These pressures have severe impact already on small-scale food producers, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. The Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals cannot be met without significant shifts in land-use, food and agricultural production and consumption.

The growing movement for a **Just Rural Transition (JRT)** responds to this crisis through catalysing a shift toward climate resilient and sustainable food, land use and eco-systems. It sets out:

- A **Vision** endorsed by leaders across all stakeholder groups for sustainable food production, stewardship of land, forests, natural resources and ecosystems; enhancing resilient livelihoods and jobs and rewarding people for their actions to protect the environment;
- A **Policy Action Coalition** including technical support, to identify and implement food and agriculture policy reforms in line with the JRT Vision;
- An **JRT Investment Partnership** to facilitate investment aligned with the Vision through partnerships across stakeholder groups and value chains; and by identifying and addressing key barriers to scaling investment for resilient livelihoods and landscapes.

Structure and governance

A multi-stakeholder **JRT Champions** group will meet twice a year to assess progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the JRT Vision Statement. Members will include Principal-level representatives from: Governments (e.g. Agriculture Ministers); agrifood business, retail, banks;

insurance, IT; financial Institutions and investors; civil society leaders; knowledge partners; farmer and indigenous peoples organisations; and aligned Coalitions/Initiatives e.g. Global Commission on Adaptation, Food and Land Use Coalition, Tropical Forest Alliance.

The Champions group will have light-touch governance and Secretariat support.

Outcomes by 2030

[20] countries implementing a reform agenda in line with the *Just Rural Transition Vision and Principles to shift incentives to climate resilient and sustainable use of land and natural resources, while enhancing rural livelihoods and jobs*

50 million small-scale producers benefitting from more sustainable and climate resilient approaches to crop production and management of natural resources and eco-systems through innovative investment partnerships

Agricultural commodity supply chains worth US\$50bn annually have enhanced sustainability through climate resilient approaches to investment, production and consumption in land and natural resource use

Roadmap for JRT

The JRT Vision will be launched in September 2019 in conjunction with the UN Climate Action Summit. Governments, companies and organisations are invited to endorse the JRT Vision Statement, noting how they can contribute to taking it forward.

An 'Interim Champions group' will be invited to an inaugural meeting on 24th September at the Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York. Interested stakeholders will also be invited to a pre-Summit strategy meeting for the Investment Partnership.

To communicate interest in endorsing the JRT initiative and vision statement please address the contacts listed below by 14 September 2019.

Contacts

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