



Sustainable
food

FOOD CHANGE LABS

Citizen-driven food transitions

Food systems are changing, driven by urbanisation, trade, climate change and shifts in consumption. Policy and practice at local, national and global level can shape these trends in support of food and nutrition security and the environment. Sometimes these policies are well intended efforts to provide the seven billion citizens of the world with affordable and nutritious food. But too often these policies are imposed in ways that do not consider the everyday issues facing low income citizens; nor the solutions that the same local communities can suggest. The people most familiar with what food insecurity looks like in their community are left out of the debate.

One of the big questions therefore is how citizens will be involved in the food systems of the future. This is why Hivos and IIED have partnered to take a social innovation or “change lab” approach that puts citizens at the centre of finding solutions to food challenges. Hivos and IIED are convinced that if citizen-driven processes and locally formulated new approaches were to be integrated in global food policies, this could radically improve inclusive and sustainable solutions.

TOWARDS A GREEN AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEM

To support inclusive, green and innovative solutions, Hivos and IIED, in cooperation with their local partners, set up Food Change Labs in Uganda, Zambia and Indonesia. The Labs aim to generate new thinking on a fairer and greener food system through deep relationship building of key stakeholders and subsequent experimenting with interventions. Local market mechanisms are specifically included, to generate financial sustainability in the solutions proposed. Initially, local solutions may have minimal national or regional impact. But as decades of social innovations have shown: if facilitated and showcased well, these hotspots might ultimately function as catalysts for a wider and more systematic change. The strong Hivos and IIED partner network will encourage South-South linking and learning.

Hivos and IIED a strong team

Hivos and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) form a strong team. Our partnership has shown to provide insight, evidence and guidance for improving sustainable food systems and access to energy in developing countries. By combining each organisation’s expertise and partner networks we contribute to transformation and change in the global food system to ensure a sustainable diet for all citizens. In recent years, Hivos and IIED have collaborated in the knowledge programme ‘Small Producer Agency in a Globalized Market’ and currently we are partnering in the ‘Sustainable Diets for All’ programme.

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people unlimited



WHAT IS A FOOD CHANGE LAB?

A Food Change Lab is an open space, hub or platform that allows people to co-create innovations that address the complex challenges of the present and future. It works from the premise that complex societal problems cannot be 'solved' by means of monolithic, planned 'solutions'. We bring together a diverse group of people from across the system and facilitate them through a process of problem definition, to idea generation, to prototyping of possible interventions. The approach is inclusive and creative, specifically avoiding the tendency to impose top-down solutions, tapping into local and informal knowledge.

Activities of our Food Change Labs have consequently put citizens at the centre, meeting them where they are. We have organised longer term processes, where diverse groups worked on innovations in public policy, new business models, framing of cultural values and behaviour change. In parallel processes, each of the Labs have worked with local research organisations too, to collect evidence that is robust and convincing and can be used to present to policymakers and other relevant stakeholders.

Please visit our website to read more about our Food Change Labs in Indonesia, Uganda and Zambia:
www.foodchangelabs.org

WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO CO-CREATE AND IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES OF OUR LABS

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