

SHIFT Prize – Award for Transformative Agroecological Research

TOWARDS FOOD SUSTAINABILITY: RESHAPING THE COEXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA (FOODSAF)



Program title Towards Food Sustainability: Reshaping the Coexistence of Different Food Systems in South America and Africa (FoodSAF)

Duration 2015 – 2021

Project countries Kenya, Bolivia, Brazil, Zambia, Ghana, & Colombia

Implemented by CDE, University of Bern, Switzerland



CONTEXT

Food and agricultural systems are embedded in complex social-ecological structures. A transformation towards food sustainability therefore requires a multi-dimensional perspective that considers the right to food, food security, poverty and inequality, environmental performance as well as resilience. It must also ensure the participation of key actors in the co-production of knowledge, rules and regulations that are shaping the characteristics of their food system.



APPROACH

The project aims to provide evidence-based, transdisciplinary scientific knowledge for innovation strategies and policy options for food systems sustainability. It adopts a transdisciplinary approach that includes a process of knowledge co-production between researchers and food system stakeholders. In a collective action phase (2018-2020), 13 “Transformative Pilot Actions (TPA)” were co-designed and co-implemented. The project is further developing a Food Sustainability Assessment Framework.



IMPACT

Even though the 13 TPA's show very different characteristics, they all have three aspects in common: (1) their transformation potential, (2) bottom-up impact and (3) a wider outreach. For example, in the case of Seara in the South of Brazil, stakeholders organized themselves and successfully negotiated to change a law that previously prohibited them to produce raw-milk cheese. This particularly empowered women farmers and promoted traditional culinary diets and cultural heritage among consumers from a local to a bigger scale.



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