

Policy Action Coalition: What's cooking



We all agree that the *Agri-food System of the 21st Century faces complex and interconnected challenges*, including:

- Vulnerability to climate change
- Unsustainable environmental footprint
- Unsustainable and unhealthy diets
- Rising food insecurity and demand
- Inequality and struggling rural communities

So in response, and in support of the **Just Rural Transition (JRT)** – an initiative launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 - the Policy Action Coalition (PAC) has been developed, comprising developed and developing countries committed to repurposing and reinvesting agri-food support and policies, as well as key knowledge and implementation partners.

The Coalition:

- includes countries and regions committed to moving forward **with policy redesign;**
- supports countries and their leaders by providing **analytical, design and implementation support;**
- creates **opportunities to learn** from knowledge partners and each other;
- engages implementation **partners to provide financial support** for the policy reform process/transition; and
- provides evidence to **help build the case for repurposing and reinvesting agri-food policies.**

What is the Just Rural Transition (JRT)?

The Just Rural Transition initiative aims to nurture a “community of purpose” that supports committed countries and entities to design, implement and scale strategies and approaches that transform the way in which we produce and consume food, and use our land and natural resources.



“Much public support – subsidies, indirect price support – are poorly targeted and have ineffective outcomes...In many countries the bulk of this support is distortionary, creating disincentives for producers to behave in a sustainable and climate friendly manner. Reviewing and repurposing agricultural policies and support programs is key to realign the incentives.”

- **Martien van Nieuwkoop, World Bank**

Thank you to the following endorsing members of the PAC, who have already contributed to shaping the coalition:

Countries: Colombia, Edo State (Nigeria), Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Switzerland, Togo, and United Kingdom

Knowledge and implementation partners: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; Association of Independent Agricultural Research and Development Centres; CGIAR; Chatham House; EAT Forum; Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network; Food and Land Use Coalition; Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition; Global Resilience Partnership; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Institute for Environment Development, Southern African Confederation of Farmers Unions; UN Environment; UN Food and Agriculture Organization; World Economic Forum; World Bank; World Business Council for Sustainable Development; World Resources Institute; World Trade Organization; World Wildlife Fund; World Farmers Organization.



Ann Tutwiler, PAC coordinator, meeting H.E. Minister Nankhumwa of Malawi

Mapping the journey to date

***September 2019, New York City, USA, United Nations Climate Action Summit**

The UN Secretary-General asked the UK and Egyptian governments to lead preparations for the Summit on climate resilience. The UK Government then worked as part of a coalition of countries, including Egypt (as co-lead), Malawi, Bangladesh, Netherlands and St Lucia and established an informal working group to explore options to promote resilient land use systems. The Just Rural Transition was launched, and the Policy Action Coalition was born.

***September-November 2019**

The PAC Coordinator and her colleagues organized and attended a number of bilateral and international meetings with PAC Knowledge and Implementation partners, and meeting with current and prospective country members. In September, we attended the African Green Revolution Forum in Accra, where we

met with a number of African officials. In October and November, we met with European and US-based partners, including the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA); the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition; the Global Alliance for the Future of Food; the International Fertilizer Development Council; the International Fund for Agriculture Development; the CGIAR's Agriculture for Nutrition and Health/Water Land and Ecosystems/Policies, Institutions and Markets/Climate Change Research Programs; Chatham House; Food Systems Dialogues; the EAT Foundation; the World Trade Organization; the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the Committee on World Food Security; the World Farmers Organization; the World Bank; the African Union; officials from the governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission; Germany; Malawi, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

****November 2019, London, UK***

Representatives from several governments and 16 interested organisations and companies gathered in London for a preliminary discussion on the PAC. Participants included Paramount Chief Kwasi Katakyie Bumagama II and Musah Abu-Juam, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resource of Ghana as well as Prince Joseph Okojie, Commission for Agriculture and Natural Resources from Nigeria, bringing a West African country perspective into the room.



“This is a Coalition of the willing. And already we are seeing a clear benefit for countries to exchange lessons, ideas and challenges. A true peer-to-peer learning experience is unravelling.”

- Ann Tutwiler, PAC Coordinator

****January 2020, Berlin, Germany, sidelines of Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)***

As global leaders in agriculture gathered in an annual meeting in Berlin, the PAC team held several bilateral meetings to allow for a deeper discussion with country and knowledge partners already involved in shaping the Coalition and those who were interested in learning more about how to be involved. Such meetings were held with representatives from Canada, Denmark, Malawi, the World Farmers Organization, the African Union and Switzerland.



****January 2020, Berlin Germany, UK Department for International Development -World Bank workshop***

Furthermore, alongside International Green Week Celebrations and GFFA, DFID and the World Bank co-hosted a PAC workshop. The workshop gathered country and knowledge partners, and created space for dynamic and candid discussions about challenges and ways forward on domestic and international food system issues, global value chains challenges which often undermine national efforts to transform food and land use, and support for producers within a larger regulatory framework and considering both

producers and consumers. [Full report [HERE](#)]. Thank you to everyone for your contributions and enthusiasm at the workshop.

What we've learned so far:



Existing country and knowledge partners are seeing great value in the peer-to-peer learning offered through the PAC platform: some countries are already on the reform pathway and there are many lessons to be shared across countries, e.g. how to run an inclusive consultation process.



There is appetite to develop a more robust understanding of the trade-offs of certain policy choices in country e.g. what are the regional and global trade implications of banning pesticides, and what does this mean for consumer prices and food security.



There is general interest on looking to shift to more environmentally friendly support and deliver better outcomes whether environmental, nutritional or inclusion related.

Following the workshop, and based on the inputs from the discussions to date, a menu of services that the Policy Action Coalition could offer was developed and included the following:

- Desire to build knowledge base through policy briefs, case studies and toolkits. More practical advice. We're all bewildered by the 1000s of studies that are frankly impenetrable. Desire to understand the fundamentals in easy to read briefs and toolkits, making it accessible for decision makers.
- The trade-off piece is about country diagnostics and analysis. Deep dive studies in a country to evaluate trade-offs and opportunities
- Implementation and readiness support – i.e. who is going to help pay for the transition. Appetite to understand the funding landscape and sources of international finance.

Dynamic Webinar: The Meridian Institute will soon be convening a Just Rural Transition Webinar with the broader Policy Action Coalition community, with a discussion on the *Just Rural Transition (JRT)* on **Wednesday, March 25th** from 11:00–12:30 US Eastern/15:00-16:30 GMT/ 16:00-17.30 CET. The purpose of the webinar is to seek your feedback and engagement in emerging workstreams that are supporting implementation of the JRT's objectives.

VIRTUAL MEETING ON ANALYSIS: There will also be a virtual meeting convened with the World Bank, other international organizations and knowledge partners to identify the analytical work needed to support the Policy Action Coalition members to repurpose their food and agricultural policies. Watch this space for joining details.

“Please continue to cook with us. DFID is not leading, but happy to bring in the initial gas to the kitchen. We then look to you all to continue to engage and invest time and inputs into the cooking process, and we will continue to foster the peer learning and brokering relationships.”

- **Rachel Waterhouse, –UK Department for International Development**