



IISD Contributes to Inclusive and Resilient Food Security

Food systems are on the front lines of nearly all urgent global challenges.

Not only are they central to ending hunger and promoting food security, food systems are also central to curbing climate change, ensuring freshwater quality and availability, and protecting biological diversity. Sustainable food systems are the foundation of both human and ecological health.

That is why agriculture and food security are such a vital part of IISD's work.

Advisory Services for Sustainable Agricultural Investment

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) works with national governments in developing countries, providing high-quality advice on sustainable agriculture. IISD advisory services offer legal advice on investment contracts and intelligence on market conditions where the investor intends to sell their products, in particular concerning markets compliant with voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs). The objective is to help transform public and private investment into a vehicle for change that strengthens food security, secures rural livelihoods, protects land rights and supports the responsible management of natural resources. IISD considers VSSs a useful tool that governments can leverage for their commercial interests while ensuring their economic planning delivers sustainable development outcomes at home.

Transforming Agriculture in Africa and Asia

In September 2019, IISD published jointly with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) a new edition of *Transforming Agriculture in Africa and Asia: What Are the Policy Options?* This work is a first-of-its-kind analytical framework that tracks the performance of agricultural economies in 117 countries over 45 years, offering an analysis of which policies have succeeded or failed in the structural transformation of the sector (see <https://iisd.org/agricultural-transformation/>). The new edition looks in depth at 15 countries, mapping out policy trajectories from 1970 to 2015 and setting that against key economic indicators to measure the countries' transformation contexts over time. The researchers developed an interactive feature that brings evidence and data together and allows readers to view the policy choices of transformed countries together with the policy options for countries that have yet to transform.





Looking Ahead

In 2020 we will continue working toward ending hunger and achieving food security. Some of the planned work includes:

Advancing Gender Equality in Agriculture

IISD will promote the wider use of the guide co-developed with Oxfam called: *Enabling Voices, Demanding Rights: A Guide to Gender-Sensitive Community Engagement in Large-Scale Land-Based Investment in Agriculture* and the dissemination of our paper, *The Farmer and Her Husband*, that looks at the barriers to women's inclusion as equal partners in contract farming and ways to protect and promote their rights in contracts. IISD also continues to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliamentary Network to advance gender equality and responsible investment in agriculture, which held its first meeting in Rwanda in April 2019.

Revising and Updating Analysis of Seed Laws in Relation to Intellectual Property Protection

IISD is preparing a short policy brief to inform legislators considering new national legislation to govern seeds to ensure they understand the choices available in international law, including alternatives to the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights and ways to protect traditional knowledge along with farmer-to-farmer participatory breeding and seed sharing.

Agriculture and Trade

IISD's agriculture and trade work provides data and analysis on the issues of concern to WTO agriculture negotiators, in particular, the reform of domestic support that disrupts international markets. More broadly, IISD is committed to the negotiation of multilateral trade rules that improve equity, sustainability and efficiency in global food and agriculture markets. The work is done in collaboration with IFPRI.

Ceres2030

Ceres2030 is a joint IISD, IFPRI and Cornell University project that is costing interventions to end hunger. The public launch will be in June 2020 in Berlin and will include a special series of eight articles to be published in *Nature* research journals on effective policy interventions to end hunger. The launch will also include publication of the results of a cost model that projects how much public investment is needed to realize Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which is a commitment to end hunger while doubling smallholder productivity and protecting the environment.

