



CONCEPT NOTE

Workshop Series: County-Level Deep-Dive

Title: Partnerships for Systemic Change – Advancing Food Systems Diversification Across Kenya’s Counties

Background and Rationale

Food systems diversification is increasingly recognized as a critical strategy for enhancing resilience, sustainability, and equity in both global and local food systems. Yet implementation remains fragmented—often focused on isolated goals such as nutrition, climate adaptation, or improved livelihoods—rather than coordinated, system-wide transformation. Diversity in food production not only enhances supply chain resilience but also supports varied diets and healthy ecosystems. However, over the past 60 years, global food production diversity has stagnated, with worsening dietary outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa and minimal gains in South Asia.

To begin addressing this complexity, Nutrition Connect, The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Glocolearning and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), along with WWF, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and , convened the first Country-level food systems diversification workshop in Kenya on **21st January 2025**. That convening created space for multi-stakeholder dialogue, co-learning, and collaborative strategizing to emphasize the need for furthering biological diversification—species and varietal diversity across consumption, markets, production, and genetic resources—while also acknowledging the importance of diversity across actors, value chains, and food environments.

The January workshop produced three critical takeaways: (1) aligning future visions for diversified food systems in the Kenya context, (2) identifying systemic and context-specific barriers to diversification, and (3) bundling actionable solutions with stronger collaboration needed for all actors. Discussions were framed around **urban, peri-urban, and rural** contexts, with breakout sessions exploring the unique realities and potential within each. The insights from that process underscored the need for place-based, adaptive approaches that recognize Kenya’s diverse geographies, market systems, and governance dynamics.

Building on that momentum, this second in series, county-level workshop is designed as a much-needed deep-dive in Kenya, drawing sharper focus on five counties **Nairobi, Machakos, Kiambu, Nakuru, and Nyandarua**; where the GAIN CASCADE project is also working to support strong government action needed for a sustainable food systems.: . These counties collectively represent a spectrum of **urban, peri-urban, and rural** contexts, enabling the application of the same urban-rural lens, used in the first workshop. The goal is to co-create localized yet interconnected strategies for food systems diversification — anchored in systems thinking, driven by partnerships, and aligned with long-term county visions. In Kenya, and across many African countries, **diversifying food systems at the county level** is critical to building resilience, enhancing nutrition, and supporting local

livelihoods amid climate change, and other socio-economic volatilities. In the context of the upcoming UNFSS+4 conference, there is a strong emphasis on aligning local action with national pathways, strengthening inclusive governance, and advancing public-private partnerships—underscoring the critical importance of fostering county-level dialogues and collaborations.

Objectives

- **Co-develop Future Visions:** Facilitate dialogue among county-level stakeholders to imagine diversified food systems by 2050.
- **Identify Barriers:** Explore key systemic and localized challenges preventing diversification.
- **Bundle Solutions:** Co-develop strategic actions and partnerships to overcome barriers to food systems diversification.
- **Foster Collaboration:** Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and clarify stakeholder roles.

Target Participants

Participants will be drawn from:

- County governments (nutrition, environment, agriculture, trade, health)
- Private sector actors in food value chains
- Development and donor partners

- Civil society organizations

- Academia and researchers
- Farmer organizations and SMEs

35–40 participants will be invited to ensure county representation and robust dialogue.

Expected Outcomes


- County-specific visions for diversified food systems
- Identified barriers and actionable solutions
- Strengthened local networks for multi-sectoral collaboration
- Documentation of proceedings in a policy brief and infographic

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- **Enhanced Understanding:** Improved understanding of food systems diversification from multiple perspectives.
- **Strategic Recommendations:** Drawing common interest strategies and recommendations for overcoming barriers to diversification.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Development of new and strengthened partnerships among stakeholders at the county-level, on the topic of diversification.

- **Documentation:** A summary report ; An Insights Summary, A Graphic Rendition, summarizing workshop discussions and outcomes for guidance on future action.

Workshop Date & Venue

 **Wednesday, 1th June 2025**

 **To be confirmed – Naivasha**

Facilitators :

- Roseline Remans (Glocolearning - preparation and virtual support)
- Caroline Kawira (Glocolearning - in person facilitator)
- Elke Vandamme (Glocolearning - in person facilitator)
- Ruth Munyinyi (Sr. Associate, Nutrition Connect, GAIN)
- Njung'e Wanjiru (Graphic Recorder & Artist)

DRAFT AGENDA

Time (EAT)	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Registration, coffee & networking
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks: GAIN & Ministry of Agriculture (TBC)
09:30 – 10:00	Workshop Objectives & Framing: County Food Systems & Diversification
10:00 – 11:00	Step 1: Visioning: 2050 Scenarios for Diversified County Food Systems
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee & Tea Break
11:15 – 12:00	Visioning continued, Plenary feedback and reflections
12:00 – 13:00	Step 2: Identifying Key Barriers
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Step 3: Solutions & Accelerators – Leveraging actors and enablers
15:00 – 16:00	Reporting Back & Plenary Discussion on comparison with national visions, barriers and opportunities
16:00 – 16:30	Wrap-Up, Reflections & Next Steps