

IMPACT SUMMARY

Co-creating food systems change to improve human & planetary health in more equitable ways

The Innovative Food Systems Solutions (IFSS) portal initiative is an **ongoing**, **open and collaborative effort** launched in 2021 between groups working at the intersection of nutrition, sustainable agriculture, development economics, policy studies and environmental health. The core team includes the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the Alliance of Bioversity International-CIAT and Glocolearning. **Our mission is to support key food system actors in working with innovative solutions and help to move ideas towards action for impact.**



Open-Access Resources & Platform



The IFSS portal **database of innovative solutions** continues to grow, with 120+ solutions spanning the food supply chain -- policies, technologies, nature-based innovations, public/private collaborations, financial innovations, education, and social equity approaches. Solution profiles include examples in real-world settings (with an emphasis on vulnerable communities and LMICs) that have impact on both dietary health and planetary health. The rich criteria filters and searchable content help users find what they're interested in, allowing individuals and teams to evaluate "good fit" solutions for actionable uptake of innovations to meet their priorities.

The portal also includes a searchable **directory of investors**, **funders and donors** with 210+ funding sources actively looking to support up-and-coming innovative food system solutions. Connecting innovators to investors helps to make mutually beneficial matches to move solutions towards having meaningful uptake and impact in the near future.





Food system transformation requires urgent actions across many sectors. **20+ guides and resources** are shared to support actors across the food system in taking meaningful steps to help solutions move towards action and gain traction in different ways.

The core team has developed a unique tool kit to help users imagine and describe how a specific solution could have major positive impact(s) in the future in their setting. The **Backcasting Pathway-to-Impact builder** is a critical thinking and planning method that starts with a future vision of an innovation's potential impact on the food system and helps individuals and teams to ask: What is possible? How to make that vision more likely? What are potential barriers and trade-offs and how to manage those along the way? Where to start? Who to involve? This considers multiple goals and complexities, and helps to create an adaptable action pathway embracing a level of complexity and uncertainty.



Collaboration, Colearning & Facilitation

Facilitated workshops, colearning and training sessions are offered by the IFSS team and core partner, Glocolearning. Since 2021 nearly 600 innovators and young entrepreneurs have worked with IFSS tools and resources to move their ideas forward and connect with funding and investment. In response to demand from a wide range of food system actors, learning journeys have been conducted in person, online and in hybrid formats with:

- Danish National Food Systems Dialogue workshop sessions (90 participants)
- UN Food System Summit 2021 Parallel session (90 participants)
- Scaling up the contribution of SMEs to nutrition: tools and SUN Business Network case studies (95 participants)
- Youth Engagement in Food System Transformation Kickoff Sessions (with NutritionConnect.org; 165 participants)
- Agrobiodiversity Innovation Accelerator Challenge (CGIAR / A4IP) (100+ participants)
- Wageningen course in Sustainable Diets in Healthy Food Systems (50 students + 25 global professionals)
- Act4Food/Act4Change Global Youth Leaders intensive Backcasting workshop session (20 participants)
- EatSafe Food Safety Innovation Challenge Ethiopia and Nigeria: Backcasting workshop series (42 participants)



Actively supporting youth engagement in food system transformation,

our community is listening to youth and believes that driving change will only occur if the next generation is at the decision making table. Youth are truly a powerful constituency to catalyze widespread change! The portal's Youth Engagement Network was launched in 2021 along with partners at NutritionConnect.org and the youth-led initiative Act4Food/Act4Change. We welcome youth and youth advocates and allies to join in to strengthen youth networks, share knowledge in a co-learning approach, and build skills to lead their generation in food system transformation for healthier diets on a healthy planet in more equitable ways.

The IFSS portal connects, shares, highlights and helps to boost the utility of related efforts and

the work of partners and collaborators, including:

- Cornell University's Wild Futures Project
- Tufts Innovation Lab
- Food System Dashboard
- Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
- World Food Forum Youth led initiatives
- Act4Food / Act4Change Youth led actions
- the SUN Business Network
- CGIAR Systems Office & Innovation Portfolio
- Social Gastronomy Movement
- EAT Foundation
- World Wildlife Fund

Additional collaborators and contributors are most welcome!

Join the IFSS portal community <u>https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifssportal/</u> Share the portal with your networks <u>https://IFSSportal.nutritionconnect.org</u> Get in touch to support portal activities <u>ifssportal@gainhealth.org</u>





