

# JUST FOOD

## Just transition: Principles and criteria and their applications

Seminário Internacional “CERESAN 20 anos:  
trajetória de pesquisa e perspectivas do campo  
temático”

Rio de Janeiro 6 October 2023

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# What makes a food system transition just? And why?

- Principles:
- **Level A: general justice or sustainability principles (from political philosophy/theory research on social & environmental justice)**
- **Level B: principles contextualised at the food system level**
- **Criterion: a ‘standard’ for judging, evaluating, and dealing with the low-carbon transition related changes to make transition more just**
  - Based on normative values like principles but applied to the actual context of low-carbon transition in food systems
  - Can be different in style (relative, threshold-like, statements or questions)
  - Transition pathways are to be evaluated with criteria



# Methodology to develop principles and criteria for just transition

Level A principles

General justice literature

Level B principles

Food justice literature

Food sover & agroecology literature

General literature on food systems

First list



Categorisation, simplification & grouping

Principles and criteria for just transition and food system sustainability: draft #1



Interdisciplinary collaboration & transdisciplinary co-production

Philosophical justification and A+B linkages

In total identified: 12 principles, 37 criteria

# Principles aim to broaden the discussion on just transition and give direction



# Principles and criteria for just food system transition



## Principle

## Criteria

Food and nutrition security

- The access of the whole population to sufficient nutritious, adequate, and safe food at all times is protected
- The resilience of food supply chains towards shocks is increased

Livelihood opportunities, just food chain structures

- Fair payment and working conditions
- The viability of farming is retained or improved
- Multiple opportunities for livelihoods in rural areas are retained or improved
- Different-sized food system actors have possibilities to respond to transition demands

Cosmopolitan justice

- Food security elsewhere in the world is not endangered
- Livelihood opportunities elsewhere in the world are not endangered

Ecological integrity and justice for animals

- Biodiversity is protected or increased
- Soil, water, and air health/quality is retained or improved
- Natural (biotic and abiotic) resource use stays within planetary boundaries
- The inherent value of animals is respected, and they are treated respectfully

# Principles and criteria for just food system transition



## PRINCIPLE

## CRITERIA

### Procedural justice

- Decision-making processes are transparent, inclusive, and provide a fair opportunity for different voices to be heard
- **Reliable information about the impacts of food systems and different diets on humans and nature is available to all in decision-making and climate action**
- Decision-making does not create or intensify power disparities

### Recognition justice

- Traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge is respected and given a voice
- **Diverse visions of producing, preparing, and eating food are respected**
- People are not discriminated on ethnic-, gender-, age-related, or other grounds

### Capacity building

- Innovations are made available to interested actors, especially least-advantaged groups
- **Developing individuals' skills for transition activities is supported**
- **Capacity building to engage people in collective action for transitions is supported**



# What can we use these principles and criteria for?

- **Evaluating just transition in food systems and other sectors:**
- Assess different claims in transition processes in terms of justice
- Guidance for decision making and policy implementation
- Raises attention to different aspects of justice in transition

# The Just transition tool



*Just transition tool*

Answer the questions in the different sections from your own perspective. You can share the link and password with your team, for example, so you can examine the answers together or answer them collaboratively.

Food security and nutrition

Fair working conditions, business relationships and the possibility of earning a livelihood

Global fairness

The environment and animals

Fair influencing opportunities

Socio-cultural fairness



# The just transition tool for public and private sector initiatives

## Food security and nutrition

1. How does the activity/programme affect food security, i.e. the equal availability and accessibility of nutritious and safe food?



- The activity promotes food security.
- No significant effects/difficult to assess.
- Food security may be reduced and ensuring it may require separate supporting actions.
- The question is not applicable to the evaluation of the activity.

Lisää kommentti



# The just transition tool in the Finnish context



- Pilot version tested by various actors in the Finnish food system:
  - Representatives from food industry
  - Union of farmers and forestry owners
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
  - Public food services
  - Researchers
- Published in September

# Another application: Bio Suisse and its climate strategy

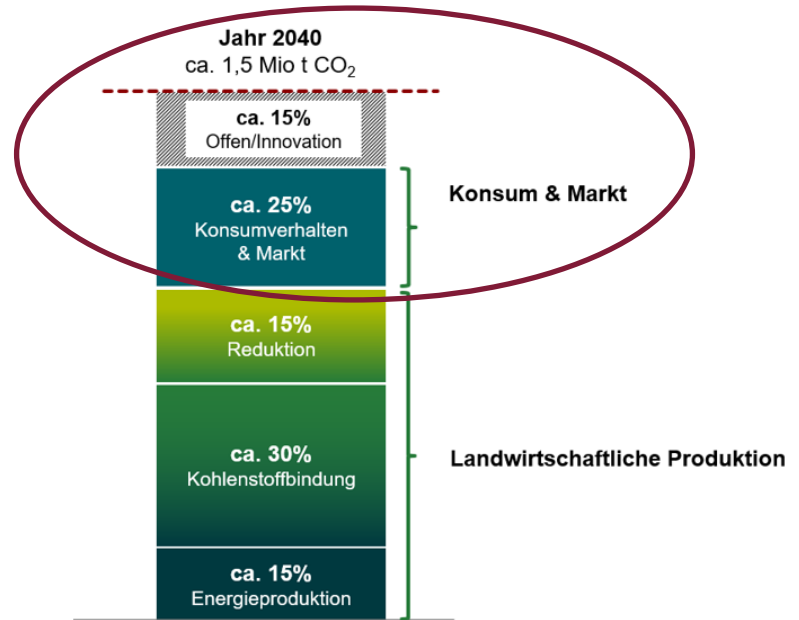
- An NGO
- Owner of a specific organic label
- An association of 7500 certified farmers and gardeners
- 33 member organisations -> local associations, marketing organisations, etc.
- Their aim: to reach net-zero GHG in their agricultural production until 2040



Image: Copyright Bio Suisse

# Background – Reaching Net-Zero GHG

- Study by FiBL defined possible changes on farms and throughout the value chain to reach net-zero by 2040.
- 40% emissions should be reduced in the fields of market, consumption and innovation
- How? -> not yet clearly defined



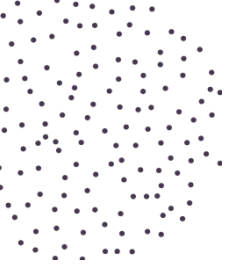
(Image: Steffens et al., 2022., FiBL)

# Challenge

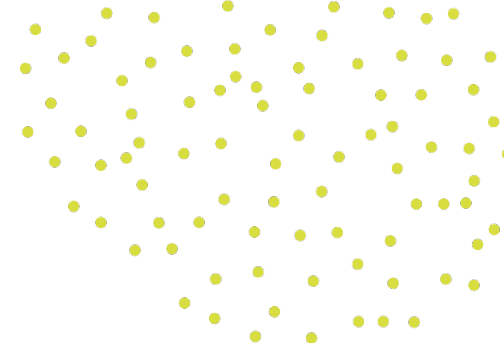
- Requires a positioning of the association on issues of the market, consumption & politics
- Positions are controversially discussed within the association
- Central question is: what do Bio Suisse producers need to reach net-zero?



(Image: Copyright Bio Suisse)



# Workshop 1



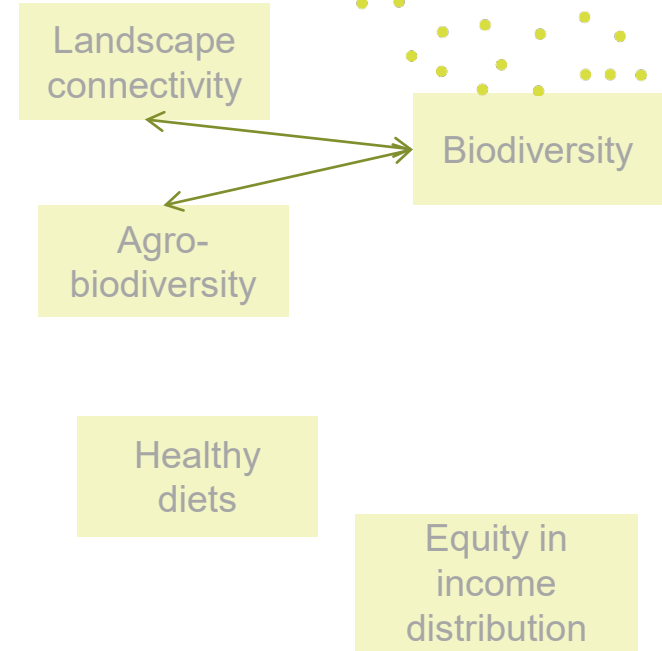
From a producer perspective:

- Clarifying the vision
- Backcasting
- Clarifying roles
- Discussing barriers
- Discussing and grouping potential activities and positions

# Preparatory work for workshop input

Map currently discussed objectives for a sustainable and climate-smart agriculture

- **Method:** Frame analysis
  - **Material:** Key reports and initiatives -> policies, government reports, citizen council etc.
- > Used in Workshop



# Further questions for analysis

Map current debates on a sustainable and climate-smart agriculture by a large number of actors and analyse them based on the principles and criteria framework

- **Method:** Frame analysis
- **Material:** media reports and communication material from the actors

Proposed  
problem  
definition

Causal  
interpretation

Moral  
evaluation

Objectives

Proposed  
problem  
solution



# Thank you

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