



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

JOIN A NEW COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON SYSTEMS APPROACHES

BACKGROUND

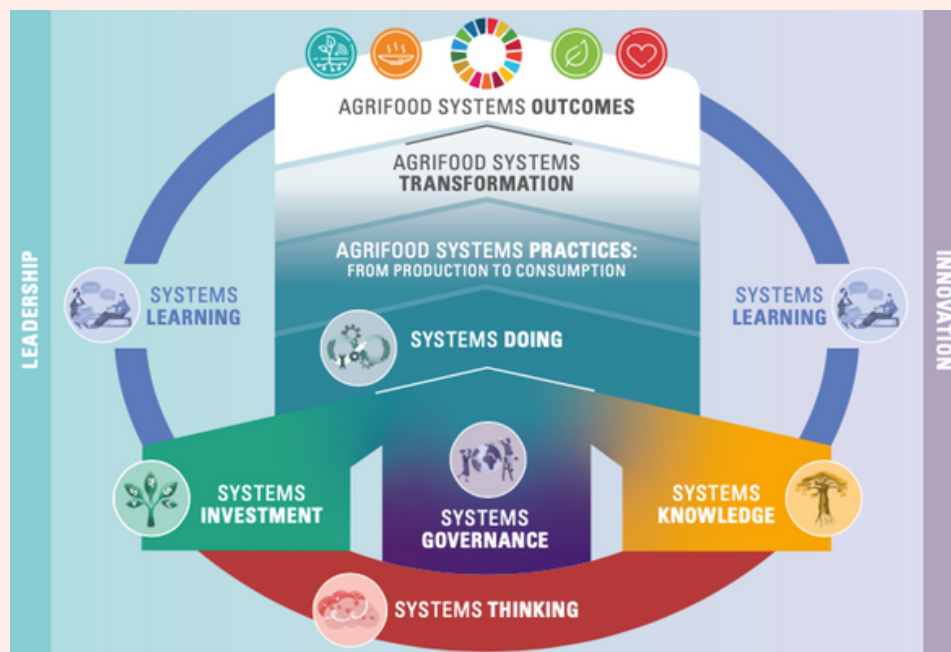
This Call for Expressions of Interest is launched in the context of the Programmatic Impact through Systems Approaches (PISA) project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The objective of PISA is to promote the adoption of systems approaches (SA) in FAO field projects, and to advocate for institutional changes which would facilitate its uptake. The long-term aim is to enhance the sustainability and scalability of project impacts, fostering agrifood systems transformation and accelerating progress toward the SDGs.

With enthusiasm for collaboration and co-learning, PISA launches this call to seek expressions of interest from colleagues across the organization in a Community of Practice (CoP) on the use of a SA in field projects. This CoP seeks to bring together individuals passionate about applying a SA to enhance the impacts of their work, creating a collaborative space for learning, reflecting, sharing insights, working together, and scaling up a SA within FAO field projects.

The Programmatic Impact through Systems Approaches (PISA) project is a part of the Systems Change Learning Portfolio (SCLP), a core initiative of the Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) and part of the divisional effort to enhance the use of systems approaches in FAO. PISA is being implemented in close cooperation with PSS, PSU, OED and OIN. **For questions please contact: PISA@fao.org**

What is a systems approach?

A systems approach is a method of solving problems and advancing solutions that considers the interconnections within and between systems to achieve sustained, systemic change at scale. It replaces fragmentation with connection. When successful, a systems approach results not just in changes to specific components and outcomes of the system, but the way that the system functions, meaning impact is sustained and can be scaled. Repurposing the system in this way to deliver a new set of outcomes can be referred to as systems transformation. In the case of agrifood systems, it leads to systems that are more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.¹



The **Six Elements of a Systems Approach**, a framework developed by ESF, provides a shared lens through which to interpret and understand approaches used by field projects by: systems thinking, systems knowledge, systems governance, systems investing, systems doing, and systems learning, all enabled by leadership and innovation. These Elements provide the CoP with a framework.

What makes this CoP unique?

Learning is essential to systems change, as it establishes a shared understanding of current reality, while co-developing a shared vision for the future. Systems change learning requires shifts in how we approach individual learning as well as collective learning. As stakeholders learn together, they build capacity to understand and engage complexity, expand their mindsets, build trust, enable adaptation, and ultimately, build their agency to act towards better outcomes for agrifood systems.²

¹ **FAO.** 2025. *Transforming food and agriculture through a systems approach*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6071en>

² **FAO.** (forthcoming). *Learning for systems change – Background note*. Rome.

Below are proposed action-oriented learning outcomes of the CoP, against which we will measure our individual and shared progress toward enhancing our ability to transform agrifood systems.

This CoP will be **participant-driven** and **co-designed** to ensure it reflects the needs, interests, and goals of its members. From its objectives to activities, the direction of the CoP will be shaped by the collective insights and aspirations of its members.

This CoP will prioritize **supporting participant-led projects**. Therefore, we invite you to nominate a project that could benefit from and contribute to the shared expertise, resources, and collaboration this community can provide. We aim for our shared learning to reinforce the use of a SA in field projects.



Who can express interest?

Are you interested in understanding what using a SA entails? Do you feel passionate about enhancing the systemic impact of your work? Are you eager to engage in collaborative learning by doing? Would you share your learnings with your team and apply them in your activities? Would you like to contribute to, and advocate for, institutional change at FAO? If so, no matter your level of experience, we encourage you to join!

[Click on this link to express your interest.](#)

What happens next?

In the working sessions, new participants will join with HQ colleagues who are already involved. Together, we will introduce the untapped opportunities in applying a SA, and collaboratively define the CoP's goals, structure, and priorities. This is your opportunity to help design a community that reflects your interests and aspirations, while also advancing the impacts of your work and our collective efforts towards sustainable agrifood systems transformation. Take part in shaping a vibrant and effective CoP, to address shared challenges and enhance the impact of field projects.

FILL THIS FORM TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

We acknowledge and express deep gratitude to the Ngurrara artists and their community, the Traditional Custodians of the Great Ngurrara Canvas, from which we have reproduced a small section on the first page of this call for expressions of interest.