

# 15th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference

17th to 19th of June 2024 in Oslo, Norway

## Call for Abstracts

### Session Track 11: Reimagining agrifood - Querying sustainability transitions through innovation, actors, mechanisms and governance

Session Chair: Camilla Chlebna (Kiel University, Germany), Gillian Cornish (CSIRO, Australia), Simon Fielke (CSIRO, Australia), Jonathan Friedrich (Lund University, Sweden), Petra Wagner (Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria), Jana Zscheischler (University of Vechta/ZALF, Germany)

Agricultural activities are a major driver of global environmental change, while simultaneously being one of the most vulnerable sectors to the effects of climate change with critical consequences for global food security. The proposed session aims to deepen our understanding of shaping transformations towards more sustainable agrifood systems that serve both humans and nature(s). Within the transitions literature, agricultural sectors are relatively less explored than others (e.g. energy). There is a need to improve how we understand the roles of actors, mechanisms, proposals for change and expected outcomes, as well as debates about normative contestations and conflict, and potential unintended side-effects.

With a focus on equity, justice, food security, and resilience in the face of environmental change (including climate change), this paper track will examine the critical role and responsibilities of different actors such as farmers, innovation actors, incumbents, intermediaries, policy actors, and (other) focal actors, in orchestrating and/or hindering sustainability transitions in agrifood systems. The track will further attend to the mechanisms and roles by which these actors navigate sustainability transitions within and across agrifood systems, how they work across and between research and technology development and connect with diverse governance arrangements to solve cross-societal issues. The track will actively engage with discussions on innovative research methodologies, specifically exploring pathways through interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and transformative research approaches (e.g. by attending to discussions on responsible research and innovation (RRI)). We invite contributions from diverse geographic locations, including from the global south, to present a comprehensive understanding of how different agricultural landscapes, social dynamics and embeddings contend with agrifood system transitions, particularly on Indigenous peoples' lands.

#### Cluster I: Actors and networks

- actor roles and responsibilities
- new actor groups, coalitions and networks
- power and agency, (financial) resources and (social) capital
- normative contestations and conflict

#### Cluster II: Knowledge and innovation systems

- diverse knowledge systems (including normative knowledge)

- collaboration across scientific disciplines, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research approaches
- new innovation systems, adjustment of existing innovation systems, just innovation approaches (e.g. RRI)

#### **Cluster III: Institutions and Governance**

- role of public sector organisations and industry
- governance risks and opportunities
- role of innovation policies (e.g. mission-oriented approaches)

#### **Cluster IV: Geography and Context**

- socio-technical differences between geopolitical spaces
- impact on rural development and local livelihoods
- dark sides, unintended side effects and trade-offs

#### **Cluster V: Tracking and assessing change and effectiveness**

- effective tracking and assessing of the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives within agrifood systems and nature
- (most) relevant indicators and metrics, and their application across diverse contexts

The deadline for abstract submissions is **February 16th 2024**

Further information: <https://transitionsnetwork.org/ist-2024/call-for-papers/>