

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Symposium

September 22-23, 2025 | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



Keynote Presentation 1

The debate on the role of VCD for AFS transformation

David Neven (FAO)

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Coffee Break 9:45-10:15



Parallel Sessions 1 & 2

10:15-12:00

Session 1
System thinking

Room A

Session 2
**Linking agroecology, food
security & nutrition with
economic perspectives**

Room B

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Lunch Break 12:00-13:30



Keynote Presentation 2

**20 years of SVCD:
What have we learnt (or not)?**

Dietmar Stoian (ICRAF)

Parallel Sessions 3 & 4 14:15-16:00

Session 3

**Resilient food systems
that keep planetary
boundaries**

Room A

Session 4

**Staying focused on
impact**

Room B

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Coffee Break 16:00-16:30



Plenary Session

Pin-board exhibition

Symposium „The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation“

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Evening Reception & Buffet



The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Symposium

Day 2 – 23 Sep 25 | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



Keynote Presentation 3

Effective transformative practices

Neila Dridi (Consultant in value chains and entrepreneurship, Tunisia)

Parallel Sessions 5 & 6

10:45-12:30

Session 5

**Working with and through
change agents**

Room A

Session 6

**The meaning of
transformative action**

Room B

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Lunch Break 12:30-13:30



Plenary Workshop

Transformative value chains – the next generation

Input

On changing roles of actors, methods and
requirements

Jos Bijman (WUR Wageningen)

Symposium „The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation“

Plenary Workshop

1. Research
2. Concept Development
3. Training & Consulting
4. Management

Transformative value chains – the next generation

The (changing) roles of VC actors and activities

What needs to change to make value chains truly transformative? *(from each perspective: research, concept development ...)*

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Coffee Break 14:45-15:15



Plenary Workshop

Transformative value chains – the next generation

1. Research
2. Concept Development
3. Training & Consulting
4. Management

4 rounds, 10 min.
each

2. Principles for future value chain program design

How should future VC programs be designed to effectively contribute to AFS transformation?

The role of value chain development in agri-food systems transformation

Formulating outcomes



Programm (für Side Screen)



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Program

1st Day: 08:00 am – 12:00 pm & 01:30 pm – 06:00 pm

08:00 am: Coffee & check-in (30')

08:30 am Welcome & introduction (30')

Celia Schmidt, Markus Hanisch (HU SLE) & Andreas Springer-Heinze (IVLA e.V.)

Objectives, motivation and guiding threads of the symposium

Keynote session 1 (45')

09:00 am Keynote presentation 1 (30')

David Neven (FAO)

The debate on the role of VCD for AFS transformation

09:30 am Questions & comments from the plenary (15')

09:45 am: Coffee break (30')

Parallel sessions 1 & 2 (105')

10:15 am Session 1: System thinking

Room A

Input by Maryam Rezaei (ODI) (10')

Ways to handle and visualize the system nature of AFS: A value chain development perspective

Session 2: Linking agroecology, food security & nutrition with economic perspectives

Room B

Input Benjamin Davies (WHH) (10')

How to accommodate the different perspectives in sustainable VCD/FST?

10:30 am Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas

Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas

11:45 am Wrapping up results

Wrapping up results

12:00 pm – 01:30 pm: Lunch Break (90')

Keynote session 2 (45')

01:30 pm Keynote presentation 2 (30')

Dietmar Stoian (ICRAF)

20 years of sustainable value chain development (SVCD): What have we learnt (or not)?

02:00 pm Questions & comments from the plenary (15')

Parallel sessions 3 & 4 (105')

02:15 pm Session 3: Resilient food systems that keep planetary boundaries

Room A

Input by Niklas Kitzmann (PIK) (10')

The concept of planetary boundaries

Session 4: Staying focused on impact

Room B

Input by Ruerd Ruben (WUR Wageningen) (10')

Staying focused on impact of VC interventions

02:30 pm Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas

Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas

03:45 pm Wrapping up results

Wrapping up results

04:00 pm: Coffee break (30')

04:30 pm Wrapping up Day 1 (45')

Plenum: Results pin board exhibition

06:00 pm: Evening reception & buffet – venue: Empore Senatssaal

2nd Day: 09:00 am – 12:30 pm & 01:45 pm – 05:00 pm

09:00 am: Welcome to the second day

09:00 am Introduction to Day 2 (30')
Markus Hanisch (HU SLE) & Andreas Springer-Heinze (IVLA e.V.)

Keynote session 3 (45')

09:30 am Keynote presentation 3 (30')
Neila Dridi, Consultant in value chains and entrepreneurship, Tunisia
Effective transformation practices

10:00 am Questions & comments from the plenary (15')

10:15 am: Coffee break (30')

Parallel sessions 5 & 6 (105')

10:45 am Session 5: Working with and through change agents Room A Input by GB Banjara (Agriterro Uganda) (10') Seeking and supporting change agents	Session 6: The meaning of transformative action Room B Input by Kossi Apedo (GIZ Togo) (10') What makes action transformative?
11:00 am Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas	Discussion & exchange of concepts & ideas
12:15 pm Wrapping up results	Wrapping up results

12:30 pm – 01:30 pm: Lunch Break

Plenary session

01:30 pm Transformative value chains - the next generation

Input by Jos Bijman (WUR Wageningen) (15')

On changing roles of actors, methods & requirements

Plenary workshop 1 (60')

01:45 pm The (changing) roles of VC actors and activities

02:45 pm: Coffee break (30')

Plenary workshop 2 (75')

03:15 pm Principles for future value chain program design

Closing of the event (30')

04:30 pm Formulating outcomes: The future role of VCD in AFS transformation

Synthesis exhibition – formulating preliminary theses & conclusions

05:00 pm End of the event