

Action Summit:
Building Systems at the Overlap
of Farmers, Health, Environment, Resiliency, Culture

Overview and Agenda

Objectives

Sixteen leading African and global social entrepreneurs are convening to spark new visionary actions by comparing insights and approaches at the overlap of farming, food systems, public health, and the natural environment. Each has previously developed approaches that combine vitality of people and natural ecosystems. Each reaches tens-to-hundreds of thousands of farmers and communities. These actions reveal a pattern of regionally led “nourishment-cycle economics,” building on interconnected value in nutrition, water, soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, traditional and cultural foods, landscape resiliency, regional food systems, women- and youth-led development, and more.

These founders and CEOs will gather from seven countries, along with several community and youth organizers in the region. We will converge, compare, debate, and celebrate our different sectoral approaches, including our common scientific foundation in regenerative nutrient cycling between people and land. We will hatch and immediately support direct actions and larger proposals with our collective knowledge, relationships, and funding resources, to do the following:

- Support individual actions
- Develop and launch wider ideas/ventures/initiatives or expand current ones, with immediate resources on the table
- Capture learning from these entrepreneurial and systemic perspectives to share with other noted efforts in agroecology and regenerative economy, and with scientists, social entrepreneurs, and change-leading communities we work with elsewhere

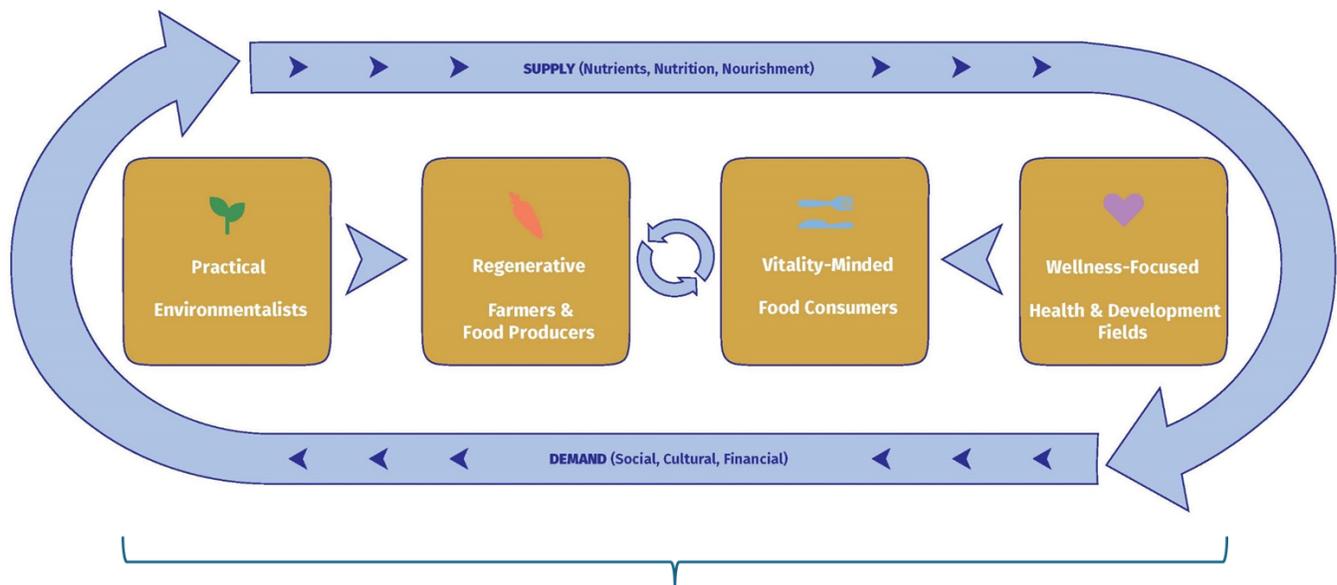
Venue

Hosted at URDT (Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme) and African Rural University; 21-year hub of primary to tertiary education, empowerment, and rural development.

February 16th-19th (travel to Kagadi District on 16th for dinnertime; then 2.5 days working together).



Our Reference Framework: Nourishment-cycle Economics



17 benefits/values across participant approaches

• Public health - nutrition, food qualities, vitality	• Drinking water quality ("blue water")
• Aroma and flavor of foods	• Landscape hydrology/water cycles ("green water")
• Color, size, & long-term yield of crops	• Biodiversity/Nature (resources, data, intrinsic value)
• Carbon credits, climate change mitigation	• Pollinators for agriculture and nature
• Landscape resiliency to disruptions & disasters	• Pollution reductions
• Local food system resiliency	• Local fertilizer production
• Community and cultural values (many)	• Increased land values
• Recreation/tourism consistent with mission	• Farm worker health and safety
• Improved sanitation - nutrient resources & behaviors	

Background

This Action Summit is rooted 10+ years global learning and action by a collective of influential social entrepreneurs. We formed the Nourishment Economies Coalition in 2016 and are now joined by select scientists and other supporters. Learn more about our history in this recent article published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [What's Next Health: Nourishment Economies](#).

This full group in Africa has not met before, but increasing attention to the science, economics, and ethics of regenerative and cross-sectoral action is stimulating regional momentum. See this overview for [more information on our science+economics framework and actions](#).

Participating Social Entrepreneurs

- **Haron Wachira** – Founder & CEO, Akili Holdings - Kenya
Crops, value-add products, soil and landscape carbon, agroforestry, and ecosystem and biodiversity sourced with 60k+ farmers.
- **Hastings Nhlane** – Founder & CEO, ACADES - Malawi
Farming as attractive profession for young people; 60 collectives, finance, markets, 20k+ farmers, national Presidential award, UN FAO recognition.
- **Janet Maro** – Founder, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
Small farmers as drivers of national change; including training, markets, field demos, magazine reaching 90k monthly, school curricula, input on Tanzania national agroecology strategy.
- **Mwalimu Musheshe** – Founder & Vice Chancellor, URDT and ARU - Uganda
Internationally recognized rural school system and accredited African Rural University, fostering locally-led development frameworks, visionary young change leaders, rural leadership through community epicentres, university science+economics curriculum in sustainable agriculture.
- **Nassir Katuramu** – CEO, Solid’Africa - Rwanda
National health policy and hospitals aligning nutrition, institutional kitchens in healthcare, and local farmers as suppliers at wide scale, serving 600k medical patients annually.
- **Sylvia Banda** – Founder & CEO, Sylva Food Solutions - Zambia
Zambian enterprises in traditional foods, including packaged products, catering, institutional supply chains, cookbooks, and business and technical training with 26k+ community farmers.
- **David Mwangi** – Director, Manor House Agricultural Center - Kenya
Hub fostering knowledge exchange and practice building in agroecological science, food systems, innovation, community-led action, movement building.
- **Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka** – Founder, Conservation Through Public Health - Uganda
Acclaimed forest and biodiversity conservation through rural community health partnerships, aligning people and wildlife through nutrition and disease prevention.
- **Ifrah Arab** – Venture and Fellowship Lead at Ashoka East Africa; CEO, SuperMom - Kenya
Supporting system-changing social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows. Equipping marginalized women in distribution networks for essential goods, economic inclusion.
- **David Priest** – CEO, FIPS-Africa - Kenya
500k+ farmers, 3k village-based advisors, 40k youth, R&D of smallholder farm innovations, appropriate technologies and approaches, seeds, soils.
- **Bonstein Sisa** – Human Centered Design, soil health toolkit - Kenya + USA
Developing approaches and applications of small farmer soil health toolkit and more.
- **David Strelneck** – Founder & Chair, Nourishment Economies Coalition - Global/USA
Thirty years activating and analyzing economic values of land and ecosystem stewardship through local enterprise perspectives; focus on nature, food, nutrition, resiliency, culture.
- **Gerald Anthony Kizito** – Caritas Kampala - Uganda
Microfinance combined with agricultural skills development in rural communities, including impact M&E and related actions.

- **Janice Lucero** – Cotton Blossom Farm, Isleta Pueblo – New Mexico, North America
Native American farm-food-culture-resiliency organizer and farmer in 800-year old Indigenous community, also community extension agent with North America's Intertribal Agricultural Council.
- **Jaochim Ewechu** – Co-founder & CEO, SHONA – Uganda
Provides startup and business support to 50+ agroecological and circular-economy businesses in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, aiming to build back soils and ecosystems while providing social benefits through competitive business models; Acumen East Africa Fellow.
- **Sara Namirembe** – McKnight Foundation, Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems; and STEPUP Standard Limited – Uganda
Insights and funder perspectives from supporting communities-of-practice to improve climate resilience and access to nutritious, local, and resilient food systems, with small farmers, development organizations, researchers, low-income youth, and others.
- **Manson Kibe** – Chief Information Officer, Akili Holdings – Kenya
Defines organizational processes for Akili's entrepreneurial initiatives, including initial vision and approach for BeeOmonitoring in Kenya.
- **Community Epicentre Managers** – African Rural University (ARU) - Uganda
Converging community action and empowerment for rural transformation through ARU process of collective vision, local resources, structural tension, traditional knowledge.
- **Youth organizers/students URDT** – Uganda
Several from the all-girls URDT school system across Western Uganda, developing change-leader skills in rural development through the process of vision, creation, systems thinking.

Agenda Checklist (to be covered iteratively over 2.5 days)

A. Introductions, objectives, overview of evolving nutrient science and economic patterns *[4 hours]*

- Greetings (URDT, individuals)
- Reasons for gathering
 - Advance our collective insights
 - Spark and support direct actions (immediate and longer term)
 - Wider influence
- Snapshot of each of our individual approaches
 - Practicalities, vision, and scale
- Overview of linkages between the science and the economics developed through our actions
 - 8+ year pattern of actions (attached chart, underlying data and details)
 - Activating “nourishment-cycles” linking land and people, systems change

B. Action discussions, sparking insights, proposing ideas *[10 hours over two days]*

- Compare, cajole, debate
- Spark near-term actions and longer-term proposals (individual and/or collective)
- Smaller topical group discussions?

C. Stimulate and nourish *[½ day community site visits + evening activities]*

- Ugandan cuisine, cooking together with traditional ingredients, ceremony!
- Community site visits and discussions

D. Next steps - support for individual actions *[2 hours]*

- Allocate resources for immediate actions, 2-month check in
- Sketch larger concept proposals, 4-month timeline (individual or collective)
- Ongoing action+knowledge flow among us
- Other?

E. Optional depending on participant priorities

- The underlying science
 - Latest knowledge about nutrient cycles linking health, soil, biodiversity, carbon, nutrition, water, food, landscape resiliency, local economic resiliency, more.
- Side activity with community and media?
 - Showcase examples and vision?
- Feedback for organizers
- Other?

Some of Our Participants and Sites



CONTACT

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