



## **Academia Engelberg workshop summary**

**Resilience in the Swiss food system – Danielle Tendall (ETH Zürich), Benjamin Gräub (FAO)**

### **Topic and goals**

The topic of the workshop was how to improve the sustainability and outcomes of food systems, using a resilience lens. The goals of the workshop consisted of:

- Introducing the participants to the concept of food system resilience
- Providing the participants with a sample live experience of the resilience building process
- Gaining feedback from the participants on the resilience building process

### **Procedure**

Two case studies relevant to the Swiss food system were used to illustrate and support this experience: Swiss meat, and the cocoa-Swiss chocolate value chain. A brief introduction to the main elements of both value chains was provided. The participants were then split into discussion groups formed of mixed perspectives and backgrounds. They first identified the various stakes and issues in the value chains, and then suggested possible interventions and solutions to address these issues. Through a discussion process, they mapped the feasibility and impact of the suggested solutions. The group discussions were paused in order to present the participants with the concept of resilience, and its possible attributes in food systems. Finally, they scored the best solutions according to a list of food system resilience attributes.

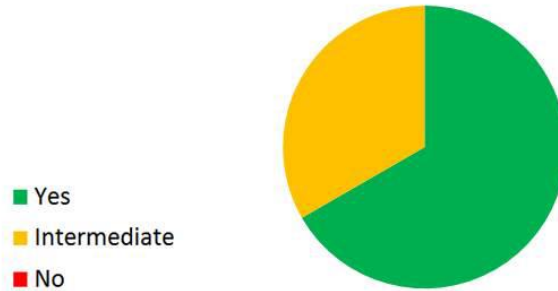
This process illustrated the complexity of designing sustainable solutions in food systems, the difficulty and importance of participatory decision-making. It also gave an insight into the importance and meaning of making food systems resilient.

### **Outcomes**

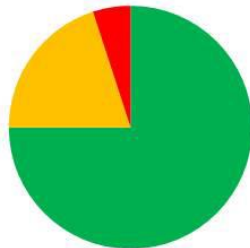
A take-home message from the workshop is that the resilience concept is useful, but complex and time-consuming when applied in practice. Participatory resilience building can only be successful if all participants are willing to enter a dialogue and seek for synergies and compromises, rather than reinforcing polarized positions. A key intervention was revealed in both case studies: the need for better information: information to, and education of the consumer on health implications of foods, food sourcing, processing, labels; information transparency throughout the value chains and in labelling schemes; and information in the form of research and education for farmers. This goal was seen to have both a high impact and a high feasibility in most cases. It is also a key attribute leading to improved food system resilience.

**Participant feedback**

**Did you like the workshop?**



**Would you use stakeholder dialogue in your work?**



**Do you think resilience is useful for food systems?**

