

Three Horizons for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Cross-scale Participatory Approach for Transformative Pathways

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Abstract

The 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a compelling vision for humanity that demands action across several scales. Realizing this vision requires narratives where the Agenda is integrated with the worldviews prevalent in different societies around the world. Here, we present to our knowledge the first stakeholder-based approach for visioning and exploring *Sustainable Development Pathways* to meet the SDGs. The approach embarks from the Three horizons framework, a participatory approach developed for groups to think about transformational change. We present benefits and challenges of the adapted approach in relation to an illustrative case study, *The 2018 African Dialogue on The World In 2050*, deliberating future pathways for agriculture and food systems in Africa. The paper has two main contributions. First, it discusses and tests the Three Horizons for the SDGs (3H4SDG), a participatory approach for visioning and exploring contrasting perspectives about how to reach the SDGs in different contexts, giving voice to multiple actors. Second, we present four alternative pathways for how food systems and agriculture can contribute to meeting the SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa, integrated with the worldviews of the participating stakeholders.