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MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COALITION (MSC) MODEL

What is a Multi-Stakeholder Coalition (MSC)?

A collaborative arrangement in which diverse actors work together to pursue outcomes of collective or public interest.

In the context of food systems, an effective MSC brings together stakeholders with distinct but complementary roles, such as:

Public sector
Responsible for public programmes, regulation, service delivery, and institutional coordination

Private sector
Contributing investment, innovation, supply chains, and market access

Civil society organisations
Supporting facilitation, community engagement, inclusion, and accountability

Producer organisations/ community groups
Representing local knowledge, lived experience, and on-ground realities

MSCs are the need of the hour!

Food systems challenges are complex, interconnected, and span multiple sectors and institutions. Decisions related to agriculture, nutrition, markets, environment, and livelihoods are often fragmented, leading to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for impact.

MSCs are therefore needed as they:

- Enable collective action on challenges that cut across sectors and mandates
- Bring together complementary capacities, resources, and perspectives
- Reduce duplication and fragmentation of efforts
- Support dialogue and alignment among actors with different roles and priorities
- Foster shared ownership of goals and outcomes

How does an MSC support FST?

FST requires change across production, nutrition, livelihoods, and the environment, often involving multiple institutions and stakeholders.

An MSC supports this transformation by:

- Aligning actions across agriculture, nutrition, environment, and livelihoods
- Facilitating convergence between programmes, institutions, and actors
- Creating space for structured dialogue, learning, and coordination
- Supporting locally grounded solutions while engaging broader systems

MSCs do not replace sectoral programmes or institutional mandates.
Instead, they function as enabling platforms that improve coherence, alignment, and collective impact across existing efforts.

How does an MSC work in practice?

Structured collaboration, supported by clear institutional arrangements.

This would involve:

- Establishing a shared vision and common objectives
- Defining roles, responsibilities, and expectations among stakeholders
- Setting up clear governance arrangements, such as:
  - A steering or coordination body
  - Thematic or working groups
  - A coordinating or backbone entity
- Creating agreed processes for dialogue, coordination, and decision-making
- Aligning or pooling resources where appropriate

By enabling collaboration across diverse stakeholders, MSCs support food systems work that is more coherent, inclusive, and capable of delivering system-wide outcomes.

References

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