

The concept of The Global Framework Convention on Planetary Health Diet

A SIMULATION GAME FOR PEOPLE
AGED 15 AND OVER



NORTHLAND
NIERARA

INTRODUCTION

About the Game

This simulation game is a sequel to the game 'Stress in the Food Chain', which was published in 2018 by the Berlin based educational project Foodjustice.

In the game, the fictional countries Nierara and Northland negotiate on behalf of the global community on a global agreement for a healthy, sustainable food system: the global framework agreement for the Planetary Health Diet.

Foodjustice and RENEVLYN Development Initiative (RDI) worked together to develop the game, both the present English version and a German version for German students. The English version will be used for bringing forward the discussion about the Planetary Health Diet on the African continent.

It can also be used in schools in Berlin and Brandenburg in the third term English Oberstufe.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS

RDI works with indigenous communities and grassroots groups to hold companies accountable for human rights violations and environmental damage.

Foodjustice develops workshops and educational materials for students and adults regarding the topic of a transition towards a sustainable, just and healthy global food system.



WHAT IS THE PLANETARY HEALTH DIET?

The link between nutrition and climate change

Obesity, malnutrition/hunger and climate change are linked. An international team of researchers put forward this hypothesis in a 2019 report as part of the 'Global Syndemic Commission' of the medical journal LANCET. The scientists refer to the link as a global syndemic – different epidemics that have similar systemic causes, occur at the same time and are mutually dependent.

According to WHO figures, 1.9 billion adults worldwide were overweight or obese in 2019. Around eleven per cent of the world's population suffered from diabetes in 2020, a disease that is favoured by obesity. The diabetes rate worldwide has risen in line with the obesity rate. According to the Global Hunger Index, 733 million people do not have access to sufficient calories and 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. The NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, a network of health scientists that provide data on risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) estimated in a 2022 report that nearly 53% of the adult (aged 18 and over) EU's population were classified as overweight. Correspondingly, that same year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in an analysis on the prevalence of obesity among adults in the 10 high-burden African countries said the rates range from 13.6% to 31%, while in children and adolescents it will range from 5% to 16.5% by 2023. These developments make it more difficult to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 (food security - end hunger) and 3 (healthy lives for all). And they also affect Goal 13: Take immediate action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Climate change threatens food security. Both small-scale farmers and industrial food producers are affected by extreme weather events such as droughts or heavy rainfall. However, small farmers suffer particularly often from hunger and malnutrition, as the increasing insecurity caused by climate change destroys their livelihoods.

On the other hand, food production contributes significantly to climate change through intensive farming practices and food waste, transport and packaging. Farmers who can no longer make a living in the countryside are migrating to the cities and changing their lifestyles there. They consume more industrialised, highly processed food and exercise less. As a result, they often become overweight and ill. Overweight and underweight are also linked: Malnutrition during pregnancy and the first years of life increases the risk of becoming overweight later on.

According to the latest report by the Food System Economics Commission, these interlinked problems mean that the current global food system is destroying more than it is generating.

WHAT IS THE PLANETARY HEALTH DIET?

Planetary health for everyone

In 2019, the EAT-Lancet Commission developed the Planetary Health Diet as a concrete nutritional recommendation that takes the various problems into account. It is a dietary recommendation developed by an international team of researchers. On the basis of the Earth's stress limits and current studies on nutrition and health, the researchers developed suitable consumption values for various food groups that are beneficial to health and take into account the Earth's stress limits. The Planetary Health Diet contains significantly less animal protein and more plant protein. Half of the daily food requirement should be covered by fruit and vegetables.

In order to promote this diet, which is healthier for people and the planet, the researchers are calling for changes at the individual, civil society and political levels. Above all, they are calling for politicians worldwide to limit the framework conditions for the actions of global companies.

The Norwegian NGO EAT, which co-initiated the research on the Planetary Health Diet, launched a second EAT-Lancet Commission (EAT-Lancet 2.0) on healthy diets through sustainable food systems in 2022 together with the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Harvard University and OneCGIAR.

Building on the findings of the first publication, EAT-Lancet 2.0 incorporates new elements, such as a stronger focus on the diversity of regional and local diets, more diversity in the composition of the commission, food justice and social food system goals. In addition to the Commission's work, a global online consultation open to all was conducted for 12 months.

The second Commission was composed of 24 Commissioners from 17 countries to reflect diverse perspectives across continents and in different areas such as human health, agriculture and livestock, policy science, behaviour change, food justice and environmental sustainability.

WHAT IS THE PLANETARY HEALTH DIET?

A global framework convention

A global framework convention is being discussed as a cross-sectoral measure that could establish the Planetary Health Diet worldwide and thus protect the environment and human health. The model would be the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC). It is a global agreement that was launched by the WHO in 2003 to reduce global tobacco consumption and minimize the associated health, social and economic impacts of tobacco use. It came into force in 2005. A total of 168 countries and the European Union originally signed the agreement, signaling their intention to ratify it.

182 states and the European Union (as an independent contracting party) have accepted the agreement as binding and have domesticated it in their national laws. This makes the FCTC one of the most widely accepted international agreements in the history of the United Nations.

The FCTC obliges the contracting states to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to combat tobacco consumption. These include increasing taxes and prices on tobacco products and introducing bans on advertising, promotion and sponsorship, as well as bans on smoking in public places and support for alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers.

The agreement covers not only the health sector, but also areas such as finance, agriculture, education and law enforcement. It recognizes the tobacco industry's attempts to influence policies and calls on states to shape their policies independently of the industry.

A framework agreement on Planetary Healthy Diets could be modeled like the WHO-FCTC with an obligation on the signatory states to implement measures that protect human health and the planet independently of the lobbying interests of global companies.



COMMENT

Short report on the simulation game in Nigeria

The concept of a Framework Convention on Planetary Health Diet is appealing to many African environmental activists who believe that the initiative will bring about healthier diets and the reduction in illnesses and the disease burden which African families now grapple with.

This idea is coming at a time that a growing number of countries in Africa are recording hitherto strange illnesses and diseases associated with the kinds of foods they believe their citizens consume and a resurgence in interest for organic food.

Unlike five or six decades back when most Africans on the continent consumed fresh foods grown in their farms and free from inorganic materials, the influence of western civilization and the urgency of feeding a growing population has encouraged many to embrace the use of inorganic fertilizers with little knowledge of the health implications. This transition is further exacerbated by the fast food culture which has engulfed Africa and expose many to sugars, dangerous sweeteners, trans fatty foods, and high intake of salt.

The issues above notwithstanding, in most parts of Africa there is still huge arable land primary used for growing vegetables, tubers and livestock rearing. Subsistence farmers who constitute about 70 per cent of farmers on the continent still practice the traditional eco-friendly farming passed down to them from their ancestors. Though they rely on livestock for protein, they consume lots of vegetables and plant-based diets that sustain their families and make them healthier than their city-based counterparts.

The threat to their farming practices is the overwhelming government advocacy for the adoption of inorganic farming to supposedly increase yield per hectare and nutrient intake. Behind this government propaganda is the biotech companies that are only interested in profits and control of the right of what farmers must grow and what we eat. They also have a lot of funds to throw around in ensuring government adopts their approach and are leading the call for adoption of genetically modified organism crops.

What happens in Nigeria and the perception of Nigerians is significant and has implications for other African countries for many reasons. One, Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa boasting over 230 million people. Nigerians represent about 15 percent of the total African population. Nigeria represents 2 percent of the global population and Nigerians have a significant population in a lot of countries in Africa and the world. Nigerians are also very conservative about what they eat.



COMMENT

Short report on the simulation game in Nigeria

To gauge the pulse of the Nigerian public on a proposed Framework Convention on Planetary Health Diet, on Friday 29 November 2024 the Renevlyn Development Initiative (RDI), a Nigerian non-governmental organization engaged six journalists from different national news platforms and a civil society representative on the subject to hear their views. Virtually all the participants were pro-environment and pro-public health in orientation but were engaged to argue the different perspectives that would ultimately inform the direction that a Convention would likely include.

AT THE END OF THE DEBATE THE FOLLOWING WERE THE DOMINANT POSITIONS:

- There was unanimity among participants that a Planetary Health Diet is valuable in achieving optimum health for citizens via what they consume.
- Most were of the view that while local consumers and farmers would love to adopt a Planetary Health Diet, it should go side by side the current models of growing food and what they consume.
- They contend that a sudden switch to Planetary Health Diet without taking into consideration the above will be a turn off for local farmers especially those who currently derive their livelihoods and source of protein from livestock rearing.
- They believe there will be a pushback from the big agribusinesses who will argue that their products including GMO already address food deficiencies.
- They also believe that most governments on the continent will sign and ratify a framework convention on Planetary Health Diet but would choose the cautious path in its implementation by not implementing the recommendations in entirety.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD?

- Enlightenment strategies to make the public aware of the benefits of Planetary Health Diet. This could include trainings for journalists on Planetary Health Diet, organizing similar trainings for farmers and officials of government in the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment.
- To address the pushback from the big agribusiness and biotech firms, the proposed Convention must learn from the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) which is largely insulated from the industry because of a mandatory conflict of interest policy which government delegates attending the talks sign prior.

THE GAME

How to structure the game

To introduce the Planetary Health Diet, the group can watch one of the videos made by the EAT foundation: <https://www.youtube.com/@EatFoodForum>

IN THE GAME, THERE ARE SIX STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANETARY HEALTH DIET IN AFRICA:

- The government of Nierara, led by the People's Party
- The Agro Agri Company
- The civil society, represented by Renevlyn Development Initiative
- The Association of Peasant farmers of Nierara
- The Farmer's Association of Nierara
- The Federation of Food and Beverage Industries of Nierara

The roles are given to the participants, they read them carefully and take some notes.

Then, the moderator starts the discussion and structures it. Every question is answered by each group. The moderator decides if the groups can make comments or ask questions to the other's statements spontaneously, or if they do so after everyone has answered the question. The questions could include the following:

- What is your understanding of the Planetary Health Diet?
- What should a framework convention contain?
- Who should participate in the negotiations for a framework convention?
- Should global corporations be allowed to sponsor or participate in the negotiations for a framework convention?

In addition to that, the participants can write down their draft for a framework convention on a flipchart.

When the game is ended, participants can reflect on their roles following these questions:

- How influential did you feel in your role?
- Who helped you achieve your goals?
- Who hindered you in achieving your goals?
- What should have been different for you to be more successful in your role?
- If you could give a role as a joker - what would that be?
- If you could give a role as a handicap - what would it be?

RESEARCH MATERIAL

Information & Sources



LINKS

EAT-Lancet-Kommission (2019): Food in the Anthropocene:
The EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems
<https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/EAT>

FAO (2021):
Sustainable healthy diets – guiding principles
<https://www.fao.org/3/ca6640en/ca6640en.pdf>

Ruggeri Laderchi, C. et. al. (2024):
The Economics of the Food System Transformation. Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), Global Policy Report
<https://foodsystemeconomics.org/>

THE ROLES

Manifesto of the peoples party of Nierara



The Peoples Party of Nierara (PPN) is one of the leading political parties in Nierara. The PPN campaigned vigorously for the establishment of sound environmental practices to address the climate crisis in the 2023 General Elections which it won.

In our manifesto we promised to transit from fertilizer intensive farming to sustainable agriculture rooted in agroecology. To ensure this happens we said it would inject extra money to the Agricultural sector to create more jobs by way of loans at nominal interest rates for capital investment on medium and commercial scale cash crops. Ironically, a huge chunk of the campaign funds that paved the way for PPN to win the previous election came from members of the Federation of Food and Beverages Industries of Nierara that are largely dependent on mechanized farming and products that harm the climate. Unfortunately there is a growing disenchantment for the federation members by peasants who make up 60 percent of farmers in Nierara because of their exploitative practices. Most of the peasants support the transition to Planetary Health Diet because they feel it will give them more opportunity to negotiate and be in charge.

Mindful of the need to balance investment and the health of Nierarans, our government has put in place the right policies and environment to ensure the foods Nigerians consume do not jeopardize their health.

For instance a levy on Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) since 31 December 2021, stipulates a specific excise tax of 10 Naira (N) per litre of non-alcoholic, carbonated sweetened beverages. Though this is far from the WHO recommendation that governments impose taxes on SSBs that raise retail prices by at least 20% of the final product. it is a good step in the right direction. Fiscal policies like this can limit the excessive consumption of sugars and would have a positive benefit on population health, especially in the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCD) like diabetes and chronic kidney disease. There is also the revenue generation potential, which can be channeled towards financing Nierara's health sector. An outright ban on SSBs will stifle the growth of these companies and lead to revenue loss for government so the government has to tread with caution.

As the match towards the elections begin, we want to see the needs of the peasants but also have in mind the huge funding base of the Federation of Food and Beverages Industries of Nierara. The PPN is also wary of the fact that the five other political parties in the race for political office are also pro-Planetary Health Diet.

TO NAVIGATE THE SPACE OUR LOBBY STRATEGIES ARE:

- Identify with the peasants by promising to strike a deal that will put them and the federation on the same table to come to a workable compromise between transiting to Planetary Health Diet at a pace that will not affect the federation members business.
- Identify and work with civil society groups that are pro-Planetary Health Diet without committing to anything meaningful. More of talk shop to be seen as supportive of Planetary Health Diet.
- Float civil society groups that advocate gradual transition to Planetary Health Diet rather than the vocal ones that want that transition immediately.

THE ROLES

National Association of Nierara Farmers

The National Association of Nierara Farmers are involved in growing of vegetables, poultry and livestock production. Our members service the Federation of the Food and Beverages Industry of Nierara as well as many fast food outlets across the country. The federation has about 3 million members spread across the six geo-political zones of Nierara who contribute about N10 billion to the Nieraran government in revenue and generate employment. Many of our members are also indebted to banks in their bid to expand and meet up with expanding demand. Unlike our peasant counterparts, we at the National Association of Nieraran Farmers are very wealthy land owners who take charge of advocacy and influence politicians who hold public office. We are very close to the federal government and usually contribute descretely to politicians during elections.

Our members pay membership dues and annual dues and have access to certain privileges. They are also eligible for loans from banks, enjoy insurance, have access to markets and are largely immune from vulnerabilities.

While our members believe in the vision of Planetary Health Diet, they feel an immediate switch to the initiative will be a problem to them and will create a shock that will cost jobs. They would rather want the government to open prospects of investment in production of sustainable agri-products that do not harm the environment side by side their traditional farm practices that harm the environment and climate.

The fear of the members is that they will not make as much as they are currently making when the switch to Planetary Health Diet happens. Because of this they subscribe to maintaining industrialised production of food crops side by side Planetary Health Diets because they are involved in large scale growing to meet what they see as an obvious need.

We are also very closely aligned and work with agro corporations that are into seed and pesticide/herbicide and GMO production.



THE ROLES

National Association of Nierara Farmers

For these corporations, a switch as proposed at the global negotiations on Planetary Health Diet will affect their profits and their workers as they believe they will have to shed staff strength. In preparing our members for the switch to Planetary Health Diet we will engage in the following:

- 1.** Engage the media to publish reports and air TV/Radio interviews on the economic and other impacts of an immediate shift to Planetary Health Diet on farmers
- 2.** Engage the Joint Senate and House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture to slow the speed in switching to Planetary Health Diet.
- 3.** Lobby state governments to be cautious in promoting Planetary Health Diet with focus on the revenue losses that will be occasioned by the switch.
- 4.** Play down benefits of Planetary Health Diet with focus instead on local communities consuming products readily available and sustaining farm practices they are already used to.
- 5.** Advance a position on the need to take the interests of association into consideration in the formulation of a national framework on adoption of Planetary Health Diet.
- 6.** Engaging promoters of Planetary Health Diet to educate members of the association on climate change and how Planetary Health Diet will mitigate it through a switch from environmentally unfriendly animal rearing and farm practices. The engagement will also focus on opportunities that exist for the association when they switch.
- 7.** Threaten to withhold funding and support for politicians who advance the Planetary Health Diet policy.
- 8.** Threaten the government with legal suits if the Planetary Health Diet policy is forced on them.



THE ROLES

Association of Peasant Farmers of Nierara

Our association has been around for 30 years. It started when more and more foreign suppliers took over indigenous lands. By joining forces, the peasants organized in this association want to have a louder voice in the quest for small holder farming. We largely determine what we grow and do not get subsidies from government. We represent 70 percent of farmers in Nierara and grow tubers, vegetables and fruits at subsistence level to feed our families then sell the rest for sustenance of our families.

We are typically skeptical about taxes and wary of the big farmers associations that are aligned to big agri corporations. We also face many challenges including limited access to land, dearth of capital and inputs, vulnerability to disasters and low market participation.

Added to these challenges are the fact that we feel contracts and engagements with big corporations are unfavourable for us, as we have to go into debt to buy seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, and the payment is poor. Many of us are therefore in debt and find it difficult to get out of the contracts.

We hope that the Framework Convention for the Planetary Health Diet will help us to avoid such contracts and pursue a different kind of agriculture. We believe that since the Planetary Health Diet will have government backing it will accommodate us and make us more in control of their destinies. We believe the exploitative processes we suffer currently will come to an end and we will earn more money. While we await that process to begin, we are also worried that in the immediate the big companies will pull out and we won't even be able to sell our products to them to pay off debts at some point. That's why we want clear promises of help from the government.

THESE ARE OUR GOALS:

- We want the government to make laws that are friendly to make it easy for us to sustain our farming within our communities. This will include relaxing stringent conditions on land ownership and transfer.
- We would like more independence and more opportunities to process and sell products in our regions. Better roads, storage facilities and loans to hire or buy some machinery that we can jointly use for further processing would help us do this.
- We don't want interference of big corporations that we feel are behind the GMOs and land grabs
- We welcome the Planetary Health Diet side by side our farms. Though we believe our current practices affect the environment negatively, we believe our impacts on the environment is minimal. We also believe that as the advocacy and acceptance of the Planetary Health Diet grows we will easily start phasing out practices that harm the environment and diets that make us susceptible to non communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and obesity.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO:

- Encourage the general public to support us
- Encourage a middle course between adoptions of Planetary Health Diet and traditional practices that harm the environment until such a time that we can fully transit to Planetary Health Diet
- Put pressure on the government to avoid higher taxes on lands and relaxation of policies on transfer of land etc.
- But also try to influence the government so that we can obtain more lands and expand

THE ROLES

Federation of Food and Beverage Industry of Nierara position on Impacts of Unwholesome Foods, Drinks on Nieraran Consumers

More than ever before, the Federation of Food and Beverages Industry of Nierara realizes the importance of prioritizing health over profits. We realize the role our products in the wellness of consumers hence we work with the regulatory bodies who ensure our products pass through the regulatory processes that make them healthy for consumption. This, notwithstanding, we equally realize that some of our products when consumed in excess expose consumers to salt, sugar, trans fatty acids and other substances in excess quantities that are injurious to health. Just like our regional partners and some global organisations that we hold their franchise, the Federation of Food and Beverages Industry of Nierara contributes immensely to the growth and development of the Nieraran economy. In the last 50 years players like UCA Plc, Nettle, Unibever Plc, Caco-Calo Company, Nierara Breweries, Seven Seven Bottling Company, Cha Limited and Zartop among others, have grown phenomenally in the same manner they have contributed to the national economy.

Fast food companies that we service such as Tantrazzini, Food City, Hasty Fried Chicken, Domina's Pizza, Sweet Sense, Jevini Restaurant, Chicken Kingdom, Mr. Chicken, KCF, Trailblazers and Kilimanja, among others, have filled a gap that existed in reaching consumers. Our industry has also evolved over time, making the food and beverages sector even more vibrant and lucrative.

The clamor for increase in Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) Tax, reduction in the level of trans fatty acids and salt in diets to meet the Nieraran Agency for Food, Drinks and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDDAC) and World Health Organization's (WHO) standards, and now transitioning to Planetary Health Diets are just courses. We agree with the motive behind these calls but only differ on approach especially the sudden switch from meat to plant based foods.

We believe this initiative should exist side by side the products our industry offer instead of jettisoning one for the other. As it currently stands, our members contribute their quota in terms of keeping sugar, trans fats and salt levels in foods as low as possible. The claim by researchers and public health advocates in Nierara that our members deliberately add preservatives and sugar-sweeteners that damage human health in the production of our products cannot be substantiated. The regulatory agencies such as the NAFDAC can single our members aside in terms of compliance as we have worked, and continue to work with them and the standards organization to ensure our products are within safety threshold.

Although campaigns by pro-public health advocates have constantly echoed that alcohol is dangerous to health, our members have equally promoted campaigns encouraging drivers to avoid drinking while driving. On cigarette smoking, our members equally promote smoke-free clubs in schools and used it as a platform to encourage smokers to quit. We have also unveiled products that can aid transitioning from tobacco to less harmful products. We are also in compliance with the new Graphic health warning policy which contains bold health warnings. On Sugar and Salt that are dangerous to health when taken excessively, we are involved in campaigns encouraging safe use and have always maintained that these products are not the only reason for obesity or stroke. In recent time we have been promoting regular exercise which helps burn sugar and breaks down salt to safe levels in the blood stream.

For specificity, the Nieraran Bottling Company which is the warehouse of the Caco Calo brand promotes food safety as an integral gold standard of quality. Caco Calo's fundamental responsibility is to ensure safety standards for the products it produces and distribute.



THE ROLES

Federation of Food and Beverage Industry of Nierara position on Impacts of Unwholesome Foods, Drinks on Nieraran Consumers

On sugar reduction, the company has removed 900,000+ tons of sugar from its global portfolio cumulatively through efforts to reformulate over 1,000 beverages from 2017-2022.”

These companies have also remained committed in paying their taxes, which run into trillions of naira, created jobs, thereby boosting the economy, engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects and programmes that have empowered millions of Nierarans in the urban centres and rural communities across the country. Their socio-economic impacts transcends payment of taxes, jobs creation and CSR activities. They spend huge budgets on branding and advertisements, which have largely sustained the Media, Public Relations and Marketing Communications segments of the economy.

Also, in spite of the constraints, agitations for higher taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages, trans fats and salt, as well as the harsh operating environment, we continue to demonstrate an uncommon passion and determination to succeed in our businesses.

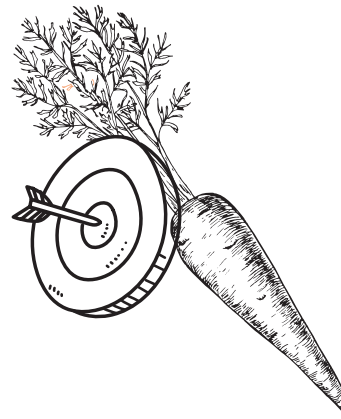
We reiterate again that while we believe in the campaign for adoption of Planetary Health Diet, its adoption must be responsible, phased, and must not rob workers of their jobs or farmers their livelihoods, or government of revenue. The push for Planetary Health Diet is a new science that we must approach with caution.

The Federation of Food and Beverage Industry of Nierara prioritizes the health of consumers who trigger our profits and we have been exploring alternatives and innovating to meet the challenges posed by not only competition, but also government policies on production, jobs creation, socio-economic impacts and CSR initiatives.

A Framework Convention on Planetary Healthy Diets in the opinion of the Federation of Food and Beverage Industry of Nierara is not necessary as our member’s products are already meeting the dietary gaps in consumption among Nierarians.

THE ROLES

Agro Agri Corporation



Agro Agri is a global company that develops and sells seeds as well as fertilizers and crop protection products. Many of its seeds are genetically modified and can be bought as a package: seeds, fertiliser and protection products.

Many of these seeds yield much more than traditional ones. That's why the company sees itself as one of the main players to end world hunger. Even with this, the company is also aware of the challenges posed by climate change. That's why new seeds are being developed, which are more resilient to extreme weather conditions such as drought or unusually heavy rainfalls.

In developing these seeds we also take into consideration safety concerns and the peculiarities of different regions of the world such as Africa where there is drought in some places and poor yield due to traditional land tenure practices. In most of Sub-Saharan Africa there is also the issue of lack of formal agricultural clusters and associations to enable the small holders to transit to large scale farming to feed the continent's growing population.

Long held beliefs that seed companies displace small farmers is not true and cannot be proven. In our case we ensure we work with governments to promote extension services that keep the small holders engaged and connected to what they need to transit to modern farming with the added benefit of better yield and less drudgery.

Civil society campaigners claim that many of the Agro Agri products are damaging the health of the people who apply them or live near the fields where they are planted, as well as the insects that also serve different purposes in terms of biodiversity. They also believe the company's products will rob traditional farmers of their indigenous seeds. But the company responds to these criticisms by asserting that these are claims that are unfounded and not backed by science. We also insist that the benefits of producing a lot of food scientifically produced and tested over a period of time outweigh the risks. Our products are not harmful and have not been reported to cause any of the negative health impacts that civil society groups mostly funded by some Global North NGOs peddle.

A Framework Convention on Planetary Healthy Diets in the opinion of the Agro-Agri is not necessary as the products of the corporation guarantee that farmers especially smallholders get the right seeds and the right fertilisers and the right solutions for their farming practices. Agro Agri believes people must have the right of choice but wants to use the development of the Framework Convention on Planetary Healthy Diets to show that our products are part of the solution. To address the challenge of poor diets and agricultural practices that harm the health of consumers and the environment, we want GM-crops to be included as one possibility of planetary healthy production of food. We want all the hastily introduced regulations in most African countries against it be removed to ensure that farmers have access to what they need so that they can be part of the solution to the hunger crisis in Africa.

TO ACHIEVE OUR AIMS, AGRO AGRI CORPORATION INTENDS TO VIGOROUSLY EMBARK ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.** Train journalists across Africa who report agriculture to understand the nature and safety of our products. Journalists are key to informing the public and engaging policy makers to adopt policies that impact positively on the citizenry.
- 2.** Identify clusters of farmers and work with them to accept our products. We will also engage them constructively to reach out to other farmers that are currently inaccessible and unaware of the benefits of GMO crops.
- 3.** Work with parliament to review or update existing laws or pass new ones that will make it easy for farmers to adopt Agro-Agri Corporation products as our own contribution to addressing the challenge of poor diets in Africa starting with Nierara.

THE ROLES



Renevlyn Development Initiative

The RENEVLYN Development Initiative (RDI) is a Nieraran non-governmental organisation that works with indigenous communities and grassroots groups to expose and challenge corporate impunity, unsound environmental practices and human rights violations.

RDI work cuts across different spheres that affect public health. They include advocacy against tobacco use and addiction and holding tobacco corporations accountable for the disease burden on citizens and the national economy. It also advocates for the consumption of healthy foods to counter unwholesome products promoted by corporations in violation of citizen's right to what they grow and consume.

RDI is of the view that only a healthy populace can advocate other basics of life such as shelter, education and food. Its advocacy centers on preventing the hazards that cause ill health, stopping the spread of diseases and working with public health groups and institutions for the improvement of our quality of life and life expectancy. RDI believes in the concept of Planetary Health Diet side by side with consideration for local farmers who are mostly into livestock and poultry production so as not to suddenly upend their livelihoods and spur a needless resistance to the initiative. Hence we argue for a gradual switch from climate change causing models of agri-farming and consumption to the Planetary Health Diet model.

We believe that the current model of mechanized agriculture that is heavily reliant on use of artificial non organic fertilizers harms soil health, biodiversity and the climate.

TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS, RDI ADVANCES THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:

- Creation of a civil society movement to champion the gradual switch to Planetary Health Diet.
- Strategic engagement of farmers who can be encouraged to adopt sustainable farm practices on pilot scale and gradually expand the initiative.
- Training of journalists on the benefits of Planetary Health Diet to spur in-depth and informative reports on the subject matter. The trained journalists will also be watchdogs to report industry activities to counter the adoption of the Planetary Health Diet or the Framework Convention on Planetary Health Diet.
- Sensitization of Nierarans using the mass media with targets being: Policy makers, farmers and farmers associations, students, the media, citizenry in general. Social media use will also be key especially in targeting young persons with information that will help them make the right choices on what to consume. In a sense, it will be to catch them young.
- Production and publication of policy briefs for advocacy targeting the Joint National Assembly Committees on Agriculture. This is a useful tool for policy makers who do not have the time to read huge documents.
- Radio, TV and newspaper Interviews by experts to explain benefits of transitioning to Planetary Health Diet. These specialized interviews will elicit support from professionals who trust only expert views before supporting a cause.
- Stakeholder convenings to harmonize positions on Planetary Health Diet. This will include policy makers, farmers, students, the media etc. The convenings should then feed into a Conference of Parties on Planetary Health Diet at global levels.
- Full enforcement of taxes on sugar sweetened beverages, full implementation of regulation on trans fatty acids and regulation on salt in processed foods.
- Establishment of Planetary Health Diet Clubs in the schools starting from primary through tertiary levels.

Imprint

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Concept & Idea

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<https://renevlyninitiative.org/>

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Layout & Design

Katika Design

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A dark green background with a torn paper effect at the top. The words "NORTHLAND" and "NIERARA" are written in large, light green, semi-transparent capital letters across the middle of the page.

NORTHLAND
NIERARA