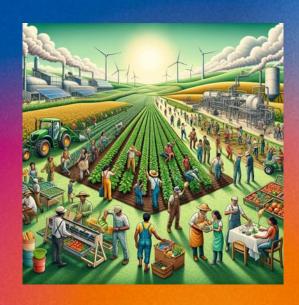
HUNGRY ECOCITIES

A S+T+ARTS RESIDENCIES PROJECT



Just Transition in Food and Agriculture

Jeffrey David Turk

Hungry Ecocities project presentation, March 2024



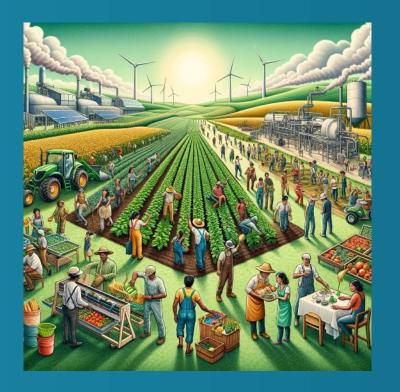






Just Transition in Food and Agriculture

Jeffrey David Turk





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Introduction to Just Transition in Food and Agriculture



Embarking on a Just Transition within the food and agriculture sectors means integrating sustainable practices that ensure environmental health, social equity, and economic viability.

This journey involves embracing renewable energy, eco-friendly farming techniques, and inclusive policies that safeguard both the planet and the people who nourish it.

Our collective goal: to cultivate a **resilient**, **sustainable** food system that supports all **communities** and **ecosystems**.



The Environmental Footprint of Agriculture



Food production contributes to nearly a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions, driving climate change.

It impacts biodiversity loss, water usage, and pollution.

Transforming this sector is crucial for a sustainable future, balancing food security with environmental conservation.



Understanding Social Dialogue in Just Transition Social dialogue is key for



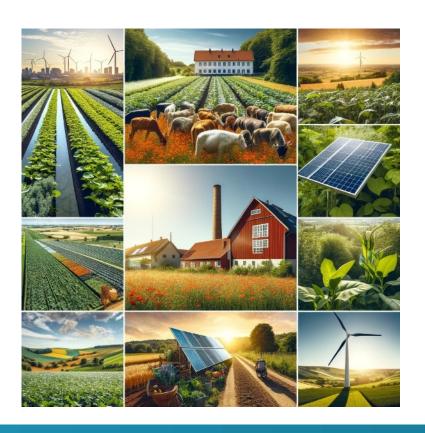
Social dialogue is key for an equitable transition in agriculture, involving negotiations and actions among workers, employers, and governments.

It ensures all voices are heard, integrating diverse perspectives into sustainable solutions.

Benefits include collaborative goal-setting, equitable solutions, and mitigating transition impacts.



Groundbreakin g Examples of Just Transition in Agriculture



Denmark: Leading in organic farming, supported by national policy and community engagement.

India: Farmers use solarpowered irrigation, merging renewable energy with agriculture.

Brazil: Community-supported agroecology promotes biodiversity and local economies.

Germany: Rural renewable energy projects, like wind turbines, empower communities.



Principles of Just Transition



Equity and Inclusivity: Ensuring all stakeholders have a voice in the transition process.

Sustainability: Prioritizing long-term environmental health and resource efficiency.

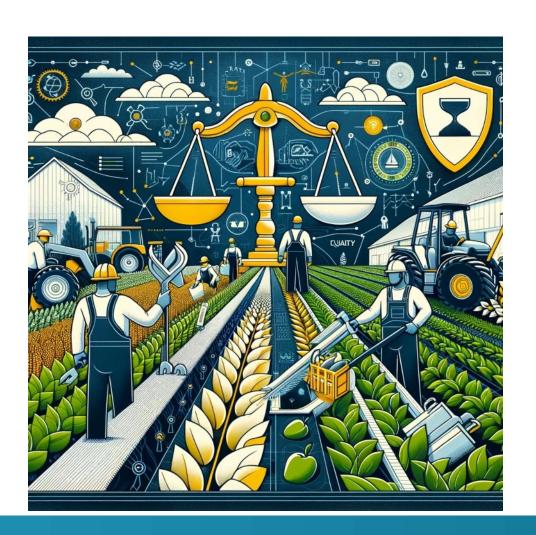
Worker Protection: Safeguarding rights, jobs, and providing training for new opportunities.

Social Dialogue: Facilitating open communication between workers, employers, and governments.

Innovation and Adaptation: Embracing new technologies and practices for a sustainable future.



Workers' Rights and Conditions



Emphasizes the need for fair labor practices and safe working environments.

Highlights initiatives for skill development and re-skilling to meet future agricultural demands.

Advocates for equitable wages and job security as the industry transitions to greener practices.



Role of Trade Unions



Trade unions as advocates for workers' rights and safety in the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Their role in facilitating social dialogue between workers, employers, and government bodies.

Contributions to policy development for fair labor practices and environmental sustainability.



Balancing the Green Deal with Social Equity



European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture, and Tourism sectors

29 January 2024

EFFAT recognizes the concerns of farmers regarding the EU's Green Deal but insists on **not abandoning it**.

Instead, EFFAT advocates for a **Just Transition** that prioritizes the needs of farm workers, small farmers, and rural communities.

Key points include:

- the necessity for environmental policies to undergo socio-economic impact assessments,
- the involvement of social partners, and
- the conditionality of public green transition funds on social criteria.

This approach ensures that the move towards sustainability also advances social equity and acceptance among all stakeholders.



Policy and Practice Recommendations



Advocate for policies that ensure fair wages, job security, and access to training for workers in transition.

Promote sustainable agricultural practices that minimize environmental impact and enhance biodiversity.

Encourage stakeholder engagement through social dialogue to shape inclusive and effective transition strategies.



Sibeg Case Study: Introduction



Sibeg, a leading Sicilian company, aims for carbon neutrality in beverage bottling.

Initiatives include photovoltaic systems for self-consumption, a trigeneration plant, electric fleet renewal, and R-PET usage.

Emphasizes worker-union dialogue for sustainable growth and contract stabilization.

Transparent strategy involves all in sustainability, enhancing workplace quality.



Sibeg's Sustainable Initiatives



Renewable Energy: Sibeg installed over 2.3 MW of solar power for energy self-sufficiency, with more planned.

Green Operations: Implemented a trigeneration plant; moving towards green hydrogen or biomethane.

Eco-Friendly Fleet: Transitioned to electric vehicles, supported by charging infrastructure.

Sustainable Packaging: Aiming for all bottles to use recycled R-PET by 2024.

Collaboration: Worker-union engagement in environmental goals, linking bonuses to sustainability achievements.



Workers' Involvement at Sibeg

Collaborative Dialogue: Sibeg and unions engage in productive dialogue at both company and territorial levels.

Employment Stability: Expansion and workforce increase decisions were made in agreement with the union, leading to more stable employment contracts.

Decarbonization Strategy: Workers are actively involved in Sibeg's strategic plan for carbon neutrality, focusing on direct and indirect emissions reduction.

Sustainability Training: Workers receive training on recycling, energy, and resource conservation, fostering a culture of sustainability.

Incentivized Participation: Bonuses for workers are linked to productivity, safety, environmental goals, and quality improvements.



Social Dialogue at Sibeg



Contract Negotiations: Focus on renewing contracts, addressing salary, working hours, and worker benefits.

Union-Company Dialogue:

Emphasizes continuous improvement in dialogue, advocating for proximity in developing green supply chains.

Worker Empowerment:

Highlights the role of social dialogue in enhancing work conditions and supporting sustainability goals.

Lessons Learned from Sibeg

Strategic Decarbonization: Sibeg's approach to carbon neutrality through direct and indirect emissions reduction sets a precedent for industry-wide sustainability efforts.

Inclusive Dialogue: The productive collaboration between Sibeg and unions highlights the value of engaging workers in strategic decisions, fostering a culture of sustainability.

Economic and Social Integration: Sibeg's initiatives demonstrate how environmental goals can align with economic growth and employment stability, benefiting the broader community.

Adaptation and Innovation: The case underscores the importance of technological adaptation and workforce training in achieving environmental objectives.



Challenges in Implementing Just Transition

Bureaucratic Hurdles: Complex approvals slow down renewable projects.

Infrastructure Gaps: Sicily's outdated infrastructure limits transition.

Workforce Transition: Moving workers to green jobs poses challenges.

Supply Chain Dynamics: Tough negotiations with energy sector players.

Skills Development: Need for training in new, sustainable skills.



Global Success Stories in Just Transition

Organic Farming: Across the globe, farms transitioning to organic practices enhance biodiversity and soil health, reducing chemical use.

Renewable Energy: Farms integrate solar and wind energy, significantly lowering carbon emissions and operational costs.

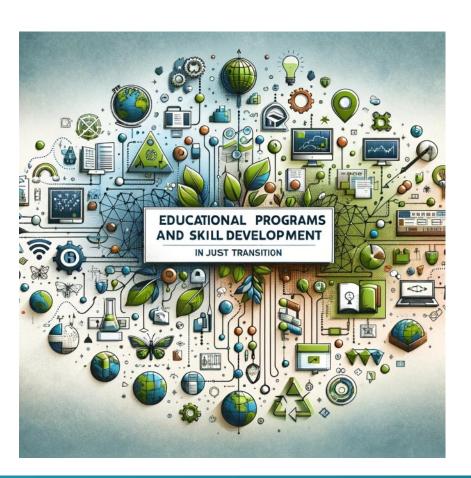
Community-Supported Agriculture: CSAs empower communities, ensuring food security and supporting local farmers.

Fair Trade and Worker Engagement: Fair trade initiatives improve farmer incomes, promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Water Management: Innovative practices in water use ensure sustainability amid changing climates, preserving resources.



Educational Programs and Skill Development



Dual need for upgrading existing skills and training new professionals in green and digital technologies.

Crucial role of universities and continuous training systems in providing specific skills for the ecological transition.

Importance of training offered by interprofessional funds on competitiveness, innovation, and ecological transition.



Engaging Stakeholders in Just Transition

Inclusive Consultation: engagement of environmental associations, local communities, direct and indirect suppliers, and government entities at various levels in Just Transition projects.

Constructive Dialogue: The intensive dialogue with diverse stakeholders allows for consideration of various concerns and the proposal of mitigating tools to improve project impacts.

Best Practices: The approach to local territories and stakeholders, emphasizing proactive and continuous dialogue, is considered a model for overcoming challenges related to renewable energy infrastructure acceptance by communities.



Global Perspectives on Just Transition



Emergence of Just Transition principles within trade unions: labour's ability to address environmental challenges.

Global labour movement's advocacy for integrating social conditions into climate policy: the potential for gaps between winners and losers in the transition.

Innovative and reflective approaches emerging in response to climate change: the relevance of Just Transition in current global challenges.

Involvement of European trade unions in Just Transition: conflict resolution and collaborative strategies.



European Union's Support for Just Transition

The EU's European Green Deal and Just Transition Mechanism aim for a climate-neutral economy by 2050, emphasizing fairness and social equity.

Funding sources like the European Social Fund, Horizon Europe, and the LIFE Programme support social dialogue and green transition initiatives.

The role of the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Pillar of Social Rights in promoting inclusive green policies and safeguarding workers' rights.

Case studies from across Europe illustrate the successful application of social dialogue in renewable energy transition and sustainable transportation, respectively.



EU's Just Transition Mechanism: Ensuring Fairness



The Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) is the EU's commitment to a fair climate-neutral economy transition, aiming to mobilize €55 billion (2021-2027) for the most affected regions.

It focuses on mitigating socioeconomic impacts, supporting workers, industries, and communities facing significant challenges.

The JTM encompasses the Just Transition Fund, InvestEU, and a Public Sector Loan Facility, emphasizing territorial plans, social inclusion, and economic diversification, ensuring no one is left behind in the green transition.



Conclusion and Call to Action



Unified Effort: need for collaboration among governments, businesses, workers, and communities to drive the Just Transition forward.

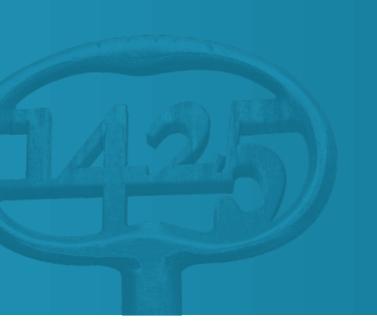
Sustainability Goals: urgency of achieving environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic viability through Just Transition strategies.

Active Engagement: active engagement in social dialogue, policy-making, and the implementation of sustainable practices across all sectors.

Future Commitment: commitment to innovation, education, and the development of green technologies and skills.



Thank you for your attention!



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