

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 08 - VALUE-BASED ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS:
QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BEYOND
CERTIFICATION

**CLIMATE VISION OF FARMERS AND COMPANIES: HOW TO TRIGGER
TRANSFORMATION IN AGRI-FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS FOR AGRIFOOD
JUSTICE BEYOND CERTIFICATION?**

Christine Altenbuchner (christine.altenbuchner@boku.ac.at)

Albrecht Weigel (albrecht.weigel@students.boku.ac.at)

Barbara Felmer (barbara.felmer@boku.ac.at)

Johanna Jacobi (johanna.jacobi@usys.ethz.ch)

This study examines how farmers and companies can co-create climate-resilient and socially just agri-food supply chains beyond certification schemes. Our research integrates the perspectives of companies and farmers: What are common (1) challenges and (2) solutions? How can these solutions be financed, and what qualifies as transformative in supply chains beyond certification? Using a transdisciplinary approach, we analyze national and international best-practice cases across coffee, cocoa, herbs, and livestock, with a focus on family farmers. Methods include semi-structured interviews with 20 best-practice companies

based in Austria, Switzerland, and Germany and visionary workshops with farmers in multiple countries to identify enabling factors of transformation.

Findings indicate shared challenges: climate-driven yield and quality instability, pest pressures, and pronounced price volatility—especially in cocoa and coffee—alongside power asymmetries and limited value capture at origin. Regulatory uncertainty related to evolving EU rules further elevates investment risk. Data and transparency gaps, as well as gender inequities, constrain adaptive capacity and equitable outcomes.

Solutions beyond certification operate at three levels. Operationally, agroforestry, soil and water management, climate-resilient varieties, and livelihood diversification strengthen resilience; enhanced traceability and, where feasible, local value addition (e.g., roasting at origin) improve risk-sharing. Organizationally, participatory approaches that build self-efficacy and entrepreneurial capabilities, strengthen producer organizations and women's groups, and establish long-term trading relationships with premiums and off-take commitments are pivotal. Systemically, risk-sharing instruments (e.g., index insurance), alignment with credible due diligence, and strategies for scaling-out, scaling-up, and scaling-deep catalyze structural change.

Financing pathways include living-income–oriented pricing, blended finance for adaptation infrastructure and technical assistance, outcomes-based payments for verified environmental and social performance, and inclusive finance tailored to women producers. Transformation beyond certification is defined by measurable shifts in power, finance, and knowledge flows (co-learning); radical transparency; and binding partnerships that equitably distribute risks and rewards, thereby advancing Agrifood Justice and long-term viability.

Palavras-chave: agrifood justice; transformation; livelihoods; resilience; supply chains.