a) what should be our learning agenda in 2024/2025?

Objectives community

- Increase positive understanding of informal activities
- Ways to incentivise the informal sector

on what topics

- how local politics influence the role of informal
- To what extent the informal economy requires specifically targeted policies
- understanding more about the relations between actors in informal sectors
- Strengthening agency in the context of informal food markets
- Informality and Debt - **Leverage points in the financial sector for seafood sustainability** https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aax3324
- Informal finance, power of informal money lenders (embedded in VC's or not) and their coverage by formal sector
- Trust-based alternatives to expensive product traceability and certification (e.g. to ensure funds are channeled to the sources of products and less to certification bodies and auditors)
- to what extent we need to think of informal economy as the result of the 'failure' of formal/market economy?

how we work

- Braintapping on practical options for action to engage with informal sector
- needs of informal actors and tools of how to engage
- How to leverage good practices in the informal sector
- How to build trust with informal actors (and keep that trust!)
- applying tools for practitioners: how to take informality into account in a project-based development world (bridging with systems lens)
- How to identify and navigate trade-offs when working with the informal sector
- Emphasize contextualised practices first, 'learning to see', beyond the (in)formal dichotomy (that primarily exists in our head)
- "Show not tell"
- create practical and functional paradigms that can contribute towards informality
- create a frame work to connect the learning, to test different things across a common challenge and do it in a way that's collaborative

b) what should we test with approaches/practices in 2024/2025

topics

- Making the informal sector more visible- further testing the actor mapping tool to make unusual actors visible
- Participatory collaborative approaches to working with informality
- youths in informality Stretheninig informality for job's creation
- Effective ways in income generation
- How to facilitate co-creation processes that are adapted to the interests & needs of informal actors
- Ways to increase barganining power of the informal sector
- What are alternatives to formalisation? How and why have they worked?
- co-learning about leadership in food systems
- Collective action between actors in informal sectors
- The paradigm shifts within a FST
- Skill training for informal entrepreneurs, without urging them to formalize
- Ways to divert negative contributions to FS outcomes by informal actors into positive contributions
- addressing the negative bias around informality
- Inclusive innovation processes
- test alternative approaches like serious gaming for work with informaility
- Research on successfully implemented policies in different countries. Think of their possibilities of extension into different contexts.

remarks

- Control the urge to "act" - let's understand first, and acknowledge that interventions can be counterproductive
- Implementation research to generate evidence backed interventions

c) what opportunities to influence policy in 2024/2025

how who

- aim to organize a dialogue (with WUR dialogue) including practitioners and policymakers
- Let's make the platform really work well as a key source also for policy makers
- Food security advocacy
  - Local to local
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - collaborative approach of local governments and NGOs
  - Coalition/Alliances formation

topics

- Leverage the framing of 'job creation' as a need to also address informality
- consider other entry points/topics through which to integrate informality as an aspect (youth, women's empowerment, etc)
- The impact of informality amongst migrants in the diaspora
- We need evidence that can inform governments about the impact of informality (who can help with that?)
- Analysis of various FST strategies in support of informal sectors within various vulnerability contexts
- Framing of importance of informal sector actors, showing the diversity of roles and the large numbers involved
- Research on successfully implemented policies in different countries. Think of their possibilities of extension into different contexts.

remarks

- Triggered by Pritika's remark about that the topic extends boundaries (sector, topics such as gender) we could learn better how to deal with that situation in influencing policy and finance
- How to engage with informal actors who want to stay below the radar in projects related to value chains
- Communicating the basket with many options that are possible (see point B)