



ON AIR
DIALOGUES

LISTENING TO RURAL PEOPLE 2023

It's been two years since the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit where nations, global leaders and small-scale farmers came together to transform global food systems. So we wanted to ask small-scale farmers what, if anything, has changed for them since 2021? Which issues impact farmers most? What are small-scale farmers' outlooks on the last 18 months? And what needs to happen to make life better for farming families?

We used mobile phone-based polling alongside radio programs that discussed the issues and brought attention to how people could give their opinions. Rural people in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda called in by the thousands.

READ THE REPORT



When it comes to food systems, here's what small-scale farmers told us was on their mind:

Despite the impact of climate change felt across the continent, **94% of callers felt there was something they could do in their own community to cope**. Migration is the least viable option for farmers in 2023, just as it was in 2021.

There's good news! **More farmers are saying they are not worried about the safety and quality of their food, because they already eat safe and nutritious foods**. This, however, varied by region, and callers identified other threats to their food security. But, when it came to affordability, the availability of jobs and access to inputs, around half of respondents told us things were getting better, with only a third saying they had gotten worse.

In 2021, loans or credit were the top priority for farmers to achieve success. In 2023, **callers told us there were many things that would bring them success alongside loans and credit: secure access to and control over lands and better information among them**.

4
COUNTRIES

8
RADIO STATIONS

24
ORIGINAL EPISODES

11,518
RESPONDENTS
▲ **8,024** MORE THAN 2021

49,280
POLL RESPONSES
▲ **37,426** MORE THAN 2021

8,279
AUDIO COMMENTS
▲ **5,631** MORE THAN 2021



**SEE THE
FULL RESULTS**



“ Farmers are suffering because of a lack of resources and production equipment. If I could do anything, it would be to help them and also advise them on how to avoid selling their land. If not, what will become of us in the long run? If our great-grandparents had sold, we'd have come to nothing.

A young woman listening to Loudon FM, Burkina Faso

HOW LISTENER POLLING WORKS

Each episode in the On Air Dialogues poses a series of questions to listeners after a discussion hosted on air.

- 📞 As advertised on the radio program, listeners could use any mobile phone to leave a missed call (or “beep”) to a phone number advertised on the radio program.
- 📲 Uliza Interactive, Farm Radio’s polling tool, returns the call, free of charge.
- 📋 Uliza presents the caller with a series of multiple-choice questions. Callers respond by pressing numbers on the keypad.
- 🎤 Uliza also presents the caller with an open-ended question. Callers record a voice message in response.
- 🔍 Responses to multiple-choice questions are analyzed and disaggregated to shed light on key themes by country, age, and gender. Voice messages are similarly analyzed and documented.