

- What broad-based transformations are needed in consumption and production systems to arrest climate change and rebalance the relationship between human society and nature?

For one, we need to incorporate production-related knowledge in school curriculums to teach school children around the world about how food is grown and where it comes from— and how this interlinks to our environment and climate.

On the other hand, our food systems' logistics need to be closely examined to identify breakdowns, bureaucracies, and gaps in farm-to-market processes that impact both the accessibility of food and markets for both consumers and producers.

- How can transformations towards carbon neutrality also promote sustainable consumption and production?

Transformations towards carbon neutrality can catalyze the demand for local ingredients and fuel local livelihoods and agriculture-based communities, which will only increase the need for better capacity-building among local producers which should center around sustainability and regeneration, especially in rural communities where these resources are not as readily available.

- How should these transformations also ensure that no one is left behind?

Inclusive growth in this sector means addressing all producers— from small scale producers, indigenous communities, women, and even the families of these producers. In the strive to move forward and visualize transformations for the future, we also need to look back and reach to the roots of our knowledge back when food was just food, and recognize the wisdom of our elders in stewarding a balanced exchange with nature. We need to bridge more support as well to vulnerable groups in countries greatly affected by Climate Change— regions that experience typhoons, droughts, soil acidification or desertification, great biodiversity loss as a result of human behavior. We need to ensure that each and every person is a partner for regeneration and restoration.

- What are the opportunities to be realized (and pitfalls to be avoided) in the immediate and medium terms towards these ends? How can international cooperation support?

Some pitfalls and points to consider in achieving sustainable consumption and production is the accountability structure for how pledges and commitments are followed through. We would need a regular impact assessment to ensure that we stay on track towards these goals, we would need to see follow-through of specific actions taken, and we would need transparency to ensure that anyone would be able to assess the progress.

There is opportunity as well to create a committee or group that would be tasked to assess and monitor this progress. This would also be an opportunity to define the parameters of 'progress' for meaningful change— and not just surface-level commitments that may lead to even more problematic issues such as 'green-washing' or taking advantage of sustainability as simply just a marketing tool.