

Swell AI Transcript: EIT Mini SNV V2.mp3

Matt Eastland:

Welcome back to the Food Fight Podcast. I'm Matt Eastland. COP28, the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, kicks off on November the 30th. In preparation, here on the podcast, we're releasing a series of mini episodes celebrating the work of some of the most innovative, food-focused companies and organizations featured at the conference.

Julius Rono:

Hi, my name is Julius Rono. I am the project manager at SNV in Kenya. In the build-up to COP28, I wanted to talk to you about the efforts being made to improve water and food systems across the globe. SNV is a global development organization that largely works with rural communities in Asia and Africa. Our focus is actually to lift these vulnerable communities out of poverty by creating equal opportunities and building resilience against climate change. We contribute to this by working along the SDGs through delivery of high-quality projects. And I want to mention that we work in the energy, the agri-food systems, and the water systems, which we largely call our three sectors. We deliver these interventions also through our key three themes, which are climate action, gender equality, and social inclusion, and institutional governance. productivity of our land is getting lower and lower. Our soils are also getting quite degraded day by day, and therefore contributing to low production of food. But in the water sector, we also see that the water aquifers and water sources continue to shrink over time because of degradation of water sources. We see increasingly that there is pollution of these water bodies as well, but also increasingly a decrease in water for both domestic and agricultural use. Food and water systems, when managed sustainably, have a huge potential to cool the earth. I know regenerative agriculture promotes carbon sequestration, but also improves biodiversity and soil health. Therefore, efficient water systems prevents pollution of water bodies and loss of aquatic life, but also provide a sustainable way to produce food more efficiently. By managing the two systems sustainably, we are able to have these challenges addressed. That biodiversity is a critical component of climate change. and also pollution is a critical component. So by managing these two systems sustainably, we are able to address that challenge. But what does SNV do around this topic? With our Nexus approach, we develop projects that focus on systemic change in these two areas. We also mobilize climate finance to work around building infrastructure in these two systems and develop high level capacity or if you like technical assistance to communities, private sector and government institutions to be able to build a more resilient food and water systems in all areas that we work with. Yeah, looking at the COP28, SNV will be having a food systems pavilion as one of our strategies to amplify the work that SNV does in contributing to preventing climate change. We are going to call one to build strategic alliances and partnership with the private sector, other CSO organizations, civil society organizations like ourselves, and governments so that we can better strengthen our proposition of

project interventions in the global south. We will be looking out to getting commitments from partners and the private sector in particular to enhance support to the smallholder farmers that we work with in the Global South. and we will also be seeking to get the work of SNV recognized by partners and our contribution to climate change prevention also be recognized so that our work can be also enhanced after COP28. We want to We do this because we believe that the most vulnerable communities need to be shielded against the effects of climate change. And we believe these are the most important people at the table of negotiations at COP28. By 2050, we will be having more than 10 billion people who need to be fed, clothed, and also they need fiber. To be able to cope with this, we need these sustainable food and water systems. We want to see in the future that collective efforts will provide an avenue to kick out hunger and poverty out of the global South. where communities actually bear the brand of climate change. We are also quite keen on looking into the future where communities have equal opportunities and access to healthy and nutritious foods and safe water. And finally, I'm looking into the future where there should be land restoration, regenerative agricultural practices, and all the climate smart interventions that SNV and other partners are working with can positively contribute to cooling the earth.

Matt Eastland:

This has been the Food Fight podcast. As ever, if you'd like to find out more about what we do, head over to the EIT Food website at www.eitfood.eu. Also, please join the conversation via the hashtag EIT Food Fight on our X channel at EIT Food. And if you haven't already, please hit the subscribe button so you never miss an episode.