

## Selection of Kongamano II Webinar Q&A and Chat Links

Please note these responses, findings, ideas, and conclusions presented here are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of any of GAIN's donors and partners.

1. From our experience in Dhaka, market committees and vendors have successfully sustained improved hygiene and infrastructure practices for the past 3 years after project completion. What policy mechanisms can governments introduce to formally recognize, incentivize, and scale this kind of locally driven ownership.

*This legacy of best practice and sustained local agency provides a strong foundation to present the market/s as a viable public or public and private partnership investment. Organisations like GAIN and ICLEI Africa (and World Bank on a different scale) have developed investment readiness tools to assess city governments and markets investment viability. This works on the understanding that markets are interconnected in webs of farmer-fisherpeople and value chain MSME relationships, other markets, last mile vendors and consumers; as well as cost-benefit assessments. So investing in 2 – 3 publicly owned and/or managed markets in a city has potential to scale reach and impact through existing webs of social and ecological relationships. Each market's financial viability might be different and the investment a different combination of infrastructure, skills and technical support. It is always important to understand how each market is owned and managed and to remember that even private markets connect with government mandates e.g., food hygiene and safety, public land tenure, land use and urban planning, transportation, vendor business registration or market operating permits, environmental regulations etc.*

2. Building on the City Working Group established under the Eat Safe initiative, which continues to engage City Corporations in Dhaka on food system challenges, how can governments institutionalize such platforms to ensure sustained coordination, budget allocation, and accountability mechanisms?

*Getting a clear mapping of the market system in the city done is a practical step one. Then work to ensure that the city has a clear market strategy (either*

*as a stand alone, or integrated into the city or city-region's Integrated Development Plan). Following this, work to establish clear ringfencing mechanisms for city markets which allow cities to understand how much their markets are earning them and what they cost to operate - most cities have no idea of these numbers and this is a critical step in planning self funded upgrading and for attracting investors. Additionally most revenue from vendor fees to government are not targeted for investment etc back into the markets – this would help to ringfence this revenue as well. Instead market revenue to government feeds into a "soup" of municipal revenue to be used to pay for any number of investments and/or expenses.*

*Market committees (and produce group sub-committees) and multistakeholder management platforms with market leaders, government and other stakeholders e.g., Consumer group (like in the case of the City of Beira, Mozambique) which influence policy, promote joint decision-making and co-design action plans etc with shared responsibilities and clear accountability are essential for robust market management, equity and inclusion and local agency in action. Even in poor markets, vendors can and do act to support the running of their markets e.g., regular clean-ups of drainage areas which reduces flooding of market floors and reduces incidence of pest and vermin (and disease); notifying government officers when provision of tap water has been interrupted for more than 3 days etc. This takes a 'whole of society' view. This view also supports coordinated action e.g., through existing relationships, platforms and as per the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact governance options like a market, gender and youth desk (focal point) in the municipality (funded separately or as part of mainstream budgets in departments of health, agriculture and/or trade – and even WASH and waste/environment services); and an interdepartmental (and intergovernmental level) coordinating focal point.*

*Also refer to links put in the chat (copied below) – understanding how governance works is key and access existing resources e.g., Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Framework, Indicators, City to City peer network of 300+ cities worldwide, and more than 900 best practices available to review.*

3. Considering that nearly 85% of households in Dhaka rely on fresh markets, and with four model markets established under GAIN's human-centric approach, what practical steps can governments take to integrate traditional markets into formal urban planning and national food system strategies at scale?

*Start by understanding the capital infrastructure investment, key maintenance and operational costs (e.g. water and sanitation, waste collection and where relevant land tenure rates) and overall income/expenditure from each market - clearly. Then focus on self financing ( and/or in local public and private partnerships) as the first step before considering investments from outside. Put time into understanding what services vendors are willing to pay extra for and prioritise these so that you can cover investments from increased market revenues.*

4. For farmers in rural areas, especially in low and middle income countries, seeds and other agricultural inputs are inaccessible Does GAIN and FAO do anything to breach this gap?

*Both organisations work in various ways to support farmers but GAIN mostly doesn't work "on farm" but through value chains (hidden middle of MSMEs, youth entrepreneurs etc), supply-demand for healthy diets; evidence; food systems governance and markets (local and traditional food markets and public food procurement). For more information see:*

- *GAIN's Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F). [Nutrition Investing | GAIN](#)*
- *FAO's Transforming Food and Agriculture Through a Systems Approach, offers a practical framework for joined-up action. [Transforming Food and Agriculture Through a Systems Approach](#)*

- Navigate options from here: [Overview | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (including investment in heritage varieties)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): <https://www.ifad.org/en/>
- World Bank: <https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home>
- Local development banks e.g. African Development Bank; Local, regional and global non-government organisations; and keep a eye out for catalyst funding opportunities around USD100000 – 250000 in the agro-ecology/regenerative food systems, gender and youth green innovation space.

#### **Resource Links and Email Addresses shared in the chat:**

**The CityFood Market Handbook for Healthy and Resilient Cities – Edition 2 (Nov 2025) – 31 cases from cities around the world.**

Link 1: CityFood [The Cityfood Market Handbook For Healthy And Resilient Cities \(Ed.2\) | GAIN](#)

Link 2 (for downloading copies in English/Spanish/Portuguese): [Second Edition: The CityFood Market Handbook for Healthy and Resilient Cities | CityFood](#)

**Paper: Shared learning, inspired action: insights from global exchanges with experts and cities on strengthening urban food markets**

Link 3: <https://doi.org/10.36072/cp.22>

**Blog and video recording: Transforming Urban Food Systems through Markets at our co-hosted Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, 9th Global Forum (2025).**

Link 4: [Transforming urban food systems through food markets - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#)

**Literature on Sub-Saharan Africa and markets**

Link 5: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2024.1382383>

**Literature on Asia and wet markets**

Link 6: <https://doi.org/10.3389/frsus.2024.1320959>

**Toolkits: What cities and markets co-designed to Keep Markets Working during COVID-19 (policy option toolkits – 6 cities in Africa and Asia).**

Link 7: [Policy Options Toolkits](#)

**Learn more about the 9th Global Forum of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), October 2025 and GAIN.**

Link 8: [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, 2025 Global Forum | GAIN](#) - includes fact sheets of GAIN Nourishing Food Pathway cities.

**Understanding governance, markets and networks: Food systems governance and the public sector: an overview**

Link 9: [gain-fs-public-governance\\_working-paper-47\\_final.pdf](#)

**GAIN and ICLEI Africa - Governance, Markets and Investment**

Link 10: Innovative Finance at our co-hosted Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, 9th Global Forum (2025). [Innovative finance for urban fresh food markets: resilient cities and healthy diets - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#)

Link 11: Empowered local agency, infrastructure investment, and governance: a model and case for traditional food markets (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.36072/wp.49>

**ICLEI Africa and ReMARK Fund**

Link 12: [Resilient Municipal Market Fund \(ReMark\) Overview - ICLEI Africa](#)

**NICE Project in Kenya**

Link 13: [Project Goal - NICE](#)

**Food Environments and Diet Quality Among Vendors and Consumers in Five Traditional Urban Markets in Kenya**

Link 14: <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17010116>

UNFSS+4 (2025) White Paper. Trevenen-Jones, A., Sietchiping R., Githiri, G., Forster, T., Daniel, K., Troccoli, C., Moon, R. J., & Ramos, J. C. (2025, July). Territorial governance and food markets for sustainable food systems (white paper). UN-Habitat.

Link 15: [white\\_paper.pdf](#)

Also see, Transforming Urban and Rural Food Systems (TURFS) - Cities accelerating transitions to regenerative food systems: insights from an exploratory study in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2026).

Link 16: <https://doi.org/10.36072/wp.65>

Blog on smart cities and markets (2025):

Link 17: [Local and traditional food markets for thriving "smart cities" | GAIN](#)

**GAIN's ONE Nutrition Tool**

Blog introduction to ONE Nutrition.

Link 18: [Why Nutrition Starts Long Before the Plate | GAIN](#)

Watch the GAIN LinkedIn space for release of tool

Link 19 : [\(12\) Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition \(GAIN\): Posts | LinkedIn](#)

Link 20: Guidelines for food hygiene in traditional markets: improving access to safe, healthy foods and livelihoods. (2025): [codex-food-hygiene\\_gain-discussion-paper17\\_finalv01a.pdf](#)

**FAO, GAIN and the eAcademy Markets, Governance and Management Introductory Course**

Link 2: [FAO elearning Academy](#) (watch this space for April/May 2026 launch)

**Interested? Reach out:**

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