

Lessons Learned from The Energy Transition

April 2021

Policy Brief – Scope of Work

This document provides an overview of the objectives, outcomes, and deliverables with accompanying cost estimates for the development of a policy brief for the Just Rural Transition initiative.

Background

The Just Rural Transition (JRT) Initiative

Feeding 9 billion people by 2030 while protecting ecosystems and combating climate change is one of the defining challenges of this decade. Launched in 2019 at the United Nations Action Summit, The [Just Rural Transition \(JRT\)](#) initiative is a growing community of purpose. It mobilizes a diverse range of public and private stakeholders to put in place policies, programs, public support, and investments that support rural communities to transform food and land use systems to meet climate and sustainable development goals.

The JRT accelerates change by building an action-oriented evidence base, mobilizing stakeholders, catalyzing partnerships, and fostering collective purposes. It focuses on three key pathways: building a “community of purpose” to support just rural transitions, reforming policy to promote public funding for public good, and mobilizing investments to reach rural communities at scale. Through pursuing various inclusive and integrated approaches, the JRT works towards promoting people-centered solutions within international efforts to transition food and land use systems—supporting lasting, systemic change.

Meridian Institute

The Just Rural Transition Initiative Secretariat is housed within Meridian Institute. Meridian Institute is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization that has helped our clients and partners develop and implement solutions to complicated, often controversial problems—big and small, global and local—for over two decades.

We do this with an innovative approach that brings together three elements: our deep understanding of the issues at hand, as well as the people, politics, and power dynamics that surround them; our dedicated, expert team; and our ability to foster constructive discussions, manage decisions, and support actions that shape the world for the better. We work not only to shape meaningful consensus and action in the near term, but also to build our partners’ capacity for cooperation that often continues for years, even decades.

We focus on five key services: collaboration, implementation, strategy, research, and philanthropic support. We bring our skills to bear on a diverse range of issues, including environment & natural resources, climate change, agriculture & food systems, forests, health, oceans & coasts, resilience, science & technology, and water. Across issues, boundaries, and systems, our work is a catalyst for powerful impact.

Objectives

Meridian Institute, on behalf of the Just Rural Transition Initiative, is commissioning a clear, concise report focussed on lessons learned from the just transition movement to date (which has mainly focussed on the energy transition) and how these can inform approaches to accelerating a just rural transition within agriculture and agri-food sector.

The audience for the report is the JRT's multi-stakeholder community which includes government policy-makers, food producer and farmer organisations, investor and business communities, donors and philanthropists.

It is intended to provide a framing and narrative through which the JRT's community of purpose can understand the key issues and take meaningful action to enable a just transition which supports rural communities in transitioning towards a new economic model as part of the transformation of food and agricultural systems to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. It will be a key input for the JRT's communications and engagement as part of the [COP26 Nature Campaign and its focus on Sustainable Agriculture and a Just Rural Transition](#) as well as the UN Food Systems Summit.

Outcomes

By commissioning this report, the JRT initiatives aims to demonstrate the ways in which a just rural transition builds on the history of the just energy transition, and why such a framework is essential for driving change.

The paper will answer, at minimum, the following questions:

1. What is the background of just transition movement (maximum three pages)?
 - What are the origins of the just transition movement and how has it evolved?
 - Which key stakeholders have incorporated just transition principles into their approaches and strategies and why?
 - What contributions or commitments have companies, donors, policy makers, and grassroots organizers made to a just transition?
 - What are examples of successful strategies to engage vulnerable groups through a just transition approach? How were people brought on board?
2. What lessons can be learned from just transition approaches focussed on the energy sector that could be relevant for food systems e.g. relating to energy sovereignty? Please highlight any areas of complementarity and interconnectivity between energy and rural transitions for example through repurposing mining sites to agricultural land.
3. How could just transition frameworks or approaches ensure policies, investments and innovation accelerate a just rural transition and promote positive outcomes for food producers (farmers, fishers and pastoralists), farm labourers, food processors and rural communities?

The author is encouraged to interview key members of the JRT community across its policy action and investment partnerships workstreams as well as its external knowledge and implementation partners.

The author should also review past research by the JRT partners and other policy briefs completed or underway by the JRT in order to identify potential synergies and complementarities.

Deliverables

By 14 June 2021, the author will submit a 10-page brief.

Compensation

The author will be compensated \$10,000 USD in two installments of \$5,000.

How to Respond

Interested parties should submit to jrt@merid.org by 9am BST 10 May.

- Resume or CV describing brief summary of background and qualifications, highlighting in particular relevant experience in renewable energy, natural resource management, sustainable development, sustainable agriculture, social equity (No more than 2 pages).
- Evidence of written work (2 samples, URLs are fine), highlighting in particular any similar previous assignments and/or experience of collaborative and consultative engagement processes.