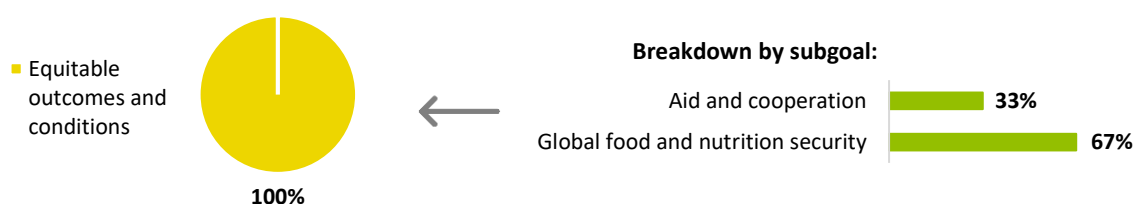


A3.17 Policy actor: Third countries

Adequate policies are key to enable a **food system transformation**, especially when addressed to extra-EU countries where this transition would entail a broader change in the economy and society. Indeed, food systems in low- and middle-income countries are experiencing radical transformations in response to **socio-economic and demographic changes**, such as rapid urbanization, growing middle classes, adjustments in dietary preferences and consumer behaviour. In many third countries that benefit from EU programmes, the capacity gaps have been leading to a lack of effective public policies and institutions, services, research bodies, technical assistance for producers and physical infrastructures needed both by the public sector and small enterprises and farms, which mostly rely on the **informal market**. Moreover, the growing global nature of food trade has changed diets in low- and middle-income countries, where new kinds of cheap food high in fat and sugar content are now available and contribute to the alarming increase in obesity.

Proportion of third countries-targeted mapped policies by GOAL



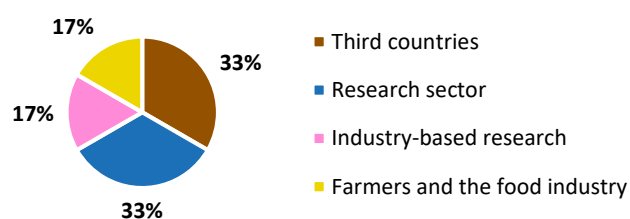
All mapped food policies for third countries aim at reaching **equitable outcomes and conditions** and, in particular, the **global food and nutrition security** subgoal (67%).

The mapped food policies addressing third countries mostly consist of **bi- or multilateral funds** designed to reach the overall **equity** goal. However, considering the wide-ranging nature of these funds, the equity objective looks more like an umbrella that covers all other policy goals at the same time – from increasing incomes and creating new jobs to improving local food supplies through innovation, preventing local food contamination, and investing in greener production practices.

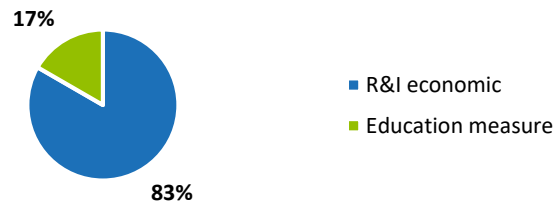
*Should the foreign food policy scenario be more goal-specific and tailor-made to the specific area that food policies aim to address, both thematically and geographically?
Can this be done at both EU and national level?*

Proportion of third countries-targeted mapped policies by PRIMARY TARGET

The common denominator of all target groups represented in the pie is the strong link between the **research sector** and third countries' **agricultural production**, either passing through the food industry or farmers. The underlying idea of the mapped policies is, indeed, to develop innovative solutions to tackle agricultural challenges.



Proportion of third countries-targeted mapped policies by INSTRUMENT



R&I instruments play here a major role in fostering innovation in the agriculture and food sector of partner countries, especially by **increasing smallholders' access to the knowledge, markets, capital and means of production** needed to achieve a food system transformation. Indeed, joint programmes are one of the main instruments through which the Commission pool African and European research together to align existing visions, create synergies and co-development opportunities and foster innovative lines of research.

Scarce **education and awareness on healthy diets** have as direct consequences increasing rates of obesity, other non-communicable diseases and micro-nutrient deficiencies. Both non-governmental bodies like NGOs and supranational global institutions like the FAO are co-designing education strategies to promote healthy eating as part of their development projects in third countries.

*Are European governments using **transboundary education measures** enough?*