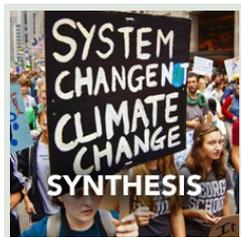


Building the politics for systems change



Module 8 synopsis

Throughout this course we have explored projects, strategies, models, and movements across diverse contexts and sectors. Some, like Via Campesina, explicitly name system change as a key goal, in their case changing the food system. Others focus on specific projects, sector innovations, or improving living conditions in particular localities.

Nevertheless, it is not so difficult to detect an underlying systems change orientation, a pattern for transition, usually expressed as organizing and advocacy to transform the rules, norms, and policies of a particular system. When viewed together, the scope ranges from practical to policy and political strategies and opens up fertile ground for discussion around how to advance small and large scale system(s) change.

The tasks in Module 8 differ from previous Modules. The overall goal is to strengthen the politics for systems change. To that end, in Objective One we introduce a set of learning materials that explores how to advance the politics of change.

The majority of the module, however, is an opportunity for you to do your own synthesis of the ideas in the course, to advance your own thinking about how to develop a politics for systems change in your own work and context, and to share your views with your MOOC peers.

Objectives for this module

1. Objective One

To explore ways and means to strengthen our political capacity and effectiveness to achieve major systems change in the next 20 years.

2. Objective Two

To relate system change strategies to an issue or project that is of particular relevance to you.

Suggested time allocation: 5 hours total

Review of commentary, required video and reading materials, note-taking	40 minutes
Reflection and synthesis exercise	220 minutes
Review reflections by other participants	40 minutes
Total	300 minutes

Module 8 discussion forum

As you work your way through this module, be sure to post your ideas and reflections in the [Module 8 discussion forum](#) (https://learn.canvas.net/courses/2527/discussion_topics/43839) and read and reply to the posts of others.