Participants agreed that companies need to consider the resilience of people over resilience of supply and that the best way to do so is by collaborating on climate justice solutions—including fair wage and income initiatives—in partnership with communities across the supply chain.

**INSIGHT 1: STOP TALKING ABOUT THE RESILIENCE OF VALUE CHAINS AND START TALKING ABOUT THE RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE**

Speakers agreed that to enable climate justice solutions, companies first need clarity around what climate justice is and how it connects to resilience so they can be intentional in their supply chain considerations. Foundational for moving forward is identifying those populations along the value chain and understanding that “existing inequities related to gender, race, and disadvantage mean that some people are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate action than others.”

As Tara Shine explained, climate justice is essentially about people; “we cannot forget people and their rights in our urgency to prevent climate breakdown.” Juan Echanove elaborated on this point by saying “we should not be talking about the resilience of the value chain, we should be talking about building the resiliency of the people in that value chain.”

Food security is one challenge where companies can clearly see the intersections of climate change, community, and supply chain resilience. Susan Maina emphasised

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**How do we, right from the design stage, factor people into the types of climate solutions we’re coming up with so we don’t end up thinking about gases in isolation from people?**

Tara Shine, Chief Executive Officer, Change by Degrees
how food and farming account for one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions and how climate change is, in turn, devastating farming communities and driving the global food crisis.

“We need a diversified and regenerative system, and companies need to be able to support this,” she said. Agricultural diversification, or planting crops and farming livestock in ways that complement each other, protects the soil—an important carbon sink—and fosters farming systems that are “resilient in the face of different climate futures.” This inevitably helps safeguard both the crops that companies depend on and the people who cultivate the land.

INSIGHT 2: WORK THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS THAT CENTRE THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO ARE MOST IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Edward Palmieri spoke of Meta’s commitment to prioritise climate justice, equity, and inclusion and to “being a partner” in furthering climate change education. Tara Shine pointed out that one way to do this is by imagining how a company’s core business can be part of the solution—for example, in Meta’s case, “by increasing access to environmental information or by enabling greater rates of participation in decision-making.”

Katie Hoard also touched upon how technology can leverage climate justice, stating that “when we’re talking about technology, it’s important to consider digital inclusion.” Tech companies can work to make sure that there is “equal access to information and the tools and resources that farmers [for example] need in order to adapt and thrive.”

Centring voices of vulnerable communities in a way that prioritises their knowledge, needs, and lived experiences must underpin any external or top-down intervention. This ushers in solutions that are representative of—and owned by—the communities they are meant to serve.

“Most of the local communities know the solutions, they know what works. They don’t need external skills. They don’t need external experts,” expressed Juan Echanove. “They need spaces to meet each other and learn from each other and see what is working and what is not working.”

Susan Maina touched upon the need for “multi-stakeholder classrooms” where grassroots organisations, civil society organisations, companies, and governments come together to drive climate justice solutions.

The urgency to forge these partnerships is palpable. As Sarah Roberts said, “be really intentional—and quick, please—in accelerating your climate justice understanding and the partnerships that are going to deliver change on the ground.”

INSIGHT 3: INCLUDE ACTION ON LIVING WAGES AND LIVING INCOMES IN YOUR CLIMATE JUSTICE STRATEGY

Bolstering resilience through company-driven climate justice solutions must factor in the financial wellbeing of vulnerable communities along the supply chain.

Katie Hoard described how AB InBeV’s Smart Agriculture plans include the goal of “financially empowering” the 20,000 farmers they source from with financial training and tools.

Susan Maina spoke of her work with the Nestle income accelerator programme, an initiative that provides cash transfers to farmers “with the aim of improving incomes for about 160,000.” These cash transfers are intended to “encourage crop and livestock diversification and improved farming practices” and...
“lead to an increase in regenerative practices and climate adaptation.”

She also noted the intercropping initiatives that Practical Action and the Yogi Tea company are supporting in Rwanda, where farmers are planting lemongrass alongside tea plants. “This is an example of not just helping farmers diversify their incomes and adapt to climate change,” said Suan Maina, “it’s also helping secure supply over products and is improving its own supply chain.”

For her, these programmes provide a “business case” for diversification that goes beyond the bottom line. “Diversification is increasingly recognised as a critical strategy to achieve living incomes. And as a result, a number of companies are supporting farmers in diversification, even if they themselves are not benefiting.”

Juan Echanove concurred that some of the most effective ways that companies can support vulnerable communities is through cash transfers, ensuring fair wages, and building the financial capabilities of people in their value chains.

Susan also mentioned the evolving use of mobile phone-enabled insurance products as a part of the climate justice-supply chain resilience nexus. She cited their potential to “support farmers when droughts or excessive rains hit.”