



Role of Value Chain Coordinators

Emphasis added

Matchmaker

Identify and connect key stakeholders through referral services and other forms of short-term or one-off engagement. This “public interest broker” role is key to development of food value chains because many businesses are stepping outside their normal channels to find new collaborators.

Convener/ Relationship Builder

Build the necessary relationships across the food value chain by engaging key stakeholders, maintaining communication channels, and fostering a trusting environment. Examples include convening stakeholder meetings, forming working groups, and implementing other forms of longer-term engagement.

Technical Assistance

Work with food value chain members to build capacity through education and training programs in such areas as sustainable production practices, food safety, marketing/branding, etc.

Policy Advocate

Raise policy issues and partner with others to address policies and procurement requirements, such as bidding procedures and preferred-vendor practices that may interfere with the ability of food value chains to access certain marketing channels.

Resource Prospector

Identify and pursue resources, such as grants, loans, and services to support value-chain collaborators as they develop their enterprise.

Catalyst / Innovator

As a resource prospector, value chain coordinators can also utilize grants and other external resources to test new business models and thus lower the financial risk of the businesses engaged in the value chain.