

2021 Food Systems Summit PSM Position Paper

Food Systems Summit Principles

Private Sector's Role in the Food System

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems. Guided by five Action Tracks, the Summit will bring together key stakeholders from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare, government, and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders. Before, during and after the Summit, these actors will come together to bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems.
<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/about>

The Private Sector Mechanism of the UN Committee on World Food Security welcomes the Summit and the dialogue to advance the future of our food systems. Agriculture and food have faced multiple challenges, particularly in the past year, and it is clear that there is a strong need for a more resilient food system that advances livelihoods, nutrition, health, diversity, and the environment. The Private Sector is an important partner in this process and business is keen to engage and advance work on the future of our food systems.

1. **Addressing rural multidimensional poverty as a critical part of food systems transformation** – Encourage governments and all stakeholders to tackle the varying layers of disadvantages faced by rural and urban poor populations, including chronic poverty and hunger, lack of access to health care, lack of infrastructure, schools and telecommunications connectivity and reliance on informal markets in the efforts towards resilient and sustainable agriculture and access to formal markets for smallholder farmers.
2. **A diversified food system is a resilient food system** – Recognize contribution of small, medium and large enterprises, across a broad cross section of crops, livestock, horticulture, agro-forestry, and fisheries to improve environmental economic, social, and nutritional outcomes.
3. **Holistic dialogues promote greater collaboration** – Promote greater integration that includes all aspects of the agri-food value chain, as well as external stakeholders to be included nationally on an ongoing basis to help nurture collaborative solutions to food systems resilience and challenges and encourage governments to foster a whole of government approach.
4. **The Private Sector** is integral to food systems - producing the vast majority of all the world's food and is made up of diverse actors including family farms, community or co-operative groups of producers, local fisher folk, multinational companies and individuals. It also consists of numerous large and small companies in the supply chain involved in logistics, innovative technology, production, processing, retail, and food service to ensure that safe and nutritious food moves from where it is produced to where it is most needed.

5. Global trade enhances food security and resilient food systems. No one country is entirely self-sufficient in food production, a combination of local, regional, and international supply chains is essential. **Global trade** provides for diverse food, as well as enabling enhanced food security by ensuring that local and regional climatic changes, pandemics, or geopolitical events, are not exacerbated by hunger. Accessibility to quality nutrition is fundamental. At a local level, trade connects small and medium producers of agricultural raw materials to markets and adds value to rural livelihoods through contributing to family income and budgets. This enables greater access to education and healthcare services, and empowerment, especially for women and girls, who make up a crucial and substantial part of rural agriculture and communities.
6. **Capacity Building** underpins success in all Action Tracks. South-South and triangular cooperation should foster enhanced collaboration and capacity to scale up. The private sector provides the vehicle for capacity building at scale by embedding key knowledge and practices into supply chains and supporting farmers in achieving successful outcomes. If a company does not have a sustainable supply of required raw materials, they do not have a sustainable business. The Private Sector can provide the necessary innovation to ensure capacity building and new practices/actions are implemented for the benefit of the different supply chain actors. It is critical that these tools and technologies find a clear path to market and into the hands of farmers through collaborative, predictable and science-based approaches.

Action Track 1

Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

1. Promote policies, trade, access to markets and **nutrition sensitive agriculture** to create incentives for farmers to produce foods needed for diverse, healthy diets to deliver good nutrition, particularly for growing children and vulnerable populations. In parallel, promote the implementation of international **food safety standards** as food safety underpins food and nutrition security.
2. Encourage a multi-stakeholder and multi sectorial approach towards awareness raising on the importance of **macro and micro nutrients** including high quality protein sources, and how dietary diversity contributes to healthy and sustainable food systems for a world free from malnutrition.
3. Significantly increase funding tied to evidence-based programs to accelerate the achievement of the 6 targets of the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on **Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition**, with particular attention to targets 1 and 2:
 - a. 40% global reduction in the number of stunted children under 5
 - b. 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age
 - c. 30% reduction of low birth weight
 - d. No increase in childhood overweight
 - e. Increased rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50%
 - f. Reduced childhood wasting to less than 5%.
4. Encourage sustainably funded community and **school feeding programmes** through multi-partnership programs to address malnutrition and poverty and improve educational outcomes, while creating demand for processed nutrient rich foods of high quality.

Action Track 2

Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

1. Encourage a multi stakeholder approach in the creation of efficient and sustainable consumption and production patterns along the entire food system, in efforts to address **food loss and waste**.
2. Encourage **diverse diets** and healthy eating (i.e., consumption of nutrient dense foods and nutritious foods) through sustainable food systems from an early age by including these topics in school curricula and **nutrition education**.
3. Promote **innovation** across the value chain from pre-farm to fork to drive solutions to support sustainable food systems.

Action Track 3

Boost nature-positive production

1. Focus on **soil health and carbon sequestration** to sustain health and increase efforts in carbon sequestration and restoration of degraded areas through better land use planning, more regional approaches to grassland management and conservation tillage.
2. Encourage the creation of public-private research programmes, policies and incentive programs for the utilization of **climate smart agriculture** techniques and necessary support and clarify for farmers on how carbon markets can support an increase in sustainable agricultural productivity/food and create resilience.
3. Improve **water use** efficiency in agriculture in order to create **drought and flood preparedness** systems including regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and encourage the use of improved tools, new innovation **and nutrient use** efficiency to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems.
4. Recognize the potential role of a **circular economy**, promoting sustainable food production, from upcycling to recycling, coproduct valorization and appropriate management and reuse of waste.
5. Promote access to a wide range of quality seed and animal genetics to facilitate a wide range of integrated farming techniques.

Action Track 4

Advance equitable livelihoods

1. Encourage investors, donors, and governments to focus on supporting **youth and women** farmers, including access to land, formal markets, education on animal care, and innovation technology, inputs, irrigation, energy, agricultural extension services, storage, processing and packaging plants and information.
2. Support the principles of **UN CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT)** and the **Principles for Responsible Investment Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)**.

3. Ensure farmers of all scales are kept front and center of food systems discussions and decisions including those concerning **digital agriculture**, with particular attention to the needs of rural communities and smallholder farmers as regards lack of connectivity and enabling infrastructure.
4. Acknowledge and support communities that derive much of their wealth, security, and equitable economies from agriculture, including crops, livestock, fisheries, horticulture and agroforestry and the opportunities the ownership of these assets provides for female and young entrepreneurs.

Action Track 5

Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress

1. Promote coherent and coordinated food systems planning on an ongoing basis across the agri-food value chain to foster resilience and create a **rapid response mechanism** in crises.
2. Commit to free trade of food, feed, and agricultural inputs and trade enhancements such as increased digitalization (i.e. electronic filings and e-phytos) recognition of standards and other techniques such as regulatory harmonization and cooperation to ensure **efficient global trade of food**.
3. Utilize the **UN CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA)** to mitigate the threat of food insecurity and nutrition failures.
4. Promote/support **advancements in science and innovation** across the food value chain. Science and technology to support the development of safe, nutrient dense, more resilient crops, livestock, fisheries, horticulture and agro-forestry.