



2019 High Level Dinner Report: Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda

15 October 2019 | 19:00 – 21:30 | Salone di Palazzo Brancaccio, Rome

The High Level Dinner (HLD) provides a forum for senior leadership from the private sector and civil society to interact with Ambassadors, leaders and Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based agencies to discuss current opportunities and challenges in the context of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This year, the conversation focused on “Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda”. A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.



The 2019 High Level Dinner encouraged delegations to promote – and create - effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme:

20.00 – 20.25: Introductions

- Chair of the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN), Mr. Rick White
- Chair of UN Committee on World Food Security, H.E Mario Arvelo Caamano
- Firestarter speakers
 - Mr. Simon Winter, CEO, Syngenta Foundation.
 - Hellen Onyango, Farmer, Farm to Market Alliance
 - Berry Marttin, Member, Rabobank Executive Board

20.25 – 22.00: Dinner Discussions

- **First course:** Private sector identified current partnerships or partnerships sought.
- **Second course:** Public Sector identified current partnerships or partnerships sought.
- **Third course:** “Building a Partnership”: Each group identified a partnership they would like to see built.

Key Themes and Discussion Points

This year’s HLD was hugely successful, bringing together over 200 guests, including Ambassadors, Representatives of CFS Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, and companies, as well as the Director General of FAO, Dr. Qu Dongyu and the Chair of the CFS, H.E Mario Arvelo of the Dominican Republic. While the theme of the dinner was “Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda,” each table was guided by a facilitator and rapporteur to discuss ways to encourage multistakeholder partnerships among the following themes:



- Access to Finance
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Consumer Engagement in Nutrition
- Dairy for Development
- Digital Agriculture
- Farmer Engagement
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Food Losses and Waste
- Food Safety
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Infrastructure Development
- Land Tenure
- Investing in Nature
- Nutrition Innovation
- SDG Partnerships
- Smallholder Capacity Building
- Youth Council
- Youth Mentorship

The following are key takeaways highlighted by the participants as crucial in achieving successful multistakeholder partnerships:

The climate crisis is the partnership challenge of our lifetime. The inherent tradeoffs and tensions are massive. We need action in parallel at all levels and on all fronts, with consideration to distributional impacts and the need to protect the most vulnerable.

Encourage multistakeholder partnerships in preparation and delivery of events such as the Food Systems Summit in 2021. It is critical that such an event addresses the nexus



between food, agriculture, climate and nutrition in its approach to food systems. In addition, it was identified that there was limited opportunity to put the farmers voice at the table during the New York climate week this past year. The United Nations should support greater connections and exchange between farmers and policymakers.



In order to enable successful multistakeholder partnerships, it is important to **develop a clear narrative and framework for stakeholder cooperation** in public, private, and civil society. Partnerships should have a defined problem, which the multistakeholder partnership addresses directly.

Ensure the process allows for information sharing across the different partners and solicits their support throughout the preparation of the goals and beyond. This requires a constant revision of the common goals to keep partners on the same path and avoid fragmentation or competition.



Ensure clear, evidence-based targets, common goals and commitments to frame the partnership. With a clear set of indicators, success can be measured and potentially replicated in other partnerships. We should look at past experiences from less developed countries to understand what partnerships have worked/are working and scale up as necessary. Partnerships should seek empowerment through knowledge that can promote greater revenues and more economically sustainable business.

Ensure funding and resources are accessible by all. In terms of funding, mechanisms should be promoted to allow crowd funding for young farmers to stimulate investment. We should also explore the role for innovative financing to incentivize positive behavior and practice change amongst different stakeholders, such as governments and consumers.

Encourage partnerships with companies specialized in marketing and new technologies. Partnerships based around technology can improve smallholder farmers sustainable farming practices. This can be achieved through partnerships around industrial research technology, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IOT), and other digital machines such as telephones etc. Farm-led research partnerships should be included to scale up sustainable agricultural technologies. Partnerships should also be encouraged which translate scientific findings into applicable tools for food producers (e.g., partnerships among fish farmers to properly and accurately track their catch quota).

Encourage partnerships between institutional investors, local or indigenous entrepreneurs and smallholders. This in turn requires partnerships to direct investments by clarifying land rights.

Encourage partnerships between public, private, and youth that focus on the case for sustainability, and not solely the business perspective. Cross-generational mentoring should be encouraged to boost learning and develop champions to support initiatives. This can be achieved through regional and university agreements that focus on youth, as well as furthering partnerships between research institutes, academia, private sector actors and governments.

Encourage partnerships that stimulate and lead to innovation where the government creates an enabling environment and develops capacity building.

Main Conclusions

The 2019 High Level Dinner demonstrated that there is incredible appetite amongst CFS stakeholders to achieve multistakeholder partnerships that contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 2.

In order to ensure these partnerships are successful, stakeholders should learn from past experiences in less developed countries, identifying which partnerships thrived, how challenges were addressed, and integrate these lessons.



It is imperative that future partnerships *have* measurable indicators to translate data into applicable tools. The involvement of research institutes, academia, private sector actors and governments should also be encouraged to increase the likelihood of proper access to funding and resources.

It was also evident that this forum was helping to connect people whose organizations have begun discussing new ways of partnering and working together towards common goals.

We would like to thank the sponsors of this event, Rabobank and Syngenta, for their generous support.

