



2024 High-Level Interactive Studio on Climate, Biodiversity, and the Right to Food & Decent Work

22 October 2024 | 19:00 – 21:30 | La Serra del Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome

Bringing together 145 guests, this year's High-Level Interactive Studio on Climate, Biodiversity, and the Right to Food & Decent Work provided a forum for discussions that can contribute to the discussions at the CFS and beyond. Ambassadors, representatives of CFS, member states, UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector explored ways to emphasize resilience and inclusion across agrifood value chains to effectively support food systems transformation. The evening showcased the potential for all food systems actors to work together to strengthen biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, adaptation and the right to food and decent work in our food systems globally through informed and evidence-based policies for food security and nutrition security.



We would like to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, CFS Chair for providing welcoming remarks, we would also like to thank all the facilitators, rapporteurs on the tables and guests for the very lively discussions and insights during the dinner.

It was identified throughout the discussions that addressing these issues required an approach with the following elements:

- Commitment to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health
- Supporting Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices
- Ensuring Decent Work and Fair Compensation

1 – Commitment to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

The conversations at the Biodiversity and Food Systems Hub highlighted the following aspects:

Adopting Biodiversity Principles: A focus on biodiversity is essential for resilient food systems. The Vision for Adaptive Crops and Soil (VACS) framework provides a science-based approach to sustainable crop management. Sustainable farming practices and education are seen as key strategies for reversing biodiversity loss, underscoring the need for informed, ecosystem-based management.





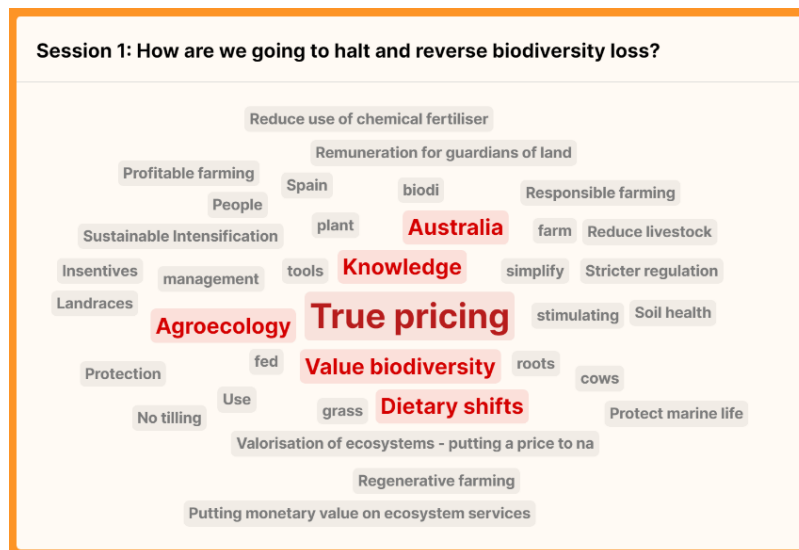
Farmer Education and Incentives: A significant barrier to advancing biodiversity is the knowledge gap among farmers. Providing education tailored to local contexts and offering financial incentives can drive meaningful engagement in biodiversity efforts, particularly given the complexities of biodiversity metrics and maintenance. Education remains a crucial driver of farmer participation in biodiversity conservation, as emphasized in the feedback.

Agriculture and Ecosystem Integration: Biodiversity efforts must extend beyond farm-level interventions to encompass entire ecosystems, focusing on improving soil

health, enhancing ecosystem services, and ensuring that sustainable farming practices contribute to both human and environmental well-being. Integrating biodiversity within broader agricultural systems is imperative, including livestock systems and pulse crops.

Collaborative Restoration Efforts: Restoring degraded land requires coordinated action across sectors, including conservationists, farmers, and policymakers. This collaboration is essential for aligning biodiversity goals with broader environmental and economic objectives. There is widespread support for collaborative restoration, with education and community-level actions seen as essential for driving large-scale biodiversity improvements.

The Private sector remains committed to promoting biodiversity-friendly agricultural systems by leveraging both innovative tools and traditional knowledge to enhance ecosystem health. Through partnerships with farmers, governments, research institutions, and conservation organizations, the private sector is focused on creating scalable solutions that support both productivity and biodiversity. Investments in education, technology, and financial mechanisms will help farmers adopt practices that maintain and restore biodiversity, ensuring the long-term resilience of food systems.



2 – Supporting Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices



Discussions at the Climate and Food Systems Hub explored the following:

Complexity of Solutions: There is no single solution to addressing the interlinked challenges of climate change and food systems. While regenerative agriculture offers one pathway, solutions must be tailored to local ecological and socio-economic contexts. Diverse strategies are needed to create resilient food systems.

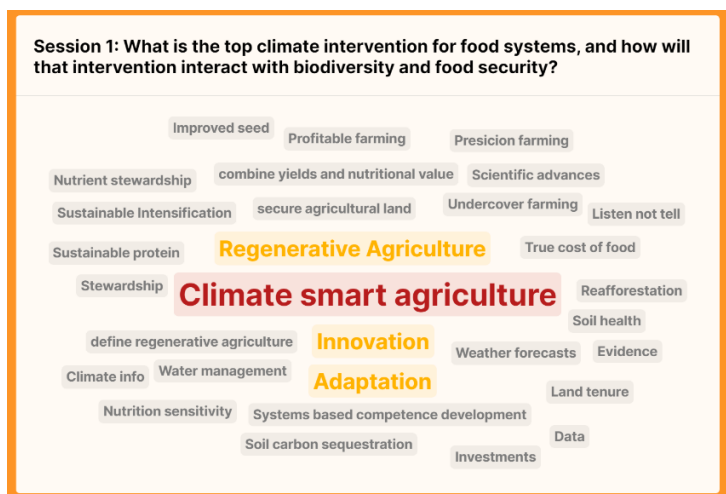
Openness to Innovation: Innovation, both in traditional practices and new technologies, is critical for the future of food systems. Flexibility in applying these innovations, rather than rigid adherence to labels like "regenerative," will be key to adapting to local conditions. There is a clear appetite for embracing a range of innovative solutions

and novel technologies.

Water and Carbon Efficiency: Achieving water and carbon efficiency is fundamental to sustainable agriculture. Practices such as smart irrigation and circular water systems must be paired with robust, data-driven carbon accounting to ensure measurable and verifiable outcomes. Regulatory frameworks and the integration of on-farm data collection were highlighted as key to achieving water and carbon efficiency.

Challenges in Measuring Climate Impact: The complexity of measuring climate impacts, particularly across smallholder farms, necessitates the use of advanced technologies like remote sensing and satellite data. However, standardization and validation remain critical to ensure accuracy, especially in linking climate data with financial markets like carbon credits. There is a recognition that while global approaches are important, localized solutions that fit the context of diverse farming systems are equally essential.

The Private sector remains committed to supporting climate resilience in food systems through innovation and resource efficiency. By investing in sustainable practices, smart technologies, and data-driven solutions, the private sector helps reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring food security. The private sector is uniquely positioned to drive the transition towards climate-smart agriculture, by adopting water- and carbon-efficient practices, and aligning with global regulatory efforts to create impactful and scalable climate solutions.



3 – Ensuring Decent Work and Fair Compensation



The Right to Food and Decent Work Hub discussed the following:

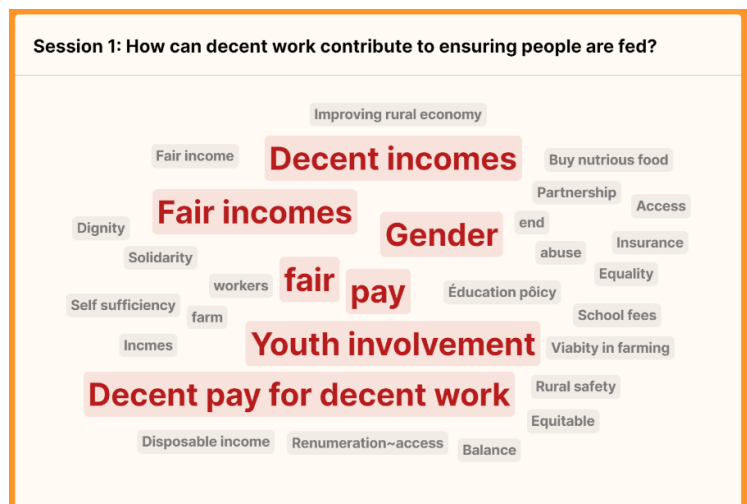
Fair Compensation for Workers: Ensuring fair pay and dignified work across agricultural systems requires a multifaceted approach, integrating minimum wage standards with sector-specific compensation models that account for regional differences in labor markets. Dignity, fair pay, and the end of worker exploitation were central concerns, reflecting a demand for

systemic changes in agricultural labour practices. It is equally vital to address gender and youth disparities in the workforce, ensuring that women and young workers receive equal opportunities, fair compensation, and targeted support, recognizing their crucial roles in driving innovation and sustaining agricultural communities.

Structural Improvements for Decent Work: Achieving decent work for all involves strengthening labour frameworks to protect workers at every level of the supply chain, from field workers to processing plant employees. This includes legal protections, social safety nets, and access to education and healthcare. Partnerships and structural reforms were highlighted as essential for creating sustainable, decent work environments in agriculture.

Decent Work as Fulfilment: Beyond financial security, decent work should provide workers with opportunities for personal growth and professional satisfaction. A holistic approach to worker well-being, including safe working conditions and the potential for career development, is essential for long-term sustainability in labour systems. Viability in farming and access to resources were seen as critical components for creating decent work environments that are both sustainable and fulfilling.

Global Challenges in Defining Decent Work: Defining and implementing decent work across diverse contexts requires adaptable frameworks that can be applied globally while responding to local needs. For rural areas, in particular, access to essential services must be prioritized to ensure that decent work is achievable even in remote or underserved regions. Participants recognized the need for a global vision, balanced with localized policies that address the unique challenges faced by rural workers.



The Private sector remains committed to ensuring that agricultural workers are provided with fair compensation and safe working conditions, contributing to a more equitable food system. By fostering partnerships, the private sector is dedicated to implementing frameworks that promote decent work across all levels of food production. Continued investment in worker education, labor protections, and access to social services will be essential to achieving decent work for all, particularly in underserved rural areas.

The 2024 High-Level Interactive Studio successfully fostered dialogue among diverse stakeholders, providing a platform for discussing concrete strategies to enhance resilience and equity in global food systems.