



2023 SDG Summit FAO Key Messages

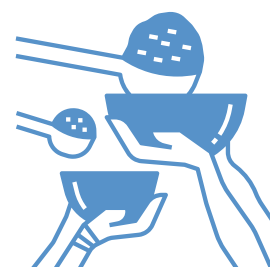
Accelerating progress

Food security, nutrition and efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems are critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They contribute to ending poverty, improving health and education outcomes, empowering women, ensuring the optimized use of natural resources as well as sustainable consumption and production, creating decent jobs and livelihood opportunities, reducing inequalities and rural-urban disparities, and to tackling the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.



Reaching those further behind first

The ongoing crisis is complex and multidimensional. Those who are already poor or marginalized are the most affected and vulnerable to environmental, social and economic shocks, including rural communities, small-scale family farmers and food insecure populations. Responding to immediate needs, safeguarding livelihoods and building resilience are necessary steps towards inclusive transformation and longer-term sustainable development.

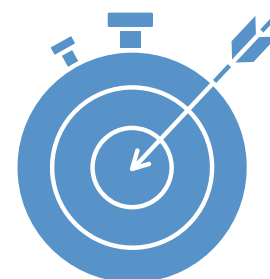


Preventing the high cost of inaction

Too many of the world's agrifood systems are unsustainable, fragile and vulnerable to collapse. When agrifood systems fail, people and the planet suffer: the resulting impact poses threats to food security and nutrition, livelihoods, health, education, the economy and the environment, as well as to human rights, peace and stability.

Moving from challenges to solutions

Hunger is on the rise- up to 828 million people in the world suffered from hunger in 2021. While the world is severely off track to achieve SDG2 –Zero Hunger – by 2030, there is still time to reverse the situation. But this cannot be done in isolation. Ending hunger requires a systemic approach, seizing synergistic opportunities and recognizing and addressing the intersecting challenges that impede progress towards fulfilling this goal along with the other SDGs.



Rescuing the SDGs

More sustainable, equitable and resilient agrifood systems can help recover the lost ground triggered by multiple recent crises and advance the 2030 Agenda.

Transforming agrifood systems

Sustainable and resilient agrifood systems transformation is a powerful synergetic SDG accelerator that has an enormous potential to positively influence the social, economic and environmental dimensions of wider sustainable development.



Maximizing synergies

Sustainable agrifood systems have a direct impact on food security and nutrition, the health and well-being of people, and also contribute to creating sustainable employment and livelihoods, reducing inequalities, safeguarding the planet's biodiversity and natural resources, mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis, and have far-reaching implications for global peace and security.

Tackling the Triple Planetary Crisis

Current agrifood systems are among the first and the most impacted by the interconnected and cascading effects of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. They contribute to this crisis; and the more they are destabilized, the more they exacerbate the crisis. Transforming agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable is therefore a key solution to address the Triple Planetary Crisis.



Managing natural resources sustainably and restoring ecosystems - 1/3 of agricultural land is degraded

Making production systems (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) more productive and sustainable is critical to managing and protecting the environment and the natural resource base across land and (fresh and marine) water where these systems are depended upon as well as to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of these ecosystems.

Accelerating climate actions across agrifood systems while ensuring sustainable agrifood productivity

Increasing sustainable agrifood productivity is possible by improving capacities to adapt to climate change, enhancing biodiversity, increasing carbon storage and reducing emissions through climate-smart approaches, nature-based solutions and agroecological measures. The conservation and sustainable use of land, water and biodiversity is key for the adaptation and resilience of agrifood systems, and to the achievement of the SDGs.



Ensuring availability and sustainable integrated management of water

More efficient, productive and environmentally friendly agriculture requires producing more food while using less water and building the resilience of farming communities to cope with floods and droughts, and applying clean water technologies.

Accelerating gender transformative actions

Achieving gender equality is crucial to eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Countries must address gender-based development and promote the empowerment of rural women to build inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems. This can be achieved including through improved access to finance, technology, education, training and resources for women.

Empowering youth is key to accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems

Investing in the potential of youth to lead innovation by facilitating access to resources and capacity development opportunities is crucial. Empowering rural youth through the creation of new jobs in agriculture and enabling policies at global, national, and local levels is also important. Providing these opportunities can enable the next generation of leaders to drive the transformation of agrifood systems towards a more sustainable and equitable future.



Increasing participation of vulnerable people and communities

Involving vulnerable groups such as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples in all stages of agrifood systems transformations, from identifying to implementing actions, will ensure the realization of the SDGs.



Strengthening transformative partnerships

Partnerships are key to transforming agrifood systems to be more sustainable, equitable and resilient. Collaborations across sectors, stakeholders, and geographies are necessary to address the complex challenges facing our global agrifood systems. By working with marginalised communities, governments, science and research institutions as well as extension services, civil society, cooperatives and producer organizations, partnerships can create opportunities for all to participate in agrifood systems, support sustainable agriculture and rural transformation, and improve livelihoods while addressing social inequalities.

Harnessing science, technology and innovation

Creating a conducive policy environment for unleashing innovative potential and facilitating transformative partnerships among agrifood system actors, enabling them to co-innovate, is critical for accelerating sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems transformation.



Strengthening the collection of and access to open statistics/data to monitor SDG progress and strengthening collaboration on the use of alternative/Big Data sources

International organizations must strengthen their collaboration with each other and with countries, to identify and build national capacities to collect and publish statistics/data, particularly for monitoring progress towards the SDGs, and to improve the use of alternative existing data sources, such as satellite images, to produce timely statistical indicators.

Realizing national ownership, commitment and leadership

Countries should take the lead in the long-term structural transformation of their agrifood systems, matching political commitment with concrete actions and adequate funding, and identifying priority areas for partnerships. The implementation of transformative actions for sustainable agrifood systems requires a systemic approach aimed at connecting producers, especially family farmers and small-scale producers, to markets, as well as to consumers, particularly the most affected and vulnerable. Agrifood systems need to respond to countries specific needs, including SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs. Countries should also make use of trade as a tool to support the transformation of agrifood systems and achieve the SDGs.



Pursuing science-based transformational acceleration (GSDR)

Countries should prioritize and implement transformative actions to ensure a common vision, strong political leadership, effective cross-sectoral collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships, to urgently accelerate pathways - *using the GSDR transformation 'levers' of governance, economy and finance, science and technology, individual and collective action and capacity development* - towards sustainable agrifood systems, enabling healthy, affordable and sufficient diets while significantly reducing climate and the environmental impacts.



Repurposing and amplifying financial support to transform agrifood systems

Countries should explore ways to repurpose agriculture, forestry and fisheries producer support, by optimizing the use of scarce public resources and redirecting it towards investments in public goods and services for sustainable agrifood systems, as well as building on existing investments and finance plans, compacts, and processes. Working in partnerships for innovative blended finance, and ensuring synergies with vertical funds is essential for accelerating action and increasing access for the poorest and most vulnerable countries and people.



Addressing the debt-crisis and its impact on agrifood systems

Providing financing to support country responses to the global food crisis and helping them transform their agrifood systems is critical.

Enabling longer-term structural, predictable, accessible and affordable financing

It is necessary for countries to establish a Food Finance Architecture to address the challenges of agrifood systems transformation, both through securing additional investments as well as curbing lost financial resources as a result of the environmental, social and economic costs of current agrifood systems operations.

Using United Nations financial mechanisms

Massively enlarging the Joint SDG Trust Fund window for agrifood systems, ensuring scaled-up investments in sustainable agrifood systems under the UN Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus and reforming the global financial and debt architecture, are clear ways to increase investments and avert a cost-of-living crises partially driven by hiking food prices.