



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Foresight Drivers and Triggers relevant to the Africa region

Ministerial Session on Strategic Foresight

20 April 2024

Rabat - Morocco

FAO: Four alternative scenarios to 2030, 2050 and beyond


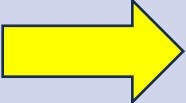

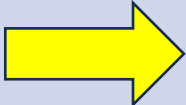
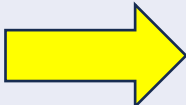


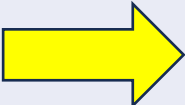
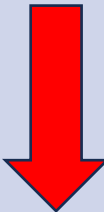
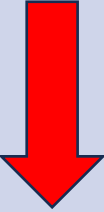

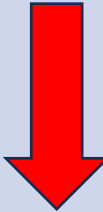




More of the same (MOS). Muddling through reactions to events and crises, while doing just enough to avoid systemic collapses, led to degradation of agrifood systems sustainability and to poor living conditions for a large number of people, thus increasing the long-run likelihood of systemic failures.

Adjusted future (AFU). Some moves towards sustainable agrifood systems were triggered in an attempt to achieve Agenda 2030 goals. Some improvements in terms of well-being were obtained, but the lack of overall sustainability and systemic resilience hampered their maintenance in the long run.

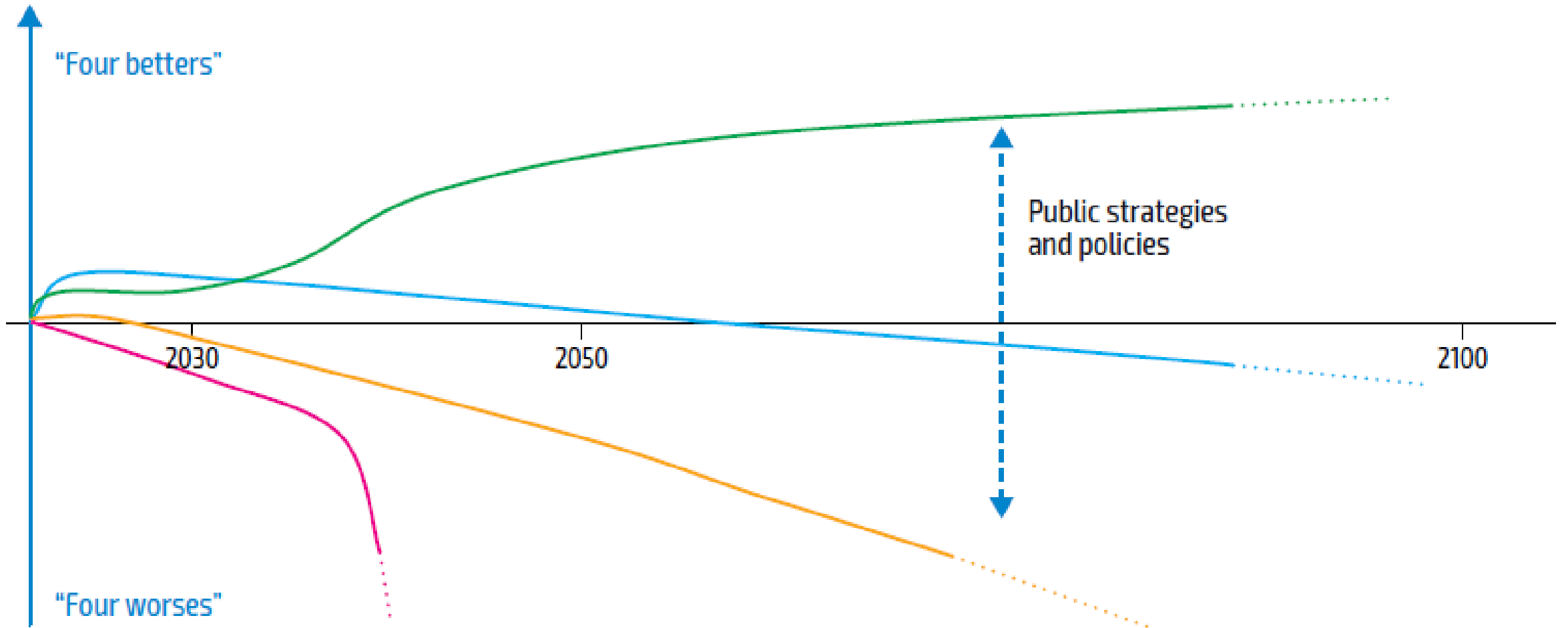
Race to the bottom (RAB). Gravely ill-incentivized decisions led the world to the worst version of itself after the collapse of substantial parts of socioeconomic, environmental and agrifood systems with costly and almost irreversible consequences for a very large number of people and ecosystems.

Trading off for sustainability (TOS). Short-term Gross domestic product (GDP) growth and final consumption were traded off for inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability of agrifood, socioeconomic and environmental systems. Awareness, education, social commitment, sense of responsibility and participation triggered huge investments and new power relationships, and transformed the development paradigm in most countries.

Scenarios and triggers for transformation

	Governance	Consumer (citizen) awareness	Income and wealth Distribution	Innovative technologies
More of the same (MOS)				
Adjusted future (AFU)				
Race to the bottom (RAB)				
Trading off for sustainability (TOS)				

Future scenarios and the role of public strategies and policies



— Pathway of the "trading off for sustainability" scenario

— Pathway of the "race to the bottom" scenario

— Pathway of the "adjusted future" scenario

↕ Shifting impacts on the future of strategies and policies

— Pathway of the "more of the same" scenario

“PROGRESSIVELY TRANSFORM AGRIFOOD, SOCIOECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE BY IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PRODUCTION, INCOME GENERATION AND CONSUMPTION PROCESSES, SUCH THAT EXTREME POVERTY IS DEFEATED, UNIVERSAL FOOD SECURITY AND BETTER NUTRITION ARE ACHIEVED, THUS SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELL BEING OF THE WHOLE SOCIETY—

ALL THIS HAS TO OCCUR WHILE CREATING GREATER RESILIENCE AND REDUCED VULNERABILITY TO EXTERNAL SHOCKS AND PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR SOCIAL STABILITY, MINIMIZATION OF CONFLICTS AND REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS,,

Three key take-away messages

1. It is still possible to push agrifood systems along a pattern of sustainability and resilience, if key “triggers” of transformation are properly activated.
2. However, strategic policy options to activate them will have to trade off short-term unsustainable achievements for longer-term sustainability, resilience and inclusivity.
3. Please, count on FAO to support strategic foresight activities in your country to improve decision making processes (strategies, policies CCAs...) towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.



**BETTER
PRODUCTION**



**BETTER
NUTRITION**



**BETTER
ENVIRONMENT**



**BETTER
LIFE**



Thank you
