



## Action Track Discussion Starter

### Action Track 1 – Ensure Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All

#### 1. Introduction

This action track will aim to deliver zero hunger and improve levels of nutrition, enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy. It will develop game changing solutions for (1) accelerating hunger reduction, (2) making nutritious foods more available and affordable and (3) making food systems safer.

#### 2. What outcomes are we trying to achieve?

Hunger: We need a food system transformation that will get us from 690m hungry (currently) to, say, <350m hungry by 2030. SOFI 2020 says business as usual at 2030 is 840m and could be exacerbated to 909m by COVID 19. So what is an ambitious but not ridiculous goal? 350m is probably too ambitious, but if food systems really can be transformed, who knows? In any case the target number probably does not matter too much in as much as we need to look for a very significant improvement on 840m at 2030.

Affordability of Healthy Diets: SOFI 2020 says 3 billion cannot afford healthy diets. This is extraordinary. Can we get this to 2bn or lower by 2030?

Stunting: Here food systems provide only one input. Health systems, care time allocation, WASH, they are also really important. Can the GNR provide us with an assessment of what an ambitious but realistic goal is for 2030 (the WHA targets are only for 2025)? The WHA target for stunting is 100m, and currently the number of stunted kids (145m) is going down by 3m a year, but this will only get us to 130m by 2025 and 115m by 2030. We need a 2030 stunting target of, say, 50m to galvanise us. Wasting is currently 47m and projected to increase to 55m due to COVID-19 (Headey et al. Lancet 2020). How can we get this below, say, 25m by 2030?

Safe Food: Foodborne diseases caused an estimated 600 million illnesses and 420,000 premature deaths in 2010 according to WHO. This number is likely to grow as food value chains elongate and food systems modernise while regulation and incentives fail to catch up. We need safer food (and we need a 2030 food safety target) and we need food systems that can guarantee that.



### 3. Key trade-offs and synergies

A trade-off and synergies table for Animal Source Foods (ASF) was developed in a recent paper (see below). We need to (1) fill out this kind of evidence matrix for low, middle and high income countries for ASFs and (2) we need these matrices for staples and non-staple plant foods, also by country income group. This would be an excellent global public good produced by the Scientific Group to guide and link actions for all ATs.

		Animal-Source Foods					
		Dairy	Eggs	Fish and Seafood	Meat		
					Unprocessed red	Processed red	White
Health outcomes	Iron-deficiency Anaemia	Neutral	Slightly reduces	Slightly reduces	Strongly reduces	??	Slightly reduces
	Micronutrient deficiencies	Reduces	Reduces	Reduces	Reduces	??	Reduces
	Stunting	Reduces	Reduces	Reduces	Reduces	??	Reduces
	Diabetes, cancer, heart disease	Likely reduces or neutral, but contested	Likely reduces or neutral, but contested	Reduces	Likely increases, but contested	Increases	Likely neutral
Environmental outcomes	GHG emissions	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate (with wide range)	High, but highly variant by setting/system	High, but highly variant by setting/system	Moderate
	Other environmental factors	Moderate to high	Moderate	?? (highly variant)	High, but highly variant by setting/system	High, but highly variant by setting/system	Moderate to high
Livelihoods	Poverty reduction, economic development	Important	Less important (production more industrialised)	Important but geographically concentrated	Important	??	Less important (production more industrialised)

Figure 6. Summary of the health, environmental, and livelihood dimensions of ASF production and consumption. Source: authors' interpretation of the literature cited in this paper.

Screenshot

### 4. What needs to be done?

**Hunger:** The SOFI of 2017 makes it clear that it is the countries which are experiencing conflict on top of fragility where hunger is rising and rising the fastest. Regionally all the hunger increases are projected to be in Africa. So we need a strategy for countries that are not fragile and without conflict and those that are fragile and experiencing conflict. Agricultural transformation is likely to be the main action in the former and some combination/synergy of social protection/ humanitarian programmes/link to food systems in the latter. We also need a special focus on Africa: the % of global hunger in Africa has increased from 24% in 2004-2006 to 36% in 2017-19 (SOFI 2020).

**Availability and Access to Nutritious Foods:** Here, we are relying on two sets of actions (1) things that help optimise existing solutions (public and private sectors) within the current set of “system settings”. By system settings we mean incentives from policy, investors, consumers, civil society. And (2) actions to change the “system settings” e.g. policy repurposing, new investor incentives towards nutritious foods, more consumer demand for nutritious foods, civil society activism around demanding more affordable nutritious foods. New system settings help



scale existing solutions and create space and incentives for new solutions. We need from the SG a study that says what impact can we have on the 3bn number if we decrease the price of nutritious foods by, say, 20% by 2025. And we need a consensus definition of healthy diets and safe nutritious foods. Several exist.

Wasting and Stunting: Essentially it is affordable nutritious foods for very young children that are the key contribution from food systems, plus new ways of incentivising breastfeeding at the system level (link with gender and AT4). Work from IFPRI shows that the price of nutritious foods is critical for stunting. Wasting is closely linked to poverty

Food safety. It would be good if our work proposed some significant reductions in the GBD associated with unsafe foods. Business as usual means that as food systems evolve from traditional foods will become more unsafe as value chains lengthen, more intermediaries get involved, more processing is undertaken and higher prices received. Regulatory systems, incentives and capacities will lag. What is the base line and what is the reasonable 2030 target?

A set of game changers needs to be developed, championed and committed to which will achieve these results. A Countdown to 2030 Annual report could serve as a strong commitment mechanism, run by the 5 AT lead organisations.

Overview of domains in which we look for game changers

The prevailing assumption of AT 1 is that “game changers” can change the rules of the game or they can change the way we operate within the current rules of the game. We want to get a good balance between (a) actions that can change the rules of the game (the food system settings) to allow more impactful and new actions to be generated and scaled and (b) actions that can optimise food and nutrition outcomes within current settings. True transformation will come from both but cannot happen without actions in the first group. An example of such a framework is outlined below.

Looking for game changing solutions	By (1) fundamentally changing settings or by (2) optimising within current settings				
	Policy	Investment incentives	Innovation incentives	Civil society pressure	Consumer pressure (AT2)
1. Hunger Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agric investment</li> <li>• Extension</li> <li>• Livelihood promotion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-food facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Protection</li> </ul>				
2. Nutritious Food Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Procurement</li> <li>• Fiscal incentives</li> <li>• Public R&amp;D</li> <li>• Public Campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock Exchanges</li> <li>• N3F facilities</li> <li>• ESG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch competitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign for Affordable Good Food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
3. Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards</li> <li>• Testing</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumer demand for provenance</li> </ul>

## 5. Evidence

If we only stick to actions for which we have rigorous evidence from one or more countries, we will have only a limited set of recommendations to make. We will need to be imaginative and creative in both generating and honing new actions as well as figuring out how to unblock the scaling of known solutions that have a good track record but have not been implemented widely for various political, institutional or capacity reasons. When proposing actions (existing or new) we need to show they are plausible (have a sound pathway to impact/theory of change), are feasible (have been tried somewhere or we can spell out what is needed for implementation) and have some evidence behind them (graded from gold star causality to theoretical plausibility).

## 6. Context specificity

We need to ground the game changing actions at the country level. This is where the hard work of design, implementation, impact and tradeoffs are generated and experienced. Ideally good to see 8-10 countries where all ATs converge, but that may not be possible.

Context can be geographic, by income, by conflict/non, or by food system typologies. The Food System Dashboard ([www.foodsystemdashboard.org](http://www.foodsystemdashboard.org)) has developed one such typology, building on 2017 HLPE, so this could be a starting point.

Cities are also a potential context-fixing approach.

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**Vice Chair:** Godfrey Bahigwa, African Union Commission

**Youth Vice Chair:** Janya Green, 4-H

**UN Anchor Organization:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



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## **Action Track Discussion Starter**

### **Action Track 2 – Shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns**

#### **1. The problem to be tackled: Food has become a primary source of poor health and environmental degradation around the world, with glaring disparities between rich and poor**

Every year poor dietary health accounts for 11 million premature deaths globally.<sup>i</sup> While hunger and undernutrition persist, diet-related health conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer are rising. Increasingly communities face a double burden of malnutrition, where both undernutrition and overweight/obesity are prevalent. One reason for this is that, in recent decades, food systems have tended to provide more quantity but less quality food. Greater availability of cheap calories has not translated into better availability of nutritious foods.<sup>ii</sup> Current food policies, food industry practices and shifting consumer preferences are driving overconsumption and dramatic growth in consumption of highly-processed foods and beverages.<sup>iii,iv,v,vi</sup> These products are often high in calories, unhealthy fats, sugars and/or artificial sweeteners, additives and sodium, while being low in fibre, vitamins and minerals. In addition, many diets have an increasing share of animal-sourced ingredients and foods are often served in supersized portions.

In higher income countries, cheaper food has led to greater food waste, while today's long and complex food value chains, coupled with intensive animal production, can increase the risk of fast transmission of food-borne diseases and the spill over of zoonotic agents (including viruses), as well as other food-related health risks such as anti-microbial resistance.

Last but not least, food consumption is the single largest driver of multiple environmental pressures, accounting for 80% of land conversion and biodiversity loss, 80% of contamination of freshwater and coastal ecosystems, 80% of freshwater consumption and contributing 20-30% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The hidden costs to society of these health and environmental impacts of the global food system are heavy, at an estimated US\$12 trillion every year which is US\$2 trillion above its estimated annual net value generation.<sup>vii</sup> What foods we consume, how much we consume, and how much we lose and waste have, thus, become critical options for people and planet.

#### **2. What we want to achieve: Propositions for game-changing solutions to drive the transition towards healthy and sustainable consumption<sup>viii</sup> in a culturally appropriate manner**

Guided by the best available scientific evidence, best practice and real world examples, Action Track 2 aims to generate game-changing propositions that can catalyse shifts in food





environments, private sector actions and offerings and consumer behaviour, towards diets around the world which are more environmentally<sup>1</sup>, economically and socially sustainable. Key outcomes to which the proposed solutions should contribute include:

- A dramatic increase in the availability and affordability of safe, healthy foods globally, especially wholegrains, legumes and nuts, and fresh vegetables and fruits, and alternative protein sources, and particularly for vulnerable and poor population groups, sufficient quantities of healthy protein sources, including sustainably-produced dairy, eggs, seafood and meat;
- At the global level, and particularly with respect to more affluent populations, bending down the rising curve in consumption of animal-sourced foods, especially red meat;
- Reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and processed foods high in calories, unhealthy fats, sugars and artificial sweeteners, sodium and additives;
- Halving per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030 (SDG target 12.3) and transitioning to a circular food economy where waste becomes a thing of the past; and
- Strengthening the connections between consumers and producers of food, including by fostering development of more robust local value chains wherever feasible

Achieving these outcomes would unleash enormous social, economic and environmental progress, and help achieve the SDGs, the Paris Climate Accord and other internationally-agreed commitments.

**Vision:** By the time of the UN Food Systems Summit in autumn 2021 significant momentum is underway to shift to healthy and sustainable food consumption:

- An exciting menu of game changing solutions for shifting food consumption to healthy and sustainable patterns is on the table.
- A critical mass of government, private sector, public sector and other actors are ready to announce significant commitments to take action in line with such solutions.
- A global movement of people are making changes in their daily food choices and are demanding action by governments and business to enable and accelerate healthy and sustainable food consumption, by making it affordable, accessible and desirable

### 3. Defining and mapping the key solution arenas

All actors in society — including local and national policymakers, private sector actors within the food system and beyond (e.g., finance and technology), consumers and citizens — have a role to play in the shift towards healthier, safe and sustainable consumption. Equity and social justice must be central to the transition, to provide the greatest benefit to all. Indicative areas for action to consider include:

#### A. Empower consumers to make informed, healthy, safe and sustainable choices.

This could include: investing in education about what constitutes a healthy, safe and

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<sup>1</sup> Key environmental dimensions of importance include greenhouse gas emissions, cropland use, water use, Nitrogen and Phosphorus use, and biodiversity.



sustainable diet and the links between food consumption, environment and health; regulating food marketing; improving food-related sustainability and nutrition standards (including for improved nutrition labelling); integrating environmental sustainability into dietary guidelines; and increasing awareness, information and transparency across the food value chains to foster consumer trust and confidence in the food supply, including through digital means.

- B. Improve availability and access to healthy, safe and sustainable food and beverages.** This could include: integrated food policy and regulatory reforms to improve food environments; reforming public procurement policies; applying behavioral insights to nudge consumers as well as other food system actors to make the right choice the easiest choice (including food reformulation); mobilizing significant private/public investment to increase production, access and affordability of healthy and sustainably produced foods; invest in improving food-related infrastructure and logistics systems, and shortening of supply chains; developing partnerships to minimize food waste in the food service, retail and home environments; and measuring and regulating consumer and retail food waste.

#### ***Incentivizing markets and corporations to provide healthy foods***

There are a variety of different mechanisms to encourage corporations and markets — using both ‘push’ and ‘pull’ approaches — to reorient their activities and transition to providing healthy foods. Business-driven mechanisms include, for example, developing pre-competitive cooperation to drive consumer behavioral change, and translating years of marketing experience to encourage consumers to purchase healthy and sustainable foods. Government-driven mechanisms include fiscal measures (taxes/subsidies), regulatory measures, trade rules, investment in consumer education, product labelling requirements, and building food safety nets. Investor-driven mechanisms can include shareholder divestment to avoid harm and social impact investing. Civil-society driven mechanisms mobilize people as consumers and voters to demand healthy, sustainable products, rejecting unhealthy products and demanding increased accountability from food system actors.

- C. Enabling interventions.** These could include:
- Off-setting the economic and structural costs associated with transition (e.g. supporting food system actors affected by change; redirecting funding; facilitating access to loans).
  - Capitalizing on the growing movement to improve urban food environments.
  - Investing in women’s empowerment, leadership and technical and managerial skills.
  - Prioritizing the support, protection and promotion of breastfeeding.
  - Mobilizing youth, farmers, social influencers and the health, education, faith-based and culinary communities as critical agents of change.
  - Piloting and scaling up behaviour change interventions that are effective in reducing consumer food waste and increasing adoption of healthy and sustainable diets.
  - Use full supply chain traceability to promote social justice in the food industry and protect people employed in food systems everywhere.



Solutions will need to be tailored to local contexts, including cultural and socio-economic aspects, the specific political economy of food, how the food systems function, existence and level of implementation of policies and regulations, institutional capacities and the constraints on consumers' capacity to change what they eat. Nonetheless, any country or local jurisdiction can build an agenda for change using the broad action framework outlined above.

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**UN Anchor Organization:** *World Health Organization (WHO)*

12 October 2020

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## **Action Track Discussion Starter**

### **Action Track 3 – Boost Nature-Positive Food Production at Scale**

#### **1. Our Context**

Today, neither people nor the planet are healthy. Food production is the single biggest threat to nature: it has caused 70 per cent of biodiversity loss, 75 per cent of deforestation, uses 69 per cent of all the planet's water and 34 per cent of all land, and is responsible for approximately one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions. This happens while 1/3 of all food produced is never eaten, while more than 700 million people go hungry every day, and while nearly 2 billion are overweight or obese. Great inequality exists in access to and control over natural and productive resources as well as decision making spaces, particularly for women and indigenous peoples. These hidden environmental, health and inclusion costs are estimated at almost \$12 trillion a year and are expected to rise to \$16 trillion a year by 2050. At the same time, enough food is already produced to feed the estimated population in 2050 and in many places socio-technological innovations (e.g. based on the principles and practices of regenerative agriculture, agroecology, conservation agriculture, among others) are being developed that can sustainably improve sustainability, access and efficiency across the food system, thus nourishing more people while reducing pressure on planetary boundaries. The challenge ahead therefore is to improve our food production systems without exceeding the carrying capacity of ecosystems and the planet to meet the food and nutrition needs of the current and future generations and to deliver other essential ecosystem services.

Food systems find their most prominent expression at the landscape level. Agricultural mosaic landscapes can also play an integral role in supporting biodiversity conservation with producers acting as stewards of the land and ecosystem services for sustainable production of food, water, fiber, fuel, and forest products. Landscapes can therefore be considered the key scale for interventions to boost nature-positive production. As such, a landscape approach, broadly defined as a framework for integrating policy and practice for multiple land uses within a given geographic area, can help to balance interests of multiple stakeholders, across different timescales. If we don't transform food production systems from nature-negative to nature-positive, we will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals or the biodiversity and climate targets as laid down in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement respectively. Implementing much-needed food system change to boost nature-positive production can make a significant contribution towards realizing a future in which people live and prosper in dignity and in harmony with nature, today and in generations to come.

#### **2. Our Goal**

The goal of Action Track 3 is to boost nature-positive production systems at scale to globally meet the fundamental human right to healthy and nutritious food while operating within planetary



boundaries. Boosting nature-positive production will be fundamental to put us on a pathway to a more resilient future and the sustainable well-being of society. Food, feed and fiber production must regain their ability to support biodiversity, rebuild fertile soils, protect freshwater supplies, store carbon, create employment, nourish the globe, provide rural and indigenous peoples with rights and decent livelihoods and enhance climate resilience and social stability. To be able to do that, we will focus on primary production (from land, river and sea), but will also work to develop integrated solutions along the entire food system.

### 3. Ways of engagement<sup>1</sup>

The best way for stakeholders to engage with AT3 is through participation in our Areas of Collective Action & Innovation (ACAI). These multi-stakeholder platforms will unwrap challenges and identify existing or new game-changing solutions to boost nature-positive production. Each ACAI will have a lead facilitator to ensure that all voices are heard and considered and that collective propositions are delivered. We propose three ACAIs below, but others can be set up as needed.

### 4. Areas of Collective Action and Innovation (ACAIs)

The proposed workstreams for AT3 reflect three necessary conditions to boost nature-positive production at scale, within a landscape approach:

1. **Protect** natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production;
2. **Manage** sustainably existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people;
3. **Restore** and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and soil function for sustainable food production.

These conditions are organized in three Areas of Collective Action and Innovation (ACAIs), each of which will curate multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms to analyze challenges and identify game-changing solutions – existing and new.

#### 4a. ACAI 1: Protection

This ACAI is designed to reaffirm the need for protection of natural ecosystems (from land, freshwater and marine) and ensure that they are not converted or degraded for food production. We cannot do this without system actors recognizing the true value of natural ecosystems and factoring that into their decision making. Social safeguards, the development of (new) legislation and governance mechanisms and working with indigenous and local communities to secure their rights, notably access to land, water and genetic resources, and with special regard for rural women, need to be fundamental principles in this work. Suggested (non-exhaustive) actions for platform discussions are found in the Annex.

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<sup>1</sup> With the following as key milestones for the Summit and this action track: February 2021 UNEA 5 Act For Nature, May 2021 - Kunming CBD COP and adoption of the post 2020 framework and then just Post-Summit CC COP Glasgow in November 2021



#### **4b. ACAI 2: Sustainable Management**

Food producing lands and waters need to be sustainably managed to increase input efficiencies, minimize externalities, and optimize yields while maximizing biodiversity and ecosystem functions and enhancing resilience to climate change. Improving the management of existing food production systems will be the single most important action to nourish people, enhance climate resilience and reduce pressure and continued degradation. Since human and social values are fundamental principles that will underpin our work, the management of nature-positive production systems should protect rights and improve livelihoods, promote equity, justice, and social well-being. The balance of regional markets and global trade is another element that can support locally relevant and globally significant solutions for food security through nature-positive food production. Since there is not a one-size-fits all technology, we will explore all existing and emerging approaches that deliver nature-positive solutions at scale relying on principles and practices which includes regenerative agriculture, agroecology, conservation agriculture, precision agriculture, among others. Suggested (non-exhaustive) actions for platform discussions are found in the Annex.

#### **4c. ACAI 3: Restoration**

In addition to the 500 million hectares of abandoned agricultural land, more than half of our current farmland is considered to be degraded and thus underperforming as both an economic and environmental asset. Rehabilitating these lands specifically for new or more sustainable food production would serve to reduce the need to convert new lands. At the same time, innovations are taking place all over the world that need greater support and an enabling policy environment in order to scale up. We need to develop and identify innovative and appropriate governance mechanisms, financing models and instruments where system actors are enabled to rehabilitate existing agricultural land and thus avoid conversion of natural ecosystems. This work stream needs to assess the social, technical and financial potential to restore degraded systems at scale, i.e. how much land could be restored to become fully functional and what would be needed to make this happen. Suggested (non-exhaustive) actions for platform discussions are found in the Annex.

### **5. Enabling platforms**

While the sum of the above conditions is deemed necessary to ensure that food production becomes nature-positive, there are other systemic aspects of the food system that need to be enabled to support the outcomes we envision. In collaboration with other Action Tracks, we aim to activate other discussion platforms that are needed to deliver nature-positive production.

One platform could explore the issue of governance, as a key area of change. Because of the localised character of nature-positive production, its scaling up would necessarily empower bottom-up governance processes. This includes 1) governance based on strengthening landscape level networks and their innovations in participatory planning, in deliberative and inclusive processes for policy making, in institutional choices, research and the creation of new knowledge, and in organising actors for democratic coordination and oversight at multiple scales. And at the same time, 2) enable national, provincial, and municipal governments to support the decentralised processes that are at key for successful scaling up of nature-positive production at the landscape level. Combined, these approaches to governance are likely to



significantly expand the possibilities and benefits of nature-positive production in today's context of increasing uncertainty and rapid change.

Another platform could link up with AT2 to discuss the creation of appropriate markets to enhance the viability of nature-positive production. This includes linking the consumer to sustainable production through premiums and other incentives (with AT2). It also refers to public purchasing arrangements and pricing policies that support a fair income for producers, such as minimum support prices; protection against dumping; marketing boards; low-cost price information systems; and competition policy. Another area of attention is investing in critical infrastructure for processing and transportation in (regional) markets that will overcome the impediments that exist in transportation and information networks, for example by building cold storage systems for fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and milk collection and appropriate processing systems. A discussion of ways to recognize and support participatory guarantee systems could be part of this platform as well as how to enable municipalities and cities to support short food chains.

Suggested (non-exhaustive) actions for platform discussions are found in the Annex.

## **6. Lock-ins and synergies**

There are several structural lock-ins that keep the current unsustainable food production system in place. These lock-ins create a set of feedback loops that reinforce this system. Lock-ins include investments and policies that create path dependency (such as purchasing of expensive equipment or subsidies for chemical pesticides); export orientation; the expectation of cheap food; compartmentalized and sectoral, short-term thinking; certain discourses about feeding the world, focused solely on production volumes; measures of success (looking at single crops) and concentration of power (IPES Food 2016). Other typical lock-ins that reinforce the current system are the concentration of power in the food chain and institutional, agricultural research and technological lock-ins (WWF, 2016). How to address these lock-ins should be a central question to each platform.

At the same time, it is important to keep the systems approach in mind, in order to be able to identify and strengthen synergies between different areas of work. Synergies within nature-positive food production are greatest when the 10 characteristics, or elements, are included in an intervention. These characteristics include:

- **Diversity:** diversification is key to agroecological transitions to ensure food security and nutrition while conserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources.
- **Co-creation and sharing of knowledge:** agricultural innovations respond better to local challenges when they are co-created through participatory processes
- **Synergies :** building synergies enhances key functions across food systems, supporting production and multiple ecosystem services.
- **Efficiency :** innovative agroecological practices produce more using less external resources.
- **Recycling :** more recycling means agricultural production with lower economic and environmental costs.



- Resilience : enhanced resilience of people, communities and ecosystems is key to sustainable food and agricultural systems. Resilience is the capacity of socio-ecological systems to maintain key aspects of its biological, social and functional identity, in a context of constant internal and external change.
- Human and social values: protecting and improving rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is essential for sustainable food and agricultural systems.
- Culture and food traditions : by supporting healthy, diversified and culturally appropriate diets, agroecology contributes to food security and nutrition while maintaining the health of ecosystems.
- Responsible governance : sustainable food and agriculture requires responsible and effective governance mechanisms at different scales – from local to national to global.
- Circular and solidarity economy : circular and solidarity economies that reconnect producers and consumers provide innovative solutions for living within our planetary boundaries while ensuring the social foundation for inclusive and sustainable development.

These ten elements can provide guidance when planning, managing and evaluating interventions for nature-positive production. Concretely, such interventions must be based on three pillars of activity described above: protect, manage and restore. When they are deployed together, in synergy, significant progress for nature positive production can be made.

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**UN Anchor Organization:** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD

12 October 2020





## ANNEX

### Suggested (non-exhaustive) actions for platform discussions

#### ACAI 1: Protect

- Building on the strong foundation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, as a widely-praised tool to improve tenure;
- Developing an overall agricultural policy framework that provides women with access, ownership and control of productive resources, knowledge, credit and decision making, while encouraging that men get more involved in reproductive tasks;
- Supporting local, customary, and traditional governance systems for land, water, genetic resources for food and agriculture, and other natural resources, while engaging in reflexive dialogue around where they can be strengthened or should be democratically adjusted to improve results around livelihoods, gender, and environmental concerns.
- Introducing and enforcing legislation that minimizes the conversion of natural ecosystems associated with international trade and food imports;
- Multilateral organizations committing to working with producer organisations and other stakeholders to design and implement a Codex Planetarius that establishes minimum environmental and social standards for the production of globally traded foods, while protecting and improving rights and livelihoods;
- Development of innovative and sustainable finance to overcome barriers to adoption of nature positive practices and de-risk responsible businesses and initiatives that experiment with ways to deliver more efficient, nature-positive production that avoids ecosystem conversion.

#### ACAI 2: Sustainably Manage

- A multi-stakeholder platform draws key insights from existing literature and groundbreaking and high promising solutions and ideates, prototypes and tests game-changing production systems (from land, freshwater, marine) to boost nature-positive food production at scale;
- Governments commit to adopting an ambitious food systems transformational agenda that recognizes the need to maintain or improve food security while regenerating and valuing the natural foundations of our food production with recognized rights for both small and large-scale producers;
- Producers receive financial and other incentives to improve or adopt production systems through innovative business models. Specifically, account for carbon benefits of nature-positive production and help create compensation systems and special credit lines for producers that are willing to transition to nature-positive systems;
- Governments re-align incentives, in particular rewarding producers for landscape and nature management and scaling back chemical input subsidies; agricultural price support and subsidies to concurrently promote food security, environmental and health goals. At the national level, governments must commit to adopting an ambitious transformation in food production systems and pro-actively implement an agenda that recognizes the need to improve food security while regenerating and valuing the natural foundations of our food production as well as recognizing the voice of both small and large-scale producer organisations. Governments must also ensure policy coherence across agriculture, health, environment, natural resources, education, fiscal and trade policies. In particular, ensure nature-positive food production systems are prominently included in revamped NDCs and that there is a new Aichi target on sustainable food systems;



- Address antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare while boosting nature-positive production at scale.
- Companies eliminate conversion of natural ecosystems from commodity supply chains. Furthermore, ensure that the input industry commits to delivering production systems where soil health, natural ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, accessibility, context-specific needs and landscape resilience are prioritized.
- Trade reform includes the creation of a Codex Planetarius that establishes minimum environmental standards for the production of globally traded foods and the protection of local markets;
- Promoting sustainable finance to overcome barriers to adoption and de-risk responsible business models that deliver nature-positive production.
- Support the work done under the Committee on World Food Security to establish Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, which includes other UN agencies such as FAO, IFAD and the WFP.
- Giving greater visibility to the high performance of agroecology and nature positive production practices for both people and the planet.

### **ACAI 3: Restore**

- Supporting the development of innovation networks and facilitating knowledge exchange at various levels and among various actors;
- Research is conducted to (a) identify the socio-technical potential of restoring lands to grow food and (b) assess the return on investment from such endeavor, including non-monetary returns.
- Precompetitive arrangements (financial mechanisms among others) are developed to rehabilitate degraded systems to grow food.
- Innovations to build healthy living soils (including enhancing soil biodiversity, organic matter and soil carbon) are identified.
- Research, knowledge, innovation and technology, held in different knowledge systems including that of food producers, that prioritize nature-positive production at scale are unlocked.
- Creating and facilitating institutional space for experimentation (including with landscape governance models);
- Providing designated and targeted guidance and support for university research on nature positive production linked to local communities and participatory action research, including on appropriate mechanization and digital tools;
- Creating empowered spaces for sharing, learning and participatory bottom-up policy development in collaboration with parliaments and civil society.

### **Enabling platforms**

- Reduce food loss and food waste to reduce the pressure on natural systems (with AT2)
- Ensure that nature positive food production systems deliver sufficient nutritious and healthy foods to all, especially the poor (with AT1).



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## Action Track Discussion Starter

### Action Track 4 – Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution

**1. The problem: Inequality and power imbalances – at household, community, national and global levels – are consistently constraining the ability of food systems to deliver poverty reduction and sustainable, equitable livelihoods.**

About 80% of the world's extreme poor reside in rural areas and most rely, at least in part, on natural resource-based livelihoods for their economic well-being and food security and nutrition. Most of the poorest are involved in food systems as small-scale agricultural producers, fishers, pastoralists or forest-dependent communities as well as agricultural wage workers, and those engaged in micro, small and medium enterprises along food value chains. Inequality in access to and ownership of agricultural assets and natural resources and income are complex and related concerns for poverty and food security and nutrition.

Other social and economic inequalities, inequality in access to employment opportunity and limited access to services that prevent the development of inclusive, equitable livelihoods, also increase vulnerability and cause political instability.<sup>i</sup>

These are persistent challenges. There is overwhelming evidence that gender-based discrimination, or the denial of women's human rights, is one of the major causes of poverty and food and nutrition insecurity, for example (cross ref to AT1).<sup>ii,iii</sup> Though technical, political, financial and other challenges to gender equality are complex, evidence illustrates that social norms and structural barriers are the primary barriers to the advancement of gender equality within food systems.

Discriminatory social norms, practices and roles shape the gendered distribution of paid and unpaid work; limit women's access to productive resources (such as land) and markets; underpin unequal bargaining positions and the gendered division of labour within households that results both in time poverty and malnutrition for womeniv and; marginalize women from decision-making spheres at all levels.<sup>v,vi</sup> Women are just one of the vulnerable groups whose livelihoods are impacted by inequity in food systems. Youth and indigenous peoples also face significant barriers to equitable livelihoods across the food value chain and intersectional vulnerability, whereby people experience discrimination for more than one reason, is a challenge that requires more research and better practical and policy responses.

The denial of rights and entitlements, through formal and informal institutions and laws, is also central to the problem of inequity in livelihoods within food systems. The widespread and systematic institutional discrimination and bias against marginalized groups in access to assets, services and information such as – land, credit, education, training and extension, employment



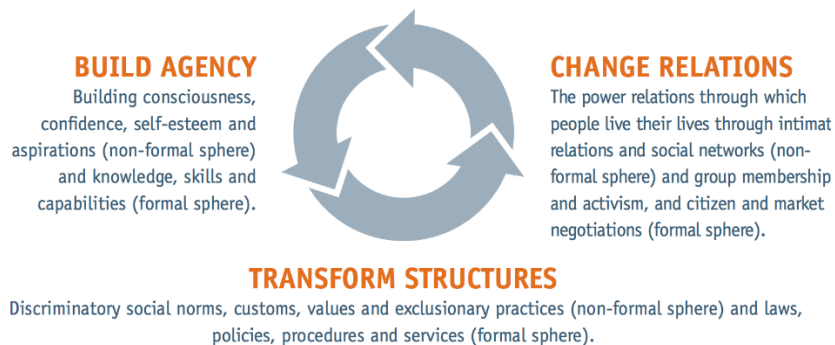
opportunities, mobility, climate and market information, and agricultural inputs and technologies – can thus be attributed to the dual challenges of harmful socio-cultural norms and practices and rights denial. The amplifying threat of Covid-19 and its differential impact on women and marginal groups, from a food security and nutrition perspective, is exacerbating an already alarming situation. Our food systems also cause environmental inequity as they are the single largest driver of environmental pressure, accounting for 80% of land conversion and biodiversity loss, 80% of contamination of freshwater and coastal ecosystems, 80% of freshwater consumption and contributing 20-30% of global greenhouse gas emissions (cross ref to AT3).

## 2. What we want to achieve: Solutions to advance equitable livelihoods in food systems

For food systems to advance equitable livelihoods, we must look at poverty across the food value chain, the groups whose livelihoods are most limited by current food systems practices, and the discriminatory practices and norms that limit equitable livelihoods, in particular for those whose livelihoods are most marginalized (women, youth, indigenous peoples).

Advancing equitable livelihoods requires building agency of powerless people in food systems (e.g. small-scale producers, indigenous people, women farmers, seasonal laborers) including building confidence and consciousness, and also the requisite skills, knowledge and capabilities.

Changing power relations in food systems is also critical, and these will require changes both in formal spheres (market negotiations, group membership, etc.) and in non-formal spheres.



Finally, the shift involves transforming structures, including confronting social norms and practices that are embedded in structures that systematically privilege some groups over others, in particular marginalizing the poorest of the poor – who often work in agriculture and food value chains. We must confront the structural barriers within institutions and policies, with the aim of achieving lasting change so that food systems can lead to equitable, sustainable livelihoods, rather than just temporary or seasonal increases in opportunities. Within food systems, this transformation means adjustments to regimes that regulate access to, use of and control over resources, especially those defining land distribution, labor division and decision-making power.

Central to advancing equitable livelihoods in food systems are the nearly 500 million small-scale food producers in these systems. Their production choices, technologies, natural resource



management, and market links to value chains determine not only the sustainability and resilience of their livelihoods and their capacity to overcome poverty and food insecurity, but also the diversity of food that will be available to consumers and the prices they will pay. Equally, the choices made by consumers and the processors, wholesalers and retailers who supply them with food, affects the opportunities available for small-scale producers. But livelihoods in food systems also include wage labour and business along food value chains, meaning that equity needs to be reflected here also.

**Vision:** Our vision is of food systems that are inclusive and contributing to the elimination of poverty by creating jobs, raising incomes across food value chains, reducing risks for the poorest and most vulnerable and increasing value distribution.

To support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Action Track 4 will seek to ensure that food systems 'Leave No One Behind' by addressing inequality as one of the root causes of poverty in all its forms: inequality in access to economic opportunities, gender inequality and inequality in access to productive resources and services that restrict the advancement of equitable livelihoods.

By the time of the Summit in 2021, we will see the following developments:

- An innovative set of solutions for the advancement of equitable livelihoods in food systems is developed and socialized
- A critical mass of government, private sector, public sector and other actors is ready to announce significant commitments to take action in line with these solutions
- A global movement, with previously unheard voices, is emerging to challenge inequity in food systems livelihoods and public, private and voluntary sector bodies are responsive and supportive

### 3. Defining and mapping solution arenas

With these central roles in mind, the following non-exhaustive action areas can be mapped:

**Anchoring food systems transformation in small-scale production:** The centrality of small-scale producers is key due their sustainable and diversified forms of production, generation of employment, adaptive capacity, contribution to resilience, and role in sustaining rural communities and local and regional economies. Strengthening their organizations' abilities to aggregate value, hold duty bearers to account and promote access to services and markets is also crucial.

**Addressing specific barriers to inclusive, equitable livelihood development:** Food system transformation that does not address inequalities and specific vulnerabilities risks reinforcing and deepening inequalities and undermining the resilience of food systems. Partnerships can integrate smaller, vulnerable actors into more efficient and equitable food value chains, while strengthened producer organizations, farmer and consumer cooperatives, and other collectives can effectively address existing inequality, reach economies of scale and minimize elite capture and urban bias.

**Coherent and coordinated multisectoral approach at national and territorial levels:** Action to advance equitable livelihoods in the context of food systems will require multisectoral





coordination and policy coherence across sectors, stakeholders and national and international value chains. It will also require supporting and engaging with social movements.

**Policy around food systems needs to explicitly recognize and respond to the specific constraints faced by rural women** and their roles in agri-food systems ensuring their participation in decision making and that their rights are secured and protected regarding, for example, land tenure and access to natural resources and markets. Action to prevent, mitigate and eliminate GBV is imperative in the pursuit of equitable livelihoods.

**Policies also need to explicitly recognize the role that indigenous people play** within localized food systems and natural resource management, the specific marginalization they face and include specific measures that ensure the respect of indigenous peoples' rights and their participation in decision making.

**Inclusion of pro-poor nature-based solutions and climate change policies to improve the capacity of the poor to manage climate risks.** Climate change and extreme weather events have immediate and long-term impacts on food systems through the impact on the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities (cross ref AT5)

**Focus efforts on making value chains inclusive through the generation of decent employment and improving resilience through social protection.** Expanded social protection is central to facilitate an inclusive process of food system transformation, in terms of protecting incomes, facilitating risk management, fostering economic inclusion and realising rights. Social protection needs to be nutrition-sensitive, adaptive and responsive and tailored to the needs of the poor, in particular women and indigenous peoples.

**Address the legal, institutional and market constraints to the realization of equity within food systems,** such as ensuring that the laws, norms and regulatory mechanisms coupled with the capacity of institutions and communities to implement them are adequate. Ensuring that international convention and treaty obligations related to equity and rights are enshrined in national legal frameworks and that mechanisms for application of the law or dispute settlement are functioning, accountable and accessible to marginalised groups.

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**UN Anchor Organization:** *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*

12 October 2020



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## **Action Track Discussion Starter**

### **Action Track 5 – Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses**

#### **1. What do we want to achieve?**

Action Track 5 will propose actions to ensure that food systems, which are affected by conflict, environmental and economic shocks and stresses, can maintain functionality, recover from the effects of harmful events, and improve to a better-off state. These actions include a focus “productive disruption” in the context of global challenges – such as the health pandemics, biodiversity loss and the global climate crisis.

The ambition behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that food systems from land to waste are regenerative and circular where possible thus more resilient to future shocks. That all individuals and institutions engaged in the functioning and governance of food systems are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability and participate in a food system that, despite shocks and stressors, delivers food and nutrition security and equitable livelihoods for all whilst ensuring the healthy soil and water ecosystems for continued food system resilience. The resilience of food systems needs to be strengthened in such a way that the economic, social and environmental foundations to produce sufficient healthy food and maintain healthy ecosystems for current and future generations are not compromised. It demands a comprehensive approach that integrates responses to climate, biodiversity loss, conflict, epidemics, economic crises, food insecurity and malnutrition and structural inequalities.

Achieving this will require a three-pronged fully integrated focus on food systems:

- Being equitable and inclusive (economic resilience);
- Producing broad-based benefits for all people (social resilience); and
- Generating positive and regenerative impacts on the natural environment (environmental resilience).

#### **2. What are the key trade-offs and win-wins?**

Over the next decade, food systems will face a complex challenge to deliver sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all in a context of crisis management and sustainable development. This entails providing equitable livelihoods to all actors along food value chains while at the same time ensuring access to healthy food, optimising distribution and productivity for those most in need, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving ecosystems and biodiversity. This track understands that the issues with food systems are not simple and will look into it from a holistic



approach taking into consideration full life cycle impacts, including social and cultural understanding and provide a win-win situation rather than compromising trade-offs between people-planet-prosperity.

In order to manage the complex trade-offs across the economic, political, social and environmental dimensions of food systems, a balance needs to be achieved between: immediate and sustainable long-term gains; rural and urban demands; diversifying and specializing functions; local and global needs; nutritious versus caloric intake; and intensified versus sustainable and regenerative use of natural resources.

Positive synergies and win-win scenarios can be found by strengthening coordination of international, national actors and local actors, targeting investments by the public and private sector towards food system and eco system resilience, developing policies to direct incentives at local and global levels, and implementing sustainable technology and production choices that reduce the negative impact of food production, processing, storage and transport on natural resources. Special importance would be given to strengthen the local food system as the COVID19 pandemic has shown how local and more sustainable food systems can ensure access to food when the global system fails. This entails a concept of resilience building that enables land to both bounce back better and guarantee food production for future generations.

### 3. What needs to be done?

Solutions need to be defined around cross cutting levers of joined-up policy reform, coordinated investment, accessible financing, innovation, traditional knowledge, governance, data and evidence, and empowerment of the most vulnerable. Efficiently enhancing resilience requires the following:

- **A systemic and nexus approach (multi-system, multi sectoral, multilevel, and multi-stakeholder)**

The resilience of people and community results from a combination of interlinked factors that are influenced by multiple systems, a variety of sectors and stakeholders, at different levels, and by a wide range of stakeholders. Consequently, this requires a holistic and intersectional approach to address the concurrent and multiple shocks as there is no single sector or system response option.

- **A twin-track approach linking emergency response to sustainable development**

Enhancing resilience in a comprehensive way requires addressing the immediate and acute needs in crisis and emergency situations alongside investing in long-term response to tackle the root causes of socio political and ecosystem vulnerabilities. This includes addressing and responding to risks instead of disasters and designing integrated food systems, which helps to anticipate, resist, recover and regenerate.

- **Strong local, country, and regional ownership and political leadership**

Political leadership is a prerequisite for successful complex programs requiring integrated system, multisectoral, multilevel, and multi-stakeholder approaches. A strong political



leadership at the local, regional and national -levels enables a favourable policy environment and facilitates integration of resilience-building programs across sectors and ministries (agriculture, health, trade, environment, climate, economic and so on).

- **A context-specific approach.**

Initiatives begin with an in-depth understanding of the cultural, environmental and socio-political context of each locality. This includes systems' weakness, people's needs and vulnerabilities, populations' and individuals' existing coping mechanisms, as well as environmental/ ecosystem specificity and social synergies, as key starting points to contextualize the intervention.

#### **4. Foster Innovation and strengthening Partnerships**

Food system transformation requires coordinated, multi-sector interventions that can only be achieved through strong partnerships with shared outcomes. Transformation will require both traditional and non-traditional partnerships to remove the barriers and initiate food systems transformation that enhances people's lives and livelihoods while guaranteeing healthy land-water-air. Innovations are needed in enhanced regenerative food system development, data availability for decision-making and community engagement, as well as for the technical aspects of food systems strengthening.

Actions to support food systems resilience should center around:

- (i) Investment in holistic food systems approaches addressing joint people-planet-prosperity aims;
- (ii) Identifying and addressing perverse subsidies and practices;
- (iii) Strengthen and increase capacity to monitor, measure and analyze vulnerability;
- (iv) Address inequality in access and utilization of resources, knowledge, assets, technology, markets/value chains;
- (v) Strengthen capacities and resources of stakeholders, including indigenous groups, women and youth to effectively engage at all points of the food system from producer to consumer
- (vi) Risk and security management at all levels – individual, community, government and systems.
- (vii) Coordinate policies, joint programming and investments (including aid) amongst all actors, with Governments in the lead

#### **5. Factoring in context specificity**

Actions and decisions aiming to increase the resilience of food systems will have different impacts in different geographical and development contexts depending on their agroecological and climatic setting, cultural aspects, government policies, private sector engagement, community participation and institutional capacities. There are wide differences in the determinants of resisting and recovering to the impact of shocks and stresses, reinforcing the fact that solutions cannot be "one size fits all". Different contexts must be considered: Countries across the humanitarian-development nexus, including fragile and transitioning settings; Food systems at





various phases of development from traditional to modern; Context-specific vulnerabilities to climate, socio-economic, human-social, cultural, environmental factors and biodiversity loss.

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12 October 2020