

# Transforming Food Systems

## Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors

A WHITE PAPER BY THE GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM  
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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for Rural Development

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	2
Executive summary .....	3
<b>1 Introduction: From ambition to action.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2 Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit .....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Overview of the United Nations food systems process .....	11
2.2 Where did the Food Systems Summit leave us? .....	12
<b>3 Towards a framework for food systems transformation .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1 The why of food systems transformation.....	17
3.2 The what of food systems transformation.....	17
3.3 The how of food systems transformation.....	18
3.4 Implications for donors .....	19
<b>4 Catalysing change: Areas for action by donors .....</b>	<b>22</b>
4.1 Strengthen coordination among donors and other actors to support national pathways for food systems transformation.....	24
4.2 Mobilize responsible investment in food systems from the public and private sectors .....	26
4.3 Promote engagement of private sector actors and value chain innovation.....	27
4.4 Support policy innovation.....	29
4.5 Invest in research and data systems .....	31
4.6 Strengthen governance for food systems transformation .....	33
4.7 Strengthen universal social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes .....	35
<b>5 Follow-up implications, opportunities and priorities for the GDPRD.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Annex A: Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit .....	41
Annex B: List of individuals interviewed.....	49

## ACRONYMS

<b>CFS</b>	Committee on World Food Security
<b>FSS</b>	Food Systems Summit
<b>GDPRD</b>	Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>MSMEs</b>	micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This white paper by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) charts directions for how donors can support food systems transformation to follow up on the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS) and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It builds on work that the GDPRD has completed over the past two years as contributions to the Summit process.

Global donors (bilateral agencies, financial institutions, development banks and philanthropic foundations) have a critical role to play in helping to leverage change in food systems through the investments they make, the innovations they support and the international and multi-actor collaboration they enable. Achieving a transition to sustainable food systems will require deep structural changes in societal understanding, in how markets function, in public policy and expenditure, and in processes of innovation, all of which are influenced by power relations and vested interests. To be effective, donors will have to focus on interventions that create the enabling conditions for systemic change, are responsive and adaptive to rapidly changing circumstances, and tackle the political economic barriers to sustainable and equitable development.

The need for profound changes in food systems – the **why** of food systems transformation – has been unambiguously laid out with backing from heads of state and numerous civil society, business and research groups. High ambitions have been set for **what** is needed to deliver on healthy diets, zero hunger, decent earnings for all food system actors, the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, to realize these ambitions will require much more attention to the **how** of food systems transformation to ensure practical and feasible pathways for action, particularly at national and local levels.

The analysis for this paper leads to three overarching implications for donors:

- **Coordination, alignment, integration and coherence:** Food systems transformation will not be achieved without coordination among actors, alignment of investments and initiatives, integration across sectors and a commitment to policy coherence.
- **Tackling the structural barriers to change:** To be effective in supporting food systems transformation, donors will need to pay more attention to the structural barriers and enabling conditions for change, and the associated power dynamics of differing stakeholder interests.
- **Adopting a systemic approach:** The FSS has made explicit the importance of a systems approach in addressing food-related issues and development

challenges. This means accepting and working with the complexity and uncertainty inherent in intervening in human and natural systems and managing in a flexible, adaptive and learning-oriented way.

There is widespread acknowledgement that the Summit was very successful in putting food systems on the international agenda, engaging numerous interest groups (though not all), and having heads of state articulate the need to transform food systems to achieve the SDGs.

Commitments for change were made by over 230 organisations or groups and over 100 member states put forward national pathways for transformation. However, some actors, depending on their view of the purpose of the Summit, remain concerned that no clear global level road map and commitment for change emerged.

While much of value has been achieved by the process leading up to the Summit and by the Summit itself, maintaining momentum and reaping the dividends from this will be highly dependent on the effectiveness of coordinated follow-up action.

In this context, Section 4 of the paper details actions that can be taken by donors across the following seven areas:

- Strengthening coordination among donors and other actors to support national pathways for food systems transformation
- Mobilizing responsible investment in food systems from the public and private sectors
- Promoting engagement of private sector actors and value chain innovation for sustainable development
- Supporting policy innovation
- Investing in research and data systems
- Strengthening governance for food systems transformation
- Strengthening universal social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes.

Donors have a particular responsibility to help ensure that food systems transformation is underpinned by attention to inclusion, non-discrimination and human rights, to ensure benefits for all those who live in poverty, suffer from hunger and malnutrition, are in vulnerable situations or experience marginalization. Donors will need to orient their support for food systems transformation to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, calls for building back better and greener, the United Nations Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conferences (UNFCCC COP26, UNCCD COP15 and CBD COP15), and the Nutrition for Growth Summit, considering guidelines and recommendations from the Committee on World Food Security.

Drawing on the directions presented in this white paper, the GDPRD will support the donor community to follow up the FSS through informal liaison, initiating focused work on priority themes and knowledge-brokering.







# 1 Introduction: From ambition to action

This white paper by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) charts directions for how donors can support food systems transformation to follow up on the United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS) and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It builds on work that the GDPRD has completed over the past two years as contributions to the Summit process (see [FIGURE 1](#)). In particular, this includes the outcomes of the [2020 Annual General Assembly](#), a [High Level Event](#) held in the lead-up to the Summit, a [Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems](#), a [Declaration of Intent on Food Systems Transformation](#) and a [Roundtable on How Donors Can Support National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation](#).

Global donors (bilateral agencies, financial institutions, development banks and philanthropic foundations) have a critical role to play in helping to leverage change in food systems through the investments they make, the innovations they support and the international collaboration they enable. However, donors will need to think and work differently. Transforming food systems will require deep structural changes in societal understanding, in how markets function, in public policy and expenditure, and in processes of innovation, all of which are influenced by power relations and vested interests. These changes need to be brought about within a context of increasing global complexity, uncertainty and turbulence. To be effective, donors will have to focus on interventions that create the enabling conditions for systemic change, are responsive and adaptive to rapidly changing circumstances, and tackle the political and economic barriers to equitable and sustainable development.

The GDPRD recognizes that food systems transformation requires an integrated approach to how issues of poverty and inequality, health, food security and nutrition, gender equality, environment, biodiversity loss, climate change, youth engagement and other challenges are tackled. It has working groups focused on some of these topics that are most directly related to rural development, including rural youth employment, land tenure and SDG 2.



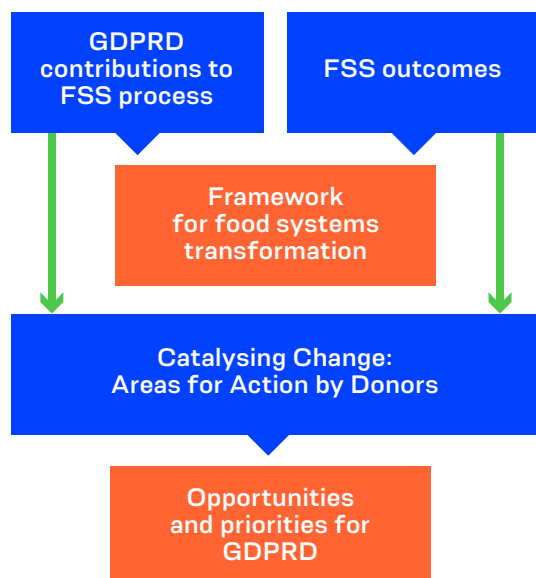
The Summit process mobilized widespread engagement from across governments, civil society, farmers' organizations, business and science, all of which was underpinned by the national and cross-cutting Summit dialogue processes. The need for profound changes in food systems – the **why** of food systems transformation – has been unambiguously laid out with backing from

**FIGURE 1**

## The activities of the GDPRD engaging with the food systems framework and the Food Systems Summit



**FIGURE 2**  
**Outline and structure of the white paper**



heads of state and numerous civil society, business and research groups. High ambitions have been set for **what** is needed to deliver on healthy diets, zero hunger, equitable earnings for all food system actors, positive impacts on nature, and net-zero emissions across food value chains. However, to realize these ambitions will require much more attention to the **how** of food systems transformation to ensure practical and feasible pathways for action, particularly at national and local levels.

The directions and analysis in this white paper draw on and integrate the numerous and varied outcomes of the FSS, as well as

the GDPRD Summit-related events and analysis (see **FIGURE 2**). In addition, 19 interviews were conducted with GDPRD members and other actors who had been closely engaged with the Summit. These interviews add detail and depth to the forward-looking analysis of FSS outcomes and past GDPRD work, and provide nuance on the role that donors and the GDPRD can play in taking the food systems agenda forward.

The analysis leads to three overarching implications for donors:

**Coordination, alignment, integration and coherence:** Food systems transformation will not be achieved without coordination among actors, alignment of investments and initiatives, integration across sectors, and a commitment to policy coherence. Through the investments they make and their approaches to programming, donors have a critical influence on all actors in the system, and are especially important at national level in supporting host countries to develop a regulatory and policy framework that supports integrated food systems. At the same time, donors are a part of the global food system and must commit to systemic transformation in their own countries as well.

**Tackling the structural barriers to change:** To be effective in supporting food systems transformation, donors will need to pay more attention to the structural barriers and enabling conditions for change, and the associated power dynamics of differing stakeholder interests. This implies balancing field-level direct poverty alleviation projects, which often stand alone, with programmes that aim to improve the longer-term enabling conditions for change. Donors can leverage their financial resources and political influence to help address structural barriers through policy innovation and by supporting inclusive processes. Donors also play a distinct role in national, regional and global priority-setting and standards, and can set expectations that reflect the underlying principles of food systems transformation.

**Adopting a systemic approach:** The FSS has made explicit the importance of a systems approach in addressing food-related issues and development challenges. This implies moving beyond overly simplified linear and target-oriented approaches to designing, managing and evaluating development investments. It means accepting and working with the complexity and uncertainty inherent in intervening in human and natural systems. This requires being more rigorous in developing a systems understanding of the context for an investment and managing in a flexible, adaptive and learning-oriented way. This has substantial capacity and organizational implications for both donors and their partners.

The areas of action outlined in this white paper are intended by the GDPRD to be a basis for:

- Dialogue between donors and other actors on how donors can strengthen their catalytic role in supporting food systems transformation
- Donors, individually and collectively, to assess what changes in their investments and programming approach may be appropriate
- Donors to consider new joint or aligned efforts to improve the overall enabling environment for food systems transformation
- Supporting collaboration between the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and donors, and, where appropriate, contribution of donors' interventions to the implementation of countries' national pathways
- The GDPRD to identify priority areas to support its membership in following up on the FSS
- Following up on how donors have responded to support food systems transformation.





# 2 Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit

## 2.1 Overview of the United Nations food systems process

The United Nations Food Systems Summit was announced by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2019 as part of a decade of action focused on achieving the SDGs by 2030. A pre-Summit was held on 26–28 July 2021 in Rome, followed by the main Summit in New York on 23–24 September 2021, in which over 90 heads of state and many other stakeholders participated.

Analysis and engagement for the Summit was structured around five **Action Tracks**. Actors from across the food system were invited to contribute **game-changing solutions**, form **alliances or coalitions** for food systems change and make **commitments**, all of which were catalogued and made available on the Food Systems Summit website. Framed as a “people’s summit,” the process of preparation leading up to the Summit involved extensive engagement with stakeholder groups at national and global levels through **food systems dialogues**. At the national level, Member States were invited to develop and submit **national pathways** for food systems transformation, which were generally informed by the national dialogues. The main elements and outputs of the FSS process are summarized in **FIGURE 3**.

Not all stakeholder groups and individuals were supportive of the FSS process, which was criticized for a perceived lack of transparency and inclusion, in particular by a significant group of civil society organizations. This resulted in the organization of a **Global People’s Summit on Food Systems**, held in parallel with the FSS. It gathered more than 100 movements and civil society organizations and produced a **People’s Declaration** and an accompanying **People’s Action Plan**, with a focus on the struggle for just, equitable, healthy, sustainable, diverse and local food systems.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Elements and outputs of the United Nations Food Systems Summit**

FSS PROCESS	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS
Action Tracks	Analysis and engagement for the Summit was structured around five Action Tracks, each of which had multistakeholder working groups and produced background and synthesis papers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>5 Action Tracks</u></li> <li>- <u>400 people involved</u></li> <li>- <u>200 representatives from governments</u></li> </ul>
Dialogues	<p>The process leading up to the Summit involved extensive engagement with stakeholder groups at national and global levels through food systems dialogues. Links to the final synthesis reports can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Third Member State Dialogue Report (September 2021)</u></li> <li>- <u>Third Synthesis of Independent Dialogues Report (September 2021)</u></li> <li>- <u>Synthesis of Global Dialogues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>10 global dialogues</u></li> <li>- <u>Over 550 national dialogues</u></li> <li>- <u>Over 900 independent dialogues</u></li> </ul>
Game-changing solutions	Game-changing solutions were submitted by stakeholders to the Summit process during two waves in 2021. The game-changing solutions are propositions for policy innovation, institutional transformation, technological change and private sector initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>2,200 game-changing solutions</u></li> </ul>
Scientific Group	To facilitate and drive the collation and integration of relevant evidence, a Scientific Group was convened by the Secretariat in 2020. Members participated in the leadership of each Action Track and contributed a scientific paper for each.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Science Reader for the UNFSS</u></li> <li>- <u>Science Days, 5-9 July 2021</u></li> <li>- <u>7 peer-reviewed reports</u></li> </ul>
Coalitions	The FSS encouraged the formation of <u>coalitions</u> - groups of people or institutions (state and/or non-state actors) to champion integrated, systemic and scalable actions to address specific food systems issues. Coalitions aligned themselves with one of the Action Tracks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>26 coalitions</u></li> </ul>
Member State pathways	The FSS invited Member States to develop national pathways for food systems transformation. The Member States collaborated with United Nations Country Teams and other stakeholders, framing the pathways around the national food systems dialogues in many cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>110 Member State pathways</u></li> </ul>
Commitments	The Summit opened a Commitment Registry for Member States and other stakeholders to register multistakeholder commitments to accelerate action for food systems transformation to achieve Agenda 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>234 commitments registered</u></li> </ul>

## 2.2 Where did the Food Systems Summit leave us?

There is widespread acknowledgement that the Summit was very successful in putting food systems high on the international agenda, engaging numerous interest groups and having heads of state articulate the need to transform food systems to achieve the SDGs. A common sentiment in public statements and among individuals interviewed for this white paper is that the FSS successfully “changed the narrative” around agriculture, food and development. However, it needs to be acknowledged, post-Summit, that some, including some members of the GDPRD, felt that the Summit did not lead to a sufficiently clear road map for change nor ambitious enough international commitments to action. Views on this global level appear to vary depending on understanding about the purpose of the Summit.

Shifting to the language of food systems is not just semantics. It provides a foundation for more inclusive, integrated and cross-sectoral development



programming, policymaking and investments. Several donors emphasized that they felt that food systems issues are now on the radar of their political leadership in a way that is new and distinctive, both because the United Nations convened the FSS and because the food systems framing creates opportunity to highlight linkages between food and other policy priorities.

Clearly there is much of value that has been achieved by the process leading up to the Summit and by the Summit itself. However, maintaining momentum and reaping the dividends from this will be highly dependent on the effectiveness of coordinated follow-up action. It was noted that in some policy and political contexts, “food systems” remains a hard sell, and the concept of food security (arguably one of the outcomes of a well-functioning food system) is more immediately understood. There is also uncertainty about how the shifts in language can be incorporated into policy decisions related to on-the-ground investments and programming.

A common view is that the Summit has “exploded” a tremendous diversity of issues, ideas, perspectives, ambitions and networks. However, these have not yet coalesced into sufficiently clear frameworks of agreed priorities and directions at either national or global levels. Some Summit participants felt that this opening up of multiple and at times conflicting or incompatible perspectives is an essential and critical part of bringing about systems change and cannot be rushed.

Others felt that the lack of clear international agreements and commitments for change was a lost opportunity potentially undermining the significance of the Summit and its future impact. Some donors thought that a United Nations-led summit should have concluded with Member State commitments and accountability mechanisms in place. Some frustration was voiced about the Summit process being insufficiently clear to Member States and other actors, and sidelining or undermining the CFS, an existing key multilateral institution dealing with food systems, contributing to the difficulty of arriving at more defined and shared outcomes and commitments. Concern was also expressed about an insufficient link between the Summit and the COP26 Climate Conference, with reflections on the important opportunity for a much more direct focus on food systems and climate change at COP27.

The value of the broad-based stakeholder engagement and the extensive dialogue process of the Summit should not be underestimated, despite the expressed concerns and limitations. Food systems transformation cannot be driven in a top-down way and will require understanding and buy-in across interest groups and sectors. In this sense, the Summit has been an ambitious attempt, albeit not fully satisfactory, of the sort of state and non-state actor engagement that will be needed to make progress. The FSS has also given significant legitimacy to thinking and acting from a systems perspective, which should not be undervalued given how siloed, sector-based and discipline-oriented much of society’s problem-solving and policymaking remains.

## SYSTEM WIDE APPROACH OF THE SUMMIT<sup>1</sup>

“It’s not just agriculture. It’s also health and nutrition, environment and other stuff, with human rights all over the place... there’s a real interest in multisector, multistakeholder, multilevel action to take it forward.”

*FSS organizer*

## “FOOD SYSTEMS” IS AN OPEN TERM

“There is no absolute definition of a food system and of ideal food system performance. Everybody comes to the Summit with a different point of view. And that’s healthy and good.”

*FSS organizer*

<sup>1</sup> Quotes have been edited for readability and conciseness.







# 3 Towards a framework for food systems transformation

Deep structural changes will be required in societal attitudes, economic incentives, power relations and political processes if food systems are to be transformed. To respond effectively to the challenges of bringing about a food systems transformation, donors and their partners will need to think more deeply about how change can be facilitated and catalysed (in other words, articulate their theory of change). Intervening to bring about positive change in complex adaptive systems, which is what food systems are, is not a linear or technical process.

Drawing on the many different topics, actions, levers and priorities raised by the FSS, this section offers a framework (**FIGURE 4**) for thinking about change, structured around the **why, what and how of food systems transformation**. To date, much of the dialogue, debate and analysis around food systems has been on why and what changes are needed in food systems. The focus now needs to shift towards **how such changes can be achieved**.

The FSS identified four levers of change, defined as an area of work that has the potential to deliver wide-ranging positive change beyond its immediate focus. These are gender, human rights, finance and innovation. These elements are acknowledged as being critical and are embedded across the **what** and the **how of this framework**. Among these levers, gender is particularly important to make explicit in terms of how food systems are assessed and in changes needed to improve gender equality. Women and girls are often more severely affected by the failings of food systems, while at the same time, improving their economic empowerment and decision-making in food systems can have profound benefits for families, communities and society at large.

This framework is not intended to be a “theory of change” in itself. Rather, it offers an organized overview of the different aspects of food systems transformation

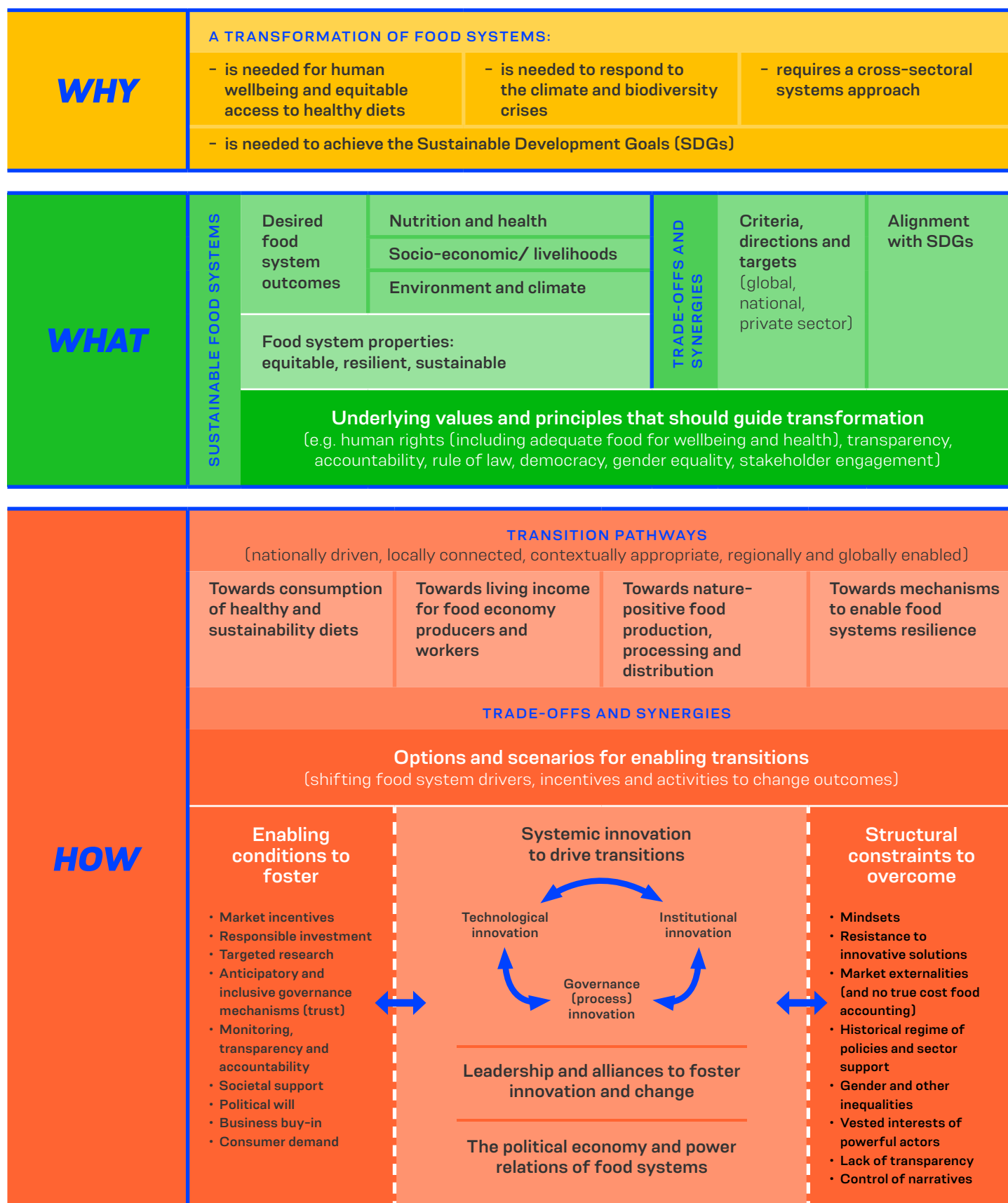
## FOCUS ON LEVERING AND CATALYSING CHANGE

“ Donors should not focus on specific outcome areas. They should focus on the levers and the capabilities for using the levers. The outcome areas almost would take care of themselves, or you’ll get the scientists to come in and advise. But that’s never what the problem is. The problem is the levers. And then the governance to make sure that there’s transparency on the levers and then the skill to deal with the explicit trade-offs that are necessary if governance is going to be done in a fair way.”

*FSS organizer*



**FIGURE 4**  
**Framework for food systems transformation**



Source: Adapted from draft of "Framework for Food Systems Transformation", Jim Woodhill, Nov 2021.

that have been raised by the dialogues and analysis associated with the FSS. An important role for donors can be to support the thinking and analysis needed at national and local levels, within sectors or across the public-private split, to support the “theory of change thinking” needed to develop technically and politically feasible transformation pathways. This requires a strong policy, society, business and science interface and engagement that has been promoted by the FSS.

### 3.1 The why of food systems transformation

Why food systems transformation is needed has become widely analysed, clear to most stakeholder groups, and consistently articulated by political leaders. The current problems and longer-term impacts and risks of how food is currently consumed and produced is well evidenced in terms of health, the environment, climate and equitable economic development. The central role of food systems in achieving the SDGs, and in particular SDG 1 – no poverty – and SDG 2 – zero hunger – is clear. The food “systems” framing of the Summit has underscored the need for a cross-sectoral and systems approach to bring about the needed change.



**WHY**

### 3.2 The what of food systems transformation

The desired **outcomes** from food systems have also been relatively well articulated in terms of ensuring food security and optimal nutrition for all while meeting socio-economic goals (reduced poverty and inequalities) and enabling humanity’s food needs to be met within planetary environmental and climate boundaries.

Overall, food systems are recognized as needing to function with the properties of being **resilient** to **shocks**, **sustainable** over the long term and **equitable** in terms of the costs and benefits to different groups in society.



**WHAT**

Across these food system outcomes and properties, there are inevitable **trade-offs** and **synergies**, which bring with them the potential for both conflict and collaboration between different interest groups. While the broad directions for desired food system outcomes and properties are relatively well established, the nature and extent of these synergies and trade-offs are less well understood. Much more work is also needed to establish specific **criteria**, **directions for change** and **targets** for food system outcomes, which will be necessary to guide transformation at national or local levels, within sectors or across business operations. There is also a need to align criteria and targets used to inform food systems transformation with the SDGs.

The FSS and the work of the CFS – in particular its recently adopted Voluntary Guidelines of Food Systems and Nutrition – have identified **underlying values and principles** that should guide the processes and outcomes of food systems transformation. These include human rights (which includes “the right to a standard of living adequate for health and wellbeing...including adequate food”<sup>2</sup>), sustainability, resilience, transparency, accountability, adherence to the rule of law, stakeholder engagement, gender equality and inclusivity, including of indigenous groups, women, youth and family farmers.

In alignment with the SDGs, food systems that meet desired outcomes and properties, and function in adherence with underlying values and principles, can be considered **sustainable food systems**, an overall encompassing term.

### 3.3 The how of food systems transformation

#### HOW

The transformation of food systems will require a focus on transition pathways, largely driven at the national level but connected with more local processes and enabled by larger-scale system shifts at regional and global scales. Four main **transitions** can be identified from the FSS outcomes: a **consumption shift** to sustainable and healthy diets; **equitable economic opportunity** for food economy producers and workers, including the ability to afford healthy diets; highly **climate-resilient and low-carbon food production**, processing and distribution; and implementation of mechanisms to ensure food systems **resilience**.

Desired food system outcomes can potentially be achieved through multiple different pathways and scenarios with numerous different trade-offs and synergies. For example, consumption shifts could be influenced by food prices and taxes, public education, product labelling or shifts in food marketing practices. Resource efficiency could be achieved by a number of measures, including consuming (at a global level) less animal protein, adopting agroecological and other innovative approaches, energy efficiency, water

management, reducing waste, or new technologies that reduce methane emissions from cattle farming. Equity for those working in the sector could be improved through increased food prices, implementation of labour rights and land tenure rights, various forms of support mechanisms or social protection, improving overall rural economic development or creating more opportunities outside the food sector.

Developing and assessing the **options and scenarios** to enable transitions is where a vast amount of investment and work is needed if food systems are to be sustainably transformed. The FSS process identified a significant number of “game-changing solutions” – ideas that could contribute to developing viable transition pathways but which may need to be further assessed or refined. Further assessment and work will be needed to refine, prioritize and build on

#### SUPPORTING ACTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

“ The Summit unleashed lots of energy, opened lots of doors and has made the ground fertile. Now donors need to support action at the local level with a pivot to country pathways to tackle the challenges.”

*FSS contributor*

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly (1948), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paragraph 25.

this contribution from the Summit. Scenarios can help identify potential trade-offs and co-benefits of those solutions across intended food system outcomes. The principles of equity and inclusion are especially important to consider when analysing options and trade-offs. For example, gender equality is not guaranteed to improve with increased income from food systems activities, and attention must be paid to gender-transformative and inclusive value chain development.

Forms of **systemic innovation** that connect technological, institutional/social and political/governance (process) innovation will be required to develop viable transition pathways. Insights from systems theory and transition theory have much to offer in terms of how to guide and broker change in complex (food) systems. In particular, encouraging, supporting, linking and scaling up “niche” innovations that respond to new needs, challenges and opportunities is vital. This requires adaptation to local contexts and can be supported by territorial approaches to development. Over time, such innovations can help to disrupt existing and unsustainable food systems “regimes” (attitudes, policies, power relations, market relations) and enable more sustainable alternatives to become embedded.

The FSS has helped to identify numerous factors that can be considered **enabling conditions** or **structural constraints** for food systems transformation. Systems change involves “nudging” systems in desirable directions by working to amplify enabling conditions and dampening structural constraints. This requires attention to the underlying political economy. Transformation can be impeded or enhanced depending on the constellation of power relations across societies and food systems. This is particularly salient where influential actors are prepared to defend vested interests at the cost of needed changes to food systems. Mapping and understanding existing interests, incentives and power relations is key to tackling structural constraints and creating enabling conditions for change. Strategic alliances and political leadership are needed to help shift understandings, narratives and power dynamics.

### 3.4 Implications for donors

For donors to engage and contribute effectively to transforming food systems, adopting a systemic approach to their programming will be critical. This means supporting partners to work from a whole-system perspective and overcome traditional disciplinary and sectoral barriers and silos. It also means paying more attention to the processes of how systems change can be inspired, brokered and led across the spheres of government, civil society and business. This requires investing in:

- New institutional arrangements to support integrated cross-sector planning and policy
- Processes of systems analysis, and informed stakeholder engagement, dialogue and collective problem-solving
- Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders, and in particular government ministry and agency staff to broker systems approaches to change.



Food systems, and the wider social, economic, political and natural conditions within which they are nested, are complex adaptive systems. Such systems are self-organizing but also behave in highly complex, unpredictable and at times chaotic ways, with tipping points which, once crossed, can shift the dynamics and stability of an entire system. Linear, highly pre-planned, narrowly target-driven and hierarchically controlled approaches to policy and programming do not align well with the challenges of effecting change in such complex adaptive systems.

To be effective in transforming food systems and tackling the underlying structural constraints that hinder change, donor-supported programmes and projects will need to be designed, managed and evaluated with much more attention to the dynamics of complex adaptive systems. This implies developing processes and capacities within donor agencies and partners to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the intervention context from a systems perspective through dialogue with partner governments and other key stakeholders
- Create shared theories of change (intervention strategies/plans) that are flexible, to adapt to changing circumstances, and that align with the dynamics of how complex systems behave
- Engage in rapid experimentation to test what does and does not work, responding quickly to lessons and accepting that learning from failure is key to systems change
- Enhance territorial approaches which tailor investments and interventions to the context and needs of specific geographic localities and their peoples
- Strengthen foresight and scenario processes to better understand the longer-term implications of current trends and future uncertainties for different stakeholder interests
- Manage interventions, projects and programmes in more learning-oriented and adaptive ways, being optimally responsive to successes, failures and unexpected changes in circumstances.

In summary, the overall implication for donors is a need to pay as much attention to the processes of change they are supporting as to the specific topics of concern, be it improved nutrition, improving incomes for small-scale agriculture or women's empowerment.



# 4 Catalysing change: Areas for action by donors

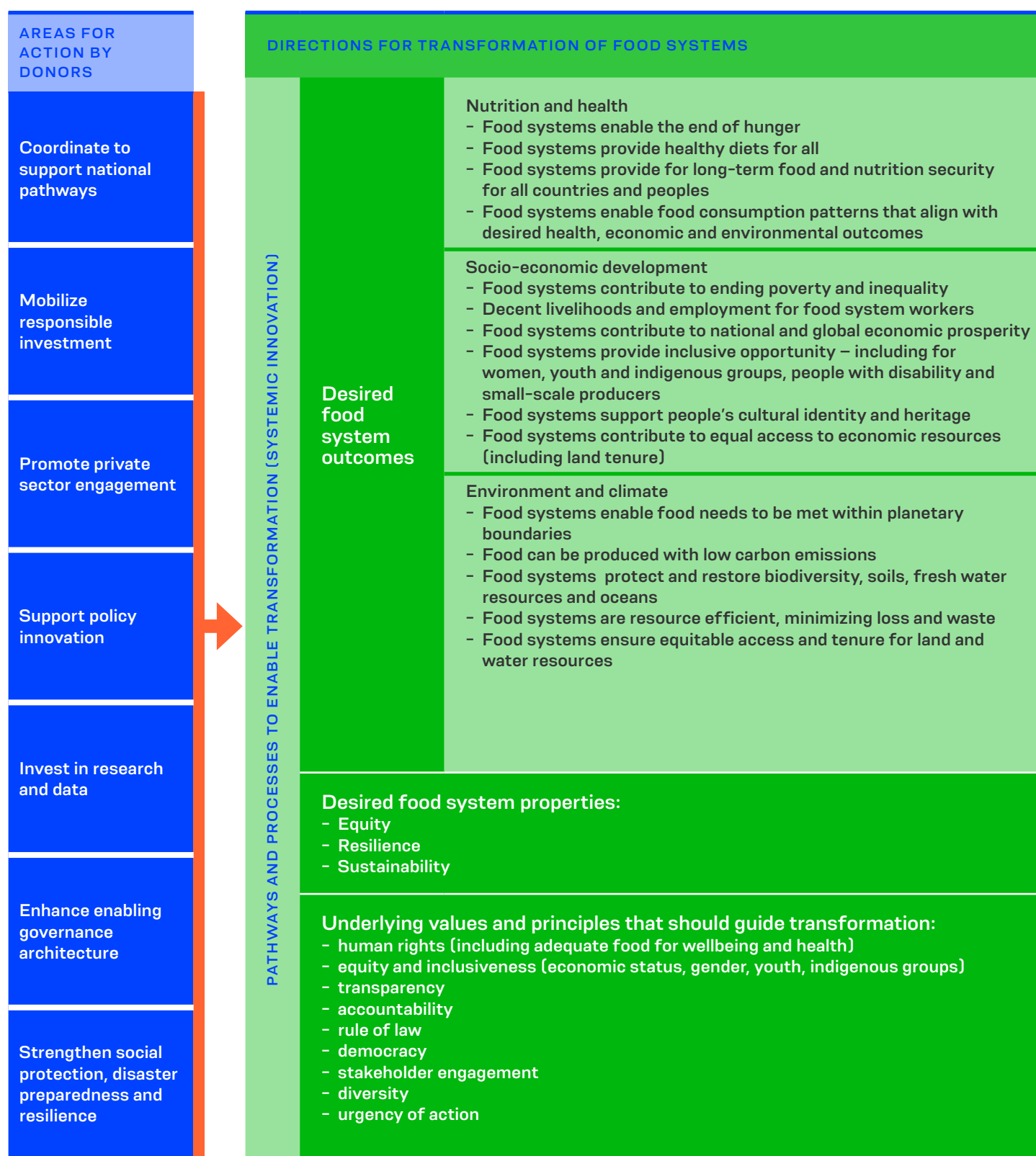
The following section outlines seven areas for action by donors to support food systems transformation (see [FIGURE 5](#)). These areas focus on the catalysing role that donors can play in helping to create an enabling environment for food systems change. They have been identified and developed through the GDPRD's background work and events related to the FSS, reviewing the outcomes of the FSS, and subsequent interviews with donors and others closely involved in the FSS. The Board of the GDPRD has endorsed these areas as a guiding framework for donors to use in considering how their policies, programming and coordination with other actors could best respond to the challenge of transforming food systems to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

The areas for action are cross-cutting and necessary for leveraging change across all aspects of food systems transformation. In reference to the framework for food systems transformation discussed above in [FIGURE 4](#), the action areas are focused on the “how” of transformation. These areas are deliberately not intended to be a listing of all the topic areas that donors see as being critical to food systems transformation, such as nutrition, gender, climate, biodiversity, land tenure, youth or resilience. These cross-cutting topics are all illustrated on the right-hand side of [FIGURE 5](#), and are taken as being fundamental to transforming food systems.

Donors have a particular responsibility to help ensure that food systems transformation is underpinned by attention to inclusion, non-discrimination and human rights, to ensure benefits for all those who live in poverty, suffer from hunger and malnutrition, are in vulnerable situations or experience marginalization. Donors will need to orient their support for food systems transformation to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, calls for building back better and greener, the United Nations Climate Change and Biodiversity Conferences ([UNFCCC COP26](#), [UNCCD COP15](#) and [CBD COP15](#)) and the [Nutrition for Growth Summit](#), considering CFS guidelines and recommendations.

FIGURE 5

The link between the priority areas for donor actions and directions for transformation of food systems





## 4.1 Strengthen coordination among donors and other actors to support national pathways for food systems transformation

The need for coordinated efforts to support national pathways for food systems transformation has emerged as one of the key pillars for taking the outcomes of the FSS forward. Eighty-one governments mentioned improved coordination in

their statements. Effective coordination at national levels also requires coordination at regional and global levels. The policy settings, consumption patterns and trading relations of individual countries can have large interdependencies and impacts on the overall global food system. Despite the principles set by the aid effectiveness agenda, donor coordination remains challenging and is arguably becoming more driven by donors' domestic priorities. The food systems agenda reinforces the importance of country-led and donor-coordinated principles for effective development assistance.

Most crucially, all of the elements of coordination need to acknowledge the national priorities of recipient countries and, in many cases, the national pathways described above. Many interview respondents emphasized the need for donors to be adaptive to national country contexts and to "follow the lead" of recipient countries. Donors should invest not only

in coordinated programming and projects but also in leadership and stakeholder partnership capacity-building to ensure that inclusivity and alignment are possible within countries as well.

To support coordination at the national level for a sustainable food systems transformation, donors can:

- Support collective efforts to further develop national food systems transformation pathways, as appropriate
- Align donor country investments with national pathways and other national plans and strategies to ensure a balanced coverage of national priorities across the investments of individual donors
- Engage actively in national-level donor, sectoral and United Nations coordination mechanisms, and encourage such mechanisms to operate with a food systems perspective

### DONORS SUPPORTING NATIONAL PATHWAYS

“ Having donors pursue [coordination] through national pathways or supporting national priorities rather than their own national interest... To reinforce being able to leverage the UN system as a whole at the country level...There are things that they have control of and can make a contribution to, but [coordination's] going to require also for them a change in thinking.”

*GDPRD member*

- Increase collective or aligned donor investments to support the country-level analysis and planning needed to develop, guide, monitor and adapt national pathways and other national development plans or strategies, as relevant
- Invest in ongoing multistakeholder dialogue and analysis of the longer-term implications and impacts of food systems trends and scenarios
- Catalyse, identify, support and scale up niche innovations that may have the potential to contribute to a food systems transition and positively disrupt existing and unsustainable models, including support for territorial approaches
- Balance investments in field-level direct poverty alleviation projects with support for initiatives aimed at tackling the underlying structural barriers to food systems change
- Individually and collectively invest more efforts in learning lessons from field-level projects about food systems transformation and connect these lessons to national-level policy learning processes with particular attention to policy coherence
- Align and leverage COVID-19 recovery and social protection programming to support national pathways and food systems transformation.

The FSS and statements by heads of state have reinforced how critical food systems are to achieving the 2030 Agenda, and place food systems alongside other perspectives from which the SDGs can be viewed and implemented. This implies a need for donors to ensure their overall portfolio of development investments is balanced in terms of sufficient support for food systems-related investments. Better tracking mechanisms are needed to monitor overall donor support for food systems, building on existing protocols and processes. At the same time, the concept of coordination needs to be unpacked and clarified. Coordination includes aligning investments in specific geographies or topics to avoid duplicating or conflicting with the efforts of other donors or the host government. It also requires communicating with a variety of actors to ensure that individual donor investments are adding up to a sum that is more than the constituent parts, avoiding the creation of fragmented programming and policy. The GDPRD can support communication and alignment between donors, based on shared principals, which can complement more formal coordination mechanisms.

Philanthropic funders can play an important role in supporting food systems innovation. In some contexts they are able to support new initiatives outside established development agendas and the politics of bilateral aid programmes. Several respondents, mostly those not directly within the donor community, noted the energy and innovation coming from some philanthropic donors, in part because their incentive structures are different and they are less embedded in overtly political systems that contribute to domestic and international development priorities. However, philanthropic funders may also pursue their own agendas in ways that add to the challenge of donor coordination. Further, as shown in the GDPRD Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food

#### PARTNERSHIPS VS. COORDINATION

“ Coordination does not necessarily translate into partnership. Partnerships intentionally solve problems together. Coordination is having the right level of visibility of each other’s work, but partnerships are about working together towards one goal.”

*FSS organizer*

Systems, traditional bilateral donors contribute more than 10 times more to food systems aid activity than do philanthropic donors, emphasizing the need for donors of all types to work together and coordinate across their own strengths and perspectives to maximize impact.

## 4.2 Mobilize responsible investment in food systems from the public and private sectors

Transforming food systems will require billions of dollars in new investments. Most of this will need to come from responsible investments by the private sector. However, donors, national governments and public development banks have critical roles to play in catalysing such investment and in creating an enabling investment

environment. The [Food and Land Use Coalition](#) has estimated that transforming food systems to deliver healthy people, a healthy planet and a healthy economy will require between US\$300 and US\$350 billion per year for the next decade – but this could also generate potential economic gains of US\$5.7 trillion annually. Meanwhile, the [Ceres 2030 report](#) estimated that an additional US\$14 billion of donor funding, leveraging US\$33 billion of national government expenditure, will be needed to achieve SDG 2 alone.

To support these financing demands, a FSS coalition to support public development banks to engage more effectively in food system transformation has been formed, led by IFAD. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has committed itself to transformative food security finance. The World Bank Group has established a Food Systems 2030

umbrella trust fund with the aim of helping to steer trillions of dollars of investment into the agriculture and food sectors. Donors need to focus on how they can leverage responsible investment from the private sector and better coordinate public and private investments.

### MOBILIZING AND DEFINING RESPONSIBLE AND EQUITABLE INVESTMENTS

“Focus on equity and inclusion because...it is assumed that if you have stronger coordination, you mobilize more responsible investments, invest in research and the systems, that might come automatically. But sometimes, it doesn't. All these could lead to inequalities if not done right.”

*FSS contributor*

To support responsible investment in food systems, donors can:

- Support the replenishment of international and regional financial institutions, ensuring attention to responsible investment in food systems transformation, and particularly to family farmers and smallholders
- Provide resources for blended financing which integrates grant, concessional and commercial financing to mobilize and de-risk private investments in contexts where the barriers and risks would otherwise be too high
- Support national governments to develop responsible enabling business environments in the agriculture and food sectors
- Support the development of all forms of necessary infrastructure, particularly in poorer and marginal areas, to improve the economic conditions and competitiveness of the agriculture and food sectors in those areas

- Work domestically and collectively with partner governments on how to bring about a change in support measures for the agriculture and food sectors to better incentivize sustainable food systems
- Work collectively to ensure that climate finance is increasingly leveraged to address challenges in the food systems and the needs of rural people experiencing poverty and/or marginalization
- Support value chain development projects which create the conditions and investable project propositions for private financing
- Renew collective efforts across donors, the financial sector, governments and development agencies/non-governmental organizations to provide the financial and business support services needed by the micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) sector
- Encourage conscious efforts across all sectors to integrate the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems into investments and business practices
- Encourage and provide appropriate support to multistakeholder agriculture and food sector roundtable initiatives
- Invest in focused initiatives that support the particular financing needs of women and youth entrepreneurs
- Support IT innovation focused on improving the finance and insurance needs of small-scale and vulnerable producers, including the scaling up of microinsurance schemes.

Responsible investment needs to be mobilized but also defined, possibly by the “what” of the framework presented above, and then all types of investors need to be supported in figuring out how to make their investments responsible. Several interview respondents noted that there is a key role here for donors, since public financing and financial institutions are much closer to the global governance processes that are currently framing food systems transformation than are private finance institutions and investors. If donors can engage private finance, both in terms of sharing information and evidence, and in terms of de-risking certain types of responsible investments, it is much more likely that private investors will take a responsible approach to investing. There are potential opportunities for responsible investments to support the national pathways, coalitions or game changing solutions that emerged from the FSS.

### 4.3 Promote engagement of private sector actors and value chain innovation

The production, processing and distribution of food is largely a private sector exercise, from the smallest family producers and microentrepreneurs through to the largest agribusiness corporations. Food systems will not change without fundamental change in the business models and practices of the agrifood sector. As highlighted by the Summit’s report, A Small Business Agenda, there is tremendous potential for the



micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) sector to play a critical role in transforming food systems and create better jobs and livelihoods. Meanwhile the market power and financial resources of larger firms are critical for helping to shift consumer attitudes and preferences, develop sustainable and equitable supply chains, invest in research, and embed responsible and transparent business practices.

To engage the private sector and support value chain innovation, donors can:

- Support initiatives which bring private sector actors to the table with policymakers, civil society and researchers to explore sustainable food system solutions
- Facilitate the co-design of policy mechanisms between the private sector (including larger firms, MSMEs and farmers' organizations), national governments and other stakeholders
- Support a strong civil society voice helping to hold business to account and raise consumer awareness
- Catalyse the investment in physical infrastructure needed for a viable MSME sector, such as roads, electrical grids, and internet and mobile phone infrastructure, with a focus on areas with high levels of rural poverty and inequality
- Support environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive value chain and sector development by investing in the processes that enable coordination among value chain actors and the collective implementation of sustainable and equitable practices
- Invest in public-private partnerships, which can extend the reach of resilient market-based solutions to poorer producers and communities through inclusive business models
- Invest in human capacity needed to innovate and diversify value chains by supporting agricultural education, advisory services, vocational training programmes and institutions, providing technical assistance and investing in technology transfer
- Prioritize capacity-building for MSMEs to build and expand existing localized value chains and create an enabling environment, with a specific focus on women, youth and other underrepresented entrepreneurs
- Pilot innovative credit and insurance programmes that can increase stability in value chains and decrease vulnerability of individual producers and processors
- De-risk investment by the MSME sector and market relations between larger firms and small-scale suppliers
- Support research that improves the viability and efficiency of value chains for new, sustainable products that can contribute to healthier diets.

Change in business models and practices will be driven in part by the interests, priorities and ethics of the private sector itself, in part by government policy and in part by pressure from consumers and civil society. This occurs in an iterative way over time, and the right support from donors can help to accelerate progress.

There is huge diversity in the food systems private sector, from global multinationals and larger domestic firms through to informal microenterprises. They all operate with vastly different incentives, capacities and constraints yet are highly interconnected through both input and output markets. Creating incentives for sustainable food systems practices across the entire sector while ensuring that smaller enterprises, and the employment they can bring, are not crowded out by larger firms is a critical challenge for the development sector.

Working in partnership with the private sector, and in particular with larger firms, can be difficult for development organizations and agencies. There is often concern over reputational risk. The speed at which the private sector moves is often faster than that at which donors are able to respond, and there may be diverging core interests. Further, the staff of development organizations often lack business knowledge and language skills to engage effectively with the private sector, and private sector actors may not fully appreciate the legitimate constraints and accountability of public sector financing. However, there is significant experience from numerous market development programmes and public-private partnerships over the last two decades to derive best practices. A key challenge for donors and the private sector is to learn from and build from these experiences to establish a new generation of responsible investments that can scale up the collaborative solutions.

## 4.4 Support policy innovation

Substantial shifts in national policies will be needed to create the incentives to drive a transformation of food systems. In essence, policy changes are needed to help correct the significant market externalities and perverse incentives that currently exist in the food economy. Most interview respondents focused on the need for innovative policies around repurposing agriculture sector support, removing market distortions and shifting other types of incentives for both producers and consumers, as well as the importance of overall policy coherence. Policy innovation should focus on setting minimum standards for nutrition, sustainability and livelihoods in the short term while creating incentives to achieve more ambitious longer-term goals.

Food systems thinking needs to be integrated into national planning processes, overall economic policy and sector strategies. Policy changes are specifically needed to strengthen public awareness and education, including through labelling, reorient sector support, improve food nutritional and safety standards, create a more enabling business environment for responsible investment, improve rural infrastructure, align taxation and support measures with desired food systems outcomes, and support national innovation and research programmes. Policy innovation also requires a strong evidence base to make the case for doing things differently, while the science-policy interface requires investments in research that can demonstrate benefits, trade-offs and system properties, and translation of this research into actionable policy.

To support such policy innovation and implementation, donors can:

- Align with other donors to support national-level food systems policy innovation processes, including applied research, stakeholder engagement and capacity development
- Invest in cross-country food systems policy learning at regional and global scales, including South-South and triangular exchange
- Invest in the research, economic modelling and information synthesis needed to support policy transitions and better understand overall cost-benefits and how to manage trade-offs
- Support the development of alternative policy scenarios for pilot countries that could help to illustrate the longer-term benefits of possible transition pathways
- Encourage and support governments in designing policies for a better food environment and healthy and responsible consumption
- Ensure that donor-supported research through national and international research institutions is sufficiently focused on the political economy and policy aspects of food systems and undertaken in ways that are relevant for policymakers and advocacy groups
- Work to ensure coherence between donor countries' own food systems-related policies and policy change in partner countries, particularly in relation to sector support, trade and regulations governing business practices
- Repurpose subsidies to ensure alignment with intended food systems outcomes and underlying principles
- Support institutional innovation to improve access to finance and technology transfer.

Food systems may often not be the policy priority of interest groups, politicians or policymakers. Achieving policy change to improve food systems will often require linking food systems issues to other policy issues that may have a higher priority – including, for example, climate change, economic development, employment, health, security and defence, or migration. Employment, food prices and climate change are “relevant political opportunities” as one respondent put it, and donors should be mindful of those opportunities both within their domestic policy context and the policy contexts of recipient countries. Another important theme from the FSS was that food markets do not reflect the true cost of food in terms of impact on the environment, impact on health or paying decent incomes for those who produce food or work in the sector.

The need for such a broad-based and deep shift in policies presents politicians and policymakers with a profound challenge. The vested interests of powerful groups are closely tied to the existing policy regime and patterns of public expenditure. Strong constituencies for change must be developed with widespread stakeholder consultation and engagement. A phased transition of policy will be needed to enable sectors to adjust to avoid political backlash. Ultimately, political will is needed to transition into a policy regime that is in the longer-term food system interests of society at large.



## 4.5 Invest in research and data systems

Relevant research and improved data and evidence will be critical to underpin food systems transformation. However, research programmes need to be more multidisciplinary, aligned with system-wide challenges and better integrate technical, institutional and political forms of innovation. Research must be embedded within a wider concept of systemic innovation with a strong science, policy and society interface. Further, to provide system-relevant knowledge, more effort is needed to synthesize research in ways that make it relevant for decision-making.

A clear message from the FSS and interview respondents is the need to orient both research and data systems to the SDGs and the agreed indicators of impact that are a part of the 2030 Agenda. From a research point of view, this means focusing on systems-oriented research questions and designs, and being sensitive to context and cross-cutting themes such as gender and equity. From a data systems point of view, this means ensuring that data can be harmonized to contribute to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs.

### ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF DATA

**“ I think we need much more investment in data and evidence and research...but you must also require that this data is being used for informed decision-making – that is, just being made widely accessible so that it’s empowering, not just to governments, but to farmers, to policymakers and other stakeholders.”**

*FSS contributor*

To target investment in research and data on food systems, donors can:

- Align and coordinate on consistent metrics for food systems outcomes and ensure that data can be disaggregated by gender and age whenever possible, with special attention to the most vulnerable
- Increase and target funding for the OneCGIAR and other research programmes and institutions to reflect context-specific needs and priorities
- Support research systems and approaches which connect directly with the needs of small-scale producers and focus on research uptake and the scaling of innovation
- Ensure funding and support for the CFS’s High Level Panel of Experts, as a strong and recognized science-policy interface promoting food systems
- Support training programmes in data management to empower countries to retain full control of their own data
- Build the data management and reporting infrastructure to maximize data use and transparency, including data dashboards and other public reporting
- Coordinate to ensure an overall research and data agenda and that all key aspects are being adequately funded on a consistent basis over time
- Increase support for foresight and scenario work to contribute to national planning efforts
- Maintain and expand unified United Nations statistical systems that can present and link food systems-relevant data

- Support national agricultural research systems, national statistical capacities, and data collection and reporting infrastructure
- Support a shift towards new areas of research to enable food systems outcomes
- Channel local knowledge, citizen science and indigenous genetic resources into research and innovation wherever feasible
- Balance the keeping of data and genetic resources as a public good while creating incentives for private sector investment in sustainable food systems research.

In general, data-gathering and national statistical systems remain limited in terms of being able to provide integrated information on the status and trends of the key drivers, activities and outcomes of food systems. This significantly hampers evidence-based policymaking and the ability of policymakers to be adaptive and responsive to changing situations. With increasing turbulence and uncertainty in the world, illustrated by the impacts of COVID-19, real-time monitoring of key food systems parameters will become more important for adaptive policymaking. New mobile technologies, remote sensing, big data, computer modelling and collective sense-making technologies – with due regards to data privacy and safety – all offer tremendous potential for improving data systems. Donors should pay particular attention to issues of inequality in access to new technologies, data and information, without which further marginalizes vulnerable populations and remote communities.

There is an opportunity to align the food systems transformation framework emerging out of the FSS with the SDGs in terms of the “what,” so that the existing evidence base can provide the starting point for more targeted research on food systems needs in specific contexts. This alignment of metrics should ideally be a part of broader coordination efforts at global, regional and national levels.

## KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND TRANSFER

“ I think the key here is actually having donors and development partners be able to disseminate, transfer a lot of skills and a lot of knowledge and a lot of evidence that they already have, and to be able to support especially developing countries to make a better use of such a system, because in the end, for it to be sustainable, those countries need to have the capacity to be able to do these things.”

GDPRD member

A somewhat related challenge is the lack of transparency and sharing back to recipient countries of monitoring and evaluation data for use by recipient country policymakers over time. There is also a clear need for research in non-traditional areas, including post-harvest loss, value chain logistics, fortification and other improved processing techniques, and a broader range of appropriate digital technologies. The crucial leadership role that the OneCGIAR plays in the research space is widely acknowledged. Interview respondents emphasized the need for increased investment in the system to enhance and expand the context-specific evidence generated from CGIAR and other partners' research efforts.

## 4.6 Strengthen governance for food systems transformation

The current problems of food systems, highlighted in much of the FSS process and outputs, emphasize that governance mechanisms are struggling to deliver the decisions needed, from local to global scales, to transform food systems. What the FSS process has also illustrated well is how critical the engagement of different sectors and interests is for creating a collective understanding of the challenges, generating innovative solutions and following through with action. Ultimately, national governments will need to take transformative policy decisions. However, this is only possible if social, business and political support for changing food systems has been mobilized.

Further, given the complexity of food systems, effective policymaking requires solutions and directions to be co-developed with actors across the entire food system. The food systems dialogues, made possible through donor funding, have illustrated the benefits and potential of widespread stakeholder engagement. Given the varied levels and sectors in which transformative action is required, governance will probably need to be polycentric, formal and informal, inclusive and adaptive over space and time. Accountability and stocktaking on intended and actual food systems outcomes are critical elements of an effective food systems governance architecture.

Food systems governance is diverse and multifaceted. It includes, for example, coordination of sectors, national policymaking, decision-making in agribusiness firms and financial institutions, community engagement and planning at the local government level, multistakeholder roundtable commodity platforms, trade bodies and the functioning of multilateral institutions, including the CFS. The FSS did not call for any change to the global food systems architecture. However, there are numerous ways in which food systems governance mechanisms can be strengthened and improved from local to global levels by, for example, enhancing capacities to understand and analyse food systems, increasing transparency and accountability, and increasing engagement, dialogue and coordination between different actors and interest groups.

A key element of food systems governance is to ensure that the interests and voices of all groups are equitably heard, considered and responded to, with particular attention to the concerns of women, youth, small-scale producers, family farmers, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, minorities, local communities and all those living in poverty.

To support improved food systems governance, donors can:

- Encourage and support effective multistakeholder engagement processes at local and national levels, which includes building capacity to design and facilitate such processes within government and by non-state actors
- Encourage and support cross-ministerial and whole-of-government mechanisms to help drive national food systems transformation
- Provide resources for the voices and interests of groups that are experiencing poverty or marginalization to be effectively represented in any multistakeholder or policy development forums and processes

- Collaborate with the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub to ensure an effective follow-up to the implementation of the Summit's outcomes
- Maintain and strengthen support for the CFS and its High Level Panel of Experts, including by ensuring that resources are available for their policy role, substantive analytical work and effective monitoring and reporting, as well as by following the CFS's policy guidance
- Support regional intergovernmental forums, multistakeholder networks and think tanks, as relevant, which can help to strengthen regional cooperation on food systems transformation – for example, on issues of trade, policy innovation, cross-boundary natural resources management or scientific collaboration
- Keep food systems and related issues as priority issues for consideration by leaders in the G20 and G7, and forge connections with other forums and summits – for example, COP27+ and the World Economic Forum
- Encourage and support the reformed CGIAR system to provide food system-wide and policy-relevant research and analysis
- Maintain and strengthen support for civil society organizations (including producer organizations, consumer groups, women's forums, youth groups and indigenous groups) that are working on food systems, and enable them to bring a balancing power and accountability to the interests of business and the State
- Explicitly and consistently leverage global and national accountability mechanisms related to the SDGs, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, for food systems transformation.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR LEVERAGING CHANGE

**“ The Global Donor Platform has the capacity to encourage both single-stakeholder work and multistakeholder work. It also has money and opportunity that can actually encourage this work within the context of strategy development in countries. So the donors, by connecting with ministers and by the virtue of the resources they have, can create both the political cover and context and also some of the resourcing necessary for this work to be done.”**

*FSS contributor*

Strengthening or re-imagining governance structures and mechanisms will require political will at all levels. Donors will need to work towards removing silos from their budgets and investments, and ideally will need to address perverse policies and governance mechanisms within their home country settings. Recipient country national governments will need to reconsider the organization and coordination of ministries and other government agencies, to facilitate integrated policy and programming. All of these shifts will need to include a commitment to processes that reflect the underlying principles necessary for equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems transformation. Donors can help create political will for structural transformation and associated changes in governance through a combination of incentives, expectations and leadership.



The specific structure of food systems governance mechanisms at national and global levels is likely to need to be improved and will include a mix of existing and new approaches. In interviews, some donors highlighted the need to leverage existing institutions and mechanisms: **“Our take is that we don’t have time for building something different. We have to strengthen and support what already exists.”** The key existing governance mechanism at the global level is the CFS with its High Level Panel of Experts which provides support for global alignment and space for the science-policy interface. However, innovative investments and levers for change may also require innovations in governance structures. The critical role of appropriate governance mechanisms to drive pathways for food systems transformation at the country-level was emphasized. Governance at all levels is related to accountability, which points to the need for global coordination, as well as alignment of data collection systems to ensure consistent measurement of indicators of change.

## 4.7 Strengthen universal social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes

The critical importance of enhancing the resilience of food systems to protect against future shocks was a core message from the FSS. This is particularly important in terms of protecting the nutrition and livelihoods of poorer groups in society and those who live in vulnerable contexts. This need has been highlighted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recent droughts and locust plagues. It becomes even more important in the context of the impacts of climate change, including increasing extreme weather events, climate-related natural disasters, rapid biodiversity loss and changing patterns of pest and disease outbreaks. Social protection mechanisms are a key to being able to uphold human rights, which includes the right to a standard of living adequate for health and wellbeing, including adequate food. The **GDPRD Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems** shows donors increasing their expenditure on emergency relief responses, without increasing expenditure on measures to build greater resilience. This is obviously an unsustainable approach over the longer term.

### SOCIAL PROTECTION WILL ALWAYS BE NEEDED

**“ There’s the third group that are starting from such a low base. They are so much affected by externalities that the only thing that works for them is social protection, whether these are groups in conflict, whether these are the landless, whether these are the urban, poor and informal settlements, there is no other way other than social protection.”**

*FSS organizer*

To support universal social protection, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes, and enhance food system resilience, donors can:

- Support partner countries to develop and implement universal social protection measures fit for the specific needs of those living in poverty and/or in vulnerable contexts
- Integrate measures to protect food production and distribution, and sustain adequate nutrition in times of crisis, including through school meals programmes
- Support the development of innovative forms of insurance to reduce the vulnerability of farmers and MSMEs
- Integrate resilience and disaster preparedness programming into country strategies and projects related to agriculture, human and ecological health, biodiversity and climate
- Increase funding for research and learning on building food systems resilience to decrease vulnerability
- Help to strengthen national, regional and global early warning, foresight and scenario processes to enable more proactive responses to potential risks or emerging crises
- Ensure adequate and equitable resources for rapid emergency responses, including local sourcing of food and other supplies
- Better integrate development and humanitarian programming in a nexus approach, to build resiliency and decrease vulnerability to future crises and hazards
- Promote the institutionalization of appropriate labour standards in the governance of food systems to support equity of economic opportunity, enabling workers to earn a decent income and to ensure worker health and safety.

Despite its importance, social protection was not a strong theme of the Summit process and not extensively mentioned by interview respondents, who focused more on the need to link emergency relief to longer-term resilience-building. There is, however, a consistent message that universal social protection can provide emergency crisis response, facilitate faster and more inclusive socio-economic recovery and enhance long-term resilience against future shocks. Equally important, there will always be a need for social protection for the most vulnerable, and those programmes should include a food systems approach to thinking about improving resilience and equity.



# 5 Follow-up implications, opportunities and priorities for the GDPRD

Progress on the food systems transformation agenda is profoundly important for rural development and achieving SDG 2 – the core focus of the GDPRD. GDPRD

## GDPRD AS AN INFORMAL MEETING PLACE

“ The GDPRD can play a neutral broker role – creating a safe place for discussion between members.”

*GDPRD member*

members and other actors have recognized that the Platform can offer a valuable space for donors to exchange views and ideas for following up the Summit, as a convener and facilitator of knowledge exchange on food systems-related issues in donors' development policies. Within the context of the GDPRD's overall strategic plan, the following three main areas for attention have been identified.

### Liaison on follow-up to the FSS:

- Share information within donors and between donors on FSS follow-up, including on the work and progress of coalitions and how they are being supported by different donors
- General updates to GDPRD members on food systems developments and upcoming events
- Support information-sharing between donors to help align responses to future food systems-related events and forums.

## COORDINATION IS NEEDED

“ Coordination, it seems obvious, and one would take it for granted, but it is not. The coordination, exchange of information and dialogue, joint analysis etc. – it's absolutely crucial, and the Platform is playing a key role in that.”

*GDPRD member*



### Undertake focused cross-donor research, analysis and convening on priority themes:

- Undertake a lessons learned study on country-level coordination and the implications for donors supporting national pathways
- Assess the value of developing a stream of work on catalysing and de-risking finance in collaboration with the Public Development Banks Coalition
- Organize resources and events on experiences of embedding systems thinking and practice into donor food systems-related investments and programming.

### LEARNING ACROSS COUNTRIES

**“ A race to the top, instead of a race to the bottom, with good practices, to learn from each other, to scale, to replicate.”**

*GDPRD member*

### Knowledge-sharing and brokering:

- GDPRD members should share their policy and programming responses to the FSS outcomes
- Update presentations from members of the FSS coalitions
- Series of topical virtual webinars and roundtables on key food systems themes/issues in response to member requests and emerging issues, and publication of key reports, as relevant
- Roundtables/webinars at the request of members (e.g. on agroecology).

### OPENING UP ON DIFFICULT ISSUES

**“ That’s what a platform’s for, isn’t it? Not always bringing the positive messages but facilitating discussion on difficult issues such as reorienting investment in food systems. That, I think, is a big opportunity.”**

*GDPRD member*





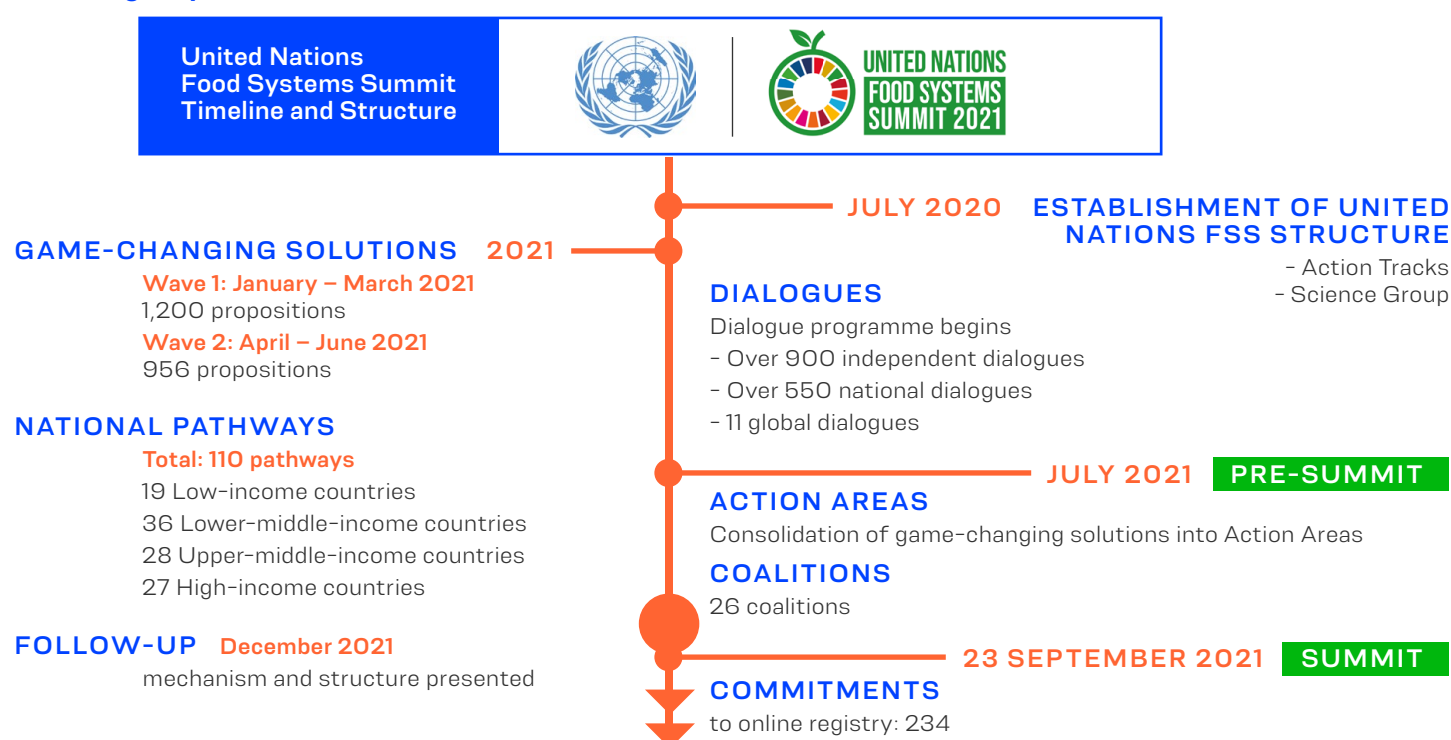
# ANNEX A

## OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

### A.1 Overview of the United Nations food systems process

The Summit was announced in 2020, with its timeline and structure shown in **FIGURE A1**. The lead-up to the Summit engaged stakeholder groups at national and global levels through food systems dialogues. Some 1,450 dialogues involving over 7,000 people were held, over 2,000 game-changing solutions were submitted, 26 coalitions were formed, 234 commitments were made, and national pathways were submitted by 110 countries. This represents an impressive scale of stakeholder engagement. It also seems clear that the virtual medium enabled a wider degree of inclusion for some who would not normally participate in face-to-face events. However, in the context of being presented by the United Nations as a “people’s summit,” there are still many who do not have the digital skills or access to participate in such a process. The virtual format also hampered more in-depth discussions between the participants during the Summit.

**FIGURE A1**  
A timeline of the 18-month process of the United Nations Food Systems Summit showing important workstreams



## A.2 Food Systems Summit outputs

This section provides an overview of the outcomes from each of the different FSS processes.

### DIALOGUES

The FSS dialogues were a key mechanism for gathering diverse stakeholder input across national and global scales. There were 10 global dialogues, more than 550 national dialogues organized by 148 national conveners, and over 900 independent dialogues. Summaries of the messages from the dialogues were collated in synthesis reports. For the independent and the Member State dialogues, three synthesis reports were developed. The third round of synthesis reports summarized all dialogues convened up to September 2021. Links to the final synthesis reports can be found here:

- [Third Member State Dialogue Report](#) (September 2021)
- [Third Synthesis of Independent Dialogues Report](#) (September 2021)
- [Synthesis of Global Dialogues](#).

The Member State dialogues focused on the complexity of food systems and the need to set priorities for a food systems transformation. They recognized the need for effective engagement between stakeholders and in-depth analysis and discussion, given the multiple objectives, options and pathways for transforming food systems. Many dialogues also approached food systems through an understanding of food as a human right and focused on the critical role of food systems in fulfilling the SDGs.

A resounding message from both Member State and independent dialogues was the need to focus sharply on transforming food systems at the national level. Global discussion and global initiatives will not be effective without action being supported at the national level. It is the national governments that need to lead in mobilizing and engaging with relevant stakeholders and drive collective action for food systems transformation.

The dialogues were extremely valuable in how they facilitated discussion between diverse stakeholders across sectors and interest groups. Such broad-scale dialogue around the future of food systems had never occurred before. The Member State dialogues provided important input for the development of the national pathways. The independent dialogues universally underscored the need to move from siloed approaches towards integrated and systemic transformation strategies.

### TOP INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE TOPICS

- Sustainability
- Youth engagement
- Framing
- Nutrition
- Resiliency
- Women/gender
- Climate change
- Transformation
- Food security
- Innovation
- Food for all
- Agriculture
- Inclusion
- Financing and investment

*Adapted from Synthesis of  
Independent Dialogues, Report 3  
(2021)*



**ACTION TRACKS AND GAME-CHANGING SOLUTIONS**

More than 2,000 game-changing solutions were gathered in two waves during the first half of 2021, and categorized based on the Action Track topics. The game-changing solutions are propositions for policy innovation, institutional transformation, technological change and private sector initiatives. Common topics for the solutions are food security measures, restoring and protecting ecosystems, and rebalancing agency in food systems. Many reflect the need for capacity-building in food systems. The game-changing solutions vary in their levels of innovation. Many of the solutions focus on global-level processes, so they must be connected to action at local, national or regional level. **TABLE A1** provides examples of some of the game-changing solutions aligned with the Action Tracks. These ideas can be valuable resources for consideration in the further development and implementation of national pathways and in advancing the work of the coalitions.

**TABLE A1**  
**Examples of game-changing solutions submitted to the United Nations Food Systems Summit process and categorized based on the Action Tracks**

ACTION TRACK	SUB-ACTION AREA	SOLUTION
<b>AT1</b> Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all	Reducing hunger and boosting food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Put farmers' access to crop diversity first in seed policy and practice</li> <li>- Boost sustainable food production through solar-powered irrigation through multi-stakeholder partnerships</li> <li>- Launch a coalition for youth in African agriculture</li> <li>- Leverage women's tenure security in collectively held lands for equitable and sustainable food systems</li> </ul>
	Increasing access to nutritious foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve young children's diets through a systematic analysis and a systems approach</li> <li>- Increase the production and consumption of vegetables for livelihoods and health</li> </ul>
	Cross-cutting solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop national development plans for sustainable and inclusive livestock sectors</li> <li>- Strengthen and mainstream true cost accounting to redefine value in food systems</li> </ul>
<b>AT2</b> Shift to sustainable and healthy consumption patterns	Marketing and advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Optimize and improve consumer information for healthy diets from sustainable production systems</li> </ul>
	Finance and investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a dedicated global financing facility for food systems transition</li> </ul>
	One Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage globally to combat antimicrobial resistance via the One Health approach</li> </ul>
	Short supply chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support short food supply chains by proposing a programme to motivate national and local authorities to support direct trade relationships between producers and consumers</li> </ul>
<b>AT3</b> Boost nature-positive production	Protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage groundwater resources more sustainably through social learning interventions</li> <li>- Apply the integrated supply chain approach to deforestation from agricultural commodities production</li> <li>- Communities design/build/manage full-cycle, climate-resilient, ecological food hubs</li> </ul>
	Restore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adapt no-till farming through collaborative innovation with farmers and scientists</li> <li>- Restore soil health on 200 million hectares of farmland in Africa to sequester carbon, increase farm productivity and farmer incomes, and improve water and nutrient use efficiency</li> </ul>

ACTION TRACK	SUB-ACTION AREA	SOLUTION
<b>AT4</b> Advance equitable livelihoods	Eliminating worker exploitation and ensuring decent work in food systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve working and living conditions and uphold human rights on board fishing vessels</li> <li>- Eliminate child labour and promote decent youth employment in agriculture</li> </ul>
	Rebalancing agency in food systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close the gender gap in financial inclusion in food systems</li> <li>- Support the food processing initiative of the informal women workers knowledge hubs for mainstreaming human rights</li> <li>- Put the right to food at the heart of food systems</li> <li>- Empower smallholders as informed market players, using the farm business school approach</li> </ul>
	Localizing food systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote agritourism to advance small-scale food producers' equitable livelihoods</li> <li>- Align efforts in the smallholder farmers' support ecosystem</li> </ul>

\* Action Track 5 gathered game-changing solutions in solution clusters.

### SCIENTIFIC GROUP

The Summit was framed by the Special Envoy as being driven by data, evidence and scientific analysis of current and future food systems. To facilitate and drive the collation and integration of relevant evidence, the Scientific Group was convened in 2020. Scientific Group members participated in the leadership of each Action Track and contributed a scientific paper for each, which summarized the evidence base of the current state and future directions of each Action Track. In addition, the Scientific Group released [seven peer-reviewed reports](#) on cross-cutting topics, including the true price of food, synergies and trade-offs among

SDGs, and definitions for food systems components and outcomes. The Scientific Group also invited [Food Systems Summit briefs](#) from research partners to support specific topics that emerged through the Summit process. There are currently 41 of these briefs, many of which focus on topics that specifically relate to coalitions, national pathways and commitments.

### FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT BRIEFS

- **Modelling food systems transformations: 3 briefs**
- **Science, technology and innovation: 8 briefs**
- **Equity, inclusiveness and nutrition and health: 11 briefs**
- **Sustainable resource use and foresight: 7 briefs**
- **Investment, finance, trade and governance: 3 briefs**
- **Actions on regions and countries: 9 briefs**

In addition to writing and soliciting data-driven and peer-reviewed reports and briefs, the Scientific Group has liaised with a wide range of research partners, with the goal of linking evidence to action. The Scientific Group also acted as a clearinghouse of recent literature with relevance to food systems transformation and of upcoming and recent events of interest. The future role of the Scientific Group is not clear, and there is a need to clarify alignment with the functions of the High Level Panel of Experts of the CFS in providing scientific guidance.

### COALITIONS

The FSS encouraged the formation of [coalitions](#) – groups of people or institutions (state and/or non-state actors) – to champion integrated, systemic, scalable actions to address specific food systems issues. Coalitions aligned themselves with one of the Action Tracks and one or more game-changing solutions. The 26 coalitions are listed in [TABLE A2](#), with links to more detailed information about their purposes and membership. The coalitions can help to transcend the dichotomy

of donors and beneficiaries through interest communities of countries and other actors that see shared challenges.

The coalitions cover a wide range of issues, from more technical topics such as soil health to fundamental economic issues such as the true value of food. A concept note covering the objectives, justification for, implementation and membership can be found on the [FSS website](#). How coalitions will function, develop and be supported to achieve their stated objectives remains an open question. Following up to ensure optimal value from the coalitions is likely to be an important role for the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. It is likely that many of the coalitions will need additional resources to realize their objectives. Connecting their work to the national pathways and to national and local actions will be key to their impacts.

## PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

“The solutions side of the Summit came through with a lot of game-changer initiatives. But it also showed that these are operating in a piecemeal way. It took the Summit process to run its course to bring forward the kinds of more coordinated, integrated coalitions that were needed if you’re going to address this holistically and systemically.”

*FSS contributor*

**TABLE A2**  
**Coalitions of the United Nations Food Systems Summit categorized based on Action Areas**

ACTION AREAS	COALITIONS
1. Nourish all people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">A Coalition of Action for Achieving Zero Hunger</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">The Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children &amp; All</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">School Meals Coalition: Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Coalition on Food Is Never Waste</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">The True Value of Food Initiative</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Social Protection for Food Systems Transformation Consortium</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">The Coalition on Family Farming and on strengthening actions in support of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming</a></li> </ul>
2. Boost nature-based solutions of production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">A Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">The Coalition for Aquatic/Blue Foods</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Resizing the livestock industry</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Global Sustainable Livestock Coalition</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Restoring grasslands, shrublands and savannahs through sustainable extensive livestock-based food systems</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">A Global Action Agenda to Advance Nature-Positive Innovation</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">The Coalition to Repurpose Public Support to Food and Agriculture</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Commodities</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Better Data Better Decisions for Nature-Positive Production</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Land and Freshwater Nexus</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Agrobiodiversity</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation</a></li> </ul>
3. Advance equitable livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Coalition of Action on Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for All Food Systems Workers</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Coalition on Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Food Systems</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Social Protection for Food Systems Transformation Consortium</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems</a></li> </ul>
4. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Local Food Supply Chains Alliance</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Climate Resilient Development Pathways (CRDP): Food Systems for all beyond 2030</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Fighting Food Crises along the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus</a></li> </ul>
5. Means of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Public Development Banks Coalition</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">International Coalition to strengthen territorial governance for sustainable food systems</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">A Global Coalition for Digital Food Systems</a></li> </ul>

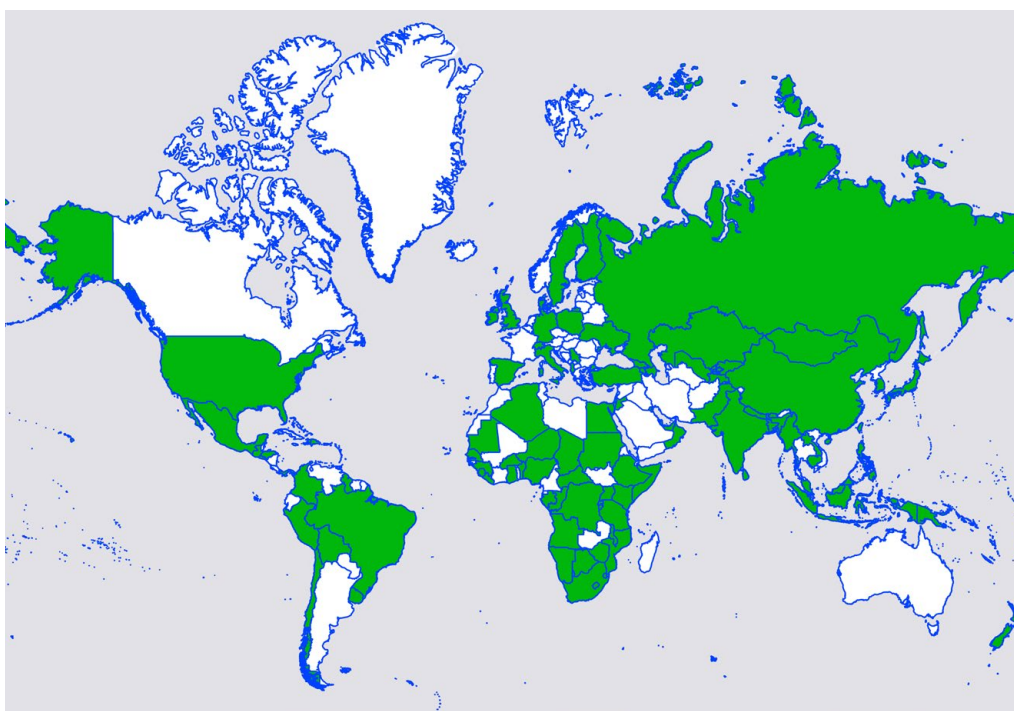
The FSS invited Member States to develop and submit national pathways for food systems transformation. By the end of 2021, 110 such pathways had been submitted

(see [FIGURE A2](#)). These were developed by Member State governments, often in collaboration with United Nations Country Teams and other stakeholders, and in many cases, they were informed by the national food systems dialogues. The Summit Secretariat set guidelines for what should be included in the national pathways, including information and evidence about the context of and challenges for the national food system, visions and objectives for transformation, and actions, responsibilities, timelines and monitoring processes.

“Donor coordination in-country is an age-old conversation. And perhaps the national pathways out of the Food Systems Summit is a way to refocus or reinvigorate that discussion in specific countries.”

GDPRD member

**FIGURE A2**  
**Map of countries that had submitted national pathways to the FSS Secretariat by the end of 2021**



The pathways submitted are quite diverse in what they cover and in their levels of detail. In general, they identify current issues and future objectives for food systems transformation. They are less specific about how such transformation can be achieved or the institutional mechanisms that may be needed to ensure a coordinated food systems approach. As illustrated in **FIGURE A3**, a partial analysis of a sample of the national pathways shows a strong focus on production-level innovation for agricultural practices and attention to the consumption-level practices for nutrition and health.



FIGURE A3

Summary review of topics included in 29 example national pathways  
(green topic covered, yellow topic partly covered, orange topic not covered)

	BOTSWANA	SRI LANKA	NIGERIA	LIBERIA	SUDAN	ZIMBABWE	CHINA	INDIA	BRAZIL	SOUTH AFRICA	MALAWI	MOZAMBIQUE	BANGLADESH	UGANDA	PAKISTAN	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	ETHIOPIA	GAMBIA (THE)	KENYA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	GHANA	SOMALIA	NAMIBIA	SIERRA LEONE	SEYCHELLES	RWANDA	PHILIPPINES	JORDAN	TAJIKISTAN
Economic growth	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange
Poverty alleviation	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange
Agricultural practices	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Food loss and waste	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green
Resilience	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
Agricultural productivity	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green
Monitoring and evaluation	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Nutrition	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Soil health	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Food safety	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Green
Investments and finance	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Local food	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green
Public-private partnerships	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green
Right to food	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Hunger and malnutrition	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow
Youth	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Digitalization and innovation	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Orange
Climate change	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Health	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Gender	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Biodiversity	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Green
Infrastructure	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green
Migration	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Green
Research	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Orange	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Orange	Yellow
Most comprehensive reports	Green	Green	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	Green	White	White	White	Green	White	White	Green	White	Green	White	White	White	Green	Green	White	White	Green	White	White	White

Donors resoundingly agree that the national pathways are a critical entry point for taking the food systems transformation agenda forward and around which donors can align and coordinate future support. National pathways are specific to a context which makes the food systems framing concrete, precise and actionable. They are seen as being key to nationally relevant and nationally driven action on food systems. They provide a basis for national governments to assess the institutional mechanisms that will be needed to work across ministries and to embed a systems approach into policymaking. As of yet, there is no clear plan for how national pathways may be taken forward and supported or their implementation reported. This is likely to be an important topic for the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub.

### COMMITMENTS

The Summit opened a Commitment Registry for Member States and other stakeholders to register multistakeholder commitments to accelerate action for food system transformation and achieve Agenda 2030. There are 234 commitments registered, spanning a large array of initiatives and topics, ranging from existing partnerships, organizations and movements to approaches and coalitions that have been developed during the Summit process. They include initiatives that focus on data and technology, such as the 50x2030 A Partnership for Data Smart Initiative, AIM4Climate and the People-Centred Innovation, Data and Digital Solutions Initiative, and those that utilize innovative tools and approaches, such as agroecology and biotechnology, and those that utilize the food systems approach, such as the 4-per-1000 initiative, the True Value of Food Initiative and the One Health Approach. The Secretariat did not intend for the Summit to become an arena for financial commitments, but rather to promote substantive discussions and solutions, and many of the Member States made reference to the registered commitments in their interventions during the pre-Summit and the Summit.

### COMMITMENTS BY ACTION TRACK

- Nourish all people: 47
- Boost nature-based solutions to production: 86
- Advance equitable livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities: 32
- Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses: 30

# ANNEX B

## LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED

NAME	ROLE OR ORGANIZATION
GDPRD MEMBERS	
Ammad Bahalim	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Conrad Rein, Willem Olthof	European Commission
Anna Befus	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Sanna Liisa Tavailmaa	Finland
Nicolas Fairise, Manon Bellon	France
Frank Bertelmann, Sven Braulik	German Corporation for International Cooperation
Ron Hartman	International Fund for Agricultural Development
Bruce Campbell	Switzerland
Liz Kirk	United Kingdom
Sung Lee, Jennifer Chow	United States
Sarah Simons	World Bank
Chris Toe	World Food Programme
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	
Paul Newnham	Action Track 2 Public Engagement Lead
David Nabarro	Curator of Food Systems Summit Dialogues
Agnes Kalibata	Food Systems Summit Special Envoy
Lawrence Haddad	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
Jemimah Njuki	International Food Policy Research Institute
Ian Randall	Wasafiri
Sean de Cleene	World Economic Forum



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