2020 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA)

Strengthening coordination towards SDG2: Pathways for food systems transformation

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EVENT #3

4 NOVEMBER 2020

Food systems: Data for evidence-based policymaking

CONCEPT NOTE

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Ceres2030
Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Background

Every year governments in low- and middle-income countries invest millions of dollars in agriculture without accurate and reliable information. This leads to losses in productivity and income and helps perpetuate hunger and poor nutrition particularly among the most vulnerable. Timely, accurate and reliable data to inform decision-making will be a critical driver for food systems transformation.

Despite the world's commitment to end hunger by 2030, recent findings show that the world is not yet on track to achieve zero hunger. If this trend continues, it is estimated that the number of people affected by hunger will surpass 840 million by 2030, or 9.8 percent of the world population. Furthermore, it is estimated that COVID-19 has contributed to an additional 83 to 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020[1].

To address this worrying trend, the UN Secretary General called for collective action to transform global food systems for greater sustainability and resilience, and to convene a World Food System Summit in September 2021[2]. Through their policies, investments, programmes, coordination, and support for the global food systems architecture, donors have a critical catalytic role to play in supporting food system transformation. In order to support food systems transformation, donors need to be equipped with accurate and reliable data to direct their investments as effectively as possible.

This thematic event within the Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development will foster discussion on why initiatives to strengthen data and evidence are an essential element of global efforts to drive food system transformation and what actions can be taken by the global donor community to catalyze and support such efforts.

The event will feature speakers from Ceres2030 and 50x2030, two important initiatives that address the evidence base for more informed decision making. Ceres2030 brings together economic modelling and evidence-syntheses backed by a new AI machine learning tool to produce a menu of policy options for directing donor investments. The 50x2030 Initiative seeks to bridge the global agricultural data gap by transforming country data systems across 50 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America by 2030.

We will also hear from the Office for Agricultural Transformation in Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture on their plans for data-driven agricultural transformation and how limited and uncoordinated support to agricultural data weakens their ability to drive an effective strategy for food systems transformation.

Format

The session will be an interactive moderated discussion. The moderator will pose questions to foster a lively discussion between the panelists followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience.

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1   FAO. 2020. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: Transforming Food System for Affordable Healthy Diets.*
2   UN. 2019. *UN Secretary General's message on World Food Day.*

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Programme

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020

15:00-16:30 CET – Rome, Paris & Brussels **09:00-10:30** EST – New York & Washington, D.C. **22:00-23:30** CST – Beijing	**5 min**	**Open and welcome** **MODERATOR: Ammad Bahalim** Policy Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

40 min Moderated discussion

Jaron Porciello
Co-Director
Ceres2030, Cornell University

David Laborde
Co-Director
Ceres2030, International Food Policy
Research Institute

El-Iza Mohamedou
Programme Manager
50x2030

Thule Lenneiye
Coordinator
Agriculture Transformation Office,
Ministry of Agriculture Kenya

40 min Audience Q&A

5 min Wrap-up and closing

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for Rural Development**
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Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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