

Africa Food Systems Forum 2026

UN FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB KEY MESSAGES

Kigali, Rwanda | 31 August – 4 September 2026

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub was established in 2022 to convene, stimulate and support action for food systems transformation. As a coordinating and connecting mechanism, the Hub works with Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and the wider Ecosystem of Support to bring together expertise and resources behind country-led priorities, helping countries translate national pathways into action for more resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems.

The Hub, together with partners, supports countries in Africa to transform their food systems through initiatives such as the [Convergence Initiative](#), the [Youth Leadership Programme](#), the [Scalable Success Model](#), and the [Joint SDG Fund's Food Systems Transformation Window](#). Based on its work with National Food Systems Convenors, the [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action](#) following the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4) and key messages from [4th Africa Regional Food Systems Transformation Meeting](#), the Hub puts forward the following recommendations for advancing food systems transformation in Africa.

1. Promote inclusive, people-centered food systems governance

- Strengthen participatory governance: Food systems transformation requires an inclusive, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder governance that brings together governments, the private sector, civil society, development partners and all stakeholders.
- Close the structural gaps facing women and small-scale producers: Women, SMEs and smallholder farmers play a significant role in food systems, particularly in Africa. Their participation and contribution should be strengthened through better access to finance, infrastructure, and institutional support.
- Recognize youth as drivers and co-leaders of agrifood systems transformation through intergenerational collaboration, partnerships, leadership opportunities and capacity development.

2. Strengthen cross-sectoral food systems coordination and accountability

- Coordination and political will must extend beyond agriculture: Finance, planning, health, environment, trade and other ministries shape food systems outcomes, requiring institutionalized cross-sectoral governance structures.
- Build on the political leadership already in place: Coordination platforms for food systems governance exist across many African countries. With sustained high-level political leadership and commitment, they can provide a strong foundation for transformation.

- Strengthen local capacity and decentralized delivery: National plans need institutions, skills and financing that can respond to different conditions within countries, including at subnational level.
- Promote monitoring and evaluation for greater accountability: Monitoring and Evaluation systems provide reliable, timely and context-specific data needed to track progress, assess results, identify gaps, and inform corrective action.

3. Advance coherent policies that connect global, continental and national policy frameworks

- Connect global, continental and national policy: Better alignment reduces duplication and makes priorities easier to finance and deliver. National food systems pathways, the Kampala Declaration, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, biodiversity strategies and national development plans should reinforce one another.
- Two-way alignment strengthens coordination across levels: National policies should reflect continental and global frameworks such as CAADP-Kampala, while country experience and lessons should also inform those frameworks.

4. Mobilize public and private financing and investment in line with national priorities

- Strengthen resource mobilization in line with national priorities: The central financing question is how public, private, climate and development capital can be aligned with country-owned plans and African priorities.
- Develop investment-ready, bankable project pipelines that translate pathways into clear investment cases and use seed funding to mobilize additional public, private, and climate finance.
- Strengthen domestic resource mobilization and de-risk private investment: Integrate food systems priorities into national budgets, increase government co-financing, create enabling conditions for local private sector investment and deploy appropriate de-risking instruments.

5. Strengthen food systems resilience to compounding shocks

- Treat resilience to shocks as a transformation priority: Climate change, conflict and economic disruption are placing growing pressure on food systems. Building resilience must remain a priority for Africa.
- Anticipatory action, invest before shocks become crises: Resilience requires stronger investment in early warning, anticipatory action, social protection and adaptation measures, which can protect lives and livelihoods while reducing the cost of repeated emergency response.

6. Leverage science, innovation and technology as enablers for food systems transformation

- Support locally relevant science and innovation to inform decision-making, ensuring policies and investments reflect Africa's diverse agro-ecological and socio-economic realities.
- Harness digital technologies, AI, foresight analysis and inclusive business models to support greater productivity, resilience and sustainability across African food systems.