

4TH AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION MEETING REPORT

Accra, Ghana, 18-20 May 2026

Key messages



Background

In 2021, the UN Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, aimed to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach. By leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems with global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality, the Summit showcased national food systems pathways submitted by appointed National Food Systems Convenors. It also facilitated the formation of coalitions of organizations and institutions to support these pathways and saw the announcement of hundreds of commitments from a wide range of actors.

Since 2021, two global Stocktakes have been convened: the first in Rome (2023), Italy, and the second in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2025). These Stocktakes brought together national delegations, youth representatives and non-state actors to review progress on country-level food systems transformation and to identify needs and priorities for advancing transformation and achieving the SDGs, culminating in the Secretary-General's Call to Action. In addition, annual regional meetings have been convened alongside the Regional Sustainable Development Forums, providing platforms for countries and regional actors to exchange best practices and facilitate knowledge sharing.

The UNFSS+4 Secretary-General's Call to Action "From Rome to Addis and Beyond" urged for countries and partners to grow momentum and investments around six priority areas:

1. Urgent Delivery in Complex Settings: Strengthening responses to food insecurity and climate shocks through rapid financing, innovation, and humanitarian support.
2. Dialogue, Policy and Coordination: Deepening implementation of national pathways, enhancing policy coherence, and strengthening inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement.
3. Finance and Investment: Mobilizing domestic resources and expanding access to public, private, and blended finance aligned with national priorities.
4. Integration: Accelerating solutions that link environmental, economic, and social objectives, such as agroecology, regenerative agriculture, sustainable procurement, and school meals.
5. Science, AI and Technology: Enhancing science-policy interfaces, digital and AI-enabled tools, and access to technologies for resilient food systems.
6. Intergenerational Collaboration: Empowering youth as co-leaders of transformation and strengthening their role in policy processes and innovation ecosystems.

The 4th Africa Regional Food Systems Transformation Meeting was organized by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the Government of Ghana, in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Africa and supported by several other partners, including the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The 4th Africa Regional Food Systems Transformation Meeting was attended by more than 120 participants, including more than 25 National Convenors and government representatives, a high number of Intergovernmental Organizations as well as international financial institutions (IFIs). In addition, more than 50 participants from civil society and the private sector attended the meeting and contributed actively to the discussions.

1. Solid but insufficient progress in food systems transformation across the continent

- National Convenors reaffirmed the continent's strong political commitment to transforming its food systems to advance **food security and better nutrition in the context of food sovereignty objectives in Africa**. Countries demonstrated readiness to move **from strategic vision to implementation**, translating national pathways into tangible action at regional, national and local levels.
- Food systems transformation is taking place against a **background of compounding challenges and shocks**. Rapid population growth, conflicts, accelerating climate change, persistent infrastructure and productivity gaps, changing consumption patterns and rising urbanization are reshaping food demand and supply chains. These pressures are being compounded by global economic shocks, geopolitical disruptions, volatile commodity and input prices, supply chain interruptions and constrained public finances.
- Resulting from these challenges, **food insecurity remains far above global average in Africa**, with more than 306 million (20.2% of the population) affected by hunger in

2024. Similarly, child stunting and wasting remain major concerns on the African continent with over 30% of children under 5 being stunted in 2024¹.

- African countries are facing an increasingly **complex policy landscape and shifting global political economy**. Governments are responding to national priorities while aligning with the CAADP-Kampala agenda under the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, while addressing climate resilience, nutrition, biodiversity and trade. Participants placed a strong emphasis on **alignment at both policy and implementation level** between CAADP-Kampala and ongoing food systems transformation processes.
- Out of the 50 countries in Africa that have appointed National Convenors, 22 shared updates on their progress in implementing national pathways, key success stories on transforming food systems as well as encountered challenges and support needs.

Examples shared by countries include:

- **Mauritania** has operationalized its national food systems pathway through 2025–2028 action plans and localized interventions, translating into concrete action and improved coordination among partners for food systems transformation.
- **The Gambia** developed a national food systems pathway in 2021 in alignment with the country's National Development Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, and UN Food Systems Summit commitments. However, implementation faces constraints including limited financing and weak institutional capacity, particularly limited coordination across ministries.
- **Gabon** faced a high burden of 80% food import dependence and vulnerability to global price shocks, which the country addressed by sustainably boosting domestic production.

2. Countries are increasingly building more resilient food systems, but compounding challenges persist slowing progress

- **African countries are facing overlapping shocks – including climate and economic shocks, as well as conflict** – that disproportionately threaten vulnerable and rural populations, making community-centered and locally grounded resilience approaches essential. Countries highlighted the need for social protection systems and integrated approaches that address both immediate crises and long-term resilience including through the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus.
- In the face of compounding shocks, stresses and crises, the resilience of future food systems depends increasingly on the **ability of institutions to anticipate disruption, govern complexity, scale innovation, and make coordinated long-term decisions under conditions of uncertainty**, highlighting the need to **strengthen institutional capacity in applying future-oriented planning tools such as foresight analysis**.

¹ FAO, ECA, WFP and AU. 2026. *Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2025 – Financing towards agrifood systems transformation for food security and improved nutrition*. Accra.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7981en>

- **Although many countries are adopting resilience solutions, implementation is often constrained** by weak governance, limited political commitment in some countries and inadequate institutional capacity. The forthcoming CFS Policy Recommendations on Building Resilient Food Systems will offer further guidance on policies, measures and processes that contribute to greater resilience in food systems.
- **Countries outlined their key resilience-building priorities and implemented measures**, including strengthening local industries and markets, improving laws and regulatory enforcement, investing in infrastructure and trade facilitation, expanding irrigation systems, promoting resilient crops and horticulture, and leveraging innovation and digitalization to transform food systems. **Long-term resilience depends on strengthening enablers** such as extension services, subsidy and emergency response systems, regional cooperation, global partnerships, the participation of women and youth, and the use of technology and innovation.
- **Adaptation strategies must simultaneously reduce immediate vulnerabilities and build long-term resilience.** Countries underlined the importance of combining community-based protection measures with sustainable, climate-smart agriculture, equitable food access, and environmental conservation, particularly in rural and vulnerable areas.
- **Partnerships, including public-private collaboration and regional cooperation, are essential for building resilience** and optimizing resource use, particularly for cross-border challenges such as livestock diseases, pests, climate change and food system disruptions.

Examples shared by countries include:

- The **Central African Republic** has established a Preparedness Plan for Crises Related to Food Insecurity, in collaboration with key partners across the UN system, which includes a centralized monitoring, evaluation and planning mechanism and standardized emergency protocols for responding to food crises in a coherent manner. The country is also in the process of creating the Central African Agency for Food and Nutrition Security in the form of a public agency with financial autonomy and decentralized units, designed to operationalize the crisis preparedness plan.
- **The Gambia** has made significant investment in infrastructure to increase long-term resilience, including the establishment of 204.7km of road throughout the country to ease transportation of inputs, produce and workers, processors, traders, marketers, and food vendors as well as measures to increase access to electricity and water.
- In **Lesotho**, the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project under the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition and the World Food Programme (WFP) are pioneering a parametric weather index-based insurance program for smallholder farmers. The scheme protects vulnerable growers against climate shocks like droughts, hail, and excessive heat by triggering payouts based on specific weather conditions rather than assessed losses.
- **Ghana's** Agricultural Transformation Agenda (AETA) as well as its 24-Hour Economy programme illustrate how climate resilience, infrastructure reinforcement and value addition can be combined to address short-term risk while promoting long-term development across the food systems.
- **Angola** is strengthening resilience within its food systems by establishing a Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning on Food and Nutrition Security.

- In **The Gambia**, community-led climate-resilient rice and horticulture initiatives, driven by national adaptation programmes and grassroots farmer associations, are combining agroecology, irrigation, and digital extension services to boost yields, restore ecosystems, and empower women and youth, resulting in improved food security.
- **Sudan** has expanded climate-smart agriculture initiatives, rehabilitated major irrigation schemes (including the Gezira Scheme and Nile irrigation systems), implemented social protection programmes (including cash transfer initiatives and emergency support for vulnerable and shock-affected populations), and promoted community-based natural resource management and sustainable rangeland management practices to support adaptation, resilience building, and livelihood recovery in areas affected by shocks, conflict, and displacement.

3. Enhancing alignment and coherence between national, regional and global policy frameworks and processes is a priority for food systems transformation

- **The successful transformation of food systems requires a coherent approach across policy areas**, including agriculture, climate action, biodiversity, water, health, nutrition and finance. In addition to aligning across policy areas and government entities, countries also need to integrate regional policy frameworks and global commitments.
- **Policy coherence across sectors enables effective implementation and accelerated SDGs delivery.** The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub's Convergence Initiative for example, implemented in Ethiopia, Egypt, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Mauritania, supports national governments in improving alignment across climate action and food systems policies and strengthening cross-sectoral coordination.
- **Two-way alignment strengthens coordination across all levels.** Effective coordination requires both downward alignment (national policies matching continental/global frameworks like CAADP-Kampala) and upward alignment (continental/global frameworks incorporating country-level lessons).
- **African Union institutions such as the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play a key role in supporting coordination, resilience building, knowledge sharing, and policy harmonization, especially regarding transboundary food systems challenges.**
- **Country-led priorities must drive food systems transformation.** Implementation, including investment planning, must be driven by national priorities supported by partners in a coordinated and aligned manner.
- **Decentralized implementation is needed.** Different conditions exist not only between countries but within countries, requiring decentralized delivery systems that can adapt to local needs and priorities.
- **Investment strategies and programmes should be aligned across policy frameworks to ensure coherent implementation.** National Agriculture Food Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs) and Regional Agriculture Food Systems Investment Plans (RASIPs) provide a mechanism for converting pathway priorities into costed programmes, investment cases, public expenditure priorities and blended finance windows.

- **Science-based inclusive guidelines can help policy makers in accelerating food systems transformation.** Continental and global instruments, such as the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) policy products, add value when responding to national demand and serve as practical guides rather than standalone processes, supporting coherent national action while respecting country leadership and local context.

Examples shared by countries include:

- The **Central African Republic's** experience illustrates that while policy alignment may be achievable at the national level, implementation becomes challenging because subregions within the same country may have vastly different needs, priorities, and capacities that must be addressed through flexible, localized approaches.
- **Ghana** has integrated food systems transformation into its 2026–2029 Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework and the President's Coordinated Programme, including through sub-national capacity building activities and costed action plans. The country also passed a cross-sectoral policy bundle integrating health, agriculture, trade and science (e.g. Public Food Procurement Policy, Food Fiscal Policy, marketing restriction and front-of-pack labelling).
- In **Sudan**, interventions led by the health sector continue to strengthen access to essential health services, primary healthcare, and nutrition support, particularly for vulnerable populations, recognizing the close linkages between food systems, nutrition, and public health.
- **Gabon's** national food systems pathway has been adopted by an interministerial council and incorporated into the country's development plan. The country has also enacted a law on plant seed policy in alignment with the subregion's seed policy and CAADP.
- The government of **The Gambia** has aligned its National Development Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions with CAADP-Kampala commitments, establishing a science-policy interface and reinforcing it through dialogues that connect researchers, youth, civil society, and private sector. However, coherence at subnational levels remains a challenge, highlighting the critical importance of decentralized implementation for effective policy translation to local levels.

4. Delivery at scale requires inclusive governance mechanisms and effective partnerships

- **High-level political leadership and coordination structures are fundamental enablers.** Country experiences demonstrate that placing food systems governance at the highest political levels, combined with strong commitment, creates a conducive institutional foundation for successful transformation.
- **Multistakeholder coordination platforms have been established in many countries, but practical implementation faces constraints.** Multisectoral platforms help ensure food systems policies reflect diverse national priorities by engaging government, private sector, civil society, academia, financing partners, producers, women, youth, marginalized groups, and Indigenous Peoples. Several countries have established coordination mechanisms, yet fragmentation in data systems, institutional mandates, and coordination mechanisms remains a major barrier to integrated planning and implementation.

- **Coordination structures should reflect national realities and build on existing platforms rather than creating parallel systems.** Structures with strong coordinating mandates and multi-level governance systems improve cross-sectoral collaboration, ownership, and implementation.
- **Inclusivity is essential** to ensure equal representation and meaningful participation of relevant sectors and stakeholders, including urban and rural populations.
- **Africa's food systems transformation depends on stronger private sector engagement** – not only as a source of finance, but as a co-investor, innovator, and implementation partner across value chains. Agribusinesses, SMEs, cooperatives, financial institutions, entrepreneurs, and farmers are central to driving investment, technology adoption, value addition, market access, and job creation. **A conducive enabling environment** can promote greater private sector engagement and accountability. Private sector participation depends on functional institutions, adequate infrastructure, supportive policies, and practical incentives. Policies and regulations set standards for accountability to ensure the private sector promotes equitable and fair access to nutritious and sustainable food.
- **SMEs and smallholder farmers play a crucial role in African food systems**, making up the largest share of businesses in many African countries. SMEs, processors, aggregators, and mid-sized enterprises are essential for employment, connecting farmers to markets, reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening food value chains. Despite their importance, these actors remain **underserved** by finance, infrastructure, and institutional support.
- **Regional trade integration, including opportunities under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area**, can expand markets, improve competitiveness, strengthen regional value chains and as a result improve food security in Africa.
- **Successful solutions for food systems transformation are often available at local and national levels but require scaling up.** Through the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub's Scalable Success Model project, several countries in Africa, including Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Zambia, have been supported in identifying success cases for upscaling through integrated coordination and programme implementation.
- **Participants emphasized the importance of South-South and peer-to-peer learning opportunities as a means of sharing experiences in transforming food systems.** The meeting provided networking and knowledge exchange opportunities, which participants used actively.
- **Youth need to be recognized as dynamic drivers and co-leaders of agrifood systems transformation in Africa** through intergenerational collaboration and partnerships, as for example laid out in the [Youth Statement for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems in Africa](#). This recognition is also reflected in the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), which includes six strategic objectives, one of which is specifically dedicated to advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods, with a focus on empowering youth, women, and other vulnerable groups. The Strategy positions youth not only as beneficiaries of development interventions but as key actors in the design, implementation, and monitoring of agrifood systems transformation across the continent.
- **Youth should be empowered through leadership opportunities and capacity building**, equipping the next generation of agrifood leaders with the skills, knowledge and platforms to catalyse transformation from within. Africa's youthful population

offers immense potential for innovation in agriculture. Engaging the youth through improved training, access to productive inputs, infrastructure, and digital technologies can integrate them into value chains and enhance productivity.

Examples shared by countries include:

- **Nigeria** used regional consultations, national validation workshops, and multi-level governance structures from national to grassroots levels to ensure inclusive participatory governance structures for food systems.
- **The Central African Republic** has established a national coordination entity for food security and nutrition under direct authority of the Prime Minister. This entity is responsible for steering, converging and monitoring interventions related to food security, nutrition and food systems transformation. The country has also established a Food and Nutrition System Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising key ministers, ensuring high-level leadership of the food systems transformation agenda. The country further piloted innovative urban, peri-urban and organic agriculture models aimed at promoting resilient crop management and local agroecological techniques, while supporting community empowerment and capacity building.
- **Gabon** has established the Gabonese Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutritional Security (APGSAN) to ensure food systems are included in the national budget.
- The Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO), under **Lesotho's** Prime Minister's Office, leads the country's multi-sectoral strategy to eliminate malnutrition, ensure food security, and promote dietary diversity. Guided by the Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy, it coordinates stakeholders through quarterly meetings at various levels – from technical officers to permanent secretaries across relevant ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Nutrition also holds quarterly nutrition sensitive platform meetings to monitor nutrition interventions by government ministries, UN partners, civil society organizations, and academia.
- **Mauritania** has established a national mechanism for coordinating food systems, including a multisectoral institutional framework and Thematic Results Groups (TRGs), which has improved policy coherence across agriculture, nutrition and climate, strengthened inclusive dialogue, and enhanced alignment with regional and global frameworks.
- In **The Gambia**, inclusive governance has become central to food systems transformation through multi-stakeholder platforms that unite ministries, farmer cooperatives, women's groups, youth associations, NGOs, and development partners to co-design interventions. Key examples include climate-resilient rice and horticulture schemes where farmers' and women's groups jointly manage production systems, and the Food Security Dashboard, which integrates input from multiple ministries and civil society to track nutrition and resilience indicators, demonstrating how diverse actors actively shape policies and programs.
- **Sierra Leone, Zambia and São Tomé and Príncipe** have established national councils responsible for food systems headed by the Prime Minister. Similarly, **Rwanda, Nigeria and Eswatini** have placed agriculture investment directly under the Presidency.

- **Ghana** has shown strong political commitment to the food systems transformation agenda through the mainstreaming of cross-sectoral policies into national planning, and the implementation of multi-sectoral coordination structures.
- **Botswana** focuses on creating concrete enabling environments to facilitate private sector engagement as a primary driver of growth and food systems transformation.
- Participants from **Cameroon** initiated a peer exchange with Zambia, Rwanda, Chad, Gabon, Central African Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe, to share experiences on governance, resilience building and successful stakeholder engagement.
- The **Democratic Republic of Congo**, with the support of the Zero Hunger Coalition, participated in a session to share experiences on the governance and management of food system transformation with Madagascar and Benin.
- **Angola** has established a programme to support youth in food systems, where 400 youth per province have received 25 hectares of agricultural land to start an agricultural business.
- **Lesotho's** primary government interventions for youth employment include the Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP), the Sebatso initiative, and the Youth Agency Market Place (YOMA) Programme. These schemes target unemployment through public sector placements, skills development, and digital entrepreneurship.
- **Chad** participated in the Hub's Youth Leadership Programme and has initiated large-scale women and youth involvement initiatives to promote engagement of these groups in food systems transformation.

5. Sustainable finance and investment are crucial levers for food systems transformation

- **Resource constraints undermine implementation capacity.** Besides incoherent policy frameworks, countries cite insufficient resources as primary barriers to food systems transformation, with financing gaps and limited private sector investment affecting implementation of national strategies.
- **Specialized mechanisms** for financing bankable, scalable interventions for smallholders are being established, such as specialized funds and investment support. Nevertheless, access to affordable finance remains limited, particularly for women and youth.
- **Strong partnerships and coordination** are essential to align financing behind country-owned priorities. Coordinated partnerships between governments, financial institutions, development partners, and private sector actors ensure investments support national food systems pathways.
- **Investment-ready and bankable project pipelines** are critical for translating pathways into concrete programmes. Moving from planning to implementation requires strong analytical foundations, clear priorities, and structured investment cases that can attract public, private, and climate finance. While transformative change may require larger investment, seed funding allocation by national governments can attract other sources of financing.
- **Domestic resource mobilization must be strengthened** alongside external financing. Sustainable transformation depends on integrating food systems priorities into national budgets, increasing government co-financing, and creating enabling conditions for local private sector investment.

- **De-risking mechanisms are essential to mobilizing private sector capital.** Private sector participation requires proper incentives, risk-sharing instruments, blended finance, and catalytic grants, particularly in fragile and climate-vulnerable contexts. Private investors will not engage if risks are too high, requiring co-designed partnerships between public and private sectors with appropriate policies and instruments to crowd in domestic and international private capital.
- **Systematic approaches are needed to bridge the gap between strategy and finance.** Success requires three critical elements: strong analytical foundations through diagnostics and expenditure reviews; investment-readiness where priorities are translated into well-defined, costed interventions co-created with policymakers and capital holders; and structured connections to match well-prepared country propositions to appropriate financing windows at the right time, including using grant money as offered by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to leverage other financing sources, as well as funds and support available through the Joint SDG Fund's Food Systems Financing Window or the Agrifood Systems Accelerator.
- **Through the Joint SDG Fund's Food Systems Transformation Financing Window, seven countries in Africa have received catalytic financial support** to advance food systems transformation, including the implementation of national pathways, strengthening of multi-sectoral governance structures and coherent policy development. With help from the programme's seed funding, additional resources, including from IFIs, have been mobilized.

Examples shared by countries include:

- **Congo, Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo** highlighted the need for support on improving internal resource mobilization, and shared experiences with innovative approaches like dedicating portions of mineral wealth income to food security and sustainable agriculture projects.
- In **The Gambia**, donor-supported projects have been pivotal in mobilizing funding for food systems transformation, with initiatives from FAO, UNDP, and IFAD empowering local cooperatives, women's groups, and youth associations to manage tree nurseries, rehabilitate degraded lands, and integrate agroecology into farming systems. However, scaling these successes requires access to larger climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund, as current small grants and pilot interventions are insufficient for systemic transformation.
- Examples of specialized funding mechanisms include **Gabon's** Agriculture Development Fund and **Rwanda's** AgriConnect Compact.
- **Gabon** has established legal and regulatory frameworks that offer significant investment opportunities through measures such as easier access to agricultural land and credit, tax exemptions and incentives, legal certainty for investments, and the provision of investment support grants and subsidies, among others.

6. Unified and fit for purpose accountability frameworks are essential for building momentum and setting direction

- **Reliable, timely, and relevant data is essential for evidence-based policymaking,** effective implementation, and decision-making. Political leadership and commitment

are critical to strengthening the capacity of country-level data collection, collation, and analysis, facilitating effective policy development, implementation, and review toward the achievement of various development agendas.

- **Countries are leveraging accountability frameworks such as the CAADP-Kampala framework and the Food Systems Countdown Initiative (FSCI) to strengthen national and subnational food systems monitoring**, with dedicated monitoring and accountability systems supported by digital tools and online platforms. However, countries emphasized the need to validate and adapt global monitoring frameworks to their national contexts, including mapping specific data needs, priorities, and gaps, and featuring measurable indicators that reflect local socio-economic, environmental, and institutional realities
- **A unified monitoring and reporting framework for food systems in Africa** that aligns the CAADP-Kampala review processes, reporting requirements under global policy frameworks and national priorities could reduce reporting burdens, increase systems interoperability and enhance the effectiveness of generating actionable evidence. Countries further highlighted the importance of integrating subnational monitoring to better capture differentiated local impacts and support targeted action.
- **Accountability mechanisms should support learning, adaptation, peer review, and mutual accountability** rather than serve only as compliance exercises.

Examples shared by countries include:

- **Zambia** has embedded the FSCI indicator framework within its Food Security and Nutrition Commission to monitor and assess progress in food systems transformation.
- **Ghana** developed a National Food Systems Dashboard aligned with the African Union's CAADP Biennial Review process to track progress in food systems transformation.
- Examples from **Rwanda** highlighted that data gaps limit private sector investment and the need for enhanced monitoring and tracking systems.

7. Science, innovation, data and foresight as enablers for transformation

- **Science and innovation represent the foundation for sustainable and resilient food systems.** Robust, locally relevant science and innovation provide the basis for decision-making, ensuring policies and investments are grounded in evidence that reflects Africa's diverse agro-ecological and socio-economic realities.
- **Innovation is a key enabler for accelerating scalable transformation solutions.** Harnessing digital technologies, climate-smart solutions, and inclusive business models can facilitate scaling productivity, resilience, and sustainability across African food systems.
- **Africa needs to move from reactive food systems management towards anticipatory governance systems** that can help countries think beyond immediate crises and short political cycles. Institutions must be able to anticipate disruptions, govern complexity, scale innovation, and make coordinated long-term decisions under uncertainty.

- **Foresight analysis for food systems transformation can help governments, businesses, and development actors, adopt anticipatory governance, identify emerging risks, opportunities, and trade-offs in an increasingly uncertain environment.** By examining long-term trends such as climate change, demographic shifts, technological innovation, and changing consumption patterns, foresight supports more resilient, adaptive, and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Education plays a crucial role in building Africa's capacity for innovation by developing practical skills** in data analysis, digital technologies, and modern agricultural techniques. Rather than remaining theoretical, educational institutions must train professionals who can effectively bridge the gap between research and real-world application, ensuring that technological innovations and data-driven solutions reach agricultural producers on the ground.

Examples shared by countries include:

- The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has begun developing the Food and Nutrition Security Crisis Preparedness Plan, a tool for proactively managing food crises.
- **Rwanda's** 10-year innovation strategy, **Eswatini's** digitalization and value chain traceability, and **Cameroon's** climate action solutions for food systems demonstrate how countries are linking technological advances with climate-smart approaches and inclusive development.
- **Sudan** developed digital platforms, agricultural information systems, and data-driven approaches to improve planning, monitoring, extension services, and evidence-based decision-making. Despite ongoing challenges, efforts to expand agricultural production in relatively stable areas through the provision of technical support, improved seeds, agricultural inputs, and rehabilitation of productive infrastructure have contributed to sustaining food production and supporting rural livelihoods.
- **Gabon** uses science and innovation to support the creation of high-productivity agricultural zones to sustainably boost production as well as conservation agriculture to reconcile production goals with environmental conservation objectives. Thus, the protection of nature and biodiversity is integrated into programs and strategies related to the development of sustainable food systems.

Partnerships and potential support opportunities identified during the meeting

- **The Committee on World Food Security presented an [overview of its policy products](#)**, which are developed in an inclusive multistakeholder process and endorsed by its 127 Member States. Covering a range of topics relevant for food security and nutrition, these products can provide guidance for National Convenors in developing national policies and programmes for food systems transformation.
- **The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) presented its support offer**, including the newly launched [9th Call for Proposals](#). GAFSP is a multilateral financing mechanism that supports country-led plans to improve agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition for smallholder farmers in low-income countries. It provides grants and concessional financing, and works in partnership with governments, civil society, and development partners to scale proven interventions and strengthen food systems, including in the context of CAADP implementation. The

9th Call for Proposals invites country-led proposals focused on strengthening smallholder agriculture and resilient food systems.

- **The Agrifood Systems (AFS) Accelerator aims to provide a practical solution to financing constraints** by facilitating the translation of country-led priorities into bankable investment opportunities and directly linking them to diverse financing sources. Through rigorous analysis, multi-stakeholder coordination, and innovative finance approaches, it envisages to reduce risk, align partners, and crowd in capital – ensuring that financing flows are both scaled up and strategically targeted to deliver systemic, inclusive, and sustainable transformation outcomes.
- The [Joint SDG Fund Food Systems Transformation Window \(JSDGF\)](#), established through a partnership between the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, is a UN-backed global financing mechanism that helps countries move from food systems commitments to implementation by providing coordinated funding, technical support, and multisectoral UN assistance to drive government-led food systems transformation and accelerate progress across the SDGs.
- **IFAD finances investments focused on agricultural development and rural transformation** that are driven by government priorities and centred on smallholder farmers, while emphasizing strong coordination with other international partners and creating an enabling environment to mobilize private sector investment.
- **AfDB's financing aligns with its Feed Africa Strategy, supporting investments in productivity, technology, and climate resilience**, with a particular focus on developing Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones to strengthen value chains and agro-processing, while also prioritizing the preparation of bankable projects and investment pipelines.
- **The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement remains committed to supporting countries through its regional hubs, networks, and multisectoral platforms** by strengthening coordination among SUN Focal Points, National Food Systems Convenors, and CAADP Focal Points across African SUN countries. Working closely with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, SUN will continue promoting integrated approaches that align priorities, strengthen governance, reduce duplication, and improve financing for resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems across Africa. The meeting also reinforced the importance of fully integrating fragile and conflict-affected contexts into Africa's food systems agenda through stronger links between resilience, nutrition, and food systems efforts.
- Based on country requests, [FAO's Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division](#) **supports practitioners and policymakers in implementing policies, providing practical tools and approaches to bridge capacity gaps, strengthen cross-sectoral linkages, and move towards more sustainable agrifood systems.** Resources include a [guide on multistakeholder collaboration](#), a [framework on what a systems approach means in food and agriculture](#) and an upcoming training manual on tools and methods to support public institutions in designing and implementing policies for agrifood systems transformation (a "how-to" of an agrifood systems approach).