

Food Systems Solutions Webinars 2023

Seeding the Future:

Transforming Food Systems for Planetary Health

15 June 2023, 15:00 – 16:00 (CET)

Registration: <https://cutt.ly/FSSW15JUN23>

Overview and Goals of the Webinar

As a universally agreed agenda, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs encapsulate an ambitious vision for the future and require a systemic approach to turn these goals into reality to leave no one behind. Yet, concerningly, with less than seven years to demonstrate progress by 2030, most SDGs are moderately or severely off track.

Food systems transformation is one of the critical accelerators of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, there is growing political momentum to capitalize on this cross-cutting area to promote multiple solutions to support planetary health. Planetary Health is both a growing scientific field and a social movement. The term gained force when the Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health published the landmark report “[Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene Epoch](#).” This commission defines planetary health as “*the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends*.” Critical synergies between public health and sustainability are needed. These synergies are also explored under the One Health approach, which emerged well before the concept of planetary health and has gained recent significant momentum following the COVID-19 pandemic. In a recent [bibliometric analysis](#), it was found that all topics related to infectious diseases were the most represented in One Health publications, while planetary health publications had climate change as a dominant topic. The study also found that non-communicable diseases and food-related issues were mostly addressed concerning planetary health research.

The event will unite One Health and Planetary Health experts to continue developing synergy and collaboration between these complementary fields to scale actionable solutions for policymakers. The webinar targets all strategic thinkers, network builders, and the wide ecosystem of support of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub to make food systems more efficient, inclusive, resilient, sustainable, and healthier to anchor long-term solutions for people and the planet. This is especially important as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are increasing risks for the future of food in the context of a challenging post-pandemic recovery and the worrisome cost-of-living crises.

The event will also tap into the urgent need to operationalize systems thinking and incorporate knowledge-based decision-making into food systems policies focusing on a nexus approach. The interplay between climate, food, and health is evident. According to the [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization](#), [3.1 billion](#) people worldwide cannot afford a healthy diet, contributing to a growing burden of premature diseases worldwide. Meanwhile, the changing climate is [already negatively impacting crop yields](#), spelling problems for further undernourishment and access to healthy diets in the future. Moreover, [COVID-19](#) has exacerbated global food inequalities, as the prevalence of undernourishment increased by [1.5% to 9.9% in 2020](#). Yet, [very few countries](#) consider healthier diets as part of their portfolio of solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions to climate. On the [environmental dimension](#), food systems must ensure that the impacts of food production and consumption system are neutral or positive, considering biodiversity, water, soil, animal and plant health, the carbon footprint, the water footprint, food loss and waste, and toxicity. In this context, the webinar aims to showcase how transforming current food systems is one of the most promising strategies to put the SDGs back on track, allowing significant gains for people and the planet. Framed in the context of the first-ever Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, speakers will

focus on two major aspects. First, it will share why planetary health and One Health approaches are crucial for transforming food systems. Second, it will illustrate concrete cases where countries try to incorporate the planetary health approach in their strategies to achieve the SDGs.

The main questions guiding the discussion are:

1. Why can the planetary health approach benefit efforts in food systems transformation and bridge gaps between multiple actors and disciplines to encourage systemic change?
2. How can food systems transformation promote a nexus approach to specifically promote gains in public health, environment, and social inclusion?
3. What are the primary needs of countries when trying to operationalize Planetary Health and One Health approaches?
4. How can the Stocktaking Moment in July 2023 promote better synergies between the health and the environmental communities?

The conclusions of the webinar will feed into the overall recommendations for the follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit in July 2023 and spark new collaborations among countries, UN systems, and multiple stakeholders to advance the nexus approach in policymaking to improve the health of people and the planet.

Agenda

Time	Speaker and Topic
5 min	Opening – Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
20 min	IMPACT panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization - Dr. Keith Sumption, One Health Priority Program Leader and Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), FAO. Moderation: Dr. Nicole de Paula, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
5 min	Q&A
20 min	Exploring planetary health in practice: learning from country-experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Minna Huttunen, Ministerial Adviser, Food Department, Food Safety Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland - Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Professor and Director, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health and former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia on Public Health
10 min	Q&A and closing

Background

Since its establishment in April 2022, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub has convened multiple virtual dialogues to facilitate peer learning on transforming food systems. These dialogues have witnessed active engagement from National Convenors and various stakeholders within the food system, who have expressed the need to expand the topics and thematic areas discussed. To foster knowledge diffusion and enhance science-policy interfaces, the Hub has scheduled a series of Food Systems Solutions Webinars (FSS Webinars) for 2023.