

UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment

SESSION REPORT

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Type (click one): HLS/PLENARY – LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE – SPECIAL EVENT

Food Systems for Shared Prosperity: Achieving Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Prosperity in Food Systems and Rural Development

Tuesday, 25 July 14:30-16:00

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List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Dr Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO	Keynote address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrifood systems transformation and rural development are vital for economic prosperity. • Agrifood systems offer income opportunities and support economic growth. But global agriculture needs more investment and enabling policies. • To realize the potential of agriculture, stronger commitment from governments and follow-through concrete actions are necessary. • FAO is willing to create platforms to foster dialogue and share best practices, while urging global leaders to take greater ownership.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusivity can have different interpretations based on the development status of a country. • FAO stands by a participatory and equitable approach to inclusivity, which involves addressing inequalities between the rich and poor, urban and rural, and men and women. • Efficiency, inclusivity, and resilience are the core of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
2. Ms Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), <i>Moderator</i>	Technical scene setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming food systems will require addressing several forms of inequalities. • Despite international efforts, global hunger remains largely unchanged, with hunger on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and all sub-regions of Africa. • There have been no major improvements in moderate and severe insecurity levels globally, with projections suggesting 600 million likely to face chronic undernourishment by 2030. • Nearly half of the world’s population cannot afford healthy diets, underscoring the need for solutions. • IFAD has been looking at the dimensions of food insecurity particularly along the urban-rural divide. • In rural areas, food insecurity is more prevalent among small-scale producers notably in female-headed households and those considered multidimensionally poor. • Access to food does not guarantee access to nutritious options, particularly in the rural areas where people struggle to access diverse food options.
3. Ms. Wenche Westberg, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway	Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food systems around the world are facing multiple challenges – the need to ensure food security and support livelihoods of those in the food chain in an environmentally sustainable way. • Empowering all actors in the food chain, especially women, is critical for sustainable food systems.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Norway, equal participation in the agricultural sector is a priority as women play an important role in value creation and income generation – parameters important for economically sound rural communities. • To attract more youth into the sector, agriculture will need to provide interesting jobs and long-term income opportunities. Family farming is a great way to increase youth involvement in agriculture. • Greater communication between the government and farmer union organizations is key to finding solutions for major challenges, such as climate change.
<p>4. Mr Christian Hofer, Director, Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key challenge for food systems transformation is balancing the environmental and economic considerations. • In Switzerland, the solution to addressing sustainability lies in using a food systems approach – by considering measures across the value chain that focus on economic, ecological, and social outcomes. • Alignment of private and public financial institutions such that financial flows are redirected towards sustainability is needed. • Consumers will need to make sustainable food choices. This can be encouraged through awareness raising, providing incentives and by integrating food education particularly among the younger generation.
<p>5. H.E. Girma Amente, Minister for Agriculture, Ethiopia</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ethiopia the goal of food systems transformation is to enhance production, ensure food safety and nutrition, improve livelihoods, preserve and restore land, and to build resilience to shocks and stressors. • Ethiopia faces a number of challenges – small-holder farmers have limited access to rural finance, dependence on rainfed agriculture makes the sector vulnerable to climate-related shocks, poor logistics and storage infrastructure leading to high post-harvest losses, and inequitable value sharing among actors in a food chain.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts are being made to develop the skills and capacities of the rural youth to encourage them to participate more effectively in agribusinesses and reduce rural to urban migrations. • Ethiopia is working to aggregate farmers into commercial clusters to promote a shift away from subsistence farming.
<p>6. Mr Dao The Anh, Vice-President, Vietnamese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), Viet Nam</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past few decades Viet Nam has made great strides in improving food production and has become an important food exporter, especially of rice. • In response to the changing demands of the global market, agriculture in Viet Nam is now facing a number of challenges at the production, trade and consumption levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Production</i> – land degradation, water pollution, lack of agroecological knowledge, high post-harvest losses, inadequate investment in infrastructure, and issues related to adaptation to climate change. ○ <i>Trade</i> – improvements needed in ensuring greater food safety and quality. ○ <i>Consumption</i> – consumers lack knowledge about sustainable and healthy diets, malnutrition numbers are rising. • Overarching issues include lack of coordination across the agriculture sector and insufficient investments.
<p>7. Mr Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the core challenges of international cooperation lies in balancing policies that encourage international trade and boost domestic food production. • WTO possesses the tools to address this balance. For instance, those that facilitate appropriate redirection of subsidies towards environmentally friendly objectives and others that disseminate agricultural innovations important for mitigation of climate change impacts. These tools, however, remain underutilized. • Vital to refrain from enacting policies that prevent the free flow of food across international markets during crisis.

<p>8. Ms Jemimah Njuki, Director, Economic Empowerment, UN Women</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality and food systems transformation are deeply interconnected, achieving one without the other is not possible. • Two principal dichotomies identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Women’s engagement vs pay gap</i>: Despite the high contribution made by women in food systems, women earn only 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. ○ <i>Women’s participation vs power gap</i>: Despite their high engagement in food systems, women, especially from low- and middle-income countries, have very low representation in global leadership positions across food systems organizations. • Investing in women – supporting their access to decent work and facilitating their access to markets – will yield significant returns for our food systems. However, political will is often lacking.
<p>9. Mr Gunther Beger, Managing Director of the Directorate of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger commitment to global action is needed. • More investments are necessary with an urgent need to increase the Official Development Assistance.

Questions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION
<p>1. Dr Rattan Lal, Soil Science, Ohio State University, United States of America</p>	<p>What is the true cost of food and who is paying these costs?</p>
<p>2. Dr Bayou, Mali</p>	<p>What do we need to bring people across the food systems to work together, given that working in silos have been the norm? <i>(translated from French)</i></p>
<p>3. Permanent Mission in Rome, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Apart from cultural norms, what are the top issues that need to be addressed to ensure women are empowered in the agricultural sector?</p>

4. Cargele Masso, Director, Environmental Health and Biodiversity Impact Area Platform, CGIAR	What steps are needed to ensure that foreign food imports do not cause financial consequences for the domestic market?
5. Civil Society, Mauritania	How to best consolidate and reconcile conflicting interests between different actors in a food system? How to improve land rights for women? <i>(translated from French)</i>
6. Iside Tacchinardi, Advisor, Norwegian Mission, Rome	What concrete measures are needed to increase youth participation in the agricultural sector?

Overall summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

1. *Bridge the gender disparity*: despite high participation of women in food systems, a significant gender divide exists, especially in terms of wages and representation. Providing women more decision-making power and avenues for financial inclusion is critical.
2. *Balance the trade-offs*: balancing environmental, economic, and social objectives can create trade-offs and synergistic relationships. Analysis of true cost of food useful in developing informed solutions for food systems transformation.
3. *Increase support for small-holder farmers*: improved access to finance, technical advice, and infrastructure, particularly to reduce post-harvest losses; better benefit-sharing across the value chain; increased dialogues between the government and farmers; and incentives to move away from subsistence farming are important ways to support small-holder farmers.
4. *Close the investment gap*: well-applied finances can incentivize the adoption of sustainable food production and consumption practices. Public and private actors need to work together and consider the integration of health, environmental and social risks into financial decision-making.
5. *Break down siloes*: deeper discussions on incentives and benefit sharing are needed to align the varied interests scattered across different stakeholders in food systems. To enable such discussions greater commitment from governments is critical. Consumers' choices can influence what foods are grown, processed, and sold. Therefore, educating consumers on sustainable and healthy diets is vital.
6. *Increase youth participation in agriculture*: strategic imperative to make agriculture more attractive to youth by providing long-term income opportunities. This will also require building capacities among and building dialogues with the youth to encourage their participation in agribusinesses.