

UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment

SESSION REPORT

All session recordings will be available after the conclusion of the session. Please send the report of your session to Ms. Yota Nicolarea (Panayota.Nicolarea@fao.org) and Mr. Thembani Malapela (Thembani.Malapela@fao.org) by **Tuesday 1st August COB**

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

Mobilizing Means of Implementation for Food Systems

Transformation

26th July 2023, 09:30-12:30

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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. Themba Masuku, Deputy Prime Minister of Eswatini	Opening (part 1)	Urgent transformation of food systems is necessary and should include stakeholder engagement, improved financing mechanisms, and robust information systems for agriculture and food.
2. Christopher Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist, World Bank	Opening (part 1)	IFAD and the World Bank as co-leads of the financing agenda for food systems transformation have developed a prototype to measure financial flows to food systems (the 3FS). The 3FS-prototype is providing data to support evidence-based planning and decision making. The following trends on ODA to food systems were highlighted:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODA to food systems increased from \$40.3 billion in 2018 to \$44.3 billion in 2021, accounting for about 20% of total ODA. One-third of ODA to food systems is directed to social assistance for vulnerable groups (inc. emergency food assistance), showing a 31% increase from 2018-2021 (from \$11.3 billion to \$14.7 billion in 2021). • Resources to humanitarian responses rather than long term food systems transformation increased while ODA for agricultural development remained relatively stagnant. ODA for climate change and natural resources increased by 28% in the last four years. ODA for food system infrastructure declined by 23% over 2018-2021. • Donor coordination is critical for a food systems approach; 57% of ODA to food systems came from bilateral sources and 39% from multilateral institutions between 2018 and 2021, with multilateral institutions prioritizing agricultural development and bilateral partners focusing on social assistance (including emergency food assistance).
<p>3. Donal Brown, Associate Vice- President, Programme Management Department, IFAD</p>	<p>Opening (part 1)</p>	<p>Improving the quality and targeting of investments is essential, ensuring the optimal use of limited resources. Data, as provided through the 3FS, important for informed decision making. Financial institutions, like IFAD, has a key role, given their mandate. Presently, IFAD possesses a \$20 billion investment dedicated to food systems transformation, making it a major source of financing in this area.</p> <p>Investments should prioritize desired outcomes, focusing on increasing resilience and sustainability. Collaborating with governments in a result-driven approach is critical for success. We must facilitate meaningful conversations between development banks, the private sector, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to drive progress forward.</p>

<p>4. Michael Chorske, Operating Partner, Pegasus Capital</p>	<p>Panel (part 1)</p>	<p>The private sector should be encouraged to invest in less attractive and low-income countries' infrastructure through incentivization. Adopting a blended financing approach is essential to scale up these efforts effectively and ensure a comprehensive means of implementation. We aim to provide catalytic capital that provides first-loss support with a capped return. It is designed to be patient and risk-tolerant, specifically targeting low-income countries and struggling economies.</p>
<p>5. Giancarlo Sandrin, Head, Legal General Investment Management</p>	<p>Panel (part 1)</p>	<p>Legal investors can influence companies to modify their strategies regarding health and food. Through our Climate Change Program, we are implementing the Climate Impact Pledge, which involves evaluating 500 companies across 20 climate-critical sectors and against minimum criteria.</p> <p>ESG investments are on the rise, and for companies to be part of these opportunities, they must demonstrate sustainability in their business practices.</p>
<p>6. Malala Rabenero, <i>SME Representative,</i> SOAFIARY</p>	<p>Panel (part 1)</p>	<p>With IFAD's involvement, our company has been able to support 532 farmers. SMEs requires technological and financial support, institutional backing, and most importantly, strong local partnerships to facilitate collaboration with farmers and communities.</p>
<p>7. Lovelyn Nnenna Ejimrmer, National Vice-President, Rice Farmers Assoc. of Nigeria</p>	<p>Panel (part 1)</p>	<p>It is crucial to engage the rural farmers, and it provides opportunities for the private sector. Providing farmers with access to land and collaborating closely with them is essential.</p> <p>The establishment of equitable pricing structures and incentive mechanisms can be beneficial for private sector actors and smallholder farmers.</p>
<p>8. Juan Carlo Restrepo, Global Director Partnerships and Advocacy, Director General Alliance on Biodiversity, CGIAR</p>	<p>Opening (part 2)</p>	<p>Financing for food systems transformation is crucial, and the cost of inaction is higher than the cost of action. It requires a combination of domestic resource mobilization, ODA, private investment, blended finance, and a new international financial pact to ensure impactful investments and sustainable food systems.</p>

		<p>Digitalization is crucial for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It can empower farmers and food producers with precision agriculture techniques, supply chain optimization, and market access, leading to increased productivity and sustainability.</p> <p>Agrifood systems transformation requires a robust data and monitoring system to guide decision-makers in designing, monitoring, and evaluating public policies. Efforts are needed to fill critical data gaps and utilize existing frameworks like the Food Systems Countdown to 2030 Initiative.</p> <p>International trade plays a vital role in balancing global food deficits and surpluses, contributing to food security and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Recent shocks in global food markets have highlighted the importance of keeping trade open and predictable, but challenges persist, especially for vulnerable countries.</p> <p>Effective governance is essential for the desired transformation of agrifood systems. Inclusive participation of relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society, businesses, and local communities, is necessary for successful implementation.</p>
<p>9. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>The notion of systems is intricate and requires a long-term perspective. It is essential to examine the interdependencies between the agricultural sector and other sectors it impacts. Taking action at the country level is crucial.</p> <p>Data plays a critical role in this process. It is necessary to enhance the management of resources within the system. In the context of trade, the agricultural sector bears responsibility for promoting healthy diets and ensuring the efficient allocation of resources. It also facilitates the movement of food, especially during emergencies, ensuring mobility and accessibility.</p>

<p>10. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>Not enough finance is going into global change - investing in food systems is ensuring future generations do not inherit food aid.</p> <p>We need a coordinated approach to food systems transformation, we must work together and share experiences.</p> <p>Rural women and youth at the frontline of climate change are suffering. We demand more support from the international community, but our political decisions and finances are not enough – food insecurity is a global tragedy that we can avoid together.</p> <p>Young people call for countries to engage them at all levels. They want opportunities to come through on the commitment they made at the UNFSS.</p> <p>We should prioritize: promoting local production for local consumption, reduce post loss, leverage investments, put young people and women at the center, expand school meals.</p>
<p>11. Jo Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>Highlighted IFAD’s commitments on the means of implementation, such as the financing agenda (with World Bank), decent work and living income (with ILO) and on science and innovation (with German Foreign Office, CGIAR and FCDO).</p> <p>We need to produce and use evidence to inform policy and action.</p>
<p>12. Martien Van Nieuwkoop, Global Director Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>National pathways should guide efforts, while organizations can provide general guidelines to support these endeavors. Institutional support and blended financing are essential to achieve goals.</p> <p>The conversation needs to shift towards focusing on incentives and accountability. Aligning incentives is crucial in building a resilient food system and garnering increased support. There should be a push to accelerate and scale up innovation, aiming for a benchmark of 1% of agricultural GDP.</p>

		<p>Scaling investments and utilizing blended finance are key strategies for both the private and public sectors. To ensure effective coordination, institutions should go beyond the Ministry of Agriculture and engage various stakeholders in the process.</p>
<p>13. Ertharin Cousin, CEO and Founder, Food Systems for the Future</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>It is essential to pause and recognize that while there may be a plan in place, the current financing and priorities might not lead to the desired outcomes. The flow of Official Development Assistance (ODA) often focuses on humanitarian responses and may not effectively address the long-term needs. To avert a worsening crisis, it is crucial to repurpose agricultural development efforts towards long-term solutions.</p> <p>To achieve this, appropriate policies and robust systems for private sector engagement are necessary. Increased outreach can be achieved by establishing commercially viable enterprises supported by capital and leveraging various tools. Investments should be based on the ability to generate commercial returns and contribute to sustainable development.</p>
<p>14. Shakuntala Thilsted, Director Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR</p>	<p>Panel (part 2)</p>	<p>Science, technology, and innovation play a significant role in accelerating transformation and offer diverse pathways for multiple actors, ensuring inclusivity and leaving no one behind.</p> <p>These approaches bring forth positive solutions, combining Indigenous knowledge with new technologies to democratize science and make it accessible to all. It is crucial to build upon and strengthen past and existing efforts while embracing new transformative initiatives.</p> <p>To achieve this, there is a need to mobilize means of implementation. One of the challenges lies in providing more inclusive access to technology, science, and data, particularly for low-income countries. This lack of access can be frustrating and hampers their efforts in advancing development and innovation.</p>

<p>15. Elizabeth Mwende, Agricultural Engineer and Youth Representative</p>	<p>Closing (part 2)</p>	<p>Youth involvement is crucial in transforming global food systems. Youth should be actively engaged in discussions and implementation, as they bring unique experiences, education, and vision to address problems and drive real change in communities and countries.</p> <p>Currently, many national pathways do not mention youth or depict them only as beneficiaries or affected populations. The youth need to be included as strategic assets, involving them in co-creating and co-designing the transformation process, and recognizing youth-led solutions in innovation and technology as essential enablers in implementing national pathways.</p>
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Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
1. Albania	Government is introducing subsidies for farmers and participating in EU programs to develop the agribusiness sector and build the necessary connections for food systems transformation.
2. Chad	Chad is prioritizing the improvement of its agricultural industry, but to fully achieve food systems transformation it requires support from the international community.
3. Cuba	Cuba is facing challenges in accessing markets, but the government is working on increasing participation from farmers and redistributing resources according to national priorities.
4. Luxembourg	Luxembourg is focusing on minimising food waste in schools and supporting school feeding programmes. Highlighted the Small Holder Safety Net Program launched with Switzerland to provide technological assistance to farmers.
5. Palestine	Despite its situation of political instability and food insecurity, Palestine is financing sustainable programmes and taking positive action to reinforce the agri-food sector and protecting biodiversity.
6. Turkey	Government is funding innovation and digital agricultural solutions for farmers.
7. Dominican Republic	Government is making progress on passing legislation to improve food security, such as actions to restore water sources and capitalise on hydroelectric energy.

8. Chile	Chile is taking concrete actions to establishing food sovereignty and improving people's health, by developing innovative tools and platforms for measuring the socioeconomic status of the country and the level of health of its people.
9. Namibia	Namibia expressed its will to develop an effective e-commerce business in the agri-food sector to aid smallholder farmers and attract international investment.
10. Oman	Oman is prioritizing the sustainable use of natural resources. As a demonstration of its effort to implement pragmatic solutions, Oman's national banks are providing loans to smallholder farmers. The government also called for subsidies from the international community and for the removal of customs and barriers of certain products.
11. Lesotho	Lesotho is focusing on the digitalization and data collection to enhance the transformation of the agri-food sector, as well as building infrastructure. Moreover, it is advancing efforts in clean water to encourage investors to its blue economy.
12. Sudan	Given its economic crises and conflicts, Sudan calls on regional and international institutions to implement a strategy of cooperation.

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

The session convened country leaders, multilateral development actors, private sector and SME representatives to deliberate on the means of implementation for transforming food systems (finance, data, trade, governance, science and innovation).

During the event, the critical role of adequate financing and strategic targeting of funds was emphasised. The speakers highlighted the utility of the 3FS prototype, a valuable tool that measures financial flows to food systems. The tool revealed trends in Official Development Assistance (ODA), for instance that one-third of ODA to food systems is directed to social assistance for vulnerable groups (including emergency food assistance), showing a 31% increase from 2018-2021 (from \$11.3 billion to \$14.7 billion in 2021). During the same period, ODA for agricultural development remained relatively stagnant. The private sector should be engaged, and investments in low-income countries' can be facilitated through incentivization. Adopting a blended financing approach was considered important to scale up efforts effectively. Engaging rural farmers and providing them with access to land and resources were emphasized, along with the establishment of equitable pricing structures and incentive mechanisms.

Robust data and monitoring systems were highlighted as important to guide decision-makers in designing, monitoring, and evaluating public policies. International trade's importance in balancing global food deficits and surpluses, contributing to food security and SDG 2, was also acknowledged. It was underscored that trade can increase the diversity of food supplied in a country at levels above what domestic production could sustain, thus providing the basis for better nutrition.

The role of digitalization in accelerating progress was highlighted. Precision agriculture techniques, supply chain optimization, and market access that empower farmers and food producers, can increase productivity and sustainability.

Effective governance, including relevant stakeholders, was deemed critical. Participation to decision-making is key to ensure ownership across all relevant actors and inclusive implementation of agrifood systems transformation pathways across sectors and territories. Parliaments have an important role to play in supporting agrifood systems transformation, by ensuring that the required legislation, accountability and budgeting are in place. Agrifood systems transformation requires innovative evidence to help building a shared understanding on what it means in practice, addressing possible trade-offs and maximizing synergies, and allowing engagement of actors. Decentralized level implementation, including budget allocation is key to tailor results to socio-economic and cultural contexts, as well as to bring results at scale.

A transformative approach integrating trade, financing, agriculture, nutrition, and health was advocated to achieve food systems transformation. Science, technology, and innovation were identified as powerful catalysts, requiring robust political support and integration with traditional knowledge.

Youth should be actively engaged in discussions and implementation, as they bring unique experiences and visions to address problems and drive real change in communities and countries.

In conclusion, the event stressed the significance of evidence-based policy and action as well as institutional support to achieve food systems transformation. Incentives and accountability were identified as critical drivers. The integration of science, technology, and innovation, along with access to finance, was emphasized. Inclusive access to technology and data were cited as challenges that need to be addressed to advance development. Overall, the event set a strong foundation for driving transformative change to food systems.