

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SESSION REPORT

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Type (click one):

- ☐ Plenary
- ☐ Ministerial Roundtable
- ☒ High-level Panel
- ☐ Featured Event
- ☐ Investment Dialogue
- ☐ Stakeholder Action Session

Anticipating the Future of Food: Science, Knowledge and Innovation for Just Transformations

29 July 2025 | 15:00 – 16:20

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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. H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, CFS Chairperson	Opening	Inclusive, rights-based science-policy-society interfaces are crucial to improve the efficiency and efficacy of decision-making for food systems transformation.

2. Luz Haro Guanga, Executive Secretary - Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean	Opening	Rural women represent an essential constituency for building equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems. They should thus be integral parts of decision- and policymaking at all levels.
3. H.E. John Steenhuisen, Minister of Agriculture, South Africa	Panel 1	Science and research allow policymakers to effectively prioritize effective food systems policies, making them a crucial foundation for decision-making in times of resource constraints.
4. Mr Tran Van The, Deputy Director, the Institute of Agriculture and Environment, Vietnam	Panel 1	Vietnam's food systems transformation pathway focused on agroecology was successfully co-created and implemented with local communities and science through continuous mapping and dialogue across scales.
5. Ms Marina Godoi de Lima, Deputy Vice-Minister for Agrarian Development and Family Farming, Brazil	Panel 1	Successful food systems transformations require permanent mechanisms of dialogue across disciplines, which put people at the centre and truly value local knowledge and cultural diversity.
6. Ms Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann, Chairperson of HLPE-FSN	Panel 2	SPIs need to be permanent and independent so that they can provide a joint knowledge base for decisionmakers and stakeholders, as a basis of inclusive decision-making. The use of data and evidence increases people's agency.
7. Ms Afshan Khan, Assistant UN Secretary-General and Coordinator of the SUN Movement	Panel 2	Policymakers need to create demand for better evidence, but scientific multistakeholder platforms can also contribute to illustrating their value and create linkages between policymakers and scientists.
8. Ms Shakuntala Thilsted, Chairperson UNFSS SAC	Panel 2	Community engagement is essential in all steps of creating and sharing knowledge. Science needs to centre people and their needs to ensure that the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition are being addressed.

9. Ms Dongxin Feng, Director, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture	Panel 2	Organizations like FAO can support countries with scientific resources that help to identify challenges, trade-offs and innovative solutions for better policymaking in food systems transformations.
10. Mr Patrick Caron, Chairperson Integrated Partnership Board, CGIAR	Closing	Science has key roles to play in tracking progress, overcoming obstacles around controversial issues and co-designing plausible future pathways through foresight.

Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
1. Mr. Osamu KUBOTA, Deputy Assistant Minister, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan	Japan has learned key lessons from its own food systems transformation strategy and its regional collaboration work. Key lessons include the need to tailor solutions and technologies to local contexts and the importance of collaboration between stakeholders at various levels (national & local governments, private sector)
2. Mr Alexander Bång Bergström, Head of Section, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Sweden	Sweden champions science and innovation for evidence-based food systems transformation through investment in research centres that foster collaboration across the entire food value chain. This approach is followed domestically and internationally through its development cooperation.
3. Mr Philip Lymbery, Global CEO, Compassion in World Farming International	Underlined the importance of aligning environmental objectives, animal welfare and food security for a transformation that allows food systems to stay within planetary boundaries.

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

The High Level Forum addressed the critical Science-Policy-Society interface gap identified across regional preparatory reports as a significant barrier to realizing the tremendous potential of evidence-based food systems transformation.

Sharing country-level experiences as well as insights from civil society leaders and representatives of key institutional platforms, the session highlighted that food systems transformation needs cross-sectoral evidence-based solutions that address multiple objectives.

Science plays a key role in supporting countries identify, understand and prioritize these solutions, while navigating trade-offs.

Science-based decision-making can improve foresight as well as effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of outcomes, while enhancing transparency and accountability. In an environment of increasing funding scarcity of food systems, science helps decision-makers prioritize interventions ensuring optimal alignment with policy objectives such as national development plans and strategies.

Inclusive, rights-based science-policy interfaces bring together relevant stakeholders across scales and sectors, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and smallholder farmers, through knowledge co-creation, dialogue and collaborative decision-making processes.

Financing for demand-driven science and research frameworks rooted in the right to food and inclusive processes should be prioritized as a key catalyst for effective food systems transformation and enhanced engagement towards the achievement of the SDGs.