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Country/Organization/Constituency: New Zealand

- The overall challenge the world is facing over the coming decades has already been well described by many speakers – essentially we must produce more food that is higher in nutrition, in a more efficient manner, using less resources.
- Changes to the global agriculture and food system are necessary if we are to address climate change, eliminate hunger and halt biodiversity loss.
- There are many challenges that lie ahead of us to achieve the level of transformation needed to scale up efforts in ways that support small-scale farmers, improve the productivity of farms, build resilience, and significantly reduce emissions across the entire agricultural system.
- To achieve this triple-win we must simultaneously increase productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and ensure people have access to an affordable and stable supply of nutritious foods. Our economies must focus on increasing agricultural efficiency and decreasing the amount of food that is lost or wasted.
- In fostering a sustainable food system, the focus must also shift from calorie intake to nutritional quality. Over 2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. In some countries people do not have enough iron, in others not enough Vitamin A, while in many countries people have excess energy intake, resulting in increasing rates of obesity.
- New Zealand believes the report provides a useful and comprehensive contribution to discussions on different pathways towards sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.
- New Zealand agrees that given the huge diversity of food systems across and within countries, and the diversity of the challenges and constraints they face, context-specific pathways towards sustainable food systems can be developed, and that these transition pathways may be grounded in different narratives, leading to different sets of options for how change is realized.