



Food Systems Fit for Purpose: Bold Leadership to Prioritize Human, Animal, and Ecological Health

A partner event of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) high-level special event on Strengthening Global Governance of Food Security & Nutrition.

This special event on Wednesday 14 October 2020 brought together a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the need for a new narrative and action around systemic solutions for global food systems.

Panellists from Rwanda, Switzerland, Chile, Vietnam, and the UK shared stories of global and local government leadership and examples of holistic policies and practices that deliver healthy, resilient, and sustainable food systems for all. Examples of collaboration between national governments, food producers, community groups, businesses, researchers, investors, and civil society organizations included the consumer information laws in Chile, nutrition programs in Rwanda, programs to increase vegetable consumption in the UK, and government strategies on agriculture and nutrition in Vietnam. Panellists also spoke to the prevailing narratives and mindsets that shape how food systems operate, reflecting on the importance of being values-led and why having an inspirational vision of what is possible is central to catalyzing systems transformation.

To coincide with the event, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food launched *Systemic Solutions for Healthy Food Systems*, a guide for governments to take action for better food systems that promote human, ecological, and animal health and well-being. As such, each speaker was also asked to provide their one “call to action” or recommendation to government leaders and the wider community.

In the context of COVID-19 and recovery, there was a call for governments to guide investments that support both health and the environment. In turn, there was a call to embrace different ways of assessing or viewing profitability. Here, the opportunity to break away from limiting measures like “yield per hectare” and to use true cost accounting to incorporate externalities such as pollution, biodiversity loss, ecosystem destruction, and malnutrition, as a way to spur innovation and new business models, was named as an immediate opportunity. Other systems-wide recommendations included: 1) the need for clarity on outcomes we seek, better data and system-wide sharing of the data, and the creation of common standards and metrics; 2) the need to elevate the existing body of evidence from different countries about how agroecology supports food security; 3) the need to invest in local and community-led solutions that promote nutrition; and 4) the need to align regulatory and fiscal policy drivers to support dietary shifts and ensure access and affordability for all, amongst others.

Panellists also emphasized that coordinated action must be taken across sectors, supported by inclusive, meaningful multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration, especially in the context of the forthcoming UN Food Systems Summit and other critical, global political milestones in 2021.

This event was delivered by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food in partnership with the Food Foundation, Gardens for Health International, Healthcare Without Harm, Switzerland, UN Environment Programme, World Obesity Federation, and the World Health Organization.

Materials from the event, including reports and case studies mentioned, speaker presentations and a recording of the session, will be made available here: <http://ow.ly/IcVA50BS6XT>

Recording:

https://fao.zoom.us/rec/play/BO8FeyI1LuJYi8a48S_a2AWSQ_11etmLLG5MYdDNT25hQ_Lv1SgTLrc_f00WD_WMeYI417Rdf81gyh9u.BHoELlyDFs1eDI8G

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