



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

working for Zero Hunger

TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs

TECHNICAL
REFERENCE
DOCUMENT

20 interconnected
actions to guide
decision-makers

A vision for sustainable food and agriculture

FAO's vision is a world where food is nutritious and accessible for everyone, in which natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current and future human needs. In this vision, farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folk, foresters and other rural dwellers actively participate in, and benefit from, economic development, have decent employment conditions and work in a fair price environment. Rural women, men and communities live in food security, and have control over their livelihoods and equitable access to resources which they use in an efficient way.

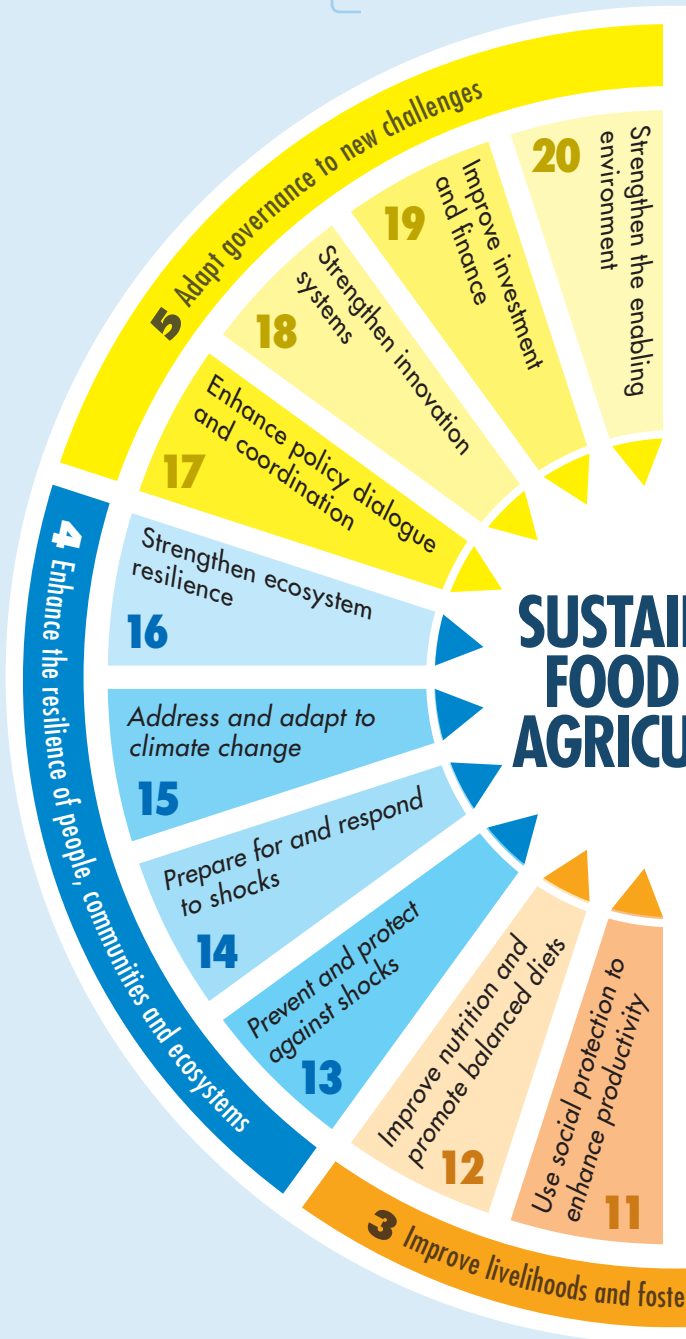
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AT A CROSSROADS

While major improvements in agricultural productivity in recent decades have contributed to satisfying the food demands of a growing global population, that progress has too often come with high social and environmental costs. Water scarcity, soil degradation, ecosystem stress, biodiversity loss, decreasing fish stocks and forest cover, and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions have damaged the productive potential of our natural resources base, compromising the future fertility of the planet. The global food system is out of balance, with more than 800 million people going hungry, and every third person malnourished.

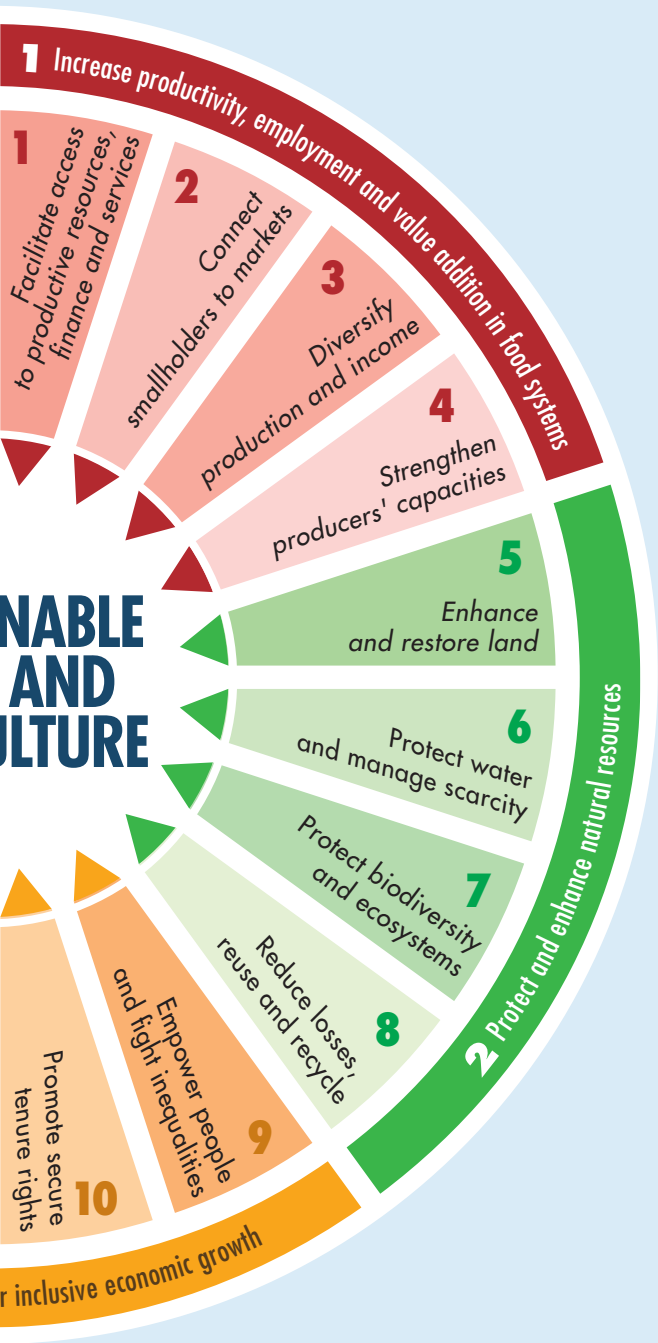
Looking ahead, the path to inclusive prosperity is clearly marked by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the prime connection between people and the planet, food and agriculture can [revitalize the rural landscape, deliver inclusive growth and] help countries achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To accomplish this potential, food and agriculture need to become sustainable. The 20 interconnected actions can be a catalyst for this transformation.

5 PRINCIPLES 20 ACTIONS

Achieving sustainable food and
balance the social, economic and



Agriculture through 20 Actions guided by 5 principles that address the environmental dimensions of sustainability



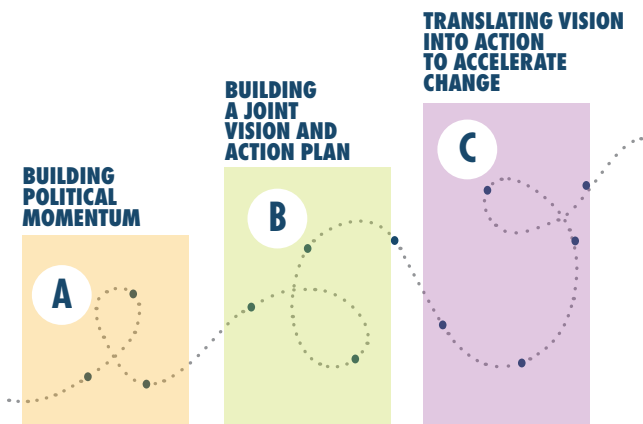
**SUSTAINABLE
AND
CULTURE**

MAKE IT HAPPEN – THROUGH COHERENT AND JOINT ACTION BY STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS SECTORS

A fundamental premise for delivering sustainable food and agriculture is an enabling policy environment. Policymakers must recognize the need to manage trade-offs and enhance synergies, and take concrete measures to better align multiple objectives and incentive structures across and beyond food and agriculture. Sectoral ministries need to change the way they work and coordinate policies across government.

Governments have an important role to play, but they cannot achieve the transformation of food and agriculture alone. The private sector and civil society are essential allies in supporting and delivering a sustainable transition. Process and institutional structures matter. Multistakeholder mechanisms and participatory governance structures can bolster policy ownership while helping to mobilize capacities, information, innovative technologies and access to financial and productive resources.

Action should be based on evidence. Monitoring progress, identifying and addressing barriers to change will be crucial to enable transformation through appropriate development pathways that reflect each country's unique characteristics.



Action is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the main connection between people and planet, sustainable food and agriculture can fuel positive change.

How can decision-makers turn that potential into reality? How can they prioritize activities and resources to accelerate progress?

The FAO publication “**Transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs: 20 Actions**” presents practical solutions through 20 interconnected actions, each describing approaches, policies and tools that contribute to multiple SDGs. These actions reflect the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and confront trade-offs as well as synergies.

Progress requires participation and partnerships among different actors. This guide can inform coherent country-specific paths towards achieving sustainable development through food and agriculture.

For further information: www.fao.org/sustainability

To access the publication and technical reference document:
www.fao.org/publications/transforming-food-agriculture-to-achieve-sdg/en



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence

© FAO, 2019
CA4803EN/1/07.19