



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2030 AGENDA FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

SDGS UNDER REVIEW AT THE 2024 HLPF

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTIONS WHEN REVIEWING PROGRESS FOR THE 2024 HLPF

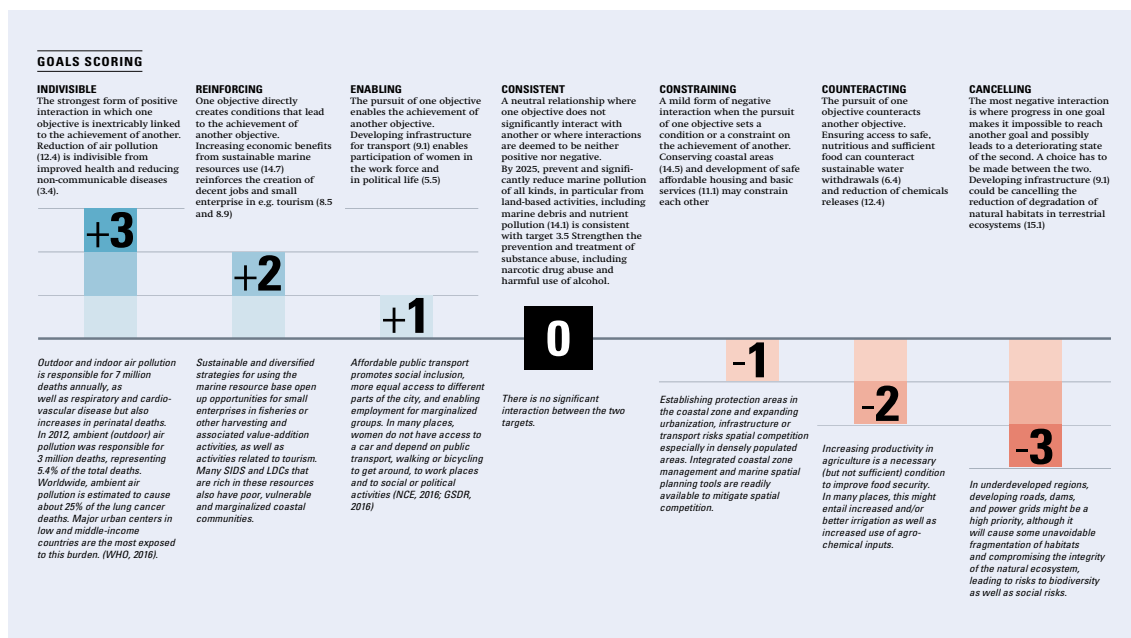
Each year, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York reviews a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2024, the following SDGs will undergo an in-depth review: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

Agrifood systems are significantly more complex than what is covered by SDG 2, which means that the 2024 HLPF presents an opportunity for FAO to increase national and global awareness of the interconnected and transformative role that these systems play in a given context, and how their transformation can support the shift towards sustainable development through support to analysis of other SDGs.

There is a number of methodologies to address the interconnections between the goals. Since 2015, the International Council for Science (ICSU)¹ has been working on a seven-point scale methodology to account for the interactions between the targets of the SDGs (see the figure below) (ICS, 2017)

¹ In 2018, it merged with the International Social Science Council [ISSC] and is now known as the International Science Council (ISC)

FIGURE 1: A SEVEN-POINT SCALE OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE SDGS



Source: International Council for Science. 2017. *A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation*. <https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SDGs-Guide-to-Interactions.pdf>

The questions below are based on this seven-point scale of interaction framework and aim to provide a starting point for FAO to consider interactions between the SDGs when supporting its Members with the preparation of their Voluntary National Reviews. Colleagues are invited to tailor and modify these questions to best fit their context.

SDG 1 (NO POVERTY)

The mission statement of SDG 1 reads "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", recognizing that poverty is a complex and multifaceted issue that affects billions of people around the world. This goal strives to combat poverty in its many forms, including the lack of access to social protection, basic services, education and healthcare while targeting income poverty. In order to achieve a society where no one is left behind, it emphasizes the need for inclusive economic growth, social safety nets, and sustainable development policies that may uplift disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. (UN, 2023)

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FIGURE 2:
KEY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SDG 1 AND SDG 2

SDG 2 + SDG 1



TARGETS	KEY INTERACTIONS	SCORE	POLICY OPTIONS
2.1, 2.2 → 1.1, 1.2	Food and nutrition security are indivisible from the eradication and reduction of poverty	+3	Strengthen interaction issues via national, regional and international governance. Co-design and co-develop mechanisms to mitigate the negative interactions and target particular resiliency needs by ensuring that the poor and small-scale food producers' interests are fully addressed
2.3 → overall SDG 1	Increasing small-scale food producer productivity and income reinforce the fight against poverty	+2	Advance agricultural research and development with a focus on pro-poor technology development; with complementary investments in safe drinking water, social protection systems, and rural roads
2.3 → 1.4	Equal access to land and other productive resources is directly aligned with securing equal rights to economic resources	+2	Increase small-scale food producer capacities and empowerment (knowledge, economic resources, basic services, rights); in particular put in place the economic mechanisms that increase the wealth of small farmers and reduce their vulnerability to uncertainties: access to land, access to productive and non-productive assets
2.3 → 1.5	Increasing agricultural productivity without sustainability (2.4) will increase vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other shocks – primarily in developing countries and for poor segments of societies. Thus, 2.3 and 2.4 need to be achieved in tandem	-1/ -2	Enhance diets and improve nutritional outcomes of a population to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and at the same time generate accelerated shared economic growth. Such interactions could be reinforced via social programmes in nutrition education
2.4 → 1.5	Enhancing adaptive capacity in agriculture may enhance the resilience of the poor as long as they are fully included in adaptation strategies	0/ +1	Build resilience by setting up pro-poor policy frameworks and safeguards for poor and vulnerable small-scale food producers within a competitive market environment
2.b → 1.b	Removal of trade restrictions could constrain the creation of pro-poor policy frameworks by limiting the range of policy actions, at least in the short term	-1	Ensure inclusive participation in trade negotiations and in addressing trade related issues. Consider the situation of the poorest countries in the agriculture sector and design trade policy accordingly. Address factors leading to market failure such as limited market access. Set up complementary policies to trade reform – such as strengthening social protection systems for those losing out from trade and develop capacities to explore beneficial changes Consider the role of diversification in strategies to improve production, productivity, employment, income nutrition and sustainability, as well as to reduce risks associated with market volatility, climate change and natural disasters

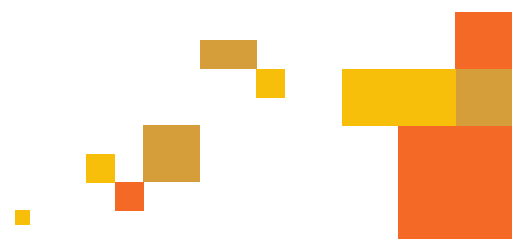
Source: International Council for Science. 2017. *A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation*. <https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SDGs-Guide-to-Interactions.pdf>

Without assuring everyone has access to food and nutrition security, poverty cannot be eradicated, meaning that SDG 2 is a key enabler for SDG 1.

The following questions could help the discussion to ensure that an agrifood systems lens is applied in the analysis of progress on SDG 1:

- Do the policies and programmes aimed at improving access to basic resources and services for the poor, such as education, healthcare, and housing (target 1.1, 1.2), target mechanisms to mitigate the negative interactions via national, regional and international governance (target 2.1, 2.2)?
- Do the policies and programmes to protect ecosystems and natural resources that support the livelihoods of impoverished communities (target 1.5), align with the programmes to double agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (target 2.3)?
- Do the policies and programmes to accelerate shared economic growth and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty (target 1.5), align with the programmes to enhance adaptive capacity in agriculture (target 2.4)?
- Do the policies and programmes to build resilience by setting up pro-poor policy frameworks and safeguards for poor and vulnerable small-scale food producers (target 1.b), align with ensuring inclusive participation in trade negotiations and in addressing trade related issues (target 2.b)?

Through improved food and nutrition security, which are crucial for reducing poverty and eradicating extreme poverty, SDG 2 enables and can support SDG 1. The poor and those in vulnerable situations are likely to be most affected if targets on agricultural productivity and on guaranteeing sustainable food production are not implemented concurrently.



SDG 13 (CLIMATE ACTION)

SDG 13 asks for "Climate Action" and strives to mitigate the effects of climate change. It calls for urgent and coordinated efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and promote sustainable practices to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This goal emphasizes the need for international cooperation, policy frameworks, and technological advancements to create a more sustainable and resilient future for both people and the planet, in the face of escalating climate-related challenges. (UN, 2023)

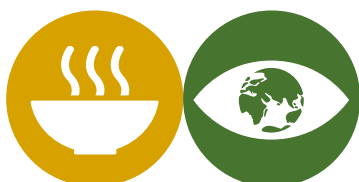
Agriculture aiming at climate action can play a significant role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices that align with the objectives of other SDGs.

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FIGURE 3:
KEY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SDG 2 AND SDG 13

SDG 2 + SDG 13



TARGETS	KEY INTERACTIONS	SCORE	POLICY OPTIONS – IN ADDITION TO THE COMPLEMENTARY ONES HIGHLIGHTED FOR SDG 2/SDG 7 AND SDG 6
2.4, 2.5 → 13.1	Resilient agricultural practices and maintaining and giving access to seeds/plant/animal genetic diversity should reinforce adaptation to climate change	+2	Design policies and mechanisms to foster and support agricultural action plans with triple wins for food security, adaptation and mitigation. Promote resilient strategies and practices, including market- and regulatory-based measures
2.a → 13.2, 13.3, 13.b	Enhancing international cooperation in agriculture research, science, and services should enable climate change measurements and raise awareness on climate challenges, and promote mechanisms to address them	+2	Support science and research in agricultural adaptation and mitigation. Enhance international cooperation and build scientific capacity (especially in developing countries) in agriculture research, science, and climate science and services
2.3, 2.4, 2.5 ← 13.b	Positive feedback from raising awareness and capacity on climate change impacts (mitigation and adaptation) to setting up sustainable and productive agriculture practices, and maintaining biodiversity	+2	Support multi-stakeholders platform and science / society / policy interfaces: including scientists, civil society organisations, farmers, policy decision-makers
2.3 → 13.1	Unsustainable agriculture focusing solely on productivity may counteract climate adaption by increasing climate instability and extreme events	-2	

Source: International Council for Science. 2017. A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation. <https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SDGs-Guide-to-Interactions.pdf>

The interactions important for agrifood systems transformation can be revealed through the following questions:

- Do the policies and programmes to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (target 13.1) align with the objective of increasing farmers' revenues and resilient agricultural practices (target 2.4, 2.5) to maintain and give access to seeds, plant and animal genetic diversity?
- Do the policies and programmes to enable climate change measurements and promote mechanisms to raise capacities for climate change planning and management (target 13.2, 13.3, 13.b) align with the efforts to promote market- and regulatory-based measures (target 2.a)?
- Do the policies and programmes to raise awareness and capacity on climate change impacts (target 13.b) support science and research in agricultural adaption and mitigation while setting up sustainable and productive agriculture practices (target 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)?
- Do the policies and programmes to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (target 13.1) take into account a risk of trade-offs caused by unsustainable agriculture focusing solely on productivity (target 2.3)?

SDG 2 facilitates the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning as well as raising awareness of climate mitigation and adaptation through fostering international collaboration and establishing collaborative projects.



SDG 16 (PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS)

SDG 16 aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. This goal underscores the importance of reducing violence, combating corruption, ensuring access to legal systems, and fostering responsive and participatory governance. By working towards SDG 16, the international community aims to create a foundation for sustainable development by fostering stability, rule of law, and respect for human rights worldwide. (UN, 2023)

Achieving SDG 2 is highly dependent on political stability, peace, justice and inclusive societies, while hunger and food insecurity are sources of political instability, conflict and war.

The following questions could help discussion to ensure that an agrifood systems lens is applied in the analysis of progress on SDG 16:

- Do the policies and programmes to promote peaceful, justice, and inclusive societies (target 16.1) reinforce access to food (target 2.1) and farmers' access to markets (target 2.3) in such a way as to benefit from a synergy?
- Do the policies and programmes to promote effective, accountable, and transparent institutions (target 16.6) avoid targeting or favouring certain producers over others (e.g., the needs of powerful agribusinesses over those of smallholders) in such a way as to reduce equity in access to resources and infrastructure and prevent trade-offs with the objective to enable agricultural productivity and increase the incomes of small-scale food producers (target 2.3)?
- Do the policies and programmes to promote equal access to justice for all (target 16.3) aim to prevent unsustainable practices and corruption that can hinder efforts to increase food production (target 2.1) and the objective to enable agricultural productivity and increase the incomes of small-scale food producers (target 2.3)?

It is essential that FAO helps national partners to see the synergies and potential trade-offs in the process of promoting effective, accountable, and transparent institutions and governance systems while advancing sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.



SDG 17 (PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS)

SDG 17 emphasizes the critical importance of collaboration and cooperation among countries, governments, private sectors, civil societies, and international organizations. This goal aims to enhance the means of implementation and revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development. It encompasses areas such as finance, technology transfer, capacity-building, and trade. By fostering inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnerships, SDG 17 seeks to leverage collective efforts to address complex global challenges and ensure the successful achievement of all the other Sustainable Development Goals. (UN, 2023)

The last of the 2030 Agenda Goals is crucial to the achievement of SDG 2, and there are multiple positive interactions that can promote the achievement of the transformation of agrifood systems towards sustainability. The following indicative questions can help to lead the discussion:

- Are the policies and programmes in the agrifood sector aligned to promote policy coherence (target 17.14) in such a way that they reinforce access to food (2.1) and help to enable agricultural productivity and increase the incomes of small-scale food producers (target 2.3) as a way to benefit from a synergy?
- Do the policies and programmes to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and facilitate timely access to market information (target 2.c) align with the global objective to promote a multilateral trading system under the WTO (target 17.10)?
- Do the national policies and programmes to reinforce access to food (2.1) and to enable agricultural productivity and increase the incomes of small-scale food producers (target 2.3) align with global efforts to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data (target 17.18)?

The interactions between SDG 17 and SDG 2 underscore the critical importance of policy coherence and collaborative efforts in transforming agrifood systems towards sustainability in order to facilitate the access to food, enhance agricultural productivity and uplift the incomes of small-scale food producers.



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