

25th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 9.1 - FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AND THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

Introductory Notes

This document provides a summary description of FAO's support to food systems transformation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the COVID-19 pandemic. It explains the support that FAO provides in supporting a common understanding of sustainable food systems and in supporting food systems actors by outlining FAO's strategic directions and the linkages to forests and trees.

The document illustrates how the adoption of a food systems approach has informed the development of recent initiatives including efforts to turn the tide on deforestation, programmes and projects funded by GCF and GEF and the Sustainable Wildlife Programme.

It further informs about the process towards the United Nations Secretary-General's Food Systems Summit in 2021 which provides a timely opportunity to forge interconnected actions and commitments and to create an improved and common understanding of the trade-offs that will be faced in the design of interventions that will guide the future development of food systems. The document outlines the contributions that FAO is making to supporting the process towards the Summit.

The Committee may wish to:

- Affirm the critical importance of FAO's support to Members in taking actions and investments towards the systematic integration of forests and agroforestry into more sustainable food systems, and the added urgency for transformative change in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Acknowledge the importance of FAO adopting a more systemic and coordinated approach to supporting Members in the transformation of their food systems to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;
- Acknowledge the role that the Organization is playing in supporting the preparatory process towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, inter alia, leading the Knowledge and Policy workstream, facilitating dialogue and developing the capacities of food systems stakeholders to identify, design and scale-up coordinated initiatives to catalyse meaningful food systems transformation, appropriate to local contexts;
- Provide guidance on opportunities for amplifying the impact of the Summit and on how FAO might support Members in their post-Summit development efforts.