

*Launch Summary Report – 15 September 2023*

***Tracking Progress on Food and Agriculture related SDG indicators 2023***

*FAO Liaison Office in Geneva*

The FAO Liaison Office in Geneva (LOG), in collaboration with the FAO Statistics Division, launched the report “Tracking Progress on Food and Agriculture related SDG indicators 2023,” providing insight into how far we have progressed to date on the SDG indicators and spotlighting the main accomplishments and barriers faced by countries. The launch event went further in-depth on the analysis and trends of the report to understand the complexity of the current situation of countries through a comparative and contrast analysis of data.

**Overview of the SDG Report Launch**

Dominique Burgeon, Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva, moderated the launch event and provided report insights on the analysis and trends on indicators across eight Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in, SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, and 15 – highlighting areas of progress and areas where further effort is needed. He emphasized that we are at the mid-point of 2030 and it is vital to understand the world’s need to eliminate hunger and food security. He pointed out that this year’s edition also discusses selected indicators for which FAO is a contributing agency and/or that have key implications for food and agriculture.

José Rosero Moncayo, Director of the FAO Statistics Division, presented the vital role of data capabilities in the SDG report, stressing how evidence-based conversations and dialogues are necessary to contribute to help guide decision-making and actions. He underlined the deployment of FAO statistical capacity development initiatives, which have increased the availability and quality of SDG data. Moreover, these initiatives assisted in catalyzing sustainable resources for SDG data collection mechanisms and examined how they help and guide countries to implement necessary actions towards monitoring the progression of achieving SDG targets. In addition, he noted that the lack of investments in food and agriculture data creates a barrier to effective-based policies, legislation, and decisions toward the 2030 Agenda’s vision of a world free from poverty and hunger. He insinuates the report’s main conclusions: multiple shocks in recent years have stalled or even reversed the progression across several SDG targets. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming SDG Summit 2023, with hopes of kickstarting a new drive and commitment towards the prioritization of accomplishing the SDGs.

Valerie Bizier, Senior Statistician of the FAO Office of the Chief Statistician, provided a breakdown of the report, giving insight into the sectional overview of the report and the main conclusions. She highlighted that for the first time, the report provided a statistical progress assessment for SDG 2 at the goal and target level. She noted that data in the report concluded that in achieving SDG 2 at the goal level, the world is “at a moderate distance” to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. She emphasized that the vision of a world with zero hunger and malnutrition and sustainable agriculture is still within reach, and the distance to be covered is not insurmountable. She underscored that in the various chapters of the report, you will find analyses regarding men and women’s access to land and agricultural land (as measured by indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2), economic losses in agriculture due to disasters (a disaggregation of indicator 1.5.2), and others. For those indicators, the available data provides similar conclusions regarding stagnation or

deterioration in the progress toward the SDG targets relevant to food and agriculture. Additionally, she spotlighted that progress has effectively stalled since the 2030 Agenda was launched in 2015. In conclusion, she pointed out that limited data availability is also a grave concern as it does not allow for proper global and regional progress monitoring.

Claire Melamed, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, first noted by reemphasizing the crucial role of data in the actions towards progression and development. She stressed that the designated date is a critical accelerator in all pragmatic interventions in the 2022-2031 strategic framework. She addressed the information gaps at the country-level SDG data, especially regarding protecting marginalized communities. It was essential for her to emphasize that allocating resources to bolster data systems, especially at the national level, is more than just an expenditure. However, it is a strategic investment that yields substantial long-term savings. She noted that the amount of data has increased more than five times, and that data comes from an increasing variety of sources that can, should we choose to use it, give us an increasingly timely and increasingly detailed and increasingly three-dimensional picture of our world.

Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the FAO Office of SDGs, focused on data being the primary accelerator; it is the fuel that proves that powers progress across all the SDGs. He pointed to stronger data systems that will help revise decision-making and instill an acceleration of the country's global transformation agendas, especially regarding agrifood systems. He stressed that using FAO four betters - better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life - is a way to look at the data from all aspects of sustainable development. He spotlighted the upcoming New York SDG Summit 2023 and his aspiration of an adopted and approved political declaration that pledges members' efforts to use more data, knowledge, and evidence-based approaches for numerous issues.

Le Thi Tuyet Mai, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam, highlighted the Government of Viet Nam's steps toward sustainable agriculture and a secure agrifood system. She noted Viet Nam's action plan to achieve the SDG 2030 targets, primarily focusing on achieving SDG 2, Zero hunger. She said that the Government of Viet Nam has carried out various measures and has pursued a consistent policy on agricultural development. In particular, the government did a comprehensive reform of the agricultural sector, with a market-oriented approach and an open-door policy. Moreover, the government made large investments to develop rural infrastructure. She also emphasized that agriculture and agrifood systems play a vital role in the normal context to speed up the achievement of SDGs so that no one is left behind.

Rémi Nono Womdim, FAO Representative in Viet Nam, pointed out that since the opening of the FAO office in 1978, it has been and continues to be a strategic partner for agrifood system transformation in the country. He highlighted the recent FAO National Action Plan for Food System Transformation to accelerate SDG and coordinate policies to provide holistic system-oriented solutions at all levels. He shared two critical challenges impacting Viet Nam from achieving the SDGs: malnutrition and climate change (droughts, floods, and heatwaves). As a result, he underscored an initiative in the southern region of Viet Nam focusing on diversifying production to improve people's nutrition and, most importantly, incomes. He noted FAO promotion in anticipatory actions to enhance the awareness of the government as well as the broader humanitarian community in the fight against climate change.

**Watch the recording**

Recording of the session can be seen [HERE](#) with the passcode: u@\$yt6gf