

## Summary of CFS Side Event S25

### **A Tale of Many Countries: Exploring the place-based nature of food system transformation**

**Thursday, October 13 @ 0830 to 0945: (hybrid)**

#### **Outcomes**

1. To explore the place-based nature of food system transformation using four countries as case studies.
2. To examine how the CFS Voluntary Guidelines can help guide food system transformation at the national level.
3. To establish collaboration and connect the dots between organizations to scale impact at the national level.

**Moderator – Brent Loken - WWF**

#### **Speakers (4 virtual, 3 in person)**

- **Lina Mahy**, Food Systems Coordination Hub
- **Nancy Aburto**, Deputy Director, Food and Nutrition – FAO
- **Dao The Anh**, Vice President of Vietnamese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (VAAS)
- **Johnson Opoku-Boateng**, Director for Business Development Services (BDS) for the Association of Ghana Industry (AGI)
- **Ruth Oniang'o**, Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND), Founder, Rural Outreach Program (ROP) Africa
- **Robert Boenish**, Food Security Advisor, US Department of State

#### **Summary**

A main goal of the CFS side event **A Tale of Many Countries: Exploring the place-based nature of food system transformation**, was to explore how food system transformation would look differently from country to country. The event began with Brent Loken providing an overview of and officially launching the report [Solving the Great Food Puzzle: 20 levers to scale national level action](#). This overview highlighted that food system transformation levers, depending on context, would have varying impact from country to country depending on food system type. This is important because to effect change, policy makers need to understand which levers are most effective in their context.

This overview was then followed by Lina Mahy, who provided a comprehensive overview of the work the UN Food System Coordination Hub was doing and Nancy Aburto who highlighted the work FAO was doing at the country level. After these important talks, we then heard from Dao, Johnson, Ruth and Robert who each highlighted the work they are doing in each of their respective countries. Dao presented his work with the VAAS, highlighting their efforts across the food system. Johnson presented their work to transform business in Ghana. Ruth gave an impassioned talk about the importance of acting now before climate change becomes worse. Robert highlighted the importance of Blue Foods, an often-overlooked component of food system transformation.

All in all, we achieved the outcomes for this event and left with reinvigorated in our collective efforts to scale implementation at the national level.