Scientific Group for the Food Systems Summit (2021) of the UN Secretary General

Framing of approach and implementation of work

Joachim von Braun, Chair

1st Scientific Group meeting, July 27, 2020





Establishment of the Scientific Group

<u>Selection</u> of members was based on their excellence, their linkages with large science networks; considering diversity; identified through science bodies, such as academies, science associations

Some principles

- 1) serving in a personal capacity, adherence to research ethics
- engaging constructively in the Food Systems Summit preparatory process
- 3) working to mobilize international science community

"Engaging hundreds if not thousands of other independent experts across various technical areas and regions"

Mobilize and connect with communities of leading science and knowledge bodies of relevance for food systems, e.g.

- Professional scientific associations such as on agronomy, soil sciences, crop science, animal production, ecology, biosciences, climate science, food processing, food safety, nutrition, public health, agricultural economics, etc.
- ➤ Academies of Sciences e.g. IAP with about 140 National Academies
- Knowledge carrying- and using organizations in public and private sectors (farmers, indigenous communities, business, consumers, etc.)
- Young scientists and students engaging with universities and Academies around the world

TOR of Scientific Group of Food Systems Summit

"The Scientific Group ...

- is responsible for ensuring that the Summit brings to bear the foremost scientific evidence from around the world and helps expand the base of shared knowledge about experiences, approaches, and tools for driving sustainable food systems that will inform the future...
- will help pull together applied science-based syntheses and analyses of the trade-offs faced by food system actors, linking with ongoing initiatives...
- will inform the Summit's content, recommended outcomes, clarify the level of ambition and commitments that will emerge from the Summit..."

TOR and Operation of Scientific Group (1)

- 1. Independent, interdisciplinary, inclusive, critical of dogmas
- 2. Evidence-based, drawing on best science, respecting diverse knowledge base, practicing peer review
- 3. Engaging in Action Tracks of FSS with expertise from research making the tracks evidence-informed
- 4. Bringing science into FSS Dialogues at national and regional levels through science networks and partnerships
- **5. Contributing to the FSS agenda**, outcomes, and follow-up after the Summit

TOR and Operation of Scientific Group (2)



Engaging in Action Tracks of FSS with expertise from research making the tracks evidence-informed

- 1. Ensure Safe and Nutritious Food for All (end hunger and all forms malnutrition)
- 2. Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns (change consumer behavior, create demand, reduce waste)
- 3. Boost Nature Positive Production (reduce emissions, conserve biodiversity, land, water, energy, reduce food loss)
- 4. Advance Equitable Livelihoods (raise incomes, expand inclusion, create jobs to eliminate poverty)
- 5. Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress (ensure continued functionality of sustainable food systems)

Engaging inside and across the 5 Action Tracks

| Action Tracks | Group engagement |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ensure Safe and Nutritious Food for All | 3 – 4 Scientific Group Members |
| 2. Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns | 3 – 4 Scientific Group Members |
| 3. Boost Nature-Positive Production | 3 – 4 Scientific Group Members |
| 4. Advance Equitable Livelihoods | 3 – 4 Scientific Group Members |
| 5. Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress | 3 – 4 Scientific Group Members |
| Synergies and tradeoffs among tracks | All Scientific Group Members |

TOR and Operation of Scientific Group (3)

Contributing to the FSS agenda, outcomes, and follow-up after the Summit

- Need for early outputs and briefing papers by the Scientific Group
- Publishing in scientific journals
- Engaging at critical moments in the Summit process in fora





Selected Outputs of Scientific Group (draft)

- **1- Clarifying** "Food Systems": components, links, boundaries (paper)
- **2- Synthesis** of relevant strategies (SDGs. IPCC, GSDR, IPBES, Oceans, Health / COVID19, etc.): assessing coherence and trade-offs of action agendas (papers and consultations)
- **3- Goals and Actions for FSS:** ambition of goals; scenarios, modelling, investment needs, policy; science & innovation; governance of food systems. National, regional, global people perspectives (papers and consultations)