

**High Level Expert Group to assess the
needs, potential, feasibility and
approach for an International Platform
for Food Systems Science (IPFSS)**
Official Kick off Meeting, Feb. 17th, 2021

Prof. Joachim von Braun

**University of Bonn, Center for Development Research (ZEF) and
Chair of Scientific Group for the UN Food Systems Summit**

Proposals for IP-Food



now discussed in FSS process

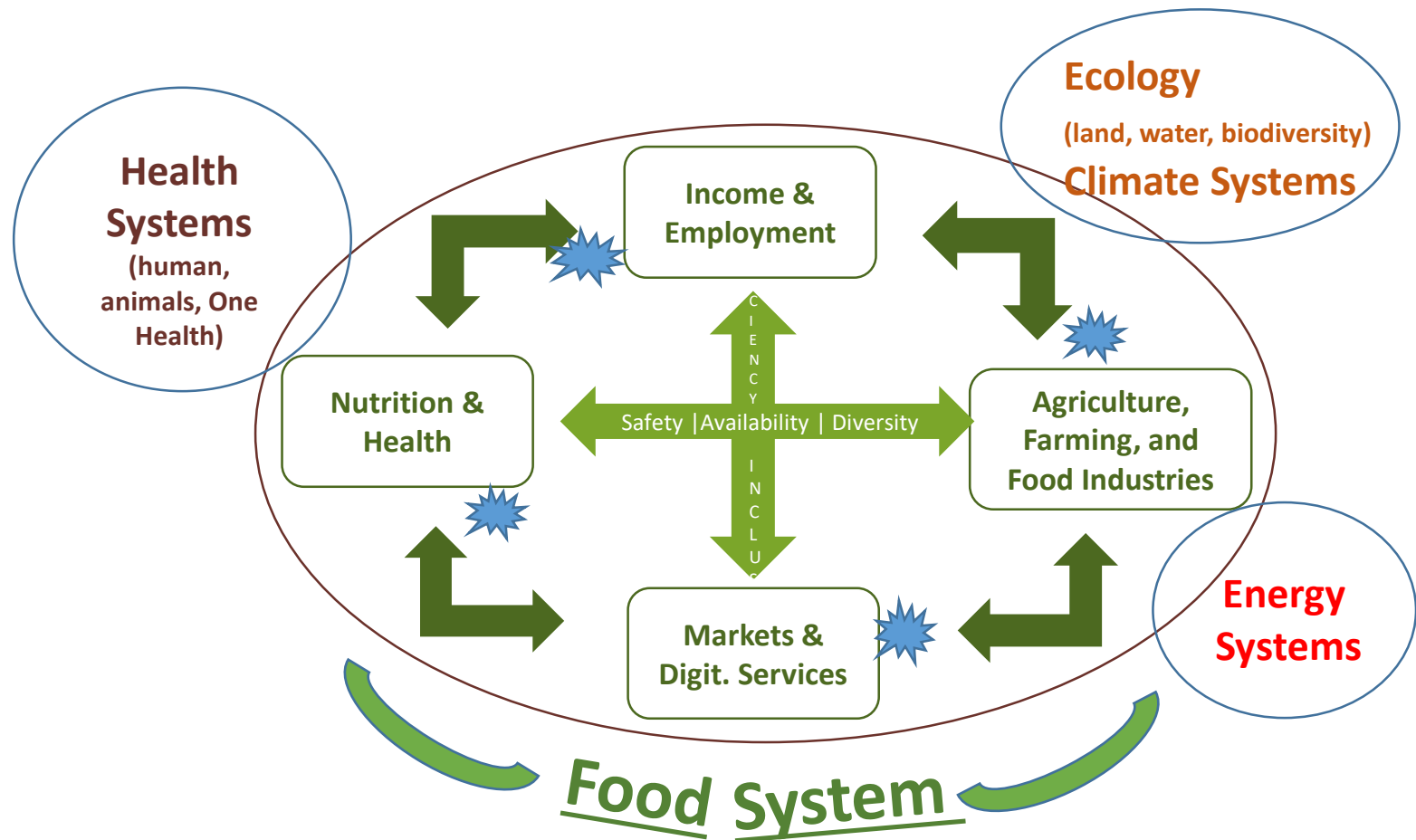
“IP Food Systems Science” - IPFSS
Panel ? / Platform? ...
Diversity of options; feasibilities...




Challenges for the global food system

- End hunger and achieve healthy diets for all
- Protect biodiversity and sustainably use natural resources
- Eliminate poverty and increase wealth

The SDGs: No.2 and more



 Research and Innovation Domains

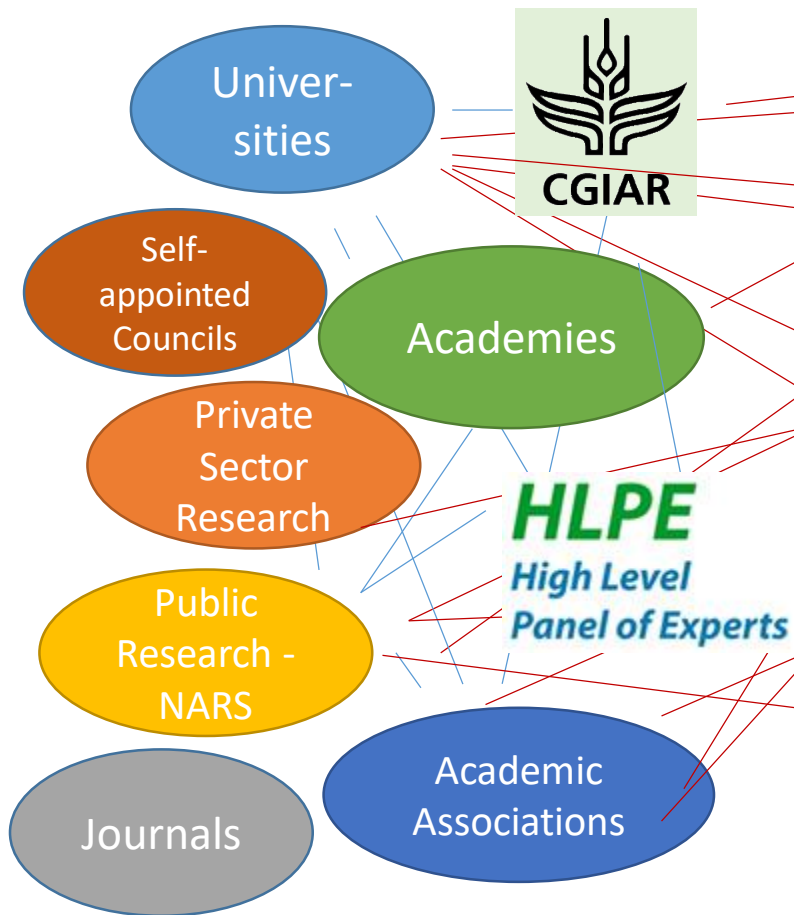
Science – Policy interface relevant for Food System's related International Public Goods

1. Nat. resource management, biodiversity, water, soils
2. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
3. Trade regime, food reserves, info., standards
4. International science and research
5. Responding to and preventing emergencies
6. Transboundary food safety and health

von Braun, J. and Birner, R. (2017). Designing Global Governance for Agricultural Development and Food and Nutrition Security Review of Development Economics, 21(2), 265–284, 2017. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rode.12261>

Current science -policy interface in food system (with interests & distortions)

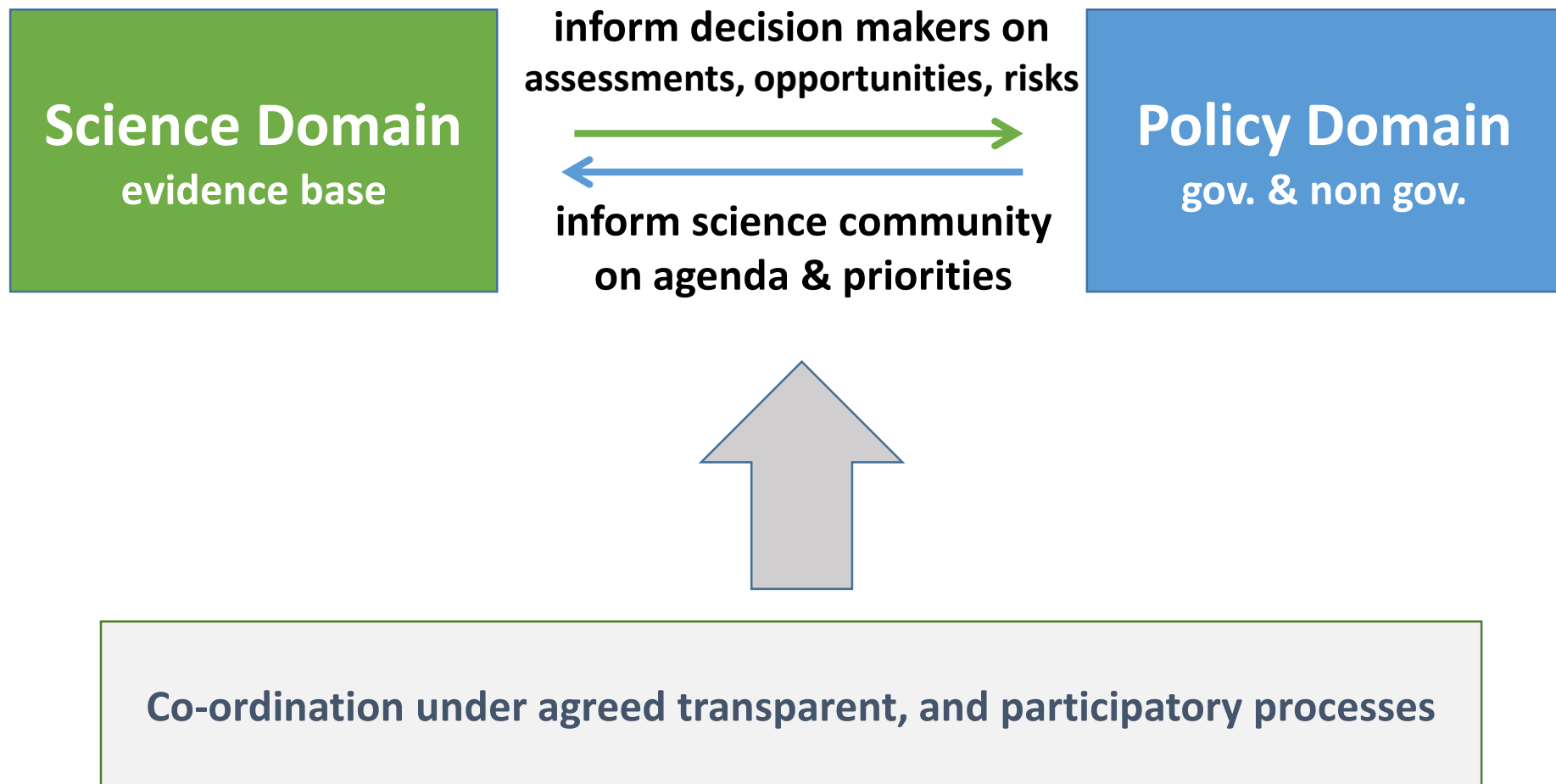
clusters of supply



clusters of demand



Toward an IP Food / IPFSS



Options for IP-Food / IPFSS

Options	Suitable for	Implementation
1: Working within the current system	Issues of specifics not for systems and international scope;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many uncoordinated actors; informal networks
2: International Panel on Food (Science in the lead)	Decision-making based on comprehensive science base; not necessarily on consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Umbrella of national & internat. Res. Orgs.; Academies (IAP)
3: Inter-governmental Panel on Food (Policy with science bodies in the lead)	Decision making based on comprehensive science base; consensus is necessary (IPCC model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IPCC-like intergovernmental organization

How IPFood /IPFSS will make a difference

- Operate effectively, efficiently at low costs
- Embrace existing institutions as partners
- Advantages:
 1. better reflect the **diversity** and presence of / lack of consensus in science and knowledge from different disciplines; resolve key issues with new research,
 2. improve **coordination among science disciplines at scale**, and with policy domain,
 3. increase transparency in the synthesis and **assessment process** based on rigorous **peer review**,
 4. increase the **legitimacy of assessments** and recommendations to governments and society

How to Make IPFood / IPFSS Feasible

Incentives for scientists (same as IPCC: no payments)

- Publications, networking, intrinsic (social returns of research)
- Members from science co-opted based on scientific merit

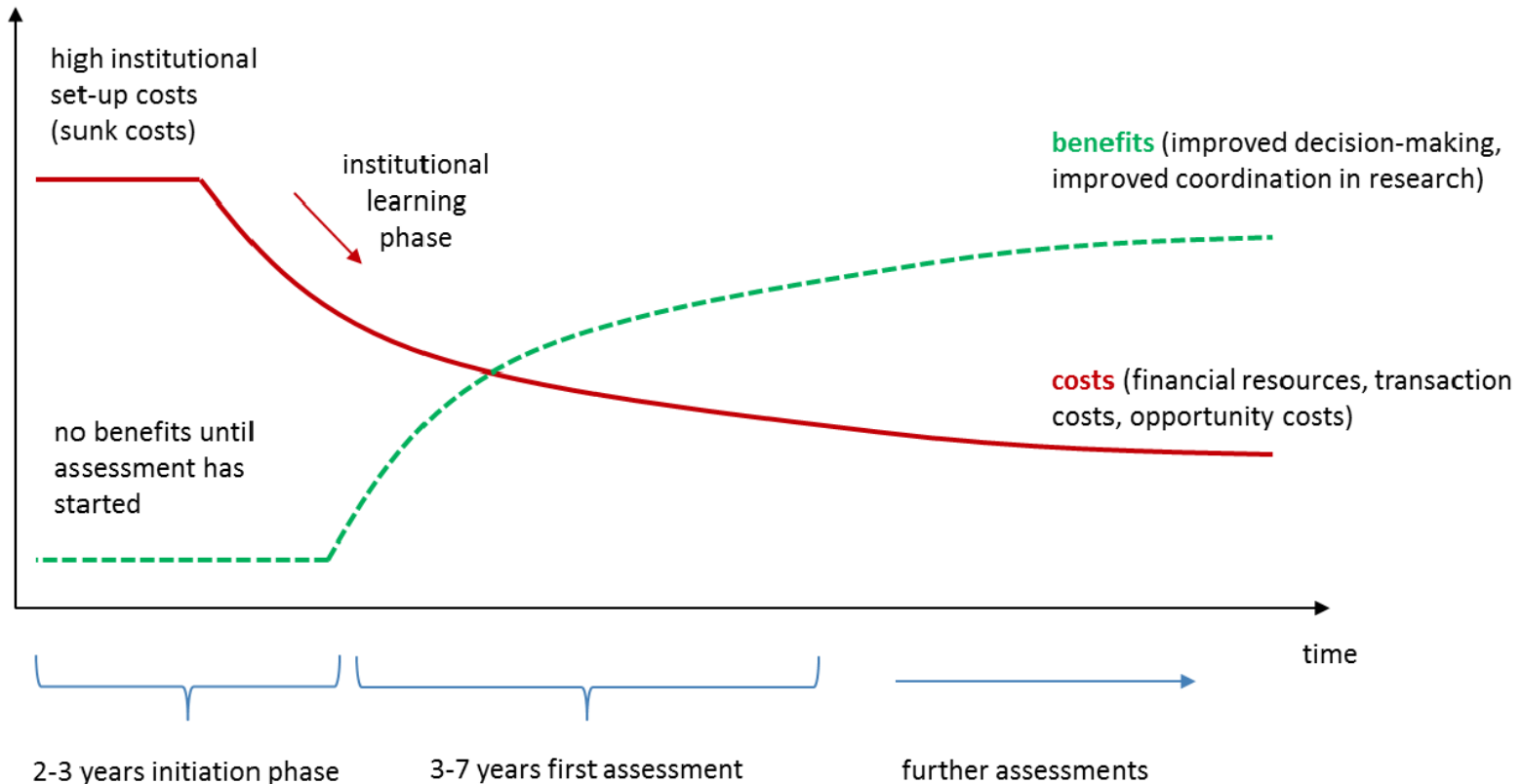
Create stakes for policymakers (while scientific independence)

- Comments and statements, joint policy briefs

Transparency and legitimacy

- Learn from IPCC, but leaner

Dynamic cost and benefit structure of an IPFood

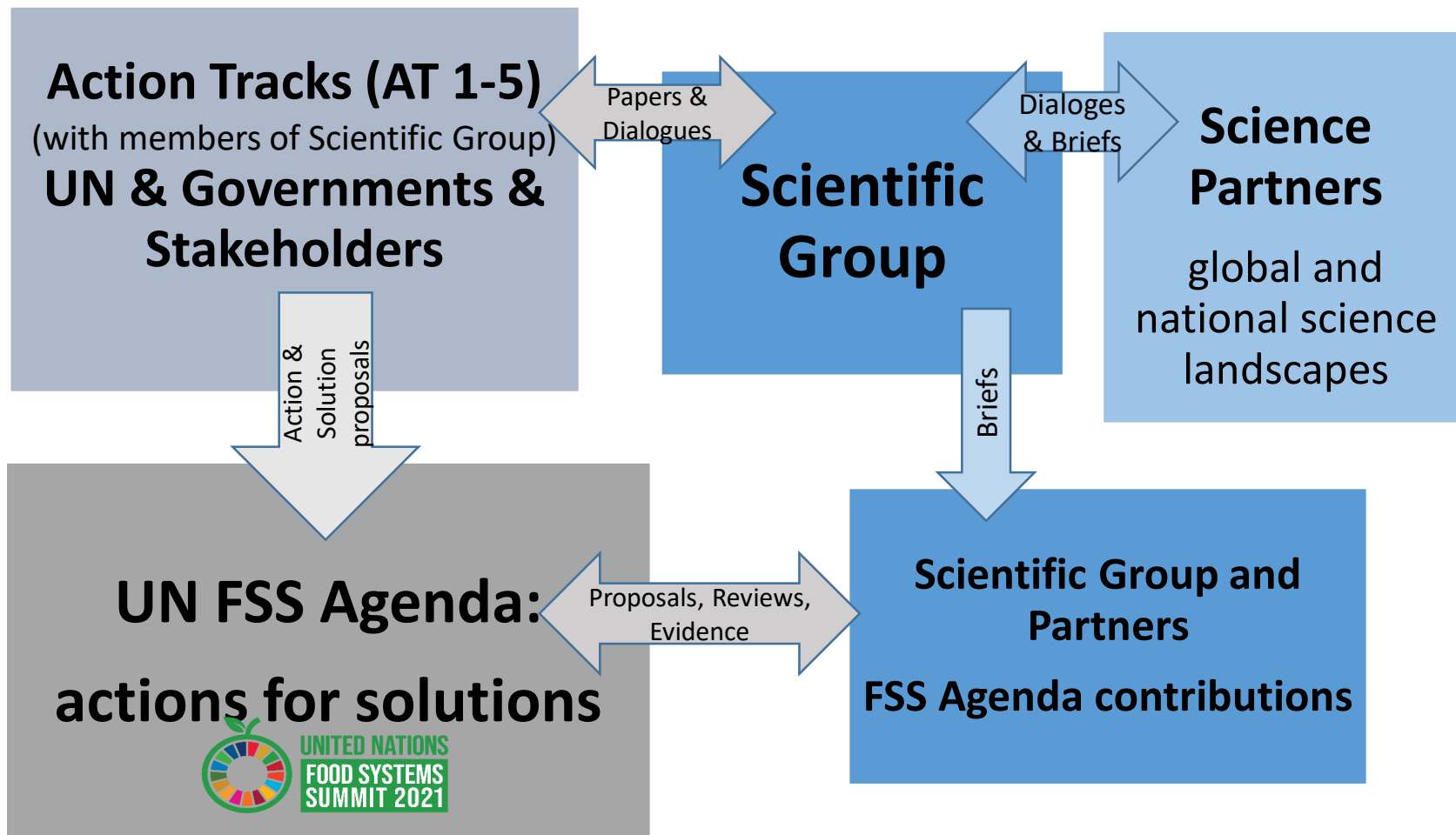


The Scientific Group for the UN Food Systems Summit – an early exercise in IPFood

TOR from UN leadership:

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

The Scientific Group's Engagement for an Ambitious, Evidence Based UN Food Systems Summit



Opportunity for an IPFood – theory of change

1. The food systems challenges are noted internationally and triggered the **UN Food Systems Summit & roles of science for food systems transformations** are noted more
2. Potential of the EU initiative with your **High Level Expert Group** to assess IPFSS. **Consultations with UN FSS Sc Group.**
3. The **Science Days of Scientific Group** with partners and stakeholders July 8/9 2021
4. The toward the Food Systems Summit with a **game changing proposal**, and beyond Summit on **implementation**
5. **Communication and consultations with policy, not alone with science:** Engaging with science stakeholders and with UN and national governments before Summit & UNGA