

## Summary of the UN Food System Summit 2021 Side Event-

### Transforming food systems in emerging economies

By Shenggen Fan, Jikun Huang, Ashok Gulati, Marcos Jank, Linxiu Zhang, S.Mahendra Dev,  
Uma Lele

More than 180 participants from China, India, Brazil, and the United States joined the UN FSS Science Days Side-event virtually on July 7th, 2021, to discuss the role of emerging economies in rebuilding the food system and provide valuable insights and recommendations to the UN Food System Summit. This side event gathered top scholars in food policy from emerging economies to discuss and debate how food systems in these countries can be transformed for both human and planetary health. Practices, experiences, and lessons from these countries can be shared with other countries. Cooperation in trade, investment, and technology transfers between these countries and the rest of the world will be explored to promote a healthy and sustainable global food system. Participants in this side event provided evidence-based recommendations for the transformation to sustainable food systems, as summarized below.

#### Transforming Chinese food systems for both human and planetary health: Innovative Institutions, Policies, and Investments (IPIs)

- **Appropriate and sequence of IPIs** have successfully facilitated the rapid and inclusive transformation of food systems in the past four decades
- **Enhance existing IPIs and initiate new IPIs** to promote inclusive and sustainable transformation and to strengthen food system resilience
- Establish a new **leading group** to coordinate policies and investments in food systems
- **Prioritize public investments** in food systems
- Raise productivity through a **more innovative science and technology** system
- Enhance **national efforts** to improve **nutrition and healthy diets**
- Strengthen **international cooperation** to improve food security in developing countries

#### Transforming food system from deficit to surplus: experience from India's smallholder economy

- Produce sufficient food efficiently with **environmental sustainability**
- Market food with **low intermediation costs** and **low food losses**
- Make food more nutritious and safer for consumers while ensuring remunerative prices to farmers

#### Cooperation between emerging economies to tackle 6 top priority issues in to access balanced food systems

- **Open markets** are crucial for food security, food safety, nutrition, affordability, and sustainability in the long term.
- Rise **bilateral trade flow**, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers
- Develop **bilateral integration of food production chains**

#### Empowering women for resilience and sustainability: implications to food systems transformation

- **Women empowerment** and community development for agrobiodiversity, food production, healthy diets, and adaptation to changes and crisis
- Promote system thinking with nexus approaches and action research **From Field to Table** for resilient food system and sustainability: Linking farmers' seed system with national system for agroecology and circular farming, rural-urban linkage
- Build **gender-sensitive and inclusive support program** for partnership with multiple stakeholders' involvement and collaboration
- Construct platform/event for bringing scientists **down to communities** and women farmers **up to policymakers and consumers**

#### Inclusion for transforming food systems

- **Diversified cropping patterns** are needed based on changing consumption patterns
- The pathways for inclusive healthy and sustainable food systems are: a) improving dietary diversity, b) reducing postharvest losses, c) bio-fortification of staples, d) empowerment of women, e) enforcing standards of foods safety, packaging, and labeling, f) improving WASH, g) food safety awareness and nutrition education, h) implementation of food safety and nutrition programs, i) use of ICT

#### South-South Cooperation to transform food systems

- Development, issues of malnutrition, gender, and environmental management require substantial **investment in physical and institutional capital and the right incentives**
- Call for **greater cooperation** among China, India, Brazil as well as with emerging countries more generally

The insights and recommendations of our panelists from three giant emerging economies will bring developing countries' voices to UN FSS 2021. With the joint efforts from developed and developing economies, there must be a path to rebuild sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems and achieve SDGs.