Key insights from the Food Systems Summit that are highly relevant for policymakers and for the general public at large

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https://sc-fss2021.org/
Key insights from the Food Systems Summit

Overview

1. The UN FSS advanced food systems thinking
2. Main outcomes from science communities for UN FSS
3. Considering the food crisis and way forward
The Food Systems Summit Made It Clear that Transformative Action in Food Systems is Fundamental to Achieving the SDGs...

“Across the SDGs, the world has established clear and ambitious goals for food systems...; we need to move boldly – now – to implement the transformative actions needed to achieve the goals we have.” (Secretary-General’s Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit)

... And Generated a Range of Deliverables that Serve As A Strong Basis for Follow-up Action

- SG’s Chair’s Summary and Statement of Action
- 163 Member State Statements (77 HoSG)
- 108 National Pathways Submitted
- 30 Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives and Coalitions of Action
- 231 Submissions to the Commitment Registry from the Food Systems Landscape
- FSS Compendium capturing collective learning through the Summit
- Scientific Group – Science Reader
  [J von Braun June 16, 2022]
- Elevated Public Discourse
Five Action Areas in SG’s Statement of Action at UNFSS

Action must be driven at country-level by governments in their local contexts.

Five action areas to help inform the transitions needed to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda have emerged from the Summit process. These include:

(1) Nourish All People;
(2) Boost Nature-based Solutions;
(3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities;
(4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and
(5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation.
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The 7 Science and Innovation Proposals by Sc. Group for UNFSS

1. A bundle of context specific policy and institutional innovations to end hunger and increase availability and affordability of healthy diets and nutritious foods

2. De-risk food systems and strengthen resilience, in particular for climate-neutral, climate-positive, and climate-resilient food systems

3. Innovations for efficient and fair land, credit, and labor arrangements

4. Bioscience innovations for peoples’ health, systems’ productivity, and ecological wellbeing

5. Technology-based and policy innovations for productive soils, land and water, and to protect the agricultural genetic base and biodiversity

6. Innovations for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and protection of coastal areas and oceans

7. Digital innovations for efficiency and inclusiveness of food systems and rural communities

Understanding TRUE COSTs OF FOOD

Market prices do not take into account...
- benefits of affordable or healthy food
- costs of unhealthy or unsustainable food

Business’ profits not reflect value created/reduced for society

GDP of food system does not reflect contribution to welfare

> Sustainable & healthy food is too expensive
> Unsustainable & unhealthy food is too cheap

US$ 9 trillion in market
28 trillion True Costs per annum

S. Hendriks et.al. 2021. The True Cost and True Price of Food. A Brief for the Scientific Group UN FSS

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Estimation of the Incremental Costs of Hunger Reduction

Science and innovation prominently in UN Secretary General’s Statement of Action at UNFSS 2021

• “There is a recognition that we must build on good practices — such as Indigenous food systems — invest in science and innovation, and engage all people — particularly women and youth, Indigenous Peoples, businesses and producers — in achieving the SDGs.

• There is also a need to shift and scale public and private financing for food, including for science and research. This innovation and change in financing approaches must avoid excessive hidden costs and support healthier, more inclusive, and more sustainable outcomes.

• Progress will require local and global communities of practice and stakeholders coming together with national governments under the umbrella of these action areas. In particular, support to enhance implementation through financing, data, science and innovation, governance and trade.

• Global initiatives to reinforce the ambition of science-based solutions will be key to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

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Assessing UNFSS 2021: Positive Outcomes

1. Political and societal Engagement at scale
2. Food system focus
3. Science Engagement
4. Action agenda
5. National level implementation.
Assessing UNFSS: Unfinished business

1. Strengthening capacities for national level implementation of actions in emerging economies.
2. Developing a strong finance agenda for needed investments.
3. Establishing improved science - policy interfaces.
4. Facilitating synergies with other key areas (climate policy, Covid-19-, trade policy; peace and security; food crises)
A complex food crisis in 2022 and beyond

1. Covid19
2. Russia’s war in Ukraine
3. Climate disruptions / Droughts

Price crises
Trade disruptions
Food riots?

Fig.: Global maize and wheat trade - 2021/2022 forecast

Source: AMIS (2022).
Political Responses to complex food crises

- UN: Committees and Task Forces
- G7 & G20: Alliance for Food Security (with UN)
- Superpower food dissonances
- Gov.s: social protection; increased debts
- Civil society and NGOs: initiatives
- Private sector: engagement
- Consumers: inflation concerns
- Science policy interface needs innovation


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Actions required in response to the global food crisis 2022

Short term:
1. Global cooperation to keep food and fertilizer markets open
2. Grain stock releases by EU, USA, India, China...
3. Controll excessive speculation in food commodity markets
4. Short-term shift in usage of production – reduce bioenergy and feed
5. Social protection and nutrition actions

Long-term:
1. Further investment in food systems infrastructures for resilience
2. Massive increase in R&D for sustainable agriculture and productivity

Key insights from the Food Systems Summit

1. Continued need for food systems transformations
2. Accelerated action at national and international levels
3. Strengthening resilience of food systems
4. Key role of science for sustainable food systems and nutrition