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Center for
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University of Bonn



**UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021**

<https://sc-fss2021.org/>

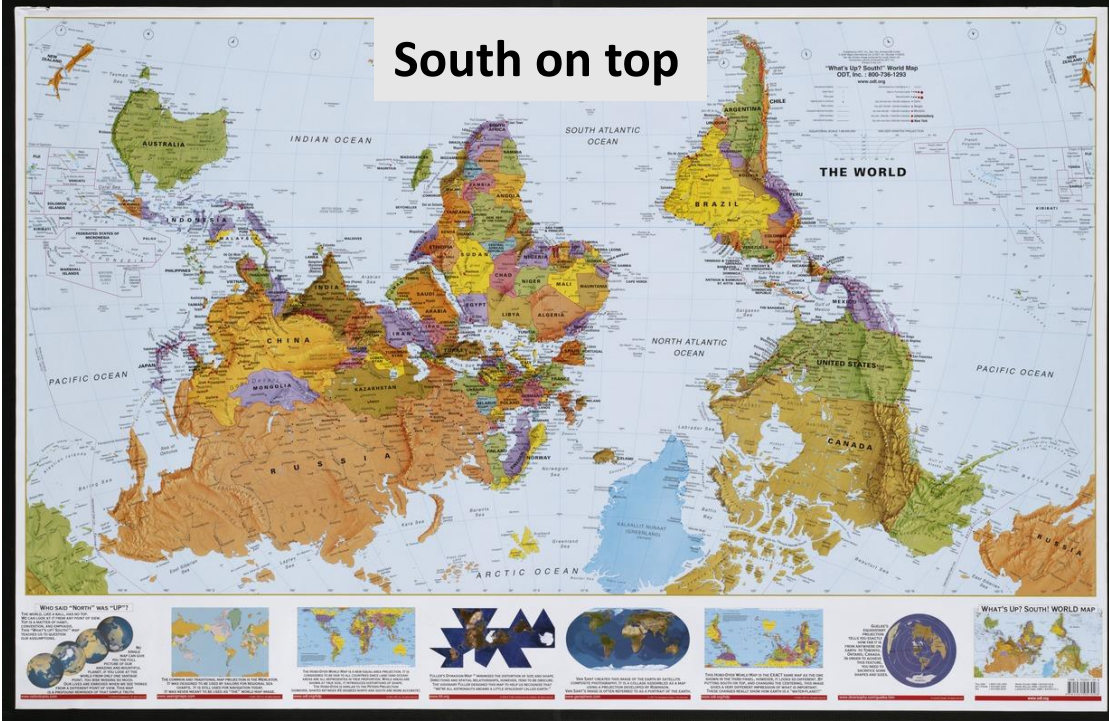
A Vision on Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation – Opportunities for LAC & Africa Cooperation

Joachim von Braun

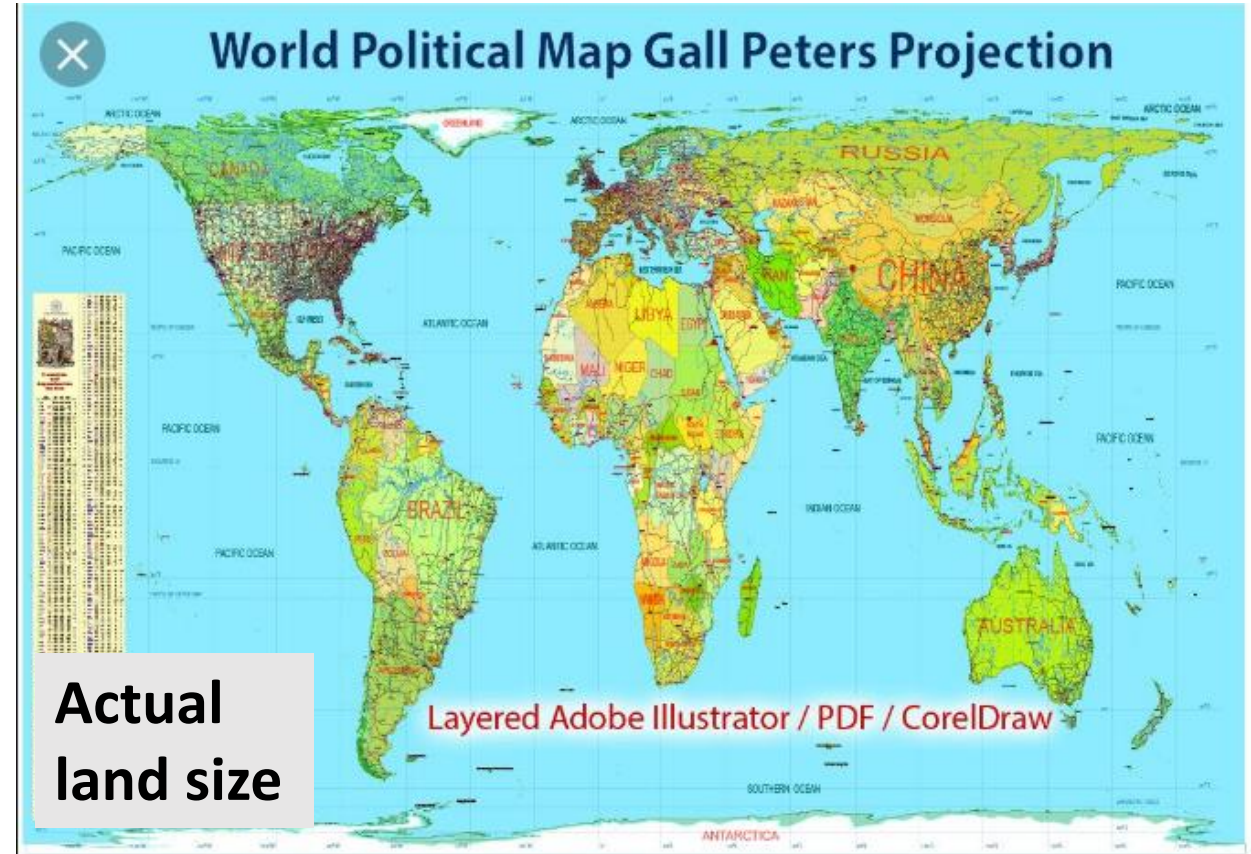
Professor for Economic and Technological Change, Bonn University; Chair of the Scientific Group
for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 jvonbraun@uni-bonn.de

**Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit on Agricultural and Food Systems “Building Bridges for
Cooperation in Agrifood Systems Transformation” 27-29 July 2022, San Jose, Costa Rica**

South on top



Change of World Views – LAC & Africa



Population size in 2050

Bildnachweis: © Worldmapper 2009

The 2 big and very diverse hemispheres

LAC

0.7 bill. People

20 mill. Farms (more large)

320 bill.\$ Agr, Forest, Fish

Africa

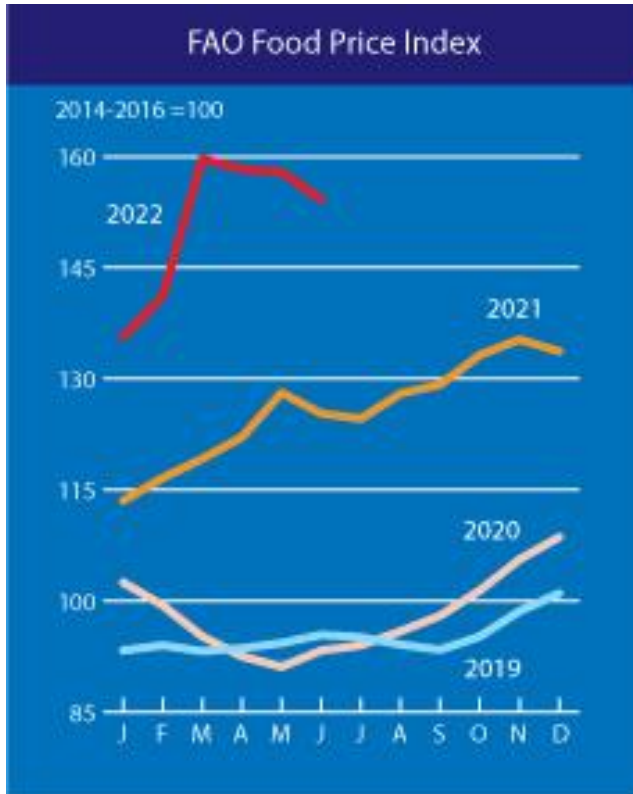
1.4 bill. People

50 mill. Farms (more small)

340 bill.\$ Agr, Forest, Fish

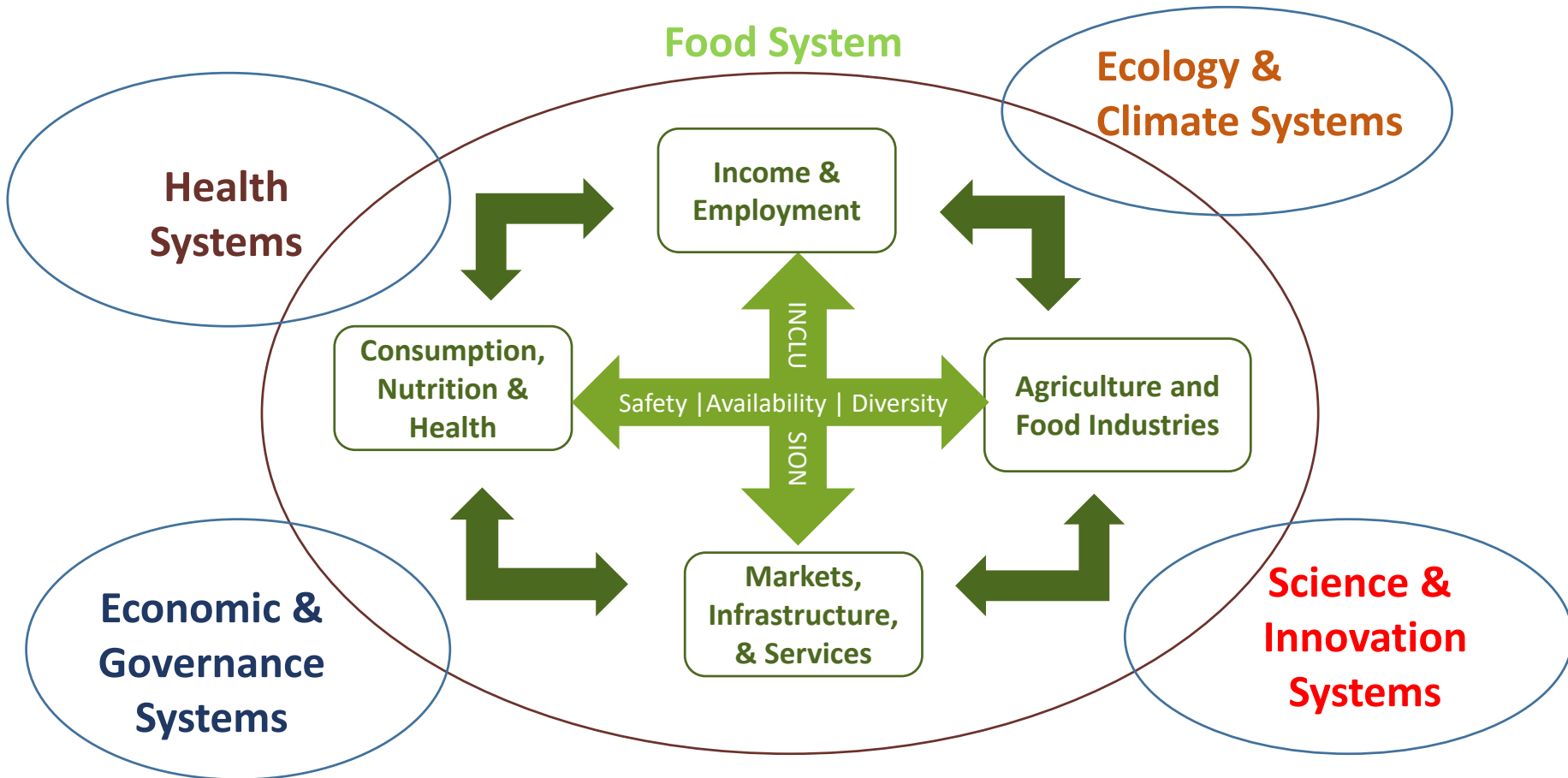
Look for learning between countries and the hemispheres

The multi-dimensional food crisis



1. **Covid19** disrupting food value chains,
2. **Food price** inflation – hunger and healthy diets unaffordable,
3. **High raw material and processing costs** constrain food industries and prevent investment
4. **Accumulated debts** cut social protection and nutrition programs,
5. **Wars** add to uncertainty and hinder **trade**,
6. **Climate change** destroys food systems **resilience**,
7. **Destruction of nature**, erosion of biodiversity and food security

Challenge: Transformation of food system while managing food crisis



Joachim von Braun, Kaosar Afsana, Louise Fresco, Mohamed Hassan and Maximo Torero (2021) Food system concepts and definitions for science and political action. Nature Food. Sept 2021. <https://rdcu.be/cxPxJ>

Food System Transformation to What?

Vision:

the **Food System needed in Africa, LAC and globally** is productive, efficient, sustainable, resilient - serving peoples' nutrition, inclusion, and protects ecologies – embedded in a circular bioeconomy.

Considering synergies and tradeoffs of actions

Background papers from LAC and Africa for UN FSS 2021 and more:

-**Policy options for food systems transformation in Africa – from the perspective of African universities and think tanks.** by Fadi Abdelradi, Assefa Admassie, John Asafu Adjaye, Milton Ayieko, Ousmane Badiane, Katrin Glatzel, Sheryl Hendriks, Mame Samba Mbaye, Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Racha Ramadan, Tolulope Olofinbiyi, Simbarashe Sibanda (April 2021) https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSS_Brief_Policy_Options_Africa.pdf and https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSS_Brief_IAP_Africa.pdf

- **Nature's Solutions: Policy Innovations and Opportunities for Africa's Bioeconomy** <https://www.mamopanel.org/resources/bioeconomy/reports-and-briefings/natures-solutions-policy-innovations-and-opportuni/>

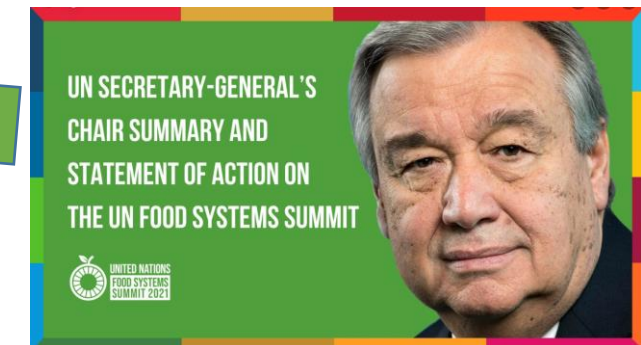
- **The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation for Transforming Food Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.** by Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo, Eduardo J. Trigo and Rosario Campos (April 2021) https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSS_Brief_IAP_Latin_America.pdf

Action Areas in UN Secretary General Statement at UNFSS 2021

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 (SDGs):

- (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;**
- (5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation**



Africa-LAC Summit agenda: “A CLEAR understanding of the role that Africa and the Americas can play in shaping global food and environmental security in the future”

Principles of joint action:

1. Agenda Setting: set food policy agendas in the interest of the two regions and the world
2. Trade: jointly engage for fair and reliable global and regional food trade
3. Innovation: share and co-create science and innovations
4. Natural resource use: responsibly serving people and planet (climate – e.g. Amazon and Congo regions)

Climate policy agenda neglects food system

COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact
out of the total of 5121 words
mentions:

- Food (0)
- Land (0)
- Agriculture (0)
- Water (0)

Needs change in COP27

Most frequently used words



Africa – LAC Summit agenda: “COORDINATION of cooperation opportunities in the areas of **science, technology and innovation**, with a view to building resilient and sustainable food systems”

Africa and LAC jointly focus on these **innovations**:

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 **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. Innovations for productive **soils, land, water, 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

J von Braun, K Afsana, L Fresco and M Hassan. 2021. Food systems: seven priorities to end hunger and protect the planet. *Nature* **597**, 28-30 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02331-x>

Africa – LAC Summit Agenda: “PEER-LEARNING on institutional and policy innovations required to drive the transformation of the agrifood sector”

1. Mobilize food system science at **country levels**
2. Mobilizing food system science at **African and LAC regional levels**

Both regions are diverse and will learn from each other

and AGRA & IICA can help connect 1. & 2. for an inclusive, networked Science-Policy Interface with Academies of Sciences, Universities, professional acad. orgs, CGIAR, NARS, indigenous knowledge, private sector, etc. toward **platforms that co-create and share innovations. Spend 1% of GDP on Science.**

Source: J. von Braun, 2021. Engaging Science for National and International Level Implementation of the Action Agenda of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. At <https://sc-fss2021.org/materials/scientific-group-reports-and-briefs/>

Summary of Strategic Topics for Food Systems Transformation by Americas and Africa

1. Sustainably growing agricultural production
2. Climate resilience (land, soils, water, forests)
3. Healthy diets and food safety
4. Trade – reliable, open, rule based
5. Financing the transformation
- 6. Science and innovation – related to all the above**