

## Plan to Accelerate Enabling & Showcasing Delivery of Ambitious National Commitments on Food Systems Transformation

**Axis:** 3. Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems ▾

**Key Objective:** 9. More resilient, adaptive, and sustainable food systems ▾ (ideally cross-cutting)

**Solution:** Enabling & showcasing delivery of ambitious national commitments on food systems transformation

**Host initiative(s):** Co-hosted by the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

**Participating Initiatives/Partners:** Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), Food Systems Transformation Accelerator (FST-A), Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST), WWF Food Forward Initiative, Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land and Energy (FABLE) Consortium, Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT (CGIAR), Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN), Convergence Initiative, AGRA, Future Food Systems Initiative (International Food Policy Research Institute)

### Scope:

- Geographic: Global
- Sectoral: Food systems including climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, nature, health, nutrition, food safety and security, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Other aspects:
  - Stakeholders: multi-stakeholder group to convene governments, civil society organisations, research institutions and other tool providers.
  - Principles:
    - Co-benefits: spotlight the role of food systems transformation to drive multiple positive outcomes through a holistic systems approach
    - Country engagement: responding to the needs of national governments and supporting existing plans and policies;
    - Coordination: coordinating and collaborating within government as well as with existing global, national and regional partners to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Key Objectives:**
  - **Inspire:** showcase government ambition, leadership and delivery
  - **Enable:** connect national actors to leading tools, resources and initiatives to support the implementation of national food systems commitments
  - **Resource:** help unlock financing for implementation
  - **Validate:** support robust monitoring and reporting

### Overview:

[Please detail briefly the overall purpose of the PAS and what it will achieve, through key activities]

Countries are mobilising to transform their food systems for people, planet, and prosperity. First-mover governments are already working on improving their governance and policy coherence for food systems transformation; better data for decision-making; optimised

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allocation of finances; detailed, funded food systems transformation implementation plans; and robust indicators of success. But now is the time to accelerate and scale.

The group of partners involved in this Solution is supporting that acceleration through a range of **ready-to-deploy, out-of-the-box, tested and proven tools**, initiatives, and support mechanisms. This Plan to Accelerate will shine a light on several of these, highlighting how they have successfully enabled action in countries around the world through case studies and examples.

Taken together, these tools, initiatives, and support mechanisms provide a **menu of options for ambitious countries** seeking to accelerate their food systems transformation journey. This menu is at the heart of the Plan to Accelerate. With adequate funding, engagement will deepen (with this Plan's existing 100+ country partners) and is likely to broaden to include additional countries. Above all, this approach serves the needs of leaders in government, increasing capacity to deliver.

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#### Levers Assessment: *(each lever is described in the [guidance document](#))*

- **Risk-informed decision-making:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale: [Numerous tools and data sources exist to support decision-making in food systems, including several which would form part of this solution (e.g. the Food Systems Dashboard and Food Systems Countdown Initiative) and others provided by the UN agencies and other CSOs and NGOs. However, these tools are not necessarily widely known and used at national level, making this an important area of work under this Plan to Accelerate.]*
- **Technology shifts:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale: [This Solution primarily focuses on the 'upstream' elements of food systems transformation: policy coherence, robust strategies, optimised financing, use of data to plan and monitor progress, etc. Technologies in these areas (including the tools under this Solution) are mature and ready for use - already piloted in multiple countries and easily adapted and adopted elsewhere. Downstream technologies for food systems transformation are at a more varied level of readiness and maturity. In production, there is emerging evidence around regenerative and agroecological approaches, nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart and climate-resilient agriculture, digital farming techniques, and novel fertilisers, as well as breeds, feeds, and manure management techniques (including biogas capture) to enable lower emissions from livestock, among others. On the consumption side, there is a solid evidence base around different approaches to shift diets to improve nutritional outcomes. Many other technologies also relate to this area and are at a varying degree of maturity.]*
- **Knowledge & Capacity building:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale: [There is a strong global knowledge base, with extensive academic literature on food systems transformation, holistic (systems) approaches, and policy priorities. However, this knowledge is not evenly spread at national level. Countries have adopted food systems approaches to a varying (although promising) degree - but more needs to be done to improve understanding of food systems transformation in a wider range of ministries, departments, agencies, and at different scales of government (subnational, highly localised).]*
- **Inclusive decision-making governance & design:** Medium maturity ▾

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- *Rationale:* [The Food Systems Summit process established a strong track record of Participatory Dialogues on FST in most countries, now being taken forward by the Convergence Initiative (inter alia). National approaches to food systems transformation take an inclusive approach to a varying degree. However, tools within this Solution (e.g. the Policy Coherence Toolkit and Political Economy Analysis Toolkit) specifically encourage inclusive decision-making and design. Support to governments in integrating national pathways to existing national development plans, and in some instances, developing inclusive food systems strategies and investment plans help to drive coordinated systems approaches is evidenced in development of supportive policy frameworks like the African Union Guidelines for Mainstreaming Food Systems into national development plans (endorsed by Heads of State in Feb 2025). Use of said frameworks still needs to be amplified]
- **Standards & Taxonomies:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale:* [The Food Systems Countdown Initiative is currently developing performance benchmarks to assess 'what good looks like' at national level, building on existing indicators. The FSCI has global recognition and has been adopted in several countries, and also aligns to the CAADP monitoring framework and may incorporate Global Goal on Adaptation indicators. This is therefore a strong monitoring framework to follow at national and global levels.]
- **Supply:** High maturity ▾
  - *Rationale:* [Supply of support to national governments exists in the form of initiatives, tools, and organisations with expertise in food systems transformation. However, these are not universally known or used, and their widespread application depends on both country demand and adequate funding (e.g. staffing costs, technical costs to deploy tools, etc). This Solution therefore exists in principle and can scale subject to adequate support.]
- **Demand:** High maturity ▾
  - *Rationale:* [There is widespread evidence of country demand. Requests to formal mechanisms such as the NDC Partnership and NBSAP Accelerator clearly show a need for support to implement solutions in food systems. The initiatives involved in this Solution have membership or collaborative models which have given each first-hand experience of extensive demand. Requests for support are regularly received by the ACF, SUN, GAIN, I-CAN, FABLE and others - and this support is provided in a set of countries according to availability of human and financial resources. This Solution seeks to scale up the delivery of that support.]
- **Public/private finance:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale:* [There are widespread networks focusing on food and finance, including on the need for more sustainable finance towards food systems. As an example, the FAIRR Initiative has coordinated an investor statement which has called for agri-food finance to be aligned with climate and nature goals to scale up sustainable investment in food systems, including increasing investments towards a just transition.] Responding to country priorities, financing is also one of the key pillars of the fourth strategy of the SUN Movement 2026-2030.
- **Partnerships and collaboration:** High maturity ▾
  - *Rationale:* [There are multiple collaboration platforms for ambitious countries seeking to accelerate food systems transformation, including the UN Food Systems Summit process, the Coordination Hub and Convergence Initiative, FAO's FAST Partnership, SUN, I-CAN, the ACF, the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, the Food and Land Use Coalition, the Technical Cooperation Collaborative for the implementation of the COP28 Emirates Declaration, and others.

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*These platforms are increasingly interconnected and mutually reinforcing. This Solution would seek to support countries in navigating this ecosystem of support.]*

- **Policy & regulatory:** High maturity ▾
  - *Rationale: [Strong policies exist, including the Food Systems Pathways and (increasingly) NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and other policies under international frameworks. Domestic policies relating to agriculture, food security and nutrition, rural development, environment, and other related areas are also generally strong. However, these policies are frequently owned by individual Ministries rather than being cross-Government plans; often have conflicting goals and lack coherence and consistency. Some could be strengthened with clearer action plans, costings, and resourcing plans. This Solution seeks to drive coherence and enhance implementation by focusing on these areas and encouraging / supporting a 'whole of government' approach.]*
- **Public opinion:** Medium maturity ▾
  - *Rationale: [There is widespread agreement about key issues such as protecting rural jobs and farmer livelihoods, providing adequate income to farmers, producing sufficient food to ensure food security, improving nutrition, and protecting the natural environment. However, food systems and farming are often challenging in terms of political economy and issues of perception. There are conflicting and vested interests, power imbalances, and competing priorities. Balancing trade-offs can be a challenge. There are also wide-ranging views as to how to solve issues relating to food systems. Finding compromise between radically different ideas is another challenge for governments as they establish policies and regulations to shape the food system. More can be done both to ensure public support and to help governments to navigate these complexities - both of which could feature as part of the support provided under this Solution.]*

This levers assessment highlights that the greatest barriers to enabling and showcasing delivery of ambitious national commitments on food systems transformation lie in areas of medium maturity: risk-informed decision making, technology shifts, knowledge and capacity-building, inclusive decision-making, standards and taxonomies, and public opinion. However, there is also merit in continuing to push at areas of higher maturity (supply, demand, partnerships and collaboration, and policy/regulatory). This Solution will tackle both medium and high-maturity areas of challenge for ambitious national governments.

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### Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets (if any): ▢ ▾

[\[Details on the expected impact of this plan, including which levers it focus and target/KPIs from the 2030 Climate Solutions, GST, SDGs or other processes\]](#)

The advantage of a food systems approach is that it can drive positive outcomes across a wide range of climate and development goals as demonstrated by the following diagrams. The first shows the Theory of Change of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change. The second shows how food systems link to the SDGs more broadly.

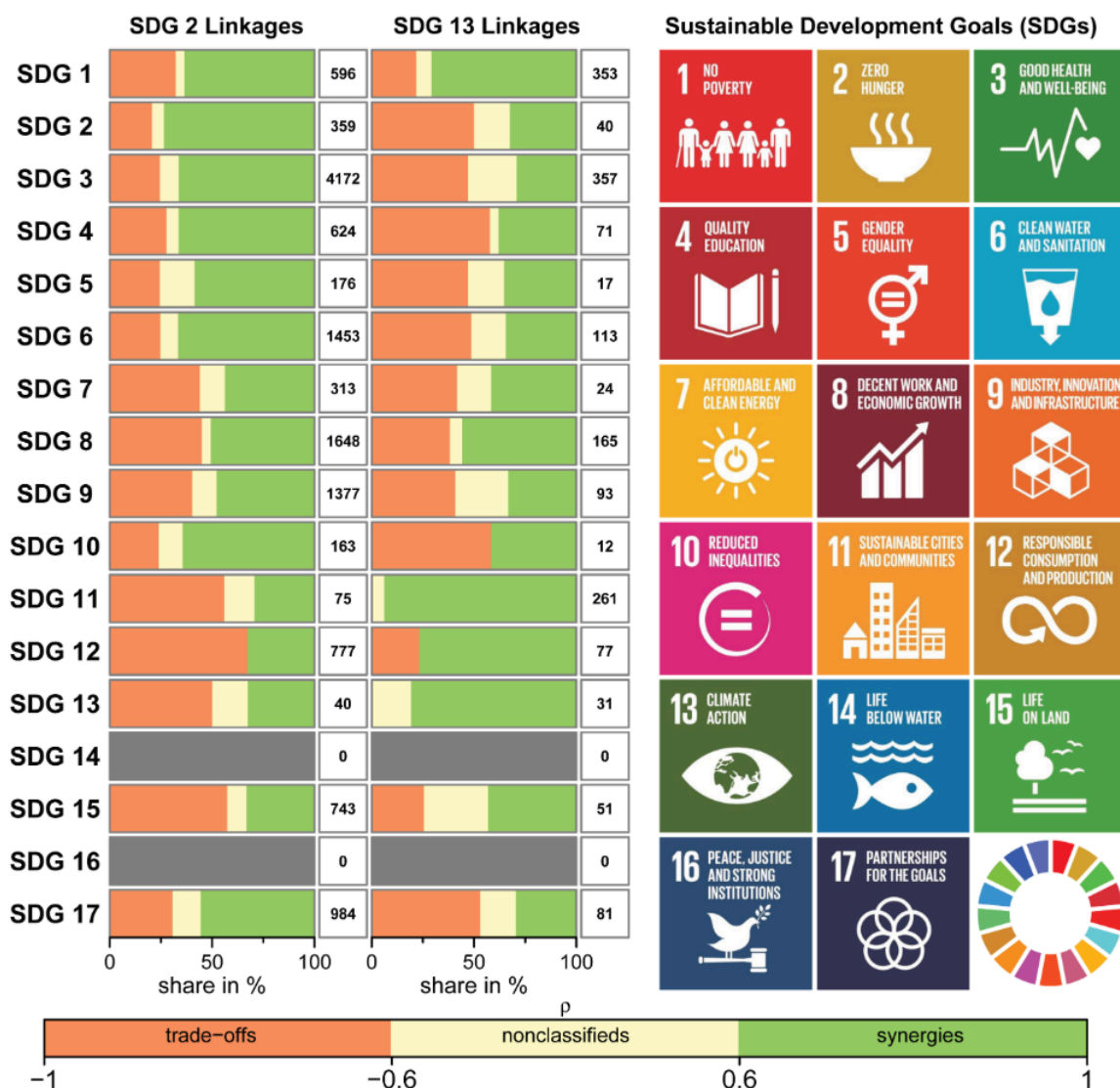
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FIGURE 1 - Theory of Change





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Support provided to governments to implement ambitious plans to transform food systems will specifically contribute to:

- Reduced emissions from food systems (inc. LULUCF)
- Increased resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change
- Opportunities to protect and restore nature, natural ecosystems, biodiversity on land and at sea
- Reduced pollution (including plastics) and waste (including food waste)
- Improved food security and nutrition for all people
- Better work, livelihoods and incomes for farmers and food value chain actors
- Protections for women and children, who often suffer most when food systems fail

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement <sup>1</sup>	Committed Stakeholders
Stories of Change (Progress Snapshots)		Develop, publish and promote success stories	Exis... ▾	Knowle... ▾	ACF I-CAN, SUN	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	
Improved data for decision-making		Develop nationally specific Food Systems Dashboards including subnational data	Exis... ▾	Risk-in... ▾	ACF GAIN (FSD) GAIN (GDQ)	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	
Established KPIs for food systems transformation		Develop Country Countdowns under the FSCI to identify key metrics for success	Exis... ▾	Knowle... ▾	GAIN, FAO (FSCI)	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	
Enhanced policy coherence (ag, food, climate, nature...)		Deploy policy coherence toolkit, I-CAN support and other modelling tools (e.g. FABLE, IFPRI) to enhance overarching policy framework	Exis... ▾	Policy ... ▾	GAIN (PCT) I-CAN ACF SUN FABLE IFPRI WWF	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	
Support country in implementing NDCs and NBSAPs build on the Food Forward Initiative and support on exploring financing opportunities		Develop guidance and socialize with countries (capacity building, knowledge sharing), to enhance financing opportunities	Exis... ▾	Knowle... ▾	WWF Alliance of Biodiversity International & CIAT	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	
Optimised domestic finance allocations		Deploy 3FS and/or FAO POL-OPT tool to assess financial flows, reduce redundancy, optimise, prioritise	Exis... ▾	Public/... ▾	GAIN (3FS) POL-OPT (FAO) SUN (via SUN TA providers)	Novemb... ▾	C... ▾	
Improved access to climate and development finance		Support creation of investable proposals based on national plans, and link to IFIs	Exis... ▾	Public/... ▾	FAST SUN	Novemb... ▾	M... ▾ ...and countries	
Increased capacity to navigate political		Deploy Political Economy Analysis	Exis... ▾	Policy ... ▾	GAIN (PEA)	June 202... ▾	C... ▾	

<sup>1</sup> Such as national governments, companies, investors, cities and local governments, technical institutions, MDBs, regulators & public agencies, utilities & system operators, youth & indigenous peoples groups, multi-stakeholders platform (non-exhaustive).

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement <sup>1</sup>	Committed Stakeholders
economy and power in food system		toolkit						
Advocacy for food systems approaches for nutrition, climate, food security, nature, development		Participation in international fora relating to development, finance, climate, food, and other adjacent issues	Existential	Policy	ACF I-CAN GAIN FAST SUN	November 2023	Medium	
Improved data for decision-making	Deploy geospatial decision support tools for climate-sensitive agricultural investment	Deploy Adaptation Atlas for spatial analysis of climate risks, vulnerability, and adaptation solutions using baseline and future scenarios	Existential	Technology	Alliance of Bioversity -CIAT	November 2023	Medium	Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, (ANAPRI, RCMRD, AGNES, Ethiopian ATI, Global Centre on Adaptation)
Improved models for decision making		Transfer modelling tools to test policies and simultaneously quantify their impacts on food security, AFOLU GHG emissions, and biodiversity trajectories by 2030 and 2050	Existential	Policy	FABLE	November 2023	High	SDSN, IIASA, Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, knowledge institutes in 26 countries, IFPRI
Improved data for decision-making		Integrate and rollout the Youth Agribusiness Performance Index to measure and track the progress and impact of youth engagement in agribusiness as a factor of scaling up food systems transformation	Existential	Inclusion	AGRA	November 2023	High	AGRA, African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
Support mainstreaming of national food systems pathways into national development plans		Support the rollout and utility of AU Guidelines for mainstreaming food systems approaches to national development and	Existential	Policy	AGRA	November 2023	High	AGRA, African Union Commission, African Union



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		sectoral plans						Developm ent Agency (AUDA-N EPAD)

*NB all actions are 'existing' in that they have been piloted in multiple countries. This plan would allow us to scale beyond initial focus countries.*