



SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND EATING PATTERNS: ENABLING TRANSFORMATION

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS PAVING THE WAY TO THE SDGs





The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

SDSN aims to accelerate joint learning and promote integrated approaches that address the interconnected economic, social and environmental challenges confronting the world. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector and civil society.

The organization and governance of SDSN enables a large number of leaders from all regions and diverse backgrounds to participate in the development of the network. The SDSN Leadership Council brings together global sustainable development leaders from all regions and sectors. National or Regional SDSNs mobilize knowledge institutions around the SDGs. Several Thematic Networks mobilize experts from around the world on the technical challenges of implementing the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. SDSN has a small secretariat with offices in New York, New Delhi and Paris.



The Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) is a multidisciplinary centre for the analysis of the major global issues related to food, nutrition, agriculture and environment.

Created in 2009, the BCFN bridges science and society, bringing experience and expertise to the debate in an effort to end the paradoxes of our planet, where obesity and food waste happen despite widespread hunger and malnutrition.

Awareness raising and continuous dialogue within economic, social, environmental and scientific spheres represent critical first steps towards achieving long-term change. The BCFN delivers concrete recommendations and proposes solutions to respond to these urgent challenges and improve food system along the food supply chain - from farm to people. BCFN is convinced that these issues must become priorities in the agendas of decision makers and opinion leaders around the world. BCFN is eager to play an important role and to propose sustainable solutions for the future of our planet.

SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND EATING PATTERNS: ENABLING TRANSFORMATION

Today, the food system is broken.

Well over one-third of the Earth's land is devoted to agriculture and accounts for around 30% of global GHG emissions, 70% of water withdrawals and 80% of desertification. Yet, agriculture is struggling to keep up with a growing world population, energy-related requirements, natural resources under stress and human-induced environmental degradation, including climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, habitat destruction and pollution.

Key problems continue to be severe and in many cases to worsen: hunger, micronutrient insufficiency, obesity, agriculture-induced environmental degradation and the growing vulnerability of food supplies to environmental changes. At the same time today's food system does not deliver healthy diets for most people. In addition to the persistent problem of hunger in parts of the world, malnutrition and obesity are on the rise.

Within this context, two major events with a unique potential to improve the sustainability of food systems worldwide occurred in 2015: in September, the promotion of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); in December, the **Paris Climate Agreement**, both closely linked to the challenge of making food systems and land use sustainable.

The need for a global momentum to effectively address the urgent and complex challenges of an uncertain world is a priority. Thus, the scientific and economic knowledge available to galvanize governments, private sector, civil society and people remains yet to be explored to hold all accountable.

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

A radical transformation towards the sustainability of agri-food systems and eating patterns would have substantial benefits for public health, economic growth, social wellbeing and the environment.

New leadership involving policy makers and all stakeholders is fundamental to pursue the transformation we need.

Science, policy-makers, private sector, civil society and individuals all have an important role to play in mobilizing active and responsible engagement and participation in shaping the future of the global food system.



ACTORS OF CHANGE: EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

All stakeholders can be actors of transformation, starting from each and every one of us.



INDIVIDUALS SHOULD:

Be aware of the social, environmental and health impacts of daily eating patterns and shift towards healthier and more environmentally sustainable diets.



RESEARCHERS SHOULD:

Deliver evidence-based data and policy recommendations in ways that involve all stakeholders in an integrated approach to inform the public about the challenges and options; to inspire policy makers to design smart food policies for a sustainable food system and to advance people's wellbeing in the long-term.



POLICYMAKERS SHOULD:

Ensure policy coherence and coordination in the long-term by devising and implementing long-term approaches to achieve the food-related SDGs and implement the Paris Agreement by integrating the social, environmental, health and cultural impacts while enabling conducive environment to favor society action and response.



CIVIL SOCIETY SHOULD:

Raise awareness and mobilize the public sphere in ensuring that the institutional agenda pursue transformation programs on education, responsible behaviors and implementation, with a multi-stakeholder approach.



PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD:

Promote ethical business approaches while integrating all actors in truly sustainable agri-food value chains, generating return on investment for all and enabling people to adopt sustainable and healthy lifestyles.



FARMERS SHOULD:

Adopt sustainable agriculture through best practices, new technologies and capacity-building.



EDUCATORS SHOULD:

Teach children about the relationship that connects food, wellbeing and the Planet by advocating for food and nutrition literacy and regular physical activity and mindfulness in school curricula around the world.



MEDIA SHOULD:

Inform and shed light on today's food paradoxes, by encouraging people to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future, starting from their daily food choices.

BCFN - SDSN RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMITMENTS

The Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) will join forces to present the Heads of State and Government at the **2019 SDG Summit** and at the **UN Climate Summit** with a roadmap to achieving the food-related SDGs towards the 2030 Agenda.

This roadmap, bringing together the vast expertise of knowledge communities around the world, will focus on the following four priorities:

1 PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE DIETS TO ERADICATE THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL NUTRITION CRISIS

The high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and obesity epidemics require actions to:

- a) Make public opinion aware and proactive regarding the severe consequences of poor nutrition on the health and wellbeing of both poor and rich countries;
- b) Inform people on healthy and sustainable diets and transmit the culture of healthy eating as early as childhood, so that healthy behaviors become an increasingly conscious choice;
- c) Promote more healthful and environmentally conscious eating, such as the promotion of a balanced diet that favors healthy plant-based proteins and the reduction of sugar in beverages as well as of sugar, fats and salt in processed foods;
- d) Encourage companies in the food industry to battle under-nutrition and obesity through nutritious and healthy products.

2 DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE MODEL FOR AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Agriculture and environmental crisis are interlinked by complex cause-effect relationships, especially related to land use. Agriculture practices drive many kinds of environmental harms (climate, water, land, loss of habitat, pollution) and the food supply is also highly vulnerable to these environmental changes.

Urgent actions are required to:

- a) Create new land-use policies that mutually protect agriculture, biodiversity, climate, rural communities and the economy;
- b) Create and foster new agricultural practices that reduce environmental impacts (e.g. agro-ecological farm practices) and that raise resilience;
- c) Promote new R&D in food processing, storage, distribution and other aspects of the supply chain to reduce loss and waste, while reducing pressure on the environment;
- d) Enable small scale farmers, in particular women and youth, to drive a sustainable transformation in natural resource management;

- e) Protect communities from land grabs that are in violation of human rights, not based on participation and free, prior and informed consent of local users and in this regard of socio-economic and environmental impacts.

3 PROMOTING RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND CASE COLLECTION AND EFFECTIVELY MONITORING PROGRESS

Research clearly demonstrates that all countries require reliable indicators to measure and assess progress on sustainable nutrition and land use, including micro-level data of household health and nutrition and geospatial data on land use, food supplies and the environment.

Actions are required to:

- a) Identifying best practices in monitoring and reporting;
- b) Establishing benchmarks and a scalable policy toolbox for decision makers;
- c) Monitoring the progress of all countries on a systematic global basis.

4 PROMOTING A SCIENCE-BASED EDUCATION FOR THE FOOD LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Future generations are exposed to the biggest sustainable development challenges ever facing humankind. Empowering the young to build their professional capacities and skills is crucial.

Actions are required to:

- a) Develop science-based educational programs, including online curricula, at every stage;
- b) Engage and participate in sharing innovative solutions towards transformation, unleashing the full potential of digital platforms and social media spaces.



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