

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT WORKING GROUP



Call Notes

March 26, 2021 Call

General Updates

- An update on the broader coalition effort was provided.
 - First kickoff call was held this week
 - Still taking new members; no deadline to join
 - Next coalition call the week of April 13
 - Looking into how to provide feedback on scientific papers as well as game changer synthesis reports
- Action Track Synthesis reports - Recently, the Action Tracks published papers that present a summary of the initial game-changers submitted and selected for advancement as of February 23, 2021. These documents were posted on the Food Systems Community website: <https://foodsystems.community/>
 - Action Track 1:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=2311&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=150
 - Action Track 2:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=2312&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=151
 - Action Track 3:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=2313&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=152
 - Action Track 4:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=2314&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=153
 - Action Track 5:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=2315&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=154
 - A document is being compiled with all of the selected solutions and noting references to livestock and meat consumption. So far Action Track 2 seems highly problematic, as one solution is called “A Just Transition from Animal Agriculture” and discusses transitioning away from animal agriculture.
 - It was noted that the upcoming meeting on Monday between private-sector scientists and the FSS Scientific Group. We need to make sure the scientists participating are aware of these papers and the concerns with them.
- PSM expert meeting with the FSS Scientific Group – On our last call, we discussed the opportunity to submit private-sector scientists to PSM for consideration to be invited to a meeting with the FSS Scientific Group. We nominated Mickey Rubin from the Egg Nutrition Center and Katie Rose



McCullough and Tiffany Lee from Meat Institute. All have been invited to the meeting which is coming up next week.

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□ International animal protein groups' meeting with the FSS yesterday – This summary was provided by the International Meat Secretariat.

- o We (IMS and global animal supply chain organizations) just had a videoconference with the Deputy to the Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit [Martin Frick](#), and the vice-chairs of the 5 action tracks. This was in response to our request for a meeting, which you have already seen in the letter we sent (on 18 February [here](#)).
- o Martin was conciliatory from the start, assuring us that the Food Systems Summit was not about eliminating/reducing animal agriculture, and recognized the important contributions of livestock. So far, so good. Unsurprisingly, most of the meeting was taken up with presentations from the action track vice-chairs, and to be optimistic there might be some room for dialogue. From our side we re- iterated our willingness to provide expertise and work together for inclusive solutions for livestock to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will see (by next week maybe) if there is sincerity in the follow-up.

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□ Invitation for farmers/ranchers/growers to participate in Independent Dialogue hosted by Solutions from the Land. The invitation below has been issued by Solutions for the Land – please feel free to share with your farmer/rancher/grower members. They are also looking for farmers/ranchers/growers to serve as facilitators if you have any recommendations.

- o This fall in New York, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit (FSS) to raise awareness and secure global commitments for actions that transform food systems to resolve hunger and reduce diet-related disease. Guterres is calling for collective action to radically change the way our food is produced, processed and consumed. This will be the first global food summit in 25 years, and stakeholders across the globe are weighing in with their suggestions for changes to our food systems.
- o Of critical importance in any discussion about the future of food systems are the voices of farmers and ranchers – the producers who make the investments, incur the risks and do the real work to grow the food that the world needs. To help ensure that farmer and rancher experiences, insight and recommendations are elevated in these discussions, Solutions from the Land and a group of collaborating agricultural organizations are holding a virtual Food Systems Summit Dialogue on April 6th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. ET. Our objective for the dialogue is to engage a cross section of farmers and ranchers in a discussion about topics being considered under FSS Action Track 3: Boost Nature Positive Production at Sufficient Scale.
- o Your assistance in recruiting a group of your producer members to join in this conversation would be greatly appreciated. Farmers, ranchers and growers can navigate to the following links to [register for the event](#), access the [agenda](#) and [discussion guide](#), and view the [official FSS discussion-starter](#).

Independent Dialogue

- Registration – We currently have around 75 attendees registered and at least 15 others have indicated they plan to register. A round of follow up was completed earlier this week and there are a good amount of responses. The committee will be alerted next week if there is a need for following up with anyone one more time.
- Several members in working group interested in just observing – how should observers be handled when breakout sessions start?
 - o During the Jan. 13 dialogue, extras were not allowed to stay for the breakouts to not allow for any additional influence in discussion
 - o If one person is not speaking, it may cause others to not be as outspoken during the discussion
 - o The group agreed it was better to not have observers in the breakout sessions.

- ❑ Discussion groups - Attendees have primarily selected action track 1 and 2. There is strong interest in 4 and 5 as well, but few have signed up for action track 4
 - The group decided it made sense to have only one discussion group for AT 4 and having a third group for one of the more popular discussions if needed.
- ❑ Since there are multiple discussions for most Action Tracks, there had been a recommendation to fit time into the agenda for the facilitators to meet and compare notes to do one report out in order to condense these and avoid too much repetition, as we assume discussions will be similar.
 - The group sees value in condensing reports to reduce time for sharing reports with attendees.
 - A networking session was suggested for the the time when reports are being consolidated. We can do that to allow facilitators and note takers time to meet.
 - It was recommended to use some type of service like Google Docs where facilitators could see the notes as they are written so they are prepared to report.
- ❑ Discussion questions – Based on everyone’s feedback it may be good to pull together 3-5 questions that are the same for each track; 3-5 questions tailored to the specific action track discussions. The group was on board with this.
 - A draft discussion guide will be drafted for next week
- ❑ Should the event be recorded?
 - The dairy groups are recording their plenary but not recording breakout sessions
 - That make sense and we could do the same.
- ❑ Prep info - Information to help participants prepare for the discussion will be sent out prior to the Independent Dialogue. This will include their discussion group assignment and the discussion questions.

March 19, 2021 Call

General Updates

- ❑ Broader coalition – an update was provided on the broader coalition effort. The Coalition Manager who will oversee the coalition as well as lead the development of messaging and stakeholder engagement strategies has been selected – Food Directions is leading the coordination with assistance from the Messina Group (US government outreach), Ted McKinney (international outreach) and Red Flag (strategic communications and messaging). The first meeting of the broader coalition has been scheduled from March 23 from 1:30-3:00 PM ET. That meeting is also open to potential funders who would like to know more about the coalition’s work and structure. Hannah will share the meeting information with the group. There is a \$5000 pledge required to join the coalition. Groups are encouraged to join now to maximize their opportunity for involvement. For more information or to join, visit: <https://corn.org/food-systems-summit- coalition/>
- ❑ Internal livestock groups’ meeting – the group of international livestock organizations who sent the previously-discussed letter to FSS leadership had scheduled a call with FSS & Action Track leaders on March 29th. HealthforAnimals would be participating and could report back.
- ❑ Call with Hope Bigda-Peyton, international trade specialist, Hope is leading the USDA Member State Dialogues as well as involvement in Independent Dialogues on behalf of USDA. Key points –
 - There are no plans yet for the 2nd or 3rd U.S. Member State Dialogues due to the changing administration. Robert Bonnie is currently heading up the FSS but that will change with new appointments. They are waiting further guidance from leadership before moving forward with MSDs but are now looking at late April for the 2nd round and late May for the 3rd.
 - It is “a bit of a black box” as far as how the ID reports will be used and reviewed. Not sure how to make them influential and impactful. Recommended simple but powerful messages. Figure out ties into existing workstreams and link to other dialogues. USDA will be reviewing the outcomes of U.S. IDs.

- Recommended looking at the report from the USDA MSD and honing in on key words and phrases we should use in ours.
- Make sure we share our report back to her.
- *Private Sector Mechanism at the UN Committee on World Food Security Quarterly Call*
 - Game Changers
 - 1000+ were submitted
 - All ideas submitted/generated up through February 19th were advanced in the first wave of “game changers.” They are currently being clustered by the Action Track leads and the chosen ideas will be made public after March 19th (they are being discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on this date). There are around 25 “action areas” around which the game changers are being clustered – so 25 themes and then multiple related game changers under each one. One “action area” that is very likely to make the short list is carbon farming/net zero farming.
 - The AT leads developed an organizational framework of 10 outcomes and 10 enablers. This was used to map for gaps. The framework will ensure emerging GC clusters map into a range of outcomes.
 - PSM leadership noted that this organizational framework is cause of optimism as there is less duality and it is less prescriptive - it is more positive, ex - spotlighting “healthy” foods vs. discouraging “unhealthy” ones. The individual game changers themselves may still be problematic.
 - They are looking at a second wave of game changers, but only those that fill gaps they feel are in the current selections.
 - July pre-Summit <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/press/italy-to-set-stage-un-food-systems-summit-three-day-event>
 - July 19-21, hybrid event – some in person in Rome, others virtual.
 - Not clear yet what the agenda or format will be but there will be opportunities for private sector engagement.
 - “Under the leadership of UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, the Pre-Summit event will bring together the efforts and contributions of a global engagement process to shape ambition to transform food systems. The three-day event will bring together youth, smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples, researchers, private sector, policy leaders and ministers of agriculture, environment, health, and finance among others to deliver the latest evidence-based and scientific approach from around the world, launch a set of new commitments through coalitions of action, and mobilize new financing and partnerships. The Food Systems Summit will [take place in September](#) alongside the UN General Assembly in New York.”
 - “As hosts of the Pre-Summit, the Italian Government will make a national food system commitment to set the tone and a high ambition ahead of the Summit.”
 - Remarks from Dr. Louise Fresco, president of the executive board of Wageningen University & Research (The Netherlands), Vice Chair of the FSS Scientific Group
 - Commented that while it is commendable that there is a scientific group overseeing the Summit, she is not sure if the outcomes will be evidence based
 - The best thing to do right now to provide input is to review the papers the Scientific Committee has put out and give inputs/comments – seemed critical of these and implied there was much to be corrected. The more we are seen as actively engaged, the better
 - Go through your national delegates to get your perspective heard, every country will have official representation at both the pre-Summit and the Summit.
 - Summit needs to avoid being overly prescriptive and focus on basics – for example, dietary composition. One basic that should not be contested is that we do not need to do away with livestock production. Dietary recommendations may be different for different groups (more animal products for some, less for others) so there should not be any blanket statements.
 - Referenced scientific discussions to be held during the pre-Summit in Rome – these are being organized by the FAO and agencies in Rome so if we want to be involved/invited we need to reach out to them.
 - PSM noted that private sector scientists can be nominated to them to be included on a list to be invited to a March 29th meeting with Dr. von Braun (chair of the scientific group) and suggested to FAO to participate in the “science days.” Emphasized these should be

- credentialed scientists - PhDs, DVMs, etc.
- *USDA Webinar: 2021 UN Food Systems Summit: Opportunities for U.S. Engagement*
 - USDA presenters were Jason Hafemeister, acting deputy under secretary for trade; Andrian McAdams of the Foreign Agricultural Service; and Elise Golan of the Office of the Chief Economist.
 - Dr. Elise Golan went over main points of USDA engagement.
 - No one size fits all approach, need to avoid overly prescriptive outcomes
 - Solutions must be supported by science – farmers can't bet their livelihoods on approaches that are not shown to be effective
 - Suite of presented solutions should consider all 3 pillars of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental) and acknowledge tradeoffs
 - Opportunities for engagement
 - Organizing [independent dialogues](#);
 - Contributing ideas to the [U.S. Compendium of Sustainable Food Systems Actions](#);
 - Participating in the five UNFSS [Action Tracks](#);
 - Joining a [UN Food Systems Community](#), of which there are 15 so far;
 - Reviewing and commenting on UNFSS [scientific papers](#) by sending comments to info@sc-fss2021.org; and
 - Scientific Group is writing scientific papers, designed to provide information and facilitate discussion for transparent and evidence-based Summit preparations.
 - US government subject matter experts have been reviewing and commenting on the papers.
 - Others can also review and comment on the papers by emailing info@fss2021.org
 - Forming coalitions and using social media to convey priorities and messages for the summit.
 - Food Systems Community - <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/press/community-launch>
 - Compendium Website - The U.S. Compendium of Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Actions is a voluntary listing by businesses, coalitions, organizations, and state or local governments of the actions they are taking to build more sustainable food systems and to contribute to the objectives of the UN Food Systems Summit. Explore the U.S. Compendium of SFS Actions to discover game-changing actions, opportunities for collaboration, and inspiration for further action. Let the world know about actions you are taking to build more sustainable food systems by [completing and submitting this form](#) to add your activities to the U.S. Compendium of SFS Actions.
 - USDA Summit Outreach
 - Engaging with trading partners to build momentum around U.S. ag and food systems approaches
 - USDA overseas offices engaging with host countries to determine common objectives & principles
 - Engaging with US stakeholders to promote awareness of the FSS
 - General updates & insights – *thanks to Randy Green for sharing these!*
 - Dates & Format: The exact summit dates in September have not been set, but the pre-summit meeting in Rome will be July 19-21 and will be a mix of in-person and virtual participation.
 - Solution Propositions: Some of the “game-changing ideas” solicited through the action tracks will be packaged together as “solution propositions” for the summit; USDA does not yet have a list of these nor a list of ideas submitted but not selected.
 - USG Structure: State is the lead agency and USDA, USTR, Treasury, HHS, EPA, Commerce and USAID are all involved. USDA has internal working groups at both the technical and the political levels. In terms of USG engagement with the action tracks, USDA leads on tracks 2 and 3, USAID on 1 and 5, and State on 4
 - Advisory Group: Its fourth meeting will be held this week, and will review the first draft of the “solution propositions” and receive an update from the scientific group. Pending appointment of a new ambassador, the charge d'affaires to the FAO in Rome is the U.S. representative to the Advisory Group

- Scientific Group: It has released two draft papers, on food systems definition and a healthy diet. USG subject-matter experts are reviewing and commenting, though Golan said that the various UNFSS papers are coming out “almost on a conveyer belt” and it is challenging to review and edit them all.
- Secretary General’s Post-Summit Report: USDA said it will be “non-negotiated,” i.e., not a document that UN member states will write. (This is consistent with the summit being called by the Secretary General, not the General Assembly.)
- U.S. National Dialogue: After the first event (Challenges) in January, subsequent events will be held in April (Solutions) and May (Pathways Forward).

Independent Dialogue

- ❓ Registration is going well, 40 registered so far. Remember to register or remind your organization’s representative to do so. If anyone would like to help with follow up, this will begin on Tuesday. Facilitators/note takers – thanks to all who have volunteered! Follow-up will be done and team will be notified of any gaps.
 - The group decided to dedicate the second half of our Friday, April 2nd call to facilitator training.
 - There is a facilitator training being offered by the UN on Tuesday:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uduysqT4iGNC_vqgOFTCcog_l0wPy5XdM
 Notes will be shared to the group from this meeting.
- ❓ Discussion questions – we need to come up with the discussion questions for facilitators to use to guide the conversations. These could be the same across all discussion groups or customized per Action Track. Examples were shared.
 - These were the discussion questions from an ID USDA held for youth.
 - This Dialogue focused on identifying solutions for building more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable food systems in the United States. The discussions centered on five main challenge areas aligned with the UN Food Systems Summit’s five “action tracks”:
 - *Safe and nutritious food for all*: What are potential solutions for ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reducing the incidence of non-communicable disease, enabling all people to be nourished and healthy?
 - *Increased consumer demand for healthy diets that are sustainably produced*: What are potential solutions for increasing consumer demand for healthy diets and foods that are sustainably produced? What are potential solutions for reducing consumer food waste?
 - *Sustainable environmental production*: What are potential solutions in optimizing environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution, to reduce biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions?
 - *Equitable livelihoods across the food system*: What are potential solutions for promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain and enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value?
 - *Resilient food systems*: What are potential solutions for ensuring the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in case of natural disasters, pandemics, economic shocks, conflict, and other sources of instability?
 - To encourage a systematic assessment of challenges, each breakout discussion considered four general questions
 - What are some potential *solutions*? What challenge does this solution respond to? What is the *evidence* that supports the implementation of this solution? Does the evidence exist or are there knowledge and evidence gaps?
 - What are the *tradeoffs* among economic, social, and environmental sustainability objectives for this solution? What are the distributional characteristics if the solution were to be implemented? If the group discusses potential solutions that target one dimension of sustainability (for example, social sustainability), what are the potential

impacts on the other dimensions of sustainability?

- What are points of *consensus or disagreement* amongst stakeholder groups about the solution?
- Here are the draft questions for the Independent Dialogue being held by Solutions from the Land.
 - What is your definition of sustainability and why is it important to your farm, ranch or grower operation?
 - How have practices become more sustainable over the time you have been farming? And in the generations before?
 - What innovative practices are producers currently using to sustainably intensify production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deliver solutions to other Sustainable Development Goals?
 - What current incentives are most successful for scaling adoption of sustainable practices and what new incentives may be necessary? What action needs to occur to create those incentives?
 - What kind of coordination do we need at local, regional, national, or international levels to balance reducing environmental footprints with meeting consumer needs?
 - What role does technology and innovation play in promoting sustainability on your farm?
 - What are some of the regulatory or research constraints or obstacles that need to be addressed to move this forward?
 - What new marketplaces or price premiums are needed for ensuring sustainable production cost recovery and the long-term profitability of growers?
 - What needs exist for accessing farm data or other precision technology tools and interpreting the results in real time?
 - What information do you need to understand sustainable goals and how they apply to your farm?
- The group asked for assignments to be assigned and to allow time for consideration of questions before the next call. the group will be divided into smaller ones to consider each Action Track.