Why food systems? Why now?

Our food systems are essential but compromised. Food systems are vital to reach all 17 SDGs -- from poverty and hunger to health, work and peace, and everything in between. Today’s food systems already put immense pressure on the Earth’s resources, while population and income growth will create even more demand by 2050. In today’s poorest regions, and especially in fragile and conflict-affected areas, yield growth lags while incomes are rising too slowly to release farmers and their families from cycles of poverty.

There is no time to lose. Despite extraordinary advances over the past 100 years, our food systems are no longer fit for purpose with market and government failures imposing high costs on society and the environment. External shocks – such as the COVID-19 pandemic, resource scarcity and climate change -- add urgency to the task of reimagining food systems that deliver better outcomes. Countries have less than 10 years left to meet their SDGs.

FoodSystems2030 seeks to build the foundations for sustainable food systems that deliver improved livelihoods and safe, affordable and nutritious diets for all. It promotes new ways of doing business while addressing market and institutional incentives, to put food systems on a better path. Transformed, food systems can be the cornerstone of healthy people, a healthy planet and healthy economies.

FoodSystems2030 is an Umbrella Trust Fund of the World Bank Group. It harnesses the Bank Group’s unique abilities to convene partners, inform policies and provide finance to help countries develop food systems that bring them closer to achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Funding for the Trust Fund is expected to leverage about $4 billion in annual World Bank lending, sharpen policies that govern public spending and help steer trillions of dollars in private sector activity in the agriculture and food sector.

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Food systems at a glance

- Jobs and economic opportunity for people on 570 million farms and millions of upstream and downstream agricultural and food businesses
- Responsible for roughly 1/4 of global greenhouse gas emissions and 60% of vertebrate biodiversity loss since the 1970s
- Hunger is on the rise since 2014, healthy diets are unaffordable, while 30% of produced food is lost or wasted
- Imposing hidden costs of $12 trillion dollars annually in reduced human health, lost economic opportunity, and environmental degradation
Transformation Pathways

To achieve its objectives, FoodSystems2030 will support integrated activities along nine pathways, while recognizing the need for both shorter- and longer-term applications, as well as the existence of co-benefits and trade-offs:

Healthy People
- Better diets
- One Health/Prevention of zoonotic diseases
- Improved food safety

Healthy Planet
- Reduction in GHGs
- Reduction in pollution
- Improved land, water, and food loss and waste (FLW) management

Healthy Economies
- Promotion of productivity growth
- Increased job creation
- Maintaining trade flows

How we work

FoodSystems2030 provides advice and analytical products to underpin policy options, funds to pilot innovative approaches, and information to build support for change in different country contexts. FoodSystems2030 helps steer and leverage the impacts of World Bank lending to better achieve a vision of food systems that deliver healthy people, a healthy planet and healthy economies. It engages with the private sector by supporting the design, piloting and de-risking of innovative public-private partnerships that advance development goals. And it complements other resources that support sustainable land use and food security by taking a more integrated, multi-disciplinary and catalytic approach to food systems transformation. Proposed activities to be funded by FoodSystems2030 need to have a demonstrable positive impact on health, environment, and prosperity, with a strong narrative and results reporting that will capture these impacts.

FoodSystems2030 targets policymakers, knowledge-based organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations in low- and middle-income countries, as well as organizations at the global level seeking transformative change.

Key

Pathways
Components
Goals

To learn more about FoodSystems2030 contact:
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