



Concept Note for UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives

An Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue, Asia & Africa

About the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a [Food Systems Summit](#) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. The Summit will awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. Guided by five [Action Tracks](#), the Summit will draw on the expertise of actors from across the world's food systems, and offer stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds a space to share and learn, with a view to fostering new actions and partnerships and amplifying existing initiatives. Key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other stakeholders, will come together to bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems.

Action Tracks

- **Action Track 1:** Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Action Track 1 will work to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable disease, enabling all people to be nourished and healthy. Achieving the goal means increasing the availability of nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in access to food. You can submit your ideas for this track through this [Action Track 1 - Survey](#).

Action Track Chair: Lawrence Haddad, GAIN

Vice Chair: Godfrey Bahigwa, African Union Commission

Youth Vice Chair: Janya Green, 4-H

UN Anchor Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **Action Track 2:** Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Action Track 2 will work to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the reuse and recycling of food resources. This Action Track recognizes the need to eliminate wasteful patterns of food consumption as well as to facilitate a transition in diets towards more nutritious foods that require fewer resources to produce and transport. You can submit your ideas for this track through this [Action Track 2 - Survey](#).

Action Track Chair: Gunhild Stordalen, EAT Foundation

Vice Chair: Ajay Vir Jakhar, Bharat Krishi Samaj

Youth Vice Chair: Lana Weidgenant, Real Food Systems

UN Anchor Organization: World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Action Track 3:** Boost nature-positive production

Action Track 3 will work to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use and soil degradation. The Action Track will aim to deepen understanding of the constraints and opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain. It will also strive to support food system governance that realigns incentives to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts. You can submit your ideas for this track through this [Action Track 3 - Survey](#).

Action Track Chair: Joao Campari, WWF International

Vice Chair: Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, Senior negotiator for the DRC on climate issues

Youth Vice Chair: Lavetanalagi Seru, Alliance of Future Generations

UN Anchor Organization: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD



- **Action Track 4:** Advance equitable livelihoods

Action Track 4 will contribute to the elimination of poverty by promoting productive employment and decent work for all actors in the food value chain, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. You can submit your ideas for this track through this [Action Track 4 - Survey](#).

Action Track Chair: Michelle Nunn, CARE USA

Vice Chair: Shakuntala Thilsted, World Fish

Youth Vice Chair: Mai Thin Yu Mon, UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus; Indigenous Peoples Development Program of Chin Human Rights Organization

UN Anchor Organization: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- **Action Track 5:** Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

The ambition behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability. This Action Track will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas vulnerable to conflict or natural disasters. It will also promote global action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics. You can submit your ideas for this track through this [Action Track 5 - Survey](#).

Action Track Chair: Saleemul Huq, International Centre for Climate Change & Development

Vice Chair: Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome

Youth Vice Chair: Mike Khunga, SUN Global Youth Leader for Nutrition

UN Anchor Organization: World Food Programme (WFP)

UNFSS Champions Network

The [Champions Network](#) mobilizes diverse people across the world to call for fundamental transformation of food systems. The network will provide counsel to the Action Tracks by identifying key issues, participating in the country-level food systems dialogues and activating the power of their networks to generate inputs into the Summit. There are two kinds of Network members:

Food System Heroes are individuals from countries all over the world who commit to learn, share, gather and act for better food systems in their communities and more broadly.

Food Systems Champions are network and institutional leaders from across the food system who commit to mobilizing their networks, sharing information, and taking action to support the Summit.

Leadership:

Chair: Ruth Richardson, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food

Vice-Chair - Civil Society: Mamadou Goïta, Executive Director of the Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD), Mali (Africa)

Vice-Chair - Indigenous Peoples: Jessica Vega Ortega, Coordinator, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Mexico (Central America)

Vice-Chair - Youth: Marie-Claire Graf, Global Focal Point of the UNFCCC Youth Constituency, Switzerland (Europe)

Vice-Chair - Production: Dr. Vijay Kumar Thallam, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (Farmers' empowerment corporation) – India (Asia)

Vice-Chair - Consumption: Paul Newnham, Director, SDG2 Advocacy Hub Secretariat and Coordinator, Chefs' Manifesto, Australia (Oceania)

Vice-Chair - Private Sector: Rick White, Chair, Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Private Sector Mechanism, Canada (North America)

Vice-Chair - Research: Claudia Martínez Zuleta, Co-chair of the country programs of the Food and Land Use Economy (FOLU), Colombia (South America)

Vice-Chair - Women: Dr. Bettina Prato, Coordinator, Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN), Italy (Europe)

Vice-Chair - Finance: Naoko Ishii, Executive Vice President, Director for Center for Global Commons, the University of Tokyo, Japan (Asia).



Food Systems Summit Dialogues

[Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#) are critical to the Food Systems Summit process. The Dialogues offer a purposeful and organized forum for stakeholders to come together to share their roles in food systems, consider their impacts on others and find new ways to come together in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcomes of the Summit Dialogues will inform the Summit process and help to guide individual and collective action towards a future of food that is sustainable, equitable and secure. There are three main kinds of dialogues:

[Member State Dialogues](#) – These are organised by the UN Member States to engage stakeholders at the national level.

[Independent Dialogues](#) – These are convened by individuals or organizations independently of national authorities, but will feed into the Summit process through an official feedback mechanism. They are locally driven and can be adapted to various contexts.

[Global Summit Dialogues](#) – These are co-convened by the Food Systems Summit Special Envoy, Dr Agnes Kalibata, with the main purpose to bring political attention to food systems in high-level thematic and sectoral meetings and processes.

Independent Dialogue by Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)

A broad understanding is emerging that our food systems are a key factor in the environmental emergency: they contribute massively to global heating, biodiversity loss, land use change and freshwater consumption. They are also profoundly inequitable, with the numbers of hungry and malnourished only increasing due to the pandemic. Yet, they also affect every aspect of human existence in every corner of the globe. This makes it vital to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. However, the voices of many crucial food system actors, such as farmers, have so far been underrepresented in the academic and policy discourse around food systems. The UN Food Systems Summit is attempting to change this by reaching out to as many diverse stakeholders in almost all regions of the world. It has oriented itself as an inclusive, ‘people’s summit’ and has committed to engage with the honest and often difficult discussions required to build solutions together.

As organisations working with farmers and producers, we do not need to be convinced of the importance of food systems to our livelihoods, health and environment. We believe the Independent Dialogues of the UNFSS present a unique opportunity to not just engage with the Summit process but also influence its outcome. This is a chance – to make our voices count in the much-needed reconfiguration of our food systems.

In pursuit of this goal, Bharat Krshak Samaj and RySS plan to co-convene two Independent Dialogues, with farmers and farmer organisations in the Global South. One of these dialogues would be held with farmers’ organisations in Africa and Asia, on 5 February, 2021. The key takeaways from these discussions will feed into the action tracks and the UNFSS process. Please find details about the [dialogue](#) below:

INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE – UNFSS: GRASSROOTS PERSEPCTIVES	
Convenors	Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)
Objective	Bringing the voices of farmers and farmer organisations in the Global South into the Food Systems Summit process.
Focus	Building synergies between production, consumption, livelihoods and the ecosystem.
Date and Time	5 February 2021, 2 pm – 4 pm IST
Format	Online
Participant Group	Farmers and Farmer Organisations
No. of Participants	40-50
Geographical Region	South and Southeast Asia, Africa

Convened by Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)