



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

FOOD ACTION ACCELERATES CLIMATE ACTION



Statements from Youth Representatives & Observers

World Food Forum

Rome, Italy, 16-20 October 2023

ON THE WFF 2023 THEME:

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

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Part 1.



Part 1.
**National Youth
Statements**

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Argentina**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

A todas y todos los representantes de las Naciones y Organizaciones participantes de nuestra mayor consideración.

Los y las jóvenes representantes de las Delegaciones Nacionales ante el Foro Mundial de la Juventud, en el marco del Foro Mundial de la Alimentación, organizado en Roma, Italia, del 16 al 20 de octubre de 2023, nos proponemos aportar nuestras miradas en torno al futuro de los sistemas agroalimentarios y el involucramiento de las juventudes.

Atravesamos actualmente un escenario global de múltiples crisis, que afecta concretamente a los sectores de Energía y Alimentos a nivel global, producto de los efectos terribles de la Pandemia Covid-19, y de las guerras entre naciones.

A la vez, mientras el escenario de calentamiento global nos exige respuestas sustentables, Naciones Unidas afirma que 29 % de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero proceden de la cadena de suministro de alimentos. Es por esto que aceptamos el desafío de trabajar en torno a respuestas concretas: acción alimentaria que acelere la acción por el clima.

Tal acción necesaria encuentra correlato en nuestra Argentina en políticas ligadas a la seguridad alimentaria, la alimentación saludable y el involucramiento de juventudes en los sistemas agroalimentarios tales como:

A. El reconocimiento y puesta en valor de las instancias propuestas por ONU en los “Member State Dialogues”, como parte del Food Systems Summit process, de los cuales participó el propio Presidente de la Nación, Alberto Fernández, estableciéndose un camino nacional hacia diálogos de consulta agronacionales.

B. La sanción de la Ley de Promoción de la Alimentación Saludable (Ley 26.642), que propone Brindar información simple y comprensible sobre alimentos envasados

y bebidas alcohólicas, advertir sobre el exceso de determinados componentes, prevenir la malnutrición, reducir las enfermedades crónicas no transmisibles y regula la publicidad a la vez que promueve la alimentación saludable en establecimientos educativos.

C. En el ámbito de la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca de la Nación, la creación de una Coordinación Nacional de Incubadoras para Mujeres, Productores Agroalimentarios y Jóvenes, en el ámbito de la también recientemente creada Subsecretaría de Fortalecimiento Productivo y Sustentable para Pequeños y Medianos Productores Agroalimentarios; así como el Programa Nacional de Reducción de Pérdida y Desperdicio de Alimentos.

Sistemas agroalimentarios y Acción de la Juventud

Las particularidades que presentan los sistemas agroalimentarios argentinos en relación con las juventudes, merecen un análisis a profundizar. Debemos cuestionarnos dónde se espera que las juventudes lleven adelante las transformaciones propuestas, si en los últimos 20 años las unidades agropecuarias en Argentina se redujeron un 25%, concentrándose la producción en menos manos, y obligando a la migración urbana de las familias. Son menos de 20000 las unidades agropecuarias lideradas por jóvenes menores de 39 años, un 50% menos que en 2002.

En este sentido es importante reforzar que:

A. el acceso físico, social y económico a suficientes alimentos inocuos y nutritivos para satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias y sus preferencias, a fin de llevar una vida activa y sana es un derecho.

B. las metas de erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición no han sido alcanzadas; que si bien ha habido fallos en la formulación de las políticas

y en la financiación, es posible que el enfoque de tales políticas merezca ser transformado.

Las juventudes entendemos que el acceso a alimentos seguros y nutritivos y dietas saludables implica necesariamente ligarse a otras temáticas que la agenda de numerosos colectivos de juventudes contempla: la conservación de humedales, el ordenamiento ambiental nacional, la educación ambiental, las políticas para intolerancias –gluten, lactosa- y la promoción de Pequeña y Mediana Empresa Agroalimentaria Nacional, conciente de estas variables sociales, culturales y ambientales para impulsar la producción sostenible.

No todas las respuestas son esperables desde ámbitos institucionales. Creemos fundamental:

I. invitar a las sociedades, a los pueblos, a sus juventudes especialmente, a participar en la definición de sus propias políticas y estrategias de producción, distribución y consumo de alimentos, a fin de garantizar una alimentación cultural y nutricionalmente apropiada y suficiente para toda la población.

II. Reconocer las experiencias que están tomando la iniciativa hacia transformaciones de los sistemas agroalimentarios.

De ese modo, se propone democratizar el poder y la toma de decisiones en todo el entramado alimentario: la Producción, Distribución, Comercialización, Consumo y PostConsumo; cuestionando la Concentración de la producción y de la tierra, los efectos sobre la Biodiversidad y la Salud de nuestra gente. Estados reterritorializados y la participación de organizaciones y movimientos posibilitará frenar lo que está sucediendo en tanto límites socio-ambientales, y comenzar a revertirlo.

Urge construir una estrategia productiva, educativa y social que trascienda la escala predial, y reconozca estos condicionamientos globales en sus planteos alimentarios. La conformación de un bloque social compuesto por pequeña y mediana empresa agroalimentaria nacional, agricultores familiares, campesinos e indígenas y movimientos sociales, con y sin tierra legalmente reconocida, que defina claramente los sentidos de las políticas de seguridad alimentaria, así como las decisiones de cantidades y destinos de la producción nacional.

Por último, no podemos dejar de mencionar que existen amenazas muy grandes. Actualmente en Latinoamérica y particularmente en Argentina vuelven a tomar fuerza viejas ideas neoliberales, negacionistas del cambio climático, que desprestigian al sistema de ciencia y técnica, así como a las políticas públicas que articulan global y localmente en poner sus conocimientos y trabajo para la adaptación y mitigación ante el calentamiento global. Estos sectores promueven modelos de maldesarrollo que proponen a viva voz contaminar nuestros ríos y pagar por ello, que encuentran sólo oportunidades negocios en nuestros bienes naturales con sus ideales de libre mercado y ausencia de regulaciones estatales hacia consensos público-privados, que no dudan en postular el daño de nuestros ecosistemas y la destrucción de nuestro planeta.

Celebramos la participación firme en valiosos espacios como éste, para la reivindicación de Agenda Climática y las políticas públicas que asumen la responsabilidad intra e intergeneracional para con nuestro planeta y comunidades. Nuestro planeta, nuestra casa común, exige debates y acciones a la altura de los desafíos que enfrentamos.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Bangladesh**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Distinguished Delegates and Honorable Guests,

I am honoured to stand before you today as a youth representative of Bangladesh, speaking on the vital theme “Food action accelerates climate action”. As our nation’s youth, we recognize the urgency of addressing the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change.

“Despite our responsibilities and resource constraints, we have adopted exemplary initiatives to tackle climate change. However, developed countries should fulfil commitments of providing 100 billion dollars annually with a 50:50 balance between adaptation and mitigation.”

*Stated by Sheikh Hasina,
Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh
at COP26 in 2021, Glasgow.*

Bangladesh is high on the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change, ranking **seventh** on the **2021, World Climate Risk Index**. Among the countries most affected by extreme climate conditions, it only contributes a small share of global emissions. Bangladesh has been proactive and adept in climate change adaptation, as mandated by the Constitution in its 15th amendment on protecting and improving the environment and biodiversity. Landmark achievements such as the formulation of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA, 2005), Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP, 2009), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, climate inclusive updated National Environment Policy (2018), updated Standing Order on Disaster (2019), etc. have paved the way for effective climate change adaptation and has propelled Bangladesh as a pioneer in the global arena.

According to the **National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050)**, Building a climate-resilient nation through effective adaptation strategies fosters a robust society and ecosystems and stimulates sustainable economic growth is our primary vision. The vision comprises six goals including ensuring protection against climate change variability and induced natural disasters (1), developing climate-resilient agriculture for food, nutrition, and livelihood security (2), developing climate-smart cities for the improved urban environment and well-being (3), promoting nature-based solutions for the conservation of forestry, biodiversity, and well-being of communities (4), imparting good governance through integration of adaptation into the planning process (5), and ensuring transformative capacity-building and innovation for climate change adaptation (6).

The NAP considered 11 climate stress areas in devising 113 interventions based on developed adaptation pathways and sectoral adaptation requirements. These interventions are aligned with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 52 climate adaptation projects of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100).

As a global pioneer in climate adaptation, Bangladesh has advanced substantially in building adaptive capacity and resilience for coping with various climate change impacts across sectors and levels. Alongside the National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050), the Ministry of Youth and Sports by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is also working on National Youth Policy 2017 where the main mission is to ensure the fulfilment of youth potential and youth empowerment to establish these in every sphere of life. Bangladesh's Government has prioritized youth development by categorizing it with Empowerment, Health and Recreation, Good Governance, Sustainable Development, Equitable Development, Building a Healthy Society, Globalization, and Survey and Research.

Addressing Sustainable Development Goals aims to build awareness among youth about their role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. This also involves environmental education and awareness which quest to infuse in youth love for the environment during their childhood to help them grow into citizens sensible to ecology and bio-diversity, motivate youth to volunteer spirit of conservation of the environment, encourage and patronize youth to establish and operate environmental organizations, i.e., Youth Watchdog on the Environment, boost youth awareness about the effects and severity of climate change and increase their participation in the mitigation and adaptation activities to combat climate change, take projects and programs to deal with the effects of climate change on women, youth with special needs and other backward sections of youth (National Youth Policy 2017, Article 11.2).

The involvement of youth in the agrifood system and climate action has been integrated gradually in Bangladesh, i.e. FAO Bangladesh has created an incredible platform to engage the youth in Agricultural Transformation.

They have already organized several youth engagement programs last year, including Agribiz: Engaging Youth in Agro-Entrepreneurship, Digit All Bootcamp: for rural youth and Women for digital security awareness and digital agriculture, World Environment Day 2023: for Engaging youth in Building a better world with less plastic pollution, and the participation of FAO Youth Network in Delta Plan.

Side-by-side with the Bangladesh Government, a lot of non-government youth organizations are also working locally, nationally, and internationally, with Agri-food System and Climate Action issues to achieve a sustainable future i.e. IAAS Bangladesh.

Furthermore, It is important to increase access to finance, land, markets, and training and extension services for young people to encourage entrepreneurship, value addition, and sustainable farming practices. Additionally, vocational education should be promoted and supported, more job opportunities in the agriculture sector should be created, and investment in research, development, and innovation should be increased.

In closing, we would like to congratulate the World Food Forum for its tremendous work. Let's work together worldwide to fight climate change and achieve a sustainable and fair world where food security and climate action are intertwined.

Thank You.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Bhutan** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”** Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Excellences, Distinguished guests, and esteemed fellow youth advocates, ladies and gentlemen!

I am honoured and delighted to represent youth from the Kingdom of Bhutan for the flagship event on Regional Youth Assembly session for Asia and the Pacific at the prestigious World Food Forum, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

On behalf of the youths and the delegation of the Royal Government of Bhutan, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the FAO for their exceptional support in facilitating our participation in this prestigious event. My name is Sonam Zangmo, a college student from Bhutan.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I, stand before you, driven by an unwavering passion for sustainable agriculture development and a deep conviction that the transformation of our agri-food systems is crucial for a sustainable and equitable future. As youth, we are the inheritors of the challenges that our food systems face. We are the ones who will bear the consequences of inaction, but we are also the catalysts for change. We refuse to be passive observers; instead, we choose to be proactive agents of transformation.

In Bhutan, where a significant portion of our population is under the age of 30, we recognize that our voices hold power. We are not merely the leaders of tomorrow; we are the leaders of today. Our energy, creativity, and innovative thinking can revolutionise the way we approach agriculture, ensuring food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity. The statistics are compelling. Despite progress in recent years, approximately 7% of Bhutan’s population still suffers from food insecurity. Climate change poses a significant threat to our agri-food systems, with changing weather patterns and increased pest and disease dynamics undermining crop yields and livelihoods.

On the other hand, the way we produce, consume, and manage food has a direct impact on the environment and contributes significantly to climate change. A positive change in the food sector can play a crucial role in accelerating global efforts to combat climate change. The World Food Forum theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”** transcends cliché; it’s a resounding call to our generation. As a youth deeply concerned about the future of our planet, I call on our leaders to take action for sustainable agri-food systems that address global warming, it is now or never.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen!

As youth advocates, we are ready to rise to the occasion. Our call for action begins at the national level. There is a need to reform policies, hold accountable, educate and raise awareness, reduce waste, engage communities, influence consumer choices, and actively support advocacy for a sustainable food future.

And invest in youth, by investing in our potential, national leaders can unlock the transformative power of youth in sustainable agriculture development. On the global stage, we demand the inclusion of youth in decision-making processes and policy dialogues. We refuse to be sidelined or tokenized. Our experiences, perspectives, and ideas must be valued and integrated into strategies that address climate change and promote sustainable food systems. We call upon global leaders to establish platforms that amplify our voices and provide opportunities for meaningful participation. Only by engaging us, the young people, as partners shall create inclusive and effective solutions to the complex challenges we face today.

In today’s digital age, we acknowledge the profound influence of social media as a formidable instrument for advocacy and mobilisation. We understand the potential of social media platforms to connect, inspire, and effect change. We pledge to harness social media responsibly and strategically, using it to raise awareness, share success stories, advocate policy changes and mobilise

communities on agri-food systems transformation. Let us create online movements that transcend borders, inspiring youth worldwide to join us in advocating for sustainable agri-food systems transformation.

However, our advocacy does not stop at social media. We believe in leading by example. As youth advocates, we commit ourselves through responsible food choices and sustainable consumption such as promoting plant based diets, engage in awareness campaigns, policy advocacy, and reduce food waste. By demonstrating the tangible benefits of these actions, we aim to inspire others and foster a shift in collective mind-set towards sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As young advocates, we stand united in our commitment to sustainable agriculture development and agri-food systems transformation for a better future of our only planet Earth. We call upon national, regional and global leaders to recognize and support our role as drivers of change and provide platforms to amplify our voices. Together, let us harness the potential of youth for food and climate action to secure a sustainable future for our planet.

Tashi Delek & Thank You!

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Georgia** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Dear Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am honored to stand before you today at this important gathering focused on the critical intersection of food systems and climate action. “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action,” encapsulates the urgency and necessity of collaborative efforts to address the pressing global challenges we face.

Our delegation on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia stands committed to advancing sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic viability. We firmly believe that engaging youth in agriculture and food systems is fundamental to achieving this sustainable future. Young individuals bring innovation, creativity, and a fresh perspective that are essential in finding effective solutions to the complex problems we confront.

Youth engagement in agriculture, food systems and rural development is crucial for shaping a resilient and prosperous future for rural communities. It ensures food security, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices. The Government of Georgia has placed a great importance on promoting the involvement of youth in the agricultural and rural development sector. They are dedicated in finding better ways to involve youth in decision-making process, provide them with education, training, and access to resources with the aim of making them catalysts for positive change in these fields. The Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for the period 2021-2027 sets forth a specific goal to implement localized and inclusive approaches to rural development, with a particular focus on women and youth.

In 2018-2021, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia through the Rural Development Agency implemented the youth support program “Young

Entrepreneur”. The key objectives of the program included promoting development of young entrepreneurship and their involvement into business in rural area; Enhancing economic development and strengthening the private sector in the regions; Investing in the production and sale chain of agricultural products. Within the program, 245 beneficiaries were funded with a total investment of 25 million, of which 40% was covered by state co-financing. As a result of which socio-economic conditions of young entrepreneurs were improved and new working places were created.

In order to achieve more effective and impactful outcomes, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) has sought the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in establishing a national Youth Network dedicated to agriculture, food systems, and rural development. The ongoing project ‘**Support Youth Inclusion and Empowerment in Agrifood Systems for Rural Development**’ aims to bring together various organizations, institutions, universities, research institutions, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector entities operating in the agriculture, food, and rural development sector across both rural and urban areas. The network will serve as a platform for fostering connections, promoting collaboration, and facilitating knowledge-sharing among young individuals involved in these fields. It should be noted that an analysis will be conducted to assess the situation and needs of rural youth, with a specific emphasis on the existing policy framework and the political participation of young individuals.

Another noteworthy initiative is the annual **National Agrarian Olympiad** held under the auspices of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The Olympiad is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with different stakeholders. The National Agrarian Olympiad is an annual event. The Olympiad was first held in 2021, followed with the second Olympiad in 2022. This year the National Agrarian Olympiad will take place in November and will be organized by FAO within

the framework of the ongoing project 'Support Youth Inclusion and Empowerment in Agrifood Systems for Rural Development' it aims to promote the agricultural sector and agrarian education, raise awareness among young people in different agricultural fields, establish a qualified mechanism for evaluating professional knowledge and endorse informal education in agriculture. There is a growing interest from the youth to participate in the Olympiad which demonstrates their increasing enthusiasm and attraction towards the event and field of agriculture in general. The target audience of the Olympiad includes the students with higher or vocational education in the field of agriculture as well as from public and private high schools.

Youth engagement plays a key role in the achievement of the Paris Agreement commitments in Georgia. Georgia's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) recognize youth as one of the vulnerable groups in face of the climate change and recognize their important role in climate action. In the Updated NDC, Georgia commits

to a conditional greenhouse gas reduction of 35% below the 1990 level by 2030. Besides, Georgia also commits to the conditional reduction of 50-57% of greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 level by 2030. Some of the activities in Georgia's Climate Action Plan cover aspects of environmental and vocational education, including for youth. In agriculture, we are improving training and certification schemes to support green production. Besides, the Environmental Information and Education Center under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture offers various educational programs for youth and teachers to ensure they have information about diverse opportunities around green jobs.

In conclusion, by working collectively and embracing the enthusiasm and capabilities of our youth, we can build a sustainable future in which agriculture plays a pivotal role in mitigating climate change and ensuring food security for all.

Thank you!

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Jordan**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

1. Changes in Agricultural Productivity

Climate change can make conditions better or worse for growing crops in different regions.

Changes in temperature, rainfall, and frost-free days are leading to longer growing seasons a longer growing season can have both positive and negative impacts for raising food Air pollution may also damage crops, plants, and forests.⁹ For example, when plants absorb large amounts of ground-level ozone, they experience reduced photosynthesis, slower growth, and higher sensitivity to diseases. Climate change can also increase the threat of wildfires. Wildfires pose major risks to farmlands, grasslands, and rangelands. Temperature and precipitation changes will also very likely expand the occurrence and range of insects, weeds, and diseases, this could lead to a greater need for weed and pest control. Warmer temperatures and changing precipitation can affect when plants bloom and when pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, come out mismatches occur between when plants flower and when pollinators emerge, pollination could decrease.

2. Impacts to Soil and Water Resources

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of heavy precipitation which can harm crops by eroding soil and depleting soil nutrients. Heavy rains can also increase agricultural runoff into oceans, lakes, and streams.¹⁹ This runoff can harm water quality. Sea level rise and storms also pose threats to coastal agricultural communities. These threats include erosion, agricultural land losses, and saltwater intrusion, which can contaminate water supplies. Climate change is expected to worsen these threats.

3. Health Challenges to Agricultural Workers and Livestock

Agricultural workers face several climate-related health risks.

These include exposures to heat and other extreme weather, more pesticide exposure due to expanded pest presence, disease-carrying pests like mosquitos and ticks, and degraded air quality. Heat and humidity can also affect the health and productivity of animals raised for meat, milk, and eggs. In recognition of the urgent global need to address the complex challenges this document embodies our call for action to pave the way for noticeable change in the following tracks: Adaptation and Resilience, Climate Agriculture Finance, Climate Justice and Human Rights, Reimagining and Transforming Economies, Politics, Policymaking, and Governance, Energy, Food and Agriculture, Education and Research, Nature and Biodiversity, Water, Waste, Transport, and Buildings, the 2023 LCOY Jordan’s Youth Statement will be officially handed over to the esteemed Ministry of Environment, acknowledging the shared responsibility for this statement between the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and the other entities, we request ongoing dialogues and periodic meetings to ensure the translation of our vision into actions. We stand ready to advocate for a prosperous, sustainable Jordan and contribute our part to the broader global climate agenda. One of the Demands was FOOD & AGRICULTURE (MOY, 2023)

We insist on a holistic approach to support the agriculture sector against climate change. This includes integrating carbon sink technologies into our national commitments, actively engaging in climate initiatives for agriculture, and explicitly recognizing climate change as an agricultural risk.

These actions are paramount to fortify our agricultural system, mitigate climate change impacts, and secure a sustainable future for our food and ecosystem. Our specific demands further address critical aspects of

Jordan's agricultural sustainability and resilience.

We advocate all relevant stakeholders provide economic incentives to support climate change mitigation and adaptation programs at the farm level. We call upon activating land use laws to safeguard agricultural lands from urban expansion. This entails implementing strict regulations, enforcing rules against development on agricultural land without special permits, and establishing robust enforcement mechanisms while closely monitoring developments. We encourage the modification of policies and the implementation of action plans, with a particular focus on socioeconomic strategies designed to address the agricultural impacts of climate change. We call for enhanced collaboration among relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacities of climate-related units and directorates.

We request an increase in funding for farmer compensation after drought and to establish subsidies to protect animal production during droughts. Acknowledge the importance of incorporating farmers' indigenous knowledge and traditions in adapting to climate change during drought conditions. We propose establishing collaboration with national and international research institutes to further harness this knowledge. We urge the utilization of the agro-climatic calendar efficiently, recognizing its crucial role in safeguarding Jordanian farmers, local products, and the national economy. We call for a transparent and well-defined agenda outlining strategies to achieve gender equality and empower women and youth in the agricultural sector. We call upon all relevant authorities to enhance their support for local initiatives and sustainable enterprises, with a primary focus on promoting a circular economy within the agriculture sector. We urge a focus on programs that encourage the participation of indigenous peoples and farmers in the policy-making process through a bottom-up approach. Food and Agriculture (LCOY, Jordan, 2022, 2023)

4. What Can We Do?

We can reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture in many ways, including the following:

Incorporate climate-smart farming methods. Farmers can use climate forecasting tools, plant cover crops, and take other steps to help manage climate-related production threats.

Join AgSTAR. Livestock producers can get help in recovering methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from biogas created when manure decomposes.

Reduce runoff. Agricultural producers can strategically apply fertilizers, keep their animals out of streams, and take more actions to reduce nutrient-laden runoff. Boost crop resistance. Adopt research-proven ways to reduce the impacts of climate change on crops and livestock, such as reducing pesticide use and improving pollination. Prevent food waste. Stretch your dollar and shrink your carbon footprint by planning your shopping trips carefully and properly storing food. Donate nutritious, untouched food to food banks and those in need.

- attract more Agriculture fund to support Jordan of youth initiatives and farmers
- awareness sessions for indigenous and farmers
- conduct training of new technology of agriculture methods such as Aquaponics –hydroculture spreading to save water (adaptation method) and green building, Organic food.
- increasing of green Area in Jordan

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Lebanon** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

**Esteemed Chairman,
Distinguished attendees,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

We are honored to participate in the World Food Forum, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, under the theme "Food Action Accelerates Climate Action" in the beautiful city of Rome, Italy.

As a group of young Lebanese scientists specializing in Agriculture, Food Systems, and Rural Development, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to FAO for affording us this opportunity and facilitating our delegation's presence at this prestigious forum.

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,

In the wake of the post-crisis era, where the people of Lebanon are diligently striving to bolster their resilience and establish mid- to long-term socio-economic safety nets amidst a multitude of challenges, we, the participants of this year's World Food Forum, aim to draw attention to a pressing issue within the Lebanese agro-food sector - the excessive reliance on chemical inputs. This persistent problem has posed both practical and intellectual obstacles to enhancing the quality of local agricultural products while maintaining environmental consciousness.

Central to our approach is placing the farmer at the heart of our narrative, as our primary objective is to raise their awareness regarding the use of chemicals and provide valuable insights into sustainable alternatives within the realm of agro-ecology. By making this topic our national focal point for the year, we anticipate a cascade of subtopics that require collective attention as a nation: empowering farmers with new techniques, managing their expectations, establishing an infrastructural framework that actively supports this national paradigm shift, and, given their significant contributions over the years, overseeing the allocation of aid funds to ensure tangible impact rather

than mere evaluation reports.

In addition to the above, we also recommend addressing the university curriculum. The university curriculum should be updated to include courses on climate change and sustainable agriculture. This will help to prepare the next generation of farmers to deal with the challenges of climate change.

Undertaking this endeavor will necessitate the support of the international community, particularly nations that have successfully transitioned from conventional agriculture to more sustainable practices. Lebanon boasts the requisite expertise to address this matter, as demonstrated by a commendable array of pilot projects, many of which operate informally at a grassroots level. We view the European Union's aspiration to reduce the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides by 50% by 2030 as a model worth emulating. Our task is to study the European process and tailor it to our unique local context.

In conclusion, we are eager to collaborate with the global community to address the challenges posed by chemical dependency in Lebanon's agro-food sector. Together, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future for our nation's agriculture.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Nepal** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

It is a proud moment for us to be here with energetic, visionary, motivated and inspiring youth from around the globe in the World Food Forum, which is a youth-led international movement and network to transform agrifood system. This forum encourages youth to understand issues that are interconnected and require global attention and cooperation in finding solutions. WFF emphasizes innovation, partnerships, science-based evidence, inclusiveness.

Representing the country, Nepal, the top of the World – Mount Everest, we are rich culture, heritage, and biodiversity. Nepal is a beautiful country resting in between China and India.

Majority of people are still relying on agriculture for their livelihood.

Climate change is impacting all over the world, and we are not immune to it. Our mountains are melting, despite being rich in water resources, our ground water is depleting. Our agriculture system is facing challenges from weather extremities.

With the limitation in access and reach to the mechanization and innovation, agriculture is not attracting youth in many countries. We believe this forum will be instrumental in exploring way out for the sustainable agrifood system.

Nepal extends its appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation for spearheading this commendable initiative through World Food Forum.

It is proven that youth are changemakers of every dimension, and agriculture is not an exception. The forum unites youth across the globe in brainstorming way forwards, igniting the transformation of the agri food systems. We firmly believe that this time to take our vision into action towards sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, resulting better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Nepal is steadfastly advancing its mission toward "Youth Vision-2025," which emphasizes a peaceful and take-off approach for social and economic transformation in a democratic manner. It is contributing to recalling youth about their rights, necessities, and responsibilities.

Nepal takes pride in representing youth to acknowledge agroecology's potential to provide innovative solutions and create meaningful employment opportunities in different international platforms. The WFF will showcase innovative technologies and practices in agriculture to cope with changing climate. Youth can learn about cutting-edge solutions that can make farming more sustainable, efficient, and productive, enabling them to apply these ideas in their agricultural sector.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal addressed the United Nations Food Systems 2023 Stocktaking Moment in Italy, Rome, on July 24, 2023, where he highlighted the urgency for a sustainable agrifood system transformation.

Nepal has adopted various initiatives in mainstreaming youth, gender and climate.

We believe that this event will create opportunity for youth to network among themselves, with professionals, researchers, and experts. This can lead to valuable mentorship and partnership opportunities, allowing them to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations for better tomorrow.

Finally, we extend our sincere gratitude to FAO Nepal for its supports and encouragement for youth participation in this global forum. We are fully committed to materialize learnt knowledge, skills and innovations in Nepal.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of the **Netherlands** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

The Dutch WFF Chapter thanks the World Food Forum for bringing together youth from all over the world so that we, as young people, can take up our rightful place in the struggle for just and sustainable food systems transformation.

At present, global agrifood systems are failing to deliver on both human and planetary health. Our current food system has produced a triple burden of malnutrition: across societies millions of people are suffering from insufficient caloric consumption, inadequate intake of micronutrients, and the excessive consumption of energy-dense foods with little nutritional value. Such dietary trends are rooted in ecologically devastating agricultural production methods, constituting the greatest source of biodiversity loss, soil erosion and carbon sequestration capacity decline. Current emission trajectories in the global food system project escalating hunger and render the objective of limiting global warming to a 1.5°C increase impossible. The ways we treat land and produce, distribute and consume food play a critical role in achieving the SDG's and determining our chances of passing a habitable environment to our descendants, human and otherwise.

In the Netherlands, we have spent decades optimising production methods to provide high quality and high quantity yields at the lowest possible economic cost. In the process, we forgot the true value of food. Now is the time to remember this value so that we as young people can do everything in our power to grow a just and sustainable food system. As the second biggest international agricultural trade exporter, a country with colonial history, a driver of negative spillover effects abroad, a proclaimed global leader on agricultural innovation research, and home to several powerful knowledge institutes and agri-finance actors, the Netherlands carries a substantial responsibility to engage in food systems transformation at the international and national level. Domestically, our small country is facing a food price hike, a rise in lifestyle and livestock diseases and a compounded agricultural crisis of excess in phosphorus, nitrogen and manure. Recent

nitrogen emission reduction targets, following decades of government and financial sector-backed intensification and upscaling, gave rise to a farmers' revolt and a failed Agricultural Agreement that has left many in our country without hope, just when we needed it most.

Despite The Netherlands being a strong advocate for youth involvement, we as young people, have limited say in shaping the future of our food and access to decision-making power on questions disproportionately affecting the lives of younger and future generations. We want meaningful inclusion in the policymaking processes of global corporations and our governments, to ensure we start prioritising people and planet over profit at the systemic level. This is why the Dutch WFF Chapter consulted an assembly of over sixty young people on 8 October, Youth World Food Day 2023 on the basis of which we would like to note the following three key aspects to youth-led food systems transformation.

1. Provide access to quality agrifood education for youth by bringing the food system into every classroom, and provide financially supported learning spaces to bring theory into practice.

Childhood and youth are a special time of vulnerability but also of opportunity given its critical developmental timing with regards to lifelong health benefits, behavioural patterns, identity, agency, and vulnerability to biological and social risks. A healthy food environment and educational foundation is key to reconnect younger generations to their food again. Cultivating food and agricultural skills with our youngest generations strengthens the active citizenship we need to address the most urgent crises of our time and safeguard the Earth's carrying capacity for our nutritional needs. Together we can educate a generation that transcends societal gaps, knows the true value of food, and sparks the transformation towards a healthy, regenerative, and just food system.

2. Society-wide appraisal of agricultural producers and financial support for a just transition to sustainable agriculture.

The agricultural sector is one of the most concentrated and aging sectors. At the current rate, the number of Dutch farmers halves every 20 years. We need access to land, funds, knowledge and market support to facilitate generational turnover so a new generation of producers can lead the transition to a just and sustainable agricultural system for healthy food, healthy soils, clean water, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and healthy and affordable food for all. The majority of Dutch farmers is interested in greening their practices, the regulatory and financial environment has not been supportive. We need policies and redirect subsidies and private investments to incentivise agroecological practices, including reduced pesticide and fertiliser use, crop diversification, and soil health management. Ecosystem services and social services should be appropriately compensated, for example biodiversity protection measures and educational visits for youth. Profit margins for healthy food grown by sustainable practices should be redistributed, with a major shift from supermarket to farmers.

3. Leveraging Dutch capital, knowledge and networks for food systems that focus on food sovereignty, achieving the human right to food for all and planetary health.

Food is a human right. Therefore, international food and agricultural policy and investment plans and implementation should lead with a rights-based approach. To achieve the right to food for all, we need to scale finance and otherwise support sustainability frontrunners with knowledge, network, and regulatory sandboxes for small-scale and medium-scale food producers and entrepreneurs. Extra focus should be placed on economically vulnerable people, women, youth and Indigenous peoples. These groups should be structurally included in food and agricultural decision making at every level, including international trade. This requires capacity and knowledge building, especially on behalf of the Global North where we need to actively dismantle unequal power relations in international food value chains and relearn how to engage in reciprocal exchanges based on respect and solidarity. No profit should be made and no subsidies should be paid at the expense of people, ecosystems and future generations in and beyond the Netherlands. In practice, this means working

towards transparent and ambitious subsidy programmes, corporate sustainability reporting and corporate social responsibility legislation so that our money and our mouths speak the same language of positive food systems change.

Lastly, we would like to report on some key Dutch policy developments on agrifood system transformation. They include a commitment of 24 billion euros to support farmers that contribute to the transition to sustainable agriculture at the regional level, 50 per cent nitrogen reduction by 2035, reducing greenhouse gas emission by 55% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels, a 50-50 balance between animal and plant-based protein consumption by 2030, halving the ecological footprint of Dutch consumption by 2050 and ending malnutrition for 32 million people by 2030. We would like to express our regret that the Netherlands has not developed a National Pathway for Sustainable Food Systems within the framework of the UN Food System Summit to integrate these policy commitments into one cross-sectoral and integral strategy. For us young people, these plans are no longer optional. They are our lifelines. If we have any chance at a food future that has been liberated from exploitative and extractive systems at all, it is by the minds, hands and hearts of young people. Investing in youth participation in agrifood systems transformation shouldn't be considered a box to check, or a luxury to dole out on an electoral whim, it is our right. Let us exercise it as often as we can and in all our diversity. As we stand on the precipice of ecological collapse, remember this: the fate of our food futures lies in the hands of our youth but without intergenerational collaboration and access to the decision making tables, we are empty handed.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Peru**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

“En la semilla y en la tierra encontramos las respuestas a cada una de las crisis que enfrentamos. Crisis de violencia y guerra. Las crisis del hambre y las enfermedades. La crisis de destrucción de la democracia”

– *Vandana Shiva*

Excelencias, distinguidos participantes del Foro Mundial de Alimentos, representantes del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, colegas y amigos.

En representación de las juventudes peruanas, es un honor estar presente en este evento que aborda uno de los desafíos más apremiantes de nuestro tiempo: la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios para acelerar la acción climática. Expresamos nuestro profundo agradecimiento al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por la oportunidad de darnos voz en este importante foro.

La seguridad alimentaria en el Perú es motivo de preocupación. Según el informe “Estado de la inseguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo del año 2022”, más de la mitad de nuestra población se encuentra en situación de inseguridad alimentaria. Esta cifra se ha agravado aún más debido al aumento de la pobreza en nuestro país. Según el informe, para el 2021 se estimó que 16.6 millones de peruanos y peruanas padecieron de inseguridad alimentaria, lo que incrementa la cifra previa a la pandemia en 5 millones de peruanos.

Según el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), una

población cuenta con seguridad alimentaria cuando todas las personas, en todo momento, tienen acceso físico y económico a suficientes alimentos inocuos y nutritivos para satisfacer sus necesidades alimenticias para desarrollar una vida saludable. Como vemos, eso no ocurre en nuestro país y requerimos acciones urgentes para revertir esa situación.

Para combatir la inseguridad alimentaria y el hambre es importante centrar la mirada en las familias que permiten la producción de alimentos, en garantizar que los productores gocen de condiciones laborales justas, que sus ecosistemas sean cuidados adecuadamente.

Uno de los mayores retos que enfrentamos los países del Sur Global son los efectos de la influencia del mercado y el extractivismo que han desencadenado la sobreexplotación de nuestra Madre Tierra. La extracción de combustibles fósiles, la minería y ciertos modelos de agronegocio contaminan nuestras fuentes de vida e incrementan la emisión de gases de invernadero. Esto acelera el cambio climático que ha incrementado los deslizamientos de suelos, las sequías y los cambios de temperatura. Todo eso amenaza nuestras cosechas y nuestra biodiversidad, y con ello, amenaza la seguridad alimentaria de las familias más vulnerables tanto de los campos como de las ciudades.

Por eso, también queremos referirnos a la soberanía alimentaria que representa la restauración del poder de decisión de las comunidades sobre los sistemas y las condiciones de producción de alimentos y de pesca, así como la protección de la naturaleza. La dependencia de nuestras economías a este modelo de extractivismo nos impide realizar una transición justa y popular hacia una economía descarbonizada y un sistema alimentario justo. Pero hacia esa ruta queremos transitar.

Es en este contexto que las juventudes desempeñan un papel esencial. Somos conscientes de la necesidad urgente de contar con sistemas agroalimentarios resilientes

y sostenibles. Promovemos proyectos ecológicos, el consumo de productos orgánicos y el consumo local. Debemos ser la voz que promueva sistemas de producción amigables con el medio ambiente y que sensibilice a la población sobre la importancia de los productos inocuos para nuestra salud.

Como jóvenes, nos negamos a aceptar este estatus quo que vivimos en la actualidad. Estamos desarrollando diferentes iniciativas en nuestros territorios, dispuestos a luchar por un futuro en el que la justicia social, la sostenibilidad y la soberanía alimentaria sean los pilares de nuestros sistemas agroalimentarios. Es hora de lograr una democracia alimentaria. Por ello, queremos proponer alternativas que permitan una economía centrada en la vida.

Para alcanzar la soberanía alimentaria, debemos abrazar la agroecología, fomentar la producción local y fortalecer la economía de las comunidades. Necesitamos políticas que protejan nuestras semillas locales y conocimientos. Es importante que se brinde el soporte necesario a la agricultura familiar adecuando el marco legal y promoviendo políticas, planes, programas y proyectos pertinentes a sus necesidades. Es necesario reconocer el trabajo organizado y colectivo realizado por los productores para que sus voces sean escuchadas en las entidades gubernamentales, a fin de promover los cambios necesarios a las normatividades de cada país. Asimismo, para lograr los cambios institucionales mencionados se requiere generar un sistema de asistencia técnica y transferencia de tecnología sustentable dirigido a atender específicamente los requerimientos y problemas del sector. También es necesario reconocer y fortalecer el trabajo de alimentación que realizan las organizaciones sociales autogestionadas para combatir el hambre en nuestras ciudades.

Es importante contar con todos los actores en foros internacionales, teniendo cuidado de actores con intereses opuesto al de derechos humanos. Se debe mantener el avance hecho por los movimientos de sociedad civil con transparencia y rendición de cuentas. Las juventudes peruanas estamos comprometidas en esta lucha trabajando desde nuestros territorios por la sostenibilidad alimentaria desde las ollas comunes, promoviendo proyectos agroecológicos, la producción orgánica, asistiendo a pequeños agricultores. Hagamos juntos un llamado a la acción. Devolvamos el poder a las mayorías. Democratizamos los sistemas alimentarios. Trabajemos en colectivo para hacer realidad un futuro en donde la vida esté por encima de cualquier lucro económico.

¡Gracias por su atención y compromiso!

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **South Korea** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Rapid urbanization, an aging population, and sustainability are the three most compelling issues around the South Korean peninsula. South Korea transformed from a developing country to one of the most economically prosperous countries in under 50 years. Having to go through redevelopment, many neighborhoods affluent with tradition were demolished without a single trace. Back then, sustainable development was not a widespread proposition, and therefore, natural resources were exploited entirely without a doubt. Years passed with air pollution in the streets, algae blooming in little streams, and animals frequently visiting houses due to the lack of natural habitats. Recently, the government started imposing legislation to construct a more eco-friendly market, consumption habits, and living standards. Numerous corporations are taking valuable steps to become ESG (Environmental, social, and corporate governance) firms. Non-governmental organizations are propelling activities and campaigns to promote a zero-waste lifestyle. From governments to individuals, a vast majority of modern society is highly concerned about the climate crisis.

While the climate issue is slowly starting to be highlighted, only a few issues regarding the agrifood systems in Korea are addressed widely. The aging population is mainly and nearly the only part of our society that voluntarily works in the agricultural industry. Due to the decreasing number of farmers within the nation, prices for regional harvests began to rise. South Korea became progressively dependent on cheaper alternatives or imported goods, contributing to increased carbon footprint levels. The government is currently making an effort to provide multiple attractive incentives for young farmers, yet it does not seem to work at the moment evidently.

Main Issues

As South Korea marches forward in its development journey, it grapples with several intertwined challenges spanning its agrifood and environmental sectors. One of the most visible issues is rapid urbanization. This

growth has led to a notable reduction in arable land. With space becoming a premium, it's imperative for the nation to adopt sustainable farming practices in these shrinking green patches.

Transitioning from the topic of land to what's grown on it, it's noteworthy that South Korea relies heavily on imports for many of its food staples, including grains. While challenging, a transformation towards a more self-sufficient agrifood system would reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation and bolster food security.

Nevertheless, it's not purely about what enters the nation. What gets wasted is equally pivotal in the wake of technological advances. Additionally, since the COVID-19 pandemic, there's been a huge increase in the demand for delivered food in Korea. Some delivery apps have set minimum order amounts, causing people to order more than they can consume. This has resulted in a growing trend of food wastage. While South Korea has initiated measures against this trend, refining and innovating in waste management remains a crucial agenda.

As we talk about consumption, water stands out as a resource under duress. The nation's brisk pace of industrialization and urban sprawl has heightened water demand, placing undue pressure on its freshwater reservoirs. To combat this scarcity, farmers are increasingly turning to technologies such as groundwater pumps and deeper plowing machinery. However, this heightened reliance on technology, often powered by fossil fuels, results in more significant greenhouse gas emissions.

Lastly, a more human-centric challenge emerges from the graying agricultural populace. With younger generations increasingly distancing themselves from farming, concerns about future food production rise. Yet, in this shift lies an opportunity to harness the power of technology for more sustainable and efficient farming innovations.

South Korea's journey, though marked with challenges, is also rife with opportunities. With strategic solutions and a forward-thinking approach, the nation can chart a course that's both progressive and sustainable.

Solutions

As we confront the intricate challenges of urbanization, limited arable land, dependence on imports, and water scarcity in South Korea's agriculture sector, a multifaceted approach must be taken. Youths are the only key. Youths must actively engage through educational programs that instill a passion for sustainable farming and environmental stewardship. Robust policies safeguarding our decreasing farmland are imperative to preserve limited resources and ensure food security. Embracing innovation, vertical farming, and urban agriculture opens new agricultural horizons, reducing land pressure, carbon emissions, and reconnecting urban populations with food production. Lastly, investing in water management technologies and practices is essential to optimize water resources, enhancing both crop productivity and environmental conservation. By uniting these solutions, we embark on a journey towards a greener, more sustainable future where agriculture thrives and our environment is preserved for generations to come.

Future endeavors

South Korea has been suffering from rapid urbanization, an aging population, and sustainability. Most of the time, politics and policies in South Korea were more about gaining popularity among the people instead of considering sustainability. Now is the time that we should look at the future and acknowledge what world we will live in. A non-self-sufficient, dependent future? South Korea is a highly dependent country for trade. We need more natural resources but have advanced technology and highly educated human resources. That is how South Korea economically developed through exporting. However, because the social atmosphere concerns education, the youth refuse to work in agricultural labor. That is why rural regions lack the young generation and labor for agriculture, which leads to dependence on imports for food supplies. Above all, youth involvement is crucial. The future would be a world of the young generations, the youth. But does it make sense to you if they have the least power to voice for themselves and their future? This is why the youth should have more youth involvement. Youth standing up for their future will have a pivotal role in structuring a better world for all.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Switzerland**

In the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Switzerland thanks the World Food Forum for the organization of this event that puts young people at the forefront of sustainable food systems.

Today we are talking about food systems, climate change and youth. These cross-sectoral topics go way beyond the questions of sustainability, food safety or food security. We are talking about an international system that impacts each member of our societies, in particular young people, women, and marginalized populations.

Population growth and migration, economic shocks, geopolitical developments, public health emergencies, wars and protracted crises will remain challenges in the coming years and decades. Growing inequalities are at the center of those developments, with marginalized populations often bearing the costs. Indivertibly, a sustainable food systems transformation needs to encompass the complex and diverse realities across the world. Addressing them can be challenging. With its “International Geneva”, Switzerland accumulates a unique density of international actors working towards a more equal and sustainable world, making it a privileged country with many resources and opportunities as well as contradictions. It is an environment of pre-eminent inequalities and privilege. With privilege comes responsibility and to take responsibility means to take action. As actors of change, young people across the

world have been at the forefront in the fight against climate change. Taking responsibility is also what we are doing here today – as youth, as countries and as the international community all together.

In that regard, the youth delegation of Switzerland, has three main messages to share with you:

1. Firstly, when addressing youth and food systems, we must also address intergenerational exchange. Or better, the lack thereof. This, especially when talking about the agricultural sector, where the generational gap is particularly noticeable. For example, in Switzerland, half of all farm owners will reach retirement age within the next 15 years. A sustainable food systems transformation is only possible with the active participation of young people, women, and marginalized populations who must be integrated also through access to land and property, from which they are still largely excluded. To facilitate that, a continuous exchange between generations is needed. We are talking about the future of all our generations. It is therefore our common responsibility to make it a sustainable and inclusive one.

2. Secondly, we all know our world is changing, climate change is upon us and we all experience it. To address that, Switzerland is working on breaking up the silos that so far have guided our work. Factors such as natural resources management, biodiversity, health, migration, gender, education or socio-economic developments have to be included. To reflect that, Switzerland has developed a Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food through the inter-sectoral cooperation of three different federal offices. Furthermore, approaches like “One Health”, which acknowledges the intrinsic link between human, animal, and environmental health, are leading

the way. If we want to ensure the “Human Right to Adequate Food”, we have to seize the opportunities that arise with these changes.

3. Third: Switzerland sees agroecology as a central approach to building sustainable food systems with an outcome- and impact-based orientation. Agroecology contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by improving soil health and biodiversity, preserving water, reducing the overall vulnerability of ecosystems and protecting knowledge and culture to achieve food sovereignty. It is not just a sustainable agricultural technique, but a truly transformative vision challenging existing structures of power. Agroecology includes farmers and supports local populations by preserving indigenous knowledge and biodiversity essential to adapting agriculture to global warming.

To summarize, Switzerland highlights three elements for the way forward: the need for improved intergenerational exchange and a systemic approach, through the implementation of agroecology.

We thank all the participants for their contributions to this forum and we congratulate the World Food Forum for their hard work in making this third edition of the Flagship Event possible.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Thailand** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thailand, a significant global food exporter, stands committed to combating climate change and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Since the commencement of the UN Food System Summit in September 2021, Thailand has showcased unwavering determination to transform its food and agriculture system, promoting resilience and sustainability. In the Climate Ambition Summit and SDG Summit last September, Thailand’s Prime Minister underscored the gravity of the ever-evolving global landscape that poses challenges to the agricultural sector and farmers’ livelihoods. Thailand’s vision also aligns with the BCG Economy Model, integrating the Bioeconomy, Circular Economy, and Green Economy to drive economic growth and ensure a sustainable future. In alignment with this model, Thailand’s food industry is steadfastly dedicated to minimizing food loss and waste through circular economy mechanisms. Addressing the pressing challenge of food waste, constituting a significant portion of total waste, is paramount for effective climate mitigation and sustainable resource management. Thailand has ardently adopted the Political Declaration to expedite the implementation of the SDGs, recognizing that the transformative role of youth action is pivotal in reshaping the agri-food system.

Our future hangs in the balance, and the stakes are high. As we confront the repercussions of climate change, we must harness our creativity and innovative potential to address the complex challenges posed by the food system and climate change mitigation.

I am Atsada Israpanich or Pun Pun, my hometown in Pathum Thani struck by severe environmental catastrophes throughout my childhood, I saw the importance of addressing food security. I myself as an individual have and continue to advocate and initiate conversations on the linkage between food and climate change

through establishing my own NGO called The Seed Bank Set Project, with the aim to promote food security through the introduction of community-size seed banks and low-cost seed-saving practices. By building a network of small farmers, hill tribes, and villagers in rural communities throughout Thailand, I was able to foster collaboration among diverse groups, encouraging inclusivity and community empowerment working together to acknowledge Thailand’s agricultural sector which generates 20% of GHGs and make significant progress in accelerating our climate action by reducing this footprint. Sustainable and organic seed-saving practices emit 36-65% less greenhouse gases compared to conventional agriculture practices. These practices would improve healthy soil fertility, reduce synthetic inputs dependency, and enhance carbon sequestration. The Seed Bank Set has reached over 1,600 villagers and hill tribes, supporting local food security. Nonetheless, this is only the impact of single small drop of water. Collectively, from one small community to the global network, we can channel them into a river, strengthening food security worldwide.

I am Nantaporn Thiraponphaiboon or Ploy, I take great pride in being one of the young members at the Scholars of Sustenance Foundation (SOS), dedicated to reducing food waste and improving food equity. Since 2016, SOS has made a substantial impact, rescuing more than 6,800 tons of food, equivalent to over 28 million meals, and assisting over 3,200 communities in 47 provinces of Thailand. Our dedication does not stop in Thailand alone; we have expanded our food rescue operations to two more countries in Southeast Asia: Indonesia and the Philippines. Understanding that in our region, over 50% of waste comprises food waste, and with more than 144 million people still grappling with food insecurity, we recognize the urgency and necessity of our mission. We deeply appreciate the unwavering commitment of diverse sectors, including agriculture, business, government, academia, and civil society, in our collective endeavor for climate action.

Our efforts to combat food waste have been multi-faceted. Firstly, in collaboration with the Pollution Control Department, we have developed a draft action plan for Thailand's food waste management from 2023 to 2027. This plan outlines Standard Operating Procedures for donating surplus food to replicate our work all over Thailand.

Secondly, we collaborated with researchers from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) to contribute to the BCG Economy Model for the food industry. This partnership will inform policies and initiatives to tackle food waste collectively within the country, with a focus on food safety, accessibility for vulnerable groups, and preventing waste throughout the supply chain. Notably, this collaboration is a pivotal component of the National Food Bank Network Development, where the collective efforts of the government and private sectors converge to implement cohesive measures that streamline surplus food donation processes across Thailand.

Thirdly, we facilitated partnerships with the Thai Chamber of Commerce to enhance collaboration among its food business members to efficiently manage surplus food, prevent food waste, and donate safe surplus food to vulnerable segments of our society across Thailand.

Beyond the business sector, we also collaborated with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, involving over a thousand of its volunteers and affiliated organizations in the organized distribution of surplus food to those facing scarcity. This collaboration emphasized data collection for identifying communities in need and promoting effective food waste management among businesses across diverse regions.

Lastly, we are honored to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the development of the National Pathway for Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation project. This involves convening stakeholders to exchange sustainable approaches for comprehensive improvements in agriculture and food systems. We are also grateful to the Ministry for giving us the opportunity to represent Thailand at the World Food Forum 2023.

In conclusion, Thailand remains resolute in its commitment to transform agrifood systems, combat climate change, and strive for a world free from hunger. Both of our projects exemplify the power of collaboration, determination, and youth-led innovation. The Seed Bank Set Project emphasizes sustainable seed-saving practices and community empowerment, addressing the significant greenhouse gas emissions from Thailand's agricultural sector. It highlights the potential for local actions to create a global impact, offering a glimpse into a more sustainable future. On the other hand, SOS tirelessly battles food waste, showcasing the impact of youth-led innovations in addressing food insecurity. By rescuing and delivering over 40 million meals by 2025, we strive to alleviate hunger and contribute to a more equitable world. Globally, more than 800 million individuals face the harsh reality of hunger. While SOS has made significant strides, aiding 2.3 million people at present, we firmly believe in the potential of collective support for this alternative solution. The success of our initiatives demonstrates that food rescue and redistribution models can be replicated globally, leading us toward a world where no one is left behind.

We are honored to stand among fellow young food system changemakers from around the world. Let us unite as a powerful force, propelling us towards a sustainable and inclusive future. Thank you.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Uzbekistan** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Ladies, gentlemen, and esteemed delegates,

As representatives of the youth of Uzbekistan, we stand before you today to share our perspective on the integral role that agrifood education plays in addressing climate challenges. We strongly believe that the future we envisage — a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive one — begins with equipping our youth with the right knowledge and tools.

Uzbekistan, with its rich agricultural legacy, is now facing challenges with environmental restoration and food security, especially given the problems with the Aral Sea.

The Aral Sea crisis, once the fourth largest lake in the world, is a testament to the dire consequences of mismanaged agrifood systems and water resources. Its shrinking has not only led to a loss of livelihoods but also to health problems, salt storms, and climatic shifts.

In just four to five decades, its sea level has plummeted by 22 meters. From 1064 cubic km, its water volume is now down to a mere 70 cubic km. This once-thriving sea has become almost “dead”. Each year, 80 to 100 million tons of dust soar into the atmosphere from its dry bed, painting a picture of environmental neglect and grave consequences. And it’s not just about water. The rates of land degradation and desertification, especially in the deltas of Amudarya and Syrdarya, are on a concerning rise.

Yet, hope arises as youth from Uzbekistan, educated about sustainable agriculture and water conservation, are playing a pivotal role in addressing this. Initiatives to plant drought-resistant crops, to use drip irrigation, and to engage in afforestation around the region are being led by our youth. These practices not only restore the environment but also bolster the economy by generating employment.

Agrifood education in Uzbekistan is not merely about teaching farming techniques; it is about nurturing

responsible custodians of the land. By focusing on practical and innovative solutions, our young minds are leading by example, showcasing that with the right knowledge, resilience can be cultivated.

Our commitment is strong. The New Uzbekistan Strategy for 2022-2026 sets out clear goals:

- Bolstering a resilient national economy, encompassing water management reforms and a specialized water economy program.
- Aiming to double farmers’ incomes by promoting scientific, intensive agricultural growth, targeting at least 5% annual increase.

Last month, in collaboration with the FAO, Uzbekistan showcased its commitment by hosting an international conference on food security, resulting in the pivotal Samarkand Declaration emphasizing food system transformation in light of climate change. Additionally, to invigorate youth involvement in agriculture, the government of Uzbekistan instituted scholarships focusing on science and innovation within the sector.

The juncture we, the youth, find ourselves in is crucial. As the guardians of both today and tomorrow, we recognize education as the cornerstone for a flourishing agrifood sector. This approach doesn’t just reshape agrifood systems, it propels them towards a future of innovation and evidence-based practices.

For the most vulnerable populations and the sector at large, the key lies in embracing a holistic educational approach, ensuring that agrifood practices are not just sustainable but also progressively scientific.

In conclusion, we urge the global community to recognize the importance of agrifood education in the context of climate challenges. Empowering our youth through education will not only foster resilience but also create a ripple effect of positive change that transcends borders and generations.

Thank you.

Part 2.



Part 2. **Sub-National Youth Statements**

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Puerto Rico** in the World Food Forum on the theme “**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Greetings to all. It is a great opportunity to participate in this event of the World Food Forum representing Puerto Rico and the youth voices of the island in this event. This is a great occasion for young people from underrepresented communities to speak their voices and ideas for inclusive and sustainable solutions to this matter.

It is our great pleasure to participate in the World Food Forum which is facilitated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations under the theme “**Food Action Accelerates Climate Action**” held in Rome, Italy.

Namely as the youth on behalf of the Puerto Rico 4-H Organization, local youth entrepreneurs, scientists and farmers, we would like to express our appreciation to FAO for the good cooperation and for your excellent facilitation to our delegation to attend this, Forum.

As we know, progressive global warming has impacted the magnitude of atmospheric events in the world and the Caribbean. There is an increase in temperatures, sea levels, droughts, tropical cyclones, among others that threaten public health and ecosystems. Likewise, the political, economic, and cultural sectors are affected by this problem. As an American territory, Puerto Rico must work in collaboration and under the regulations established by the United States. This includes the implementation of laws, development plans and resources for agriculture and climate amendments. Currently, the agricultural sector produces less than 1% of the island's income production. Because of this, it has not been a priority for the local and state government to effectively promote efforts toward this causes.

Puerto Rico represents an archipelago with extreme biodiversity. The National Rainforest El Yunque is a relatively small forest that has more than 200 types of trees and animals making it one of the most important national forests in American territory. Likewise, Puerto Rico has dry forests, mangroves, rocky coasts, coral reefs, among

others. Because of this, we have diverse and fertile soils for agriculture production on the island.

One of the current proposals is the integration of agro-sustainable practices. In Puerto Rico, one of the most effective strategies has been the participation of environmental, agricultural and youth development organizations that promote a sustainable future of agriculture and ecology practices. These collaborations provide social integration that extends education about the importance and knowledge of environmental issues to citizens of the island. The protection of ecological and agricultural reserves on the island has been established through the efforts of citizen awareness.

On a voluntary basis, the community is joining efforts to conduct educational workshops to start a dialogue among the youth on the conservation of agricultural practices on the island. Collaborations between these organizations have been vital to begin implementing these practices. These organizations have a large youth participation of Puerto Ricans who know the importance of advancing agriculture and sustaining these proposals. Unfortunately, the government is not actively involved in environmental issues. These efforts have been extended to government agencies to try to implement legitimate island-wide agricultural education systems and programs in classroom. The limitations of agricultural provision on the island present great dependence on food imports. However, these proposals establish a new perspective for the new generations. As a result, it creates a new path for new possibilities that give priority and innovation to this sector.

In the same way, this organizations have implemented the 17 Goals of the United Nations. It has started with the 17th amendment of the collaboration to complete goals. This has facilitated the continuation of these sustainable development goals. More than 45-eco schools have been implemented that provide education and sustainable practices to more than 25,000 children on the island. In addition, it was the first Latin American

and Hispanic country to carry out the “Young reporters for the environment” program that promotes youth participation to address local issues and receive support from the program to create awareness. This is a start that seems to be small in comparison to measures that other countries have taken; however, it has had effective results in the community and development of the new generation. Nonetheless, there is still too much to be done and the role of youth is vital so that gaps are reduced in a short time to make possible significant advances in sustainable practices. That’s why technological, institutional, and social innovation should be supportive toward the people that are working to ensure that action is taken in this matter.

Through innovative practices, ecological systems could reduce and combat these atmospheric events that affect agriculture. Likewise, practices of our pioneering ancestors in agriculture should be taken up again. It is vital to establish efforts to know our ecosystems and work in union with nature to provide it with what it needs. Establishing a balance between the human and ecological needs of the systems.

Therefore, in Puerto Rico it is of great importance to invest in organizations that promote the development of research, education and innovation of sustainable systems that adapt to progressive climate changes. With this, Puerto Rico, as well as the rest of the countries in the Caribbean will be able to face multiple challenges with results that will lead to a better protection of ecosystems, with a sustainable method.

To conclude, I want to emphasize the power of young people, it is necessary to make sufficient and sustained investments to enhance the ideas that the new generations have.

Thank you.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of Québec in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Nous, la délégation jeunesse du Québec, exprimons notre profonde gratitude envers le Forum mondial de l'alimentation pour son engagement à impliquer activement les jeunes dans la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires.

En 2021, le Québec a enregistré une augmentation historique du nombre d'exploitations agricoles, une première en 40 ans. Cependant, malgré cette croissance, de nombreuses entreprises agricoles envisagent de cesser leurs activités en raison de l'augmentation de la fréquence et de la force des événements météorologiques extrêmes, jumelé à un contexte économique difficile. Cette réalité n'est pas isolée, mais partagée par leurs homologues du monde entier. Ainsi, il est impératif d'agir à la fois à l'échelle locale et mondiale pour transformer les systèmes agroalimentaires.

Le Forum mondial de l'alimentation représente une opportunité pour donner une voix à la jeunesse et partager leurs solutions innovantes afin de relever les nombreux défis auxquels sont confrontés nos systèmes agroalimentaires, dont la crise climatique et la perte de la biodiversité. Nous sommes réunis à Rome à la FAO, pour appuyer l'intention commune de la jeunesse québécoise d'accélérer l'action climatique par la transformation des systèmes agroalimentaires. Nous estimons que pour nourrir le monde de demain, l'atteinte de trois grands objectifs est nécessaire:

1. Accroître la résilience des systèmes agroalimentaires

Le territoire agricole, ressource limitée et non renouvelable, doit être protégé et ses usages encadrés pour assurer l'autonomie alimentaire. La production agricole doit tendre vers des modèles agroalimentaires diversifiés qui incluent notamment l'agroforesterie et des cultures à haut potentiel nutritif et écologique, comme le millet, le sarrasin et l'avoine nue. Soutenir la relève agricole par la formation et le soutien financier, valoriser les métiers du secteur bioalimentaire et encourager les modèles économiques coopératifs renforcent la résilience du secteur. Les activités agroalimentaires doivent se

développer autour de systèmes alimentaires territorialisés afin de mettre en valeur les produits locaux, de favoriser l'achat local et de rapprocher les consommateurs des producteurs. Enfin, il faut accroître la résilience des milieux urbains et périurbains en soutenant l'agriculture urbaine, l'implantation de pôles de transformation de proximité et la diversification des canaux d'approvisionnement.

2. Réduire l'impact environnemental

Il est impératif de réduire l'impact environnemental de la production agricole en termes d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES), de perturbations de la biodiversité et d'utilisation des ressources en eau. Pour ce faire, il est nécessaire de promouvoir les pratiques agroécologiques, en intégrant les préoccupations sociétales liées à l'utilisation des produits agrochimiques et en luttant activement contre les pratiques à forte émission de GES. L'impact environnemental des systèmes agroalimentaires dépend également de l'évolution de nos habitudes de consommation. Il est primordial de mettre en place des mesures pour encourager une évolution positive de ces habitudes, notamment en favorisant l'adoption de comportements écoresponsables, tels que la réduction du gaspillage alimentaire et le remplacement de la consommation de viande par une consommation d'aliments d'origine végétale ou à base d'insectes. Cette approche nécessite une analyse approfondie des comportements et la mise en place d'interventions appropriées, telles que des réglementations, des campagnes de communication et d'éducation, l'amélioration des environnements alimentaires et de l'offre de produits. Il est important de souligner que les changements de comportement individuels doivent s'accompagner de mesures systémiques, sans que l'entière responsabilité de la transition repose sur le consommateur.

3. Impliquer toutes les parties prenantes dans la transition alimentaire

Pour que la transition alimentaire soit coordonnée, il faut soutenir la création d'espaces de concertation intersectoriels, et ce, à multiples échelles. Nous invitons les entreprises, les institutions publiques, les groupes communautaires et les citoyen.ne.s à ouvrir le dialogue pour élaborer des solutions collectives répondant aux priorités bioalimentaires de leurs territoires. Enfin, nous croyons que tous les groupes doivent être représentés dans les structures de gouvernance, notamment les Premières Nations, les personnes en situation de vulnérabilité, les minorités visibles, les femmes et les jeunes.

Nous soulignons l'importance du soutien à l'innovation bioalimentaire et la coopération internationale par le partage de connaissances scientifiques, de technologies

innovantes et de résultats de recherche. Les plates-formes de collaboration, telles que les tables rondes et les partenariats public-privé, sont essentielles pour atteindre nos objectifs communs. C'est pourquoi, la délégation jeunesse québécoise propose la création d'un instrument juridique international visant à rétablir l'équilibre entre les intérêts du commerce mondial et le respect du droit à l'alimentation. La mise en place d'une instance de négociation internationale entre États, dotée du pouvoir d'élaborer des plans cadres directeurs, représente une proposition concrète et novatrice pour renforcer la capacité de nos systèmes agroalimentaires à faire face aux défis actuels.

La délégation jeunesse du Québec réaffirme son engagement collectif à accélérer l'action climatique par la transformation de nos systèmes agroalimentaires.

Merci à vous

Part 3.



Part 3. **Partner Youth Statements**

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Bagmati UNESCO Club** in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

“Nepal’s Blueprint for Global Food Security and Water Resilience: A Youth-Led Manifesto”

Introduction:

In a world facing ever-mounting challenges to food security and sustainable water usage, Bagmati UNESCO Club, an NGO affiliated to the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO from the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal takes pride in presenting a comprehensive and actionable statement.

“Nepal’s Blueprint for Global Food Security and Water Resilience: A Youth-Led Manifesto” is a precise and detailed set of recommendations crafted by youth activists with a shared commitment to ensuring a sustainable, secure future for all.

The Manifesto:

1. Biodiversity-Driven Agriculture: Nepal’s extensive array of agricultural biodiversity, including various indigenous crops and resilient local varieties like the aromatic “Jumli Marshi” rice, serves as a model for diverse, climate-resilient agriculture. We advocate for crop rotation, intercropping, and the establishment of community seed banks to ensure a continuous and diversified food supply.

2. Youth-Led Agricultural Transformation: Nepal recognizes the potential of its youth in shaping a sustainable food future. We highlight the “Youth in Agriculture” program, which empowers young farmers with knowledge, resources, and mentorship. This initiative equips them to be pioneers in adopting sustainable practices, including terrace farming, integrated pest management, and organic farming.

3. Mountain Ecosystems and Water Conservation: Nepal’s mountains are not just a picturesque backdrop but also the source of life-sustaining rivers. Our “Water for Life” campaign protects these fragile ecosystems and emphasizes the global significance of responsible mountain water resource management. We advocate for a balanced approach that considers the needs of agriculture, energy production, and ecological conservation.

4. Community-Managed Conservation: The Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) showcases how community-led conservation efforts ensure food security and water availability. By involving local communities in forest protection, sustainable resource use, and wildlife conservation, Nepal provides a blueprint for the world to secure natural resources while empowering local communities.

5. Climate-Resilient Farming Practices: Nepal’s agricultural adaptation to a changing climate stand as a testament to the importance of blending traditional wisdom with innovation. We advocate for the global adoption of technologies like the “SRI” (System of Rice Intensification) method, drought-resistant crop varieties, and eco-friendly irrigation techniques to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture.

6. Eliminating Food Waste through Culture: Inspired by Nepal’s “Daal Bhat Power, 24 Hour” tradition, the “Clean Plate Campaign” underscores the importance of minimizing food wastage. This global initiative encourages the reduction of household and restaurant food waste through awareness campaigns and innovative practices, such as converting food scraps into compost or animal feed.

7. Global Youth Knowledge Exchange: Nepal calls for an international platform to share knowledge and experiences. The “Youth for Food Security and Water Resilience Network” fosters collaborations among young leaders. It facilitates the transfer of expertise on sustainable

agriculture, water management, and policy advocacy, connecting youth across borders and inspiring global action.

In this statement, we offer a compelling narrative outlining how Nepal, with its unique blend of agricultural practices, conservation efforts, and community stewardship, can serve as an inspiring example for the globe. We delve into seven key points, each backed by concrete examples and precise measures that Nepal has undertaken to champion the cause of global food security and responsible water management.

These points delve deep into the heart of Nepal's food

systems, celebrating its agricultural biodiversity, youth empowerment initiatives, the conservation of mountain ecosystems, community-led efforts, climate-resilient farming practices, food waste reduction, and international collaboration. This manifesto embodies our dedication to advocating for practical change on the global stage.

We urge the global community to join hands, take inspiration from our experiences, and unite in the shared endeavor to secure the world's food and water resources for generations to come. Together, we can transform Nepal's successes into a global model and pave the way for a future of abundance, sustainability, and resilience.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Canadian Cattle Association** in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

FAO Youth Assembly,

It's a great honour to be participating in the World Food Forum to voice the perspectives of young beef farmers and ranchers in Canada. Today, we're excited to share how the Canadian beef cattle sector is well-positioned to be part of the climate change solution. And as its next generation, we are ready for the challenge.

Canada is home to one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world, the temperate Canadian native grasslands. When we think of mass amounts of carbon, we likely think of trees as a carbon storage solution. But in Canada, grasslands are considered a more resilient carbon sink, spreading across 35 million acres. This is because the carbon is stored deep in the roots of the plant and into the soil, storing an impressive 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon. Our native prairie is also important wildlife habitat; home to over 60 species at-risk of extinction. Canadian grasslands are essential to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and carbon storage, while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Conserving native grasslands means that stored carbon stays in the ground. But the stark reality is 74 per cent of our Canadian grasslands have already been lost. A recent study led by Nature United suggested that “avoiding grassland conversion and the resulting preservation of soil carbon stocks represents the single largest opportunity in Canada” for natural climate solutions.

In Canada, the solution to conservating native grasslands while feeding a growing world population with increased global demand for protein is beef cattle. Massive herds of bison once roamed the Canadian prairies. Widespread fire was also a regular occurrence. Keeping cattle on grasslands mimics the grazing patterns of the bison. Large herbivores graze the plant, which is part of a healthy lifecycle to allow for plant regrowth that drives continued carbon sequestration. The destruction of wildfires is also reduced.

At the same time, the unique digestive system of cattle allows them to make use of land not suitable for crop production, by digesting grass and other plants humans can't eat, and turning it into a safe, nutrient-dense protein for human consumption. Beef is rich in protein, iron, zinc, vitamin B6, and vitamin B12, making it an important part of a healthy diet.

The Canadian beef industry has set ambitious 2030 goals, including safeguarding the existing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon stored on the lands managed with beef cattle, and sequestering an additional 3.4 million tonnes of carbon every year.

As beef producers, we need to work in partnership with industry, environmental organizations, governments, and youth to ensure native grasslands remain a foundation for thriving communities and contributes to Canada's biodiversity and climate goals. There is no one size fits all solution. Local, regional, national, and global differences need to be accounted for to meet these targets.

The first step is recognizing the ecological goods and services cattle farmers and ranchers are delivering to the greater good of society. We need to work together to build strategic investment in science-based, voluntary, incentivized production practices and farmer-led initiatives. Incentives for being good stewards of the land would be an additional revenue stream to support young farmers and ranchers who face challenges accessing capital.

But our 2030 goals don't stop there. Our target is to reduce primary production greenhouse gas emission intensity in the Canadian beef industry by 33 per cent (from a 2014 baseline), where we're already off to a strong start. This builds on past improvements. Between 1981 and 2011, the Canadian beef industry reduced its greenhouse gas footprint by 14 per cent due to technologies and production efficiencies. And we're not stopping there as we seek continuous improvement.

A study from FAO researchers indicated 86 per cent of global livestock feed is not suitable for human consumption. Cattle are important contributors to reducing food waste and enhancing sustainability of other food production systems. They can utilize byproducts and coproducts from other industries including the production of ethanol, pea cream, potato processing, and oil from oilseed crops. Cattle also make use of crops that don't make grade for human consumption including damaged crops from pests and weather, barley that doesn't make malt and more. Cattle take products that humans cannot or will not consume, and turn it into a protein-rich beef well-suited for feeding a growing world population as sustainably as possible.

Innovation and science have moved food production sustainability forward while reducing environmental impact. New tools and practices must be embraced and allowed to keep improving foods' environmental impact. Canada's science-based regulatory system is very important to being able to produce food for Canada and our many trading partners. Yet, some innovative products are not in use around the world or production using them is not allowed by some trading nations. This is counter to environmental and production goals. We encourage all jurisdictions to encourage adoption of innovative practices and science-based policy, regulation and trade to increase sustainability.

Trade is crucial to countries who depend on food imports to sustain their populations. To achieve global food security and healthy diets, we need to make food affordable and available. Trade allows for the efficient allocation of food. Canada exports cuts of beef that are not used or purchased in our domestic market. We then import cuts that have strong demand in Canada that we don't produce enough of. In

essence, trade allows us to decrease food loss and meet consumer needs in Canada and around the world.

To meet our ambitious goals and advance our work for years to come, it's going to take a strong next generation. Over 98 per cent of beef farms in Canada are family operated, where many families continue the tradition by passing down the farm or ranch to the next generation. However, according to the 2021 Ag Census, only 12 per cent of all Canadian beef cattle farms have an operator 35 years or younger.

At the Canadian Cattle Association, we have two youth programs; the [Canadian Cattle Young Leaders mentorship program](#) and [Canadian Cattle Youth Council](#). These programs build strong leaders within the Canadian beef industry, and create more opportunities for youth to be engaged and have a seat at the table for these important discussions. Youth programs such as these, and others around the world, are critical for the success of our global food systems. Continued support through financial contributions and partnerships is needed to build the capacity of existing youth programs and create meaningful change for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our vision of how Canadian beef farmers and ranchers can help in the climate change solution. Canada has an important role to play in supplying sustainable beef to feed a growing global population. We need more, not less, sustainably produced food like Canadian beef. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with youth from around the world to create a sustainable future.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Global Youth Dialogue** on **Sustainable Livestock Transformation**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Global Youth Statement on Sustainable Livestock Transformation

We, young actors of the livestock sector from across regions, seeking to transform the livestock systems which we will leave as a legacy for future generations, gathered here in Rome for the Global Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Livestock Transformation, have come to articulate our shared vision on this critical and foundational sector.

As youth, we are the present and the future and we are faced with great challenges in the livestock sector. The impacts of global challenges on livestock production systems are becoming increasingly pronounced, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Solutions can only be developed by seeking opportunities at the global and local levels. We should consider the One Health approach¹ in balance with the need for economically viable livestock production.

Through our consultations at this landmark event, we have developed recommendations for all levels of policy and decision-makers guided by both traditional knowledge and modern scientific understanding. We are pleased and proud to present the outcomes of our Dialogue. We believe in an inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogue for a joint development of a consensual vision that considers the diversity of livestock systems across the world.

We urge global leaders and relevant stakeholders to engage with youth and include their aspirations for the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. We are agents of change unlocking ways forward for global food security, safety and nutrition, where diverse cultural heritage, the environment and future generations all thrive within our planetary boundaries.

General recommendations

- We urge that governments and decision makers prioritize and adopt holistic, science-based, producer-driven inclusive approaches for sustainable livestock transformation that consider all elements of the livestock value chain, particularly youth.
- We recommend meaningful engagement of young livestock actors in cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships to amplify and implement the ideas of youth. We recommend that governments and other decision makers align with the principles of intergenerational and gender equity, ensuring the full and effective participation of young people in decision making at all levels.
- We urgently call for policy and financial support targeting young livestock stakeholders to enable them to play their crucial role in the sustainable livestock transformation.
- We recommend that governments encourage more youth to enter and remain in agricultural professions to meet livestock production needs of the future including improved access to land and other natural resources.
- We advocate for recognizing the potential of youth to leverage technology, science, modern and traditional knowledge for sustainable livestock transformation.
- We call for increased and better focused investment for scaling up and rolling out innovations developed by youth in the livestock sector at all levels.
- We recommend that youth are integrated into existing platforms for knowledge sharing, mentorship programmes and leadership opportunities.
- We ask for recurrent youth discussions to follow up and an official youth position in the Sub-Committee on Livestock of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

Social sustainability

- We recommend that governments, private sector, civil society and development organizations recognize and preserve indigenous and pastoralist knowledge and livelihoods which should be conveyed across generations.
- We call for increased and continuous investment in education and vocational training equipping youth with skills and knowledge that enable them to join and innovate in the sector including communication training.
- We recommend to increase awareness for consumers about the role of livestock producers, animal source foods and their nutritional value, animal welfare and sustainable livestock systems for a better understanding of the livestock sector.

Economic sustainability

- We call for improved access to, and development of, capital, infrastructure, land, finance and insurance, input and output markets, and social protection to help young farmers and pastoralists, especially youth and marginalized communities to establish sustainable businesses.
- We call on governments to assist youth-led organizations and enterprises to foster rural and green job opportunities and livelihoods to develop and sustain local economies.

- We ask for policies and investments to improve the livelihoods and financial sustainability of all livestock farmers and systems.

Environmental sustainability

- We call on global leaders and decision-makers to acknowledge that climate change and increasing frequencies of natural disasters exacerbate the inequalities in the livestock sector. We require urgent action to defend the livelihoods of people and communities depending on the livestock sector worldwide.
- We call for the recognition of the contribution of livestock production systems to ecosystem services and the environment. We must also recognize and promote the sustainable transformation of the global livestock industry to play a key part on mitigating the impact of climate change.
- We call for upscaling climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions according to the different livestock production systems and contexts by supporting young livestock actors to adapt and adopt sustainable practices and climate-smart technologies.

We commit to continue the Global Youth Network on Sustainable Livestock Transformation guided by values of inclusivity and equity for all. We pledge with our intrinsic motivation, energy, creativity and with a sense of community to care for and protect our livestock sector and our natural resources.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”**

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

**Excellency Chairman, Excellencies,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is a pleasure and an honor for us, heads of the youth delegation from Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone, to be here today and represent the **Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment project**. This project is financed by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and implemented by FAO in Timor Leste, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. The Green Jobs project is dedicated to **fostering green job opportunities for youth in the agrifood sector**, and to **support Governments in the transition to a green economy** by leveraging the potential of rural areas and the agriculture sector.

I am Courage Gwena from Zimbabwe; and I am Stanley Success Lavallie, from Sierra Leone. While we come from distinct parts of the African continent, our shared passions, aspirations, and concerns bind us. And today, we represent the voice of the hundreds of youths involved in the Green Jobs project worldwide.

We both **are engaged in climate-smart agricultural activities**, and we strongly believe that agriculture is a fascinating and profitable sector. For this reason, we are well placed to **testify about how climate change is impacting our agrifood systems** and how we need to urgently **shift towards more sustainable practices** to preserve the environment.

We share the same concerns. From **cyclones to heatwaves**, in recent years, we have witnessed a surge in **extreme weather events** within our communities. In my homeland, Zimbabwe, within the last five years, we've experienced eight cyclones, some leaving behind a trail of destruction and heartbreak.

In both our countries we observe **unpredictable climate and temperature changes** deregulating the agriculture calendar, livestock suffrage, dwindling water supplies, and shrinking pastures. Traditional crop farming is now

fraught with uncertainty as shifting climate patterns make grain and crop production erratic. This isn't just **an environmental issue; it's a societal one**. We fear a surge in poverty, hunger, and widening inequality gaps amongst our rural communities.

Indeed, climate change is a worrisome topic, especially for us rural youth, who depend on agriculture and rural landscapes for our livelihoods. **Land degradation**, caused by unsustainable practices such as **mining, deforestation, inappropriate use of agricultural inputs** such as chemical fertilizers, and **poor waste management** are contributing to **biodiversity loss, contamination**, and weakening the capacity of the ecosystem to face climate shock. "In my country, Sierra Leone, especially in my hometown, Kono, mining is not only harming our natural environment but has also claimed countless lives through savage wars."

We know that around **one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the agrifood systems**, on which we rely for our livelihoods.

Environmental fragility is found in a context where limited support is provided to young farmers. Several challenges undermine the viability of our farm business and our livelihoods. This includes, but is not limited to, **the lack of market access and infrastructure, poor land tenure regulation, gender discrimination and unequal access to finance, loans, and subsidies, the lack of decent employment opportunities**, and the constant **inflation** that is affecting agricultural inputs and the transport of products. This is particularly felt in Sierra Leone, where the **price of basic goods**, such as rice, **has nearly tripled in recent years**, strongly affecting the most vulnerable.

We believe that **further political efforts** should be made to put agrifood systems transformation at the top of the political agenda. To do so, **youth should be actively involved in this process** to be more inclusive towards policy and programmes development and implementation.

Today, **youth unemployment on a global scale remains a huge development challenge.** Nine (9) out of 10 of the 1.2 billion youth are living in the global south, mainly in Africa; 24% are working poor and 71 million are unemployed.

In both countries, the agricultural sector grapples with low productivity, job instability, and informality. In **Zimbabwe, 3 out of 4 young people are unemployed,** while in **Sierra Leone 33 percent of youth are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).** We observe this among our peers in our communities, who are provided with limited or no opportunities “to dream about a better future and instead deal with drug and substance abuse”.

However, we believe that the **transformation of agrifood systems, with a focus on decent and sustainable employment, can be part of the solution.** Young people are not only victims of climate change but also valuable contributors to climate action.

Some key recommendations that we, the youth from the Green Jobs project, want our governments to consider in achieving agrifood system transformation and accelerating climate action include:

Develop sound policies to support the sustainable transformation of the agrifood system and address climate change, through an inclusive governance where young men and women are equally involved in decision-making processes. Youth are the future; they must have a say in shaping policies and strategies that affect their future.

Increase climate resilience of agrifood systems through climate-smart agricultural practices; such as organic farming, agroforestry, and regenerative agriculture to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, promote biodiversity, and enhance soil health.

Support and incentivize green jobs and youth-led eco-friendly businesses: allocate funding and resources for youth-led enterprises and green jobs creation focusing on sustainable agriculture and climate-smart technologies and aligned with decent employment principles.

Strengthen education on climate action to restore our natural environment. This goes through improving access to quality agricultural education, vocational training for young people, and conducting awareness campaigns targeting both rural and urban populations to promote sustainable consumption patterns and reduce food waste.

Promote digital literacy to enhance access to critical climate change knowledge and resources.

Empowering youth with these digital skills is essential, as it not only broadens their knowledge but also ensures they actively participate in dialogues surrounding sustainable agrifood systems.

Enhance access to finance, land, and inputs for young farmers by developing financial mechanisms, such as loans, grants, and investment opportunities to start or scale up sustainable agricultural ventures and to support value-added agricultural products.

Last but not least, **ensure and mainstream gender equality and inclusiveness in all policies, programmes, and projects** related to agriculture and job creation to fight against gender discrimination and empower women.

In conclusion, we believe in the **power of us, the youth, to impulse the change the World needs.** We are innovative, dynamic, resourceful, and eager to work for a better future. To make it happen, youth should be in the driving seat of the transition toward sustainability. **United, we can make our agrifood systems truly sustainable and resilient to climate change!**

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS)**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Distinguished delegates, esteemed guests, and fellow youth leaders,

Firstly, we, the IAAS Youth Delegation, stand before you today as passionate advocates for sustainable agrifood systems and drivers of climate action. It is an honour to address this esteemed gathering at the World Food Forum, a crucial platform for fostering global collaboration and finding solutions to the pressing challenges facing our world today. The theme of this year’s forum, “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action,” resonates deeply with our mission and vision. The current state of our agrifood systems is a cause for concern, as they contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. Moreover, they perpetuate inequalities and fail to ensure food security and proper nutrition for all. However, we firmly believe that we can turn the tide and leverage agrifood systems as powerful catalysts for climate action. Transforming these systems offers an unprecedented opportunity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, restore ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By fostering efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems, we can create a brighter future for our planet and its inhabitants.

Secondly, the time for action is now. IAAS is with the approach for tackling the burning issues of today’s world like Food Insecurity, Inequality, Climate Change, and Health problems by running different projects. We bring the people and ideas together and put our words to action with 40 ongoing field projects that include sustaining the lifestyle of community people to empowering Women in Agriculture. Each of these projects is improving our world, all with little investment but driven by big ideas. By organizing events and activities centred around the thematic tracks of Youth Action, Innovation, Education, and Culture, we aim to empower and uplift the voices of those who are often marginalized.

In conclusion, let us not forget that our planet and its resources are finite. Climate change knows no boundaries, and its impacts are felt by people of all nations, cultures, and backgrounds. To tackle this global challenge effectively, we must work together, united by a common purpose and shared responsibility. Therefore, we call upon all stakeholders present here today to join hands with us in taking decisive action. Let us collaborate, share knowledge, and implement innovative solutions that foster sustainable agrifood systems and drive climate action. By doing so, we can create a future where food security, environmental stewardship, and social justice are assured for generations to come.

Together, let us transform our agrifood systems for the sake of our planet, our shared future, and the well-being of all humanity. Let us act now, act differently, and act together for agrifood systems transformation that accelerates climate action.

In closing, we would like to congratulate the World Food Forum for the tremendous work of all who have contributed to delivering this third edition of its Flagship Event. We wish for peace in the whole world. Young people deserve to inherit a better planet than what we are proposing now. Thank you so much, and we look forward to collaboration.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)** in the World Food Forum on the theme “**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

International Forestry Students' Association, IFSA, is one of the largest youth-led forestry organisations, connecting, educating, and empowering the next generation of leaders for achieving the forest global society dream, the resilient forest. With over 140 member associations, also known as local committees (LC), spread over 60 countries, IFSA brings together thousands of students to learn about forests, cultures, and the environment.

As a green youth based organisation, we do believe that forest and trees are essential in transforming the food system. Combining trees with food crops, plants and animals (as in agroforestry systems) can help diversify and increase agricultural production while providing additional economic, social and environmental benefits to land users.¹ In times of crop failures or seasonal gaps, trees provide nutrient-rich foods due to their different growing cycles. The more we encroach on forested areas for agricultural purposes, the more we need to establish solutions for agriculture and forestry to coexist in the same place. Neither can be ignored since both play important ecological and economic roles in society.

Several efforts can be taken to mitigate conflicts of interest between the agrifood system and sustainable forest management. To begin, encouraging communication and collaboration among stakeholders from both sectors enables the identification of common goals and the development of mutually beneficial solutions. Second, implementing policies and regulations that prioritise sustainable forest management and support sustainable agriculture practices can help bring the interests of both sectors closer together. Furthermore, investing in research and development to develop integrated land-use approaches such as agroforestry can give win-win solutions that promote both food production and forest conservation.

One of the local success stories also comes from one of our member research locations at the Kalibiru Local Community Forest, Indonesia. This has inspired the

community to use forest area to establish Multi-Purpose Tree Species (MPTS) plants and annual crops utilising an agroforestry system. During the pandemic era, the implemented agroforestry system helped and supported the people's subsistence by 40% through the production of tubers, fruits, and other non-timber forest products. The empirical experience gained by the IFSA member creating an in-depth understanding of how to implement agroforestry, is the interim solution for the future of our global food system and the overlapping between forestry and agriculture.

Through our three pillars of IFSA Strategy 2021-2026: strengthening the IFSA community, taking learning beyond the classroom, and enabling students to engage globally, IFSA is determined in aiding in the transformation of the food system by educating people on the value of sustainable agroforestry practices in ensuring food security and fostering biodiversity, and contributing significantly to the food system transformation by focusing on education, advocacy, and community engagement. Here are some specific actions and next steps that IFSA can consider:

Education and Awareness

- Organise workshops and training sessions on sustainable forest management, agroforestry, and integrated land use planning. Educate students and the community about the importance of trees in ensuring sustainable food systems.
- Create educational materials, online courses, and informational resources about sustainable forestry and its significance in food systems. IFSA's TreE-Learning is one of the ideal platforms where this could be facilitated to make these resources available to students, youth, and the wider community.

High Level Meeting Involvement:

- Participate in international conferences and forums on forestry, agriculture and food systems with the aim of broadening perspectives and enriching the discussion around concepts such as bioeconomy and agroecology and their adoption in public policy documents. Use these platforms to raise awareness about the importance of forest and trees in global food security.

Research and Innovation

- Encourage and support student-led research initiatives focusing on sustainable forestry practices, biodiversity conservation, and the impact of forests on food systems. Promote interdisciplinary research collaborations.

- Encourage students to explore innovative solutions related to sustainable forestry and agriculture. Support entrepreneurial ventures that promote sustainable products and practices.

We envision IFSA to be at the forefront of forestry youth development, openly emphasising the roles of forest in food system transformation and adaptation; and representing youth voices at global youth platforms. To realise these visions and take the next steps, multi-stakeholders should support, increase long-term collaboration, and sustainable finance for many youth-led organisations that have established or plan to establish their actions. Here, we are attending this flagship event to request you to consider us to be part of the decision maker towards food system transformation and helping us unlimit our limitlessness. Again, we are indeed the next generation for the globe.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **NextGen Ag Impact Network (NGIN)** in the World Food Forum on the theme
“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”
Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a world where the future of agriculture stands at the crossroads of climate change, economic prosperity, and food security, we, the NGIN Ambassadors, representing the largest global network of young change-makers dedicated to the future of agriculture, gather at the World Food Forum with a resounding call for action.

Recognizing Our Collective Impact:

We acknowledge that actions related to food have ripple effects across economies, health, the environment, and cultures. Agriculture, in particular, both contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and faces the brunt of climate change. It is within this framework that we identify five critical areas for collective action: women and youth, agriculture and climate change, science and innovation, food security and nutrition, and market access and trade. Potential alone cannot suffice; the time for action has arrived.

Science and Innovation:

Agriculture, the cornerstone of our existence, receives only 5% of investments in research and development despite generating returns of almost double that amount. To foster smallholder and youth entrepreneurship, we advocate for comprehensive support, including mentorship, access to technology, and funding. Bridging the digital divide and

ensuring accessible extension services are crucial steps towards sustainable practices.

Food Security and Better Nutrition:

By 2050, food demand will surge by 70%. Yet, with an ageing farmer population, we must challenge perceptions and invest in agriculture to make it an attractive profession. Investments in infrastructure and streamlined supply chains are vital to eliminate food waste and maximise domestic production efficiency.

Market Access and Trade:

Access to food, rather than its global availability, remains the primary challenge. It's imperative to regulate markets to ensure equitable access and fair pricing, especially for small-scale farmers who feed a significant portion of the world. We must modernise the food market to promote affordability and dietary diversity.

Agriculture and Climate Change:

Agriculture is both vulnerable to and culpable for climate change. Despite its immense capacity to decarbonize, only a handful of countries have established emissions reduction targets for the sector. We call for immediate and inclusive action to reduce emissions throughout the food chain. We stand ready to collaborate on transformative solutions.

Women & Youth:

Women and youth represent the lifeblood of agriculture. Inclusive decision-making, combined with the empowerment of women and youth, is the cornerstone of comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

They are technologically adept, aware, and possess an incredible ability to drive innovation, introduce new technologies, products, and ideas that can revolutionise food systems. It is imperative that we harness this potential.

Youth, in particular, should be provided with the necessary support systems that enable them to view farming as a lucrative opportunity for entrepreneurship and profitable enterprise. By fostering an environment where agriculture is perceived as a dynamic and financially rewarding profession, we can attract more young individuals and much-needed investments into the sector.

In closing, as NGIN Ambassadors, we declare that the era of potential has passed. Today, we usher in an era of action. We call upon governments, policymakers, industry leaders, and all stakeholders to join us in the immediate decarbonization of agriculture. Let us transform potential into reality, for food action is the catalyst that accelerates climate action. Together, we shape a future where agriculture thrives sustainably, where food security prevails, where innovation reigns, and where our planet flourishes. The journey begins now, and we invite you to embark on it with us.

Let's sow the seeds of change, cultivate innovation, and reap the harvest of a resilient and sustainable future for all.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **ProVeg International**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

We are honored to join the World Food Forum flagship event to work together towards sustainable, just, and inclusive food systems which accelerate needed climate action. If we truly want to take climate action, while building a more sustainable future for all, we must reevaluate our relationship with animal agriculture. Nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions are produced by animal agriculture. According to the FAO, feed crops alone represent 20% of global freshwater use and nearly 70% of deforestation in the Amazon is used as cattle pastures.

The unsustainable dependence on animal agriculture is driven largely by Global North countries, whose oversized demand for meat, dairy and other animal products is one which the global agricultural land cannot provide for without mass deforestation and industrialized factory farms. If we wish to reshape the role food systems play in exacerbating the climate crisis, there must be an equitable and just transition away from industrial animal agriculture.

Dietary change is urgently needed and a plant-based diet can have numerous positive effects on the environment, including the preservation of biodiversity, more sustainable use of resources, and combating the climate crisis.

That’s why leading climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) consistently show that shifting to more plant-based diets is one of the most effective ways to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

At ProVeg International, we are committed to **reducing global animal consumption by 50% by the year 2040** for the environment, health, people, and animals, because there is no climate action without food action.

Meaningful food action necessitates a re-evaluation of our current global food systems which are a driver of climate change. We must rethink and change the overconsumption of the Global North. We must highlight agroecological practices and allow those who are most affected by our current food system, Indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers, and youth particularly from the Global South, to have a say in the future of food action.

Together we can cultivate a world where food systems are a climate solution rather than a climate driver, where food systems are resilient, and where we see a reduction in global animal consumption by 50% by the year 2040.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **SchoolFood4Change**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Food and nutrition insecurity hinders a child’s ability to learn. The 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition Report makes it clear: **child nutrition should be prioritised by ensuring access to affordable, nutritious diets** but also by protecting children from nutrient-poor, ultra-processed foods. School meals are at the heart of the solution. The provision of nutritious and sustainable school meals carries incredible potential to support children’s health and wellbeing, promote social justice, fight against poverty, and protect the climate and biodiversity. Throughout the world, school meals offer a key opportunity to tackle child hunger and malnutrition, which often results from climate change. Not only will school meals address childhood hunger, but when paired with food education, they can empower children to become agents of change and carry this message forward. Today, we want to amplify the voices of youth and children to demand ambitious action for every child to access a healthy school meal – as stated in our [petition](#) which now reached over 50,000 signatures. School food needs a change, and the time is now.

SchoolFood4Change (SF4C) sees schools as catalysts for systemic and multi-actor change towards a sustainable and healthy food system. To deliver on this promise, local and regional authorities are crucial: they have the power to be the change they want to see in the world. The City of Milan (Italy), for example, managed to reduce GHG emissions related to their **food procurement** by 43% between 2015 and 2021 by investing in plant-based meals, seasonal and organic products, shorter food value chains and 100% sustainable dishes and cutlery. Likewise, the City of Ghent (Belgium) achieved a 38% reduction of CO₂ emissions between 2019 and 2023, notably by limiting animal-based proteins to 50% of their dishes’ protein content. In this way, cities like Milan and Ghent support the seven targets as defined in the Report on [‘Innovative Criteria and Models for Procurement of Sustainable and Healthy School Meals’](#) and showcase that food system transformation can be significantly advanced through changes in the procurement process

and menu planning. We hope that these good practices can also inspire other municipalities to start their food system transformation journey.

Despite this progress, actors on the ground need to be supported by an enabling policy environment. On this matter, **minimum mandatory sustainability criteria** (as proposed in the [Sustainable Food Procurement Manifesto](#)) act as a critical tool to ensure that entities in charge of food tenders have the same level of ambition when addressing public food procurement. To deliver these criteria, schools should also invest in **effective monitoring systems** while engaging in continuous **dialogue** with suppliers - in particular small-scale farmers - from their region, thereby enhancing urban-rural linkages and resilience.

But public food procurement is only one part of a larger food picture: once high-quality ingredients are carefully sourced, leaving them in the hands of skilled cooks will make a real difference in preparing delicious, healthy, and nutritious meals. On this matter, the Department of Dordogne (France) leads by example by serving 100% local, organic and home-made meals in their school canteens. Dordogne offers fresh and seasonal food made with natural and whole ingredients. Investing in training for kitchen staff and the purchase of equipment was a necessary step to make this transition successful. The kitchen staff is encouraged to interact with children and teach them the importance of cooking and eating consciously. **Lunch time** is now an **educational and enjoyable moment** - something to look forward to. The programme had many positive outcomes on nutrition and the environment, while curbing food waste, creating a better working environment for cooks, benefiting the economy of local small-scale farmers, and saving public money. Luckily, the case of Dordogne is not an isolated phenomenon: other local authorities such as Copenhagen (Denmark) and Malmö and Umeå (Sweden) improved the quality of their school meals by **training their canteen and kitchen staff** to integrate values related to health and environmental sustainability in their menu planning and

cooking practices. These best practices show that uplifting the role of cooks by giving them the skills to prepare meals that are nutritionally balanced, respectful of the environment, while being appreciated by children, can nurture a positive food culture among children and their families, in addition to creating a **sense of community around food in schools**.

To support such changes, governments should create and extend **training of cooks** in all canteens, creating linkages with dietitians to reshape the menu together and integrate nutritional and environmental criteria in menu planning. Moreover, public authorities should support the **relocalisation of kitchens in schools** whenever possible, to create a closer relationship between children and kitchen staff.

However, cooks cannot realise this change alone: they need to involve pupils to **bring change in and around the school**. The **SchoolFood4Change consortium is united in its policy ambition to bring food education into schools and make lunch time an integrated part of the pedagogic mission**. A fact worth considering: over the course of a child's schooling, the lunch hour makes up thousands of opportunities to learn. Let's not waste it, let's use it! This is why SchoolFood4Change developed a joint framework called the **Whole School Food Approach (WSFA)**. In short, the holistic WSFA approach can be described as good school food accompanied by food and nutrition education that is well integrated into the curriculum and learned in an enjoyable school food environment. A "WSFA school" creates space for exchange - bringing in caregivers, farmers, local shops, communities, restaurants, and retailers - and shows

children how food is grown, processed and sold, all while engaging them actively in school decisions regarding food. Currently piloted in Belgium and Spain, farm-to-school twinning is a concrete example of the WSFA in practice. The pilots have confirmed that bringing students to farms and farmers to schools helps young people gain practical experience and knowledge of where their food comes from and appreciate the way food is produced.

To mainstream the WSFA across cities and schools, national and federal education governance should recognise and prioritise school meals as part of their mission, and governments should develop national strategies for sustainable food systems that integrate food education. Municipalities, in parallel, can use various levers - including food procurement - to ensure that food education is an integral part of the school curriculum.

In a nutshell, the comprehensive approach outlined in SchoolFood4Change holds the promise of transforming the nutritional landscape for children while addressing broader societal challenges. **The emphasis on school meals as a tool for change, aligned with food education and innovative sustainable food procurement practices, is a powerful step towards fairer and more sustainable food systems**. The transformation initiated by SchoolFood4Change is only one facet in a broader spectrum of actions and policies that can accelerate climate action. Today, **we call on governments to create ambitious policy frameworks to drive systemic changes that not only benefit the health and nutrition of current and future generations but also contribute significantly to climate resilience and sustainability on a global scale**.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **World Food Programme (WFP) Youth** in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

- Fellow youth delegates,
- The World Food Programme (WFP) Youth Network is honoured to deliver this statement before you today at the 2023 World Food Forum (WFF), an important event that embodies the essence of global cooperation and shared responsibility towards achieving a world free from hunger.
- As we gather here, united by our commitment to this year’s theme, we recognize the pressing need to confront the profound challenges posed by the climate crisis, especially its dire consequences on food security.
- The climate crisis is one of the most pressing threats humanity faces today. It not only endangers our environment but also jeopardizes food production, access to clean water, and the overall well-being of communities around the world.
- It is a harsh reality that those who have contributed the least to this crisis are often the ones bearing the brunt of its consequences. Vulnerable segments of the population, especially children and youth, face increasingly severe impacts from climate shocks and stresses, including droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather patterns. Together with the rising number in conflicts globally, climate change is the most significant driver of food insecurity and famine in today’s world.
- Yet, young generations constitute a great part of climate activists, human rights advocates, and NGO leaders who can play a leading role in raising awareness and driving innovative solutions to poverty and hunger, leveraging their unique perspectives.
- At the World Food Programme, we understand that the climate crisis is intricately linked to hunger.
- We firmly believe that the fight against hunger & climate change is a youth issue: young people represent a vital force for positive change, and their energy, creativity, and passion can and should be harnessed to drive sustainable solutions.
- However, youth empowerment is not just a slogan; it is a need.
- In our community, we have been working over the years to continue empowering youth as agents of change who are fully recognized, empowered and engaged in critical functions to achieve zero hunger and create peaceful, food-secure societies, but much more needs to be done and at a greater scale.
- Given the scale of the challenges posed by the climate crisis, its impact on food security & the urgent need to reverse these alarming trends, our colleagues from the WFP Youth Network call for the following actions:
 - We welcome the proposal for an RBA Youth Delegate programme and - echoing the comments in the room - we urge the global community to continue amplifying the voices of young people through truly inclusive initiatives and to help create a space for their strategic engagement to drive meaningful change at the local level.
 - We call upon governments and international organizations to prioritise forecast-based anticipatory actions, embrace nature-based solutions and foster climate-adaptation approaches. This strategy not only saves lives but also represents a cost-effective approach to protect vulnerable communities – including youth – and preserve an environment where future generations can thrive.
 - We also call upon our donors and supporters to continue providing more predictable, flexible, and longer-term funding. This sustained support is crucial for helping countries adapt to the challenges presented by the climate crisis affecting agri-food systems. It enables effective emergency preparedness and preventative measures, strengthening communities’

resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change.

- In conclusion, the World Food Programme Youth Network is committed to contributing to the dialogue at the World Food Forum 2023, with the goal of accelerating progress towards more sustainable agri-food systems that are climate-resilient.

- We firmly believe that by empowering youth, prioritising anticipatory actions, climate-adaptation approaches, and ensuring adequate funding, we can address the complex nexus of hunger and climate change, working together towards a future where no one goes to bed hungry, and our planet thrives in harmony with nature.

- It is high time that governments, international organisations, NGO's, private sector, and youth representatives work together towards sustainable and resilient food systems to ultimately achieve zero hunger.

- And we believe that discussions like this one can help us identify ideas, policies and solutions that will positively transform our agrifood systems for the benefit of everyone, everywhere.

- Thank you.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **The Young Fair-Trade Advocates (YFTAs)** In the World Food Forum on the theme “**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

The Young Fair Trade Advocates (YFTAs) are a group of EU young individuals aged 18-30 advocating for a global, fair, and ecological transition. They have been meeting with politicians, engaging with stakeholders from the Global South, and preparing policy papers. They are passionately engaged in supporting the 2023 World Food Forum's pivotal theme: "Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action". They acknowledge that climate change is a pressing global issue that cuts across national boundaries and they recognize agrifood systems' role in the current social and environmental crisis.

As the World Food Forum is rightly exposing, agrifood systems are often responsible for environmental and social catastrophes, contributing to one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, 90% of global deforestation, and 70% of global water use.

However, it is crucial to understand that it is possible to change this trajectory. Current agrifood systems' transformation is not just a noble aspiration but an essential component of the global climate solution. This effort is not just about environmental conservation, but about social and economic justice, working for a more equitable future for all. As a matter of fact, the YFTAs, believe that to achieve a global, fair and ecological transition, three levers of change need to be equally targeted: support the agroecological transition; achieve climate justice, ensure living incomes and living wages.

Whereas the actions to impulse these levers must involve:

- Inclusion of smallholder farmers, workers and artisans in climate solutions as the global focus on the climate crisis intensifies.
- Enforcing transparency and accountability in supply chains.
- Securing climate financing mechanisms.
- Ensuring living incomes and wages for the world's

smallholder agricultural farmers, workers and artisans.

- Paying fair value, fair prices and adhering to fair trading practices to ensure producers have resources to make the investment needed for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Integrating global citizenship education from primary levels onwards.

As detailed above, to make everlasting change, it is essential to emphasize that true and lasting change must take into account and respect the people more historically in marginalised positions (i.e. smallholder farmers). For instance, smallholder farmers, representing about 84% of farms worldwide, are vital in the global food supply chain. These farmers produce a third of the world's food and play a pivotal role in numerous global value chains. Yet, they often face challenges (such as overexploitation, environmental harm, and social conflict among others) due to imbalanced trade agreements. This is more evident in the implementation of certain EU trade agreements on African, Asian, and Latin American countries. For example, Jorge Acosta, banana producer from Ecuador, has expressed concerns over the lack of monitoring of compliance of obligations for all parties in Free Trade Agreements, which has limited countries' abilities to benefit from the trade agreements.

In this sense, it's crucial to acknowledge a key perspective calling for a holistic approach and the notion of shared responsibility, as offered by Marike De Peña, Director and co-founder of the cooperative Banelino in Dominican Republic. Marike emphasizes that: 'in the quest for accountability and sustainability, businesses are not the sole players in this narrative³'. Marike stresses the vital role that local governments must play as co-responsible actors, actively engaging in the dialogue. Local governments must play a crucial role in promoting accountability and sustainability, collaborating with civil society organizations (CSOs) and stakeholders to develop policies and programs fostering fairness and sustainability within the food supply chain.

Shared responsibility is a notion on which YFTAs have also worked, where young people urge for greater shared accountability in addressing global concerns. Governments, businesses, CSOs, individuals, and producers are being urged to work together to discover practical solutions to sustainability issues in food systems. Particularly, citizens are seen as powerful agents driving change via various roles like voting, activism, and responsible consumption. Likewise, smallholders in global supply chains are highlighted as important but often in a disadvantageous position, warranting support for sustainable practices.

Having said that, to embark on a meaningful transition towards sustainable food systems, the YFTAs acknowledge the need for structural changes that create a holistic approach to all sectors and industries. Ultimately shaping a new socio-economic model that responds to environmental challenges while championing climate, social, and trade justice.

In conclusion, the YFTAs stand resolutely alongside the World Food Forum in advocating for the transformation of agrifood systems as a potent catalyst for climate action and sustainable development. Their commitment to building a better, more equitable future for all is unwavering, and they believe that by embracing sustainable agrifood systems, it is possible to pave the way for a brighter and more sustainable world. It is their hope that their voices are heard and their recommendations included in the final statement.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Youth Council of the United States Embassy to Italy** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”**

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

**Excellency Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and
Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Youth Council of the U.S. Embassy to Italy, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organisers and fellow delegates for convening at this pivotal World Food Forum. We stand here united under the theme “Food Action Accelerates Climate Action” understanding the urgency and gravity of our collective responsibility. We come together from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, bound by our common goal to address the challenges our generation faces concerning food security, environmental sustainability, and youth empowerment. These challenges are multifaceted. However, within these challenges lie opportunities for innovative solutions. The youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow but active contributors today in reshaping the future of environmentally sustainable agriculture.

We echo the sentiment that the transformation of agrifood systems must be sustainable and inclusive, leaving no one behind. Following some virtuous examples of international cooperation, such as the Feed the Future Program, the USAID and the bilateral agreement between the EU and the US, signed in Nov 2021 the Cooperation Platform on Agriculture (CPA). The main goal is to tackle the challenges related to the climate crisis, empowering individuals especially, young people, women and for those who live in high-risk areas.

In light of the vital role agriculture plays in our communities, we acknowledge the pivotal importance of sustaining and supporting mutual knowledge exchange between young farmers. We aim to establish a robust platform for fostering agro-entrepreneurship and empowering the youth in sustainable agricultural practices.

Our proposal under the title "Building Connections: Bridging Young Farmers Across the Globe" calls for the expansion of existing agro-entrepreneurship programs, with the primary objective of fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange among young farmers worldwide. We strive to provide direct access to a variety of nutritious foods, fostering healthier diets and effectively combating malnutrition within communities. Additionally, we are dedicated to promoting collaboration among small and medium-sized enterprises, bridging the gap between large corporations. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a healthier, more prosperous future for all.

We furthermore address global leaders with the urgency to hear the voices of young people to whom the future belongs. It is vital to include young people in the decision-making process and multilateral fora. Statistics prove that the lack of young leaders harms economic progress. In light of this imperative, we advocate for the establishment of youth forums modelled after the World Food Forum. These forums serve as platforms where young minds can converge, exchange ideas, and collaborate on innovative strategies.

As members of the Youth Council of the US Embassy in Rome and, more importantly, as global citizens deeply committed to fostering positive change, we wholeheartedly aspire to establish meaningful relationships with other youth groups worldwide. Inspired by the shared goals articulated in the statement, we genuinely hope to collaborate, learn, and exchange ideas with fellow youth councils, organizations, and initiatives from diverse backgrounds and nations. By forging these connections, we aim to create a powerful, united front of young leaders working collectively towards sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and empowerment. Through mutual understanding, collaborative efforts, and the exchange of innovative

solutions, we believe in the potential to amplify our impact and drive transformative change on a global scale.

In conclusion, the Youth Council firmly calls for stronger multilateral action towards food security and agricultural sustainability built on the active involvement of the global youth and establishing effective networks between international institutions and civil society. The future belongs to young people and they should be heard by the policymakers addressing the challenges of the future as the main actors.

We express our sincere appreciation to the organizers, fellow delegates, and all stakeholders for their unwavering dedication to catalyzing the transformation of agrifood systems.

Thank you

Part 4.



Part 4. Academia Youth Statements

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”**

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Our statement begins in a magnificent forest, with the famous story of the hummingbird. One day, a huge fire ravaged the forest. Panicked by the sudden heat, the animals began to desert their hiding places. They galloped to higher ground. As they watched the fire destroy their homes, they all felt frightened and powerless.

All of them, really? But no, because here comes the little hummingbird. With its beak, it takes a few drops of water from the river and flies off to pour them into the flames. It kept going back and forth, putting all its energy into it. The armadillo, irritated by this spectacle, finally speaks up: "Hummingbird! Are you mad? You are not going to put out the fire with those drops of water!"

"I know that, but I am doing my part." Without stopping any longer, it sets off to continue its work. You might wonder why we start an official statement with such a story. Well, let us look further.

We, as a Swiss delegation, would like to thank the FAO World Food Forum for creating a great platform to bring together the next generation and for giving us the opportunity to present, discuss, share, be inspired, and create initiatives to accelerate the transformation of the agrifood systems to ensure a viable future.

Agrifood systems are complex networks involving several spheres, with the four primary ones being Economics (access), Health (wellbeing), Environment (resilience and mitigation), and Governance (collective priorities). Each sphere comprises interconnected sub-elements. Therefore, it is crucial for us to unite and coordinate efforts to achieve a tangible, inclusive, large-scale, and long-lasting impact. In our statement, we aim to emphasize one key area of action within each sphere.

Economics

Farmers' families are the roots of our agrifood systems, being part of production. For them, climate change is not an abstract concept but already a reality they have to live and work with. Farming and food production actors

are both contributors to and victims of climate change. The different professionals, and especially the younger generation, are already finding ways to adapt and should be supported in this direction. Climate-smart agricultural techniques, adaptation strategies, and sustainable land management practices should be further developed, promoted, and financially supported. Exchange platforms should be fostered to encourage dialogue and create spaces where farmers can share best practices and learn from successful climate adaptation initiatives in different regions. Dialogue should not only be fostered among farmers but also with civil society, to improve mutual understanding and joint action.

Health

Across the globe, the coexistence of food insecurity for over one billion people and the challenges of obesity resulting from over-consumption, and depletion of nutrients, underscores the complex and pressing issues addressed in the State of Food and Nutrition Security report by FAO and other organizations. Food consumption, habits, and choices influence human, animal, and ecosystem's health. In other words, planetary health. As consumers, we opt every day for the type of food system we want to support and sometimes we tend to forget our power. As citizens, our vote also weighs in the balance when deciding which direction to take. The key to progress lies in aligning these two facets: we must ensure that our actions support our citizens' vote. This will enable us to have a common vision and to join forces for effective steps towards agrifood systems transformation. Opting for seasonal, local, and environmentally friendly foods represents a fundamental starting point towards supporting local producers and fostering a healthier planet.

Environment

The environmental dimension is all about resilience and mitigation. As a member of the agroecology coalition, Switzerland supports this approach in the transformation of agrifood systems. Agroecology contributes to the three main axes of the federal strategy for sustainable food systems, namely the sustainable intensification of production, the capacity building for stakeholders

(including youth) as well as the protection and sustainable use of agroecological systems. As young delegates, we also value this approach for its holistic character and its social dimension. It puts an emphasis on individual and collective ownership, empowering people to be actors of change.

Governance

Governance is about collective priorities and their realization. The facts concerning climate change are scientifically documented, and many mitigation as well as adaptation solutions have already been identified and developed. The role of governance is now to create an enabling environment for those solutions to be visible, promoted, and widely adopted. This implies facilitating physical and financial access to innovative resources, supporting the adoption of sustainable practices, and creating an adapted policy framework. The factors that are holding back the adoption of sustainable methods and practices need to be identified so that they can be addressed. Moreover, governance must ensure that the agrifood sector remains attractive to young people and economically viable. Access to land should be facilitated, especially for women and young people, and state support should be extended to new and innovative forms of farming.

In Switzerland, numerous initiatives, actions, and strategies to transform our agrifood systems are ongoing. They are spearheaded by various entities such as civil society, the private sector, the academic community, and the government.

The platform Food Future Switzerland brings together stakeholders from different value chains in the food system to foster dialogue and propose concrete development measures. This platform, comprising a citizens' assembly and a scientific committee, collaborated to produce a

comprehensive report entitled "Pathways to Switzerland's Food Future" which was submitted to the government in February. In parallel to this initiative, three federal offices (Agriculture, Environment, and Food Safety and Veterinary) collaborated to develop the Swiss Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food 2050 which was launched in September 2023. In this process, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) organized a national dialogue and three city dialogues to bring together key actors of the food system as a consultative process in view of the UN Food System Summit in 2021.

The two examples mentioned above exemplify the essence of multi-stakeholder partnerships as outlined in SDG 17. Once our goals are defined, it is up to the collective efforts of all actors to build strong partnerships and work effectively towards achieving them.

Our sincere hope is that all the discussions and exchanges throughout this week will forge connections among people, foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, and lead and inspire to form concrete local actions. We are steering towards a future that will certainly differ from the present, but one we hope will be viable, sustainable, and desirable for all. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the FAO World Food Forum committee for their initiative and the seamless organization of this flagship event. Additionally, we would like to thank all those who commit to and dedicate themselves every day to raise awareness, protect, defend, and gradually pave the way for a more promising path. We can no longer afford the luxury of questioning the facts. But we can act, we have to. We are actively taking steps in our respective countries because we aspire to be the next generation, not the last. Like the hummingbird, we are all doing our part. And through our collective efforts, we can inspire others to join us.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **ETH Zurich** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”** Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

The ETH Zürich youth delegation consists of master, doctoral, and postdoctoral students at ETH Zürich from a broad range of disciplines, including environmental policy, soil science, and sustainable food systems. We are eager to enrich the discussions on key topics in the food-climate nexus and share insights. We believe that the youth-led innovations and initiatives, which will be showcased at the Global Youth Forum, will serve as a source of inspiration for our delegates and will stimulate future initiatives within the ETH community.

In this statement, we want to highlight our perspectives on how food actions can accelerate climate action with a specific focus on the role of academia and young researchers. We believe it is important to:

Strengthen transdisciplinary research for policy coherence

The lack of cross-sector cohesion and policy coordination in different levels of governance are common challenges to implementing climate-friendly agricultural practices. We believe that young researchers will play an important role in engaging diverse food system actors and scientific disciplines to integrate diverse forms of knowledge and facilitate understanding of the values, interests and objectives of different actors. Combined with agroecological and gender-sensitive approaches, transdisciplinary research can bring diverse expertise to inform policy goals and strategies. We believe transdisciplinary research approaches can improve policy coherence for climate-friendly agricultural practices by building effective science-policy- society interfaces.

Build competency of youth in conducting transdisciplinary research.

As more funding agencies call for transdisciplinary research proposals, equal efforts should be made to help young researchers acquire competences to design, facilitate, and value transdisciplinary research and participatory research methods. We believe educational modules should encourage students to interact with people from other disciplines and with societal stakeholders. This vision will require educational support policies and higher education institutions to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, promote the use of participatory and integrative research methods, and emphasize the possible diverse roles of researchers, such as knowledge brokers and facilitators. We believe climate adaptation and mitigation measures in food systems will be more socially acceptable with young researchers who adopt approaches that build trust, encourage reflexivity, and facilitate knowledge co-creation. More importantly, young researchers should be aware of the existing power imbalances and conflicting visions among food systems actors. These emerging responsibilities of researchers will require a paradigm shift within academia.

Explore the potential of food sharing initiatives to reduce food loss and waste

The WFF Youth Action Regional Compendium 2022 emphasizes the need to “take action and scale up initiatives to reduce food loss and waste” in Europe and Central Asia. We hope youth can explore food sharing futures by researching food redistribution initiatives, advocating for reforming legal structure and policy incentives for food sharing, and stimulating discussions on the prospects of decommodifying food. We believe food sharing has the potential to distribute food to those in need, thereby contributing to solidarity- based and waste-free food consumption patterns.

Delineate expectations for the 2024 global action plan for agrifood systems advocacy

We hope the 2024 global action plan for agrifood systems advocacy supports youth-led research and initiatives on demand-side transformations that consider the principles of sufficiency and redistribution. These principles can catalyze climate mitigation efforts while ensuring affordable healthy diets. We also hope the action plan can recognize the need to create opportunities for youth to participate in community-based and other research partnerships that recognize diverse forms of knowledge, as stated in the policy recommendations for youth engagement from the Committee on World Food Security.

As young scientists, we believe that a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences between different generations and a diverse group of youth is crucial for progress. Through interactive dialogues, we can contribute to a collaborative vision for a more sustainable and food-secure future, guided by science-based innovations and findings. We look forward to contributing to a successful World Food Forum 2023.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **George Washington University** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Agrifood systems encompass the who, how, and what of food production, processing, distribution, purchasing, consumption, and ultimately waste, the complex interactions between these activities, and their implications for human and planetary health. These issues are central to the mission of the Global Food Institute at George Washington University. At present, agrifood systems contribute significantly to the ongoing global crises of malnutrition, climate change, and environmental degradation, and are simultaneously burdened by the stress of the climate crisis and depletion of natural resources.

The adverse human and planetary health impacts of the rampant and unchecked industrialization of agrifood systems are inequitably distributed, disproportionately burdening the most vulnerable communities. Our current priorities as governments, industry, and consumers exacerbate the unsustainable and inequitable status quo, and an equitable food system transformation will require collective action across sectors. Agrifood systems present an opportunity to act as stewards of our health and the planet by aligning policies, practices, and consumer behavior to ensure agrifood systems are environmentally friendly, socially just, and capable of supplying safe and nutritious food for all.

Animal-sourced foods disproportionately contribute to the climate footprint and environmental impact of agrifood systems, with livestock as the largest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Livestock production is also a significant user and polluter of natural resources. Importantly, the production of ruminant animals, such as cattle, produce methane and nitrous oxide, potent and short-lived GHGs relative to carbon dioxide. Thus, a healthier diet within planetary boundaries is increasingly plant-based with the largest climate mitigation potential coming from reductions in meat consumption, particularly beef.

The theme of the 2023 World Food Forum is “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action.” We, the youth-led delegation of the Global Food Institute at the George Washington University, support this call to action and recognize agrifood systems as a vital solution to addressing the climate crisis while simultaneously bolstering food and nutrition security and livelihoods.

As a delegation of students from diverse yet intersecting personal and professional experiences with agrifood systems, we are urgently hopeful. To move forward for a healthier planet with healthier people, we need to ensure justice is involved in food and climate action. Indigenous people, smallholder farmers, women, and youth must be embraced for their perspectives and approaches to agrifood system challenges. We must diversify who has a seat at the table for the discussion around agrifood system transformation and actively work to prevent unintended consequences domestically and internationally. No single solution will be sufficient to tackle malnutrition or the climate crisis. Without the consideration of strategies across every level of the agrifood system, effective and equitable solutions that empower producers and consumers are less likely.

Systems-oriented, actionable solutions can catalyze the agrifood system transformation. The current priorities of industrial agrifood systems incentivize productivity and corporate profit over the health and prosperity of people and the planet. It is essential to recognize the responsibility that nations hold, in mitigating these adverse human and planetary impacts particularly the United States (U.S.). The U.S. is one of the largest producers and consumers of food globally, and has a significant responsibility to incorporate food into its national climate strategy and lead by example. National, regional, local governments, and institutions must enact policies that center resiliency by incentivizing sustainable agriculture, supporting small-scale and historically underserved producers, and holding industry accountable for their actions (or inactions). Policies and programs should also promote equitable access to healthy and sustainable diets, and encourage waste reduction strategies. Governments must also invest in research and foster innovation to develop and scale effective, systems-oriented solutions at the local level, such as food hubs and community gardens, to empower communities and promote access to minimally-processed plant-based options. Individuals can advocate for healthy and sustainable agrifood systems with their plate, in their communities, and with their vote. Thus, strategies to increase consumer awareness of the interconnectedness of their plate and the planet should be a priority.

Our delegation is excited to collaborate with other motivated youth, organizations, and advocates at the World Food Forum and beyond to secure a prosperous agrifood system and planet for all.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Ghent University** in the World Food Forum on the theme “**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**” Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Ghent University delegation recognizes the critical importance of addressing the challenges of the agrifood system and creating new opportunities that can be used to mitigate the havoc created by the agrifood system on climate. Agriculture and food production are fundamental to human well-being, environmental sustainability, and economic development. We acknowledge that every food choice has a ripple effect on the environment, from production, transportation, consumption and disposal.

As representatives of academia, we are committed to playing a pivotal role in driving transformative changes within the agrifood system to achieve a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future through the following ways

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** We emphasize the need for interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, educators, and stakeholders to tackle the multifaceted issues within the agrifood system. By bringing together expertise from diverse fields such as agriculture, economics, environmental science, nutrition, and policy, we can develop holistic solutions to complex challenges.

- **Innovation and Technology:** We advocate for the responsible use of innovation and technology to enhance agricultural practices, increase productivity, and reduce the environmental footprint of food production. Universities are hubs for research and innovation, and we commit to fostering innovation that aligns with sustainability and ethical considerations.

- **Sustainable practices:** We acknowledge the urgent need to transition towards more sustainable agricultural practices. This includes effective communication strategies to promote regenerative agriculture, reducing food waste, conserving biodiversity, and adopting climate-smart farming techniques. As a university we actively support research, education, and outreach efforts in these areas.

- **Education and Capacity Building:** We recognize the pivotal role of education in preparing the next generation of leaders, farmers, and policymakers in agrifood systems.

We remain committed to offering relevant, up-to-date curricula that address the evolving needs of the agrifood sector. A key area we are working on is empowering and educating consumers to critically think and contribute to the agrifood industry transformation, e.g. through the development of the sustainability dilemma quiz. The quiz guides consumer to critically think and determine the best options that may seem less obvious and guides towards choices that prioritize locally sourced, seasonal, and plant-based foods, which not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also contribute to healthier diets.

- **Community Engagement:** Universities are integral parts of their communities, and we pledge to engage with local stakeholders, farmers, and businesses to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration, and support for sustainable agrifood systems.

- **Policy Advocacy:** We will actively engage in policy discussions at regional, national, and international levels to advocate for evidence-based policies that promote a sustainable agrifood system. We will collaborate with governments, NGOs, and industry stakeholders to shape policies that address food security, equity, and environmental concerns.

- **Global Cooperation:** We recognize that agrifood systems are interconnected globally, and we commit to fostering international cooperation in research, education, and innovation. We work together as a global community of scholars dedicated to agrifood system transformation.

- **Equity and Inclusivity:** We emphasize the importance of inclusivity and social equity within the agrifood system. We will strive to address issues of food access, food justice, and the well-being of marginalized communities.

In conclusion, as university delegates, we stand united in our commitment to advancing agrifood system transformation. We believe that through collaboration, innovation, education, and responsible stewardship, we can build a more sustainable and equitable food system that serves the needs of present and future generations.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Huazhong Agricultural University** and **Global Food Security Association for Young Scientists**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

The world is undergoing profound changes and facing severe challenges. The impacts of climate changes, including rising temperatures, sea level rise, glacier melt, extreme weather events and alarming reduction in biodiversity, have cast a long shadow over the Earth's future. Amidst these challenges, food security stands as a fundamental concern. To address the looming food security crisis and ensure equitable nutrition and health for people worldwide, a profound transformation of our agrifood systems is imperative.

Governments, scientists, and international institutions worldwide have recognized the urgency of these issues and are collaborating to devise innovative strategies to tackle these challenges. It is crucial to recognize that the youth, being active participants in the governance of current global affairs, will also be the future decision-makers who will shape the world's destiny. With this in mind, we propose a concerted effort to strengthen agricultural education for young people and encourage the vibrant young scientist community to join forces in providing global food security solutions.

Our proposal encompasses the following key strategies:

• **Incorporate Agricultural Education in Curricula.** We advocate for the inclusion of agricultural education in school curricula, spanning primary, secondary, and university levels. This inclusion will serve to dispel the outdated perception of farming as unprofitable and arduous work among contemporary youth. We aim to cultivate greater awareness of agriculture as a viable and innovative career choice, replete with opportunities for market engagement, entrepreneurship, and sustainable practices.

• **Establish Youth Agricultural Internship Programs.** To provide young people with real-world experience in agriculture, we recommend the creation of youth agricultural internship programs. These programs will enable youth to work alongside farmers, researchers,

and agribusiness experts, gaining hands-on experience in various agricultural domains, including sustainable practices and agri-entrepreneurship. By offering practical training opportunities, we empower youth with the skills and passion needed to become future leaders in agriculture.

• **Leverage Social Media for Agricultural Promotion.** Recognizing the profound influence of social media, especially among young people with access to technology, we propose a linkage between social media and agriculture. By utilizing these platforms to promote agriculture and educate the youth, we can effectively engage new cohorts of individuals in the agricultural sector.

• **Empower Youth Voices.** To facilitate youth involvement in transforming agriculture, we must address barriers such as limited access to land and financial support. Policies on farming and food security should prioritize the identification and resolution of issues facing young people. We advocate for the active participation of youth in policy discussions at local and national levels, ensuring their perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes.

• **Develop Rural Revitalization Strategies.** Revitalizing rural areas is essential to retain young talent in agriculture. This includes creating employment opportunities, improving agricultural infrastructure and financial systems, pursuing rural reforms, and enhancing healthcare and education services in rural areas.

As representatives of the Global Food Security Association for Young Scientists, founded in 2022 by Huazhong Agricultural University in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), we commit to promoting open and inclusive collaboration. We shall facilitate the exchange of global food culture, advocate

for healthy dietary patterns, and actively gather and apply food consumption data from typical regions and countries worldwide.

Our pledge extends to comparing experimental data across different regions to swiftly assess the effectiveness of various food security programs, including the promotion of new production technologies and grain-saving initiatives. Through this collaborative effort, we aim to accelerate the achievement of global food security goals. We pledge to bridge the gap between office-based research and real-world agricultural production, providing valuable decision-making recommendations to communities, enterprises, and governments within our spheres of influence. Furthermore, we are dedicated to offering educational resources on dietary nutrition, food conservation, water conservation, and more to farmers and disadvantaged individuals.

In conclusion, our proposal outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing the pressing global challenges related to food security. By engaging young people, leveraging modern communication channels, and fostering innovation in agriculture, we can make significant strides toward a more sustainable and secure future for all.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”**

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Agri food system includes production, processing, marketing and consumption of the food to its consumer in a safe way. India is rich in terms of variability in agro-climatic zones, diversity in food culture. It is utmost important to use the full potential of the crops without any loss in the nutritional parameter. At global level, rapid urbanization and more population is creating a pressure on the land, causing biodiversity loss, and increasing production of waste materials and their dumping, which ultimately leads to generation of greenhouse gases.

At country level, India has taken several initiatives to meet out the challenges to cope up the climate issues such as replacement of coal based light to solar energy based light, establishment of waste to electricity plants, conversion of waste materials to value added materials, ban on single use plastics, enhance use of biodegradable packaging materials, shifting from petroleum based vehicles to electric vehicles, shifting from pesticide and fertilizer to nature friendly solution, adaption, mitigation approaches and use of digital technology. The government major focus for the reduction of carbon load and strengthening agri-food system supply chain networking.

Integration of all climate smart solution helps to achieve the increase in biodiversity and restoration of ecosystem, reduction in green-house gas emission and adaption of climate changes to build-up of efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food system. It is the prime time to address the real problem of the producers and shifting of current agricultural practices to smart agricultural practices by employing climate smart solution from production to processing to marketing to consumption level.

Youth of a country is a major driving force and will be future leader of any country. The initiatives taken by World Food Forum, facilitated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations under the theme “Food Action Accelerates Climate Action” is demand of the era and we thank the organizer to raise this issue at global level. Youth engagement from scientific body and societies in decision-making, involvement at policy level and support

in term of financial assistance to their organizations will definitely help to solve the issues faced by the young generation for strengthening their action towards nature friendly solution and one health.

Finally, it is praiseworthy to FAO for keeping youth as one of the forums in its wing and working in a cumulative way for working with government, policy makers to meet out the solution for current and future problems in an effective way. The combined action and increase in funding to support the youth in terms of youth action, innovation, education, culture and networking with public, private and industry will definitely help to transform the agri-food system.

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Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Pavia University**

in the World Food Forum on the theme

“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Well – functioning, sustainable and resilient agrifood system secure societies’ survival in the future. Historical examples have shown severe consequences when agrifood system lost their ability to function, ranging from natural causes to political disruptions or humanitarian and health crises demonstrated by the COVID – 19 pandemic or the current war in Ukraine. Disrupted supply chain that lead to food scarcity and price-raises demonstrate unforeseen new challenge for food security. Providing the knowledge to shape resilient and sustainable agricultural system of the future is therefore one of the main goals for agricultural, horticultural, climate and food research. In Western Europe, as defined by the United Nations, almost 196 million people depend on this; food security in the year 2100 is highly uncertain if 11 billion humans will need to be fed; let alone to do so using the natural resource base sustainably.

While the goals for sustainable development were agreed upon, the pathway to achieving these goals is much more complex and not nearly as clear. Western European agrifood system are highly developed and industrialized. However, this does not result in resilience, let alone sustainability. Instead, they are less flexible to assimilating the challenges ahead (e.g., climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic). Solely focusing on agriculture will not suffice; a systemic approach that focuses on agrifood system research and policy is key to the complex and holistic transformations that will lead to sustainable and secure agrifood system. Present effort in science and research are dedicated to exploring how today’s agrifood system could (or should) be altered to feed billions securely and sustainably. Simultaneously, current developments triggered by different forces inside agrifood systems are manifesting with strong impacts on future agrifood systems.

The agrifood supply chain sectors contribute approximately a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions globally and are among the activities most vulnerable to climate change. From this perspective, the introduction of mitigation and adaptation policies, by reducing the concentration

of climate – changing emissions in the atmosphere, contribute to limiting the impact of human activities on the natural environment, promoting greater resilience in the agricultural sector. Climate change, by altering biological and physical factors, affects the functioning of natural ecosystem and the socioeconomic system, threatening the stability of the entire food system. Scientific evidence suggests that increasing irregularities in temperature and precipitation patterns and the intensification of extreme weather events have already produced significant impacts in many regions of the world. Agricultural and agrifood system activities are therefore particularly vulnerable both due to the direct impacts to which they are exposed, and because they are indirectly influenced by the effects that climate change can generated on infrastructures linked to food processing and distribution activities.

To reboot the global economy, the fight against climate change has taken on a crucial role in redefining traditional development strategies.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **The British University in Egypt** in the World Food Forum on the theme **“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”**

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Climate change is here – and youth will be the ones to face its worst effects. That is precisely why to battle against climate change, the voices of youth should be implemented within policymaking and regulation.

Agrifood systems are vital because they provide us with a variety of food sources – which is linked to our health and bodies. Climate change directly impacts agrifood systems through crops, livestock, soil, water, alongside rural communities, and agriculture workers. Climate change and agrifood systems are intertwined – which is why it is crucial to understand and implement solutions that can ensure high quality resources and minimal environmental damage.

Agri-food systems can be observed as an opportunity rather than a setback to climate action. Agri-food systems are an essential component of the economic structure and are also critical to the population. Current agrifood production practices exacerbate natural resources and increase the emission of greenhouse gases. Data revealed that agri-food systems account for 31% of human-caused GHG emissions. Which carries a negative impact on the agrifood sector and decreases harvest. Efficient and more sustainable practices in agriculture and food systems carry multiple positive impacts on the environment and climate. Innovative ideas in the field of sustainable agriculture development present a promising chance for investment. Therefore, an increase in research and development in the field of sustainable agri-food practices enhances future prosperity and food security.

Both Agrifood systems and climate change act as key aspects towards present-day sustainability and economic stability; Therefore, various solutions, assessments, and innovations, on both national and international levels, are generated and implemented in order to accomplish every country's sustainable development goals. Moreover, Egypt is one of the many countries that have taken the opportunity and initiative to scale-up their agri-food systems towards positively impacting the climate, because according to the IPCC Egypt is considered one of the

three most extremely vulnerable mega-deltas to be directly affected by climate change by 2050. Egypt has launched programs and adaptation plans such as the SCALA programme in May 2022 funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative to help set objectives and guidelines for the future. The country still faces several challenges related to technology transfer and financial resources in regards to their agriculture sector; however, The Ministry of Environment in Egypt aims to be a part of the strong movement towards accelerating both climate action and food action in parallel. Finally, it is of great importance that innovative solutions, assessments and censorship would be implemented throughout the world in order to shape a better path for agrifood systems and climate change.

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Tokyo International University** **Model UN** in the World Food Forum on the theme “Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”

Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Introduction

Proven to be the most essential sector in the global economy, the agrifood industry has been the backbone of society, bringing leverages into our everyday lives. Around 8–10% of the global emission levels are due to greenhouse gas emissions from wasted food.

Although it might only be a small portion, it has been a stable issue over the years, and thus it has raised a high degree of awareness among the international community. The problem of food loss and waste (FLW) and how it worsens the environment is identified as including several issues. Through this statement, our delegation would like to highlight three main issues governing today's agrifood industry and contributing to the rapidly growing problem of climate change: water utilization, chemical fertilizers, and aquaculture.

Background

Although the world has started to progress with sustainability projects, food loss and waste is pertaining to be an issue even in major power states. The UN has pushed forward with many agendas, starting with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015 and then the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The sustainable development goals address 17 goals, in which number 13 specifies climate action (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). This goal does not limit itself to addressing only the problems or causes of climate change, but also calls for immediate solutions to tackle it. Of course, the problems encroach on discussions of the agrifood systems.

Water Utilization

Water utilization is a growing concern in the global food climate. Food fulfillment becomes increasingly important especially as countries face surplus demographic growth. In that sense, developing states face a unique challenge of creating an agrifood system that is able to feed their growing population while adhering to growing

sustainability concerns. A few of those concerns are noted below.

Current extraction of groundwater proves fatal to ground sustainability. The current method takes groundwater with no regards to regenerating the ground water supply and prioritizes efficient extraction. Furthermore, there is the issue of virtual water. Virtual water is water used in the production of food. One pound of beef costs 2500 gallons of water to produce (Conzachi, 2022). The humongous cost of our food production is taking a toll on the world's freshwater capacity. About 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawals are currently used for agriculture, and about 85 percent of withdrawn resources are consumed in irrigated agricultural production (Ringler, 2022). It is an unfortunate fact that healthier food costs more to produce (OECD, 2021). The water costs required are neither proportionate nor efficient to maintain the current global populace for years in the future.

Chemical fertilizers

Organic agriculture offers a promising solution to address climate change (Brook, 2022). Transitioning to organic farming practices can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change impacts, and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a sustainable planet.

One key aspect of organic agriculture is the use of organic fertilizers, such as compost, manure, and green manure, instead of synthetic fertilizers derived from fossil fuels. Organic fertilizers provide essential nutrients to plants, improve soil structure and water-holding capacity, and increase carbon sequestration. They also release nutrients slowly and in a balanced manner, reducing water pollution risks. In addition to environmental benefits, organic fertilizers enhance circularity in nutrient cycles, reduce dependence on external inputs, and improve the economic viability of farming.

To effectively harness the potential of organic fertilizers in mitigating climate change, it is important to promote organic farming practices, provide farmers with knowledge and resources, and support them through training programs, subsidies, and research on innovative organic fertilization techniques. Consumer awareness and demand for organic products can also drive the market for organic fertilizers. Organic agriculture aligns with several SDGs, including Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, and Life on Land. It supports terrestrial biodiversity conservation and establishes a more balanced relationship between land and water. Through the adoption of organic farming practices and the reduction of synthetic inputs, organic agriculture plays a vital role in safeguarding the health and sustainability of our planet, benefiting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Aquaculture

Our planet is undergoing multiple pressures on the problem of increasing food production. We are at the point where we need to grow food drastically. While growing food on land has a lot of drawbacks when the area of the land has shrunk down a lot when overpopulation occurs, that is when the whole world draws attention to the water environment (the ocean) since the Earth's surface is 71 percent water-covered. But because of that, there are a lot of consequences, some of the significant ones are:

First, pollution from the fishing vessels. This might sound not too serious but in the situation when we are in need of more food production, with the estimated number of 4.1 million fishing vessels in a year (Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2022) the amount of plastic pollution, oil spill and even air pollution would become insanely. Second, fishing on the maritime ecosystem. There are certain fishing techniques causing habitat destruction by mistakenly grabbing the phytoplankton that absorbs carbon, which is essential for climate change prevention. Besides that, we are facing overfishing. Even though we already trying to prevent the lack of food production on land by exploiting the water environment but still, we are facing overexploitation.

- Global fish production (Brander, 2007)
- Fishing on marine ecosystem (ClientEarth, 2022)
 - Fishing disrupts the balance between the marine ecosystem and the ocean's abundance and diversity
 - Fishing techniques destroying the habitat by incidentally grabbing the storing carbon species that

is needed for climate mitigation the phytoplankton that absorbs carbon

- Fishing vessels emit greenhouse gasses, the use of energy to run fishing boats, usually with fossil fuels
- Overfishing (UNFCCC Secretariat, 2022)
- Replacing natural reproduction, capture unwanted sea life

Solutions

Since man first started farming around 12,000 years ago, farming has become more and more unsustainable and artificial through the consistent use of artificial supplements in almost every aspect. Animal husbandry, undoubtedly, has a more direct and higher degree effect on climate change (Conzachi, 2022). Today, we see the use of science and technology in irrigation, crop efficiency, soil chemistry, animal health improvement, and other fields in food systems. We can use the same technologies more effectively in the future if we make adjustments that take sustainability into account.

Talking about water utilization, the use of AI and satellite imaging can help track and better allocate water resources over a specific water-sparse region (Satellite Imaging Corporation, n.d.). This can also be used to track the efficiency of agricultural and animal husbandry water usage over time to optimize the use of this limited resource. Taking inspiration from ancient farming techniques, eco-friendly alternatives could be given priority through strict regulations for chemical fertilizers. The use of soil chemistry manipulation or water mineral control can cut down on the need for fertilizers altogether. As land availability for agriculture and animal husbandry becomes scarcer day-by-day, aquaculture sectors are going to feel increasingly strained for products. Amongst this increased demand for aquaculture products, technologies like SONAR and ocean stream analysis can help to measure and sustainably nurture aquatic animal populations. Digital transformation in agrifood systems is also a vital part of this new transformative generation in agriculture (FAO IT Division 2019).

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Université Laval**
in the World Food Forum on the theme
“Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action”
Rome, Italy, 16 to 20 October 2023

Déclaration sur l'importance de l'action agroalimentaire pour accélérer l'action climatique de l'Université Laval au Canada, cohorte de la Maîtrise en Sécurité Alimentaire L'interdépendance des défis

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Les changements climatiques et l'insécurité alimentaire sont deux phénomènes qui sont étroitement liés. La sécurité alimentaire dépend de la stabilité et de la prévisibilité de la production, qui sont de plus en plus compromises par des événements météorologiques extrêmes et des schémas climatiques changeants. Les changements climatiques diminuent aussi l'accès à la nourriture en accroissant la vulnérabilité de millions de personnes dans le monde. Du même coup, les systèmes agroalimentaires sont des contributeurs majeurs aux émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Pourtant, ils sont nécessaires à la survie humaine. Il faut donc s'attaquer à ce problème complexe en travaillant en interdisciplinarité et explorer certains changements majeurs à apporter à ces systèmes afin de réduire leur effet de dégradation sur la santé planétaire.

La justice climatique au cœur de l'action

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En tant que scientifiques de la sécurité alimentaire provenant d'un peu partout dans le monde, nous croyons que les pays occidentaux doivent s'intégrer fortement dans la mise en place d'une résolution pour améliorer le système alimentaire mondial. Puisque les plus grandes victimes ne sont pas les principaux responsables du dérèglement climatique, il n'y a aucun doute que les plus gros efforts

d'amélioration doivent provenir de l'Occident. Pour ce faire, il faut que nous exploitons le potentiel transformateur de l'agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires pour conduire un changement durable. Puisque la stabilité est un des piliers de la sécurité alimentaire, un monde de plus en plus dérégulé ne présage rien de bon pour l'alimentation des générations futures. L'action agroalimentaire est essentielle dans notre quête commune pour un avenir durable, résilient et équitable.

Le changement des habitudes alimentaires occidentales La réduction de la consommation de viande dans les pays occidentaux, avec leur contribution disproportionnée aux dérèglements climatiques, est une solution cruciale pour atténuer la crise environnementale et promouvoir la justice climatique. L'industrie de la viande est l'une des principales sources d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre, de déforestation, et de consommation d'eau. Réduire la demande de viande dans les pays riches permettrait de libérer des terres pour des pratiques agricoles durables, d'utiliser moins de ressources naturelles, de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, d'atténuer la pression sur les écosystèmes et d'encourager des régimes alimentaires plus sains et durables. Heureusement, les jeunes générations sont de plus en plus conscientes de ces enjeux et jouent un rôle actif en adoptant des régimes alimentaires plus focalisés sur les plantes.

Réagir plutôt que subir

Les systèmes agroalimentaires tels qu'on les connaît actuellement produisent une quantité astronomique de gaz à effet de serre. La promotion de l'agroécologie est ainsi une autre voie d'avenir qui doit être explorée. L'adoption de ces principes, en consultation avec les populations locales, détient le potentiel de renverser la vapeur en faisant appel à des pratiques de gestion des terres qui séquestrent le carbone. Les pratiques de résilience agricoles font partie de l'équation; diversifier les semences, promouvoir la rotation des cultures, mettre en œuvre des pratiques durables de gestion de l'eau. En adoptant les grands principes de l'agroécologie au

niveau planétaire, le secteur agroalimentaire peut jouer un rôle central dans la lutte au réchauffement climatique. Cela est possible uniquement avec un grand travail collaboratif entre les acteurs du système agroalimentaire afin d'effectuer des changements radicaux.

La lutte au gaspillage alimentaire

Une des manières les plus efficaces de traiter simultanément la sécurité alimentaire et les changements climatiques consiste à réduire le gaspillage alimentaire. Environ un tiers de toute la nourriture produite est perdue ou gaspillée; ce sont des quantités effarantes de ressources naturelles, de temps et d'énergie qui sont ainsi gaspillés. Il est possible de réduire significativement cette perte épouvantable en améliorant la manipulation après récolte, le stockage, le transport, tout en engageant la jeunesse dans des initiatives visant à réduire définitivement ces pertes.

De l'agentivité pour la jeunesse

La jeunesse, en particulier les jeunes agriculteurs et les futurs leaders, est en première ligne de cette transition écologique. Leur créativité, leur énergie et leur engagement en font des agents de changement essentiels pour l'adoption de pratiques agricoles durables, la promotion de la justice climatique, la prévention des migrations forcées, et la sensibilisation à la réduction de la consommation de viande. Il est aussi important que les moins jeunes comprennent que leur rôle est de laisser la tribune à cette jeunesse et de leur donner les moyens pour qu'ils puissent prendre le contrôle de leur futur. La planète et l'humanité en dépendent!

Aucune solution ne suffira à elle seule

Le programme de Maîtrise en sécurité alimentaire de l'Université Laval est prêt à collaborer avec les Nations Unies et ses États membres pour développer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies efficaces qui promeuvent des changements efficaces tels que nommés ci-haut. Face aux changements climatiques, à l'insécurité alimentaire et aux migrations forcées qui en découlent, l'action agroalimentaire est absolument impérative. Elle ne peut attendre.

En espérant pouvoir collaborer avec vous tous sur la question,

La cohorte de la Maîtrise en sécurité alimentaire de l'Université Laval, Québec, Canada

Statement of the Youth Delegation of **Wageningen University & Research (WUR)** in the World Food Forum on the theme “**Agrifood systems transformation accelerates climate action**”

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Feeding the world within planetary boundaries

Feeding the world is a challenge. Our planet will have to feed 10 billion people by 2050. More pressingly, we will have to do so within our planet's limits. This is not impossible, but consumption and production will have to change drastically for it to happen.

This is what feeding the world in 2050 will take

- By 2050, about 10 billion people will need access to healthy and nutritious food.
- The food system processes this requires will have to be much more sustainable to minimise climate change and environmental damage. We have to be conscious of our planet's limits.
- We need to change both our means of food production and our consumption behaviour.
- A larger proportion of our diets should be plant-based products. Food waste must be minimised too.
- Food production should concentrate on more diverse crops. Fewer grains and sugar beet, and more beans, chickpeas, lentils, vegetables and fruit.
- We should also keep less pigs and cows for meat production. More pressingly, the production of livestock feed should not interfere with the production of crops for human consumption. We can use waste streams for fodder and graze livestock in less productive areas.

Current trends in food preferences are unsustainable

If our food preferences do not change, food production will have to increase enormously by 2050 compared to 2023. This is impossible: we will cross our planetary boundaries.

Efficiently feeding the world: from linear to circular food systems

If we want to keep feeding the world and remain within its limits, we will have to find alternatives to our linear food system. We do not have to produce more, but approach food production more intelligently. We have to move towards a circular food system.

Circular food systems make it easier to respect the natural limits of the world. This means we use as many reusable resources in food production as we can. Water availability, soil health and biodiversity should also be dealt with carefully.

The basic principle of agrifood production is to feed the world's population with adequate, healthy and sustainably produced food. This means diets do not contain too much processed red meat, much less sugar and more vegetables.

Preventing waste and producing what we really need

To feed 10 billion people by 2050, it is important that we produce and consume differently. We will have to combat food waste and only use the food we truly need. To achieve this, we need to produce food that supports healthy diets.

We also need to handle food waste more efficiently. We can use it as fertiliser or feed for livestock, for example. This will result in less competition between crop production for livestock feed and human consumption.

An example of Europe as a circular food

Wageningen University & Research has calculated the impact of implementing a circular food system in Europe. The overall impact of having such in place would be a 34% reduction in land use for food systems. This would reduce CO₂ emissions by 47%. Since less land would be used for food production, Europe's biodiversity could increase too.

Necessary shifts in consumption behaviours and governance mechanisms

We will only succeed in feeding the world in 2050 if we adjust how we consume and govern our food systems. A modified diet will feature fewer animal products and grains, and more legumes and vegetables. Some meat could be replaced by fish. Food waste should be kept to a minimum. Governance of food systems should take a systems approach, and allow to be more inclusive and fairer, guarantee health, food security and contribute to sustainability and resilience. This means they need to be implemented in seamless collaboration between governance bodies of varying mandates, health, agriculture, trade and economics. In wealthier, western countries, a relatively large amount of waste occurs through food consumption. In the Netherlands there is a lot to be gained by following simple measures around 'purchasing, preparing and preserving'. In poorer parts of the world, there is a lot to gain in terms of food production, storage and distribution. This means that different regions will need to implement different measures to mitigate food waste.

Necessary shifts in production

Food production also needs to be overhauled. Instead of focusing on a limited range of varieties of grains, tubers and sugar beet, we should be growing a more diverse range, and think about crops that support a healthy diet, like beans, chickpeas, lentils, green and red vegetables and fruit. To achieve a circular food system in Europe, beef and pork production has to be reduced while more fish need to be caught or farmed. Since these transitions mean we will need less land for food production, biodiversity could increase. We should adopt sustainable food production methods by implementing more agro-ecological practices. Also, farming with nature should be prioritized, encouraged and supported. Limit competition between livestock fodder and food crops. Too much land is currently being used to produce animal fodder. This land cannot be used to grow crops for immediate consumption. However, using byproducts from food production in a more intelligent way and grazing livestock on land that is unsuitable for direct food production, could reduce competition for agricultural land.

Food production could be more efficient

As well as focusing on growing alternative types of crops, it is also possible to make improvements to the crops themselves. By breeding plants, we can increase their

food yields and make them more resistant to heat, drought and pathogens. Traditional breeding methods have provided huge yield improvements in the past, while new technologies like genetic modification and gene-editing (CRISPR-Cas) offer opportunities for the future.

Better soil and water management and modern cultivation techniques

A series of measures aimed at improving soil health and water management in (semi-)arid areas could also ensure much higher and steady crop yields. Additionally enhancing soil life while preserving our natural resources and biodiversity.

- Fertilization precisely tailored to the soil's condition.
- Drip irrigation to optimize crop yield (more crop per drop).
- Manage soil moisture in a sustainable way (e.g., mulching)
- Investing in sustainable water governance structures
- Applying agro-ecological practices and gaining insights from organic agriculture to reduce the need for artificial fertilisers and pesticides

Healthy people in a healthy world

The COVID-19 crisis, as well as the ongoing African Swine Fever outbreak have underpinned that the world's global food systems are sensitive to shocks from epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases. A Global One Health approach that ensures a balanced approach to healthy people, ecosystems and animals is critical to resilient food systems.

Feeding the world is only possible if we make big changes

If our food preferences and production methods do not change, we will exceed our planetary boundaries. By accepting a healthier and more sustainable diet, we can ensure we can keep feeding the world in 2050. By doing so, we can also work to increase biodiversity and mitigate climate change. So with the help of circular food systems, we tackle two issues in one go.