

# **The Science and Policy agenda to transform food systems, at national, regional and global level**

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**Conference Circular @wur**

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# Structure of presentation

- The political and policy context for Food System Transformation (FST).
- The High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on an International Platform for Food Systems Science (IPFSS) – Background, Evolution, Conclusion.
- The components of Science-Policy-Society-Interfaces (SPSIs) for FST.
- Strategies to create a landscape of SPSIs to support FST.

**Past Decade:**

**Shift from  
sectoral  
planning  
to  
Food  
Systems  
thinking and  
planning**

## Agri-food sector:

- 30% of GHGs, water pollution, biodiversity loss.
- Diet, nutrition and health.
- The Triple Burden of Malnutrition.
- Centrality of our food systems to achieving the two existential challenges by **2050** - provide food and nutrition security for a population of close to 10 billion while meeting the climate target of 1.5 degrees.
- In the shorter term - **2030** - meeting the challenge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

**Political  
momentum  
for  
Sustainable  
Food  
Systems  
(SFSs)**

## UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS):

- 100+ countries commit to 'national pathways for food system transformation'.

## Other food related international meetings in 2021:

- COP on Biodiversity
- COP 26 on Climate
- Nutrition for Growth (N4G).

## Implications of COVID.

# The Russia Ukraine conflict:

## Short and Long Term Implications

Food and energy price rises.

Increase in the number of hungry and food insecure people.

Move to less energy and fertiliser intensive production systems.

Longer term, greater political priority to food and nutrition security at national, regional and global level.

Diversification of trading patterns and likely shift towards more regional trading arrangements: concept of 'strategic autonomy'.

# HLEG on IPFSS:

## Background, Evolution, Conclusion

- Food 2030 agenda: *'a FST – interactions between the different components of the current food system to maximise co-benefits, and to accelerate a systems-wide transformation'*.
- CAP reform, from 2017 to 2023.
- European Green Deal (EGD), with Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies.
- HLEG: *'need, potential, feasibility, and options for interfaces between science, other forms of evidence and policy to support FST'* (February, 2021)
- 19 international experts.
- Interim report (July 2021) to Pre-Summit of UNFSS.
- Final report, May 2022.

# Emerging elements of IPFSS Final Report

## Components of Science Policy Society Interfaces (SPSIs) for Food Systems:

- A forum for diplomacy and standard setting: following on from the UNFSS, regular international meetings to assess progress against commitments made. Next meeting, September 2023, with subsequent two-yearly meetings.
- Mechanisms for multi-stakeholder dialogues that empowers traditionally excluded perspectives. Build on the Food Systems Dialogues (FSDs) process of the UNFSS.
- Better data from across the 'farm-to-fork' continuum.

# Emerging elements of IPFSS Final Report

## Components of Science Policy Society Interfaces (SPSIs) for Food Systems:

- Anticipate future trends through modelling, scenario building and foresight exercises.
- A regular set of rigorous and independent assessment reports on progress made in FST.
- Capacity building: long-term continuing process giving primacy to national priorities and policies.
- Capacity building and support for countries/regions involved in strengthening their SPSIs for FST.



# Emerging elements of IPFSS Final Report

## Strategies to create a landscape of SPSIs to support FST:

1. Adapt the current landscape: enhance efficacy of the current SPSIs with additional resources and a broader mandate.
2. Enhance the current landscape: task one (or more) existing organizations to form a secretariat that would convene a network of networks to produce a series of assessment reports and enhance/interlink data portals.
3. Bring an enhanced focus on linking national, regional and global SPIs.

# Summary

## **Change: when political priorities, policies, and science align.**

- A more coherent approach to SPSIs at national, regional and global level is critical to achieving FST.
- The IPFSS report aims to build on the political momentum towards SFSs, which has been added to by the Ukraine crisis.
- The nearest historical analogy to the present is the 1970s, when the 1974 World Food Conference took decisive action to tackle the then emerging crisis on global hunger. The challenge in the 2020s is more complex in achieving FST but equally requires decisive and sustained commitment.

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**12 April 2022**

# Thank you