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Comments on “How can FAO better support countries in addressing governance of agrifood systems transformation to make them more sustainable, inclusive and resilient?”

Posted to: <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/call-submissions/addressing-governance-agrifood-systems-transformation>

Dear Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition,

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the call for submissions on “How can FAO better support countries in addressing governance of agrifood systems transformation to make them more sustainable, inclusive and resilient?” IFT is a global organization of approximately 11,000 individual members, in 95 countries, who are committed to advancing the science of food. We believe that science is essential to ensuring that our global food system is sustainable, safe, nutritious, and accessible to all.

IFT applauds the efforts of the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition to address the governance needs for agrifood systems transformation. We agree that data, technology, and innovation can help transform the agrifood system, but an “enabling environment” that includes appropriate policy and governance systems is essential. We also agree that a systems approach is necessary, which includes collaboration among stakeholders across the entire food supply.

This need for collaboration and transformative change was one of the drivers for the creation of the Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee (FNSSC) within IFT in 2021. The goal of the FNSSC is to bring together stakeholders within the agrifood system to identify food science and technology solutions, challenges, opportunities, and collaborations that can help improve food and nutrition security globally. The FNSSC has convened expert roundtables on the topics of food loss and waste, food processing, and underutilized and biofortified crops. Through these roundtables, key areas of governance and policy needs were identified to enable sustainable food security and nutrition globally. Several of those needs are highlighted below:

- Policies that incentivize a circular approach to food are necessary to mitigate food loss and waste, one of the biggest challenges for sustainability. Current efforts to reduce food loss and waste globally are primarily voluntary and thus uncoordinated and inefficient.
- Policies and incentives, as well as tools that can measure and track food loss and waste from farm to fork, could help minimize food loss and waste and potentially create opportunities for food loss valorization.
- Policies that enable trade to be safe and inclusive would also be beneficial for a sustainable global food system. Codex is helpful in setting standards to enable trade, but improvements could be made to international governance and alignment on novel food regulations. This is critical to ensure innovations in food development (e.g. alternative proteins, upcycled foods and ingredients) can be available globally.
- Policies and governance that enable public-private partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of sustainable solutions can help improve environmental and economic outcomes for large and small-scale producers.
- Increasing utilization of underutilized and biofortified crops can improve dietary diversity, sustainability and help alleviate food and nutrition security. Policies that incentivize the agronomic development of underutilized crops, particularly those that are climate resilient, and provide standards for the use of biofortified crops in foods could drive demand for these crops, which can improve farmer livelihoods and nutrition security.

IFT believes that appropriate governance systems can create an enabling environment to improve sustainability within the agrifood system and that collaboration among stakeholders across the food system is critical. This includes food scientists that play an important role in developing innovative, sustainable solutions to improve food and nutrition security globally. Addressing the policy and governance needs identified above could enable the development and use of innovative technologies to help feed the world.

IFT appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on “How can FAO better support countries in addressing governance of agrifood systems transformation to make them more sustainable, inclusive and resilient?” Please contact Anna Rosales, Senior Director Government Affairs and Nutrition ([arosales@ift.org](mailto:arosales@ift.org)) if IFT may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Anna Rosales  
Senior Director Nutrition and Government Affairs  
Institute of Food Technologists