

# The Food and Land Use Coalition



## 1. Transforming food and land use systems presents a huge opportunity to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals

Our vision is of global food and land use systems that by 2050 simultaneously:

- protects and regenerates the planet's bio-physical resources
- provides the world's 9+ billion people with healthy, nutritious food
- offers 500m+ smallholder farmers and their families a decent, reliable standard of living

This is, however, not where we start. Today the global food and land use systems are failing us environmentally and socially and hindering our progress towards the Global Goals. Together they:

- account for more than 25% of greenhouse gas emissions
- erode natural capital, through soil erosion, water depletion, air pollution and loss of biodiversity
- allow 800 million people to go hungry, more than a quarter of them children; 2 billion to suffer from micronutrient deficiencies; and 2 billion to be overweight or obese
- produce enough calories to feed everyone, yet lose or waste 1/3 of the food produced.
- keep close to 500 million rural farmers and fishers at or below the \$2 a day poverty line.

Without action, these problems will get worse. Great areas of land are ever more urgently needed to act as a sink of greenhouse gases to meet the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The global population is expected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, when we will need 50% more food, putting even more intense pressure on finite land and marine resources.

We want to set the world on an alternative path. We have seen astonishing progress in certain sectors – e.g. energy and transportation – where a set of ambitious global targets has seen political, financial and technical solutions gain unstoppable progress. In the food and land use sector, we already see 'triple wins' – dietary shifts that are healthier for planet and people; integrated landscape management that improves agricultural yields, delivers water management services and protects biodiversity. The Food and Land Use Coalition aims to unlock this momentum.

## 2. Uncoordinated change will be too slow

Transforming food and land use systems takes work from all the people who understand and shape those systems:

- physical and social scientists specialising in environment, forestry, poverty, agriculture, water, health, economics and trade, who can model the impact of current systems and set future targets and pathways
- policy-making groups – intergovernmental, national and NGOs – who can negotiate viable, fair system rules in line with the targets
- consumer groups who can drive healthier, greener consumer choices
- businesses, technology developers and finance providers who can create and scale products, services and operations targeted at the market opportunities which new science-based system rules and changing consumption patterns will open up

People from all these 'tribes' are doing this kind of work. But these efforts are too atomized and unco-ordinated to make a big enough transformation in time.

*The meeting will be hosted by the Norwegian Government, the EAT Foundation and Yara, and produced in collaboration with the Business and Sustainable Development Commission (hosted at SYSTEMIQ) and the New Climate Economy (hosted at the World Resources Institute), as well as core partners the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and Unilever.*

### 3. The Food and Land Use Coalition aims to define, coordinate and accelerate the transformation of food and land use systems

The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) is launched to meet this need. We are a new self-governing coalition of over 30 organisations across all the relevant tribes: academics, government policy makers, members of international and civil society organisations and foundations, business people and investors. All of us in this unprecedented collaboration are dedicated to transforming the world's broken food and land use systems at speed and scale. We see a strong, ongoing partnership between enlightened public, civil society and private sector leaders as the best way to develop both the technical solutions and the political will essential for the task.

### 4. Our approach

We propose three linked workstreams to help realise the vision:

- **Global and national pathways and targets** – We will coordinate the calculation of science-based targets quantifying what sustainable land-use, supporting a myriad of critical, competing priorities (for example food production, protection of biodiversity, carbon sequestration, bio-energy) must look like by 2050 at global and national levels. 'Back-casting' from these targets we will define long-term pathways towards them. These pathways will provide the evidence needed to:
  - o align policy
  - o spur 'no regrets' action and avoid 'big regrets' moves
  - o concentrate work to tackle the biggest obstacles
  - o stimulate essential investment(This work is led by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, IIASA and the EAT Foundation)
- **Business solutions** – To accelerate progress along the pathways, we will create a complementary portfolio of business and financing opportunities. This portfolio will trigger investment and bring together new business partnerships between players ranging from traditional agribusiness and farmers to big data specialists and bio-genomics innovators. The work will identify policy frameworks and finance needed to implement each solution at scale.  
(This work is led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
- **National and local solutions** – These will strengthen conditions on-the-ground in specific countries and regions that enable business development in line with the pathways. They will entail policy reforms, coalitions of key local actors and detailed 'action roadmaps' for achieving a viable new food and land-use economy in each location. Candidate locations for the first national and local solutions include Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Brazil, Ghana (potentially as a way into the wider agenda of cocoa), and Gabon (as part of a wider Congo Basin effort) and developed or middle-income regions including Australia, China, India, and the Nordic region.  
(This work is led by the New Climate Economy, hosted through the World Resources Institute)

The financing, governance and policy enablers required to enact this system change will also be developed.

These three workstreams are strategically linked. They will operate in tandem, informed and advanced by each other's progress and underpinned by a network of shared knowledge. The results will be shared in a global synthesis report, which will identify pathways for the food and land use sector to deliver upon the global commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs, as well as providing a coherent set of recommendations to policy makers and investors. (This work will be led by the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, hosted through SYSTEMIQ)

Critical to these efforts is a networked communications and outreach campaign that builds on the three FOLU workstreams and leverage existing business and NGO networks to broadcast key messages to key audiences before and after the report is launched

The FOLU approach builds on a deep heritage of existing work, including but not limited to: the Business & Sustainable Development Commission (BSDC), the New Climate Economy (NCE), the EAT-Lancet Commission and the Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project (DCPP). There are many more.

### 5. Measuring our impact

Ambitious but focused, FOLU will measure our impact by the extent to which we see:

- decision-makers and opinion-formers across the world drawing on output from these three workstreams in their decision-making and advocacy
- a growing group of countries reforming their land-use and food economy strategies and policies in line with their SDG and Paris commitments
- a critical number of forward-thinking food and land use companies embracing science-based targets to reshape their sectors
- private and public capital and innovation investment rapidly shifting to solutions that meet the big SDG and climate challenges in food and land-use
- growing consumer demand for more sustainable, healthier lifestyles
- results from new public-private partnerships building trust between business, civil society and policy-makers

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