

Global Foodscapes

Forecasts from our Global Food
and Nutrition Affairs Team

foodminds

Welcome to the fourth edition of Global Foodscapes, news and insights you can use from FoodMinds' global food and nutrition affairs team.

Today's issue focuses on the first-ever United Nations Food Systems Summit (UN FSS), which was hosted September 23-24, 2021 virtually alongside the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly. The UN FSS brought together delegates from more than 150 countries and sought to encourage national governments and other food systems stakeholders to support the transition to a global sustainable food system (SFS) through meaningful change and ambitious commitments. Not familiar with the UN FSS? Get caught up [here](#).

Is there a particular topic you'd like to see covered in a future Foodscapes? Let us know [here!](#)

– *Sarah Levy, FoodMinds' Global
Director of Food & Nutrition Affairs*





Four Key Outcomes From...



The United Nations Food Systems Summit

1. Heads of State and Government (HOSG) and other food systems stakeholders announced almost 300 commitments to accelerate progress on SFS.

Among these commitments, common priorities included improving healthy diets from SFS; food/nutrition security; accessibility and affordability of healthy, sustainable foods; resiliency from environmental shocks and stressors; reducing food loss/waste and biodiversity loss; ensuring gender equality; and promoting a [One Health](#) approach.

2. Greater investment in and financing for innovations, research and technology were central in recommended strategies presented.

Speakers demanded stronger investments in climate-smart technology, innovations and infrastructure, and improved distribution of these resources in rural communities and low- and middle-income countries. Global trade that is reliable, fair, open and free was also raised as a priority, particularly in response to challenges observed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. National delegates from around the world emphasized the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to SFS transformation.

Many decisionmakers, including UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, remarked the UN FSS has been groundbreaking in its inclusion of diverse food systems stakeholders. Speakers urged for this multi-sectoral, multi-lateral approach to continue as stakeholders implement SFS solutions. These calls to action included demands for meaningful inclusion of women, youth, smallholder farmers and Indigenous Peoples in the development and implementation of local, national and global SFS programs and policies.

4. Numerous HOSG shared their plans to collaborate with the private sector to achieve national commitments on SFS.

Many delegates highlighted the role business can play in advancing innovation and technology, particularly for the agriculture sector, and called upon corporate leaders to support national and multi-sectoral sustainability efforts. Now more than ever, it is increasingly important to consider how your organization can be a

part of the transformation – through multi-stakeholder coalitions, [commitment tracking](#) or other innovative strategies. developments.

WHAT'S NEXT? There is a normative shift underway in how people relate food and its broader impact. While the UN FSS has helped elevate conversations at a higher level with an eye toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, there's still a long way to go in applying strategies and implementing solutions to create more sustainable food systems. Expect the dialogue to continue at events later this year, including the UN [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (October 2021), COP 26 [UN Climate Change Conference](#) (November 2021) and the Tokyo [Nutrition for Growth Summit](#) (December 2021). Our team will be following along and providing analysis of these meetings; [reach out](#) to learn more!

FoodMinds' global food and nutrition affairs team helps clients navigate and participate in the evolving landscape and prepare for the future. Reply to this email or reach out to [Sarah Levy](#) to start the conversation.



Global Food Views



What are actionable ways food and beverage companies can help accelerate progress in creating a more sustainable food system?

“It really depends on the company and the areas of greatest need and opportunity within their supply chains. For those starting out on their sustainability journey, a great place to start is by tracking and analyzing baseline data to identify key opportunities (e.g., high impact/high volume ingredients) for improvement. This assessment can serve as the basis for setting measurable goals, and inform potential engagement opportunities with NGOs

and other partners to drive deeper impacts at scale on the issues that matter most to their stakeholders.”

- Andrea Carrothers, MS, RD, Senior Vice President and Katie Padilla, MA, PMP, Director, co-leads of FoodMinds’ Healthy, Sustainable Food Systems team

"Food systems account for around a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, so the food and drink sector has a big role to play in decarbonization. As we head from the UN FSS to COP26, more and more food and drink companies are committing to reducing or eliminating emissions across their entire value chain. This will be a big assistance to Governments committed to reaching net zero, but consumers will also increasingly be taking note of which companies they buy from are doing their part."

- Dean Duke, Head of Food and Drink, Hanover, a FoodMinds partner agency



Photo courtesy of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Food for Thought



Reflections and perspectives from the FoodMinds team on emerging food systems topics.

5 in 5: Head-Turning Stories from Recent Weeks

“Soy, almonds, hemp, cashews, coconuts, oats and now...potatoes make their way into the non-dairy milk mix in the U.K. Why We’re Clocking It: Makers of the new potato-based beverage claim it has some impressive eco-stats, from its carbon footprint to its land and water usage. As consumers continue to seek out sustainable products, it will be interesting to see if ‘potato milk’ starts making its way into more grocery carts.”



Global food and nutrition affairs is FoodMinds’ point of difference. Learn more here.

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