



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021

2021 Food Systems Summit
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For Discussion Only

Setting an Ambitious Vision and Approach for the Food Systems Summit

As we start the Decade of Action, we are not on track to achieve the SDGs, and food systems are often part of the problem.

Rich or poor, young or old: Everyone needs to eat. Food is essential to life on Earth. Nutritious and safe food allows for healthy and productive lives. It's as important as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Food systems touch every aspect of human existence. The health of our food systems profoundly affects the health of our bodies, as well as the health of our environment, our economies and our cultures. When they function well, food systems have the power to bring us together as families, communities and nations.

Yet today, many of the world's current food systems are failing – for people, for the environment, and for our shared future. With only 10 years remaining, many of the 17 SDGs remain far out of reach. In many cases, unsafe or unsustainable food systems are part of the problem.

- Hundreds of millions of people are hungry with tens of millions more at risk due to the **impact of COVID-19**, even as **one-third of all food is either lost or wasted**.
- Malnutrition in all its forms is now the **number one factor contributing to the global burden of disease** and reduced life expectancy. More than 2 billion people are overweight or obese.
- Food systems contribute up to **29 per cent of all GHG emissions**, including 44 per cent of methane.
- Agriculture is also responsible for up to **80 per cent of biodiversity loss**; accounts for up to **70 per cent of all freshwater use** and **80 per cent of all deforestation**; and uses more than **one-quarter of energy** expended globally.

This must change.

Food Systems can be one of the best solutions to achieve all of our goals.

Solutions exist to change the unsustainable patterns of our food systems in a way that enhances inclusive economic growth and opportunity, while also safeguarding the global ecosystems that sustain life. There is **scientific consensus** that transforming food systems also offers one of the single strongest opportunities we have to change course and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda, and to support the Secretary-General's call to **"build back better" from COVID-19**.

Actions to transform them can lead the way in showing us what sustainable development in all its dimensions *can actually look like*. Better food systems will create a better future.

We have 10 years. We must *collectively* move in a clear direction to scale up food systems approaches that are working for all people and the planet, supercharging the pace of our progress.

The moment to transform our food systems is now to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

"Business-as-usual pathways and upscaling of current practices are not options if the global food system is to sustainably and equitably meet the needs of the global population in the future."

- Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), 2019, The Future Is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development

The Food Systems Summit has an ambitious vision to deliver on this agenda.

The Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General in 2021, will serve as a turning point in the world's journey to achieve all of the SDGs by maximizing on the co-benefits that lie within our food systems across the entire 2030 Agenda.

The **Summit will unleash bold new actions, innovative solutions, and strategies to transform our food systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs.**

The need is urgent, and our ambition is high. For this reason, this must not be 'just another conference'. We must act.

The Food Systems Summit will be **"A People's Summit" and "A Solutions Summit"**, recognizing that food systems touch all of society, and all stakeholders – every government, organization, individual – needs to do more. The Summit will **awaken the world** to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food.

"Transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals."

- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 2019

"We call upon all stakeholders to adopt a sustainable food systems approach and to develop effective strategies and innovations to reduce food losses and waste. Resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect, enhance and restore natural resources, sustain rural and urban livelihoods and provide access to nutritious foods from smallholder producers must be at the heart of efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production."

- HLPF Ministerial Declaration, 2018

The COVID-19 Pandemic only reinforces the importance of food systems, and the 2021 Food Systems Summit is therefore as critical as ever.

- Since we began the preparatory processes for this Summit, our world has been plunged into an extraordinary crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic. We share a deep concern for the human cost that the pandemic has already inflicted upon our world.
- This crisis demonstrates how much we depend on each other, for our health and economic systems, as well as for our food systems, all the way from how we produce food to the supply chains that bring it to our homes. Indeed, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's recent Policy Brief, food systems directly employ over 1 billion people.
- The crisis has also highlighted many of our challenges and the fragility of our systems, particularly for the most marginalized populations but also the interconnectedness of global challenges. These problems can only be managed only through collective action that builds resilient systems long before they become full-blown crises. They must be acted upon not only as singular threats with emergency response, but as a series of shocks with a long-term approach for improved food systems and more resilient societies.

“We must invest in the future, even as we work to urgently mitigate the impacts of the present crisis.” - António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 2020



Five Objectives to Advance with this Summit

The Summit will work to transform global food systems to deliver on all 17 interconnected SDGs. As it does so, it will pay particular attention to delivering on the following objectives:

1. **Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All** (enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy, progressive realization of the right to food)
2. **Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns** (promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets, reducing waste)
3. **Boosting Nature-Positive Production at Sufficient Scales** (acting on climate change, reducing emissions and increasing carbon capture, regenerating and protecting critical ecosystems and reducing food loss and energy usage, without undermining health or nutritious diets)
4. **Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution** (raising incomes, distributing risk, expanding inclusion, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all)
5. **Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses** (ensuring the continued functionality of healthy and sustainable food systems)

These objectives, when taken together, represent a benchmark of food systems transformation.

To achieve the Summit's vision, **these objectives are indivisible** and they will guide all of the Summit's work streams. Actors from across the food system will also be expected to think through their linkages and develop collaborative action around **key cross-cutting levers of change such as finance, policy, innovation, governance, data and evidence including scientific and indigenous knowledge, the empowerment of women, young people and marginalized groups, and respect for cultural differences.**

Summit Outcomes

In this context, it is envisioned that the Summit will result in at least the following outcomes:

- **Dramatically elevated public discourse** about the importance of food systems leading to the achievement of the SDGs and what to do to get the public working for people and planet.
- **Significant action**, with measurable outcomes that enable achievement of the 2030 goals. This will include highlighting existing solutions and celebrating leaders in food systems transformation, as well as calling for new actions worldwide by different actors, including countries, cities, companies, civil society, citizens, and food producers.
- **A high-level set of principles** established through the process that will guide Member States and other stakeholders to leverage their food systems capacity to support the SDGs. Distilled through all elements of the preparatory process, these principles will set an optimistic and encouraging vision in which food systems play a central role in delivering on the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- **A system of follow-up and review** that will drive new actions and results, allow for sharing of experiences, lessons, and knowledge, and incorporate new metrics for impact analysis.

Summit Preparatory Process and Work Streams

The Summit outcomes will be advanced through several priority work streams that lead up to and carry beyond the Summit moment. These will build on the many existing global events, agreements, collaborations and platforms that already support the transformation of our food systems.

1. **Evidence, Knowledge, & Policy**
2. **Action Tracks**
3. **Food Systems Dialogues & Engagement**
4. **Advocacy, Communications, & Mobilization**
5. **A Powerful Digital Platform**

Overview of the Evidence, Knowledge, & Policy Work Stream

This work stream will enable the Summit to facilitate, collect, curate, and further develop the evidence and science to underpin the Summit's vision, positions, recommendations, and actions. Those working in this area will ensure that action tracks, food systems dialogues, the scientific group, and other initiatives are linked across the global community and that materials are tailored to specific country and regional contexts.

Sample Activities Include:

- Working with and through the **Scientific Group** to support its mandate;
- **Engaging with research constituencies and coalitions** across various technical areas and regions to build a more common understanding around food systems with thousands of researchers and scientists around the world;
- **Curating data, evidence, and knowledge** generated at all levels;
- **Drawing out the best insights** from various evidence streams and the cutting edge efforts underway today (e.g. Academies of Sciences (IAP), professional scientific associations, IPCC, HLPE, universities, knowledge in civil society organizations and private sector, etc.);
- **Using existing and new models and scenarios to help inform strategies and actions** for food systems transformation to achieve the SDGs, through understanding of tradeoffs and cost/benefit calculations of different interventions;
- **Developing case studies** at country level, city level, company level, and for other actors in order to understand and feature best practices, share lessons learned, and help scale and transfer what works;
- **Curating and developing a set of frameworks and tools that can help all stakeholders** move forward strategies and efforts related to food systems transformation before and after the Summit;
- **Drafting documents and recommendations** that stakeholders will review at the Pre-Summit and Summit events.

Overview of the Action Tracks Work Stream

The Action Tracks offer all constituencies a space to share and learn, with a view to supercharging their progress by fostering new actions and partnerships and by amplifying existing initiatives. The initial Action Tracks are designed to be aligned with the Summit's five objectives. Actors in these tracks will explore key cross-cutting levers of change.



- Form action track teams with diverse membership
- Frame issues – situation, complication, rich world vs poor world (build off other efforts)
- Curate and build out the evidence base and knowledge gaps
- Articulate the big solutions (e.g. dietary shifts in rich world will require consumer education, insurance company discounts for nutritious foods, increase supply in food desert, etc...)
- Articulate the way to make those solutions happen with enablers (e.g. policies, institutions, finance, incentives, data, innovation, etc...)
- Identify and proactively engage “pace setters” with solutions, including public-private partnerships, companies, coalitions, countries, and localities
- Systematically interact with other action track teams to identify and problem solve tradeoff issues
- Orchestrate some partnership commitments to announce at the Food Systems Summit

Levers of Change

Finance,
Policy,
Innovation,
Data & Evidence,
Women and Youth
Empowerment,
Governance

Overview of the Food Systems Dialogues & Engagement Work Stream

This work stream aims to facilitate the widespread engagement of multiple actors from different societies, stakeholders, and sectors in preparation for the Summit. Through dialogues in all countries of the world, alongside major events, and through a franchised toolkit that can be taken up by any constituency, the Summit will offer an inclusive and unique approach to ensuring this is both “A People’s Summit” and “A Solutions Summit”, by giving an opportunity for all countries and many communities to discuss their food system, what’s working and not, what is a priority to improve, and priority actions moving forward. It will look to intentionally build synergies with the many existing efforts, initiatives, and alliances in place or underway.

Sample Activities Include:

- **Ensuring three food systems dialogues in every country of the world**, working through decentralized multi-stakeholder partner groups to ensure that these dialogues are locally owned and cover the food system value chain to best advance eventual action;
- **Providing a “dialogues in a box” toolkit that can be franchised with leaders of constituencies around the world** -- cities, communities, civic groups, schools, etc – driving awareness and action;
- **Working with key thematic events and issue-specific constituencies** during the preparatory process to leverage their discussions and outcomes to advance shared objectives with the Summit;
- Managing an **online consultation process**;
- **Curating the inputs and feedback received** into summary documents with key ideas and priorities;

Overview of the Advocacy, Communications, and Mobilization Work Stream

The Summit's success will depend on increasing awareness, shaping the narrative, and driving mobilization around food systems at the heart of the SDGs. This will require a focus on communications to a broader set of stakeholders including NGOs, private sector, farmers, and the public about issues relating to the Summit, which includes building a robust online and media presence. It will also require work with the Summit's innovative Champions Network to build, mobilize, and maintain strategic coalitions with partners to drive a global campaign toward and beyond the Summit.

Sample Activities Include:

- **Developing a brand identity that positions the Summit as urgent and engaging**, creating a narrative around its action-oriented goals, including creative content and targeted assets in all UN official languages;
- Working with and through the **Champions Network** and **constituency groups** to support its mandate of informing the preparatory process and harnessing the widest possible support across all stakeholders with equal status and ideas to drive a new coalition for food systems transformation;
- **Engaging a wide range of constituencies** in international and local markets to raise awareness, commitment to the agenda, and desire to take action by developing a cohesive digital strategy to reach target audiences more effectively, using the platforms they prefer to spend their time – websites, online platforms, social media channels and ensure this reaches across UN platforms and channels;
- **Building and managing strategic coalitions with advocacy and communications groups** to develop and drive a global digital campaign with creative and targeted content which will resonate with the focused audience groups and in local markets toward and beyond the Summit;
- **Developing and managing a strategic media and digital content outreach and marketing plan** that favorably impacts the views of the public and opinion leaders in order to raise the Summit profile and generate broad support.

Overview of the Digital Platform Work Stream

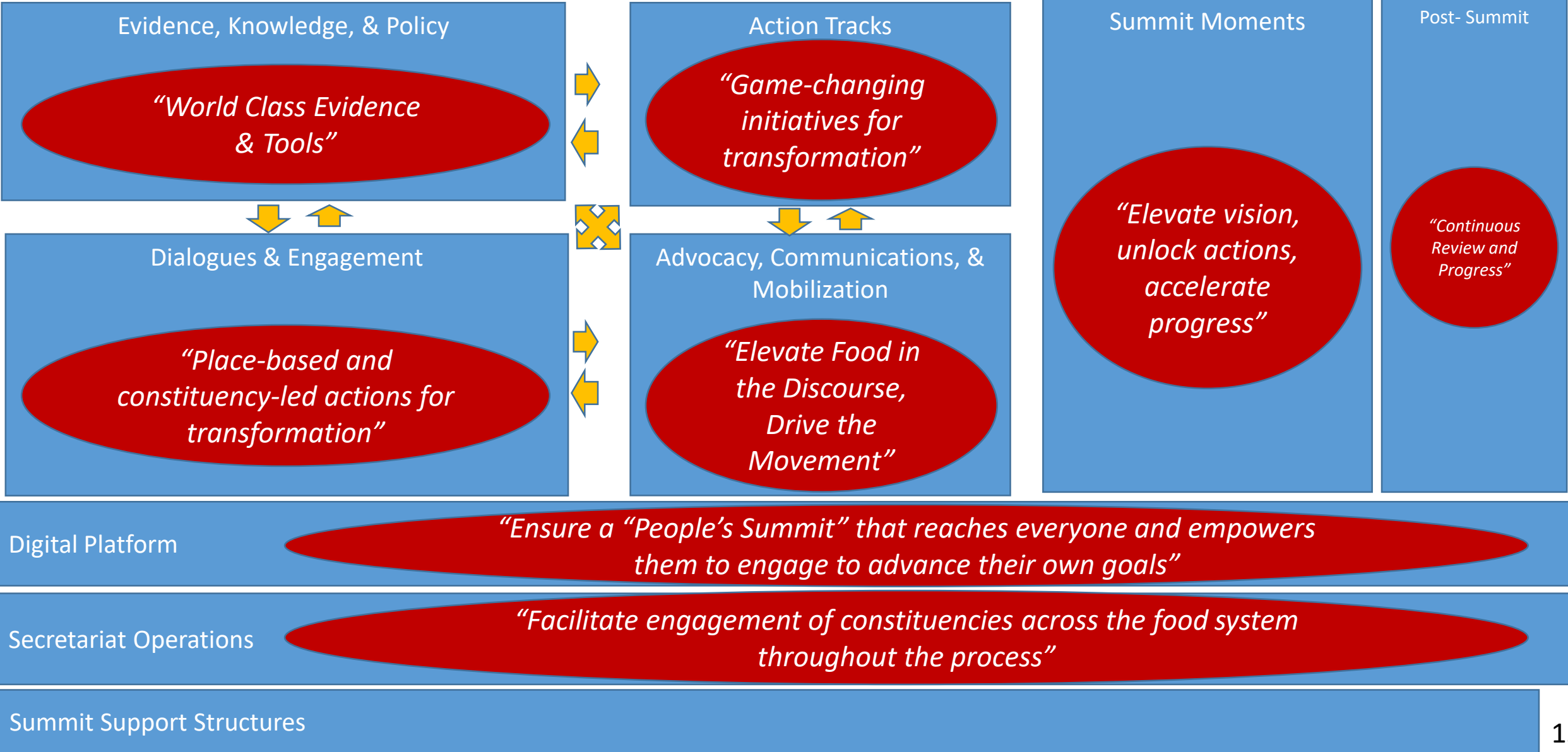
A powerful digital platform will provide a universally accessible, dynamic, and inclusive platform where the Summit process will be accessible 24/7 up to and beyond the Summit. As a “People’s Summit”, this will enable the Summit to reach into all countries of the world and directly to as many communities and individuals as possible to engage them around the Summit and advance a conversation around the opportunities for improvements in food systems to help achieve all of their goals. In complement to the Summit’s website and social media channels for communications, the digital platform will enable outreach and mobilization, support for knowledge management across all work streams, coordination of different stakeholder groups, and tracking contributions and actions made to support the Summit from all actors.

Sample Activities Include:

- **Enabling online surveys and consultations** with global constituencies;
- **Sourcing, synthesizing, and tracking actions and commitments to action** from all actors;
- **Sharing framework, tools, and materials** for hundreds of individuals – even billions – to engage with the Summit over the next two years;
- Storing and sharing documents and notes across all work streams to **enable a dynamic conversation and productive collaboration** between stakeholders in all parts of the world.

This digital platform will intentionally look to build on and intersect with existing platforms to ensure scale of reach and sustainability after the Summit.

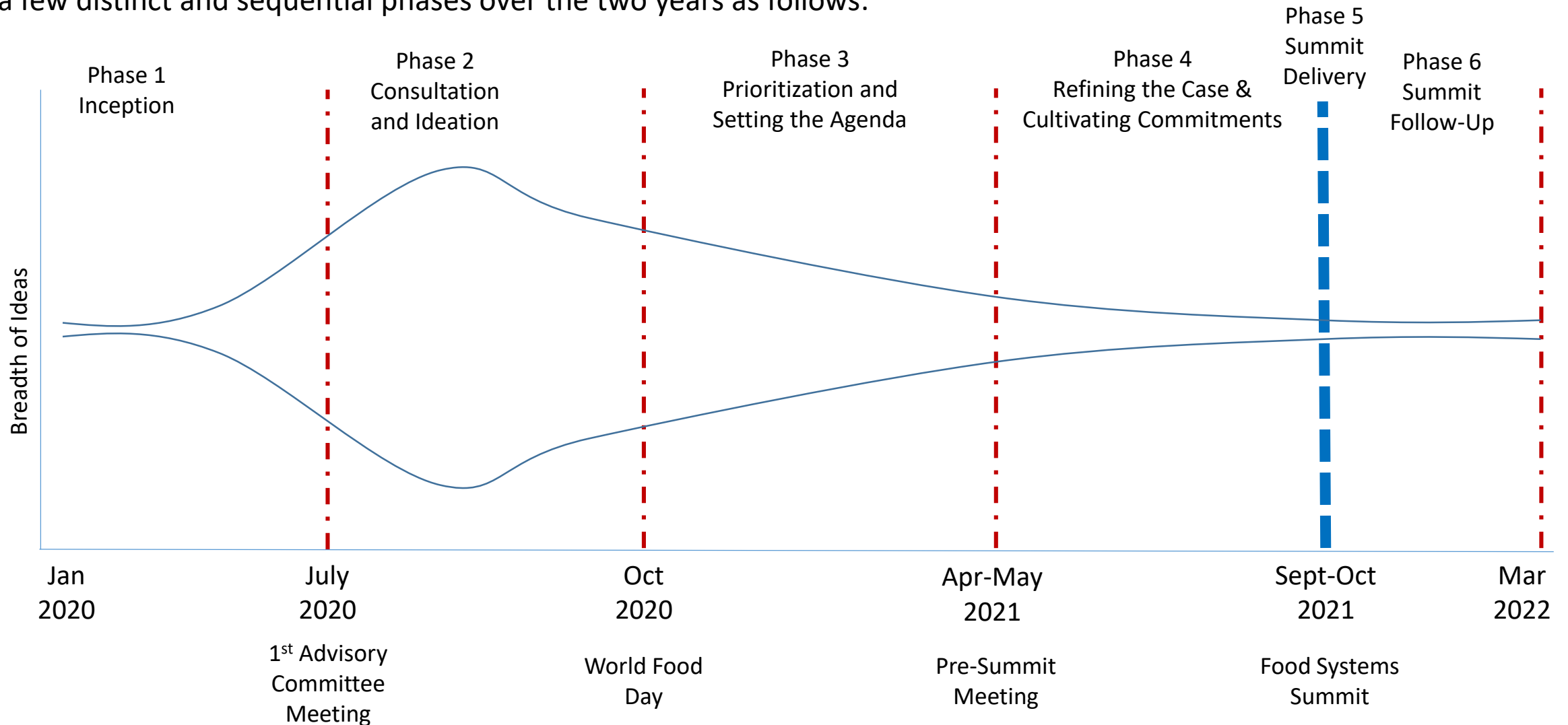
Objectives of Areas of Work to Deliver on the Summit Vision



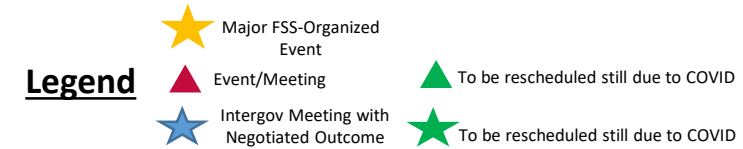
Moving Forward with Next Steps

Summit Approach and Phases

The Food Systems Summit itself is a pinnacle moment that must ultimately culminate from significant preparatory activities and be followed up by several other efforts to ensure the it translates into action and impact to deliver its intended vision. From initial consultations, there is a broad agreement that the approach to implementing the Summit should be envisioned in a few distinct and sequential phases over the two years as follows:



Overview of Summit Roadmap and Milestones



Activity	2020				2021				2022		
	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar		
Summit Support Structure Meetings			▲ 1 st Advisory Comm ▲ 1 st Scientific Group ▲ 1 st Champions Group ▲ 1 st UN TF	▲ 2 nd Advisory Comm ▲ 2 nd Scientific Group ▲ 2 nd Champions Group ▲ UN TF	▲ 3 rd Advisory Comm ▲ 3 rd Scientific Group ▲ 3 rd Champions Group ▲ UN TF	▲ 4 th Advisory Comm ▲ 4 th Scientific Group ▲ 4 th Champions Group ▲ UN TF	▲ 5 th Advisory Comm ▲ 5 th Scientific Group ▲ 5 th Champions Group ▲ UN TF	▲ 6 th Advisory Comm ▲ 6 th Scientific Group ▲ 6 th Champions Group ▲ UN TF	▲ Final Advisory Comm ▲ Final Scientific Group ▲ Final Champions Group ▲ UN TF		
Key Events to Leverage	▲ IFAD GC		▲ WFO Event ▲ HLPF ▲ AGRF ★ UNGA	★ CFS ▲ G20 “World Food Day”	▲ CAS ▲ IFAD GC ★ UNEA	▲ WEF ▲ UN LDC V	★ UN Biodiv Conf? ★ UN Oceans Conf? ▲ WB Mtngs ▲ EDD ▲ EAT Forum	★ FAO Conf ▲ FOCAC ▲ AGRF ▲ UNGA ★ UN CCD? ★ COP ★ N4G ★ CFS ▲ Expo “World Food Day”	▲ IFAD GC ▲ WEF		
Summit, Pre-Summit, & Regional Consultations						★ TBC Pre-Summit		★ TBC Summit			
Other Local, National, Regional, & Global Consultation			Online Surveys, Engagement, and Campaign								
			Engagement with Member States in NYC, Rome, and Nairobi through Briefings and Group of Friends								
			Country-Level Food Systems Dialogues							Post Summit	
			City Food Systems Dialogues “In-a-box”							Post Summit	
			Self-driven and franchised community & constituency mobilization (schools, youth groups, civic groups, etc...)								

Upcoming Priorities

Between now and early September

- **Support Structure meetings** - Scientific Group, Champions Network, and UN Task Force
- **Champions Network launched**
- **Initiation of Action Tracks** with an event where we will invite all member states and other stakeholders to participate
- **Wider communications, engagement, and mobilization** of all constituencies towards the Summit
- **Resource mobilization** to enable work streams to advance

By late September and October

- **Website launch**
- **Start of food systems dialogues**
- **Digital platform initiated**
- **Partner events and engagement around UN General Assembly and World Food Day**

Thank You