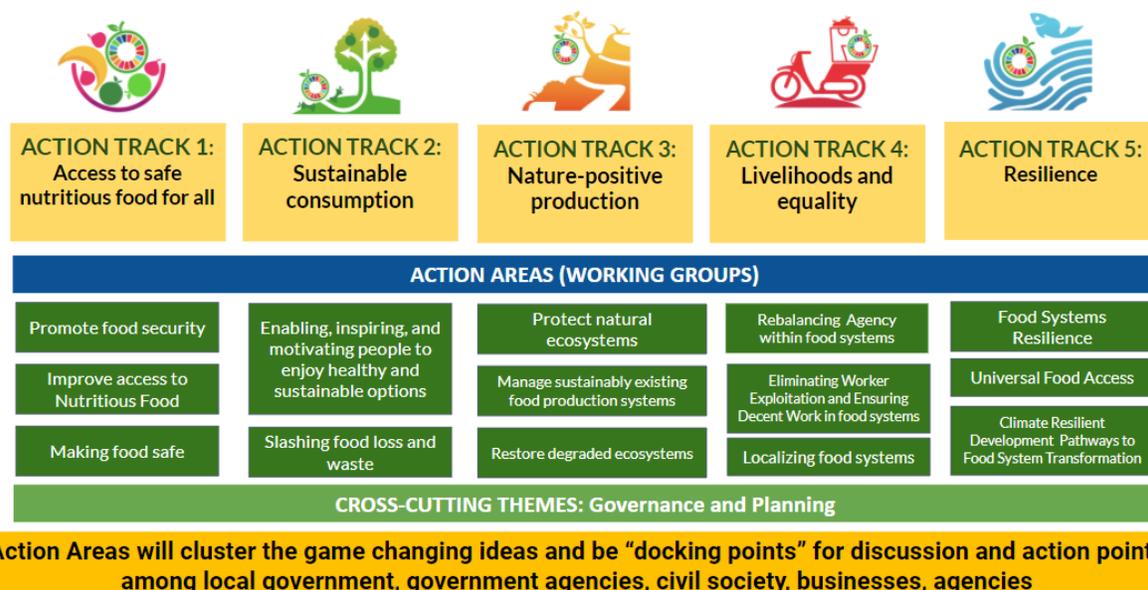


UNFSS ACTION TRACKS



ACTION TRACK 1: Access to safe and nutritious food for all

In summary, AT1 focuses on food supply chains and the availability, affordability, and food properties aspects of food environments.

Box 1: Global Targets of Relevance to AT1 Impact

Most Relevant SDG Targets

- SDG Target 2.1: Safe and universal access to safe and nutritious food
- SDG Target 2.2: End all forms of malnutrition

(Numerous other SDG Targets are also relevant to the work of AT1, including SDG 1 and targets 2.3, 2.4, 3.4, and, less directly, some of those related to SDGs 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, and 15).

WHO Global Targets 2025

- 40% reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted
- 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age
- 30% reduction in low birth weight
- No increase in childhood overweight
- Increase in the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
- Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%

Action Area 1: Promote food security

Approximately 7.2 million Filipinos are experiencing involuntary hunger aggravated by Covid-19 pandemic. This merits urgent action. Addressing it will likely involve significantly increasing agricultural productivity in sustainable ways, embracing efficiency-increasing technologies without alienating the poorer, smaller-scale, and more excluded fishers,

farmers, and livestock growers, enhancing social protection that builds productive assets, and reducing inequalities in food access, among other things.

This action area also touches on the linkages between the food system and its role in improving nutrition and climate change, land use change, and natural resource degradation; and highlights the need for disaggregated data to assess the impacts of various constraints and inequalities on hunger and food security, specifically on vulnerable groups such as women and girls and the Indigenous Peoples.

Action Area 2: Improve access to nutritious food

A large share of the population is not eating a healthy, balanced diet – and about 31% of the population cannot currently even afford to purchase one. Improving access to nutritious foods and making them the preferred option will require addressing three main barriers to access: price (i.e., how to make nutritious food cheaper and nutrient-poor foods relatively more expensive), purchasing power (i.e., increasing purchasing power via social protection, wages, etc.), and perceived affordability (i.e., changing how people value nutritious foods relative to their price).

At the global level, this action area also highlights the need to respond to the problems on stunting and overweight in children, anemia, adult obesity, and non-communicable diseases.

Action Area 3: Making food safe

Foodborne diseases have been increasing in the Philippines. Addressing this, will require focusing on the markets where vulnerable people buy food by implementing relevant, appropriate interventions that can reach lower-income consumers while not excluding lower-income producers and vendors; shifting from hazard thinking to risk thinking, which focuses on understanding relative risk to cause harm; creating an enabling regulatory ecosystem that provides the right incentives and support for actors to adopt improved practices; and fostering consumer demand for food safety. This action area recommends to consider gender equity issues, specifically on the roles and responsibilities and access to resources of women and men involved in keeping food safe throughout the food system.

ACTION TRACK 2: Sustainable Consumption

The problem to be tackled: Unhealthy diets have become a primary source of poor health and environmental degradation around the world, with glaring disparities between rich and poor. AT2 will focus on the most relevant elements of food environments (i.e., vendor properties and food messaging), with food consumption, the leading driver of food production, at the center of the discussions.

The growing global food demand is shaped by shifting diets, but also by population growth, changing demographics, lower levels of physical activity and increasing household food waste. Knowing this, AT2 aims to initiate dialogues that can lead to shifts in consumption through changes in food policy, food environments, private sector actions and offerings, and consumer behavior.

Action Area 1: Enabling, inspiring, and motivating people to enjoy healthy and sustainable options

Potential efforts to be undertaken for this action area will be based on data on consumer trust, demand, behavior, and education; concepts on food marketing; and food-related sustainability and nutrition standards and dietary guidelines.

The initiatives will cut across the following goals:

- Creating healthy, safe and sustainable food environments to enable people to adopt and maintain healthy dietary practices
- Improving the product experience of healthier and more sustainable food
- Improving consumers motivation and capability

Action Area 2: Slashing food loss and food waste

This action area could revolve around interventions the following:

- Integrated food policy and regulatory reforms that improve food environments
- Role of schools in promoting healthy, safe and sustainable diets and fostering lifelong healthy and sustainable consumption
- Applications of behavioral insights to influence healthy and sustainable food choices;
- Significant private/public investments to increase production, access and affordability of foods that contribute to healthy and sustainably produced diets
- Investments in improving food-related infrastructure and logistics systems, and shortening of supply chains;
- Implementation of trade rules that facilitate improved access to healthy, safe and sustainable diets;
- Strengthened capacity to implement and enforce food safety laws;
- Development of partnerships to minimize food waste in the food service, retail and home environments; and
- Consumer and retail food waste monitoring and regulations

ACTION TRACK 3: Nature-positive production

While the population continues to increase, there is a louder call to explore ways to consciously minimize the negative impacts of food production while ensuring that food is available and accessible for all.

New and emerging approaches, the use of traditional knowledge, and regenerative and inclusive practices (such as agroecology, sustainable fishing and democratic food governance), make nature-positive food production - a solution that work for both people and nature - possible despite systemic local and global supply chains constraints.

Action Area 1: Protecting natural systems

This action area advocates the adoption of sustainable practices that protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production. This may cover themes around the following concepts and approaches:

- Regenerative practices that manage soil and water such as low-carbon farm productions and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Non-destructive use of natural resources that protects and builds upon natural and social capital (ie efforts to eliminate slash and burn or *kaingin*)
- Biodiversity and/or Diversified cropping systems
- Social safeguards and legislation and governance mechanisms in terms of natural ecosystems protection

Action Area 2: Manage existing food production systems sustainably

This action area enables farmers and fishers to design nature-positive solutions for their own geographies and socio-economic contexts. It supports nature-positive and context-specific approaches from digital farming to traditional and indigenous knowledge. This covers, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Soil health of rice producing areas; Sustainable practices in producing cacao, coffee, coconut, corn, sugarcane, banana, pineapple, mangoes (i.e. intercropping, agroforestry, post-harvest strategies)
- Respect and preservation of indigenous knowledge
- Precision agriculture and balanced fertilization
- Promotion of sustainable local sourcing and indigenous crops
- Aquifer protection
- Sustainable fishing

Action Area 3: Restore degraded ecosystems

This action area aims to restore and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and soil condition/health for sustainable food production, reducing the need for further land conversions and promoting ecological resilience. The dialogues and collective actions to pursue this goal can be around the following concepts and practices:

- Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT)
- Farm Diversification and Intercropping
- Reforestation
- Restorative Innovations/ Regenerative agriculture / Circular economy
- Rejuvenation of denuded forest
- Peatlands Management
- Social, technical, and financial mechanisms on sustainable ecosystems management

ACTION TRACK 4: Livelihoods and Equality

The problem: Inequality and power imbalances – at household, community, national and global levels – are consistently constraining the ability of food systems to deliver poverty reduction and sustainable, equitable livelihoods. Many food producers do not receive sufficient compensations for their agricultural labor or their work in food value chains. Meanwhile, some also lack equitable access to and ownership of agricultural assets and natural resources and incomes, while others struggle with discriminatory social norms, practices, and roles.

To address these challenges, this action track aims to tackle poverty from a multidimensional perspective and focus on the vulnerable groups (women, youth, indigenous peoples, the disabled, seasonal laborers, etc.).

Action Area 1: Rebalancing agency within food systems

This action area highlights the importance of advancing equitable livelihoods through building agency for the underrepresented – those who lack the space or the enabling environment in which to exercise their power and rights. It implies protecting and strengthening the capacities and the knowledge, resilience, and innovation that they possess.

This also strongly supports leveraging private sector engagements and responsible agricultural investments to improve equitable access to livelihoods and ensure responsible and culturally appropriate supply chains that can benefit small-scale producers, workers and consumers. This action area also challenges the active participation of financial institutions and organizations cooperate towards responsible investment in agri-food value chains.

Action Area 2: Eliminating worker exploitation and ensuring decent work in food systems

Discussing food systems means going beyond the classical value chain approach. It is important to consider the multifunctionality of food and agriculture systems and identify the most vulnerable actors in food systems both in urban and rural areas, with a view to ensuring their human and labour rights and promoting their livelihoods. When dealing with livelihoods in agriculture and fisheries, the work must not be limited to production but also production of non-

agricultural commodities. It seeks to address how food systems contribute to sustainable development involving a combination of economic, social and environmental issues. This also entails the process of confronting structural barriers within institutions and policies to achieve long-term, lasting inclusive impact.

The workforce in agriculture, fisheries and food production whose livelihoods need to be improved to ensure equity and social justice are:

- **Agricultural workforce:** comprises an estimated 1 billion farmers (self-employed) and waged, employed agricultural workers
- **Farmers:** smallholders/family farms to large commercial farms, plantations
- **Waged agricultural workers:** employed on farms and plantations in crop, livestock, dairy, aquacultural and non-food crop production 300-500 million workers. Migrant, women, indigenous, youth, rural/urban. Full-time, part time, seasonal, casual, temporary, piece rate workers
- **Fishers/fisherfolk** - marine and freshwater
- **Food processing/manufacturing workers:** Food manufacturing including beverages; Animal food manufacturing; Grain & oilseed milling; Sugar & confectionary product manufacturing; Fruit & vegetable preserving & specialty food manufacturing; Dairy product manufacturing; Seafood product preparation & packaging; Bakeries; Other food manufacturing; Animal slaughtering & processing; Animal slaughtering; Meat processed from carcasses; Rendering and meat by product processing; Poultry processing including slaughtering
- **Transport/distribution workers:** handling and delivering raw food products, semi-processed and processed food products including riders
- **Supermarket/shop and market workers:** handling packaged, canned foods and fresh foods when serving customers and filling shelves
- **Food preparers/servers:** restaurants, cafes, hotels, conference centres, catering companies, canteens in schools & factories, street food vendors

Action Area 3: Localizing food systems

This action track seeks to promote local production and sourcing, which may involve actions that address the barriers that hamper access to financing for the private sector. Increasing investment and access to finance is critical to achieve rural transformation, especially for small-scale food producers and rural micro, small and medium agri-food enterprises. In this context, public finance can play an important role in supporting rural transformation and investment in food systems, mitigating risks and attracting more private investment.

This also put high value in supporting smallholder farmers in their production choices, technologies, natural resource management, and market links to value chains. This determines not only the sustainability and resilience of their livelihoods and their capacity to overcome poverty and food insecurity, but also the diversity of food that will be available to their

communities and to consumers and the prices they will pay. Equally, the choices made by consumers and the processors, wholesalers and retailers who supply them with food, affects the opportunities available for small-scale producers.

ACTION TRACK 5: Resilience

On a global level, Action Track 5 aims to identify solutions to ensure that food systems - which are affected by conflict, and environmental, health and economic shocks and stresses - can maintain functionality, recover from adverse effects, and improve to a better-off state. These actions include a focus on “productive disruption” – such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Furthermore, it is important to note that the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic requires additional solutions to build greater resilience within the current food system from production to consumption.

Action Area 1: Food Systems Resilience

The resilience of food systems demands a comprehensive approach that integrates responses to climate change, biodiversity loss, conflict, epidemics, economic crises, food insecurity, malnutrition and considering poverty, inequalities and poor land use and distribution as structural root causes of increased hunger.

Strengthening economic, social, and environmental foundations in a manner that guarantees food systems resilience, food security and nutrition for all, while stewarding healthy ecosystems for current and future generations. Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks; prevent (reduce exposure), absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to an evolving risk scenario, or transform when the current food system is no longer economically, socially and environmentally feasible.

Action Area 2: Universal food access

The impact of a shock, whether caused by conflict, climatic, economic or political disruption always hits hardest those who are least able to cope. Individual financial resilience plays a critical role in determining whether people can cope, or whether they are required to make unsustainable demands on their assets, in turn incurring lasting impacts on their ability to recover. Financial resilience is also a critical factor in securing and sustaining access to nourishing food, protecting people from undernutrition, as well as diet related disease. Expenditure on food is often sacrificed in order to meet other forms of essential expenditure (e.g. housing costs or protection of assets) but this incurs immediate impacts on the health and wellbeing of household members, particularly those who have elevated nutritional needs.

Action Area 3: Climate resilient development pathways to food system transformation

The key challenge is food availability and price volatility during poor harvest periods and in shock-prone areas (natural, economic or health-related shocks). In times of shock, the length of time it may take to trigger and organize food deliveries is highly dependent on political, social and economic factors – risking delays in supporting people and communities.

Extreme price volatility in times of food shortage can lead to medium and long-term economic challenges, damage health and nutrition (and long-term well-being), and lead to negative coping mechanisms that reduce the productive capacity of individuals after the shock.

References:

- United Food Systems Summit 2021: Discussion Starters for Actions 1 to 5
- United Food Systems Summit 2021: Synthesis of Propositions