

FSS+2 Plenary 2: Five calls to action for more resilient food systems



Resilient food systems are a cornerstone of the SDGs. Only purposeful actions for resilience, led by governments and supported by all stakeholders, will meet the needs of vulnerable communities suffering the impacts of conflict, economic disturbances, ecological degradation, and climate change. Focusing on more resilient food systems offers several co-benefits, including a contribution to rural transformation, economic development, environmental protection, and health outcomes.

Today's food systems are vulnerable. Globally, 258 million people face acute food insecurity. Another 3.1 billion people cannot afford enough safe, nutritious foods for their families. Gender inequalities in food and agriculture are costing the world 1 trillion dollars annually. Unprecedented population growth, climate change, and increasing conflict are driving food insecurity and slowing the achievement of the SDGs.

Building resilient food systems is complex. It requires a nuanced understanding of context, culture, and the multiplicity of shocks and risks, particularly those facing the most vulnerable people. It also requires mobilizing the evidence, investments, and operational capacities to translate intention into reality. However, as the global community aims to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, the resilient food systems plenary will highlight five key areas that matter across regions and food systems.

- 1. Boost local production for local consumption**, especially of indigenous crops that are both more nutritious and culturally appropriate, but also more climate-resilient and ecologically friendly. Producing and transforming foods locally, **focusing on women's key roles in the food system**, contributes to local economic development, improved access to affordable and healthy diets, and more resilient communities. This applies not only at the local level, but also between regions and across borders.
- 2. Employ agroecological and regenerative practices** in farming, fishing and forest communities is critical. Engaging all people -- **especially women and indigenous people** who play a pivotal role in food production -- in practices that replenish soils, restore water resources, and revitalize ecosystems build resilience from the ground up. Only seven harvests stand between the world and 2030, and the window for action is closing as the biodiversity and climate emergencies threatens the productive potential of the land.
- 3. Catalyze a massive reduction in post-harvest losses** of grains, tubers, legumes, fruits, and vegetables. Food lost to poor farming, harvest, and storage practices do not only represent lost food security and wasted resources, but lost opportunities to invest income into **education, nutrition, and wellbeing**. Where losses are unavoidable, it is key that communities are empowered to recycle nutrients through robust agroecological practices.

4. **Leverage institutional food procurement** to provide stable demand for smallholder farmers, paired with the appropriate extension and information services to enable **small producers (especially those from marginalized communities)** to provide food for schools, hospitals, and strategic reserves. These powerful tools connect small food producers and value chain actors with formal markets while facilitating access to credit, investments in improved practices, and risk reduction strategies.
5. **Put youth at the center, especially young women**, who can serve as agents of change and are uniquely positioned to build on existing knowledge while driving new approaches to adapt to today's challenges. **Youth employment, entrepreneurship and research** in food production and food value chains will be key to build healthy and equitable agri-food systems that work for people, planet, and prosperity.

These **five calls to action** - led by governments with civil society, private sector, and communities – contribute to diversified and sustainable food systems, even in the most fragile contexts.

These actions stem from existing policies, dialogues, pathways, and plans, and should not be perceived as a new agenda. Within these five areas, all stakeholders have a role to play to enable communities to meet the needs of today while building the foundations to overcome the challenges of tomorrow.

Plenary 2, July 25th - Run of Show

Part I – Opening (14:30 – 15:00)

14:30 – 15:00	Open Statements	30 minutes
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Part II – Panel 1 (15:00 – 16:00)

15:00 – 15:30	Panel 1: Highlighting Best Practices, Milestones, Challenges and Lessons Learned	30 minutes
15:30 – 16:05	Floor Interventions	35 minutes
16:05 – 16:10	Wrap Up	5 minutes

Part III – Panel 2 (16:10 – 17:20)

16:10 – 16:40	Panel 2: Five <i>Calls to Action</i> for More Resilient Food Systems by 2030	30 minutes
16:40 – 17:15	Floor Interventions	35 minutes
17:15 – 17:20	Wrap Up	5 minutes

Part IV – Closing (17:20- 17:30)

17:20 – 17:30	Closing	10 minutes
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