

# The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals Position by the Farming First Coalition



Gains in food security, eradicating poverty and reducing child mortality cannot be sustained without a thriving agricultural sector that protects the planet and offers growth to farmers and their communities.

## KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Agriculture and food and nutrition security are central to realizing the Post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) has taken the perspective of people suffering from hunger and poverty between 1990 to 2015 years review. Many still live on the edge of a lack of specific focus on agriculture and rural development, as central to the goal, particularly in the early years of implementation.

Since the 2002 World Food Crisis and Hunger Crisis, the international policy agenda has shifted, clearly identifying that hunger and malnutrition are a poverty trap and a part of a cycle of vulnerability – which will undermine progress around sustainable development if not addressed. We also know now that children who pass through the first 1000 days of life (from conception and until two years later) have a greater ability to gain, learn and thrive and poverty. Rio+20 further underlines the strategic role of agriculture in achieving long-term solutions in sustainable development – both in developed and developing countries.

The World Bank estimates that GDP growth from agriculture generates over double the gains in poverty reduction compared to other sectors. Current 40% of the population in developing countries engage in agriculture. Investment has the potential to change the lives of hundreds of millions whilst also addressing other inequalities. For instance, to achieve rural income parity with urban income and all men in achieving the MDGs, the FAO estimates that investments in gender-sensitive rural development and farming could boost food and nutrition security globally by up to 4%.

In 2009, for the first time more of the world lives in urban and peri-urban areas. 94% more of the world's farmland, a dynamic agriculture sector will remain essential. Its benefits depend on national production for meeting their consumption, as well as opportunities in food processing and urban agriculture.

- 2. Farmers in the developing world can become as productive as those in the developed world – while supporting continuous gains in sustainability for all.

While globally agricultural productivity continues to rise, there is still a significant gap in reaching optimum potential yields in many developing countries, and a part of Africa yields have even declined. Rio+20, in facing the challenges for agriculture emphasized the need to investigate a diversity of farming systems, through support to farmers and increased investments in research, technology and market infrastructure, extension and knowledge sharing. This will catalyze innovation and empower farmers.

We need to work with farmers of all sizes around the world to make sustainable intensification producing more food per unit of land, while safeguarding their soils, using livestock and other natural resources and adopting integrated pest management. Farmers also need agri-technology tailored products, quality inputs, smaller insurance and other support to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Given the diversity of landscapes and agro-ecological zones, sustainable intensification will require a variety of farming practices and solutions.

Evidence from the EU indicates that continuous gains in productivity can be coupled with significant improvements in resource use efficiency. The 2012 report from Food to Market found that in the past 20 years, yields per acre in key crops such as wheat, maize and rice continued to grow while use of fertiliser, water, fuel, energy and carbon emissions all declined. Pesticide loss also decreased.<sup>1</sup>



Investments in agriculture have no parallel in other areas in terms of the potential to promote human development and sustainable economic growth.



Investment in agriculture is often a process, with diverse improvements in productivity coupled with improved resource use.

### 3.3. Re-Committal Empower Farmers via Support in Knowledge-Sharing and Accessibility, Quality Extension in Farm Management and Marketing

Agriculture is a knowledge-intensive sector. Farmers need access to training and extension, while sharing traditional knowledge to ensure appropriate production, nutrition or eggs and related diets. Extension empowers farmers also maximize the use of technology in feeding, caring for or improved seeds, fertilizers, and water management, while disseminating information on consumer safety practices and building capacity in farm management and marketing. Efforts should seek to engage women farmers and to increase the numbers of female extensionists, given the resulting benefits in household welfare and nutrition.

Declining investments in extension and disseminating agriculture innovations are starting to reverse, particularly in developing countries. More support is needed by international efforts and national governments. The World Bank's investments in agriculture still totaled less than 0.5% of the overall investment of the Bank in the same year.

Some of the most promising innovations to date for reach and effectiveness of extension, focusing on farmer-to-farmer support at the national level, while engaging farmers in research and development. The Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets (ESFM) program, operating in 11 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, promotes this collaborative approach. Farmer organizations are partnered with local research facilities, research and extension experts, while gradually building their ability to collect, organize and exchange information for use in health and farm management.

Women comprise 50% of the rural workforce, but only 10% of rural extension services and income services.



### 3.4. Supportive Frameworks for Investment in Job Extension and Inclusion Markets

Making agriculture a dynamic sector requires investments in policies and infrastructure that support all actors along the value chain, while creating opportunities for collaboration and healthy relations. Farmers also need to be able to access markets at the local, regional and global level to realize their livelihood. In some countries, this requires improving on roads to transport, storage and market facilities. In Tanzania, via the South Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) project, both public and private organizations are working to work together to channel USD 4 billion of investment into the country. This activity will triple the agricultural output in the region, while building up the part of East or Tanzania to maximize the trade potential for Tanzania and its landlocked neighboring countries. In the first stage of the project 20,000 smallholders are being supported to become commercial farmers, generating an estimated \$1.4 billion annually in revenues for the country.

### 3.5. Work with Farmers and Other Actors Across the Value Chain to Address Lost Food Waste, but also Food Loss

Increasing focus on food waste, particularly in developing countries where post-consumer losses can be as high as 30% of 40%, after age and produce the value of national resources cost. However, less attention has been paid to food loss across the supply chain.

In 2010, FAO estimated that poorly developed systems for handling, storage, packaging, transportation and marketing of agricultural products in developing countries results in post-harvest losses ranging from 15% to as staggering 50%. Similarly, lack of knowledge of integrated post-management and access to crop production products results in losses from pests, diseases and weeds ranging from 10% to 50% of smallholder crops in India to 20% of the wheat yield in Kazakhstan.<sup>4</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should carry forward the commitments made under the Millennium Development Goals, while integrating into the global post-2015 development agenda for sustainable development.

Forming Part 1 under the Zero Hunger Challenge is agreed starting point for proposed SDG on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture. It emphasizes addressing the needs of hungry people around the world – offering a scope for more sustainable food systems that address sustainability and malnutrition, while promoting sustainable agriculture.

### SDG: Eradicating hunger and malnutrition

**Why?** “We cannot hunger, extreme poverty and the rise of malnutrition and food insecurity within a generation”  
(Draft Consultation FAD-WFP, 4 April 2012)

#### Possible 1 – INVESTMENT AND TRADE

##### Targets

- Target investments to promote sustainable resources use via internal investment policies and public-private collaboration
- Promote diversity in economic opportunity by expanding market access and supporting smallholder farmers, particularly women
- Invest in agricultural research and development partnerships to promote innovation and to build local capacity, particularly among developing country researchers

#### 2 – INTEGRATION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY OBJECTIVES

- Foster malnutrition security for both malnourished
- Promote the role of agriculture in delivering malnutrition security solutions
- Shift diet and produce healthier food

#### 3 – SUPPORT FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

- Increase access for smallholder farmers, especially rural women, to agriculture efficiency, training, capacity building, knowledge transfer and innovation practices
- Foster agriculture, such as extension programs, to address social issues and promote education and knowledge transfer
- Build resilience for climate change, political and economic shocks

#### 4 – REDUCTION OF POST-HARVEST LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE

- Optimize production through better farm management, food storage and processing through appropriate technology and knowledge sharing
- Reduce the amount of edible food waste
- Measure progress

Draw upon existing commitments, and international laws, such as:

**Measuring** The 2007 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security (including the commitment to the allocation of at least 10 per cent of national budget to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years)

The CAADP (Comprehensive Africa's Agricultural Development Program) objective of 10 per cent average annual growth in agricultural production by 2015

The 2008 Malawi commitment to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFFP) USD 2 billion

#### The key objectives of the Zero Hunger Challenge

- 100% access to adequate food year-round
- Zero wasted children less than five years old
- Promoting sustainable food systems
- 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income
- Zero loss or waste of food

#### Other indicators include

- Increased global food production
- Deep market reform of development support events for all (biologics in maternal and child health)
- Changes in income, employment and investments in agriculture
- Existence of legislation and policies that support free global, regional and local trade and change in current legislation to promote women's rights and access to resources, including credit, land tenure and inputs
- Promoting food safety and reducing food waste through measures to better storage, processing and handling practices and technologies

## SDG Adoption of sustainable agricultural practices

**Why?** This goal should recognize and support a wide diversity of agricultural systems, farming practices, technologies and farmers, as well as stakeholders. It should also recognize that sustainable agriculture differs by landscapes. Thus, countries and farmers need flexibility and variety of solutions.

### Possible Targets

#### 1

- Promote the adoption of good agricultural practices, such as the full soil-level climate data system for crop nutrients and Integrated Pest Management
- Promote zero net land degradation in arable and intensity production on existing arable land
- Ensure that food production can meet growing demand in line with the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity as biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, and ecosystem services are maintained

#### 2-RESTORING SOILS AND DEGRADED LAND

- Restore soil land soil quality and manage land and soil resources sustainably

#### 3-EXPANDING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY TECHNIQUES

- Invest in nutrient use efficiency systems
- Promote connections between water, energy, land and ecosystems

#### 4-REDUCING THE YIELD GAP FOR SMALLHOLDERS

- Invest in extension and capacity building that scales farmer adoption of good farming practices, while planning for climate change
- Develop networks of agricultural advisers farmers' main point of contact for inputs and advice, in order to promote extension services and knowledge transfer
- Government needs to invest in agricultural education programs to train agronomists, extension workers and agricultural advisers

### Measuring Progress

#### The 2028 Africa Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution

- Achieve zero in the level of unused fertilizer from the current average of 50kg per hectare to an average of at least 20kg per hectare by 2025.

Other indicators include:

- Closing the yield gap in food insecure countries, particularly for smallholder farmers (yield/available land data)
- Access to inputs and improvements in input use efficiency being particularly efficient use of nutrients
- Adoption of farming practices and technologies that promote more sustainable intensification and regeneration, including integrated pest management (IPM), increased continuous improvements in the use of water, energy, land and use of all users, with reference in particular to the Sustainable Development framework
- Changes in land use, including value flows in the case of deforestation
- Scaling up area-specific and private extension, knowledge, and climate smart farming practices, and technologies that will enable farmers to access land to create change and related potential yield losses.
- Achieving a consistent rate of land and soil degradation within an internationally agreed threshold

## ABOUT FARMING FIRST

Farming First is a coalition of the world's farmers, scientists, agriculture NGOs and business working together on global policy issues in sustainable agriculture including climate change, gender and food security. Farming First advocates for climate-based knowledge and real approaches to increase agricultural output in a sustainable and socially responsible manner.

For more information on Farming First please visit our website at [www.farmingfirst.org](http://www.farmingfirst.org)

1. The Female Face of Farming (Farming First, 2022) <http://www.farmingfirst.org/women/>
2. Environmental Economics Indicators for Measuring Data series of On-Farm Agricultural Productivity from the United States, Field to Market The Regional Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture July 2022. Available online at <http://www.fieldtomarket.org/report/>
3. Müller C. et al. 2021. Climate change risks for African agriculture. PNAS 118(14):4392-4395
4. Tegemeo M.L. (2021) Governance in Sub-Saharan Spring Wheat in Sub-Saharan Current Status and Future Directions. Proceedings of the Sustainable CMM27 Conference in The World's Climate, Kazakhstan, September 20-24, 2021