



## High Level Political Forum 2022 from 5-7 and 11-15 July 2022

### “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

#### Annotated template (max length 4 pages)

#### ANNEX I

##### **Inputs by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG)**

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is FAO’s main technical advisory committee on agriculture. COAG provides overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management, and is responsible for: i) reviewing major agricultural and nutritional problems and proposing concerted action by FAO’s Member Nations and the Organization; ii) advising the FAO Council on activities relating to agriculture, livestock, food, nutrition and natural resource management, with particular emphasis on all the social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects relating to agricultural and rural development in general.

The biennial sessions of COAG bring together its Member Nations, and other international and non-governmental organizations, to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise on appropriate action. COAG has aligned its agenda towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on actions to accelerate and scale-up progress, especially to achieve SDG 2 and other related SDGs. COAG increasingly addresses interdisciplinary topics, reflecting the crosscutting nature of major global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, food system issues, biodiversity, innovation, One Health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and others emerging issues.

COAG’s substantive inputs to the 2022 HLPF are based on relevant policy recommendations that have emerged from the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 27), held from 28 September to 2 October 2020, which discussed as main theme the importance of the livestock sector contributions to achieving the SDGs. It also includes an indication of key topics foreseen to be considered both at the first Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock and at the 28th Session of COAG, scheduled respectively on 16-18 March and on 18-22 July 2022.

- a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs:**

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger continued to increase with almost 690 million people still undernourished worldwide, showing an increase in hunger since 2014; 2 billion people did not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food; and 3 billion people could not afford healthy diets. This is exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2021**<sup>1</sup>, estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 - as many as 161 million more than in 2019, under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections that consider the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic suggest that 30 million more people will face hunger in 2030 compared to a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred, revealing lasting effects on global food security.

<sup>1</sup> SOFI 2021, <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2021/en/>

The **2021 Global Report on Food Crises**<sup>2</sup> estimated that 155 million people in 55 countries/territories were classified as being in crisis or worse (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 3 or above), an increase of around 20 million people from 2019. While it is difficult to disentangle the precise effects of COVID-19 from those of other stressors, the report's food security analysis shows that the pandemic has had a compounding effect on these pre-existing and ongoing drivers of food crisis mainly through declining economic activity related to COVID-19 restrictive measures, leading to income losses and reduced household purchasing power.

Worldwide, more than four billion people are employed or earn their livelihoods in agrifood production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of agrifood products. A majority of people depend on agrifood systems for both food supply and food access, and yet a disproportionate number of the poor and hungry are to be found working in agrifood systems. While the global agrifood systems have remained resilient, income losses and food price spikes caused undernourishment to rise. The major challenge that countries are facing is of food access.

**Smallholder farmers and their families**, food workers in all sectors, are particularly vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19. The challenge of food security continues to be one of access to food, rather than availability of food. Food markets continue to face uncertainties due to prospects of weak economic growth and unstable energy and currency markets. A major increase in acute and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition has already been observed.<sup>3</sup> Equally urgent is to address the **compounding threat of the pandemic on existing crises** - such as conflict, natural disasters, climate change, pests and plagues - that are already stressing food systems and triggering food insecurity around the globe, and threatening progress in achieving the SDGs. Beyond the response to the current pandemic and mitigation efforts, agriculture can be a driver of rapid, inclusive recovery and should be made more resilient to future shocks.

With a view to **achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)**, the COVID-19 pandemic has rendered vulnerable people even more vulnerable. **Rural women** bear a disproportionate burden in the COVID-19 crisis, as agricultural producers, processors and traders, as well as responders and caregivers to their communities due to reduced education and health services in rural areas. Other vulnerable groups include youth, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized groups.

COAG expressed particular concern for the lives, livelihoods and nutritional status of those who are least able to cope with the **impacts of the COVID-19 crisis**, and for maintaining the functioning of food value chains and keeping markets open, and requested FAO to assess the specific impacts on women, youth, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, smallholders and family farmers and those exposed to conflict and protracted crisis and to recommend measures to ensure that no countries and no persons are left behind.

The Committee encouraged FAO to invest and advocate for all **innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems**, while ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>4</sup>. FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31<sup>5</sup>, addresses key cross-cutting themes of critical importance to the 2030 Agenda, gender, youth, and inclusion (for reduced inequalities and leave no one behind), to promote a more systematic mainstreaming and operationalization of these issues across all of FAO's work. In particular, it aims to achieve under its aspiration of *better life* to promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women), with the priority on gender equality and rural women's empowerment to promote women's equal rights, access to, and control over resources, services, technologies, institutions, economic opportunities and decision-making, and eliminate discriminatory laws and practices, through gender-responsive policies, strategies, programmes and legal frameworks.

To proactively and sustainably address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, FAO has launched a comprehensive **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme** (details in section b).

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<sup>2</sup> [2021 Global Report on Food Crises](#)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/ne124en/ne124en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> COAG 27 report.: <https://www.fao.org/3/ne021en/ne021en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. <https://www.fao.org/3/ne577en/ne577en.pdf>

**b) Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body:**

In its 27th Session, the Committee on Agriculture, stressed the importance of the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to **ending hunger and poverty**, notably tackling its root causes by building sustainability and resilience in food systems. It urged FAO to continue the **timely provision of data and information**, policy analysis and evidence-based recommendations to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on food security and nutrition, including in the context of the One Health approach, and requested to enhance work with partners to provide its expertise, data, analysis and technical support to countries to strengthen implementation of policy advice and to accelerate investments, with a strong monitoring and evaluation system, particularly in Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and innovation in order to help countries ‘build back better’.

FAO is continuing its assessments of the pandemic’s evolving impact on food security and nutrition and is providing evidence-based policy recommendations to Members and encouraging them to work together, with the aim to safeguard food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable and ensure a unified One Health approach. FAO is issuing a wide range of **COVID-19 Policy Briefs** and publications<sup>6</sup>, and implementing an array of tools to support policy analyses and assess the impact of COVID-19, such as the Food and Agriculture Policy Decisions Analysis (FAPDA) database<sup>7</sup> and the Data Lab for Statistical Innovation<sup>8</sup>.

COAG welcomed **FAO’s collaborative efforts to protect lives and livelihoods** and to maintain the functioning of food value chains and open markets at the global, regional, national and local levels. It supported efforts to promote a One Health approach to enhance food safety, and to facilitate international policy dialogue and cooperation at the regional and global levels, to provide a coordinated response to the food security, nutrition and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

COAG welcomed FAO comprehensive **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme**<sup>9</sup> to mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic while strengthening the long-term resilience of food systems and livelihoods, implemented since the start of the pandemic. FAO has mobilized financial and technical support to reach a large share of rural populations and to relaunch the economic activities, making progress in all seven key programmes to ensure rapid and continued support to the most vulnerable while anticipating the secondary repercussions of the virus; i.e. Data for decision-making, Economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty, Trade and food safety standards, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, Preventing the next zoonotic pandemic, Boosting smallholder resilience for recovery, and food systems transformation, in line with the approach ‘building to transform’ during response and recovery<sup>10</sup>.

To strengthen the global response and concerted action to prevent the COVID-19 international health emergency from triggering a major world food crisis, FAO launched the **Food Coalition**,<sup>11</sup> in November 2020, with the aim to create and coordinate a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral mechanism, to mobilize political, financial and technical assistance to address and recover from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will help countries to meet SDG 2 and other related SDGs, and work to ensure sustainable food systems, improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale and family farmers, especially women, youth, indigenous peoples, and raise rural living standards.

**c) Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the SDGs under review:**

The Forty-second Session of the Conference in June 2021 endorsed the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, focusing on the transformation to **MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind**. This includes

<sup>6</sup> FAO COVID-19 website: <http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en>

<sup>7</sup> <http://fapda.apps.fao.org/fapda/#main.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/datalab/website/web/about-data-lab-statistical-innovation>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/resource-partners/covid-19/en/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ng635en/ng635en.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The Food Coalition, proposed by the Government of Italy and led by FAO, is a voluntary alliance open to all stakeholders who are interested in supporting global, coordinated action to safeguard food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agrifood systems transformation in the wake of COVID-19. FAO leads the alliance, facilitates exchanges of knowledge, mobilizes support and acts as a neutral convener for open and transparent dialogues among the Coalition’s members. <http://www.fao.org/food-coalition/en/>

20 Programme Priority Areas under the *four betters* grounded in specific SDG targets to which the Organization is well-positioned to contribute, and the four accelerators of technology, innovation (including digital), data (including big data) and complements (governance, human capital, institutions) and new cross-cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion.

**Contributions towards SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning:**

Obtaining a quality education is crucial to improving people's lives and sustainable development. Yet millions of children in rural communities are trapped in child labour, while the average out-of-school rate worldwide is twice as high in rural areas compared with urban areas. FAO promotes educational systems sensitive to the needs of rural communities and supports improved access to primary education, and assists countries in establishing school gardens and school food programmes, to encourage school attendance, bring direct nutritional and physical development benefits to young children and have long-lasting social, economic and environmental benefits for the community as a whole.

- The Committee endorsed FAO's **Rural Youth Action Plan**, to promote the revitalization of rural areas to ensure present and future generations can contribute to food production and ensure youth participation in sustainable development, in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives, as a living document. The Plan aims to address the needs of vulnerable persons and prioritize areas such as youth empowerment, youth employment, all types of education, and promote strategies for enabling decent work for rural youth and propose alternative solutions to migration, and consider the needed recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives.
- The Committee underlined the importance of **enabling access and enhancing participation in appropriate innovation, information and advisory services for smallholders and family farmers for sustainable agrifood systems**, especially in remote areas, in order to unleash the full potential of innovation for achieving sustainable agriculture, food systems and nutrition, and lift millions of people out of poverty and food insecurity, thereby achieving the SDGs and implementing the UN Decade of Family Farming. COAG 27 recommended to FAO to enhance its strategic guidance and its technical support to Members in improving demand-driven innovation, information and advisory services, for bridging the gap between information generation and use by smallholders and family farmers as well as other vulnerable groups, and highlighted the critical role played by the Extension and Advisory Services in providing support to smallholder family farmers, especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
- COAG welcomed the launch of the **Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems**<sup>12</sup> to support an exchange of knowledge between indigenous peoples and scientists to ensure the protection and preservation of indigenous food systems in the context of United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 and in other frameworks, and underlined the key role of indigenous peoples as protectors of biodiversity and knowledge holders about natural resource management, innovations and food systems and acknowledged the gaps and challenges faced by indigenous peoples on food security, access to health and education further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

As contributions towards **SDG 15 - Life on land (Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss)**: FAO promotes sustainable approaches to natural resource management, and its assessment reports such as those on soils, forests and land degradation provide a basis for evidence-based decision-making. Healthy ecosystems protect the planet and sustain livelihoods. Forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in particular, provide myriad environmental goods and services - clean air and water, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Forests and rangelands sustain a range of industries, generate jobs and income and act as a source of food, medicine and fuel for more than a billion people. However, natural resources are deteriorating, ecosystems are stressed and biological diversity is being lost across the globe. Land use changes, including deforestation, result in a loss of valuable habitats, a decrease in clean water, land degradation, soil erosion and the release of carbon into the atmosphere, as well as contribute to the loss of valuable economic assets and livelihood opportunities.

- COAG 27 discussed as main theme the importance of the **livestock sector contributions** to achieving the SDGs and FAO's work in enhancing the sector's contributions to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the Committee advised on the impact of

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/global-hub/en/>

pandemic on food security and nutrition, and food systems, with particular attention to the most disadvantaged groups, ensuring that no one is left behind, and the key responses to address these impacts.

- The Committee acknowledged the **important role of rangelands and pastoralism**<sup>13</sup> in contributing to national economies and supporting the livelihoods and food security of millions of people, as well as the ecosystem services they provide, particularly in arid and semiarid land and mountainous areas, and of the potential of rangeland and pastoralism to contribute significantly to the SDGs and the opportunities they offer for rural prosperity and requested FAO to mainstream its work on rangelands and pastoralism to ensure their systematic consideration in its technical and policy programmes.
- The Committee endorsed the “**Global Programme on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture**”, as evidence-based, country-led and country-owned systems approach, encompassing international technical cooperation, in order to ensure adoption and promotion of sustainable crops, livestock, soil, integrated and sustainable soil management, forest and integrated water resources management in drylands and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in collaboration with the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)<sup>14</sup>, countries with technical experience of sustainable management of dryland agricultural systems and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- As one of the key partnerships, the Committee welcomed the progress made by the **Global Soil Partnership**<sup>15</sup> in combating soil degradation and promoting sustainable soil management since its establishment and invited Members to be active partners of the Global Soil Partnership.
- COAG 27 supported the **implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors**<sup>16</sup>, which was adopted by FAO Council in December 2019<sup>17</sup>, acknowledging the importance to promote sustainable agriculture practices that have an effective and proven positive impact on biodiversity., noting its important role in guiding FAO’s support to countries in their implementation of outcomes of biodiversity-related intergovernmental processes, and requested FAO to strengthen its implementation in collaboration with all relevant partners, including, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) taking the One Health approach that seeks to comprehensively address the disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface, and in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities.
- The Committee further acknowledged **FAO’s Urban Food Agenda**, and asked to increase the focus on small and medium-sized cities, given their role in catalyzing the functional territorial dynamics in promoting sustainable agricultural transformation, while continuing to address challenges existing in larger cities.
- Among the policy instruments, the **Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction**, to contribute to Food Loss and Waste (FLW) reduction globally and to sustainable food systems development and achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG target 12.3, following the review by COAG 27 it was endorsed by FAO Conference in June 2021.<sup>18</sup>

Moreover, in relation to **SDG 15, the next 28th Session of COAG 28 in July 2022**, is planning to review, among other topics, the following items:

- The key findings of “**The state of the world’s land and water resources for food and agriculture: Systems at breaking point (SOLAW 2021)**”<sup>19</sup>, Synthesis Report issued in December 2021, providing an update on the status of land, water and soil resources, key drivers and pressures to their change and related risks.

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<sup>13</sup> COAG/2020/19

<sup>14</sup> COAG/2020/17, COAG/2020/INF/15, COAG/2020/INF/16

<sup>15</sup> COAG/2020/18

<sup>16</sup> COAG/2020/16

<sup>17</sup> CL 163/REP, CL 163/11 Rev.1. <https://www.fao.org/3/nb349en/nb349en.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> C 2021/27. <https://www.fao.org/3/nf393en/nf393en.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> FAO. 2021. *The State of the World’s Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture – Systems at breaking point. Synthesis report.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7654en>

- **Governance of tenure of water resources for food and agriculture:** With more than 733 million people currently living in areas of high or critical water stress<sup>20</sup> and a projected 55 percent increase in global water demand by 2050<sup>21</sup>, the question of water resources allocation is important. Agriculture is the largest water use sector, accounting for 72 percent of global water withdrawals<sup>22</sup>, mostly for irrigation. To feed a projected global population of 10 billion in 2050, agricultural demand is expected to grow by 50 percent compared to 2013.<sup>23</sup> Access to water for household and agricultural use is key for millions of smallholder farmers and their families to sustain their livelihoods as well as for inland fisheries and those who depend on wetland products.
- **Guidance on use of agricultural plastics:** With the exponential growth of plastics use in agriculture, a number of regional and international organizations are beginning to address issues relevant to agricultural plastic use and global plastics pollution as a transboundary phenomenon, with pollution occurring along the whole life cycle of plastics. This includes the need for intersectoral collaboration, addressing global and regional knowledge gaps related to the distribution, benefits, tradeoffs, and risks in agricultural plastics and their alternatives, building on FAO's "Assessment of agricultural plastics and their sustainability: A call for action"<sup>24</sup> and UNEP's report on 'Plastics in agricultural soil: sources and impacts'<sup>25</sup>, with a view to address the issue of agricultural plastics holistically within the context of food security, nutrition, food safety and sustainable agriculture.
- **Progress towards the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**, led by FAO and UNEP, with strong cooperation with countries, other UN agencies and partners, given the critical importance of the restoration of degraded areas.
- The catalyzer role of the **UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDIFF)** which aims to provide a cohesive framework for countries to develop, improve and implement public policies and investments in support of family farming, to promote family farming-centered approaches to deal with agrifood system issues, to accelerate efforts and foster additional commitments to deliver the SDGs by 2030 as well as mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on family farmers.

**d) Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda:**

In its 27th Session, COAG recognized the significance of **sustainable food systems** in achieving the 2030 Agenda and of the coordination of all stakeholders in **adopting a food systems approach**, stressing the added urgency in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and advised on the following key actions.

- The Committee emphasized the importance of the livestock sector and its role in achieving SDGs and its linkages to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition, healthy diets, improved livelihoods and poverty eradication. It highlighted the sector's linkages to animal health and welfare, the One Health approach, natural resources and climate change, and the importance of strengthening cooperation and collaboration with relevant regional and global bodies and initiatives. COAG requested FAO to strengthen its support for collecting data and developing tools to guide countries in formulating institutional mechanisms for the implementation of livestock policy and investments, and to promote the dissemination of good practices and technical cooperation for sustainable livestock production. COAG requested to produce a comprehensive, science and evidence-based **global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security**, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets, and to develop a technical document of good practices, as the basis to consider initiating negotiations by Members on voluntary guidelines to enhance the productivity of small-scale livestock keepers.
- To strengthen its work on livestock, the COAG **Sub-Committee on Livestock** was established as an intergovernmental forum with a mandate to discuss and build consensus on livestock issues and priorities,

<sup>20</sup> FAO and UN Water. 2021. *Progress on the level of water stress: Global status and acceleration needs for SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2021*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6241en>.

<sup>21</sup> UNESCO. 2014. *United Nations World Water Development Report: Volume 1, Water & Energy*. Paris. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002257/225741E.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> FAO and UN Water. 2021. *Progress on the level of water stress: Global status and acceleration needs for SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2021*. Rome. (also available at <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6241en>)

<sup>23</sup> FAO. 2017. *The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges*. Rome. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/i6583e/i6583e.pdf>)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7856en/cb7856en.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.papillons-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Plastics-in-agriculture-sources-and-impacts-UNEP-GRID-Arendal.pdf>

including in poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and achieving the 2030 Agenda, and collaboration with specialized organizations and existing multiple stakeholder partnerships. Its first session is scheduled from 16-18 March 2022.

- Furthermore, during its 27th Session, the **Committee stressed the need to ensure access to food** and to that end it highlighted the relevance of **international trade** in the context of an open, rules-based, science and evidence based, predictable, non-discriminatory, and fair multi-lateral trade system, consistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. The Committee further emphasized the role and relevance of national and regional trade in access to food.
- COAG called for FAO to support the development and implementation of policy on **nutrition and food safety** at national and regional levels, noting the importance of sufficient data on diets and the affordability of nutritious food, and welcomed the **Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition**, with the central role of healthy diets to be achieved through a food system approach, to address the global challenge of malnutrition, particularly in the most vulnerable.

e) **Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF.**

Selected recommendations for the theme of the 2022 HLPF and the review of progress toward the SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17. The Forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across these SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

- The **UN Decade of Action** for scaling-up and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda will need to address at the same time the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and other major threats like climate change, with an urgent need to accelerate the transformation, as appropriate, of **food systems** to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and to reduce the impact of food systems on biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystems and the climate.
- The FAO Committee on Agriculture emphasizes the importance of **sustainable food systems** in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and calls for coordination of all stakeholders in **adopting a food systems approach, with** added urgency in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, to address food insecurity and malnutrition, livelihoods and the management of natural resources in a comprehensive and effective way.
- Food and agriculture play a key role for achieving the interconnected SDGs, and must strengthen its sustainability in the three pillars, economic, social and environmental, to enhance their contribution to food security, nutrition and healthy diets and build back better to increase resilience, and to prevent future pandemics.
- COAG urges to keep a strong focus on **eradication of hunger and malnutrition**, food systems and nutrition, while strengthening the following areas: capacity development to improve quality and availability of data, including through capacity development at country level, analysis and tracking of SDG indicators for better decision making; support livelihood of vulnerable segments of the population, particularly small scale producers, family farmers, rural women and youth; digital agriculture and innovation with inclusion of smallholder farmer, reducing food loss and waste; addressing issues related to climate change and biodiversity in relation to food and agriculture; support to the Codex Alimentarius related science-based programmes and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); One Health within the Tripartite collaboration between FAO/WHO/OIE; antimicrobial resistance (AMR); food safety; addressing transboundary plant pests and animal diseases, and strengthen partnerships to achieve these priorities.