

Global Food Systems Change – The Next Decade

Wednesday, 11th – Thursday, 12th May 2022

Background Note

Since the world was first gripped by this pandemic, more than 130 million people have been plunged into food insecurity, while the trajectory of nature loss and climate heating has continued to accelerate. In the next few years, food systems will be at the intersection of the action pathways needed for a net zero climate response and a nature-positive future, and for tackling the related and growing global inequalities.

The climate-nature-food crisis is so big that it can only be tackled at a systems level. Agriculture, food and land-use reform are growing strategic imperatives for global organisations. The UNFSS and 'Rio' COPs this year are important milestones, but they are just the start point of moving food to a higher strategic level.

Who will now set the future narratives on food? Immediate action is needed to embed food systems change in the UN and global agenda for the next decade. Following an initial meeting at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a conversation has begun between leaders drawn from the human development, health, faith, climate, biodiversity and animal welfare sectors to explore how greater collective impact might be achieved.

Cross-sectoral collaboration on food system change is less mature than some other agendas. There is an immediate need to build alignment between organisations, and to identify and manage the tensions between different strategic goals to enable impact on food systems that leads to deep, lasting and effective change.

This is the agenda we wish to deal with in May.

