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# Food systems transformation

## Processes and pathways in the Mediterranean

### A stocktaking exercise





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## FOREWORD

As in many parts of the world, food systems across the Mediterranean are not on track to deliver on food security, nutrition and sustainability outcomes: food systems are the main drivers of environmental degradation, and they are failing to provide decent livelihoods to large parts of the population in a context of increasing disparities and the advent of climate breakdown. These unprecedented challenges are complex and deeply interrelated, affecting the food security, health, nutrition, sustainability, and thus the livelihoods of all people across the Mediterranean. Food systems therefore require solutions that are systemic and dynamic, and which go beyond single disciplinary approaches to actively engage the voices of all food systems stakeholders. However, countries do have common precious heritage, such as the Mediterranean diet, which constitutes a powerful lever for bridging food consumption and production to accelerate food systems transformation in the whole region.

Globally, food systems have been recognized as being a key entry point for achieving the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is against this background that the United Nations Secretary-General convened the Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) on 23 September 2021 to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnections within food systems to address global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality. The Summit and its preparatory process have set the stage for food systems transformation across the globe, which was also reflected in the Mediterranean region. In this context, a number of Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSDs) were organized across the Mediterranean, allowing a broad and diverse range of stakeholders to explore the challenges faced in food systems, reflect on the Summit's objectives, and learn from the perspective of other participants in order to make change happen.

Tackling food systems transformation in the Mediterranean region requires considering sustainable food systems as a whole, rather than their separate parts, and going beyond disciplinary approaches and silos. Policy-makers have to take into consideration a web of interconnected and interdependent components within a decision-making environment concerning food systems that is very fragmented, and where there is a wide range of voices from different interest groups and agendas, with diverse institutional and agro-ecological constraints in countries and territories on all shores of the Mediterranean.

Within this setting, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, and the Union for the Mediterranean have joined forces to enhance regional dialogue and cooperation on food systems transformation in the Mediterranean through a multi-stakeholder initiative, the Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean (SFS-MED) Platform. This initiative aims to foster the sense of community needed to engage countries and stakeholders across the Mediterranean, including post-Summit efforts, offering a forum for dialogue and multi-stakeholder exchange, and promoting flagship projects, investments and regional cooperation on data sharing, science diplomacy and innovation.

As part of this effort, this publication takes stock of common challenges, priorities and opportunities specific to the Mediterranean context, as reflected in the great number of FSSDs that took place in the region, as well as national pathways, and the statements delivered by Member States during the Pre-Summit, the UNFSS and other related events. The stocktaking exercise concludes by suggesting potential areas of collaboration between regional stakeholders and proposing possible next steps to move towards the implementation of pathways to transform agri-food systems. The recently developed SFS-MED Platform is also set to play a key role in assisting countries in this process.

It is crucial that the momentum generated between 2020 and 2021 by the Food Systems Summit does not come to a halt. This publication is part of the follow-up process and aims to help countries and stakeholders to maximize their efforts towards food systems transformation in the Mediterranean region, ultimately accelerating progress on the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind.



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The collaboration was initiated by the Food Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) of FAO, under the overall supervision of Jamie Morrison, Director, and the technical supervision of José Valls Bedeau, Policy Officer. Jacopo Schuerch, Associate Professional Officer, was responsible for the overall preparation and development of the publication, together with Laura De Matteis, Food Systems Expert, and Tommaso Mattei, Project Management Specialist.

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>4SD</b>	Skills, Systems and Synergies for Sustainable Development
<b>CIHEAM</b>	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
<b>COVID-19</b>	coronavirus disease 2019
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FLW</b>	food loss and waste
<b>FSSD</b>	Food Systems Summit Dialogue
<b>FST</b>	food systems transformation
<b>GHG</b>	greenhouse gas
<b>GI</b>	geographical indication
<b>GIAHS</b>	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System
<b>IFI</b>	international finance institution
<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>NSDI</b>	Albania's National Strategy on Development and Integration
<b>OPN-SFSP</b>	One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme
<b>PPP</b>	public-private partnership
<b>PRIMA</b>	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
<b>R&amp;D</b>	research and development
<b>SCP</b>	sustainable consumption and production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SFS</b>	sustainable food systems
<b>SFS-MED</b>	Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean
<b>SME</b>	small to medium-sized enterprise
<b>UfM</b>	Union for the Mediterranean
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNFSS</b>	United Nations Food Systems Summit
<b>WEFE</b>	Water Energy Food Ecosystems



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) set the stage for actors across the globe to engage in conversations around sustainable food systems, explore the interconnections between food systems and today's pressing challenges, and make their voices heard for an inclusive and resilient transformation towards sustainability.

As part of this global effort, countries and stakeholders across the Mediterranean region convened several Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSDs) at cross-national, national and subnational levels. As of August 2021, out of 1 030 FSSDs organized around the world, a total of 64 took place in the Mediterranean, involving more than 5 000 participants. These Dialogues allowed participants to reflect on the Summit's objectives, explore the challenges faced in Mediterranean food systems, and conduct exchanges about strategic pathways to enable a sustainable transition. They included Member State Dialogues, organized by national governments, and Independent Dialogues which can have a regional dimension such as the two Independent Dialogues on "Pathways for the future of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean" jointly convened by the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme (OPN-SFSP) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA).

Building on this momentum, an analytical review of the outcomes of several Dialogues convened in the Mediterranean was performed in order to take stock of common challenges, priorities and opportunities, and to provide a starting point to follow up on the efforts undertaken by countries and stakeholders to transform their food systems. The stocktaking exercise involved in-depth desk research of official FSSD feedback forms (15 Member State Dialogues and 10 Independent Dialogues), which were complemented by Member States' statements and roundtables organized during the Pre-Summit event in Rome and the Food Systems Summit in New York, national pathways, and other relevant ministerial declarations.

In fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration, the ultimate purpose of this stocktaking exercise is to provide support for the ongoing efforts by countries and stakeholders across the Mediterranean region to further develop and implement pathways towards sustainable food systems. The stocktake identified a set of shared priorities and trends that emerged as common to most countries in the region, considered as **entry points** or **main thematic areas** regarding what to transform in the Mediterranean food systems. These are:

- **green and circular economy;**
- **blue and circular economy;**
- **sustainable management of land and water in the context of climate change;**
- **the Mediterranean diet as a lever for sustainable consumption and production and healthy diets;**
- **cities and rural-urban food systems as drivers of change;**
- **equitable and inclusive development of rural livelihoods;**
- **resilience;** and
- **trade and food safety standards.**

It emerged that Mediterranean countries are at different stages of their journey towards food systems transformation. Some have recently started to develop roadmaps, while others have already defined clear pathways, national strategies and transformative actions. In terms of content, while some have emphasized their national vision or a range of objectives within their current or future strategies, others have focused on overarching principles, and a few have developed or are developing national action plans, with clear key milestones and timelines. However, they all understand that a sense of urgency is needed to tackle the multiple issues related to food and agriculture in transforming their food systems.

Regarding regional collaboration, the analysis of the FSSDs highlighted a number of potential "enablers", or **means of implementation**, which were found to be instrumental in generating transformative change in the thematic areas identified. At the same time, they can act as potential drivers of regional collaboration for accelerating the shift towards more sustainable food systems. The identified enablers include: **multi-stakeholder collaboration** and partnerships under a common sustainable food systems approach; **leveraging public, private and blended finance and investments** in compliance with social and environmental standards; **access to knowledge and capacity building** for all stakeholders; and **research, data and innovation** to understand food systems and accelerate their transformation.

To maintain the momentum created by the Summit and the related national processes, and using what countries in the region are already doing as a basis, this publication concludes by proposing possible next steps to ensure progress towards food systems transformation. In particular, countries are encouraged to:

- **continue organizing food systems Dialogues** with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at the national, sub-national and local levels. These Dialogues should ensure that all actors become familiar with key concepts related to food systems. Moreover, the Dialogues are functional in developing cross-sectoral collaborations and joint actions.
- **finalize their national pathway or roadmap and start its implementation**, building on the progress made in guiding their national Dialogue process. This includes elaborating national strategies, defining the actors involved, and outlining a clear timeline and key milestones to ensure implementation in the upcoming years. In this effort, countries may also consider selecting, adapting and integrating propositions emerging from the global UNFSS process into their national pathway or strategies depending on their areas of need and interest.
- **promote inclusive governance** (multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral, and cross-ministerial), through enhanced coordination, as well as **monitoring and evaluation frameworks** to ensure that effective progress is made in the implementation of the national strategies or pathways.
- **Continue building cross-national and regional collaboration**. Follow-up actions are expected to be driven at country level. However, the Summit Dialogues process led to the identification of regional opportunities to collaborate on strengths and vulnerabilities of national and local food systems – including the development of legal frameworks, the setting of standards and trade regulations, and the sharing of data, knowledge and best practices.

Local, national and regional stakeholders are increasingly participating in fora and communities of practice (groups with common concerns) to collectively engage in the process of defining and implementing pathways and action plans towards 2030 and beyond, and to facilitate exchange with institutional counterparts. In this context, and building on the momentum of the Food Systems Summit process, the Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean (SFS-MED) Platform appears as a neutral space to foster a sense of community among actors in food systems across the Mediterranean region. Leveraging the capacities of its partners and related projects, the Platform will continue to engage with countries and stakeholders in the region after the Summit, offering a forum for dialogue and multi-stakeholder collaboration, dedicated support for the co-creation of flagship projects and investment proposals, as well as opportunities for regional cooperation for data sharing, science diplomacy and innovation.

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In September 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General convened the Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) to set the stage for food systems transformation (FST) across the globe. The aim of the Summit was to deliver progress on all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to tackle global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality.

In the context of the UNFSS, five Action Tracks<sup>1</sup> were established as a space to share and learn, fostering new actions and partnerships and amplifying existing initiatives:

- **Action Track 1:** Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- **Action Track 2:** Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- **Action Track 3:** Boost nature-positive production
- **Action Track 4:** Advance equitable livelihoods
- **Action Track 5:** Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

Action Tracks working groups – drawing on the expertise of actors throughout the world's food systems – try to identify solutions that can deliver wide-reaching benefits, and examine how key cross-cutting Levers of Change (gender, human rights, finance, innovation) can be mobilized to meet the Summit's objectives. The Pre-Summit, in July 2021, helped to set the stage for the UNFSS. It took stock of progress made and consolidated findings and commitments through Coalitions of Actions. The Food Systems Summit, on 23 September 2021, provided a catalytic moment for public mobilization and actionable commitments by heads of state and government, and other constituency leaders.

In preparing for the Summit, a diverse range of stakeholders was invited to identify the most powerful ways to make food systems more sustainable and to indicate how they will contribute to realizing this vision for all. The Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSDs)<sup>2</sup> served this purpose, allowing a broad and diverse range of stakeholders to explore the challenges faced in food systems, reflect on the Summit's objectives, and learn from the perspective of other participants in order to facilitate change.

To ensure participation of stakeholders across sectors and hear the voices of all interested actors in food systems, three different types of FSSDs took place before the Summit: Member State Dialogues, organized by national governments and convening a broad range of stakeholders to identify and discuss the need for transformation at country level; Independent Dialogues organized by individuals, including organizations, private sector, academia, networks, etc.; and Global Dialogues, focusing on major issues such as climate, health, water, and humanitarian aid. Within this framework, the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), together with the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme (OPN-SFSP) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) Foundation convened two Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues on the future of sustainable food systems (SFS) in the Mediterranean region.<sup>3</sup> These Dialogues also contributed to setting the stage for the inception of the SFS-MED Platform, a multi-stakeholder initiative currently under co-development by CIHEAM, FAO and UfMS as an affiliated project of the OPN-SFSP.

Today, more than ever, the Mediterranean region is facing unprecedented and interconnected environmental, economic and social challenges that affect food security, health, nutrition, sustainability, and thus the livelihoods of all people across the Mediterranean. FST in the Mediterranean region is a very complex and dynamic process that necessitates the consideration of food systems as a whole. To this effect, the two SFS-MED Dialogues advanced a common understanding of the complexity of food systems in the Mediterranean to jointly identify collaborative and science-based pathways leading to their transformation, in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Several countries and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region have engaged in processes to identify pathways for more sustainable food systems, including through National and Independent Dialogues, multi-stakeholder consultations and launching networks. It is crucial that the momentum generated between 2020 and 2021 does not disappear after the Summit. This stocktaking exercise is part of the follow-up process and will help countries and stakeholders to maximize their efforts towards FST after the UNFSS.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/dialogues>

<sup>3</sup> Dialogue 1, 27 April 2021, <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/>; Dialogue 2, 21 June 2021, <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/>

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this stocktaking exercise is to provide support to the ongoing efforts by countries and stakeholders across the Mediterranean region to further develop and implement pathways towards sustainable food systems. The stocktake builds on what has emerged from the FSSDs at global, regional, national and subnational levels, and on the outcomes of the Pre-Summit in July 2021 and the Food Systems Summit in September 2021.

The stocktaking exercise aims to:

- highlight and share the main issues and national pathways identified within the UNFSS process across the Mediterranean region;
- identify common patterns, trends and opportunities specific to the Mediterranean context that can help to build strong regional collaborations;
- identify actions, partnerships/collaborations, emerging from the global UNFSS process that can be relevant to the Mediterranean region (such as areas of action, game-changing propositions, and Global, National and Independent Dialogues); and
- identify support required by stakeholders (such as Dialogue convenors, public institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector) to foster exchange and collaboration among them.

This stocktake combines research and an in-depth desk review and analysis of the official feedback forms of FSSDs that took place in the Mediterranean region, as well as national pathways, and statements delivered by Member States during the Pre-Summit, the UNFSS itself, and other related events. **This publication reflects what emerged from the stocktaking exercise and does not represent the position or opinions of FAO, CIHEAM or UfM.**



### 3. METHODOLOGY

The stocktaking exercise is based on an in-depth desk review of the following sources of information:

- the **official feedback forms**<sup>4</sup> of Member State and Independent FSSDs that took place in the Mediterranean region;
- **Member States statements**<sup>5, 6</sup> delivered and **roundtables**<sup>7</sup> **organized** during the Pre-Summit event in Rome and the Food Systems Summit in New York;
- **national pathways**<sup>8</sup> and
- other relevant **ministerial declarations**.<sup>9</sup>

The analysis carried out in the stocktaking exercise is principally based on countries for which data was available in the Dialogue feedback forms published on the Summit Dialogues Gateway as of the end of August 2021. The analysis focused on 25 of the 64<sup>10</sup> Dialogues that took place in the Mediterranean region, namely 15 Member State Dialogues (out of 33) and 10 Independent Dialogues (out of 31) whose focus complements and integrates the Member State Dialogues, and whose feedback forms were already available at the start of the stocktaking exercise (August 2021). In some cases, the Independent Dialogues were organized in collaboration with governmental institutions to continue the discussions initiated during the Member State Dialogues – for example, Italy’s Independent Dialogue and the second SFS-MED Dialogue.

At first, the methodology focused on the analysis of data emerging from the above sources to identify the main issues related to food systems and the solutions proposed for their transformation (Figure 1). This part of the analysis highlighted emerging thematic areas that were then cross-checked with the key entry points identified in the SFS-MED FSSDs.<sup>11</sup> Each of the thematic areas was analysed in light of the data and information available from the sources.

In a second stage, the analysis compared findings at the Mediterranean level with the global UNFSS process. The game-changing propositions emerging at global level were scrutinized in order to recognize if any of these solutions could possibly be applied to the Mediterranean context, in light of the findings of the first part of the analysis.

Thirdly, the stocktake presents a review of how countries are developing national pathways and setting up strategies to transform agri-food systems. Furthermore, research findings led to the analysis of possible areas of collaboration emerging from the UNFSS processes at country and regional levels.

Finally, and in light of the findings and experiences examined, the exercise focused on proposing possible ways forward to ensure that countries and other actors in food systems build on the momentum created throughout the Summit process, by addressing gaps and divergences, and by considering the role of the SFS-MED Platform in the follow up to the Summit.

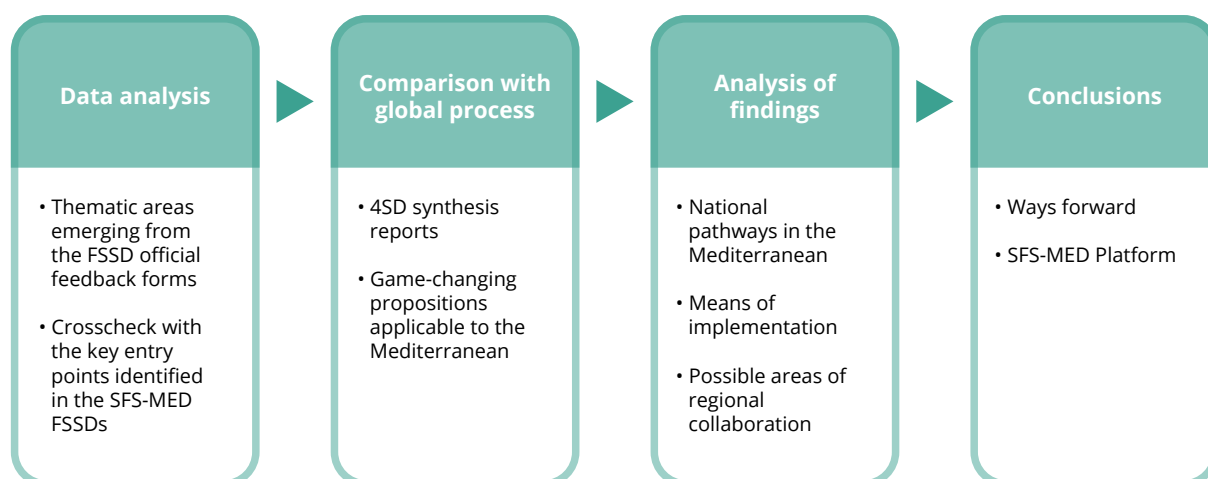


Figure 1 Methodology of the FSSD stocktaking exercise

<sup>4</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/explore-dialogues/> as of 23 August 2021

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unfoodsystems.org/statements.php>

<sup>6</sup> <https://unfoodsystems.org/statements-summit.php>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unfoodsystems.org/ondemand.php>

<sup>8</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/convenors/> as of 14/09/2021

<sup>9</sup> <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Declaration-UfM-Blue-Economy-EN-1.pdf> and [https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA\\_final-1.pdf](https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UfM-ministerial-declaration-ENV-CA_final-1.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Annex 1

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7166EN>

## 4. FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT DIALOGUES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

### 4.1 Analysis of participants<sup>12</sup>

As of the end of August 2021, out of 1 030 Food Systems Summit Dialogues, a total of 64 had taken place in the Mediterranean. The 64 Dialogues involved more than 5 000 participants in total and were held in 13 countries across the region: 33 were organized as Member State Dialogues in 11 countries, whereas 31 were Independent Dialogues, as shown in Table 1.

Dialogue type	Number of dialogues analysed	Total number of dialogues	Total number of participants
<b>Member State</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3 114</b>
Albania	1	4	372
Egypt	1	1	58
France	1	1	350
Israel	5	15	945
Italy	1	1	176
Jordan	1	4	103
Malta	1	1	57
Morocco	1	1	80
Spain	1	2	568
Tunisia	1	1	136
Turkey	1	2	269
<b>Independent</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2 016</b>
Egypt	-	1	91
Israel	-	2	87
Italy	3	10	391
Lebanon	1	1	<i>no data</i>
Multiple	5	10	1 088
Portugal	1	1	20
Spain	-	4	195
Tunisia	-	2	144
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5 130</b>

Table 1 Participation in FSSDs held in the Mediterranean region

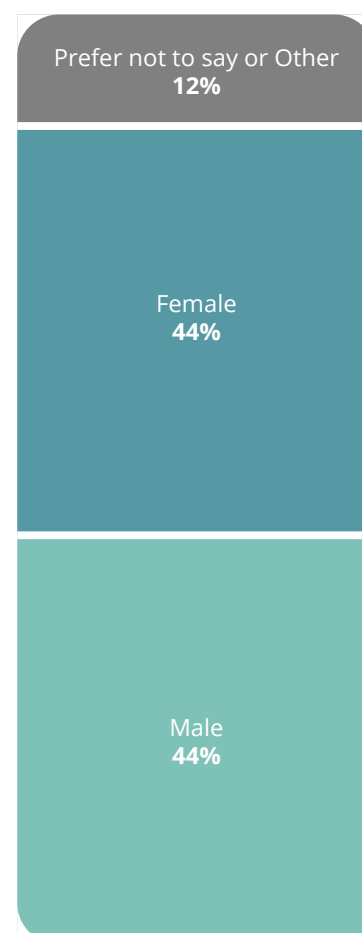


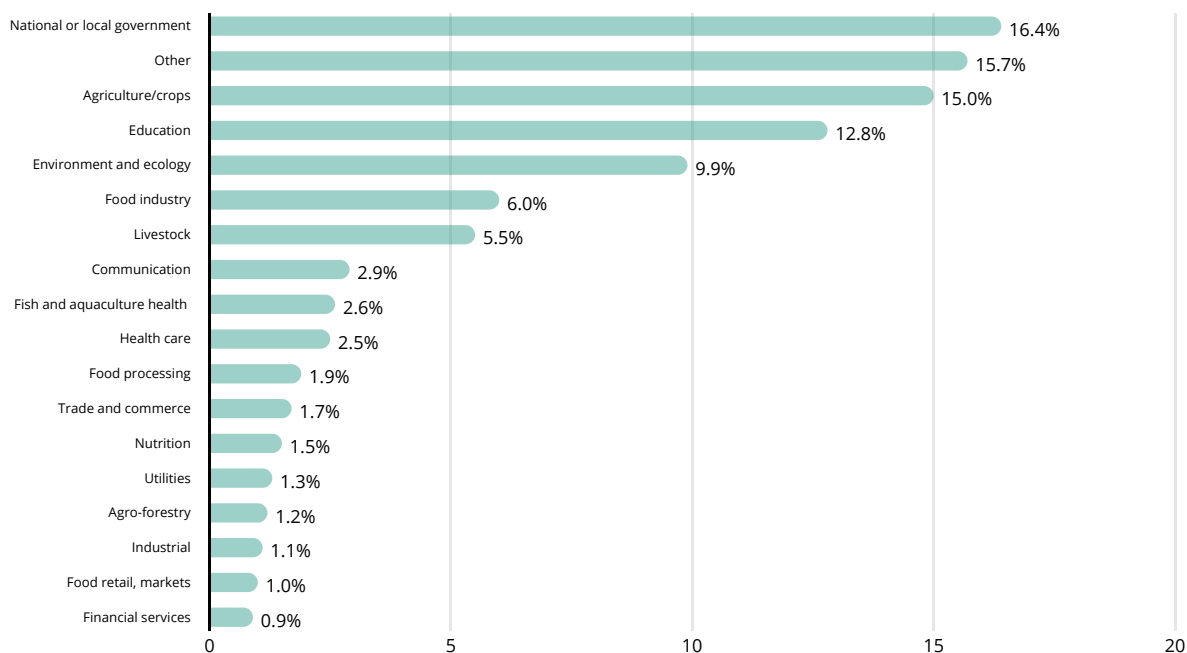
Figure 2 Gender distribution of participants in the Dialogues



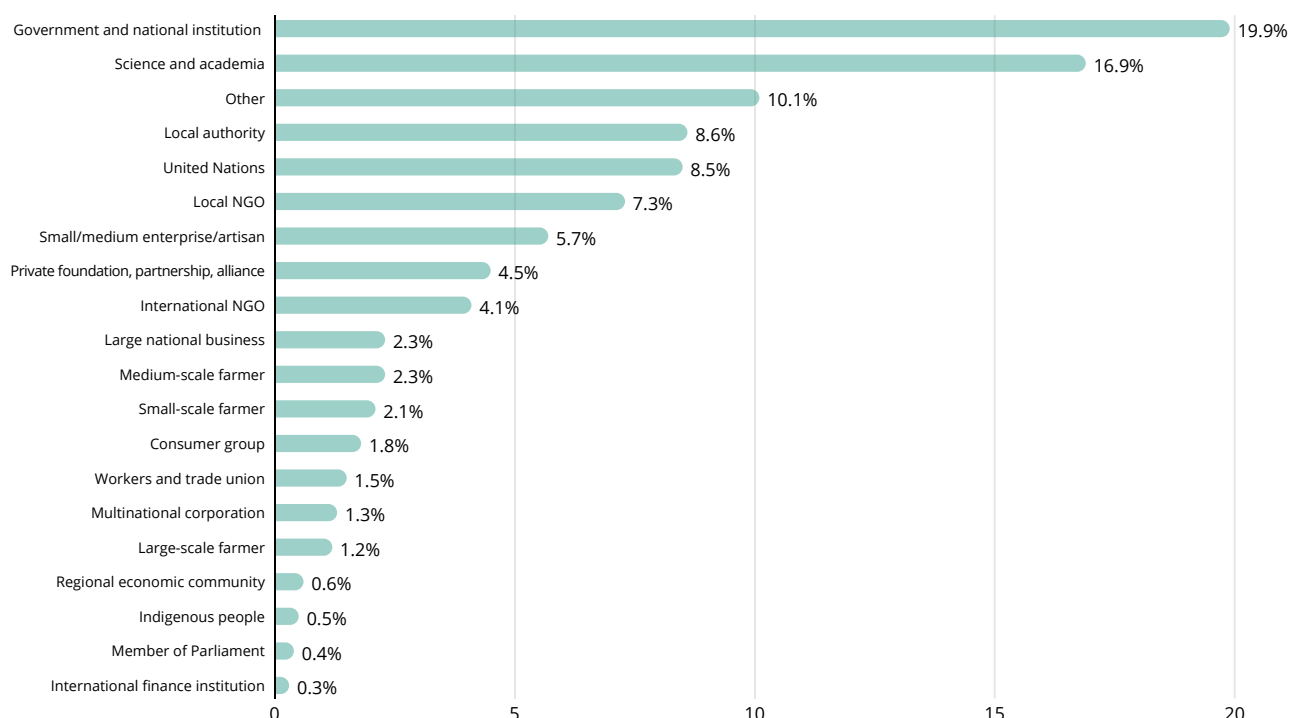
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<sup>12</sup> The figures presented in this section are indicative, as information on participation is not fully available in all the official feedback forms analysed.

Figure 2 shows that participation was almost perfectly balanced in terms of gender. Figure 3 outlines the distribution of participants by sector. Considering the categories proposed by the convenors of the Summit Dialogues, the Dialogues in the Mediterranean region have clearly managed to involve a balanced share of stakeholders from several sectors very relevant to food systems, such as agriculture, education, local government and the environmental sector. The category “Other”, mainly representatives from the international development sector, was also quite prominent.



**Figure 3** Distribution of participants by sector



**Figure 4** Distribution of participants by stakeholder group

Figure 4 clearly demonstrates the multi-stakeholder nature of the Summit Dialogues held throughout the Mediterranean, with the involvement of a huge variety of people from different stakeholder groups. Civil society, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and local and national governments were all represented and contributed to the Dialogues, sharing their perspectives and showing how acting together is paramount to making Mediterranean food systems more sustainable.

## 4.2 Process of Dialogues

In the context of the Food Systems Summit, Member States were asked to appoint National Dialogue convenors.<sup>13</sup> These convenors are responsible for organizing Dialogues focusing on the transformation of national food systems, by engaging a broad range of stakeholder groups to contribute to the elaboration of pathways for national FST.

Twelve countries in the Mediterranean region have appointed a National Convenor<sup>14</sup> (as shown in Table 2, page 16) and shared their experience in the development of national pathways in the context of the Food Systems Summit. This was reflected in their official FSSD feedback forms, in their national pathways, in their ministerial statements or during one of the roundtable ministerial discussions of the Pre-Summit, in their statements at the Summit, or during the roundtable discussion of the second SFS-MED FSSD.

These countries approached the Dialogue process in different ways and at different paces that can be linked to the three Dialogue stages<sup>15</sup> identified by the UNFSS Secretariat: “initiated national engagement”, “extensive explorations everywhere”, and “consolidation, intentions and commitments”. Almost all of these countries have convened one or more Dialogues or have held consultations with diverse national food systems stakeholders (as highlighted in Section 4.1). Different countries have also convened subnational Dialogues to include different context-specific and local perspectives.

Several aspects related to the Dialogues and the elaboration of national pathways emerged through feedback from Mediterranean countries. Most of the countries have highlighted the importance of bringing together diverse stakeholders from multiple sectors. The variety of viewpoints helped in the acknowledgement of the complexity of food systems, their central role in achieving the SDGs by 2030 and the need for a systemic approach. At the same time, the consultations allowed discussion of the fragmentation of food-related policy development and implementation within governments and at different national levels.

Background work conducted prior to each Dialogue also prompted many countries to engage in a holistic analysis of their own food systems, identifying the main characteristics, challenges, knowledge and skills gaps, and other issues, leading to discussions on expectations for the future and possible solutions. Based on the results of national and subnational Dialogues and consultations, they have started to draw up national roadmaps and pathways to sustainable and equitable food systems by 2030. The inclusive and diverse range of stakeholders involved in the elaboration of national pathways has also contributed to creating a joint sense of commitment towards the achievement of the solutions identified.



<sup>13</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/engage/dialogue-convenor/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/convenors/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/>



## 5. MAIN FINDINGS

### 5.1 Mediterranean region: priorities, common trends and entry points

Mediterranean countries started working on their national pathways at different moments in time. Some have already defined clear pathways, national strategies and actions to transform their national food systems, others are just starting the discussion. One thing that most countries have highlighted is the sense of urgency needed to tackle the multiple issues related to food and agriculture.

This section focuses on the main issues related to food systems and proposed solutions for their transformation, as identified in Dialogues across the Mediterranean. The analysis of UNFSS National and Independent Dialogues, Ministerial Statements at the Pre-Summit and the Summit allowed the identification of emerging common trends, priorities and challenges.

The following eight thematic areas were identified through this stocktaking exercise and are presented in detail in subsections 5.1.1 to 5.1.8.



### Sustainable production

- ▶ Increase sustainability and climate neutrality:
  - nature-based solutions;
  - sustainable use of natural resources (including forest, soil, land, water, biodiversity, ecosystems);
  - reduce pollution (including chemical inputs);
  - agro-ecology, biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, diversified production, integrated pest management (IPM), local seeds;
  - improve animal welfare; and
  - minimize environmental impacts and carbon footprint especially of meat/dairy industry, including animal feed production/import.
- ▶ R&D, innovation, technologies, or innovative start-ups to improve sustainability and efficiency of sustainable practices;
- ▶ regulatory frameworks and sustainability standards:
  - subsidies for sustainable production;
  - green taxation (e.g. carbon tax) to overcome unsustainable fiscal practices; and
  - certifications, eco-labelling, packaging and geographical indication (GI);
- ▶ information and transparency (including possible conflicts of interest); and
- ▶ more investment and sustainable finance, coordination public-private sectors.

### Food loss and waste

- ▶ reduce and valorize waste and improve management and infrastructures – collection, sorting, recycling. Better technologies/innovations, education/awareness, monitoring; and
- ▶ national and international policies, awareness-raising campaigns, education and capacity building to prevent waste, recover surpluses, redistribute (e.g. food banks);
  - incentives for food donors across the chain (tax relief, workforce and logistics funding).

There is a general recognition in the region that food systems have significant negative environmental impacts. Overuse and misuse of natural resources (particularly water, soil and forest), loss of biodiversity, excessive use of chemical inputs and other pollutants, food loss and waste, and animal welfare are some of the main issues reported by countries. The emerging perspective is that a transition is necessary towards greener and circular food systems, and climate neutrality. Governments and other stakeholders have emphasized the need for an agriculture and food-processing industry based on efficiency and sustainability, which minimize biodiversity loss, ecosystem imbalance, climate change impact and pollution while producing sufficient, healthy, affordable food. Stakeholders also suggested considering the true cost of food, that is the cost of food including externalities, not only environmental but also health and social costs. In this context, stakeholders have recognized the need to establish instruments, mechanisms, programmes/projects for the development of greener and circular food systems, as well as to expand the capacity of local financial institutions to boost sustainable financing for SFS in the Mediterranean in order to support transformative, structural changes within food systems. Different stakeholders emphasized the potential role of regulatory frameworks and national and international fiscal regulations to help the transition towards sustainable systems. For example, on the one hand, the establishment of subsidies to be allocated to incentivize sustainable production, and on the other hand, the taxation of unsustainable practices (e.g. carbon tax) or the removal of harmful subsidies.

Employing more sustainable and resilient food production practices, technologies and renewable energy sources, and also taking into account the Water Energy Food Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus perspective were highlighted, together with promoting organic farming to protect biodiversity, minimizing use of chemical fertilizers and enabling carbon sequestration while contributing to the supply of sustainable and healthy food.

Countries also underlined the need for reliable information and transparency at all stages of food production (e.g. animal housing conditions, livestock origin, use of antimicrobials, zoonotic diseases). This can also contribute to addressing conflicts of interest and reducing the concentration of power in certain interest groups. The need to promote circular business models and value chains was highlighted, including valorization of biomass residues into biofertilizers and bioproducts within other industrial sectors, while preventing food loss and food waste.

Mediterranean stakeholders also recognized food loss and waste reduction as a key aspect of a circular economy. The priority actions identified to reduce loss and waste include the need to improve management and infrastructure (e.g. waste collection, sorting, recycling, and better storage and transport of food); launch education and awareness campaigns, from producers to consumers; and improve monitoring of the current situation and progress made.

## 5.1.2 Blue and circular economy

### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

#### **Fisheries, aquaculture**

- ▶ improve sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture (including at local markets);
- ▶ more international and national regulations: environmental and social/labour standards (including labelling);
- ▶ expand market request for other fish varieties;
- ▶ develop protocols to monitor and prevent pollution from aquaculture and vessels; and
- ▶ better monitoring, traceability and consumer awareness.

Marine products – “blue foods” – are an essential part of the Mediterranean diet and present a unique opportunity to promote local healthy and sustainable food and improve food security and nutrition in the region. Blue foods are seen as a potential vector for the revival of the Mediterranean diet as well as a lever for sustainable growth, in particular by providing socio-economic value for the most vulnerable coastal communities.

The sustainability of fisheries in the Mediterranean basin and the continuous growth of aquaculture in the region emerged as critical issues. Stakeholders highlighted the need to urgently address stocks and biodiversity protection, environmental degradation (for example, plastic and micro-plastic pollution) and climate change resilience.

Proposed solutions to address the sustainability concerns include better research and innovation, better exploitation of by-catch and by-products, boosting sustainable finance, developing protocols to monitor and prevent pollution from vessels and aquaculture, and improving the traceability of control of origin of seafood products (for example, fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing) and greater consumer awareness of better food choices. Some stakeholders proposed valorizing underutilized seafood products and introducing a label or recognition system for Mediterranean seafood products integrating all sustainability dimensions.

Employability and access to innovation in the sector, especially for women and young people, were also put forward. Considering that fisheries-related activities are a high-risk business, targeted social security systems and human resource development are needed to promote the diversification and stability of income, generational change and gender inclusion. Another key aspect is the need to improve capacity-building pathways for small-scale fishery and aquaculture operators, aimed at increasing added value of seafood products, promoting diversification of economic activities and supporting skills and entrepreneurship.

The Mediterranean Sea is highly affected by marine litter, bioaccumulation and biomagnification of toxins, the introduction of invasive species, and damaged habitats. Regional networks on best practices for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and regional platforms for the digitalization and data collection on fisheries and aquaculture emerged as potential solutions for monitoring the impacts of marine litter and anthropogenic activity. One practical solution put forward in the Dialogues analysed is the promotion of regional recommendations for improving national legislative frameworks for marine litter collection.

The establishment of international and national regulations was indeed highlighted by stakeholders as a way to make blue economies more sustainable, including policies that reward sustainable practices (e.g. decarbonization) and tax unsustainable ones, and the creation of environmental and labour standards.

### 5.1.3 Sustainable management of land and water in the context of climate change

#### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

##### **Sustainable and efficient use of water**

- ▶ water scarcity, droughts and water stress;
- ▶ emphasis on better use of water (efficiency);
- ▶ less water pollution;
- ▶ innovations (precision agriculture, desalination, better infrastructure, treatment, reuse, closed systems);
- ▶ monitor and evaluate systems;
- ▶ ensure collaboration between bodies dealing with water management (local/regional, national, international);
- ▶ regulations:
  - incentivize good use and penalize wasteful/inefficient use (taxes, fines) by farmers and industry; and
  - different taxation depending on the type of water (fresh or treated).

##### **Sustainable and efficient use of land**

- combined farming systems;
- revitalize indigenous crops; and
- environmental labels to reduce imported deforestation and biodiversity loss.

##### **Environment/climate change**

- ▶ promote R&D to reduce climate change impacts by increasing mitigation, adaptation and resilience;
- ▶ incorporate science-based targets and guidance to monitor and reduce environmental impacts of food production (including GHG emissions and carbon footprint);
- ▶ awareness-raising (including food producers, representatives of municipalities, communities, schoolchildren);
- ▶ revision of fiscal measures to favour non/less-polluting practices; and
- ▶ traceability and certification.

Water scarcity is a major challenge to sustainable food production in the region. Stakeholders emphasized that climate change exacerbates these issues, particularly changing rainfall and temperature patterns, and the incidence of extreme weather events. Other factors, such as population growth, urbanization, changes in dietary patterns (towards higher consumption of animal proteins), and geopolitical issues, contribute to increasing pressure on water resources.

Although droughts and water stress are more persistent and severe in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, northern Mediterranean countries have also raised concerns about water scarcity and the need for efficient irrigation systems.

Mediterranean countries and other regional stakeholders have emphasized the need to improve water use and quality, particularly in agriculture, where water waste in irrigation and water pollution due to excessive use of chemical inputs are very common. There is a consensus that sustainable practices must be incentivized, and new technologies and innovations developed (e.g. precision agriculture/irrigation, climate-smart agriculture, desalination), but their implementation is still a challenge. At the consumer level, better information on the water footprint of dietary choices and the valorization of water resources are seen as potential drivers to improve water usage.

The need for improved water management and governance at different levels and across systems was also highlighted. Stakeholders focused on the importance of collaboration between bodies dealing with agriculture and those dealing with water management, from local to international level. The development of regulations was stressed, including incentives to farmers and industry for good use, as well as the penalization of inefficient use of water and energy. Other priorities identified included the monitoring and evaluation of irrigation systems, improved infrastructure, increased recycling of used water, and better storage, regeneration and conservation. These examples show the importance of understanding interlinkages within the food systems, in particular taking into consideration the WEFE nexus to recognize how specific actions can impact on other parts of the system. Mainstreaming such a nexus approach in national and regional land and water management strategies, within an integrated systemic approach, was considered a way of improving the socio-economic-ecological response to climate change.

Beyond their impact on water resources, unsustainable agri-food systems are a leading cause of land degradation, deforestation, air pollution and biodiversity loss. According to regional stakeholders, there is a need to promote R&D, particularly with regard to analyses related to reducing the impact of climate change on food systems and defining standardized indicators for monitoring emissions, pollution and land degradation.

Stakeholders highlighted the relevance of grassroots responses to climate change effects on land and water resources, and the need to strengthen diversified and combined farming systems to revive indigenous crops and diets, as well as to reduce imported deforestation and biodiversity loss through environmental labels and certification, and deforestation-free trade agreements. In addition, the need for awareness-raising campaigns in municipalities, communities and schools on the impacts of food on resources and ecosystems was emphasized.

#### 5.1.4 Mediterranean diet as a lever for sustainable consumption and production, and healthy diets

##### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

##### Healthy, nutritious and sustainable consumption

- ▶ better information and awareness-raising: consumer-friendly labelling, ecopackaging, traceability:
  - develop food-based dietary guidelines incorporating sustainability as well as health dimensions;
  - empower consumers: dietary choices as lever to redirect production towards sustainability;
  - marketing policies and strategies that prioritize healthy and nutritious products, especially targeting children; and
  - diet diversification, through consumption of seasonal fruit and vegetables and plant-based protein.
- ▶ traditional foods/link with culture:
  - Mediterranean diet, linking together food, culture and diets;
  - geographical indications (GIs); and
  - shorter value chains, consume from local sources.
- ▶ making healthy diets accessible and affordable (e.g. price control):
  - reduce overweight/obesity;
  - school meals; and
  - subsidize healthy products and tax unhealthy ones, external costs.

Countries concurred that the way food is produced and consumed affects the health of people and the environment. The double burden of malnutrition (undernutrition and overweight/obesity), as well as the unsustainability of diets, are increasingly seen as central issues in the Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean diet emerged as an important lever to promote sustainable food systems for healthy diets, bridging sustainable food consumption and production. Many stakeholders in the region highlighted the importance of the cultural dimension of food. Food cannot be uniquely considered as the number of calories required in order to function – it also has a cultural value with strong links to traditions, national and regional identities, and ultimately to people. Many of these local and traditional food systems have also been recognized for the quality and nutritional benefits of their products, for being sustainable and for their positive impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. For these reasons, there is an increasing willingness to conserve, support and promote these local food systems through different mechanisms, such as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHSs) and geographical indications (GIs).

Stakeholders emphasized that problems related to unhealthy diets from unsustainable food systems do not only concern access and affordability but also misinformation, underlining how dietary choices have the power to redirect production towards sustainability. For this reason, strong emphasis was put on the need to empower consumers to make healthy and sustainable dietary choices, through better information and awareness-raising, including the adoption of consumer-friendly labelling and packaging, as well as product traceability.

The need was stressed to raise consumer awareness of the value of the Mediterranean diet and safeguarding it as cultural heritage. To address food insecurity and malnutrition, the focus was on the central role of school meals programmes and other social security mechanisms. It was noted that school meals programmes can be catalytic in incentivizing local food procurement through establishing public purchase schemes from local and sustainable production systems, and bridging production with consumption by providing healthy diets to schoolchildren and educating them and their families in sustainable consumption patterns such as the Mediterranean diet.

The need to improve food environments,<sup>16</sup> without explicitly referring to the concept, was emphasized across the region as an important means of ensuring access to and the availability of healthy and sustainable food for all. In particular, the low price of unhealthy foods compared with healthy ones was stressed, as was the need for more and better information on the environmental impacts of food products. To address issues related to the cost of food, stakeholders proposed the adoption of different fiscal regulations, including subsidies for healthy or sustainable products and taxes for unhealthy or unsustainable ones.

Recognizing a decreasing adherence to the Mediterranean diet in the countries of the region, countries and stakeholders concurred that there is a need for more institutional communication to promote it as a diet with multiple socio-cultural, environmental, economic and health/nutrition benefits. The Mediterranean diet was also proposed as a sustainable strategy with a potential to reduce food loss and waste by strengthening the connection with local territory and traditions to reduce the environmental footprint of food. In this context, the development of food-based dietary guidelines incorporating sustainability as well as health dimensions emerged as a possible pathway to guide country-specific actions along the production–consumption chain.

### 5.1.5 Cities and rural–urban linkages

#### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

##### **Participatory local food governance**

- ▶ Local food councils for inclusive decision-making
- ▶ City-to-city exchange and networking

##### **Reduce rural–urban disparities**

- ▶ Increase urban agriculture
- ▶ Shorten value chains

National Dialogues emphasized the often persistent gap between national policies and local needs. Nevertheless, they also recognized that cities can be key drivers of FST at local level, towards sustainable and healthy production and consumption practices within circular economy patterns. In the Mediterranean region, cities and local governments are becoming more engaged in food-related issues, and interest in urban food systems is increasing rapidly. In fact, a growing number of cities are adopting local multi-stakeholder food governance structures, such as food policy councils, food alliances or similar governance tools. This type of inclusive decision-making at local level can play a central role in shaping the future of local and national food systems, as well as influencing regional and global mechanisms. To ensure the development of evidence-based local policies, it is crucial to improve the availability and quality of data and information on food systems at local level, including through food systems assessments, and the mapping of local initiatives and stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

Multiple stakeholders expressed that food-related local initiatives, as well as food networks between cities and city-to-city exchanges from all shores of the Mediterranean, should be promoted and supported. Indeed, networks have been identified as critical for raising awareness, exchanging experiences, and influencing change with regard to policies, legislation and rural and urban consumer perceptions.

The need to reduce rural–urban disparities while promoting integrated urban/local food policies was also highlighted. Food is seen as a key interface between cities and rural areas, with the potential for the adoption of a systemic approach, which can include the development of local purchasing for school meals programmes, education campaigns, food waste and the circular economy, and links with tourism, among other factors. Stakeholders emphasized that separation between rural and urban areas can also be reduced by further developing the links between sustainability, local consumption and social proximity, while reshaping the rural–urban social fabric through responsibility, connectivity and education.

The need to increase knowledge sharing of innovative or existing good practices, including digitalization, was stressed as a way to facilitate a change of organizational patterns between consumers and producers, such as supporting the efficiency of shorter food-supply chains, or providing small farmers with more information and access to diverse markets.

Finally, the potential of urban areas in food production and the need to increase urban and local productivity (e.g. urban farming, vertical farming) was also raised by certain countries.

<sup>16</sup> "Food environments comprise foods available and accessible to people in their surroundings and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling and promotion of these foods. These environments should ensure that people have equal and equitable access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious foods that meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, considering the various physical, social, economic, cultural, and political factors that influence that access." See Committee on World Food Security publication: [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)

## 5.1.6 Equitable and inclusive development of rural livelihoods

### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

#### Equity, agency and inclusiveness (reduce disparities)

- ▶ focus on women (empowerment) and young people (attraction);
- ▶ focus on vulnerable people, including migrants and refugees;
- ▶ smallholders (and family farmers) access to finance, technologies, innovations, markets, and better resilience:
  - promote aggregation of farmers/cooperatives to overcome fragmentation; horizontal and vertical cooperation, knowledge sharing;
- ▶ develop social protection mechanisms, food assistance, safety nets, etc.;
- ▶ improve living conditions in rural areas, access to health, services, infrastructure; and
- ▶ develop education, training and capacity building as tools for inclusion;
  - job/enterprise creation.

There is consensus on the need to promote the livelihoods of all actors in food systems, in particular the most vulnerable, and to ensure their human and labour rights. Stakeholders advocated strengthening entrepreneurship capacities, business environments and access to markets as ways of improving livelihoods for all, and especially for women and young people, smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), formal and informal workers, and vulnerable or marginalized people. Access to land rights, finance, training, digitalization, technologies and innovation are seen as some of the key elements to ensure equitable livelihoods. Stakeholders also focused on the need to diversify and create better livelihood opportunities for small-scale actors, promoting their inclusion in food systems through innovative approaches, such as shorter value chains, public procurement and collective certification schemes.

The necessity to address gender inequality and to increase the engagement and retention of young people in agri-food sectors are particularly recurrent themes. With the aim of increasing access for rural women to different finance mechanisms and engaging in larger production scales and entrepreneurship, some farmers' unions from the southern Mediterranean proposed concrete solutions; for example, the creation of a technical support and training unit dedicated to rural women, the organization of exchange visits, regional fairs and seminars tailored to female agri-entrepreneurship, and the establishment of a network to foster the commercialization of agri-food produced by women.

To reduce high unemployment rates among young people in the region, youth groups called for better inclusion in decision-making processes, better interaction between education and business (transferring employable skills through interdisciplinary and tailored curricula), and the implementation of youth economic empowerment programmes. Establishing incubators and accelerators of innovative agri-food projects and start-ups that connect young agri-entrepreneurs to investors was also mentioned as a tool for fostering FST.

Regarding better opportunities for representation and participation of small-scale actors, stakeholders also suggested promoting aggregation into cooperatives and business associations to address fragmentation, increase horizontal and vertical cooperation and negotiation power, and promote knowledge sharing and access to financial assistance and markets.

Stakeholders from different countries highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in which food needs to be considered as a "good", being already recognized as a right, and not just a "commodity", and in which social equity must be viewed as a necessary step for FST. At the same time, in line with a systems approach, the need to address living conditions in rural areas also emerged as important, particularly access to better health, services and infrastructure.

Finally, countries called for the need to address migration crises, including better international cooperation and simplified employment procedures for immigrants and informal workers.

## 5.1.7 Resilience

### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

#### **Resilience to conflicts, pandemics, extreme weather events, etc.**

- ▶ ensure legal frameworks, methodologies and management plans:
  - monitoring, early warning systems; and
  - innovation, technology, R&D;
- ▶ ensure predictability of food systems in the face of stress and crises:
  - reduce price fluctuation;
  - expand storage facilities;
- ▶ collaboration between countries;
- ▶ insurance systems; and
- ▶ collaboration with private sector.

Resilience emerged as a critical aspect of the sustainability of food systems. The impact of conflicts, climate change, including the surge and unpredictability of extreme weather events, and health shocks, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic, have been highlighted as major threats to food systems in the region, in particular for vulnerable and marginalized consumers and smallholder farmers.

Stakeholders recognized that the key to the development of resilient food systems was the need to prevent, manage and address the effects of shocks and stressors by developing targeted legal frameworks, methodologies, crisis management plans, and monitoring and early warning systems. The measures mentioned include reduction in food price fluctuations, expanded food storage, and the establishment of insurance systems, all of which require further “resilience-specific” R&D, innovation and collaboration between countries and across sectors.

## 5.1.8 Trade and food safety standards

### SUMMARY OF KEY TOPICS

#### **Trade**

- ▶ improve international and regional flow of commodities;
- ▶ food sovereignty/reduce food imports; and
- ▶ transboundary diseases and international trade standards.

#### **Food safety**

- ▶ zoonotic diseases, antimicrobials, chemical contaminants, microbiological hazards, etc.;
- ▶ legislation, official controls, inspection and surveillance systems (laboratory), traceability, education, better post-harvest storage and processing; and
- ▶ good hygiene practices and controls across the food value chain.

The importance of developing safe food systems in the Mediterranean region was stressed, where zoonotic diseases, antimicrobials, chemical contaminants, microbiological hazards, and food hygiene are seen as critical issues. Many countries have emphasized the need for regulations, legislation and policies that enforce standards for food safety and animal welfare. Some specific propositions focused on improving traceability, surveillance systems (e.g. laboratory analyses), and education, including in relation to post-harvest storage and food processing. Food inspection and surveillance systems were also highlighted as central to limiting the risks related to transboundary diseases, as well as increasing chances to access international markets.

The general comments and views on trade were not always aligned. On the one hand, some countries highlighted the need to increase food sovereignty as a way of reducing import dependence and decreasing environmental impacts related to trade (including imported deforestation and transport pollution); on the other hand, other countries emphasized the need to increase international and regional flow of sustainable and nutritious food as a way to establish innovative business models and increase the resilience of food systems.



## 5.2 Relevance of global UNFSS processes for the Mediterranean region

Dialogues in the Mediterranean region fed the global discussion and helped to shape the results emerging from the 4SD (Skills, Systems and Synergies for Sustainable Development) synthesis reports.<sup>17</sup> It is important to note that the issues raised by Mediterranean stakeholders – presented in Section 5.1 – were in line with the discussions at global level, in particular the need to increase the sustainability of production systems, improve nutrition and health, ensure efficient use of water, reduce food loss and waste through circular economies, and increase resilience. However, the Dialogues in the region enabled further definition of the pathways to address such issues in the particular context of the Mediterranean countries.

The levers of change for advancing FST identified by the Food System Summit and emerging from the FSSDs were: (a) prioritizing universal realization of the right to food; (b) advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women; (c) adopting technical and social innovations; and (d) the strategic use of public and private finance. These levers also have many similarities with the “enablers” that emerged in the Mediterranean region, presented in Section 5.4. Furthermore, the importance of data, R&D, and the need for better governance emerged from National Dialogues across the globe as well as in the Mediterranean region. Finally, many global stakeholders emphasized the vital role of indigenous/traditional knowledge and the need to promote food education and raise awareness of traditional healthy diets from sustainable food systems. This point was also strongly emphasized in the region, where the need to promote the Mediterranean diet as a lever of change emerged as central.

At the same time, the Food Systems Summit Secretariat received thousands of ideas related to the five Action Tracks, which have been consolidated into a few hundred game-changing propositions,<sup>18</sup> grouped thematically into solution clusters.<sup>19</sup> Such clusters supported the shaping of Coalitions of Actions<sup>20</sup> presented during the Pre-Summit and Summit events. These coalitions present opportunities for global collaboration as well as regional, national and local engagement.

Another important contribution emerging from the global process is related to the many game-changing propositions identified at global level. These propositions have the potential to be applied to the Mediterranean context. They can be selected and adapted to national and local contexts, and integrated as part of pathways, roadmaps, strategies or plans depending on the areas of need and interest of the stakeholder. Annex 2: Global game-changing propositions pertinent to the Mediterranean, presents a set of these propositions grouped according to the thematic areas presented in Section 5.1.



<sup>17</sup> The social enterprise 4SD, in partnership with the Food Systems Summit Secretariat, accompanied FSSD convenors in their Dialogues process and analysed the feedback forms of all FSSDs. Synthesis reports are available at: <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/official-feedback-to-the-summit/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://foodsystems.community/game-changing-propositions/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://foodsystems.community/game-changing-propositions-solution-clusters/>

<sup>20</sup> List of emerging coalitions

### 5.3 Emerging national pathways in the Mediterranean

Some of the game-changing propositions are being included in national strategies and action plans developed by countries as a result of the UNFSS. The content of the emerging national pathways, roadmaps and strategies is very different depending on the stage of elaboration. Some have already mainstreamed their national food systems vision or a range of objectives within their current strategies, while others have focused on overarching principles, and a few have developed or are developing national action plans, with clear key milestones and timelines.

Some countries have highlighted the importance of coherently connecting new strategies and plans with existing national, regional and global policies and frameworks. At the same time, effective governance is a key lever to ensure that policies and regulations are synchronized, complementary, understandable, efficient, accessible and transparent.

From the different emerging pathways, it appears that the Ministry of Agriculture/Rural Development is leading the process in the majority of countries. In a few cases the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the lead, and in one case the Ministry of Environment (see Table 2). Nevertheless, different countries have highlighted that there is close collaboration between ministries with regard to food systems development. For example, one country emphasized that the Ministry of Agriculture works closely with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and the Ministry of Health. Another country indicated that many ministries are involved in the process, including those dealing with commerce and the environment, health, water and industry, among others. The engagement of different ministries was also seen in the presence and delivery of statements by different ministers during the Pre-Summit in Rome.

Finally, in their national pathways or roadmaps, a few countries have underlined the need to assign clear responsibilities for implementation at national level, including monitoring and evaluating the progress made in transforming national food systems.

To better understand the process related to the elaboration of national pathways, three country examples from the region are presented below in Boxes 1 to 3.

Country	Country and convener's institution	
<b>Albania</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	} <b>Agriculture</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	
<b>France</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	
<b>Jordan</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	
<b>Morocco</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests	
<b>Spain</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	
<b>Tunisia</b>	Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries	
<b>Turkey</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	
<b>Egypt</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	} <b>Foreign Affairs</b>
<b>Italy</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	
<b>Malta</b>	Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs	
<b>Israel</b>	Ministry of Environmental Protection	} <b>Environment</b>

Table 2 List of national convenors

## ALBANIA

The food systems National Dialogue process is helping Albania to design strategic targeted changes and reflect on commitments for the next decade. Having embraced the vision that a sustainable food system (SFS) lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the country is planning to integrate the SFS concept into the implementation of nationalized, context-specific SDGs.

**National process.** In preparation for the UNFSS, Albania convened a National Dialogue to initiate engagement and outline key trends for FST. This was followed by two subnational Dialogues exploring local specificities: a Dialogue focusing on *low and coastal areas* provided insights into the blue economy, as well as the value chains of vegetables, dairy, meat, olives and olive oil; while a Dialogue about *mountainous areas* specifically focused on promoting agritourism, protecting and reviving traditional foods, as well as developing viticulture, beekeeping, and the value chains of fruit trees, aromatic and medicinal plants, and small ruminants.

**Outcome.** A fourth Dialogue convened stakeholders at national level again, and they were able to summarize the findings of these preparatory discussions and agree upon five strategic priorities for the next decade, which were included in the resulting FST National Pathway:

- ensure value-chain competitiveness;
- develop agro-tourism and short value chains as mechanisms of rural development;
- establish an effective system of food/animal feed safety, veterinary and plant protection;
- guarantee the sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, and enable climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
- create effective systems of crisis management.

Albania's pathway considers that **multi-stakeholder collaboration** and the involvement of civil society in policy implementation processes is of the utmost importance. Public-private partnership (PPP) models will be considered as one of the key mechanisms of cooperation.

**Next steps.** Following the Summit, Albania plans to integrate nationalized SDGs into the implementation of the recommended SFS pathways, as well as align them with national strategies to create synergies across multiple sectors. They include the National Strategy on Development and Integration (NSDI) and the European Union-Albania Association Agreement, the Sectorial Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, as well as other strategic documents covering health, education, gender and young people.

Source: <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FSS-Albania-National-Pathways-for-Sustainable-Food-Systems.doc>



Box 1 Overview of Albania's national pathway

## EGYPT

Egypt is leveraging the UNFSS process as a stepping stone to a longer-term process of alignment and adoption of a holistic approach to food-related issues.

**National process.** Between December 2020 and July 2021, the Government of Egypt, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, started a series of seven rounds of consultations involving a wide array of stakeholders, in an effort to gather inputs on solutions that will ensure sustainable FST in Egypt for better food security and nutrition.

**Outcome.** The final National Dialogue resulted in a document reflecting the Egyptian vision for the transition towards a sustainable food system, which includes solutions to tackle food systems challenges, specifically adapted to the Egyptian context based on the list of global solutions provided by the Summit's process. The National Pathway consolidates solutions and policy recommendations provided by five ministries,<sup>21</sup> and it was developed jointly with six UN Agencies operating in the country. Some of the key priority actions included in the outcome document are:

- improve access to innovations and technologies for smallholder farmers and small-scale operators (SMEs) along the food supply chain;
- promote investments in clean and renewable energy that are affordable for small-scale actors in the food system;
- address fragmentation of farm holdings;
- review and design new incentives (subsidies, quota, regulations) for farmers and agri-food companies to shift towards more sustainable practices;
- strengthen monitoring and enforcement of existing food safety norms and control mechanisms;
- increase the efficient use of water resources, with the additional aim of improving productivity of desert lands;
- increase the efficiency of social protection programmes to support poor people's access to adequate food; and
- promote organic agriculture.

**Next steps.** Following the Summit, the National Convenor entrusted the National Nutrition Institute, the National Food Safety Authority and the FAO Representation in Egypt to convene national consultations about the establishment of an **intergovernmental coordination mechanism**. This body will be in charge of monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the solutions proposed in the national vision document, and coordinating the efforts of all concerned parties to achieve Egypt's FST goals.

Source: <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Official-Feedback-Form-Structure-19-September-2021.docx>



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### Box 2 Overview of Egypt's National Pathway

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade.

## TURKEY

Turkey prepared its National Pathway, building on the outputs of the National Dialogue processes in the context of the UNFSS, and in line with existing national strategies and policies related to food systems. One of the most important inputs was the results of the third Agriculture Forestry Council in 2019, which set 46 main actions and 324 subactions.

**National process.** The National Pathway is the result of a participatory process comprising meetings, online surveys, workshops at different regional levels, as well as a comprehensive literature and policy review. The process involved many actors across the food systems, including policy-makers, public authorities, civil society, academics, the private sector and actors that have less chance of being heard, such as women and young people. They are all expected to work together in a systemic way, including the implementation phase, to increase the impact of pathway actions.

**Outcome.** Turkey's National Pathway document analyses the current food systems, how they function, and for whom, to then establish the necessary urgent actions in connection with current national policy and planning frameworks.

The pathway identifies a number of concrete actions, and the responsible institutions and relevant stakeholders for each of the Summit's five Action Tracks. Actions include digitizing the food value chain, expanding local product markets, using technology and awareness to reduce food loss and waste, continuing school meals programmes, disseminating organic agriculture, modern irrigation planning and innovative techniques, increasing the digital and financial literacy of disadvantaged groups, strengthening the agricultural insurance system, and the preparation of emergency and long-term resilience plans, among many others. The document also considers a number of cross-cutting issues related to institutional capacity, financial support mechanisms, public-private partnerships, digitalization and agricultural extension.

**Next steps.** While the timeline for implementation extends to 2030, some actions in the pathway – particularly those that are also included in national action plans and strategies – have different deadlines, most of them up to 2023. National Pathway implementation results will be monitored yearly under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and using feedback from the institutions responsible for the actions. The regions and cities, through development agencies and local administrations, are encouraged to develop their own regional food systems strategies on the basis of the National Pathway.

Source: <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Turkey-National-Pathway-14.09.2021.pdf>



Box 3 Overview of Turkey's National Pathway

Table 3 compares the thematic areas presented in Section 5.1 with the main issues raised by the seven Mediterranean countries that have published their national pathway document on the UNFSS website (as of 3 November 2021).<sup>22</sup> This part of the analysis shows that priorities and issues highlighted in the National and Independent Dialogues were instrumental to the development of national pathways. In addition, the analysis presented here confirms that Mediterranean countries are aligned on many of the key issues related to the sustainability of food systems. This opens up opportunities for further regional Dialogues, and the sharing of common solutions and joint actions within and across countries.

	Albania	Algeria	Egypt	Israel	Italy	Jordan	Turkey
Green and circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase productivity and sustainability, particularly of family farms</li> <li>• Shorter value chains</li> <li>• Ensure competitive value chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular economy, reduce FLW</li> <li>• Agro-ecology and conservation agriculture</li> <li>• Organic agriculture legislation</li> <li>• Increase domestic production/reduce imports</li> <li>• Quality labels</li> <li>• Promote family farming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift to sustainable practices</li> <li>• Promote organic agriculture</li> <li>• Local production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature positive agriculture, fewer chemicals</li> <li>• Agro-ecology</li> <li>• Local production</li> <li>• Decrease animal protein production/consumption</li> <li>• Reduce FLW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable production and consumption</li> <li>• Private sector best practices on food production and marketing</li> <li>• Eliminating FLW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better awareness of sustainability of food systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate organic agriculture</li> <li>• Better technology and awareness to reduce FLW</li> </ul>
Blue and circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and develop blue economy and sustainable fishery and aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue economy national strategy (including fisheries, aquaponics and aquaculture)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain and expand sustainable resilient blue food production systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase aquaculture production</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure long-term viability of fisheries</li> <li>• Increase consumption of fish products</li> </ul>
Sustainable management of land and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guarantee the sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, and enable climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve irrigation systems</li> <li>• Better water infrastructure and waste water treatment</li> <li>• Improve the use of soil, energy and biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the efficient use of water resources (including in desert lands)</li> <li>• Improve soil health</li> <li>• Invest in clean energy</li> <li>• Reduce FLW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve water use (more water in nature and wastewater reuse)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the private sector in combating biodiversity loss, climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve availability of water (water losses, ground water quality, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern irrigation planning and innovative techniques</li> </ul>
Mediterranean diet as a lever for SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to safe, nutritious and quality foods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote traditional and healthy diets</li> <li>• Reduce salt sugar and fat consumption</li> <li>• Fight non-communicable diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to adequate, healthy and sustainable food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote healthy, affordable and sustainable diet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the Mediterranean diet: culture, values and traditions</li> <li>• Need better food education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve food habits and consumption patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote change towards healthy diets and sustainable consumption patterns</li> </ul>
Cities and rural-urban linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration at local level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peri-urban agriculture</li> <li>• Shorter value chains</li> <li>• Improve FLW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter supply chains and territorial markets</li> <li>• Ensure social protection in urban areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase municipalities' responsibility in promoting healthy and equitable food systems</li> <li>• Shorter value chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local networks</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand local product markets</li> <li>• Increase vertical farming</li> <li>• Align local food systems strategies to National Pathway</li> <li>• Reduce urban/rural inequalities</li> </ul>
Equitable and inclusive livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural development, ensuring access to equitable services delivery</li> <li>• Address digital divide</li> <li>• Ensure basic services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve social equity</li> <li>• Creation of credits and insurance services for smallholders</li> <li>• Better social protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better social protection schemes</li> <li>• Access to innovation and technologies for smallholders, in particular women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small farmers included and decent standards</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of decent work, safety nets and equitable access to resources and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing digital and financial literacy of disadvantaged groups</li> <li>• Continuing school meal programmes</li> </ul>
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems for crisis management</li> <li>• Increase resilience of vulnerable groups to shocks and climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase resilience to climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen social and economic resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop agriculture resilient to climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building resilient local food networks against hunger and malnutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience to crisis (health, climate, conflicts)</li> <li>• Refugees crisis management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the agricultural insurance system, preparation of emergency and long-term resilience plans</li> </ul>
Trade and food safety standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety, veterinary and plant protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety</li> <li>• Consumer protection</li> <li>• Import control</li> <li>• Better water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve food safety norms and control mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon tax on agricultural imports</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure better food safety, strengthen current regulations</li> </ul>

**Table 3** Overview of national pathways in the Mediterranean

<sup>22</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/convenors/>

## 5.4 Enabling regional collaboration

Section 5.1 presented the main thematic areas emerging from the Dialogues processes and other national and regional consultations, Section 5.2 presented propositions developed at global level as a result of the Summit streams that could be applicable to the challenges identified in the Mediterranean, and Section 5.3 described how countries have included those reflections in their national pathways. In this section, possible areas of collaboration are explored based on emerging common trends and views on how to address food systems challenges in the region.

Before embarking on this final part of the stocktaking analysis, it is important to note that a variety of regional bodies and initiatives are already focused on tackling many of the issues identified in the previous sections. This section emphasizes how stakeholders from across the whole region called for cross-sectoral actions – applicable to any of the thematic areas identified in 5.1 – that were recognized as means of implementation and potential drivers of regional collaboration for accelerating the shift towards more SFS.

These means of implementation, or “enablers”, are presented below to give an overview of how they can help to drive FST, based on a non-exhaustive list of actions mentioned in the FSSDs and ministerial statements at the Pre-Summit and the Summit.

### 5.4.1 Multi-stakeholder collaboration, partnerships and inclusive governance

Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships at national and regional levels to build trust and commitments based on shared understanding and inclusion was a point of emphasis across Dialogues. Indeed, addressing trade-offs between competing economic, environmental and social objectives often requires negotiation between different communities and actors with divergent perceptions, interests, resources and power. Stakeholders highlighted key unresolved trade-offs, including divergences between economic or environmental priorities, digitalization or employment growth, and innovative or traditional farming approaches.

Multi-stakeholder mechanisms are a key instrument for a systemic approach and national mechanisms, such as task forces or coordination bodies, can provide an arena for dialogue at different levels – from local to global – in particular when they are based on an equal footing among stakeholders, co-ownership, co-management and co-funding, to avoid power imbalances and top-down dynamics. The perspective of local governments and territories emerges, especially in the context of local food systems and their potential to influence consumption and production patterns, and to ensure a bottom-up engagement in decision-making. Cities across the region share common challenges and objectives, and are increasingly taking comprehensive and systemic approaches to food policies as strategic entry points to develop synergies between diverse stakeholders and traditionally disjointed policy domains. Cities are indeed becoming living laboratories for thinkers and facilitators of innovative food systems policies, building on both research and civic experiences, while regional cooperation through city-to-city exchanges, partnerships and networks can help to drive sustainable change.

Northern and eastern countries also focused on the importance of further developing policy and regulatory frameworks to conserve biodiversity, improve animal welfare and reduce the environmental impacts of livestock, among other factors. Critical divergences raised by Dialogue stakeholders are related to trade and food sovereignty, including opposing national and regional approaches, as well as food prices and the real cost of food (considering externalities and subsidies). There was also a general call to continue fostering regional cooperation to ensure food flows in case of crises, and to prevent and control transboundary pests and diseases as well as deal with food safety issues.

Some of the means of implementation suggested during the Dialogues include:

- promoting multi-stakeholder, intergovernmental Dialogues across food systems areas;
- improving governance and coordination mechanisms (interministerial, intergovernmental committees, parliamentary groups);
- creating and promoting interdisciplinary food councils at local level (e.g. food policy councils);
- creating legislative and regulatory frameworks for food security and food systems, including environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources; and
- establishing multi-stakeholder consortia (e.g. for food production with high nutritional value).

## 5.4.2 Investments and finance

Underfunding emerged as a common issue for stakeholders in the region, as well as the need for better and increased investments necessary to transform food systems. Cooperation between governments and with the financial sector in order to strengthen the linkages between private and public finance was emphasized as central to ensuring the funding necessary to mitigate risk for the agriculture sector for investors and to make sustainable investments more attractive, especially for smaller-scale actors across food systems. While public funding is being used more widely to leverage and catalyse private investments towards sustainable food systems, international finance institutions (IFIs) and development banks play a pivotal role in this interface. Additional public and private funds may be used to establish public grant funds to match private investments, and set up subsidized guarantee programmes and insurance schemes. Sustainable finance and investments in line with green, blue and circular economy principles can also contribute to ensuring that the transition to sustainability empowers vulnerable groups and creates decent jobs, stable enterprises, and access to markets for all.

Complying with standards for the environment, social inclusion, governance, procurement (such as transparency and pricing) could enable actors in the region's food systems to receive more investments.

Ensuring the availability of funds was also highlighted as catalytic to scaling up other means of implementation such as improving awareness, information, education, capacity building, science, technology and innovation.

Some of the means of implementation suggested during the Dialogues include:

- promoting public, private and blended financing strategies that foster sustainability and climate action;
- considering public incentives/disincentives (subsidies, taxes);
- an evaluation system for investments in compliance with social and environmental standards;
- promoting mechanisms for more inclusive finance (incubators/accelerators, especially for young people);
- promoting insurance schemes for agricultural activities to de-risk investments; and
- using recovery funds as incentives for sustainable production.

## 5.4.3 Awareness and capacity building

Food systems transformation starts locally, involving all stakeholders, who must be enabled to take decisions based on adequate knowledge, information and awareness. The Dialogues highlighted that there is still confusion over concepts such as "food systems" (compared with "food security"), "food systems transformation", and "food sovereignty". Participants were not always clear about the scope and limits of a food system – where it begins and ends, and the implications of transformation. These legitimate questions indicate the relevance of holding these Dialogues as well as the important opportunity presented by the UNFSS to raise awareness of the topics.

Effective capacity building is also needed to enable people and stakeholders to take action, linking researchers and innovators to actors in food systems (e.g. producers' associations, women and youth initiatives, consumers, investors), and fostering the development of skills and entrepreneurship. The enhanced engagement of women and young people is paramount to transferring skills and increasing the awareness of new generations, thereby fostering inclusiveness in sustainable FST. Collaboration opportunities in the region can also take the form of exchanges of experiences and cross-capacity building among different groups from different countries.

Some of the means of implementation suggested during the Dialogues include:

- capacity building on key food systems concepts;
- awareness and information campaigns on healthy diets from sustainable food systems;
- better science-based consumer information and consumer-friendly labelling;
- capacity building for vulnerable people (women, youth, smallholder farmers), including digital technologies, innovative sustainable practices, and market requirements;
- food and nutrition education across age groups, starting from primary school to graduate and postgraduate degrees; and
- education programmes and curricula on sustainable consumption and production, including food loss and waste and water use.



#### 5.4.4 Science, data and innovation

Science-based data and evidence are critical in establishing a clear and shared vision of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean, and translating it into effective policies, investments and actions. Stakeholders also emphasized the need to harness the potential of innovation and technology for FST, and make it accessible to all actors in food systems, including the most vulnerable, with the aim of improving the use of natural resources, reducing the environmental impacts of agri-food systems and increasing production. Addressing the gap between science, policy and business also requires collaboration and transfer of knowledge from research centres to applied fields. For example, southern and eastern Mediterranean countries emphasized the importance of sharing and collaborating on these aspects in order to improve water usage. All countries, in particular from the northern shore, focused on the importance of R&D to achieve cross-sectoral transformation. This includes joining forces to upscale systemic approaches, such as agro-ecology, or consolidate common sustainability levers, such as the Mediterranean diet.

More ambitious funds and investments in research and innovation are needed, rewarding researchers who engage in applied research and market-oriented innovations. Bridging the gap between science, policy and business requires investment in specific competences and professional figures, such as innovation brokers, to facilitate an innovative ecosystem, connect with local needs, and enhance the transfer of knowledge from research centres to applied fields.

Some of the means of implementation suggested during the Dialogues include:

- generating and using data, including through digital technologies, to develop evidence-based policies, and improve the monitoring and evaluation of policy interventions;
- overcoming the silos of knowledge and disciplinary boundaries;
- ensuring that policy and regulations are data-driven, synchronized, complementary, proportional, understandable, accessible and transparent;
- developing national action plans/strategies with systemic approaches, outcomes, measures and targets, and assigning responsibility for monitoring/evaluative research;
- identifying mechanisms to ensure innovation transfer to small-scale actors, women and young people (including capacity building, information, and digital technologies);
- leveraging science diplomacy to enhance regional scientific cooperation; and
- creating innovative pilots demonstrating the effectiveness of sustainable approaches.



## 6. WAY FORWARD AND ROLE OF THE SFS-MED PLATFORM

As highlighted in previous sections, countries are at different stages in the development of their national pathways, strategies and plans, as well as in the definition of a way forward to make their food systems more sustainable. This final part of the report, based on experiences observed globally and across the region, and on the objectives set by the diverse range of stakeholders that participated in the Dialogues, proposes possible next steps to ensure that countries and other actors in food systems maintain the momentum created throughout the Food Systems Summit and the related national processes.

Following the UNFSS, and throughout the processes, many governments are now committing to accelerating the transformative power of food systems. This transformation is based on understanding the urgency of moving towards a systemic approach, with all sectors working as one towards common goals. This involves multiple sectors of national and local government, private entities, civil society and financial institutions, and the interaction of multiple scientific disciplines, as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge. Transformative action also demands the engagement and close participation of the people who drive food systems, such as farmers, herders, food workers and fisher folk, as well as consumers with their choices and preferences.

As a direct follow up, countries are encouraged to:

- 1. Continue organizing food systems Dialogues** with the wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at national, subnational and local levels. These Dialogues should confirm a common understanding of the problems, ensuring that all stakeholders become familiar with key concepts related to food systems (i.e. what an SFS approach is) and what it entails in their own context. Moreover, the Dialogues facilitate the development of cross-sectoral collaborations and joint actions that can be applied to national and subnational contexts.
- 2. Focus on finalizing their national pathway or roadmap and start its implementation**, building on the progress made in guiding their National Dialogue process. This includes elaborating national strategies, defining the actors involved and outlining a clear timeline and key milestones to ensure implementation in future years. Countries may also consider selecting, adapting and integrating propositions emerging from the global UNFSS process into their national pathway, roadmap or strategies depending on their areas of need and interest. These pathways and strategies should also help to clarify how to ensure that policies and frameworks are elaborated following an inclusive, equitable and systemic approach. The selection and prioritization of actions should ensure coherence with current national policies and frameworks and eventually result in the development of integrated, multidisciplinary solutions that can support national efforts to realize the FST envisaged. Working on these actions with a systemic perspective that focuses on finding synergies, integrating different issues and considering potential trade-offs and ways to minimize them, should help to achieve long and mid-term outcomes that impact different national areas of interest and accelerate the transformation towards healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.
- 3. Promote inclusive governance** (multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral, and cross-ministerial); for example, through enhanced **coordination**, as well as **monitoring and evaluation frameworks** to ensure that effective progress is made in the implementation of national strategies or pathways, and that this is inclusive, equitable and encompassing the whole food system.
- 4. Continue building cross-national and regional collaboration**, involving multiple stakeholders and sectors. Follow-up actions are expected to be driven at national level. However, the Summit Dialogues process led to the identification of regional opportunities to collaborate on strengths and vulnerabilities of national and local food systems, including the harmonization of legal frameworks, setting of standards, trade regulations, and sharing of data, knowledge and best practices.

A number of multi-stakeholder initiatives and coalitions informed by the five Action Areas<sup>23</sup> identified by the Summit are being established to help accelerate progress through better coordinated action. These emerging initiatives, alliances and coalitions have been inspired by the National Dialogues, and are being designed to help nations and regions advance towards more inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems by 2030.

Catalysing all these efforts towards SFS is a process that needs urgency and scale, but it will take the time and efforts of all stakeholders to achieve the goals and aspirations. Local, national and regional stakeholders are increasingly participating in fora and communities of practice to be able to collectively engage in the definition of pathways and action plans towards 2030 and beyond, and facilitate exchange with institutional counterparts.

<sup>23</sup> The Summit process identified five Action Areas to help inform the transitions needed to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda: 1. Nourish all people; 2. Boost nature-based solutions; 3. Advance equitable livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities; 4. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses; and 5. Accelerate the means of implementation

During the two SFS-MED Dialogues, stakeholders emphasized the role that the SFS-MED Platform can play as a regional and independent forum to facilitate exchanges and foster activities to transform food systems. The Platform aims to foster a sense of community to leverage the existing knowledge, experience and skills of actors in food systems across the Mediterranean region as a joint effort. In this context, this multi-stakeholder initiative is well positioned for catalysing FST in the Mediterranean region, following up on the processes initiated in the framework of the UNFSS Food Systems Summit at both regional and national levels.

More specifically, the SFS-MED Platform offers:

- A **forum for dialogue and collaboration** on priority themes for sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean, acting as a neutral facilitator of multi-stakeholder exchange to enhance policy coherence, build trust, and promote the effective implementation of actions. An immediate next step would be to organize follow-up Dialogues to take stock of the ongoing efforts to further develop and implement pathways at national level, as well as regional collaboration.
- An **ideal setting to rebalance sustainability and finance**. Dedicated support for the co-creation of flagship projects and investment proposals will enable actors in Mediterranean food systems to access funding and scale up sustainable investments.
- A **network for strengthening knowledge sharing and capacity building** related to sustainable food consumption and production across the Mediterranean.
- Opportunities for **regional cooperation** for data sharing, science diplomacy, and the advancement of green and blue practices, as well as inclusive and digital innovation.

The SFS-MED Platform, leveraging the capacities of various partners and related projects, will continue to engage with countries and stakeholders across the Mediterranean after the Summit in the further development and implementation of national pathways, while ensuring coordinated action and learning across the region. The Platform will be instrumental for the transition towards more sustainable food systems in the region, ultimately accelerating progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean.



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# ANNEX 1

## List of Food Systems Summit Dialogues in the Mediterranean

Type	Country	Title	URL
<b>DIALOGUES ANALYSED</b>			
Member State	Albania	Final National Dialogue: From food, nutrition, and health, to equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems in Albania	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/34717/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/34717/</a>
Member State	Egypt	Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Egypt's Food System	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30933/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30933/</a>
Member State	France	Concertation pour l'élaboration de la Stratégie Nationale Protéines	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31190/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31190/</a>
Member State	Israel	Animal Food Systems: Pathways	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24189/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24189/</a>
Member State		Environmental global changes, local implications: Pathways	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24192/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24192/</a>
Member State		Food security, regulation, industry and cities: Pathways	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24207/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24207/</a>
Member State		Implementation guidance for healthy and sustainable diets policy: Pathways	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24182/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24182/</a>
Member State		Plant food systems: Pathways	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24202/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24202/</a>
Member State		Italy	The culture of food in sustainable food systems
Member State	Jordan	Transforming to more efficient and sustainable food systems in light of crises	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31771/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31771/</a>
Member State	Malta	Lifestyle Changes towards Sustainable Food Systems	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39816/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39816/</a>
Member State	Morocco	Dialogue National sur les Systèmes Alimentaires au Maroc	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39015/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39015/</a>
Member State	Spain	Sistemas Alimentarios Sostenibles: necesidad y oportunidad	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17668/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17668/</a>
Member State	Tunisia	Pour des systèmes alimentaires durables, résilients et créateurs de richesse	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31069/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31069/</a>
Member State	Turkey	Transforming the Food Systems for A Better Future - 2	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21143/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21143/</a>
Independent	Italy	Bites of Transfoodmation - Journeys of Transition in Food Production and Distribution Practices	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2337/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2337/</a>
Independent		Italia in azione: la sostenibilità dei sistemi alimentari e della dieta mediterranea	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30148/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30148/</a>
Independent		Reducing food loss, preventing food waste and promoting Mediterranean type-diet: vision and engagement of the Italian agri-food system	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17449/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17449/</a>
Independent	Lebanon	Lebanese youth food systems dialogue: Water for Food Systems	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30743/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30743/</a>
Independent	Multiple	Accès au financement : un préalable indispensable pour une agriculture performante en Afrique du Nord à l'horizon 2030	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22283/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22283/</a>
Independent		Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7085/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7085/</a>
Independent		Pathways for the future of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean - Part 1	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/</a>
Independent		Pathways for the future of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean - Part 2	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/</a>
Independent		Why We Need Water Ethics   Managing Water Use In The Mediterranean	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15559/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15559/</a>
Independent		Portugal	Sustainable diets: national biodiversity, imported deforestation and responsible seafood

Type	Country	Title	URL
<b>OTHER DIALOGUES</b>			
Member State	Albania	From food, nutrition, and health, to equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems in Albania	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23459/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23459/</a>
Member State		Sustainable Food & Tourism Value Chain and Local Natural Resources – Lowland & Coastal area	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22299/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22299/</a>
Member State		Sustainable Food & Tourism Value Chain and Local Natural Resources – Mountain area	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22297/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22297/</a>
Member State	Israel	Animal food systems: challenges	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15749/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15749/</a>
Member State		Animal food systems: Vision	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21856/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21856/</a>
Member State		Environmental global changes, local implications: challenges	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15760/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15760/</a>
Member State		Environmental global changes, local implications: Vision	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21859/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21859/</a>
Member State		Food security, regulation, industry and cities: Challenges	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15798/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15798/</a>
Member State		Food security, regulation, industry and cities: Vision	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21869/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21869/</a>
Member State		Implementation guidance for healthy and sustainable diets policy: Challenges	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15810/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15810/</a>
Member State		Implementation guidance for healthy and sustainable diets policy: Vision	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21873/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21873/</a>
Member State		Plant food systems: Challenges	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15765/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15765/</a>
Member State		Plant food systems: Vision	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21866/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21866/</a>
Member State	Jordan	حوار دون وطني حول النظم الغذائية في المملكة الاردنية " نحو بناء القدرة المجتمعات المحلية على الصمود في مواجهة الازمات والصدمات والضغوط "	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26654/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26654/</a>
Member State		حوار دون وطني حول النظم الغذائية في المملكة الاردنية " نحو تعزيز سبل العيش المنصفة "	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27310/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27310/</a>
Member State		حوار دون وطني حول النظم الغذائية في المملكة الاردنية " نحو ضمان حصول الجميع على طعام مأمون ومغذ "	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26660/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26660/</a>
Member State	Spain	Del mundo a los territorios, y de los territorios al mundo: sistemas alimentarios diversos que proveen a las personas y respetan el planeta	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14692/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14692/</a>
Member State	Turkey	Transforming the Food Systems for A Better Future - 1	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19998/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19998/</a>

Type	Country	Title	URL
<b>OTHER DIALOGUES</b>			
Independent	Egypt	The Role of Water Security for Food Systems Transformation	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10923/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10923/</a>
Independent	Israel	Food Nutrition security, Nutrition security, agriculture and climate crisis	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3917/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3917/</a>
Independent		Sustainable Israeli Food Industry	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35700/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35700/</a>
Independent		Agroecologia	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20128/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20128/</a>
Independent		Gastronomy con Valentina Gritti - Weekly Seeds Talk Show - Podcast	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23138/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23138/</a>
Independent		I sistemi alimentari nelle aree interne: politiche nazionali e coalizioni locali	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13965/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13965/</a>
Independent	Italy	Weekly Seeds	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15202/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15202/</a>
Independent		Weekly Seeds	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18312/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18312/</a>
Independent		Weekly Seeds - Food Delivery	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21830/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21830/</a>
Independent		Weekly Seeds 6 - Ecosystem Restoration con Anna Bucci	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24974/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24974/</a>
Independent	Multiple	Addressing challenges in Arab food systems from youth perspective	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13718/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13718/</a>
Independent		Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7089/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7089/</a>
Independent		Arab Stakeholders Dialogue on Food Systems	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7080/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7080/</a>
Independent		Innovation to Transform our Food Systems: The Contribution of AgriFoodTech	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18258/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18258/</a>
Independent		Small Business: Good Food for All - Middle East and North Africa	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14624/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14624/</a>
Independent		How to ensure food systems environmental sustainability in the long term? Challenges and opportunities from a triple perspective: Circular Economy, Climate Change and Natural Capital	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6354/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6354/</a>
Independent	Spain	La cadena ganadero-cárnica y el cumplimiento de los ODS: retos y desafíos futuros (The livestock-meat chain and its compliance with the SDG: future challenges)	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13544/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13544/</a>
Independent		Nutre tu optimismo - Feed your Optimism	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16627/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16627/</a>
Independent		Nutre tu Optimismo II	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28667/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28667/</a>
Independent	Tunisia	Vers des systèmes alimentaires urbains sains, résilients et inclusifs pour la Ville de Tunis	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22925/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22925/</a>
Independent		Vers un système alimentaire résilient, juste, inclusif, nutritif et durable à Kairouan	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19751/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19751/</a>

# ANNEX 2

## Global game-changing propositions pertinent to the Mediterranean

The Food Systems Summit Secretariat received thousands of ideas related to the five Action Tracks, which have been consolidated into a few hundred game-changing propositions,<sup>23</sup> grouped thematically into solution clusters.<sup>24</sup> Such clusters supported the shaping of Coalitions of Actions<sup>25</sup> launched during the Pre-Summit and Summit events.

This section of the stocktake identifies a number of game-changing propositions that have the potential to be applied to the Mediterranean context, grouped by the thematic areas presented in section 5.1. Such propositions can be adapted to the national and local contexts, and integrated as part of pathways, roadmaps, strategies or plans depending on the areas of need and interest of the stakeholder.

1. Green and circular economy	
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>3.1 A just transition to sustainable agriculture through policy reform and public support.</b> Redirect support (including subsidies) to incentivize a just transition to sustainable agriculture, addressing food and nutrition security as well the climate and nature emergencies.</li> <li>➤ <b>3.6. Transforming agricultural innovation for climate, nature and people.</b> Shift the dial on agricultural innovation.</li> <li>➤ <b>3.10 Increasing agrobiodiversity for nature, nutrition and resilience:</b> Increase agrobiodiversity through addressing 4 dimensions of the problem: (i) the knowledge gap, (ii) the incentives for use agrobiodiversity in production systems, (iii) the policy necessary to enable more diverse systems and (iv) the required financial investment and incentives mechanisms.</li> <li>➤ <b>5.15 Agroforestry practices in arid and semi-arid lands:</b> Adoption of national and international policies to promote the use of agroforestry systems to boost the high potential of sustainable livestock sector and agriculture, towards all the dimensions of resilience.</li> <li>➤ <b>7.3 Staple crops diversification:</b> Beyond the “Big 5”.</li> <li>➤ <b>9.1 Developing a best practice LCA to assess and compare the environmental and nutritional impacts of food.</b></li> </ul>
Agroecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>3.9 Scaling-out agroecological production systems.</b> Scale-out agroecological production systems, systemically considering different elements of food systems from production to consumption and involving all stakeholders (women, men, youth, marginalized and indigenous communities) and sectors.</li> <li>➤ <b>5.16 Advance wide-scale adoption of agro-ecology within farms and rangelands.</b> The scaling up of agroecological/ regenerative approaches represents the systemic solution that underpins transformative change and supports socio-ecological transitions towards sustainable agriculture and food systems.</li> </ul>
Animal Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>1.2 Challenging the masculinity of meat.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>2.15 Enable a just transition of livestock production to create jobs and secure livelihoods, mitigate climate change, improve health.</b> The solution emphasizes the need for a global transition away from the industrialized animal production to ensure human and planetary health and to sustain livelihoods.</li> <li>➤ <b>7.2 A consumer driven value chain framework for responsible meat. The Responsible Meat Initiative (ReMI).</b></li> </ul>
Food Loss and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>1.06 Launch a multi-stakeholder effort to widely implement highly integrated, sustainable cold chains,</b> with an emphasis on the ‘Community Cool Hub’ model, which designs cooling systems based on a broad set of community needs, aggregates cooling demand to reduce overall demand, creates system efficiencies, and bundles multiple revenues streams.</li> <li>➤ <b>2.11 Food Is Never Waste: Interventions to deliver more circular food systems.</b> The proposition includes mandatory segregation of food waste, incentives for food donation, mandatory measurement of food waste by businesses, taxing or banning landfill and incineration of food waste, and foodstock for added value products.</li> <li>➤ <b>3.13 Reducing on-farm and post-harvest food loss.</b> Reduce on-farm and post-harvest losses for critical global commodities (both perishable and non-perishable).</li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup> <https://foodsystms.community/game-changing-propositions/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://foodsystms.community/game-changing-propositions-solution-clusters/>

<sup>25</sup> List of emerging coalitions

## 2. Blue and circular economy

Blue food

- 3.1 Food security kitemark. Protect and support local, diverse, nutritious blue food environments.
- 3.11. Sustain and Expand Sustainable Resilient Blue Food Production Systems. Employ newly created analytical tools for national governments to more accurately assess the nutritional and socio-cultural assets and utilities of blue foods resulting in more pro-active usage policies and a greater allocation of resources in support of blue food systems with a smaller environmental footprint.
- 3.16 Addressing 'invisible' underwater issues for food systems: The "blue food" revolution. Incorporate blue foods into broader food-systems policy beyond production to consider efficiencies, equity, affordability, and consumption, and embed under-represented groups in decision-making.
- 5.2 Improving working and living conditions and upholding human rights on board fishing vessels.

## 3. Sustainable management of land and water in the context of climate change

Land

- 3.8 Adopting regenerative agricultural practices for resilient landscapes at scale. Adopt regenerative agriculture at scale, a system of farming, grazing and fisheries management principles and practices that seek to rehabilitate and maintain the functions of terrestrial and aquatic agroecosystems that guarantee the preservation of the foundation of sustainable food production: soils, biodiversity, water and nutrient cycling.
- 3.17 Delivering healthier diets and restoring land through tree-based food production. Incorporate food trees with complementary crops into degraded landscapes to produce more nutrient-rich foods, restore degraded soils, and contribute to climate change mitigation.
- 5.11 Integrated approach for sustainable soil management: The Global Soil Partnership: The adoption of sustainable soil management (SSM) practices for more resilient agri-food systems, in turn contributing to halting soil degradation, restoring degraded soils and protecting C-rich and biodiversity-rich soils.

Water

- 5.20 Adaptive human-centric approach to resilient and sustainable water management: Tackling the water related risks within the farmer-led irrigation development sphere would provide opportunities for actors and stakeholders to come together and tackle challenges of both physical and economic water scarcity, resilience, and sustainability.
- 124 Boost sustainable food production through solar powered irrigation in multi-stakeholder partnerships.

## 4. Mediterranean diet as a lever for sustainable consumption and production, and healthy diets

Awareness raising and education

- 1.1 Demand generation for healthy and sustainable food.
- 1.3 Maximizing the future of consumer information for healthy diets from sustainable production systems.
- 1.4 Investing in better public sector marketing: Social marketing to create and sustain desire for specific foods and healthy diets from sustainable production systems.
- 1.8 Incentivise food systems change towards equitable food marketing through a 'systems toolkit' of enablers.
- 2.3 Fiscal policy Economic measures in support of food environments that provide access to affordable, healthy diets, encourage food product reformulation and drive shift to sustainable consumption.
- 2.4 Education. Formal and informal education strategies, covering curricula, school meals, community level information campaigns.
- 2.8 Front of pack nutrition and eco labelling helping consumers to make informed choices, thereby promoting healthy diets delivered through sustainable food systems, in points-of-sale and out-of-home.
- 2.10 Package combining best-practice interventions to re-shape consumption patterns towards more healthy diets delivered through sustainable food systems. A combination of best-practice interventions to re-shape consumption patterns towards more healthy diets delivered through sustainable food systems.
- 5.12 Geographical Indications for a territorial approach to the SDGs.



<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>2.3 Fiscal policy.</b> Economic measures in support of food environments that provide access to affordable, healthy diets, encourage food product reformulation and drive shift to sustainable consumption.</li> <li>➤ <b>2.16. Food-based dietary guidelines.</b> The proposition is that all countries should have food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs), based on sound science, tailored to their specific country, and incorporating sustainability as well as health concerns.</li> <li>➤ <b>5.2 Government-led reformulation of packaged food products to reduce sodium and sugar and eliminate industrial produced trans fatty acids.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>5.3 Emphasis on appropriate food processing in all food and nutrition policies.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>136 Increase fruit and vegetable consumption through consumer-level subsidies.</b></li> </ul>
<i>True Cost</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>145 Strengthen and Mainstream True Cost Accounting to Redefine Value in Food Systems.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>146 Integrate the Costs of Externalities into 'True Prices' for Food.</b></li> </ul>

## 5. Cities and rural-urban linkages

<i>Local decision-making</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>2.2 City Region Food Strategies.</b> Stimulating local access and demand for fresh, healthy food. The proposition includes actions undertaken by cities to create environments where sustainable consumption becomes the default. The solution has a strong link to food producers, including by promoting direct public procurement and various actions for supporting local farmers to adopt nature positive practices.</li> <li>➤ <b>4.09 Engaging with cities and local governments for equitable livelihoods</b> by developing a framework for inclusion of urban and rural at-risk populations. Raising awareness and strengthening capacity of local actors so they understand human rights and vulnerability, can contribute to identifying vulnerable livelihoods and relevant local-specific issues, and facilitate appropriate response.</li> <li>➤ <b>5.22 Community-based decision-making mechanisms and information systems.</b> Mechanisms and info systems on land rights and access and control over essential food-producing resources to promote food sovereignty, equitable land and resource rights, effective and responsible governance, and sustainable livelihoods.</li> <li>➤ <b>5.9 Urban food systems and local planning and 5.10 Increasing public and private financing for inclusive and sustainable urban food systems.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Short value chains</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>4.11 Commitment by main supermarket chains to buy locally</b> through a global commitment by main supermarket chains operating in the Global South, to source, by 2030, at least 1/3 of the net value of its fresh products supplies from local small-producers (directly or via coops or farmers' groups).</li> </ul>

## 6. Equitable and inclusive development of rural livelihoods

<i>Equity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>1.21 Develop new standards and legal frameworks to drive private-sector change and hold food systems companies accountable</b> for their social and environmental impact, leading to a fundamental shift in the economic and food systems to be more inclusive, equitable, transparent, regenerative, and health-supporting.</li> <li>➤ <b>4.6 establishing or improving social dialogue mechanisms as powerful means of finding common solutions to problems, advancing decent work and social justice</b> and enhancing collective bargaining and negotiation, as platforms for giving plantation workers and small-scale producers a voice in social and economic development and ensuring that development is inclusive.</li> <li>➤ <b>4.10 Bridging the digital divide and increasing access to information and services in food systems</b> by ensuring socially equitable access to quality digital services for vulnerable communities and marginalized groups (in particular small-scale producers and workers, informal food vendors and caterers, migrants and indigenous people) and public and private actors interacting with them.</li> <li>➤ <b>4.15 Change relationships of power in ways that ensure a fair share of resources (Land, inputs, water, advisory services, etc.), finance, capital, markets, technology and prices.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>125 Increase farmer incomes, agricultural productivity, and equity by scaling up access to mechanisation services.</b></li> </ul>
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Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.10 Promote women-led enterprises to grow and sell nutritious but neglected crops through community-level leadership programmes for innovators, small-scale women-led enterprises with an explicit nutrition-related purpose, and nature-friendly food production.</li> <li>➤ 2.17 National plans for the economic empowerment of women to achieve sustainable and healthy consumption.</li> <li>➤ 4.3 Women's land tenure rights.</li> <li>➤ 4.19 Integrate gender transformative approaches for equity and justice in food systems through the systemic integration of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) in food systems interventions.</li> <li>➤ 145 Promote women's leadership in food systems.</li> </ul>
Smallholder farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.02 Build new public-private partnerships that incentivise and enable precision agriculture companies to ensure access for low-income, smallholder farmers (men and women), enabling them to improve production quantity, quality and increase incomes.</li> <li>➤ 1.07 Create a new public-private partnership mechanism to provide the investment and operational capacity needed to improve infrastructure and thus reduce costs and risks faced by small-scale nutritious food producers and value chain entrepreneurs; risks could be reduced further by linking this effort to public food procurement for institutional markets.</li> <li>➤ 4.20 Promote living incomes and wages in value chains for small-scale farmers and agricultural workers: Secure sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers and agricultural workers by ensuring living incomes, fair prices and fair wages.</li> <li>➤ 6.2 Integrating nature-positive production with microinsurance. Supporting the most vulnerable smallholder farmers to access microinsurance that protects their livelihoods and food security while incentivizing the adoption of sustainable, nature-positive agricultural practices (World Food Programme).</li> <li>➤ S.1 Promoting agritourism to advance small-scale food producers' equitable livelihoods.</li> </ul>
Social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.03 Scale-up social protection programmes to be merged with: 5.3 Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection Schemes (particularly cash transfers) by expanding their reach, enhancing financing, improving delivery capabilities, and making systems more adaptive to crises.</li> <li>➤ 1.11 Make social protection programmes more nutrition sensitive by augmenting and adapting existing programmes to enable nutritionally vulnerable households to afford and access a healthier diet, provide essential nutrition-related services to vulnerable groups, and stimulate food systems to supply more nutritious foods.</li> <li>➤ 1.12 Implement comprehensive school food programmes in every country, building on existing knowledge, guidance, structures, and networks to foster contextually relevant and sustainable networks of exchange and technical advice in support of national legal frameworks on financing and governance and local ownership and innovation.</li> <li>➤ 133 Set poverty lines and safety nets to support affordability of healthy diets.</li> </ul>
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2.6 Mobilizing civil society and lifting up youth-led initiatives. Mobilizing civil society and lifting up youth-led initiatives. The proposition is to set up an initiative in support of civil society interventions—particularly youth-created and youth-led—aiming at policy change, tracking progress and measuring impact.</li> <li>➤ 5.19 Enriching child's food and nutritional education and situation through web-based tools, including food into the curricula, and providing school meals. To mainstream healthy food habits, from diets to production practices, we need to embed that knowledge on child education from an early age.</li> <li>➤ S.9. Empowering youth as innovators and change makers for sustainable food systems.</li> <li>➤ 135 Improve young children's diets through a systematic analysis and a systems approach.</li> </ul>

<i>Rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">4.03 Promote Ratification and Effective Implementation of International Labour Standards</a> to use companies as a strategic lever to connect to their employees and supply chain workers, providing access to and information about good nutrition through four inflection points: healthy food at work, nutrition education, nutrition-focused health checks, and breastfeeding support.</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">4.2 The right to a healthy and safe environment.</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.18 Universal food access: enacting food as a public good</a>: Valuing food, not as a commodity, but as a public good and human right based on the absolute essentialness of food to every human every day.</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.12 Putting the right to food at the heart of food systems.</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.17 Knowledge Hubs for mainstreaming Human Rights.</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.18 Recognition and Promotion of Health and Safety as a Fundamental Labour and Human Right in Food Systems.</a></li> </ul>
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## 7. Resilience

<i>Food security</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.2 Strategic Food Reserves To Smooth Consumption Shocks</a>: Building resilience in shock-prone areas to stabilize prices, build safety nets for temporary assistance to affected communities, and/or boost national social protection systems.</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.13 Use of international agreements previously negotiated in the committee of World Food Security</a>: Promote at national, regional and global level the use, adoption and adaptation of the CFS negotiated policy convergence products which all reflect the AT 5 approach (what, how), but in particular its latest product, the <a href="#">CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises</a> adopted by consensus in 2015 [CFS-FFA].</li> </ul>
<i>Migration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">4.05 Institutionalize and mainstream the anti-discrimination and labour rights of migrant (foreign) workers in agriculture and across the food chain</a> using a right-based anti-discrimination and labour rights framework including greater access to open work permits and permanent residency for migrant (foreign) workers.</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">5.3 Ensuring access to equitable and sustainable livelihoods for forcibly displaced persons.</a></li> </ul>

## 8. Trade and Food Safety Standards

<i>One health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">8.1 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – the silent pandemic.</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">8.2 Coordinated action to combat AMR.</a></li> <li>➤ <a href="#">[AT3] Preventing zoonotic diseases emergence for sustainable food systems though a One Health approach.</a></li> </ul>
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