

THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Feeding and nourishing a growing and changing global population in the face of rising numbers of chronically hungry people, slow progress on malnutrition, environmental degradation, systemic inequality, and the dire projections of climate change demands a transformation in global food systems.

- 1. Policy is critical for catalysing inclusive and sustainable food systems transformations:** Policy must remove barriers, create incentives, foster a level playing field, and facilitate equitable access to resources. It must support those left behind and ensure that those best able to bear the costs act first and most ambitiously.
- 2. Policy change is needed at multiple levels:** National policy shapes food systems, while subnational policy addresses local challenges and demonstrates potential for scaling. Global and regional policy frameworks capture commitments and standards that inform national and local action.
- 3. Tradeoffs call for a multi-sectoral, food systems approach to policymaking:** Food systems cut across most sectors, demanding mutually reinforcing policies that avoid or minimize duplication or contradiction. A whole-of-government approach enables discussion and negotiation across sectors to inform shared goals and tough choices about priorities.
- 4. Inequality in food systems demands transparent, inclusive policies and processes:** Inequality in food systems shapes who is hungry and malnourished and who is vulnerable to climate change. Policy must address inequalities to ensure that those left behind now are not left further behind in a transformation. Policy processes must engage the range of food systems actors, ensuring effective participation by marginalized groups. Leveraging policy to redress inequality requires pushing back on the vested interests who benefit from the asymmetries in food systems.
- 5. Tackling gender inequality in food systems is a pre-requisite for transformation:** Gender inequality runs deep in food systems, with men and women playing different roles, experiencing climate impacts differently, and articulating different priorities. Addressing gender inequality in policy requires robust analysis through a gender lens to identify current barriers and manifestations of inequality. Gender-transformative policymaking should facilitate equal and effective participation of women and men, girls and boys.
- 6. Three areas of policy change show potential to be catalytic:** Policy change is particularly needed to: 1) reduce emissions and increase resilience; 2) tackle food loss and waste; and 3) shift diets to promote nutrition and sustainability. Regulatory and

financial policy and market approaches can enable action at the farm level and promote action across the supply chain. Tackling food loss and waste requires action and policy across the supply chain that addresses the drivers of unsustainable production and consumption. Food systems must respond to climate change and deliver on food and nutrition security. Policies must support diets for both people's health and planetary health.

- 7. Global and regional policy are transformative only insofar as they are translated into ambitious national action with adequate support:** Global and regional policy establish core principles, set standards and collective goals, and provide direction for national and local transformations, but they must be translated into national and local policy and action. The Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals are significant and potentially transformative global policies, but many developing countries require greater levels of support, including capacity building and financial resources, to enable implementation of NDCs or the SDGs.
- 8. Food systems transformations require public and private investment.** Policy must mobilize finance, incentivize and de-risk investment, and ensure finance reaches those who need it most. Existing finance, such as farm subsidies, can be re-targeted to support and promote transformation in food systems.
- 9. Transformation in food systems under a changing climate – to ensure food and nutrition security for all – demands action from all actors.** Policy change can guide and catalyse that action but requires political and public will. The challenge we face is significant, but so is the imperative to address it.

Source:

Rawe T, Antonelli M, Chatrchyan A, Clayton T, Fanzo J, Gonsalves J, Matthews A, Nierenberg D, Zurek M. 2019. This briefing is part of Transforming Food Systems Under a Changing Climate, an initiative led by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) that aims to realize a transformation in food systems by mobilizing knowledge and catalyzing action. The initiative brings together leaders in science, business, farming, policy and grassroots organizations to identify pathways for transformation. To find additional publications in this series and for more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/TransformingFood>.