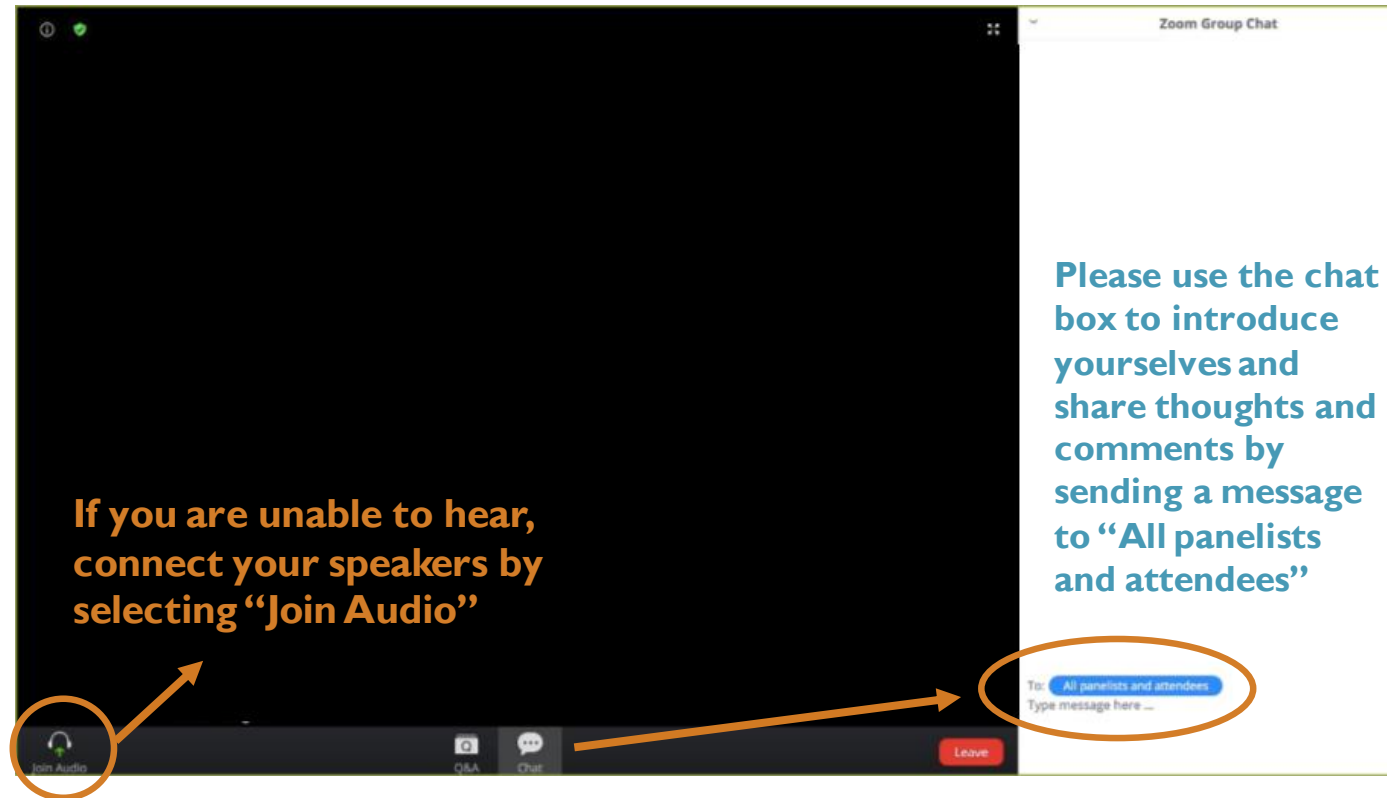


# Pursuing Food Systems Transformation Despite Financial Constraints

**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Sir John Beddington | Tom Arnold | Adeyinka Onabolu | Amos Laar | Patrick Webb | Shibani Ghosh**

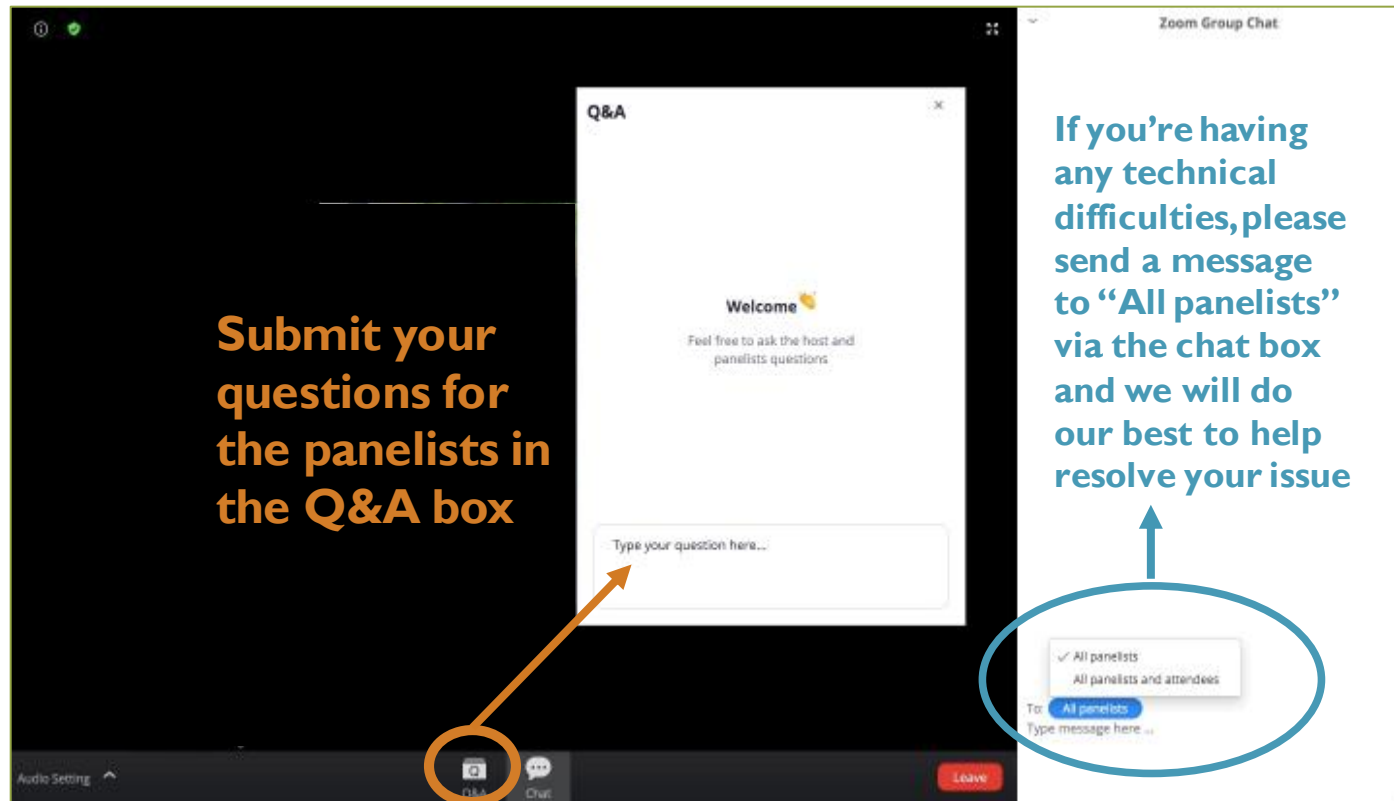
# WELCOME TO THE ZOOM WEBINAR



**If you are unable to hear, connect your speakers by selecting “Join Audio”**

**Please use the chat box to introduce yourselves and share thoughts and comments by sending a message to “All panelists and attendees”**

## Q&A AND CHAT



The image shows a Zoom meeting interface with two windows. The left window is titled 'Q&A' and contains a 'Welcome' message: 'Welcome 🍌 Feel free to ask the host and panelists questions'. Below the message is a text input field labeled 'Type your question here...'. An orange arrow points from the 'Q&A' icon in the Zoom bottom toolbar to this input field. The right window is titled 'Zoom Group Chat' and shows a message composition area. A blue circle highlights the 'To:' dropdown menu, which has 'All panelists' selected. A blue arrow points from this selection up to the text: 'If you're having any technical difficulties, please send a message to "All panelists" via the chat box and we will do our best to help resolve your issue'.

**Submit your questions for the panelists in the Q&A box**

**If you're having any technical difficulties, please send a message to "All panelists" via the chat box and we will do our best to help resolve your issue**

## BACKGROUND

- Achieving USAID's Global Food Security Strategy objective of securing “a well-nourished population, especially among women and children” requires harnessing novel technologies and innovations to improve food system practices, as well as increasing in-country capacities to address such issues.
- While there is acknowledgement that “responsible investments in food security, food systems, and nutrition are essential”, there are many obstacles in mainstreaming nutrition-sensitive food system (FS) solutions.
- As noted in the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 “it is vital to reduce the delay in translating research outputs to innovation, public policy, and practice.

The White House. 2021. Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100200010.pdf>

Fears R and Canales C. 2021. The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation for Transforming Food Systems Globally. Food Systems Summit Brief No. 1. [https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSS\\_Brief\\_IAP\\_Global.pdf](https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSS_Brief_IAP_Global.pdf)



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## FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION INNOVATION LAB

- Five-year program supported by USAID Bureau of Resilience, Environment and Food Security (2021-2026)
- Research and capacity building
- Generate new evidence and disseminate promising technologies and practices supporting uptake of food system innovations that contribute to incomes, diet quality, resilience, and nutrition.

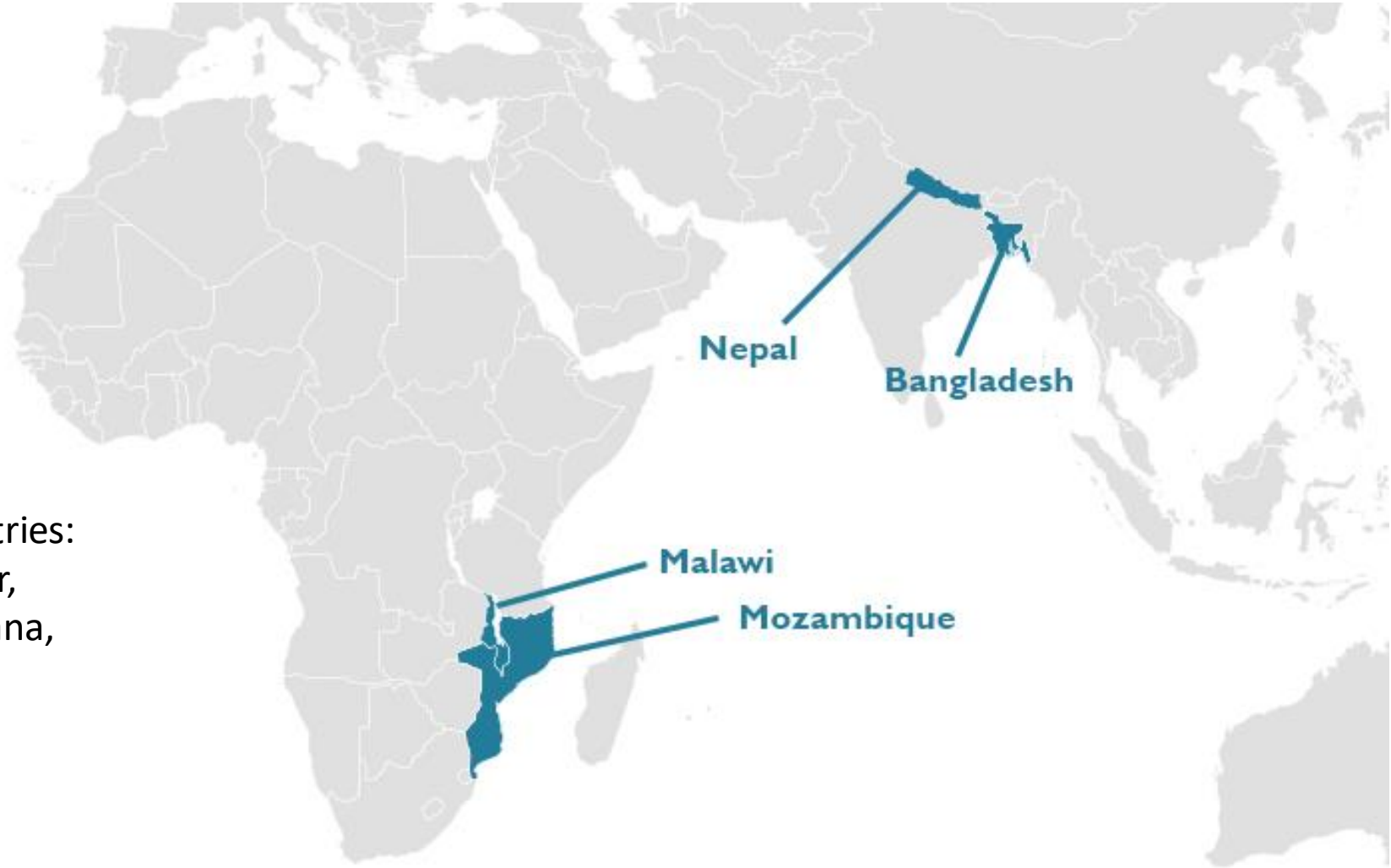


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Other Potential Core Countries:  
Kenya, Ethiopia, El Salvador,  
Honduras, Guatemala, Ghana,  
Senegal

Cooperative Agreement: Potential for Associate Awards  
and Buy ins across other USAID priority countries

## FSN-Innovation Lab - Goals

- i) **R4D to generate evidence** on potentially scalable nutrition-sensitive food system technologies and practices, (incl. assessing existing but under-used, ready-to-use, pipeline-ready innovations)
- i) **Capacity Development** in partner countries *and in the U.S.* to generate new knowledge and support teaching and training around such knowledge
- ii) Stakeholder **engagement** across public and private sectors, business and academics, to **catalyze scaling and uptake** of nutrition sensitive innovations.



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## COLLABORATORS







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Co-Hosted by the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and the Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab:

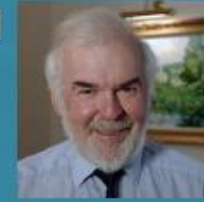
## Pursuing Food Systems Transformation Despite Financial Constraints

Zoom Webinar | Wednesday, December 13th, 2023  
9:00-10:15 AM US ET | 2:00-3:15 PM GMT



**SIR JOHN BEDDINGTON**

*Global Panel Chair,  
Former UK Chief  
Scientific Advisor*



**TOM ARNOLD**

*Irish Government's Special  
Envoy for Food Systems*



**ADEYINKA ONABOLU**

*Senior Advisor on Food  
Security & Nutrition,  
GAIN*



**AMOS LAAR**

*Professor of Public  
Health Nutrition,  
University of Ghana*



**PATRICK WEBB**

*Director  
Food Systems for Nutrition  
Innovation Lab, Tufts University  
Technical Advisor, Global Panel*



**SHIBANI GHOSH**

*Associate Director  
Food Systems for Nutrition  
Innovation Lab, Tufts University*



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Friedman School of  
Nutrition Science and Policy

# Pursuing food systems transformation despite financial constraints

Patrick Webb

1. Food system transformation is a top policy priority.
2. The transition steps are complex and not cost-free; which becomes even more challenging with tight finances.
3. Luckily, there are ways to advance the agenda using 'low cost' policy options.

## Pursuing food systems transformation despite financial constraints

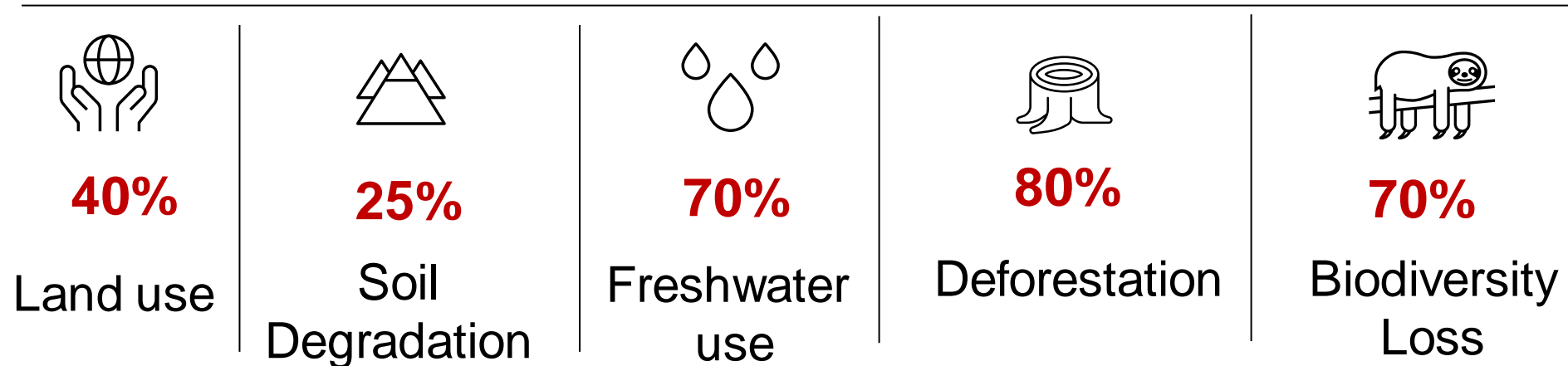
Food systems need to be urgently transformed – to address hunger and malnutrition, to become sustainable, and to drive prosperity. Yet many governments are constrained to act by severe financial constraints. This brief highlights many actions which are cost-neutral, or low cost in terms of their benefits. Together, they provide a foundation for a broader strategy for food-system transformation.

POLICY BRIEF No. 18 | September 2023



# Current Food System Footprints

Roughly **one third** of total global  
**GHG emissions** from food systems



Sources: Zhu, et al. (2023) *Nat Food* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-023-00710-3>; Seta Tutundjian (2023); Crippa et al. (2021)

# Food System Social and Economic Costs

**'Full accounting' for food systems costs est. US\$12 trillion/per year**

73% of hidden costs of food systems due to unhealthy diets

1 in 5 deaths are linked to suboptimal diets

3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet

537m diabetics globally,  $\frac{3}{4}$  live in LMICs

70% child rights violations are in agriculture

>2m adults in modern slavery work in agriculture

Sources: *Nature* 2019; Afshin et al. 2019; GRFC 2023; SOFI 2023; IDF 2022; ILO 2022; ILO 2022; FAO 2023

*Recognizes ...and welcomes the formulation and implementation of national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and **transforming** agrifood systems so as to make nutritious diets, including traditional healthy diets, available to all.*



Seventy-eighth session  
**Second Committee**

Agenda item 23 (a)

**Agriculture development, food security and nutrition**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Diego Cimino (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/78/L.31**

**Agriculture development, food security and nutrition**

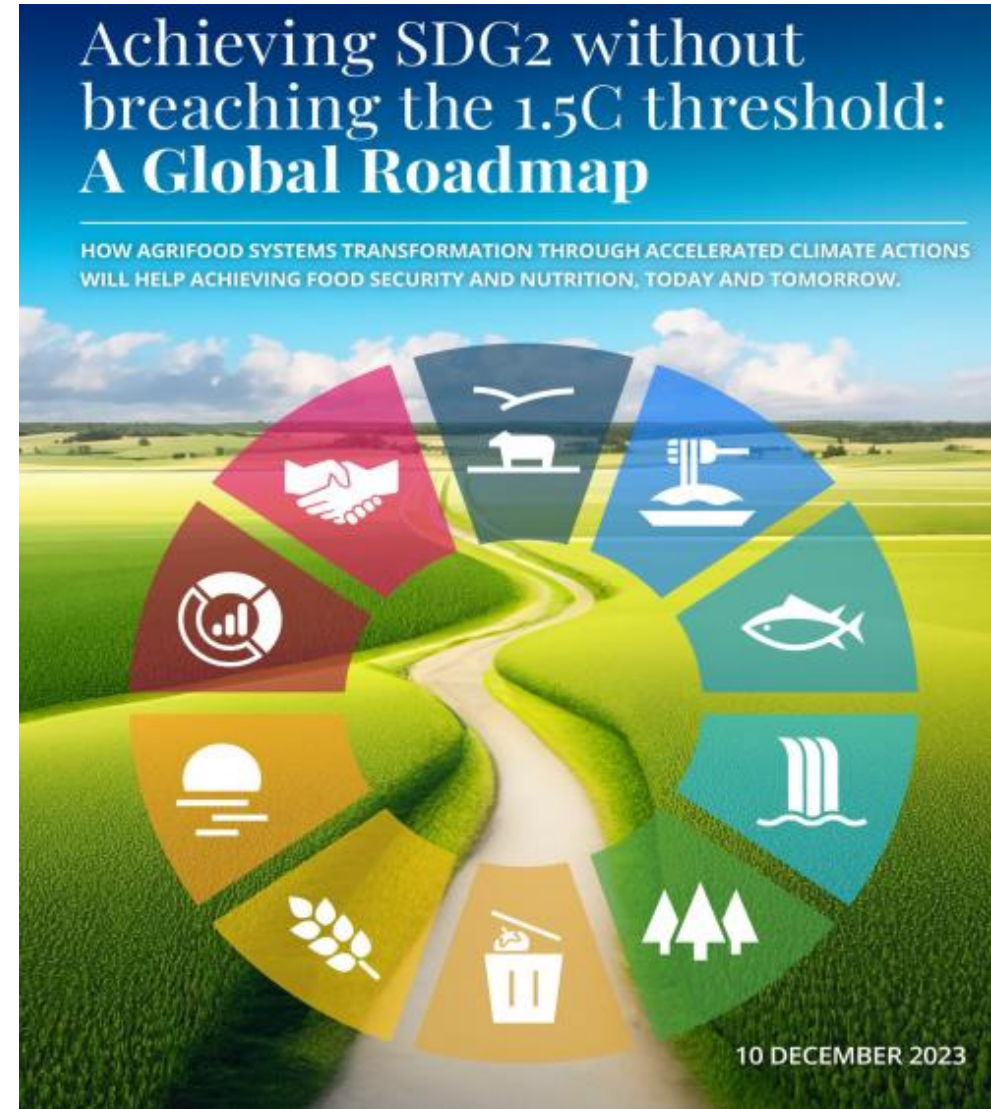
*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010, 66/220 of 22 December 2011, 67/228 of 21 December 2012, 68/233 of 20 December 2013, 69/240 of 19 December 2014, 70/223 of 22 December 2015, 71/245 of 21 December 2016, 72/238 of 20 December 2017, 73/253 of 20 December 2018, 74/242 of 19 December 2019, 75/235 of 21 December 2020, 76/222 of 17 December 2021 and 77/186 of 22 December 2022,*

*Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,*

“Redirecting climate finance towards social protection, **aligning policies with healthy diets** and climate actions, reinforcing risk management, and fostering transparent global trade systems are pivotal for inclusive agrifood systems and sustainable development.”

While “policies may already exist, it is essential to rethink them in the context of climate action, and **through the lens of access to healthy diets.**”



**Transforming Africa's food systems will be costly:**  
~US\$76.8 billion/year to 2030 (US\$614 billion in total).

Source: Omamo & Mills. 2022. *Investment Targets for Food System Transformation in Africa.*

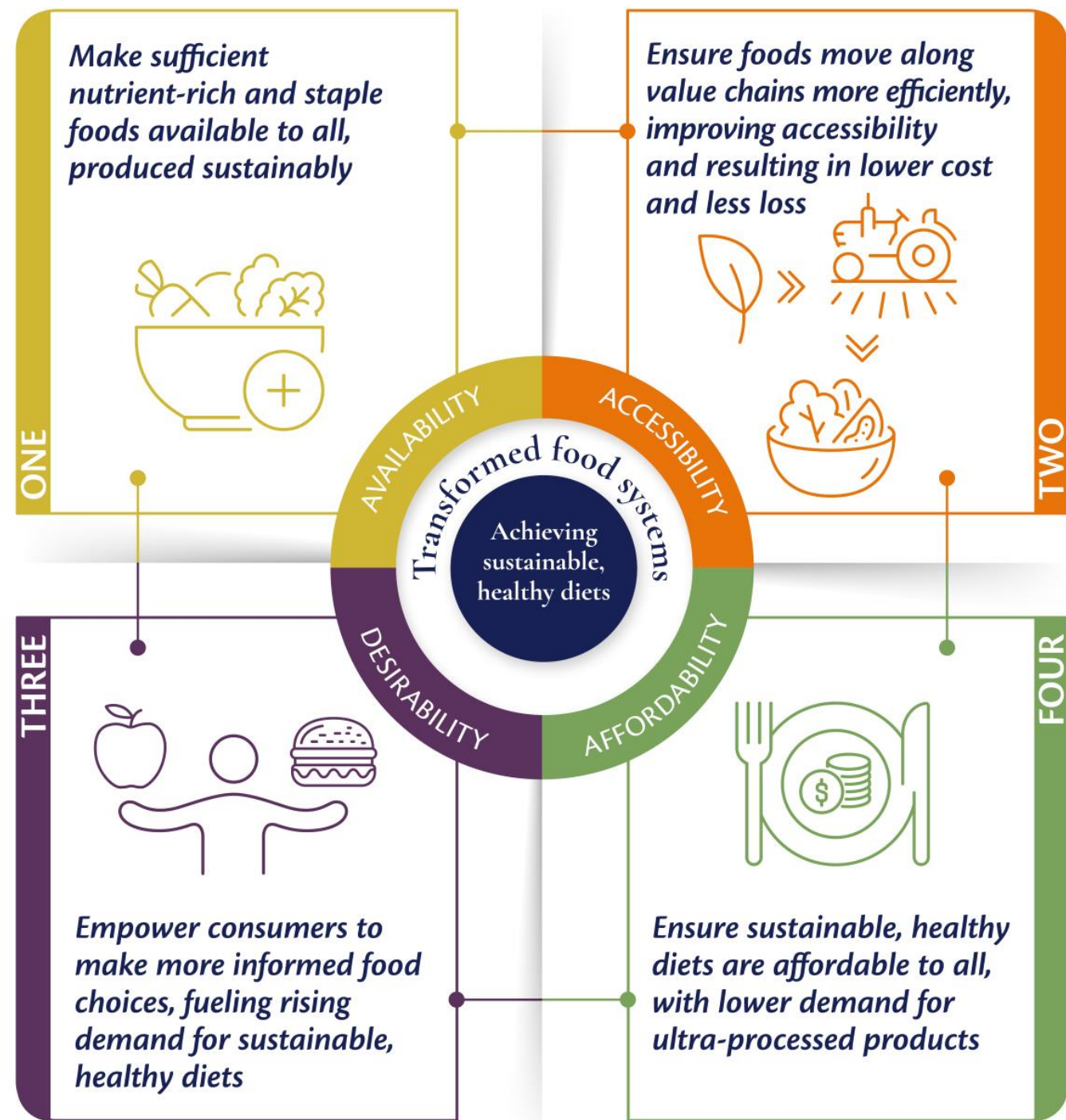
But, in Africa alone, by 2030, food demand is projected to increase by 55%, bringing **the size of Africa's food and agribusiness to US\$1 trillion**, opening employment opportunities across the value chain.

Source: EU. 2020. *FOOD 2030 Pathways for Action*



## Five categories of action

1. Active governance.
2. Repurpose and leverage government resources.
3. Leverage food industry and business resources.
4. Harness the power of consumers.
5. Improve access to finance to catalyse transformation.





## ***Improve governance*** of food systems

1. Shift policy mindsets to *focus on effectiveness of entire food systems* rather than just efficiency of agriculture.
2. Ensure *coherence of policy actions* across government to support transformation at scale.
3. *Empower regional/city authorities* to take responsibility for food systems transition.
4. *Don't allow current crises to prejudice long-term goals.*



## *Repurpose and leverage **government** resources*

1. *Repurpose public support* (subsidies, tariff protections) to enhance the ability to produce needed nutrient-rich foods.
2. Leverage the power of *public food procurement* and distribution.
3. *Embed healthy diets into strategies* for improving human and planetary health, and climate goals.
4. *Rebalance public agriculture R&D* from commodities to supporting healthy diets through sustainable production and value chains.



## *Leverage food industry and business resources*

1. Significantly *reduce food loss and waste* along food value chains (not just at farm or consumer levels).
2. Build on business commitments to net zero emissions, carbon capture and circular economy work to *include food as a core element of change*.
3. Build alliances to genuinely *shift marketing away from ultra-processed foods* to healthy choices and diets.
4. Define *new principles of engagement*, responsibility and accountability across public and private sector actors to achieve common goals.



## *Harness the power of consumers*

1. Use policy-based *behavioural nudges* to influence healthy dietary choices.
2. Reduce *consumer-level food waste* (and food loss in value chains).
3. Redesign *food-based dietary guidelines and labelling* to empower choice.



*Improve **access to finance** to catalyse transformation.*

1. Redouble efforts to secure *appropriate finance* supporting not just loss & damage, but climate change adaptation and food system transformation.
2. Build *diet-related costs into national poverty* benchmarks.
3. Make better use of available *financial assessment tools* to determine economic implications of policy trade-offs, net externalities, distribution of costs and benefits of transformation.

# Conclusions



- Successful transformation of food systems requires substantial investment.
- Despite today's severe financial constraints, much can still be achieved at low or neutral cost to governments.
- Many actions offer multiple gains - helping deliver in more than one quadrant of the food system or by delivering on more than one policy agenda (e.g. nutrition AND climate change AND jobs or equity)



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# Panel Discussions



**Global Panel**  
on Agriculture  
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[www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov)



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