

1st Global Conference of the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme

Sustainable Food Systems for All – Catalyzing Change through Multi-Stakeholder Action

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

More than 150 SFS Programme members as well as further interested actors, based in 28 different countries from all world regions, gathered in Pretoria, South Africa, from June 21st through 23rd, 2017, with the purpose to build new partnerships and create synergies among stakeholders to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems.

By locating its 1st Global Conference in South Africa, the SFS Programme strove to underline the centrality of food security and sustainable diets in efforts to build more sustainable food systems. The conference provided a forum for active and vocal African expert participation and gave momentum to stronger Programme ownership in Africa to drive the shift to more sustainable food systems.

The global goals for action are already agreed in the SDGs; the SFS Programme provides a mechanism to mobilize action for the delivery of these goals, especially SDG 2 and SDG 12.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Offer a dialogue platform to share experiences and exchange ideas;
- Encourage participants to transition into a crafting and decision-making mode, by proposing concrete collective actions and initiatives, and highlighting relevant tools, approaches and good practices;
- Underline the importance of a multi-stakeholder, systems-based approach to make food systems more sustainable; and
- Lay the foundations to kick-off cooperation on collective action(s) and initiatives to address the critical challenges in food systems and accelerate the shift to sustainability.

In the course of the conference, participants identified key areas for future work, including:

- Further exploring the complex relationship between food security, nutrition and sustainability, with the aim to promote the transformation towards more sustainable food systems.
- Fostering collaborations to assess value chain priorities and to develop platforms for sharing best practices for developing participatory systems.
- Expand the SFS Programme network to achieve a more balanced representation of stakeholders, especially more actors from Africa and Asia.
- Increasing the number of countries with strategies, policies and programmes to reduce food losses and waste, in order to meet SDG target 12.3.
- Supporting the shift from subsistence underperforming production to sustainable production, using innovative technologies, approaches and incentives which are locally adapted.

On the basis of their deliberations, conference participants concluded that:

- The priority entry point in the transformation of the current food system is action to address the heavy burden of malnutrition.
- There is an urgency to move beyond talk, and invest in strengthened multi-stakeholder action to promote and implement a holistic, systemic approach.
- Sustainable diets present an opportunity to accelerate the shift for a transformation of food systems.
- Investment is required in formal and informal food value chains that truly reflect the values and needs of producers, local communities and consumers.
- There is an immediate opportunity for reducing food losses and waste within a country specific and food systems context.

We call for action to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement as presented in the SFS Programme, and supported by stronger political commitment and appropriate policy environments.