

OECD Global Forum on Agriculture 2019: Policy Priorities for the Global Food System



14 May 2019 | Paris, France

The global food and agriculture system is expected to deliver on a formidable “triple challenge”: ensuring food security and nutrition for a global population that is expected to increase by a further 2 billion in the next 30 years; using land, water and biodiversity resources sustainably, while contributing to climate change mitigation; and providing a livelihood for more than 500 million farmers and other agents along the food chain.

A major challenge for policy makers stems from the fact that measures to address one objective (e.g. improved nutrition or environmental sustainability) may have repercussions for others (e.g. farmer livelihoods or the affordability of food). In some cases, there may be synergies, with a policy to address one objective also helping with another; but in many cases there will be trade-offs, with policymakers having to make hard choices or needing to identify complementary action, including in other policy areas, to enable a better mix of outcomes.

The goal of this Global Forum on Agriculture is to contribute to a shared understanding of the challenges facing the food system, and of how a system-wide perspective can lead to improved policy making. Stakeholders from across the food system and policy makers will be invited to exchange views on how more holistic food and agriculture policies can be achieved and on the implications for OECD’s work in this area.

09:30	<p>Welcome and opening remarks by <i>OECD Deputy Secretary-General Vestergaard Knudsen</i></p>
09:45	<p>Opening session: Introduction to a food system perspective</p> <p>Chair: <i>Carla Boonstra</i>, Policy Co-ordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands</p> <p>Introductory presentation: <i>Jonathan Brooks</i>, Head of the Agro-food Trade and Markets Division Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD</p> <p>This session will set the scene and provide an overview of the food system: discussing the key characteristics of the food system and the challenges it raises for a coherent policy making. First, the Secretariat will orientate the discussion in terms of what we mean when speaking about the global food system. The Secretariat will also present related OECD work and responses to a questionnaire shared with Delegations in advance of the event about policy priorities, trade-offs and constraints experienced in developing coherent policies. Subsequently, different stakeholders across the food chain will highlight their specific food system perspectives and how these might affect policy making.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jannes Maes</i>, President, European Council of Young Farmers • <i>Katrijn Otten</i>, Director for Policy and Government Relations, Cargill • <i>Sue Davies, MBE</i>, Chief Policy Adviser, Which, UK • <i>Tom Rosser</i>, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada <p>Tentative questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the major challenges facing the global food system and what are the obstacles we face in addressing these? – What is the rationale for using a food chain policy approach and what policy areas may particularly benefit from this perspective, in contrast to approaching these policy areas in isolation?
11:15	Coffee break

11:45	<p>Panel discussion 1: Making tough choices and striking grand bargains: trade-offs and synergies</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Carla Boonstra</i>, Policy Co-ordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands</p> <p>This session will focus on the trade-offs and synergies in addressing the triple challenge on which the global food system is expected to deliver: ensuring food security & nutrition; using resources sustainably and mitigating climate change; and providing livelihoods, rural development and incomes for farmers and other agents in the food chain. In some cases, policies can achieve synergies across different objectives but often there will be trade-offs which force a choice between different objectives. With more connected policies, “grand bargains” may be needed to overrule narrow interests.</p> <p>The session will discuss complex trade-offs in the food system, for example: lower meat consumption could improve health in some countries and reduce GHG emissions but also lower incomes of farmers, reconfigure landscapes and affect biodiversity in complex ways. Subsequently, the floor will be opened for a broader debate on trade-offs and synergies of the food system.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ed Davey</i>, Director, Geographic Deep Dives, Food and Land Use Coalition, World Resources Institute • <i>Martina Fleckenstein</i>, Policy Manager of the Food Practice, World Wide Fund for Nature • <i>Facundo Etchebehere</i>, Global Public Affairs Director and Head of Corporate Affairs, Essential Dairy & Plant Based, Danone • <i>Karl Walsh</i>, Economics and Planning Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland • <i>Antonio Luiz Machado de Moraes</i>, Director of Rural Credit, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and, Food Supply, Brazil <p>Tentative questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How are the challenges that the food system is expected to address interrelated, in particular with regard to food security and nutrition, livelihoods for farmers and other agents along the food chain, and sustainable resource use? – What are some of the major trade-offs and hard choices for food and agriculture policy across different policy domains and how can they be mediated?
13:00	Lunch
15:00	<p>Panel discussion 2: Applying a global food system perspective: implications for policy-making</p> <p>Moderator: <i>OECD Deputy Secretary General Knudsen</i></p> <p>A food system approach can be useful in uncovering synergies and trade-offs. Some issues may be addressed most effectively via targeted interventions at a single stage of the food chain and can be formulated independently. Other cases may require more formal coordination across the food chain, involving the participation by food chain stakeholders in devising or implementing policies. At the same time, actors along the food chain are increasingly connected internationally through global value chains and decisions on domestic policy can have international spillovers; policies to achieve a domestic objective may negatively affect consumers or producers abroad, or they could be seen as helping to achieve a global good, for instance through helping to push for improved minimum standards.</p> <p>This panel discussion will seek to identify good practices of policy approaches that are “holistic” with respect to the triple challenge of the food system, including in a global context, yet no more administratively complex than necessary.</p>

	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Michael Keller</i>, ISF Secretary-General, International Seed Federation • <i>Rebeca Fernandez</i>, Director Food Policy, Science and R&D, FoodDrinkEurope • <i>Chris Carson</i>, Counsellor (Agriculture), New Zealand Mission to the EU • <i>Nils Øyvind Bergset</i>, Senior Advisor, Department of Agricultural Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway <p>Tentative questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How to achieve an optimal degree of coordination within government without excessive bureaucracy or other costs? – How to engage with stakeholders: having political legitimacy and responding to social concerns, but avoiding capture by organised interests? – What can policy makers do to balance domestic objectives with international considerations and to avoid negative spillovers of domestic policy measures? In which areas is there a need for strengthened international cooperation?
17:00	<p>Closing panel session: A path forward</p> <p>Moderator: <i>OECD Trade and Agriculture Director Ken Ash</i></p> <p>This panel discussion will focus on priorities for research and OECD work in this area.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>James MacDonald</i>, Chief, Agricultural Structure and Productivity Branch, USDA Economic Research Service, United States • <i>Michael Scannell</i>, Director, Markets and Observatories, DG Agri, European Commission • <i>Alwin Kypse</i>, Head of International Sustainable Agriculture Unit, Office Fédéral de l'Agriculture (OFAG), Switzerland • <i>Jonathan Brooks</i>, Head Agri-food Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD <p>Tentative questions for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the main insights for delegates? – What should be the focus of OECD's work in this area?
18:00	Cocktail