



In this issue:

Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge

21 SEPTEMBER / 2021

What is the idea?

Streamlined to the agenda of the UN Food Systems Summit, the **Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge** encourages companies as well as investment funds to invest in the high-impact intervention areas defined by the international research consortium Ceres2030 in order to **end hunger and malnutrition by 2030**. Among others, these areas comprise the following **themes and concomitant recommendations**:

Ceres2030
Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger

Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger



Empower the Excluded

- Enable participation in farmers organisations
- Invest in vocational training for the rural youth
- Scale up social protection programmes

On the Farm

- Investment in extension services to offer farmers, especially women, technical advice, accompanied by R&D programmes
- Support the economic viability of sustainable agricultural practices
- Foster the adoption of climate-resilient crops
- Increase research on water-scarce regions
- Improve quality and quantity of livestock feed

Food on the Move

- Reduce post-harvest losses
- Invest in infrastructure, technical assistance, services, and regulations supporting SMEs

To read the entire Ceres2030 report on Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, click [here](#).

The pledge requires investing entities to further comply with the state regulations of the specific country and commit themselves to internationally accepted principles, such as the [UN Guiding Principles for Businesses and Human Rights](#), the [UN Global Compact](#) or the [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-RAI).

What is the rationale behind the pledge?

Although planet Earth has the **potential to feed 10 billion people, one out of ten go hungry every day** with most of them living in South Asia and Africa and predominantly in rural areas. At the same time, huge quantities of food rot on the field, are destroyed by pest damage or lost due to inadequate storage, logistics, or processing practices.

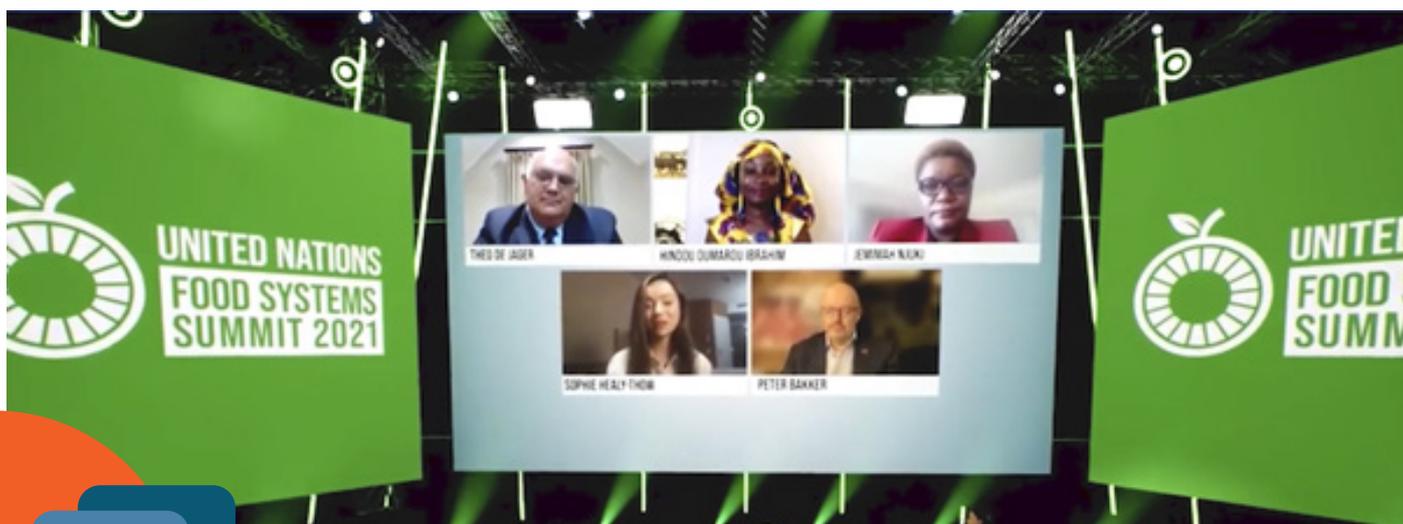
Experts label the **COVID-19 pandemic also a hunger pandemic**, wiping out 15 years of progress on the pathway towards zero hunger. Those particularly prone to food

insecurity are suffering the most of the consequences provoked by a global economic downturn, food shortages, disrupted supply chains, and compromised health. Hence, the relevance of the transformation of food systems with the objective to ensure safe and nutritious food for all is especially high. In line with this, **more and targeted private sector investments are needed, boosting the resilience to future shocks and crises.**

What has been achieved so far?

On the date of the official launch, 21 September 2021, **USD 345 million** have already been pledged **by 42 companies stemming from 34 countries**. They form a diverse set both in terms of specialisation and size, comprising NGOs, SMEs, and global players alike.

More information on the pledge can be found on the [dedicated website](#).



UN Food Systems Summit

23 SEPTEMBER / 2021

On 23 September 2021, the first-ever **UN Food Systems Summit** took place as a virtual event, bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders eager to **accelerate action to transform the current food systems on a global scale**. Such

a change is considered pivotal to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and meet the challenges posed by climate change, competition for resources, diseases, economic volatility, and conflicts.

Why do we need sustainable food systems?

In 2020, the vicious mixture of poverty and food insecurity paired with the multi-faceted consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic left approximately **10% of the global population undernourished**.

The effective combat of chronic hunger and malnutrition hinges on strong food systems, capable of providing healthy diets without destroying the Earth's natural resources. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution reversing the sub-optimal developments of the past decades. Instead, **policymakers need to set up country-specific pragmatic and practical plans and implement them effectively**.

Future-proof food systems will have to respond reliably both to short-term shocks, e.g. pandemics, but also long-term challenges, such as population growth, climate change, and urbanisation.

The **benefits** inherent in such a transformation are extensive and include

- **elimination of inequality** for the three billion people that currently are deprived of healthy diets
- **reduction of undernutrition** levels of children (stunting and wasting), which fosters their cognitive development
- **lower** levels of **food system greenhouse gas emissions**
- **reduction** in the prevalence of **diet-related non-communicable disease**

For more information on concrete steps required for a profound transformation see [this report](#) prepared by the Scientific Group for the Food Systems Summit.

Highlights of the Summit

Titled the **"People's Summit"**, the event began with a summary of the main outcomes from the efforts of hundreds of thousands of people from around the world and across all constituencies that engaged in activities in the run-up to the Summit.

Nearly **300 commitments** have been registered; initiatives driven by **civil society, farmers, indigenous groups, women, and youth envisaging to develop healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable food systems**.

The subsequent official opening session featured UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' Statement of Action, followed by speeches of Member State leaders and ministers voicing their commitment to together **transform how the world produces, consumes, and thinks about food**.

A truly inclusive event

Over 51,000 persons tuned in from 193 countries. Participants praised the inclusiveness of the event, allowing them to hold independent dialogues at all levels, which resulted in a **global common position: together we must leverage the power of today's food systems to be able to collectively reach the objectives for people, planet, and prosperity**.

For more information on the Summit and a wide range of multi-media resources, click [here](#).



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021



**STOP FOOD LOSS
AND WASTE.
FOR THE PEOPLE.
FOR THE PLANET.**

2nd International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

29 SEPTEMBER / 2021

September 29 marked the **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste** as an opportunity to **raise awareness** on the immense impact of the issue undermining the sustainability of global food systems. It also called for **concrete actions on part of both the public and the private sector**.

The former, i.e. national and regional authorities, can do their share by **investing in technologies, innovation, and infrastructure** as well as introducing **policy and legislative regulations** nudging the latter to re-think their handling of food and the value they prescribe to it.

A **transformed mindset** can motivate businesses and individuals to change their behaviour and consciously prevent the waste of food.

Key facts and figures

Around the world, an estimated **14% of food produced is lost already before passing the farm gate and 17% goes to waste either on the retail stage, in the food service, or in households** – and with it the resources (land, water, energy, capital, and labour) used for its production. Moreover, each food item disposed in landfills contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and therewith to climate change.

On average, each individual throws away 74kg of food per year, including both edible and inedible parts.

The *UNEP publication Food Waste Index Report 2021* sheds light on the magnitude of food waste on all continents. Read more [here](#).

Innovation against food loss and waste

In order to reach [SDG 12.3](#), the introduction of innovative solutions powered by **Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)** is considered as key for transformative change. Besides connecting stakeholders along the food chain, they can collect and provide data supporting public and private entities to make informed decisions.

New products, services, and business models for instance can enable farmers to track harvests and monitor food stocks with the help of blockchain technologies and thereby effectively prevent food loss and waste.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

“By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.”



Zooming in on the EU

Estimates suggest that **88 million tonnes of food**, around **20%** of the total production, is lost or wasted in the EU annually, leading to associated costs of **€143 billion** and constituting **6%** of the EU Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The reduction of food loss and waste forms a key pillar of the [EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#), which is a component of the [European Green Deal](#).

The [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#) has been launched by the EU Commission as a “one-stop shop” for stakeholders interested and active in food waste prevention.

Besides offering relevant information on **national actions** ([Member States pages](#)), such as legislative developments and policies, the website constitutes a platform for the **exchange of good practices and experiences** ([Resources page](#)). Thereby, it strives at fostering mutual learning and motivating the initiation of further action across the EU and beyond. In addition, visitors can stay up-to-date with **topic-related events and announcements** ([News page](#)).

FEBA is a member of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste and will contribute to the new EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub with news and resources from its entire network.

How did FEBA contribute to the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste?

FEBA launched a **social media challenge** to its members: **What's the daily contribution of your organisation to food waste prevention? Share your story with everyone!**

10 FEBA members participated, sharing pictures, videos, posts, and much more on different social media channels. It was a great occasion to publicly tell the story of the daily activities of Food Banks throughout Europe regarding to prevention of waste and the redistribution of good and nutritious food to charitable organisations supporting people in need.

The winners of the challenge are:

1. **FødevarerBanken – Denmark** with the project “Be a part of #Nofoodwaste MONTH with FødevarerBanken”
2. **Fondation Partage – Switzerland** with the project “Unsold stale bread turned into delicious cookies!”
3. **Food Bank Albania – Albania** with the project “Stop Food Loss and Waste”

Would you like to know more about the participants and the winners? You can access the dedicated webpage [here](#).



European Food Banks Federation asbl - FEBA

Chaussée de Louvain 775, Brussels 1140, Belgium
+32 2 538 94 50 / info@eurofoodbank.org



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