



## Fact Sheet

### UN Food Systems Summit: USDA Actions and Deliverables

The U.S. Department of Agriculture participated in the United Nations Food Systems Summit September 23-24, 2021, catalyzing actions to end hunger and malnutrition and build more sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems in the U.S. and around the world.

#### Advancing U.S. and Summit Goals

**Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate:** USDA is leading U.S. efforts to promote the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) with the goal of dramatically increasing public and private investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation. At the Summit, the United States and United Arab Emirates announced additional support by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and 12 additional countries: Bahamas, Bangladesh, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Romania, and Sweden. Since AIM4C was announced at President Biden's Leaders' Summit on Climate in April, the number of supporting countries has more than tripled and now totals 30.

**Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition:**— Recognizing that sustainable productivity growth and climate-smart agriculture are essential to sustainable food systems, the United States announced the formation of a global Coalition of Action on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation ([SPG Coalition](#)). The coalition will accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems through agricultural productivity growth that optimizes sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The coalition will advance a holistic approach to productivity growth that considers impacts and tradeoffs among multiple objectives.

SPG Coalition supporters : **Countries:** Australia, Brazil, Philippines, United States **UN Agencies:** UN Food and Agriculture Organization **Academic and Research Organizations** Akademiya 2063, Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (CoSAI), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Food Policy Research Institute, International Potato Center, RUFORUM **Private Sector:** Agricultural Retailers Association, American Feed Industry Association, American Seed Trade Association, American Soybean Association, Animal Agriculture Alliance, Animal Health Institute, Bayer, Corn Refiners Association, International Dairy Foods Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Dairy Producers Union (Soyuzmoloko) Russia, National Grain and Feed Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers

Council, North American Meat Institute, U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB), U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), **NGOs, Foundations and other Organizations:** 2Blades Foundation, Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Div Seek International, Farm Journal Foundation, Global Institute of Food Security, Global Plant Council, International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Solutions from the Land, Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation, World Resources Institute

**School Meals Coalition:** Led by USDA, the United States has proudly joined the global coalition “School Meals: Nutrition, Health and Education for Every Child” to help ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals in school by 2030. USDA joined coalition members in recognizing that school meals play an important role in food systems transformation as they combat child hunger, poverty and multiple forms of malnutrition. They attract children to school and support children’s learning, long-term well-being and health. School meals promote gender equity by supporting girls and boys to attend and graduate from school and reducing the risk of child marriage, early pregnancy and gender-based violence. They also contribute towards a holistic approach to child well-being through the integration of education, nutrition, health and social protection interventions, and serve as platforms to teach children about healthy diets and sustainable lifestyles. The coalition will support comprehensive and effective school feeding programs worldwide by advocating for multi-sector coordination, stable funding sources, and ongoing research to improve program quality and efficiency.

**Food Loss and Waste Coalition:** In line with the U.S. goal to reduce domestic food loss and waste (FLW) 50 percent by 2030, the United States, led by USDA, is enthusiastically supporting the “Food is Never Waste Coalition.” Goals of the coalition include country adoption of FLW reduction targets (such as those already adopted in the United States), expanded measurement to set country baselines and identify FLW hotspots, and country-led policies and practices to reduce FLW.

## **Building a More Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive U.S. Food System**

**National Food Systems Summit Dialogues:** Leading up to the Food Systems Summit, USDA hosted three National Food Systems Dialogues to facilitate inclusive discussion on sustainable food systems. More than 200 food systems stakeholders took part, including farmers, food industry members, environmental groups, nutrition and food security advocates, unions and advocates for farm and food systems workers, and researchers. The Dialogues enabled this diverse interests to bridge differences and connect over the common desire to build more sustainable food systems, discussing challenges and opportunities for building more sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems in the United States.

**U.S. Pathways Forward:** One of the United States’ primary contributions to the Food Systems Summit is the [U.S. Pathways Forward](#) overview, which provides a stocktaking of the Biden-Harris Administration’s vision and actions to deliver on three overarching food systems

priorities: food security and healthy diets for all; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and inclusive and equitable food systems.

**Historic Investments in Strengthening the U.S. Food System:** USDA is advancing these Pathways Forward priorities on multiple fronts, including through historic investments by the Biden-Harris Administration to build back better in the face of the climate crisis and economic disruptions from COVID-19. USDA plans to invest \$5 billion from the American Rescue Plan and from pandemic assistance, of which \$4 billion is to strengthen food systems from farm to table, through support for food production, improved processing, distribution, and market opportunities. The additional \$1 billion helps bridge the gap from pandemic assistance to food systems transformation by supporting more efficient systems and infrastructure to ensure access to healthy diets for all. These and other funds are supporting USDA initiatives to improve food security and nutrition, address climate change, and build more equitable and inclusive food systems domestically.

**Food Security and Nutrition:** USDA is directing resources and efforts to build food systems that support healthy diets for all, including by:

- Expanding access to emergency food assistance to allow families with children receiving school meals to purchase healthy food more easily in the summer months and when schools are closed due to the pandemic; extending additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for food insecure households; expanding resources to mothers and young children to purchase healthy, fresh foods; expanding nutrition for seniors; delivering nutrition aid to U.S. territories; and increasing the availability of perishable, whole, fresh foods available through food banks and nonprofit organizations to help feed families in need while supporting farmers.<sup>i</sup>
- Modernizing SNAP benefits and increasing the ability of SNAP recipients to afford healthy foods.<sup>ii</sup>
- Investing in technological improvements to expand access to SNAP and enable participants to purchase groceries online and supporting grocery stores in areas with limited access to healthy food.<sup>iii</sup>

**Climate and Resource Conservation:** USDA is pursuing a department-wide approach to climate change and resource conservation through investments in rural infrastructure, clean energy capabilities, scientific research, and programs for effective conservation and climate smart agriculture. This includes:

- Investing in renewable energy infrastructure and rural economic development to help rural communities, businesses, and agricultural producers build back better, including \$464 million for increased access to rural broadband, climate-smart solutions to lower energy costs, and rural water and wastewater infrastructure.<sup>iv</sup>
- Meeting aviation fuel demand with lower emissions intensity fuels and support for U.S. farmers and ranchers to meet the rising demand for sustainable aviation fuels.<sup>v</sup>

- Supporting climate-smart agriculture and forestry to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; and reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and implementing the recently released USDA Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy.
- Investing \$330 million for 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships to address climate change, improve the nation’s water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.<sup>vi</sup>
- Ramping up action to reduce food loss and waste (FLW) domestically, including through growing the [U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions](#), increasing outreach and consumer education efforts, and investing in programs to enhance recycling and upcycling. **Equity and Inclusion:** Equity and inclusion are central to all USDA’s efforts. The Department is advancing equity and inclusion through a number of initiatives and programs designed to: support historically underserved farmers and ranchers, farm and food workers, business owners and communities; strengthen resilient supply chains and local and regional food systems; and build a fair marketplace for all producers. These include:
  - Supporting socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers, ranchers and communities through loans and conservation assistance, as well as assistance in resolving land ownership and succession issues that have long been a barrier for producers and landowners including Black farmers and groups that have experienced historic discrimination.<sup>vii</sup>
  - Building agricultural capacity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and land-grant universities. USDA is providing funding to support training the next generation of leaders in agriculture with a focus on historically disadvantaged groups
  - Strengthening urban agriculture and innovative production with \$4 million for projects that build food justice and equity and unify communities.<sup>viii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> USDA is implementing these actions mandated by the American Rescue Plan H.R. 1319. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

<sup>ii</sup> USDA is implementing these actions through an update to the Thrifty Food Plan. See: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/08/16/usda-modernizes-thrifty-food-plan-updates-snap-benefits>

<sup>iii</sup> USDA is implementing these initiatives through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative - Reinvestment Fund.

<sup>iv</sup> “USDA Invests \$464 Million in Renewable Energy Infrastructure to Help Rural Communities, Businesses and Ag Producers Build Back Better,” USDA, last modified September 9, 2021. ” <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/09/09/usda-invests-464-million-renewable-energy-infrastructure-help-rural>

<sup>v</sup> USDA, EPA, and the Department of Energy (DOE) are supporting U.S. farmers and ranchers to meet the rising demand for sustainable aviation fuels through the Sustainable Aviation Challenge. See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/09/fact-sheet-biden-administration-advances-the-future-of-sustainable-fuels-in-american-aviation/>

<sup>vi</sup> The USDA is increasing enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program, which supports producers and private landowners in implementing conservation practices on working lands to address climate change and conservation goals. See: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=nrcseprd1769025>

<sup>vii</sup> The USDA is providing loans and conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers.<sup>vii</sup> The USDA is also helping heirs resolve land ownership and succession issues. See: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/26/usda-announces-166-million-funding-opportunities-support-socially>

<sup>viii</sup> “USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production,” USDA-FSA, last modified May 27, 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-announces-grants-for-urban-agriculture-and-innovative-production>