



## BRUSSELS RURAL DEVELOPMENT BRIEFINGS

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## Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

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# Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

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# Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

Building on the accomplishments of their predecessors the MDGs, the SDGs address the most pressing global challenges of our time, calling upon collaborative partnerships across and between countries to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion.

The SDGs build upon the success of the 8 Millennium Development Goals agreed upon in 2000 to halve extreme poverty by 2015 as a midpoint towards eradicating poverty in all its forms. The MDGs focused on the many dimensions of extreme poverty, including low incomes, chronic hunger, gender inequality, lack of schooling, lack of access to health

care, and deprivation of clean water and sanitation, among others. They achieved some great successes, yet, many countries did not make sufficient progress, particularly on environmental sustainability, and it is now widely recognized that additional work is needed to achieve the ultimate goal of ending extreme poverty in all its forms.

## 1.1. The SDGs build on decades of work

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment, and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.
- At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States adopted the outcome

- document “The Future We Want” in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Rio +20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.
- In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.
  - In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
  - 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:
    - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
    - Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
  - Paris Agreement on Climate Change
  - Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.
- Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States. DSDG plays a key role in the evaluation of UN systemwide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals. DSDG aims to help facilitate this engagement.



## 1.2 The Global indicators framework

The following global indicator framework was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed upon, including refinements on several indicators, at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017.

The global indicator framework was later adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 and is contained in the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313).

The list includes 232 indicators on which general agreement has been reached. The total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework of SDG indicators is 244. However, since nine indicators repeat under two or three different targets, the actual total number of individual indicators in the list is 232.

To facilitate the implementation of the global indicator framework, all indicators are classified by the IAEG-SDGs into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level, as follows:

Tier Classification Criteria/  
Definitions:

**Tier 1:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

**Tier 2:** Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

**Tier 3:** No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

All indicators are equally important, and the establishment of the tier system is intended solely to assist in the development of global implementation strategies. For tier I and II indicators, the availability of data at the national level may not necessarily align with the global tier classification and countries can create their own tier classification for implementation.

**As of 13 February 2019:** The updated tier classification<sup>3</sup> contains **101 Tier I indicators, 84 Tier II indicators and 41 Tier III indicators**. In addition to these, there are **6 indicators that have multiple tiers** (different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers).

## 1.3 Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The costs of doing nothing are huge in the medium- and long-term. At the same time, the sustainability transition entails significant investments in the short run and a comprehensive shift in how the financial system works. Achieving the SDGs is estimated to require around EUR 4.5 to 6 trillion globally.<sup>4</sup> The UN estimates the gap in financing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at \$2.5 trillion per year in developing countries alone (UNCTAD, 2014).

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is the UN central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. It was established in 2012 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The Future We Want”) and replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met annually since 1993.

The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days. The Forum adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations.

### 2018 SDG Index and Dashboards

**Report<sup>5</sup>** provides a report card for country performance on the historic Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It describes countries' progress towards achieving the SDGs and indicate areas requiring faster progress. The difference between 100 and countries' scores is therefore the distance in percentage that needs to be completed to achieving the SDGs and goals. The same basket of indicators is used for all countries to generate comparable scores and rankings. It should be noted that differences in rankings may be due to small differences in the aggregate score.

## 1.4 Investing in data for SDG implementation

Quality data are vital for governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to make informed decisions and to ensure an accurate review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Tracking progress on the SDGs requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at subnational, national, regional and global levels, including those derived from official statistical systems and from new and innovative data sources.

Many national statistical systems across the globe face serious challenges in this regard and capacity building is needed.

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, adopted at the 48th Session of the Statistical Commission in 2017, provides a roadmap for the modernization and strengthening of statistical systems. Where possible, global monitoring should be based on comparable and standardized national data obtained through well-established reporting mechanisms from countries to the international statistical system.

The collaboration between national statistical systems and regional and international organizations is essential for ensuring an effective flow of international comparable data. Such mechanisms can be improved by strengthening the coordination function of national statistical offices in the national statistical systems. Producing data for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires strong political commitment and increased resources to support global and national efforts to strengthen statistical systems.<sup>6</sup>

New technologies and geospatial information and statistical data will be particularly important for the production of a number of indicators and data.





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As of August 2018, the Partnerships for SDG platform contains 3,835 partnerships and voluntary initiatives for SDGs, registered by different stakeholders, either directly through the website, or in connection with a specific conference or process. The collection of these initiatives dates back to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### c) Partnerships with private sector and NGOs

The United Nations Global Compact manages the UN-Business Action Hub, a platform where the UN and business can engage in dialogue, share information and take action to advance UN objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN-Business Action Hub was developed as a joint effort of the United Nations Global Compact, Global Hand, a Hong-Kong based non-profit specializing in facilitating private sector and NGO connections, and 20 UN entities and aims to foster greater collaboration between the business and UN to advance solutions to global challenges and to support various humanitarian and disaster preparedness and response efforts. The UN-Business Action Hub contains partnership initiatives and commitments from thousands of private sector organizations around the world.

### d) Partnerships on financing

In addition to accessing voluntary commitments and partnerships from a range of sustainable development conferences (WSSD, Rio+20, SIDS Conference, Conference on Financing for Development, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the World Humanitarian Summit, Global Sustainable Transport Conference, and The Ocean Conference),

initiatives are also accessible stemming from a growing number of larger umbrella partnerships and networks such as Every Woman Every Child, Sustainable Energy for All, SDG Philanthropy Platform, SDG Fund, and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, each of which has commitments and initiatives attached to its umbrella network on the online platform.

### e) The Partnership data for SDGs

The Partnership Data for SDGs (PD4SDGs) initiative is a collaboration between the Division for Sustainable Development of UN-DESA, the UN Office for Partnerships and the UN Global Compact aimed at improving the transparency, accountability and the sharing of experiences of the work being carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in their support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The initiative seeks to bring greater transparency, coherence, impact, and comparability of the work carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments by promoting a system-wide use of the established SMART criteria – a partnership/commitment that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based, with clear and Time-based deliverables.

There is a growing trend to collect voluntary commitments and partnerships in support of UN conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development, sometimes with varying degree of associated level of details, which could lead to difficulty in reviewing impact, track progress and conduct in-depth and global comparability analyses on announced commitments and partnerships. It is against this

background the Partnership Data for SDGs initiative has been developed.

The initiative is open for all entities within the United Nations that engage with, and promote the work of, multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in driving implementation of the SDGs.<sup>10</sup>



### 3. The SDG 2: Promoting Food security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture<sup>11</sup>

#### 3.1. Context and issues

As the world population continues to grow, much more effort and innovation will be urgently needed in order to sustainably increase agricultural production, improve the global supply chain, decrease food losses and waste, and ensure that all who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition have access to nutritious food.

World leaders at the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. The UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge launched at Rio+20 called on governments, civil society, faith communities, the private sector, and research institutions to unite to end hunger and eliminate the worst forms of malnutrition.

The Zero Hunger Challenge has since garnered widespread support from many member States and other entities. It calls for:

- Zero stunted children under the age of two
- 100% access to adequate food all year round
- All food systems are sustainable
- 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income
- Zero loss or waste of food

**The Sustainable Development Goal to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” (SDG2) recognizes the inter linkages among supporting sustainable agriculture, empowering small farmers, promoting gender equality, ending rural poverty, ensuring healthy lifestyles, tackling climate change, and other issues addressed within the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

Beyond adequate calories intake, proper nutrition has other dimensions that deserve attention, including micronutrient availability and healthy diets. Inadequate micronutrient intake of mothers and infants can have long-term developmental impacts. Unhealthy diets and lifestyles are closely linked to the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases in both developed and developing countries.

Adequate nutrition during the critical 1,000 days from beginning of pregnancy through a child's second birthday merits a particular focus. The Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement has made great progress since its creation five years ago in incorporating strategies that link nutrition to agriculture, clean water, sanitation, education, employment, social protection, health care and support for resilience.

Extreme poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, with smallholder farmers and their families making up a very significant proportion of the poor and hungry. Thus, eradicating poverty

and hunger are integrally linked to boosting food production, agricultural productivity and rural incomes.

Agriculture systems worldwide must become more productive and less wasteful. Sustainable agricultural practices and food systems, including both production and consumption, must be pursued from a holistic and integrated perspective.

Land, healthy soils, water and plant genetic resources are key inputs into food production, and their growing scarcity in many parts of the world makes it imperative to use and manage them sustainably. Boosting yields on existing agricultural lands, including restoration of degraded lands, through sustainable agricultural practices would also relieve pressure to clear forests for agricultural production. Wise management of scarce water through improved irrigation and storage technologies, combined with development of new drought-resistant crop varieties, can contribute to sustaining drylands productivity.

Halting and reversing land degradation will also be critical to meeting future food needs. The Rio+20 outcome document calls for achieving a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development. Given the current extent of land degradation globally, the potential benefits from land restoration for food security and for mitigating climate change are enormous. However, there is also recognition that scientific understanding of the drivers of desertification, land degradation and drought is still evolving.



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Table: targets, indicators & data

## 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

<b>2.1.1</b> Prevalence of undernourishment	Number of people undernourished (2017): <b>820.8 million</b> / FAO Prevalence of undernourished (2017): <b>10.9%</b> / FAO	<a href="http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/211/en/">http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/211/en/</a>
<b>2.1.2</b> Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (%) (2015): <b>24.4%</b> / FAO Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the adult population (%) (2015): <b>9.4%</b> / FAO Total population in moderate or severe food insecurity (thousands of people) (2015): <b>1,791,330.1</b> / FAO Total population in severe food insecurity (thousands of people) (2015): <b>689,074.6</b> /FAO	<a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=2.1.2">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=2.1.2</a>

## 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

<b>2.2.1</b> Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	In 2017, <b>151 million</b> children under 5 (22%) were stunted (too short for their age) (WHO; 2018)	<a href="https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2018/EN_WHS2018_SDGhighlights.pdf?ua=1">https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2018/EN_WHS2018_SDGhighlights.pdf?ua=1</a>
<b>2.2.2</b> Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	In 2017, <b>51 million</b> children under the age of five ( 7.5% ) were wasted (too light for their height) (WHO; 2018) In 2017, <b>38 million</b> children in this age group ( 5.6% ) were overweight (too heavy for their height) (WHO; 2018)	<a href="https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2018/EN_WHS2018_SDGhighlights.pdf?ua=1">https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2018/EN_WHS2018_SDGhighlights.pdf?ua=1</a>

## 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

<b>2.3.1</b> Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	Lacking data; definitions and methodology to monitor and report this target only agreed in September 2018	<a href="http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/231/en/">http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/231/en/</a>
<b>2.3.2</b> Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	Lacking data; definitions and methodology to monitor and report this target only agreed in September 2018	<a href="http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/232/en/">http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/232/en/</a>

## 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

<b>2.4.1</b> Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Lacking data; the methodology to monitor and report on this target is being pilot tested in selected countries from different regions.	<a href="http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/241/en/">http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/241/en/</a>
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# 4. The SDGs in the Context of ACP Regional Programmes and Priorities

Agenda 2030 places a strong recognition on action at regional level and partnerships in order to achieve the SDGs. Notably, SDG1 emphasises that in order to end poverty, “sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels” are needed, and Goal 17 calls for strong partnerships in order to achieve Agenda 2030.

Among the principal features of the current global development landscape is the deepening of regional cooperation to address common challenges and aspirations of neighbouring countries, addressing issues as varied as trade, security, environmental protection and other matters. Within these regional frameworks have developed programmes that are concerned with many of the issues featuring in Agenda 2030, underscoring the need to evaluate and enrich the linkages between the SDGs and these regional instruments and partnerships.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries are supported by a range of regional development policies and programmes, that are overseen by institutional bodies responsible for their monitoring, coordination and implementation. Beginning at the ACP Group level, the **ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement** (2014-2020)<sup>13</sup> constitutes the governing policy framework for all three regions. At the continental level, the **African Union Commission’s Agenda 2063** is the umbrella development strategy in Africa, whilst the priorities of Caribbean and Pacific states are captured in the **SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)**

**Pathway** adopted at the Third International Conference on SIDS was held in Apia, Samoa (September 2014).

A number of important institutional and intergovernmental agreements and strategies also exist which complement Agenda 2063 and the SAMOA Pathway. The African Development Bank adopted its **High 5s** strategy, with the overarching goal of promoting inclusive development and green growth in Africa. Furthermore, regional (economic) community organisations in the ACP<sup>14</sup> are also involved in supporting their member countries with various development programmes, many of which feed into priorities related to the SDGs, often focusing on specific thematic issues. Notable in this respect is the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**, Africa’s policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all, which corresponds directly with SDG 2.<sup>15</sup>

## 4.1. Africa

Recent decades have seen more concerted efforts on the part of African countries and institutions to define their development priorities and enhance cooperation and collaboration regionally in order to achieve common objectives. These efforts have borne fruit with respect to the adoption of the instruments discussed below, which establish clearly the agenda Africa’s countries want to pursue at continental and global levels in relation to sustainable development. Measuring and delivering progress

beyond the initial phase of adoption of these ambitious programmes will be key over the coming decade(s). This bold agenda for sustainable development in the continent also places greater demands on Africa’s national, regional and continental institutions and its international and bilateral partners, which have to be met through new means and mechanisms for cooperation – as explicitly recognised in the introduction of AU – UN Development Framework.<sup>16</sup> Institutional and partner coordination, leveraging of resources and synergies and enhanced policy coherence are especially important if this process is to lead to improved efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of Africa’s development agenda.

### 1. African Union Agenda 2063

At its Golden Jubilee during the 21st Ordinary Session of May 2013, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the landmark development vision ‘*The Africa We Want*’ – more commonly known as Agenda 2063.<sup>17</sup> It sets out seven aspirations, to be delivered through 20 goals, with the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014 - 2023) setting out a common framework for priorities and actions to drive its deployment through 171 targets.<sup>18</sup>

The UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted a mere 28 months after Agenda 2063, and shares its general concerns and aims to promote sustainable social, economic and environmental development.<sup>19</sup> In fact, sustainable development is at the heart of Agenda 2063, with the first















## 2. Caribbean

A detailed review of progress and action in relation to SDG implementation in the Caribbean can be found in the Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action, submitted at the Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, and other related meetings and side events by stakeholders which took place in Apia, Samoa, from 29 October – 1 November 2018. It identifies two important instruments which inform the framework for sustainable development at the regional level.

The first key instrument, the **“Strategic Plan for the CARICOM 2015-2019: Repositioning CARICOM”**<sup>46</sup> was approved by the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at their 35th Meeting (July 2014, Antigua and Barbuda). It identifies eight Strategic Priorities for the Community over the five-year period, 2015-2019, and key areas of intervention for each. The Strategic Priorities are: Building Economic Resilience; Social Resilience; Environmental Resilience; Technological Resilience; two enabling priorities, Strengthening the CARICOM Identity and Spirit of Community, and Strengthening Community Governance; along with two cross-cutting priorities of Coordinated Foreign Policy, Research and Development, and Innovation. As the CARICOM Strategic Plan predates the SDGs, it does not integrate the goals and targets, although as the first ever CARICOM-wide Strategic Plan, it marked an important milestone for the region in terms of negotiating and approving a common long-term development strategy.

The second key instrument is the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission’s Three**

**Year Work Plan (2018 - 2020)** which benefited from Agenda 2030 by strongly aligning its five strategic priorities closely with the SDGs. These are: advancement, support and acceleration of regional trade, economic and social integration; mainstreaming climate, economic, environmental and social resilience; promotion and support of equity and social cohesion and leveraging cultural and linguistic diversity of Member States; alignment of foreign policy of Member States with the development needs of the OECS; and alignment and strengthening the institutional systems of the Commission to effectively deliver its mandate. A forthcoming Growth and Development Strategy will also include Priority Areas on: Environment, Food Security and Nutrition, Social Development and Protection, and Health.

Furthermore, the OECS makes specific reference to the SDGs in the framework of its strategic objectives, explaining that the SDG’s “undergird and are integrated with the Organisation’s Strategic Goals. The OECS recognises that ending poverty and creating a brighter future for all must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and which address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The Organisation works to achieve these outcomes through close consultation and collaboration with [its] development partners and a diverse cross-section of regional and global stakeholders under a unified development framework.”<sup>47</sup>

Finally, the report details the work of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), which has “mapped 14 of the 17 SDGs into its work programmes within the ACS mandate

of collaboration, cooperation and concerted action in the functional areas of Trade, Sustainable Tourism, Transport, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Caribbean Sea Commission. Gender and Youth are also being mainstreamed into all work programmes.” (Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action, 2018)

With respect to food security and nutrition, which the report details under SDGs 2 and 3, action at the regional level has been channelled under the OECS, CARICOM and other regional and international partners (CARDI, IICA, CDB, FAO, IFAD). However, a single regional programme to integrate or monitor the objectives of SDG 2 is not presented.

## 3. Pacific

Progress in SDG implementation among Pacific island countries has been reported in two landmark documents – the “First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report” (PSDR)<sup>48</sup> published in September 2018, and “Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Pacific” by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in December 2017.<sup>49</sup> In terms of methodology, the approach of the two reports differs, with the UNESCAP focusing primarily on Agenda 2030, whereas the PSDR takes a comprehensive overview of sustainable development in the Pacific across the entire Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR),<sup>50</sup> that is to say: the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway); the Paris Agreement; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).





# 5. Towards a sustainable Europe in 2030<sup>53</sup>

The EU was instrumental in shaping the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, together with its Member States, has committed to being a frontrunner also in its implementation, both within the EU and by supporting implementation efforts in other countries, in particular those most in need, through its external policies. Key aspects of sustainable development feature in all of the Juncker Commission's 10 priorities: jobs, growth and investment (priority 1); a digital single market (priority 2); making energy more secure, affordable and sustainable (priority 3); a deeper and fairer internal market (priority 4); a deeper and fairer economic and monetary union (priority 5); open and fair trade (priority 6); justice and fundamental rights (priority 7); migration (priority 8); a stronger global actor (priority 9); a union of democratic change (priority 10).

Since the start of its mandate in November 2014, the Juncker Commission has mainstreamed sustainable development into key crosscutting agendas as well as sectoral policies and initiatives, using its better regulation tools. All Commission impact assessments preceding legislative proposals include the analysis of social, environmental and economic impacts with the view to duly consider and factor in sustainable development considerations. Furthermore, all recent EU trade agreements include a chapter on sustainable development with the view to promote sustainable growth and development and decent work for all.

### *The EU's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals*

In worldwide comparison, seven EU-27 Member States are among the top 10 in the global SDG Index ranking and all EU-27 Member States are in the top 50 out of 156 countries assessed.

In the past five years, the EU as a whole has made progress towards almost all SDGs. Most progress has been made on SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and on SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, which are both also among the top three of the highest-ranking SDGs for the EU-27 Member States in the global ranking.

On average, in the global ranking the EU-27 Member States score the highest on SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form everywhere.

The EU has, however, moved away from SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries, with notable differences between the Member States. It is important to note that making progress does not necessarily imply that the current status of the relevant Goal is satisfactory for the EU. For example, notable progress has been achieved towards SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, but this is also the SDG where in the global ranking the EU-27 Member States have the second lowest average score with much work still to be done. On average, in the global ranking EU-27 Member States score the lowest on SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### *Moving forward towards European action for sustainability*

In response to the 2030 Agenda, in November 2016 the Commission published a communication «Next steps for a sustainable European future – European action for sustainability», with the aim to ‘fully integrate the SDGs in the European policy framework and current Commission priorities’.

In its resolution of 6 July 2017 on the 2016 Commission communication, the European Parliament underlined the necessity of a comprehensive and coordinated assessment, including policy gaps and trends, inconsistencies and implementation deficiencies as well as the potential co-benefits and synergies, of all existing EU policies and legislation in all sectors. It called on the Commission, on the Council and on the EU agencies and bodies to pursue this work without delay.

In its Work Programme for 2019, the European Commission announced that, building upon the key role played by the EU and its Member States in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it would put forward a reflection paper ‘Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030’, on the follow-up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change’ by the end of 2018.

The paper released on 30th January 2019 intends to inform the debate on the 2019-2024 strategic agenda and the priorities of the next Commission.

Europe is doing better than the rest of the world in terms of poverty eradication and well place in social



protection, health and well-being (7 EU Member States are in the top 10 best performers).

Areas where cost of inaction can have negative effects are climate change, biodiversity and social cohesion. Areas for improvement include fight against inequalities (on the rise), gender inequalities, sustainable consumption and production and protection of oceans.

The paper advocates for a shift to a **circular economy**. In line with the strong evidence base of the key sustainability challenges and opportunities for the EU, it is important to focus on production and consumption in the areas of materials and products, food, energy, mobility and the built environment, taking into

account the social implications of the changes in these areas. This is where sustainability changes are most needed and are potentially most beneficial for the EU economy, society and natural environment, with strong positive global spillover effects. To grow our economy in a sustainable way and improve the living standards people demand will require new designs of materials and products so that we are properly equipped to re-use, repair and recycle more and more.

There is agreement that while sustainability action necessitates a European scale, ultimately success will only be reached with a global approach. Furthermore, for the EU to continue to thrive as a prosperous continent, significant parts of the developing world need support to

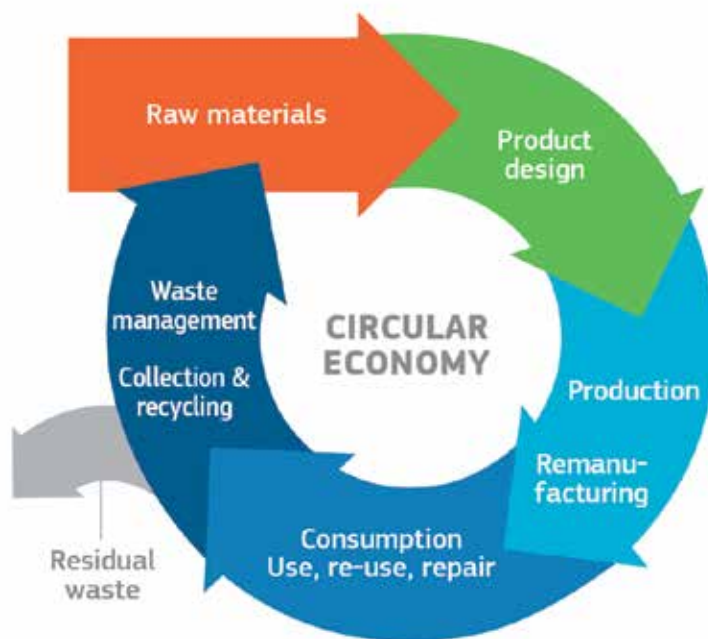
catch up economically and socially. In the same vein, supporting the economic progress of developing countries towards the SDGs also contributes to a broad range of EU's strategic interests, such as reducing irregular migration. The SDGs, as signed by 193 states, offer the best and most modern global and comprehensive framework to base our work on. The European debate is now on what to do and how to do it.

The three scenarios outline different responses but depart from the notion that the EU has great competitive advantages to lead globally and be a successful first mover. These scenarios are neither restrictive nor prescriptive. They aim to offer different ideas and spur debate and thinking. The eventual outcome would likely be a combination of certain elements from each.

## Scenario 1: An overarching EU SDG strategy to guide all the actions of the EU and its Member States

To respond to the challenges faced, it is proposed to endorse at the highest EU political level the globally agreed SDGs as the overarching strategic policy objectives for the EU and its Member States. Such an approach would be in line with the recommendation of the High Level Multi-stakeholder Platform on the SDGs. Under this scenario, the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the SDGs would be the compass and map and thus determine the strategic framework for the EU and its Member States. Strategic action by the EU and the Member States, including regional and local authorities, would be pursued and effectively coordinated. A joint approach at all levels of government would be stimulated, in close cooperation with all stakeholders. This would include a strong component in the EU's relations with third countries to further international sustainability action. This also implies the

## Circular economy cuts waste and reduces the need for new resources



Source: European Commission.



## Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

establishment of a 'European process for SDG policy coordination' to regularly assess and monitor progress in implementation, reflecting the cross-cutting nature and inter-connectivity between the SDGs, including in the internal governance of the European Commission.

### Scenario 2: Continued mainstreaming of the SDGs in all relevant EU policies by the Commission, but not enforcing Member States action

Under this scenario, the SDGs will continue to inspire our political decision-making with regard to the EU's policy making and guide the development of the post-EU2020 growth strategy, while not binding EU Member States to achieving collectively the SDG commitments in the EU. In the European Commission this could mean that a member of the College is granted a broad responsibility for 'sustainability'. This Commissioner could continue working together with other Commissioners in a dedicated project team involving all the Commissioners. To ensure policy coherence, close cooperation with other project teams of Commissioners would have to be sought. Through its Better Regulation Agenda, the Commission would continue pursuing an inclusive and evidence-based decision-making process. Combined with stronger SDG mainstreaming of the European Semester in line with the post-EU2020 growth strategy, the EU's policy coherence is reinforced and it is ensured that the EU moves closer to the SDGs. However, this approach would leave more freedom to Member States, and regional and local authorities as to whether and how they adjust their work to delivering in a consistent manner on the SDGs.

### Scenario 3: Putting enhanced focus on external action while consolidating current sustainability ambition at EU level

External action would be prioritised in the context of the SDGs. As the EU is already a frontrunner in many aspects related to the SDGs, enhanced focus could be placed on helping the rest of the world catch up, while pursuing improvements at EU level. Our social market economy has become an EU trademark, and has allowed the economies of the EU Member States to generate wealth and broad-based prosperity thanks to strong social welfare systems. The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards already, and our businesses are ahead of the curve compared to global competitors. The EU is also seen as a stronghold for freedom and democracy, with stable institutions based on the rule of law and a vibrant civil society. The EU could therefore decide to promote more strongly its current environmental, social and governance standards through multilateral negotiations and trade agreements. The EU could also further intensify its collaboration with key international organisations and forums, such as the United Nations, including the International Labour Organisation, the World Trade Organisation, and the G20 as well as the supervisory bodies of multilateral environmental agreements, to advance the EU's values-based external policy agenda. The EU's stance in support of multilateralism — with the United Nations at its core — and transparent and reliable international relations would continue to be prioritised.

### Financing and investments needed

Around EUR 180 billion of additional investments are needed to achieve the EU's 2030 targets agreed in Paris, including a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions. Public funds need to be better and more intelligently oriented towards the pursuit of the SDGs, but we cannot meet our needs without the private sector shifting to sustainability as well. Mobilising funding to finance transition has to go hand in hand with the phasing-out the funding of projects that are detrimental to a green and inclusive economic growth.

The Investment Plan for Europe aims to mobilise private finance for the public good. Launched in 2015, its financing arm, the European Fund for Strategic Investments, mobilised so far EUR 370 billion in total investment in key areas necessary for the modernisation of the European economy. This includes renewable energy, energy efficiency, research, development and innovation, as well as social infrastructure such as social or affordable housing. For the next budgetary framework from 2021 to 2027, the Commission proposed to double the budgetary resources for the social sector, including for social entrepreneurship, and finance sustainable infrastructures only. The European Investment Bank Group is already today the largest multilateral provider of climate finance worldwide, committing at least 25% of its investments to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Commission — based on recommendations from a high-level expert group — also set out a roadmap to boost the role of finance in achieving a well-performing economy that delivers on environmental and social goals. The Action Plan on Sustainable Finance<sup>(62)</sup> and the legislative proposals that followed will help investors to make informed investment decisions, based on clear criteria of



what is a sustainable investment. This should facilitate speeding up and scaling up broader investments in sustainable projects both in the EU and worldwide, as well as incentivise investors to step out of investments that are unsustainable.

Further focus should be given to connecting sustainable finance to the real economy so that the increased demand for sustainable products and services from investors would be matched by an increased supply. Effective pricing of externalities will be key in that regard. Additional efforts should also be made to inform European citizens about the finance system, so they are more aware of the corporate activity they are funding and of how to hold fund managers to account in case their money is not managed sustainably.

*Source: European Commission*

# 6. The way forward: the transition to a sustainable food system

Feeding the 10 billion people projected to live on planet earth in 2050 must aim to go beyond producing more with less to balancing the focus on quality and diversity, linking productivity to sustainability and addressing the needs of people.

In ACP countries, agriculture (including fisheries and livestock) is and will remain a main contributor to food security, employment and a driver of economic growth. However, the sector needs to be more attractive for a new generation of farmers, youth and women across the value chain.

Looking back, major improvements in agricultural productivity have been recorded over recent decades to satisfy the food demand of a growing global population. But progress has often come with social and environmental costs, including water scarcity, soil degradation, ecosystem stress, biodiversity loss, decreasing fish stocks and forest cover, and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>54</sup> Sustainable agriculture is the only way to feed a growing population and transmitting our land to future generations as the consequences of depletion are irreversible.

The future lies on the transformation of our food systems towards enhanced sustainability, eradication of poverty, healthy and educated population who can make a living from agriculture in rural areas and urban and peri-urban spaces and inclusiveness to decrease the inequality gap affecting smallholders.

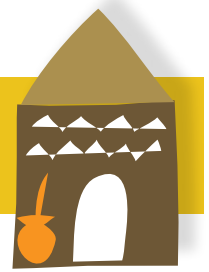
An **enabling environment** with supportive regulations and adequate incentives for the new generation to invest in agriculture and unlocking the potential of the private sector will be a key part of the future of farming. **Social protection systems** are needed for the most vulnerable and **resilience building strategies** to be able to anticipate, respond to and recover from shocks and crises which include diversification of sources of income, storage facilities and sustainable farming practices.

Establishing SDG national implementation platforms to develop more integrated programmes and policies, better interlink different goals and targets, monitor progress and identify and address barriers to change will be crucial to enable real transformation, signalling the way forward for sustainable food and agriculture to help countries realise their development objectives.<sup>55</sup>

**Women play a critical role throughout agri-food value chains, in the management of natural resources and in ensuring food and nutrition security** and well-being of the family. Therefore, the development of gender-responsive value chains, the use of sex-disaggregated reporting should be strengthened in order to better capture women's contributions and to better measure efforts to reach, benefit and empower women as well as address gender inequalities and specific vulnerabilities of women and girls.

Some key issues to transform our agriculture to achieve the SDGs as listed by FAO include:

- **Improving productivity** through increased access to lack access to resources and services and adequate rural infrastructure to support food producers. Creating the conditions for inclusive rural transformation requires investing in basic infrastructure, restore soil health and apply sustainable land and resources management practices, and providing greater access to land, resources, services, finance, technologies and energy.
- **Connect smallholders to markets** to generate greater income through stronger entrepreneurial and business skills and capacities including through the use of technologies like mobile phones and apps to access price information quickly, transparently and accurately. Youth are not equipped with the needed skills to address market gaps and often as individual entrepreneurs not supported by organisations or institutional set-ups (cooperatives, SMEs...) and having difficulties to access credit and technologies.
- **Encourage diversification of production and income:** integrated crop-livestock systems, agroforestry and combining paddy rice with aquaculture have shown to increase productivity, producing more with less to help satisfy the demand of a rising and increasingly urbanised global population. Combining farm and off-farm activities helps ensure that rural households earn an income during the lean season or in the face of extreme climate events



- **Build producers' knowledge and develop their capacities:** farmers need new skills and businesses approaches to capture better gains in modern value chains from farm to fork.
- **Mainstream biodiversity conservation and protect ecosystem functions:** conserving and using a wide range of domestic plant and animal diversity provides adaptability and resilience to climate change, emerging diseases, pressures on feed and water supplies and shifting market demands and enhances sustainable development, food security and nutrition.
- **Reduce losses, encourage reuse and recycle, and promote sustainable consumption:** incentives for resilient and sustainable consumption and production are needed in food systems and value chains. Better knowledge and technologies can improve post-harvest losses, increases farmers' incomes and improve the efficiency of food systems. Greater commitments to a circular economy in food and agriculture will support sustainable food systems.
- **Promote secure tenure rights and access to land** supports better and long-term investment from farmers, conserve natural resources and generally promote more productive and sustainable practices.
- **Improve nutrition and promote balanced diets:** The costs of malnutrition in all its forms are very high to society. Diversified and safe food is critical for a balanced nutritional status of producers and consumers. To support nutrition-sensitive agriculture, local consumption of fresh food needs to be promoted, nutrition

education awareness programmes disseminated, and concrete actions taken at all stages of the food chain.

- **Address and adapt to climate change:** Climate change is a reality for many farmers and food producers across the world and the effects of increasingly volatile and extreme weather patterns are damaging infrastructure, harvests, fish stocks and eroding natural resources. Studies indicate that climate change could add 12 percent to 2030 food prices in Africa, where food consumption of the poorest households amounts to over 60 percent of their total spending (FAO). For development to be climate-resilient, greater access to technologies, markets, information and credit for investment will be required to adapt the production systems and practices. An integrated farming system, which include mixed cropping, crop-livestock, agroforestry, tree-crop-livestock as well as aquaculture, shows higher resilience to climatic variability and provides more ecosystem services.
- **Investment and Finance** need to increase in support of rural infrastructure and to address liquidity problems faced by farmers to develop local economies.

A whole range of innovative approaches to rural finance and forms of investment are now available, such as agricultural investment funds, investment promotion, guarantee funds and ICT, to increase the level of financing while lowering the risks to investors.

Capacity building on research, data collection, analysis and assessments on SDG2 and its linkages with the other SDGs are essential.

The integrated and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda requires policies, innovative approaches and partnerships which support intersectoral linkages and collaboration as well as investments in Research and Development (R&D) and advisory services including farmer knowledge systems.

The food and agriculture sector must take an integrated approach to sustainability that includes taking stock of the relevant sectoral policies, mapping and analysing synergies and trade-offs between the economic, social and environmental spheres, assessing the state of the sustainability of food systems and agriculture and identifying key issues, their causes and drivers.

## ACRONYMS

### AAAA

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

### ACP

Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

### AfDB

Africa Development Bank

### BAU

Business-As-Usual

### CAADP

Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme

### CGIAR

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

### CAPE

Climate Action Peer Exchange

### CCAP

Climate Change Action Plan

### CoP

Community of Practice

### CPF

Country Partnership Framework

### CCSA

Cross Cutting Solution Areas

### DAC

Development Assistance Committee (OECD)

### DBR

Domestic Budget Revenue ODA Official Development Assistance

### DDP

Digital Development Partnership

### DFI

Development Finance Institute

### DFID

Department for International Development

### DRM

Domestic Resource Mobilization

### ECD

Early Childhood Development

### EDGE

Economic Dividends for Gender Equality

**ESMAP** Energy Sector Management Assistance Program

**ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### EBRD

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

### FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization

### FSAP

Financial Sector Assessment Program

### FY

Fiscal Year

### FIES

Food Insecurity Experience Scale

### FCV

Fragility, Conflict and Violence

### FfD

Financing for Development

### FPR

Framework for Pacific Regionalism

### GIF

Global Infrastructure Facility

**GAFSP** Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

### GCFF

Global Concessional Financing Facility

### GFF

Global Financing Facility

### GICA

Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance

### GP

Global Practice

### GTF

Global Tracking Framework

### GNI

Gross National Income

### HLPF

High Level Political Forum

### IFC

International Finance Corporation

### ICT

Information and Communication Technology

### IBRD

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

### IDDRI

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

### IDA

International Development Association

### IISS

International Infrastructure Support System



<b>IMF</b> International Monetary Fund	<b>PICS</b> Pacific Island Countries	<b>SPC</b> Secretariat for the Pacific Community
<b>IDB</b> Islamic Development Bank	<b>PIDF</b> Pacific Islands Development Forum	<b>WBG</b> The World Bank Group
<b>LDCs</b> Least-developed countries	<b>PSW</b> Private Sector Window	<b>TICAD</b> Tokyo International conference on Africa Development
<b>MDGs</b> Millennium Development Goals	<b>PPP</b> Public Private Partnership	<b>UN</b> United Nations
<b>MIGA</b> Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	<b>QII</b> Quality Infrastructure Initiative	<b>UNDESA</b> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>M&amp;E</b> Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>R&amp;D</b> Research and Development	<b>UNDP</b> United Nations Development Programme
<b>MDBs</b> Multilateral Development Banks	<b>RECS</b> Regional Economic Communities	<b>UNECE</b> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>MTF</b> Multi-Tier Framework	<b>RISE</b> Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy	<b>UNEP</b> United Nations Environment Programme
<b>NCDs</b> Non-communicable diseases	<b>RMS</b> Result Measurement System	<b>UNEPFI</b> United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative
<b>NFIS</b> National Financial Inclusion Strategy	<b>RRAs</b> Risk Resilience Analysis	<b>UNFCCC</b> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>NDC</b> Nationally Determined Contributions	<b>RAI</b> Rural Accessibility Index	<b>UNGA</b> United Nations General Assembly
<b>NEPAD</b> New Partnership for Africa's Development	<b>GSURR</b> Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Recovery Global Practice	<b>UHC</b> Universal Health Coverage
<b>NSDS</b> National Sustainable Development Strategy	<b>SABER</b> System Approach for Better Results	<b>WDR</b> World Development Report
<b>NSO</b> National Statistics Office	<b>SDG</b> Sustainable Development Goal	<b>WFP</b> World Food Programme
<b>ODA</b> Official development assistance	<b>SIDS</b> Small Island Developing States	<b>WHO</b> World Health Organization
<b>OECD</b> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	<b>SCD</b> Systematic Country Diagnostic	
<b>OOF</b> Other Official Flows	<b>SME</b> Small and Medium Enterprise	

### Glossary<sup>56</sup>

#### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators. Two other major outcomes in 2015 are integral to the 2030 Agenda: Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a framework for financial and non-financial means of implementation; and the Paris Climate Agreement, a global treaty to limit climate change. A UN resolution in September 2015 adopting a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity in a new global development framework anchored in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015). See also Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Finance for Development**

The ground-breaking agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, provides a foundation for implementing the global sustainable development agenda. The Action Agenda establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

#### **Agriculture**

The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products. Is defined as including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture

#### **Agro-ecology**

Agro-ecology is the study of the relation of agricultural crops and environment. Agroecology refers to

the scientific discipline of studying agriculture as ecosystems, looking at all interactions and functions (i.e. producing food but also cycling nutrients, building resilience, etc.).

#### **Assessment framework**

A document that describes a country's overall approach to assessment, including what constructs will be assessed and, often, what populations will be assessed.

#### **Baseline / Baseline study**

An analysis describing the situation prior to a development intervention, against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made. The status of the indicator at the beginning of a programme or project that acts as a reference point against which progress or achievements can be assessed.

#### **Benchmark**

Reference point or standard against which performance or achievements can be assessed. Note: A benchmark refers to the performance that has been achieved in the recent past by other comparable organizations, or what can be reasonably inferred to have been achieved in the circumstances.

#### **Blended finance**

According to the World Economic Forum (2015), blended finance is the "strategic use of development finance and philanthropic funds to mobilize private capital flows to emerging and frontier markets". OECD (2018) defines blended finance as "the strategic use of development finance for the mobilisation of additional commercial finance towards sustainable development in developing countries".

#### **Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)**

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an

approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA aims to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience to climate change, and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible (FAO, 2018).

#### **Conservation agriculture**

A coherent group of agronomic and soil management practices that reduce the disruption of soil structure and biota.

#### **Custodian**

Custodian of indicators are UN agencies responsible for collecting data from national sources, validating and harmonizing them, estimating regional and global aggregates and publishing them on FAOSTAT. FAO will also contribute to the annual SDG progress reports that will feed into the HLPF's follow-up and review processes.

#### **Data Collection Tools**

Methodologies used to identify information sources and collect information during an evaluation. Note: Examples are informal and formal surveys, direct and participatory observation, community interviews, focus groups, expert opinion, case studies, literature search.

#### **Data quality**

The degree to which data serve the purpose for which they were designed.

#### **Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)**

A framework for assessing the quality of data for any sector.



## Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)

Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) refers to the savings and investments generated by households, domestic firms, and governments. In contrast to mobilizing external resources (through FDI, aid, trade, and debt relief), DRM offers the advantages of greater domestic policy ownership and greater coherence with domestic needs. It does not suffer from the disadvantages associated with FDI and foreign aid, which are tied to the objectives of foreign investors (e.g. exclusive focus on sectors such as OGM and telecommunication to the detriment of the agriculture sector) and donors (e.g. tied aid and conditional aid).

## Evaluation

The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

## Financial flows

A measure of dedicated or committed amount of finance related to a set period.

## Financing gap

The difference between the investments needed to meet the SDGs (SDG investment needs) and the associated level of financing (SDG financial flows).

## Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

An investment made to acquire lasting interest in enterprises operating outside of the economy of the investor.

## Food security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and

economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Based on this definition, four food security dimensions can be identified: food availability, economic and physical access to food, food utilization and stability over time.

## Food system

A food system is defined as a system that embraces all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, markets and trade) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation and consumption of food and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes. A sustainable food system is a food system that delivers food and nutrition security for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

## Food wastage

Food wastage encompasses food loss (the loss of food during production and transport

## Gender equality (Equality between women and men)

This refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well

as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

## Global indicator

A way of measuring progress toward meeting a given SDG target that is to be measured by all countries using an internationally comparable methodology. Global indicators were endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) upon a proposal of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and are used to monitor the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

## Green Finance

The financing of public and private green investments (including preparatory and capital costs) in the following areas; -environmental goods and services (such as water management or protection of biodiversity and landscapes); -prevention, minimization and compensation of damages to the environment and to the climate (such as energy efficiency or dams); -the financing of public policies (including operational costs) that encourage the implementation of environmental and environmental-damage mitigation or adaptation projects and initiatives (for example feed-in-tariffs for renewable energies); -components of the financial system that deal specifically with green investments, such as the Green Climate Fund or financial instruments for green investments (e.g. green bonds and structured green funds), including their specific legal, economic and institutional framework conditions.

## Green Growth

Fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.



## Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

### Green Taxes

A tax whose tax base is a physical unit (or a proxy of it) that has a proven specific negative impact on the environment. Four subsets of environmental (green) taxes are distinguished: energy taxes, transport taxes, pollution taxes and resources taxes.

### Greenwashing

When an organization uses misleading advertising and unsubstantiated claims to promote environmental initiatives or images for public gain, but actually operates in a way that is damaging to the environment.

### Harmonization methodology

A way of combining results from different assessments to report on a common scale.

### Impact

Impact is used here as a generic term to refer to the change effected by an activity or entity on people, the environment and the economy.

### Impact-based business models

Business and financing models where the delivery of positive impacts is a main driver of business.

### Impact investment

Investments made with the intention to generate a measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Investments made in companies, organizations and funds with the intention of generating social and environmental impacts alongside a financial return.

### Impact investing

An investment approach with intentional social and environmental objectives and spanning both market rate and concessionary approaches to financial returns. Impact investing has grown considerably over the past years. In 2015, the GIIN annual survey reported US\$ 15 billion of new committed capital to impact investments.<sup>68</sup> Impact investment represented US\$ 77 billion in AUM in 2015, with Sub-Saharan Africa absorbing 19% of the AUM<sup>69</sup> according to a Ferdi study (2016). According to the same study, microfinance is a key sector for impact investment, representing 32% of assets managed, contributing to SDG 1 & 9. While impact investment is gaining in popularity (US\$ 22 billion US\$ invested in 2016), flows are mostly to OECD and donor countries, with investors more cautious about riskier developing markets.

### Indicator

Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor.

### Inclusive business

Businesses that can contribute to human development by including the poor in the value chain as consumers, producers, business owners or employees.

### Inequality

Unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money, etc. than other people.

### Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

The IAEG-SDGs is the custodian of the global indicator framework for all SDGs. The IAEG coordinates the development of the official indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and supports

its implementation. It is composed of representatives of member states from all regions and includes regional and international agencies as observers.

### Interlinkages

The SDGs are linked and should be approached as one. For example, actions to achieve SDG2 relate to numerous others SDGs. No one goal is separate from the others, and all call for comprehensive and participatory approaches.

### Labelled green bonds

Bonds that earmark proceeds for climate or environmental projects and have been labelled as “green” by the issuer.

### Land use

Land use refers to the total of arrangements, activities and inputs undertaken in a certain land cover type (a set of human actions). The term land use is also used in the sense of the social and economic purposes for which land is managed (e.g., grazing, timber extraction, conservation and city dwelling). In national greenhouse gas inventories, land use is classified according to the IPCC land use categories of forest land, cropland, grassland, wetland, settlements, other.

### Livelihood

The resources used and the activities undertaken in order to live. Livelihoods are usually determined by the entitlements and assets to which people have access. Such assets can be categorised as human, social, natural, physical or financial.

### Malnutrition

An abnormal physiological condition caused by inadequate, unbalanced or excessive consumption of macronutrients and/or micronutrients. Malnutrition includes undernutrition and overnutrition as well as micronutrient deficiencies.



## Metadata

Data that provides information on other data; in this case, information on the assessment data.

## Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

A set of eight timebound and measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, discrimination against women and environmental degradation. These goals were agreed at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 together with an action plan to reach the goals by 2015.

## Monitoring

The production of reports monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDG targets as well as commitments and follow-up actions in support of Agenda 2030. The systematic tracking of the state of an initiative at any given time in terms of activities, inputs, outputs, targets and outcomes. It can also be used to describe the tracking of trends.

## Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

A non-for-profit, voluntary citizens' group, which is organized on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good.

## Nutrition security

A situation that exists when secure access to an appropriately nutritious diet is coupled with a sanitary environment, adequate health services and care, in order to ensure a healthy and active life for all household members. Nutrition security differs from food security in that it also considers the aspects of adequate caring practices, health and hygiene in addition to dietary adequacy.

## Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Those flows to countries and

territories on the (Development Assistance Committee / DAC) list of ODA Recipients and to multilateral institutions which are: i. provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and ii. each transaction of which: a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and b) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).

## Organic Farming

A method of crop and livestock production that involves choosing not to use pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics and growth hormones. (Precise definitions and acceptable practices vary by country.)

## Poverty

Poverty is a complex concept with several definitions stemming from different schools of thought. It can refer to material circumstances (such as need, pattern of deprivation or limited resources), economic conditions (such as standard of living, inequality or economic position) and/or social relationships (such as social class, dependency, exclusion, lack of basic security or lack of entitlement).

## Private equity

Capital provided by retail and institutional investors invested directly or via funds in private companies. Prequin (2017) estimated the aggregate capital raised in private equity at US\$ 329 billion.

## Proxy Indicator

Used when results cannot be measured directly. For example, a proxy measure of improved governance could be, in some cases, the number of political parties and voter turnout.

## Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is about mobilizing private sector money, expertise and capacities for government infrastructure development. It involves a long-term relationship between government and private sector (usually >10 years); sharing of risks and rewards (mutualizing profits and losses) with private sector agreeing to performance level.

## Qualitative Indicators

Seek to measure quality and often are based on perception, opinion or levels of satisfaction.

## Quantitative Indicators

Indicators that have a numeric value and are typically represented by a number, percentage or ratio.

## Remittances (Diaspora Financing)

Private unrequited transfers sent from abroad to families and communities in a worker's country of origin. Cross-border, person-to-person payments of relatively low value. The transfers are typically recurrent payments by migrant workers to their relatives (IFAD, 2017).

## Regional Economic Communities (RECS)

They are the 8 regional economic communities recognized by the African Union. These are: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); East African Community (EAC); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Union of Maghreb States (AMU).

# Sustainable agriculture: where are we on SDGs implementation?

## Reporting

The collection and analysis of statistical information based on the expanded set of 230 SDG indicators

## Review and follow-up

UN regional and global bodies are expected to analyse and evaluate the UN system reports. A key feature of the follow-up and review process will be the sharing of national experiences, with all countries expected to participate in voluntary reviews at least twice in the 15-year cycle.

## Sample/representative

A sample is a small part of a population. A representative sample is one in which the small part accurately represents the characteristics of the whole population.

## SDG 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 2 seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Realising this goal is largely dependent on increased investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research and development and on promoting sustainable production systems.

## SDG Indicators

On 6 July 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a global indicator framework to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a voluntary and country-led endeavour. The 232 global indicators are complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels developed by United Nations Member States. Each global SDG indicator has been assigned a 'custodian' agency by the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators, a working group

of the UN Statistical Commission. The agency is responsible for collecting data from national sources, providing the storyline for the annual global SDG progress report, providing and updating the indicator documentation, working on further methodological development, and contributing to statistical capacity building. Data from national statistical and data systems are the basis for the compilation of global indicators. SDG 1 to End poverty in all its forms everywhere has 12 indicators, whereas SDG 2 to End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture has 14 indicators. FAO is the 'custodian' UN agency for 21 indicators, for SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 and a contributing agency for four more.

## Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Businesses whose number of personnel or turnover falls below certain limits. The limit might be different in each country and it is normally defined by law. Further distinctions within the broad category may be established.

## Smallholder farmers

While there is no unique and unambiguous definition of a smallholder, the most common approach is based on scale, measured either in absolute terms (2 hectares is standard) or relative to a country-specific threshold that takes into account agro-ecological, economic and technological factors. Definitions based on farm size ignore a number of other characteristics that are generally associated with smallholders, such as limited access to resources, reliance on family labour and less integration into markets.

## Stakeholders

Those who have interests in a particular decision, either as individuals or as representatives of a

group. This includes people who can influence a decision as well as those affected by it. Decision makers are also stakeholders.

## Social and development impact bonds (Results-Based Financing)

A public-private partnership that allows private (impact) investors to upfront capital for public projects that deliver social and environmental outcomes in exchange for a financial interest.

## Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs)

State-owned investment funds or entities that are commonly established from balance of payments surpluses, official foreign currency operations, the proceeds of privatizations, governmental transfer payments, fiscal surpluses, and/or receipts resulting from resource exports (SWF Institute). SWFs report their data in terms of stock of investment (AUM). SWFs weigh US\$ 4 trillion in AUM.

## Stunting

Low height for age, reflecting a past episode or episodes of sustained undernutrition. In children under five years of age, stunting is defined height-for-age less than -2 standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

## Subsidies

Current unrequited payments that government units, including non-resident government units, make to enterprises on the basis of the levels of their production activities or the quantities or values of the goods or services which they produce, sell or import.

## Sustainability

A dynamic process that guarantees the persistence of natural and human systems in an equitable manner.



## **Sustainable agricultural development**

Sustainable agricultural development is agricultural development that contributes to improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience and securing social equity/responsibility of agriculture and food systems in order to ensure food security and nutrition for all, now and in the future.

## **Sustainable consumption and production**

The use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations.

## **Sustainable development (three dimensions)**

This is often defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It strives to find a balance between the environment, society and the economy, the three dimensions.

## **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The 17 global goals for development for all countries established by the United Nations through a participatory process and elaborated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including ending poverty and hunger; ensuring health and well-being, education, gender equality, clean water and energy, and decent work; building and ensuring resilient and sustainable infrastructure, cities and consumption; reducing inequalities; protecting land and water ecosystems; promoting peace, justice and partnerships; and taking urgent action on climate change.

## **Sustainable development indicator (SDI)**

A statistical measure that gives

an indication on the sustainability of social, environmental and economic development. Sustainable development indicators, abbreviated as SDI, aim to measure sustainable development over longer periods of time. The sustainable development indicators are grouped into 10 subject categories: socioeconomic development; sustainable consumption and production; social inclusion; demographic changes; public health; climate change and energy; sustainable transport; natural resources; global partnership; good governance.

## **Sustainable finance**

Finance that seeks alignment with sustainable development targets and policies.

## **Sustainable Livelihood**

A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining the natural resource base and opportunity set of future generations.

## **Thematic indicator**

A set of globally comparable indicators specific to a sector. These indicators are designed to track the education targets more comprehensively across countries and include the global reporting indicators as a subset.

## **The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development**

The UN body set up to review progress in achieving the SDGs. The Forum is expected to provide guidance, recommendations, identify progress and emerging challenges, and mobilize action to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

## **Undernutrition**

The outcome of poor nutritional intake in terms of quantity and/or quality and/or poor absorption and/or poor biological use of nutrients consumed

as a result of repeated disease. It includes being underweight for one's age, too short for one's age (stunted), dangerously thin for one's height (wasted) and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition).

## **Universal**

The 2030 Agenda is relevant to both developed and developing nations.

## **Validity**

The degree to which an assessment measures what it is intended to measure.

## **Voluntary standards (finance)**

Standards applicable to the financial sector that capture good practices and encourage the achievement and monitoring of social and environmental outcomes.

## **Wasting**

Low weight for height, generally the result of weight loss associated with a recent period of inadequate caloric intake and/or disease. In children under five years of age, wasting is defined as weight-for-height less than -2 standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

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# BRUSSELS RURAL DEVELOPMENT BRIEFINGS

## A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON ACP-EU DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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