

SPECIAL SESSION:
THE ROAD TO THE 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT
Panel Moderator: Barbara Stinson
October 16, 2020 9:30-11:00 A.M.

Barbara Stinson
President - World Food Prize Foundation

Welcome to this special session of the Borlaug Dialogue, focused on the 2021 Food Systems Summit, U.N. hosted. The name of this session is “The Road to the 2021 Food Systems Summit, and we have a tremendous panel gathered to talk about how this road and this session can provide an opportunity to advance food security and agriculture both locally and globally. This session is going to invite leaders and stakeholders of all types to discuss the path to the Summit and the needed vision and action for food systems transformation.

We’re going to start with a special video launched today by the U.N. Food Systems Summit team.

– VIDEO –

Food is more than just what we eat. The ways in which we produce, process and consume food touches every aspect of life on this planet. It is the foundation of our cultures, our economies, and your relationship with the natural world and has the power to bring us together as families, communities and nations.

Families and children are on the brink of famine, but today’s food systems are fragile and unequal. When they fail, there are ripple effects around the world, and the pandemic has impacted the most vulnerable among us. But we know what we need to do to get back on track. We have an opportunity to build back stronger than ever. Transforming our food systems is possible and necessary, and we can set a course to make real change for the benefit of all people by bringing together key players from around the world and giving voice to citizens in every country – because a strong food systems means – no matter your race, no matter your class, no matter where you live.

Women and men have equal opportunities to produce and access nutritious food, which promotes human health at every step without degrading land and water resources. It means recognizing family farming, to provide us, the community, with civility, all year around, every month, every day of the week, even during a pandemic. We are all connected, and we all have a responsibility to act. We must be bold. We must think and act differently. Transforming our food systems is the most powerful action we can take to solve our biggest problems – because together we can build a just and resilient world where no one is left behind.

Join us today.

Barbara Stinson

What an excellent and inspirational video to get us started in this conversation. We are honored to welcome Dr. Agnes Kalibata to get us started. Agnes, welcome. She is our Special Envoy, of course, of the U.N. Secretary-General for the 2021 U.N. Food Systems Summit. She's also President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa. Welcome, Agnes.

Agnes Kalibata

Special Envoy for the 2021 U.N. Food Systems Summit

Thank you, thank you for those comments, and thank you so much for hosting the Food Systems Summit at the same time with the World Food Prize. We really want to be associated with the World Food Prize, and we're extremely excited to be part of this conversation. I also want to thank the panelists,, many of whom are already part of the conversation that is happening in the Food System Summit processes, and I really want to appreciate that you found the time to be with us today.

I have a presentation that gives an overview, so if it could be loaded, then I'll take you quickly through and have that as an anchor of our discussion this evening.

So the Food Systems Summit is being launched today. The dialogues of the FSS are being launched today, but as you know, this is a conversation that really started last year when the U.N. Secretary-General launched, having listened to presidents, having listened to ministers coming from the HLPE. Everybody was concerned that we haven't achieved the SDGs, and they called for a Decade of Action. So the Secretary-General thought it was only fitting that if we are behind on SDGs, let's launch the Decade of Action. And in that Decade of Action, let's really think through the kind of actions we have to bring forward to be able come through on SDGs. But he also wanted to make sure that we realized we have to do that within the context of our food systems. For a number of reasons, our food systems are challenged. But also, food systems offer an opportunity to really be able to work on some of the problems we are seeing and to build back better after COVID.

So, we hope that we can use the Food Systems Summit to unleash bold, new actions, innovations, strategies and to develop progress for SDGs.

So we decided that we'll focus on the following five areas as the objectives of the Summit, and we hope that these areas capture the things that we all care about and these areas focusing very, very importantly, at least from my part of the world, the issue of access to free food, the issue of hunger, but also the issue of nutrition, recognizing fully well that we still have huge challenges around hunger and nutrition. The issue of consumption, today's morning, I was attending the consumer food forum and discussing things to do with the waste and waste management and how to reduce waste. So people already have ideas of what needs to be done. We need to bring it together in this forum.

Then the idea of natural post-production, recognizing fully well that some of the work that we are doing from a food production perspective is contributing to climate change, and we have an opportunity to think about new ways of reducing climate change.

Then, advancing the livelihoods and value distribution and recognizing fully well that we have challenges of employment, we have challenges of inequities in incomes, and these are things we need to discuss and think through the best way to really create a better world for most of us.

Then the issue of building resilience, and there's probably no better time in the world than now to be talking about vulnerabilities, shocks, and building accountability to deal with shocks. We do also recognize that this will form Action Tracks, and this is the basis of Action Tracks that the advisory committee has agreed to. But those other issues like finance, policy and innovation, Indigenous knowledge as you see all of them outlined here, empowerment of women and young people, and marginalized groups, really to assure that the things we talk about and the things we do, the actions we've taken into consideration do also understand that and do also put into consideration that these are critical areas that we must always come back to as we develop programs. Next slide.

So really the purpose of the Summit is to make sure that whatever we do, we raise the conversation and public discourse around food systems and the fact that achieving SDGs without thinking about the context in which we are achieving them is just not going to be working for us anymore as we go forward. Thinking about ambitious action, outside the context of food systems is just not going to be working for us anymore. So really raising our mission around how we engage around food systems but also thinking through the quality and type of actions we need to be bringing forth to be able to get back on track with the SDGs. We are hoping that we can, at every country they all can come up with a set of actions that will constitute our traditional food systems. Invest in very local contexts in these countries, invest in the challenges and opportunities that each country is offering.

And then of course hopefully we can come up with a mechanism for where we can always go back and say – what progress did we make? Given ten years, we don't have a whole lot of time and probably just making sure that with the Summit every year we have a mechanism of coming back and asking ourselves if we are making the progress that we want to be really good.

This effort is building on a number of lots of other inputs already and where we are building with the work of the CFS for our instrument that we've already put in place but is really designing and will continue to review to use some of the principles that make our food systems but also a number of other instruments that there are a number of other processes underway that the Food Systems Summit will be building on those.

We are designing the Food Systems Summit on which to be called... We are calling the People's Summit, because that's what the Secretary-General has called for. And for me, I think the Summit means this. It means that we take this conversation to every household, every individual, because every person makes the decision to eat three times a day, and those decisions impact our food systems. So if we don't take it to the people so that they make the conscious decision to stop waste. If we don't take it to people so that they make the conscious decision to reduce all the things that are impacting our food systems, then we really will not be getting how we want it to be. So we have a very ambitious program ahead of us.

And then the other mission around the type of solutions we want to see. We want to see solutions that can scale, that can get to large numbers of people, that can move from country to

country, that gets to many people at the same time so that we can be able to start seeing the shift we want to see. So that's why we really talk about this summit being not just a people's summit, which it has to be a people's summit – but it too has to be a solutions summit, recognizing fully well that we already have a lot of negotiated ground. We are not looking to negotiate for anything. We are just looking for action to deliver on stuff we've already negotiated.

So we've designed the summit instruments that will help us deliver. As you will see here, we do have what we are calling evidence and knowledge. Here I have a combination of work streams and delivery instruments, workstreams what we do in the UN Secretariat. So what you see in blue, many of that is really how we call things in the Secretariat. What you see in red, for example, world class evidence and tools – this is the work of the research group, which news I will be talking to. Then we have the Action Tracks, the game-changing ideas, the things that, once we really figure out, will actually move our actions forward. Then we have the dialogues, which David might talk about. And these dialogues are how we take the conversation to people at country level, at different levels, but we want to make sure that different people are engaging at the same time. Then of course we have communications, as you have seen today, just being able to also take this conversation, just by being able to reach so many at the same time. And we hope that this will translate into unlocking the same tradition and actions and accelerating progress in the pre-Summit and Summit, which the Secretary-General announced the other day, the pre-summit will happen in the summer in Rome, and the Summit will be happening in New York alongside the U.N. General Assembly.

So I talked about the cells of the Summit. The Summit wants to anchor itself and its work a lot, and it's how we go for a lot. And many of you care about it, and we just want to make sure that we understand where we are going. Where we are going is driven by evidence of what's possible. Again, we are in a situation where we really need to be moving towards somewhere, and we have to be pretty sure that where we are moving is really trying to serve us as a people but also trying to save our world, which is, you know, a little bit under stress, which is the reason we're having the Food Systems Summit in the first place.

This is the Action Tracks. I'll not go into a lot of discussion of what the Action Tracks currently are doing, but they have just been launched as part of the dialogues as well. You will be hearing more about them.

The food systems dialogues. This is an area that excites me, but I'll leave it to David to talk about. It has three parts. It has the national level dialogue, it has the global dialogues that builds on existing dialogues, but it also has the independent dialogues – so that nobody feels left behind. If you want to engage, you have a mechanism of engagement through infinite dialogues.

Then we have the champion, the Summit of Champions. These are the people that are helping us take the Summit to people we don't know. You know, there are networks out there, the people that are doing all sorts of things. And to be able to reach them, we really need the champions. We designed this as a champions network as opposed to a hundred champions from this summit. We want hundreds and hundreds of champions. The only way to manage that is if every champion manages their own network, and then they cannot be the Secretariat from that perspective.

So we are hoping that this will give people an opportunity to educate themselves about the Summit. This will give people an opportunity to bring in other people. This will give people an opportunity to share the information that is coming from the Summit.

This I've already talked about. The point I didn't talk about today is the task force. The different institutions in the U.N. come together through a U.N. Task Force to really help us be able to work with them and harness their knowledge.

This slide is my last slide. It's the World Food Week slide. It's the slide we give credit to everything we are doing this week. We get to celebrate Barbara, your laureate, Dr. Rattan Lal. We are extremely proud that he has won the World Food Prize this year. We get to celebrate a World Food Programme and winning the Nobel Peace Prize. But also we get to celebrate the World Food Week where we are launching all these dialogues, all these instruments and knowledge together and we invite you to the conversation and the dialogues. So, Barbara, let's get started. Over to you now.

Barbara Stinson

Thank you, Agnes. That is a really rich set of slides, a lot of depth to them. So I can't quite see the chat, but I know it's going wild with "Can we get copies of those slides." So with your permission, if we can, we'll be posting those on Whova as part of this session afterwards. Thank you so much, Agnes.

Panel Members

José Andrés	Founder, World Central Kitchen
Ana Bilik	President, Tanager
Prof. Louise O. Fresco	President, Wageningen University and Research
Dr. Neal Gutterson	Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Corteva Agriscience
Pam Johnson	Farmer, Iowa Corn, Maizall
H.E. Agnes Kalibata	Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, 2021 Food Systems Summit
Dr. David Nabarro	Strategic Director 4SD Company
The Honorable Kip Tom	Ambassador, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
Priscilla Trinh	Undergraduate, University of Minnesota - College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences

Barbara First, let's welcome everyone onto the stage. Join us if you can, elevate everyone. We're going to talk with each individual that's joining us today, hear just a few minutes from them, and then we're going to open up for discussion amongst everyone. So we have a wonderful, diverse panel gathered here. Appreciate all of you coming.

We're going to start with you, David. David Nabarro is the Strategic Director for 4SD, and he is also guiding us in developing, launching the food systems dialogues today, I believe. David.

David Thank you very much, indeed. Hello, everybody. Time is short, and I'd just like to describe the way in which, as Dr. Kalibata said, we should be helping to ensure that there's dialogue everywhere in relation to the themes of this summit. The particular

responsibility that I have is about engaging the governments and people of the different member states of the United Nations in the summit preparation through dialogue. The request that's come from the Special Envoy and from the U.N. Secretary-General is that we should be looking at the future of food systems from a very broad perspective in line with all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There's also a request that we involve multiple food systems stakeholders in the exploration, leaving no one behind. That means that at country level there will be an effort to encourage joint working on a national pathway to sustainable food systems by 2030. It will be a local activity, country-specific. It will be inclusive. It'll be building on past work in country. It can be done virtually or face to face, because of COVID and will contribute to the Summit when it's also an activity that can go on after the Summit, up until 2030 and beyond.

In countries, it will be led by national governments. They will be asked shortly by the Deputy Secretary-General to appoint a national food systems dialogue convener who will be responsible for setting up the program of work to produce the national pathway and for initiating food systems dialogues. They will be supported by U.N. residence coordinators, by officers from U.N. agencies, by partners, and also by food summit champions in the country where the U.N. is active. Of course, there will be a request for every country to go through this process. There will be an involvement of national scientists as well as other national experts, all in line with the Action Tracks that you have heard described.

The national dialogues will be in three stages. The initiation stage is November to December this year. The exploration stage in each country is January to March next year. And the exploration will be done at multiple locations inside the country through numerous dialogues, culminating in a harvest moment in March 2021. And then in April and May 2021 the outcomes of the initiation, exploration and harvest will be consolidated into the national pathway as well as into commitments for the Summit in time for the pre-Summit, which is due to take place in June or July.

Now for these country activities to really reflect the science basis of the Summit, they will receive inputs before each of the dialogue stages. So there will be an input going into November; there will be an input going in in January; and there will be an input going in in April. And these inputs will come from a scientific group. They will come from the five Action Tracks. They will come from the various levers that have been looked at, including financing innovation, women and youth. And those inputs will inform the national dialogue but also outputs from the national dialogues will go back to the science group, Action Tracks and levers.

In order to facilitate all this, there's a Dialogue's Gateway website that's being launched today on which people will register these oscillations that we have between the science groups and Action Tracks, and the country dialogues will be carefully managed. There will be incentive work to bring together the outputs of all the dialogues using various modern techniques for making sure that the information is collated nicely. And there will be a major learning and school development program for the several hundred conveners, curators and facilitators that will be needed. At the same time, there's a program of independent dialogues that are available for anybody anywhere to do; they can be done separately of national

governments or of the international system. And there will also be dialogues at local events.

I'd like everybody to join us – this is part of this huge conversation that Dr. Kalibata described – and in particular to find out more about the program country by country as it evolves. Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Thank you so much, David. What an ambitious program of work for the next six to nine months. We are going to talk more about all of those elements. And just think, this is only one of those four green boxes. There is more to discuss. Next I'm going to turn to Louise Fresco, President of Wageningen University and Research. Louise, you are vice-chair of the Scientific Committee for the Summit, and so we'd love to hear more from you about how the scientific community is going to be working and operating to advance food systems transformation.

Louise Thank you, Barbara, and let me start by saying that I'm tremendously pleased that I can participate. It's been a wonderful journey for the World Food Prize. I know this very much as a member of the Council of Advisors, and it's a wonderful journey as Agnes and David have explained. And in fact they've done the job so well that I'm just going to add a few more comments.

I think the most important thing to say about the scientific basis for the summit is actually at this time in the history of all the food summits we have had, food security summits in the history of the U.N., it's the first time that there is an explicit scientific body. That's a really important step. And secondly, that that body aligns itself with the Action Tracks of the Summit, as Agnes has explained. So for the first time, we can really define what the scientific evidence-based approach can be to reach the goals of every one of these Action Tracks. That really makes for a different summit. And so rightly Agnes says it's not a negotiating summit, because there is a lot of things we need to do, but we already know them, and it's really an action-oriented approach. And that's also what people take as an approach for the scientific community.

Now apart from the Action Tracks work, I think we will look at what we call "tradeoffs." Because, of course, this is how it goes – science can only indicate a couple of things, but there of course always decisions that are more political decisions. And one decision sometimes means positive effects on other scientific variables. For example, if you say we want all food production to be local, that means you're excluding importation and trade and therefore excluding also the potential for farmers in other countries to actually earn income.

The other important thing I want to say is this is going to be on tradeoffs, on cross-cutting issues as well; so it's something like trade itself but also gender and partnerships are obviously not linked to one of the Action Tracks but should be cross-cutting. So we're looking a little bit at the matrix approach.

And I think it's important to realize that the concept both of food system and of transformation is complex. There's not one food system. There are not ten food systems. There are tens of thousands of food systems with all the different ramifications, the different inclinations, if you want. And what we need to look at is – what are the things we really know? For example, we know that if you have poor

soils like in most of Africa, then in the longer term, unfertilized agriculture, particularly of annual food crops, is going to be a disaster because you just exhaust the soil. That's the category of what we know.

There are also things we don't know that are complicated. For example, how can we best deal with certain persistent pests and diseases? Can we do that through genetics or through other means? There are a lot of things we don't know.

And then there are a couple things as countries, as member countries we can agree to disagree; or rather we already disagree, but maybe we can agree to still find common ground. Good examples, of course, precision genetics, CRISPR-Cas, subject, by the way, of the Nobel Prize for chemistry this year.

So we want to look at what are the elements for transformation. And it needs to be evidence and data driven. And that's also important. That's my last comment. The transformation is not one thing. It's an evolution more often than revolution. But there is an enormous amount that can be learned from the lessons of other countries. And I think the dialogues that David is going to engage in will also bring out that evidence. What do we already know? What can we share? How can we also help people to gain that knowledge and share it worldwide so that not countries or farmers or other groups need to reinvent the wheel.

So science-driven – but science also knows it best. And yet, many of these decisions are political and not just scientific. But we are working with great speed and great energy, and it's a fantastic project also for the scientific community. Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Thank you, Louise. Next we're going to go to Ambassador Kip Tom. Kip Tom is the ambassador for the U. S. Mission to U.N. Agencies in Rome. Kip, you're involved in this from a member state standpoint. I mean we have a system developing here, a set of analysis that hinges on development of national pathways from as many countries as possible. So talk to us about the opportunity for member states to really work together to advance food systems through this process.

Kip Well, thank you, Barbara. Well, if there's one thing my time as the U.S. Ambassador, permanent representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture has taught me, it's that there are many competing visions for what the future of our global food systems should look like. And quite honestly, we frequently get bogged down in a debate to make our voices heard, just to make sure all food systems are an option.

But the fact is, we don't have the luxury of debating policy any longer. The challenges ahead are real and the stakes are high, and we are not on target to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. And member states all have the same mandate. We have to figure out how to help feed a hungry world while also ensuring the future of our most precious natural resources – the soil, the water, the land – and working within our planetary boundaries. The Food Systems Summit offers an incredible opportunity for us to rise above the fray and work together on innovative, actual solutions that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

So to be successful, the Summit should serve as a forum for stakeholders to engage in knowledge and practical solutions, and all tools for improving food systems must be considered. And we need to hear more from farmers and the private sector who can offer unique perspectives and new ideas. And we also must work to expand options and opportunities instead of limiting them. And we must rely on sound science to guide the pathway forward.

So I'm confident that together we can build a future with a balance and agile, responsive, scalable food and agricultural ecosystem that's more efficient and sustainable food production – and sustainably defined as social, economic and environmental – and work within the planetary boundaries by reducing our carbon footprint, with further improvements in environmental stewardship and ultimately better livelihoods and more opportunities for men, women and youth.

But the time to act is now. We already have so many of the tools needed to transform farms and food systems and ultimately transform the lives of millions. We just need the will and the vision to use them. And I look forward to our conversations.

Barbara Thank you, Kip. Now we're going to take it down to the ground to on-the-ground activity that's going on where I think our next speaker, Chef José Andrés, is dealing with food systems issues on a daily basis. He's founder of the World Central Kitchen. Welcome, José. Talk to us a little bit about your extensive work in emergency food response and advocacy for equity, and what's going on at the local and regional levels in the food systems transformation needs. Welcome, José.

José Thank you, Barbara, and thank you very much for inviting people like me, that we are at the end for these amazing ideas on how we should be feeding the planet. And I love that these, on the top of the leadership in this moment, so many women leading the way; because at the end of the day – and I'm telling you, I'm a cook – if we talk about who is feeding the planet, let me tell you, those are women.

So I know we talk a lot about food waste. The conversation in every conference I go around the world is about food waste. I believe that we must all start talking more about what is really important – about the people, about not wasting the lives of people through food waste. We need to change and rotate the way we are approaching this. I do believe that conferences like the World Food Prize, which is amazing, we need to be bringing those conferences sometimes to the places that we know people need our help, our aid, and we must listen to them in the places that the battle against fighting hunger is happening as we speak.

I know there's been a lot of talk about big farming versus small farming. I don't think they're at war. I think we all recognize that we need to feed the big planet and we need big farms, but it cannot be at the expense of medium and the smaller farmers in America, around the world, doing poorly. Big countries, the subsidies, sometimes they are upside down where some get the vast majority of the funding versus the small farmers almost getting nothing.

I do believe that we need to increase the diversity on the crops we are harvesting. If we put all our guns in the few big six grains. I'm very worried that one day, the same way we saw this pandemic happening and we didn't see it coming, what if we have a big pest that all of a sudden eradicates the big six grains? Diversity on the crops,

diversity on the vegetables and fruits that we use around the world to feed mankind – these are national security for every single country.

And I will say that we need to be bold. I love that we are bringing the science. I know the World Food Prize has been big on the science. We need to start thinking out of the box. Should we be harvesting the ocean in a much more productive way? There are grains in the ocean that thrive over centuries. They've been feeding their families. If we can produce grains with seawater, we can totally change the future of hunger in the world. So we must invest in the future.

Vertical farming – any new way that we can produce more without taxing our environment. Obviously, I've been after hurricanes, and I see what happens when we produce food and we don't think about the consequences. In North Carolina after the last big hurricane, there was manure all around the state of North Carolina. We must do better investing in how to utilize that manure to create fertilizer, to create methane that can be energy to move the farms for work.

This is to me very important. And after emergencies, Barbara, we need to start thinking the way we provide aid to the people. Very often the good of our heart, the rich countries come with food that we feed the people in need in those countries. Sometimes I see it once and over again because we bring so much food from the other side, we leave the local farming industry poorer than before we arrived. We must do better in emergencies to enrich those farming systems, to enrich those people so when we leave those communities after an emergency, especially in the poor countries of the world, will do better.

And last that to me is very important – we need, in the process of talking about food, to talk about something like this, one of the hidden problems that we have on this earth. Almost three billion people are feeding their families with charcoal. Forests are being cut. Young girls, when they are too poor to buy charcoal, are sent to the forest to pick up wood. Many issues happen with charcoal cooking. We must do better in providing systems to the people to be able to cook that food. The only way we will end hunger and poverty is when those almost three billion people have the same opportunity of clean cooking to feed their families. Clean cooking in many ways has many of the given solutions that we are all looking for.

So I'm going to end with the words of Brillat-Savarin, the French philosopher that in 1826 he said, *Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you who you are*. But he has a more important phrase. He said, *The future of the nations will depend in how they feed themselves*. I'm very thrilled that I'm here with all of you precisely talking about how we will feed every nation, every person in the world. Thank you.

Barbara Thank you so much, José, for those charges, for covering so many important areas that you clearly spend a tremendous amount of time thinking about. We're going to shift now and, Ana, for three minutes, offer you just a quick opportunity for remarks from your own perspective around translating the policy direction of food systems to increase impact on the ground. Tanager does so much on the ground. So Ana Bilik is president of Tanager International.

Ana Thank you, Barbara, for inviting me to participate in today's roundtable. And thank you, Agnes, also for sharing your vision for the Food Systems Summit.

Tanager co-creates economic and social opportunities in Africa, Asia and African America with partners like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Walmart Foundation and leading companies like Mars Wrigley. Our work focuses on increasing the productivity and profitability of smallholder farming communities with women's empowerment and improved nutrition as key outcomes.

COVID-19 has highlighted how globally connected we really are. It has shown us that, while the solutions for global problems need to be framed at a macro level, they are actually achieved by the choices and actions each of us makes every day at the micro-level in our own homes and communities. So too with food systems. How food systems solutions are implemented at the local level in people's homes and communities determines how successful we will have been when we look back to the Food Systems Summit ten years from now.

From the perspective of Tanager's work, solutions should be holistic, equitable and place-based. We know that smallholder farmers grow a variety of subsistence and cash crops to meet their dietary and income needs, yet supply chain investments often focus on just one crop. To build resilient food systems in farming communities, we should consider a whole-farm approach that diversifies income-generating, income-smoothing opportunities, and increases access to nutritious food. For example, Tanager is expanding our partnerships in the mint-growing regions of India to include premium potato buyers so that smallholder farmers have markets for their full crop rotation.

We know that women play a vital role in farming households' income and nutrition, yet women are often marginalized from market systems and bear the greatest portion of food insecurity. To advance equitable livelihoods and value distribution, we must reduce systemic gaps in women's ability to access, control and benefit from resources and increase women's capabilities to influence decision-making in their households and communities.

We know that no two food environments are the same. A coastal community is going to have access to different protein sources than a landlocked one. To ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, we need solutions based on an understanding of the local food environment. I would love to see global commitments come out of the Food Systems Summit that create the framework for local solutions that meet the needs of whole families, whole farms and whole communities. Back to you, Barbara.

Barbara Thank you, Ana. Next we go to Neal Gutterson. Dr. Neal Gutterson is Senior Vice President and CTO, the Chief Technology Officer, for Corteva Agriscience. Welcome, Neal.

Neal Thank you, Barbara. Thank you for having me here for part of this important and wonderful conversation. And always great to be a part of the World Food Prize, whether it's Des Moines or out here in California virtually.

I'm going to start with a couple of remarks about Corteva, starting with our purpose as a company. We are fundamentally focused on delivering value to farmers. But more than that, we also think about what the farmer has to deliver for the consumer,

the food system that they have to support; and enabling the farmer to deliver that in a better and better way is part of our purpose as well.

And fundamentally beyond that, we also know that the farmer is critical to delivering environmental benefits, mitigating the agricultural impacts on the environment as well. And so our purpose is broad. It's serving farmers, it's serving consumers, and it's serving the environment.

And to do that well, we know that we need to have improved food systems around the world. And so that's key to our purpose and why I'm really excited that I can be here today with this wonderful panel.

You've heard a lot about diversity, and we also believe in the diversity of food systems and the importance of offering choice to the very diverse customers that we serve around the world. We serve over 60 million smallholder farmers in Africa today. We serve large farmers, family farms in Iowa and elsewhere in the world. And so we must be cognizant of the crops, the cropping systems and the diversity of tools that those farmers need; and we do deliver a diversity of choices to those farmers.

So with that in mind – the diversity of cropping systems, the diversity of food and crops – let me just step back and really maybe address the question a little bit more specifically. What can we do as a private company and other private companies to help advocate for improved food systems as we approach this important summit next year?

So first of all, part of it is advocating for the importance of choice. And I think Kip Tom mentioned earlier that it's not about debates anymore about which food systems. There are many, many, many different food systems. We need to find ways to deliver the right food system in the right region at the right time. And so we're committed to that. We advocate for that consistently around the world. The choice – whether that's organic farming, small farming, large farming, precision agriculture, various tools of agriculture.

It's also critical that we advocate, and we do this consistently, for the importance of innovation. We're a science-based company, and innovation at the blood of what we do. We know that the improved food systems will not be possible without innovation, whatever that food system is. And modern tools enable us to deliver more sustainable production; and whether it's an ecological system or an intensified agricultural system, it also delivers sustainable benefits. And so advocating for innovation is a critical part of what we will do in this dialogue.

And, importantly, that requires collaboration – and we collaborate around the world. We collaborate with the CG system. We collaborate in many ways that enable better foods and technology to be brought to bear on the lives of smallholder farmers around the world. And examples there include the work that we've done using CRISPR, which relevant, as Louise said today, particularly this week, to improve sorghum, to resist Striga, a major problem in major parts of Africa. We're working with CRISPR to edit maize to deliver improved MLN-resistant varieties, a devastating problem around Africa as well, and a range of other tools for cropping systems and digital insights for farmers that are small scale and large scale as well.

So we advocate for that, because we know that, if there isn't broad access to those innovations, farmers will lose, consumers will lose, and the environment will lose.

Ultimately, just to end, it's the farmer that's at the center of what we do, delivering value to that farmer, including their lives and through then improving the food systems that are so critical to the livelihoods around the world.

Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Thank you so much. We have two more people we're going to welcome into this conversation, and then we're going to have some time, I hope, for some discussion. So Pam Johnson joins us now as a farmer on the ground. Welcome, Pam. You're farming Iowa corn and from Maizall here in Iowa. Tell us a little bit more about what farmers need and how they can help amplify these messages that you're hearing need to be taken forward to advance food systems and the Summit.

Pam Thank you, Barbara. I'm really glad to be part of the discussion. So in answer to your question, I would say that we can create spaces for farmers from around the world to talk about their lived experiences on their farms, encourage them to be part of the journey to food security, invite them to the party, and give them a voice, and let this panel at the World Food Prize be a template for what can happen when people from all walks of life gather together to work on the complex challenges that face us all.

Farmers want to be at the table to have a voice, to listen and to learn from others; and we want to be part of the solution. Agriculture is a big tent with farmers from across the globe growing many different crops and raising livestock, poultry, fish. Farmers are conventional, organic, small, medium, large – it doesn't matter; the world needs all of us. We have been issued the grand challenge – we must produce more food in the next four decades than we have in the last 8,000 years of agriculture combined.

So farmers need access to the best tools and the technologies for the problems we face. One size does not fit all. Farmers need a voice and a choice to address specific challenges. And some of those might be to control the fall armyworm, African swine fever, or finding new ways to increase soil organic matter, improve soil health, finding the best seeds tailored to our particular soil type and climate, and making the best use of water and nutrients. We all want the opportunity to be successful at food production, wherever we live and with the diversity of crops that we grow.

Farmers strive for continual improvement with best management practices. However, we always need more knowledge, more research and innovation, the science brought from the lab to our fields. We need shared ideas from diverse sources, traditional land grant institutions, universities and private industry. Then we need the infrastructure and the mechanisms to share these new ideas with the people that can use them, utilizing research farms, extension, farmer-to-farmer learning sessions, and with technologies for information that can be accessed by cell phones and web-based resources.

As Norman Borlaug said, *Take it to the farmer*. But we need to take it to the people, and we're all ready to step up to the plate. And I think as King Abdullah challenged us this morning, we need to look beyond the old ways of doing things, and we need

to look to the future with the new eyes, and farmers take up that challenge and we can be bold. Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Thank you so much. Now we're going to turn to Priscilla Trinh. Priscilla is an undergraduate student from the University of Minnesota. She's our Global Youth Institute representative. We're so glad to welcome you to the stage. Priscilla, talk to us about the next generation of food system experts, which you're bringing the voice of. What are some of those elements that you think are most needed to advance food systems.

Priscilla Thank you, President Stinson. Like everyone else, I am extremely grateful to be here. Once again, I'm Priscilla Trinh. I was a 2018 Global Youth Institute delegate, the year Dr. Nabarro and Dr. Haddad were announced laureates, actually, a 2019 Borlaug-Ruan International intern at IRRI in the Philippines, and am now serving as a group leader, mentoring an amazing group of nine high school students at this year's Global Youth Institute program.

This year, 214 high science students and 55 college students from across 11 countries have gathered to fight hunger. They were chosen from over 10,000 youth leaders across 17 countries to participate in youth programs in their schools and communities.

Over the past week as a group leader, I have witnessed so much resilience amongst my peers. This is resilience that we wish to see in our food systems. And the question in everyone's mind is how? How can we achieve a better food system when the youth are disillusioned with green growth and big institutions, when the youth are forced to grapple with neocolonialism while trying to amplify and suppress Indigenous knowledge, when the youth are left disappointed by industrial agriculture's promises and ecological destruction? When 10 to 20% of youth are diagnosed with mental health afflictions, how do we collectively combat this specter of nihilism, polarizing anger and fear?

I don't have all the answers. Nobody does, but it's clear that youth voices must be involved beyond symbolic gesture. The World Food Prize Foundation and its partners recognize this, and to this end I am pleased and honored to announce a new initiative being launched this year in preparation for the U.N.'s Food Systems Summit.

During this year's Global Youth Institute, students' research and language will be gathered and compiled into a white paper. The white paper will then be submitted to the U.N. as a conduit representing youth voices, a way for the youths to directly engage in shaping global food systems. I am excited to see how this develops and cannot emphasize how promising it is to see the World Food Prize Foundation's commitment to creating an intersectional, multigenerational path towards a more resilient food system. I am proud to be a youth alive in these times and even more proud of all the students and supporters gathered here to fight hunger.

In closing, I would like to say this. Keep your visions and heads high and your Zoom bandwidth higher.

Barbara Yes, Zoom bandwidth. Thank you so much, Priscilla. It's so inspiring to hear your voice and to know you're representing a couple of hundred Youth Institute members here, but the 10,000 that have participated this year in our youth programs. And we thank the U.N. Food Systems Summit for this commitment to integrate these voices.

Q&A

Barbara So now we're going to open up for discussion. We probably have about 15 minutes, and we're going to give a chance for folks to weigh in on some of what you've heard from each other or other issues that you think need to be brought forward. So I will just take a raise of hands, whoever would like to get us started. Neal.

Neal Thanks, Barbara. You know, this question actually is for Louise. And you made the comment about this is the first time as an explicit scientific body in an effort like this. And I'm wondering if you can offer a thought, given the battering sometimes science takes around the world and why this has come to pass.

Louise Thank you, Neal. That's certainly a very pertinent question. Science will never be without its controversies, because it's always in evolution, and we see this very clearly with what's now happening on COVID-19.

However, we have one experience outside the food area, which I think can inspire us in the longer term. And that is what has happened to the Climate Convention and the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which underpins many, many conferences on climate. Of course, there, too, there were many controversies. But slowly and gradually what emerged was a very solid body of science on what we know, also, indications if we don't know, as I said, and also indications of where there is controversy.

Now, what is extremely important for scientists is not to sit on the chairs of political scientists or political... I should not say political scientists. Politicians. Science cannot take positions on what is the best policy option, but it can indicate the consequences. It can indicate what really action is needed. And I think the experience of the climate community, however difficult it was – and I was engaged as of the first IPCC report as a reviewer. It's still... It's gross. And the difference is perhaps that we know more about food, and there is more sense of urgency today. When the climate community started, the sense of the urgency wasn't felt.

So I think what is really important is that we don't try in this one year that we have before the summit – but I'm also looking definitely with Agnes to give her indications here – that we don't try to solve everything. Because that's not going to be possible. But there are, in my view, some real priorities, issues that we know about, of engaging again the dialogues to see where we already can learn the lessons, transmit the lessons. And this really involves partners. That work hasn't been used a lot yet, but I would say, with your permission, Barbara, this whole thing hinges very much also on partnerships between farmers, big and small, consumers, big and small in all countries, but also between the public and private sectors. This is really something that needs to be done. And, yes, opinions, Neal, on science will differ and they will still evolve. But I'm also quite confident that there is a body of science there

that we can bring together immediately for the public good and for food for all.
Thank you.

Barbara Great, thank you. Others? Comments, questions that you have? Pam.

Pam So, you know, as you see even on this panel, we can disagree, but I think it's important to realize, if we're going to move into the future, to recognize that we agree to disagree, but we all have the same goal in mind, and that is zero hunger and to make the world a better place. And there is a spot for all kinds of agriculture and all kinds of viewpoints. And I think we all need to be hopeful that things will get better and that we will get bold, but we all have to be moving toward the same goal and the same price and true north.

Barbara And, you know, Pam, this is something that we've heard all week long, that the commitment is there. And from diverse perspectives on all the issues that we've discussed, people want to move forward and advance in a collaborative fashion for impact, that the time is now, and it rises above all of the differences to some degree.

We want to hear from others of you. Does anybody else have something they want to offer? Ana and then José, I think.

Ana First of all, I want to congratulate Priscilla and thank you for your comments, I think, reminding us of the young folks (I have a teenager at home), and their perspective on food security is really important. So thank you.

I also want to pull on a thread that I think was pretty common around diversifying food sources, diversifying incomes, diversifying crops. For us to be able to do that, we need to bring together what I would call "uncommon partnerships." We often see partnerships along a particular crop or supply chain when we might need to start thinking about partnerships across different supply chains that are more place-based. And I think that way we can really bring the full impact of a strong food environment to the local communities around the world.

Barbara Thank you. Okay, we're getting a good lineup going now. We're going to go next to José and then David and then Kip.

José Thank you very much. Very quickly, what I would like to bring to the panel is that I do believe that we have enough know-how in how to produce food to feed an ever-growing planet. The science is there. We must always do more to train, especially the small farmers in rural areas. But I would say that food production, we can accomplish the simple mission of feeding humanity by the year 2050.

But I think we must put more emphasis on preservation of the foods of the goodness of the earth. Much of food that is wasted goes waste in an entire chain. And we must put more thought on the distribution. Even when you go to an emergency and you see that a lot of people may be hungry in remote areas, the issue is not lack of food. The issue is distribution to those people that need our help. When you bring this at the world scale, it's exactly the same. We must do more to bring preservation techniques, especially in poorer areas so no crop, no food goes wasted. And we must do more to help those people producing to have the right distribution from the places in the world that produce more to places that for now don't have enough.

Preservation and distribution should be two words that we should be bringing to the conversation in the years to come.

Barbara And of course you're devoted to doing that from restaurants to populations in urban areas, and it's just been tremendous to see the results. So thank you for that. David and then, Kip, I think you have also a comment. David.

David Yeah, just to say I was so pleased to hear Pam saying very clearly that we have to find ways in which we can move forward on complexity, despite the fact we don't all agree and that we don't have to stop until we all have reached agreement. Otherwise, if we do that, we'll never get anywhere. And the dialogue process that I'm involved in, Pam, is a bit stimulated by that sentiment you just said. How can we move forward even if we don't agree, in ways that will respect and indeed be designed to accept differences of opinion? I look forward very much to working with you on this. It's what, I believe, something that we have to get right to support Dr. Kalibata in the Summit.

Barbara Kip and then Neal.

Kip Thank you for the floor, Barbara. You know, a lot of times people, we get into these discussions and we tend to tune out the others that are a part of it that may have a competing food system. But one thing for certain, I mean a lot of people will look at our food system today and says it's broken, says we need a revolution. And my comment is—I don't think it's broken. I think it needs to continue to evolve. We need to let science in the door to make sure we're making the changes we need to make.

You know, if you go back to 1920, two billion people were on the face of the earth, and 80% of them were living in poverty and were food insecure at some level. Today we're almost, not quite eight billion and a little bit under 10% are living in food insecurity. So we've made improvements, but we've had hiccups along the way. You know, we know that we have childhood diabetes is on the rise; we have obesity that's an issue now. So there's a number of issues that we need to deal with. Some of it is lifestyle. But I think the reality is these food systems we're talking about are complex. If you're in a small, developing island in the Southwest Pacific, it's much different for them than it is somewhere else. So to believe that one system can be used everywhere is a foregone conclusion—it shouldn't occur. We need to understand that it's complex and there will be many food systems evolve from the Summit. And I'm certainly glad to have Special Agnes Kalibata leading the organization and certainly look forward to working with David Nabarro at the same time, too. Thank you.

Barbara Great. Thank you so much. Neal, and then I have a question for you, Agnes, coming from our audience.

Neal All right, thank you, Barbara. You know, it's exciting to be here for Corteva, but I'm also recently appointed to be a board member, one of eight board members for the new board for the CGIAR system. And that's an incredibly exciting opportunity as the CGIAR becomes One CG, reforms the way we work, builds new ways of working, new ways of collaborating around the world. So in this next year, the CG will go through a tremendous transformation, and it's terrific to see this happening at the same time as the U.N. Food Systems Summit is coming together. I think it's a

great opportunity to have that dialogue with the CG as a primary partner for a lot of what will come out of the Food Systems Summit with new initiatives to transform and further involve our food systems. And the focus on nutrition and health, poverty reduction, gender, climate adaptation and mitigation, and finally environmental health and biodiversity – these are the key things we'll focus on, and I think they're fundamentals of the change and evolution of our food systems.

Barbara Thank you. I think the question that's before that I'm going to introduce to the stage really comes from your group, Priscilla. It comes from the youth voices. The question is, Agnes, in terms of really all of the work that's going to take place over the next year and what you are driving towards, what are going to be the outcomes? What are the products that we'll see out of the youth, the Food Systems Summit? And what's going to be different as a result of what's going to take place?

Agnes So thank you, thank you, Barbara, for that question and the people that are asking it. And thank you all for a very beautiful conversation. So one of the outcomes that I will be hoping for coming out of the Summit is part of what Pam said, that we actually do build consensus towards some form of true north. And for me, that true north is that we agree that there are certain things within our food system that we need to fix, that our food systems are not serving the purpose of where we are going, and we need to have that fixed.

So that's number one, that building that consensus, so that's number one. The second thing I would like to see is that we take this conversation like I said earlier to everybody to make sure that decisions are made at the regional level. Because of our food systems, they have to live by those decisions every minute. So I would like it if we can conquer that. If we can be in a place where we are influencing how we think about food every day, that would be another outcome.

But really probably the most critical outcome here is when all these conversations at country-level translate into commitments by countries and by businesses, by communities around what needs to change and being aware that these commitments are actually put on paper, are actually trackable in a way that we actually and really that we are holding each other accountable for that advancement worldwide. Our world cannot advance by any given community alone. It has to be advanced by all of us together. And the only way we can do that is if local solutions are brought together, and we all have this ability of what we are trying to move together.

So the consensus but also getting to that consensus through locally designed solutions. That's why you have such a complex system towards the Summit. That's because we have to take care of all those things. So my hope is that when we do come to actions, it's anchored in all those discussions – it's anchored in that agreement.

Barbara What's so exciting about this is the momentum that it creates for the U.N. to convene such an incredible array of activities to bring in the science and to bring in and focus on all the countries so they can define for themselves what these actions should be and make those investments. That momentum, it's been building, but starting now and building over the next year, it is going to produce some results and changes, I'm sure.

So we're going to move into closing remarks from you, Agnes. But any other final thoughts from anyone today? Anybody want to weigh in with a final piece of wisdom or a challenge. Priscilla, I'd love to hear from you before we close.

Priscilla Once again, I think it's very important to have all these stakeholders and like Chef José Andrés said about coal and biomass. I think we have to talk about energy when we talk about food systems, too, so I hope to see that going forward into the U.N. Summit.

Barbara Absolutely. Louise.

Louise Great, Priscilla. And you know we are hosting the Youth Summit and the Youth Food Institute also in Wageningen as the first place outside the U.S.

But what I wanted to say is— Let's not assume that we know everything. Yes, we have lots of solutions, but if I take the subject— which is so prominently proposed here— of waste, we know, we think we can reuse waste in a much better way chemically. We can even use the effluents from our own toilets and so on. But still it requires a lot of research on the food safety side. So we do need investments in technology, in innovation, in training, and getting the world's best minds, including Priscilla and her colleagues, to really work on this problem of food. Thank you.

Barbara Thank you. Any other last words before we turn to Agnes to close us out?

José Yeah, I would like to add that I a hundred percent agree with you on science, but we see the revolution that we've been facing on clean energy, wind and solar. We have right now presidential candidates in America, Vice President Biden talking about it, at least in part if he becomes elected president. But we need to remember which one is the most important source of energy on Planet Earth. The most important is food, because energy moves my car. Gas moves my kitchens. But what moves humanity forward is food. Therefore, we need to convince governments of the world, private sector to do more investment in the best ways to feed the planet without degrading the planet and the ecosystems where the people of the world live, especially the voiceless, especially in the poor, rural communities. We must do more investment so we can produce better without putting our planet there at risk. So let's do more research and more science— we do need it.

Barbara Thank you, José— inspiring final comments. What moves humanity forward is food. I think you have a moniker there, Agnes, going forward. Can we turn to you for some final comments?

Agnes Thank you, thank you, Barbara. It would be lovely to leave it to just that comment by Jose because it's really a powerful comment. But let me just say that I want to go back to some of the comments people made. First of all, let me say thank you to all of you. All these comments are extremely powerful, and we will use it to enrich what we are doing when we enrich the process.

I was shocked by what Pam said about— look to the world with new eyes, you know, and give every farmer a voice. This is something that we have to do, given where we are going, and I really want to echo that. To be honest, I was heartbroken by what Priscilla said, because this was the only reason we are here discussing food systems

today is because we need to do better for our children. We need to do better. To say that these kids are disappointed in us, that's not where we want to be. But that's the truth. So we know, and we must recognize that we need to do better. So probably if there was nothing you cared about in the food system, that has to be the number one thing that we all care about. And I just want to thank you, Priscilla, for bringing this out.

What you said about who's feeding the world, I love that, because again I work in Africa—65% of the farmers we work with are women, but women spend 16 hours a day trying to feed their families. So, yes, women are feeding the world. Yes, smallholder farmers are feeding the world. Farmers are feeding the world. We've got to take this conversation to them, we've got to understand that it's really their backs we are driving on, and we really have to do something about making it lighter, a lighter load for all of them.

I want to mention something that was said, which I can relate to very well, because I've been in the policy arena for some time. Science may not be political, but it knows how to share the consequences of not taking action, the consequences of inaction will always come out through science. And I think we cannot afford to forget that.

But, Louise, I want to say that we may not know everything, but we know enough. We know enough to steer us forward. We know enough to move forward. So I just want to be sure that you're not... Scientists—I am one. We like being cautious, but this is not the time we get for being cautious. This is the time we get to move forward. So I just wanted to highlight that.

Thank you Ana for highlighting the impacts of women, local food systems, and a lot of diversity, I mean crop diversity and making sure that these people have choices. That's really something that we care about, and that's something that all of us as we go into a future food system.

I'm not going to call out every conversation, every point that was made, but I wanted to agree with you on the importance of moving forward with the clarity or vision of the food system with a true north in our food system. Like I said for me that's probably the most important thing, that we agree that we need to be moving forward, that Kip said. Food systems are diverse. They are going to be local. They are going to mean very different things to different people. But we must agree on one thing. The world producing food today - If we continue on that path, it is not going to take us in the right place. So that's why we have the Food Systems Summit. My job is to build consensus that we need to move forward. And David's job is to bring the dialogue to everybody. And Louise and Kip's job is to make sure that we are anchoring what is in science. And we will keep bringing all you along, and we want to bring all of you along. Please be engaged. Please, you know, push back when we don't do the..., when you feel like it doesn't make sense what we are saying. But let's do the best for this world. Let's do the best for our youth and for our women. Thank you so much, Barbara, again for hosting this summit, this part of the summit of your summit. Thank you.

Barbara Yes, thank you so much. What a great challenge and what an amazing launch you're bringing to the world stage today in this discussion. We appreciate the commitment and really of everyone, everyone around this room but all over, towards advancing

food systems. It's going to be an exciting year. Just imagine, a year from now we're going to be all convening and focused in New York and apparently in Rome just before that, to see what really is that emerging consensus and what are those actions that are being committed to around the world.

So I'm so pleased to say you can learn more about the U.N. Food Systems Summit on their website and also posted in Whoova. So take a look. This of course is World Food Day, and it's so important to us that the commitment coming from the U.N. on World Food Day is announced. So, Agnes, just know we all stand with you.

Thank you for joining us for this session. Thank you all for being here. We so appreciate it, and we look forward to the social media engagement, to all of your hashtags and posts on Twitter and Instagram. Join us next for our final roundtable discussion on Equity and Access. And later today you'll hear a wonderful closing keynote address from Sara Eckhouse. Thanks again, everybody.