

Dear Madam/Sir,

You may be aware that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has called for a Food Systems Summit 2021 (FSS-21) and engagement process to unleash the power of food and deliver progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Summit revolves around five Action Tracks to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and shape pathways of actions to transform the way we produce and consume the food, which are:

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Boost nature-positive production
4. Advance equitable livelihoods
5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

The Government of India has volunteered for Action Track 4, i.e., Advance Equitable Livelihoods but not limited to, given the diversity of our food systems, its impact and linkage with socio-economic-ecological systems, supply, demand and the whole value chain. India can suitably engage and contribute in all the Action Tracks to showcase the best practices and provide 'game changing ideas' for the betterment of agri-food systems. Nevertheless, we would like to make more visible contribution in AT4.

Three types of dialogues are planned to seek the views and inputs of different stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the agri-food system. These are Member States Dialogue, Summit Dialogue and Independent Summit Dialogue. National Governments are entrusted to organise the Member State Dialogues. In India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI, will be the lead for a cross sectoral participation by India in FSS-21. An inter disciplinary group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, Agriculture, NITI Aayog, has been constituted to steer the process and take the dialogue process forward.

The National Level dialogue is scheduled on 12th April, 2021. The preliminary discussions of the interdepartmental group have taken place with India Country Directors of FAO, IFAD and WFP and concept note has been prepared which is enclosed for your kind reference. Different sessions have been planned to get the Stakeholders' views, suggestions through structured interactions on how our national food systems can, in the coming decade, align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A concept note for suggested areas of action and timeline is enclosed for your reference (Annexure I). However, collectively we need to work on the following areas of concerns or pointedly on the questions to contribute meaningfully for the success of the consultation:

1. What are the National pathways towards sustainable food systems in the coming decade in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development?
2. What are the levers and opportunities to bring pathways to life? This should include practices, policies, actions, infrastructure, institutions, partnerships and commitments
3. How to cope with shocks and vulnerabilities caused by shocks like COVID?
4. What should be the national ambition and efforts needed to achieve that?
5. How to manage damage to nature caused by food systems?

6. What are the changes needed and mechanism to balance need of present and future?
7. Changes needed in national development plans, climate action and sustainable food systems, as well as relevant regional and international agreements?
8. Game changing ideas, experiences and replicable success stories

Keeping in view your vast experience and active contribution in the different components of Agri-Food Systems, the Interdepartmental Group led by Professor Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog invites you to participate in the national dialogue and share your valuable ideas on the issues mentioned above. It is also to inform that each participant will be given 4 minutes. Kindly prepare your inputs accordingly. You may also put your detailed inputs on the webpage (www.agricoop.nic.in) created specifically for this purpose.

Due to diverse nature of the stakeholders we have put participants for presenting their views in 6 groups (3 in the forenoon and 3 in the afternoon). As per the tentative plan you will be invited for speaking in the session. However, we will be happy if you keep present throughout the day in entire dialogue. The meeting link for joining the dialogue is WebEx link. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is also attached (Annexure-II) for smooth conduct of the meeting. The dialogue will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook [the preparation of the YouTube and Facebook link are under process and the same will be communicated shortly.]