



Concept Note for UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives

An Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue, Asia & Africa

About the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a [Food Systems Summit](#) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. The Summit will awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. Guided by five [Action Tracks](#), the Summit will draw on the expertise of actors from across the world's food systems, and offer stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds a space to share and learn, with a view to fostering new actions and partnerships and amplifying existing initiatives.

Action Tracks

- **Action Track 1:** Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Action Track 1 will work to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable disease, enabling all people to be nourished and healthy. Achieving the goal means increasing the availability of nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in access to food. You can read more about this track here: [AT1 Discussion Starter](#).

- **Action Track 2:** Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Action Track 2 will work to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the reuse and recycling of food resources. This Action Track recognizes the need to eliminate wasteful patterns of food consumption as well as to facilitate a transition in diets towards more nutritious foods that require fewer resources to produce and transport. You can read more about this track here: [AT2 Discussion Starter](#).

- **Action Track 3:** Boost nature-positive production

Action Track 3 will work to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use and soil degradation. The Action Track will aim to deepen understanding of the constraints and opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain. It will also strive to support food system governance that realigns incentives to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts. You can read more about this track here: [AT3 Discussion Starter](#).

- **Action Track 4:** Advance equitable livelihoods

Action Track 4 will contribute to the elimination of poverty by promoting productive employment and decent work for all actors in the food value chain, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. You can read more about this track here: [AT4 Discussion Starter](#).

- **Action Track 5:** Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

The ambition behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability. This Action Track will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas vulnerable to conflict or natural disasters. It will also promote global action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics. You can read more about this track here: [AT5 Discussion Starter](#).



Food Systems Summit Dialogues

[Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#) are critical to the Food Systems Summit process. The Dialogues offer a purposeful and organized forum for stakeholders to come together to share their roles in food systems, consider their impacts on others and find new ways to come together in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcomes of the Summit Dialogues will inform the Summit process and help to guide individual and collective action towards a future of food that is sustainable, equitable and secure. There are three main kinds of dialogues:

[Member State Dialogues](#) – These are organised by the UN Member States to engage stakeholders at the national level.

[Independent Dialogues](#) – These are convened by individuals or organizations independently of national authorities, but will feed into the Summit process through an official feedback mechanism. They are locally driven and can be adapted to various contexts.

[Global Summit Dialogues](#) – These are co-convened by the Food Systems Summit Special Envoy, Dr Agnes Kalibata, with the main purpose to bring political attention to food systems in high-level thematic and sectoral meetings and processes.

Independent Dialogue by Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)

The voices of many crucial food system actors, such as farmers, have so far been underrepresented in the academic and policy discourse around food systems. The UN Food Systems Summit is attempting to change this by reaching out to as many diverse stakeholders in almost all regions of the world. It has oriented itself as an inclusive, ‘people’s summit’ and has committed to engage with the honest and often difficult discussions required to build solutions together.

As organisations working with farmers and producers, we believe this is a unique opportunity to make their voices count in the much-needed reconfiguration of our food systems. Through Independent Dialogues, we can engage with the Summit process as well as influence its outcome. In pursuit of this goal, Bharat Krshak Samaj and RySS plan to co-convene two Independent Dialogues, with farmers and farmer organisations in India and the Global South, respectively. The second of these dialogues would be held with farmers’ organisations in Africa and Asia, on Thursday, 18 February 2021.

The five Action Tracks would serve as the five discussion topics for the dialogue. Dialogue participants would engage in discussion on the Action Track of their choice, in smaller groups of 10-12. The key takeaways from these discussions will directly feed into the action tracks and the UNFSS process. Please find details about the [dialogue](#) below:

INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE – UNFSS: GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVES	
Convenors	Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)
Objective	Bringing the voices of farmers and farmer organisations in the Global South into the Food Systems Summit process.
Focus	Building synergies between production, consumption, livelihoods and the ecosystem.
Date and Time	18 February 2021, 2 pm – 4 pm IST
Format	Online
Participant Group	Farmers and Farmer Organisations
No. of Participants	40-50
Geographical Region	South and Southeast Asia, Africa

Convened by Bharat Krshak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)