

**G20 AMM – Session 1 on
Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
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Dear Minister Syahrui Yasin Limpo, excellencies, distinguished guests, good morning.

Let me start by congratulating the Indonesian Presidency of the G20 for its leadership in preparing the ambitious agenda for action in front of us.

Global malnutrition is on the rise and our food systems are unsustainable. Climate Change, COVID-19 and a series of conflicts, including the Ukraine crisis have contributed to the current global food crisis.

Transformation to resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems is not only critical, but extremely urgent.

CGIAR's research shows that it is possible to address these challenges, but only if we do things radically different and start now we will be able to stave off the existentialist threats to food systems and, hence, to humanity.

The crisis is hurting food systems at large with short- and long-term implications for global food security. To address the problems we thus need a systems approach with global ambitions and an agenda for action with short-, medium-, and long-term components.

Based on our evidence, we see several priority areas for action by the international community and under G20 leadership. In this short contribution, I would like to emphasize four.

First, addressing the present crisis and avoid further setbacks, requires adequate support and finance

- for humanitarian action, and
- for food-importing low-income countries to mitigate domestic food price inflation and declining livelihoods, as well as, the avoidance of ‘beggar-thy-neighbor’ policy responses
- for keeping food and fertilizer trade open and avoid trade restrictions induce further market volatility and price surges.

These actions are needed not only for immediate relief, but also to support long-term solutions. A massive increase in poverty and hunger would undermine human capital development, thus hampering efforts towards building resilient and sustainable food systems.

Second, we need to urgently make up for decades long under-investment in R&D and under-utilization of ready-to-use innovations.

Many current technological innovations have shown great potential to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, while also raising productivity and making food affordable. But food systems research and development (R&D) remains grossly underfunded to adopt these in low- and middle-income countries. We need to double public funding for agricultural and food system R&D, including US\$15 billion per year globally for sustainable intensification of agriculture in poorer countries. More investment in R&D is also needed for climate-smart innovations beyond the farm to enhance resilience along the entire food supply chain and cut back on food loss and waste.

Third, promoting healthier diets and consumption of sustainably produced foods should be a priority as sustainable diets can substantially reduce farmers’ and food systems’ ecological footprint.

For a sustainable future it is important that farmers and consumers (as much as all other actors along the entire food chain) align around a health and sustainability strategy. Policymakers can play a crucial role by setting the right enabling environment and providing optimal regulations and policy incentives.

Fourth, we need a transformation of our Food Finance Architecture to provide innovative finance and better incentives for investments in resilient and sustainable systems.

This requires a combination of different approaches and a transformation of public and private expenditure and finance.

One starting point should be the repurposing of 800 billion dollars of current agricultural support that governments spend each year. These resources could be redeployed for the necessary investments in food systems R&D and to provide the right incentives to farmers and consumers, motivating them to produce and consume in more sustainable, healthy and resilient ways.

We at CGIAR stand ready to support the G20 by providing further scientific evidence and technical guidance for this agenda – and for assisting a radical transformation of the world’s agriculture and food systems.

Thank you.