



Food Systems Summit

2021

**OFFICIAL ROADMAP
Transformation of the
Food System in Honduras
in order to achieve the Sustainable
Development Goals by 2030**

September 10, 2021

I. Background

Honduras has a legal framework that enables it to exercise the function of development planning. Article 329 of the Constitution of the Republic states that "the economic, social and political development of the nation must be based on a planned process, compliance with which is mandatory". In 2009, Decree No. 286-2009 approved the Law for the Establishment of a Country Vision and the adoption of a National Plan, with a long-term vision and supported by a commitment shared by the various sectors of Honduran society.

At the public policy level, the National Policy and Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security approved in October 2018; establishes within its strategic guidelines the **Guideline 7** that refers to: *"Implement sustainable agri-food systems that ensure the national food supply permanently and sufficiently in quantity and quality. This, with the purpose of improving the generation of economic, social services and livelihoods that provide, in a stable manner, healthy and nutritious food and contribute to the eradication of food insecurity in rural areas."*

The country is privileged because it has a young population, a great productive potential, and a strong food production throughout the year:

- **Our people:** a mostly young population with an educational level that is improving year by year, besides being a population composed of different ethnicities.
- **Our climate:** an ideal climate for food production, with adequate water availability and that can be better used. However, we have a high vulnerability to the effects of climate change; a situation that is recognized by international experts.
- **Our location:** Honduras has coasts on both oceans (Atlantic and Pacific) and trade relations with several countries, especially with those that share borders in the Central American region and that could serve for the implementation of the Central American Common Market.
- **Our telecommunications coverage:** progress is being made in guaranteeing access to telecommunications for the entire population.
- **Our strategic planning:** The National Development Planning System (SNPD) is organized into three levels: national planning, institutional planning and municipal planning. In turn, these planning levels are transversally crossed by public policies that can be sectoral, cross-cutting or territorial, formulated by virtue of their strategic value for the country.

II. Vision for 2030

Honduras will focus its efforts, both public and private, on guaranteeing food security and nutrition; to this end, it will not only transform its food system, but will also guide actions for its recovery after the crises that occurred in 2020. Our **vision** is ***"Honduras has a comprehensive and strengthened food system that takes advantage of existing potential and minimizes inequity gaps in the population"***. Topics such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, technology, education, research and innovation stand out among many others in the process of national dialogues. All these efforts will allow us to contribute to a safer, more equitable and sustainable country.

With the actions proposed in this document, it is hoped to have a resilient, fair, equitable and sustainable food system that is a driver of social transformation, offering better opportunities and quality of life for all, without compromising the economic, social and environmental foundations for future generations. Measures related to food production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption are proposed to ensure equitable access to nutritious, safe and fairly priced products, especially for the most vulnerable groups. As a government, the necessary coordination and articulation will be promoted to link and harmonize all participating sectors.

III. Current situation of the food system

Honduras is a lower middle-income country. In the years prior to the COVID-19 crisis the macroeconomic situation was stable with sustained growth of 2.7% in 2019, relatively low inflation and sustainable public debt. In addition, the country continues to have some of the highest levels of inequality in the region, with more than half of the population living below the poverty line. The pandemic has affected the national economy and especially the vulnerable population. According to a study conducted by WFP and ILO in August 2020, within five months of the onset of mobility restrictions due to the pandemic, 40% of businesses had stopped operating or had paralyzed their activities, and the number of households in extreme vulnerability due to the lack of income during the crisis increased fivefold, representing more than 27% of the country's total. The effects have been even worse in the informal sector: according to the same survey, 52.5% of employed respondents had lost their source of income. Women's jobs were particularly affected by the high female participation in the sectors most at risk to the crisis (such as tourism), which generated at least 2.9 million people (31% of the classified population) in food crisis (Phase 3 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC) due to the high vulnerability and crop losses in late 2020 due to the two tropical storms, Eta and Iota, that hit the country.

The impact of these natural disasters exceeds L52 billion, equivalent to approximately US\$2.125 billion, or 9.2% of GDP, at 2020 prices. In general, the country's current situation is extremely challenging, with a fall in GDP of 9.5% and a fiscal deficit of 5.6% of the NFPS at the end of 2020.

An analysis of the food system raises the following starting points for transformation:

Actors and activities in the food supply chain in Honduras - Total food production in Honduras continues to grow (World Bank, Food Production Index, 2016), but due to population growth, the availability of agricultural land per capita is trending downwards. Honduras is heavily dependent on food imports, particularly cereals (57% imported) (FAOSTAT 2017). Infrastructure for food distribution within the country requires investment to improve coverage and efficiency, especially after the two hurricanes in 2020. The value added for food per capita has been declining (31%) (World Bank, 2015) and could be an area of opportunity.

The food environment - There is sufficient food availability in terms of calories in the country (116% of what is required) (FAOSTAT 2019) and this is increasing; but food costs are also on an increasing trend (EIU GFSI 2019) along with wastage (currently 3.7% of food is wasted, but has increased by 10% in the last decade) (Food Systems Dashboard, 2018). Access and distribution of nutritious food for vulnerable populations is an area of opportunity.

Consumer behavior - Hondurans consume many calories of low nutritional quality (47% of calories come from cereals, roots and tubers (FAOSTAT 2019) which contributes to undesirable nutritional impacts. Consumers are mostly young (median age 24.3 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020)); most consumers are urban (58%) and the country continues to urbanize (World Bank, 2019); and in half of households both men and women work outside the home (World Bank 2020) Improving the availability of nutritious food for an increasingly urban population and less and less time spent on food processing at home, is what the proposed actions seek for the country.

The impacts of the food system in Honduras - Although the current food system has environmental, social and economic impacts, the most felt impacts are on the nutrition and health of the population. Consumption patterns in the country and inequalities in access to nutritious food have caused obesity in adults (21.4% of adults (FAOSTAT, 2016)) to become a nutritional problem on par with malnutrition that affects 13.8% of the population (FAOSTAT, 2018). The nutritional impacts of the current food system in Honduras generate significant inequalities with women being almost twice as likely to be obese as men (1.7 obese women for every obese man) (World Bank, 2016).

Drivers of change in the food system - The food system in Honduras is evolving. The increased use of technology such as fertilizer use in food production (increased 121% in the last decade) (FAOSTAT 2018), the increase in average annual temperature (1.4 degrees above the historical norm, 35% increase in the last decade) (FAOSTAT, 2019), the growth of food exports (29% in the last decade) (World Bank, 2019), and urbanization (annual urbanization rate of 2.7%) (World Bank, 2019) are important drivers of recent changes in the food system.

IV. The summit as an opportunity to steer the course of action

In 2019, the Secretary General of the United Nations proposes the development of the World Summit on Food Systems, aimed at accompanying member countries to prioritize actions that will lead to achieving the SDGs by 2030, with special attention to SDG 2. A sustainable food system is one that ensures food

security and nutrition for all people in such a way that the economic, social and environmental foundations of these for future generations are not put at risk.

Five courses of action are proposed for analysis:

1. Ensuring access to healthy, nutritious food for all
2. Adopt sustainable consumption patterns
3. Promoting nature-friendly production
4. Promoting equitable livelihoods and reducing inequalities
5. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

As a country, two action tracks (out of the five proposed at the Summit) were prioritized on which the country will focus its actions in the coming years. These are Track 4: *Promote equitable livelihoods* and Track 5: *Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses*. A multi-sectoral effort of 11 dialogues and consultations on food systems at national and territorial (sub-national) levels was carried out in the country with the participation of more than 330 actors from various institutions, communities and areas of the country who, from their sectors, provided proposals for action to transform the food system in Honduras in line with these two tracks of action. The Summit and the process of dialogues in preparation for it offered the opportunity to listen to the voices of diverse sectors, to work in a cross-cutting and collective manner, to find solutions coming from the groups that experience these needs within their food system, and represents an opportunity to design and implement policies that help food supply chains, food environments and the behavior of producers, processors, marketers and consumers to be respectful of people, the environment and their surroundings.

Solutions will require all of us to take action to transform the food system in Honduras, including key actors from science, the private sector, government, and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous peoples, women's groups, youth organizations, consumers, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders. We need to achieve tangible and positive changes in the food system through evidence-based communication and aligned policies to address the urgent need to combat all forms of malnutrition, inequity and environmental degradation. It is not only about transforming our food system towards sustainability, but working to make it more resilient and equitable than it is today.

The Summit is also an opportunity to realize synergies for food systems transformation. The convergence in 2021 of the Food Systems Summit, the High-Level Dialogue on Energy and COP 26 offers opportunities for cross-sectoral and multidimensional work to realize synergies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in recognition of the linkages between food systems, energy and climate change. The convergence of countries in the framework of the Food Systems Summit offers opportunities for synergies between countries through the exchange of positive experiences and the promotion of research and technological innovation.

V. Expectations for the transformation of the food system in the next ten years

The actions developed in the pathways prioritized by the country should be reflected in the assurance of food security, improved nutrition and attention to vulnerability and better resilience. As set out in the National Policy and Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security - PyENSAN 2030, the National Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan of Honduras, the Country Vision and the National Plan, it should then seek to achieve the comprehensive well-being of the population and sustainable human development, through the empowerment and preparation of the population, in the face of the various shocks that disrupt the sustainability of the food system.

a. Action Track 4: Promote equitable livelihoods

Working together with key actors to promote equitable livelihoods, the elimination of poverty through the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work, for all actors in the food value chain. Similarly, reducing risks for the poorest, fostering entrepreneurship and addressing inequalities in access to resources and distribution of value. Reducing inequalities by strengthening social protection, to increase resilience and ensure that food systems "leave no one behind". All of these efforts will include connectivity, literacy, technology, and the digital transformation of entrepreneurship and local economies, to ensure Hondurans have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field in the global economy of the future.

Priority actions to promote equitable livelihoods and fair value distribution in the food system in Honduras.

Action 1: Establish or strengthen public policies to improve financial inclusion and technical assistance to small producers and MSMEs

Develop community financial systems; solidarity guarantees or other alternative guarantees to reduce the financing risk for institutions offering financial services in the sector; implement soft financing programs by the State targeting small producers and MSMEs; facilitate access to more affordable financial products and services targeted to the rural context through rural financial cooperatives; promote alternative income strategies such as agroforestry nurseries and environmental bonds, agricultural data management, as well as non-agricultural income; and develop financial education processes for priority groups (women, youth, the disabled, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants), among others. It also proposes the development of a sectoral policy for sustainable agricultural and fisheries innovation that leads and guides the articulation between research, education and extension based on a common agenda that responds to the needs of agricultural producers to have access to markets on equal terms. This agenda, agreed upon by the main actors of the system: public, private, producer organizations, NGOs, should take into account as a priority the needs of small and medium producers, women and youth. The formulation of this sectoral innovation policy should be under the leadership of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) in the framework of SINASAN and using the coordination, consultation, participation and technical surveillance instances with the technical support of UTSAN and an advisory committee that includes the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations System and the international cooperation that finances specific related projects. The policy framework should provide adequate

profitability for small producers so that they can remain in rural areas, reducing incentives for youth migration.

Action 2: Promote a fair marketing policy for producers and consumers

Facilitate a policy context that fosters fairness and equity in food marketing relationships, including with a particular focus on women; encourage prices that are fair to both small-scale food producers and MSMEs and the household economy, yet nutritious for consumers; improve the capacity of local industry to compete in the domestic market with imported products; expand the coverage of produce outlets, not only in large cities, but also in villages.

Action 3: Improve pathways, including digital pathways

Strengthen the physical connectivity of the entire national territory to have better access to marketing, processing and distribution of nutritious food, as well as the mobilization of services, inputs and people, improving and decentralizing the routes of entry, exit and circulation of food. Digital connectivity and mobile service coverage, access to electricity through renewable resources, and the internet should be strengthened for access to food and markets, and to improve price monitoring and income-generating opportunities. Training and technical assistance on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) should also be increased for vulnerable groups for the continuity of businesses, as well as for the generation of alternative ways of family income through digital formats of trade in goods and services. Access routes for producers and consumers, collection and storage must be guaranteed at all times, especially in the face of extreme weather events. Structures must be more decentralized to reduce food losses and to ensure food availability for the most vulnerable consumers even in emergencies and protracted climate, socio-economic or health crises.

Action 4: Strengthen the relationship between producers, MSMEs and consumers with short food marketing chains.

Promote direct food marketing by strengthening the negotiation capacity of producers with knowledge management on national, regional and international markets; reduce intermediation in food markets; establish food storage, processing and distribution infrastructure in all regions of the country; promote access to digital trading platforms; open more spaces for food fairs in cities, so that consumers with fewer resources can access fresh produce and producers can sell; train food MSMEs in nutritional issues in order to diversify supply and improve the nutritional quality of their products. The action also seeks to increase food processing capacities, to create added value locally, with a view to increasing employment and entrepreneurship aimed at local, regional and international levels.

Action 5: Connecting Social Protection Programmes

Social protection programmes should improve access to nutritious food through the provision of local products as an effective measure to reduce poverty and food insecurity and to promote rural development. Therefore, they should be used as an integrating platform for interconnected actions to improve the ability of all people to have, access and consume nutritious food produced locally and that is also culturally acceptable, especially for priority groups (children under five, breastfeeding women, pregnant women, people with disabilities, people living in poverty and extreme poverty, small producers

and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations). This action seeks to mobilize public investments in social protection programmes in which local producers can connect commercially with needy consumers through public purchases, cash transfers, expanded school feeding programmes that link integrally to social protection programmes in nutrition, health and education and others, to ensure access for all to fresh, nutritious and high quality food. This action also proposes to include food education in schools, as well as for the general population, linked to social protection programmes, and public policies to facilitate informed food choices by consumers.

b. Action Track 5: Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses

Work to build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses to ensure uninterrupted food system functionality in areas prone to conflict, natural disasters or other types of social, economic, environmental or health shocks or stressors; seek to build and protect local food supplies and storage from the effects of pandemics; and ensure that all people in a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand and recover from instability. Strengthening resilience in local food systems seeks to help people participate in sustainable food systems that, despite shocks and disruptors, provide food security, nutrition and equitable livelihoods for all.

Priority actions to build resilience to vulnerabilities

Action 1: Strengthen risk management systems from a food resilience perspective

Strengthen existing instruments, such as emergency and protracted crisis response protocols, FNS monitoring systems, early warning systems, and prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures; as well as training programs, support programs for better financial risk management for producers, and citizen training programs from a food perspective, in order to ensure the availability, circulation and access to adequate food in all areas of the country, both in the context of emergencies and in protracted crises, especially for priority groups (rural population, indigenous people, women, children, and low-income youth). This action includes establishing strategic food reserves at various levels (family, community, municipality, region and country), as well as grain banks to ensure the preservation of seeds, local reserves of basic grains at all times and the diversification of planting options. It can also include the transfer of risk and its financial consequences through financial products and climate insurance.

Action 2: Enhance the role of local authorities and organised groups

Local authorities, indigenous governments, and community groups are the ones who know the main needs of their population. The harmonization of decisions between local governments and the central government and the local governments' capacity to manage and execute national and international resources should be sought in order to meet the demands and needs of the prioritized groups. Institutional strengthening and community organization should also be promoted through the empowerment of cooperatives or associations at the local level of producers and consumers of priority groups (including women's groups) to facilitate attention with social programmes.

Action 3: Promote land-use planning and integrated watershed management

Ensure better management and planning of sustainable land use: increasing specialized technical assistance for small producers; strengthening access to land and maximizing its use and that of water; integrating high-efficiency technology such as vertical food production, agroforestry systems such as Quesungual and good livestock, agricultural and aquaculture practices for the recovery of ecosystem services; encouraging school and family gardens; promoting the diversification of production; and strengthening the resilience of the household economy to natural events; all this under a capacity building approach at the local level. With regard to water, it is proposed to develop water catchment infrastructure for consumption and production, both in cities and in the countryside, to manage watersheds in an integrated manner, and to strengthen local governance structures.

Action 4: Promote food and nutrition security and food sovereignty

This action seeks to open spaces for the sale of local food from family farming at all levels of the country, through fairs, green markets, central supply centers, marketing infrastructure and expanded food storage. It will seek to improve access to nutritious foods such as fruits, vegetables, and protein sources including animal protein. It is also proposed to promote the transformation of food locally; the management of food imports based on demand gaps and food produced in Honduras.

Action 5: Strengthen market information systems

Improve existing price monitoring systems, as well as information and knowledge on events, trends or forecasts related to climatic, financial or social stressors to ensure supply; improve linkages between supply and consumers, as well as access to information for rural communities and producers that allows them to better understand the market and reduce uncertainty. Improve the capacities of producers in the management of technology and access to information on free international platforms, as well as training on international food markets, the distribution of income and value in supply chains and the search for opportunities in the digital market.

V I Main milestones for action to transform the food system in Honduras



No.	MILESTONE	DATE
1	Approved the Road Map National Council on Food Security and Nutrition approves Roadmap	July 2021
2	New authorities take on the agenda of transforming the food system The new national authorities are aware of and assume the food system transformation agenda as part of their government plans and priorities to achieve the SDGs by 2030.	March 2022
3	The sectoral policy for sustainable agricultural and fisheries innovation has been designed. Formed and operating technical committee for the design of the sectoral policy for sustainable agricultural and fisheries innovation, within the framework of SINASAN.	June 2022
4	Promoting the reform of the Food and Nutritional Security Law and its regulations, which incorporate a food system approach. The Food and Nutritional Security Law is approved and incorporates a focus on food systems transformation towards sustainability and resilience, and attention to protracted crises with a focus on gender equity and the human right to adequate food.	September 2022
5	The approval of the Family Farming Law for the development of the sector is promoted. Approval of the Family Farming Law, which declares family farming to be of national interest and allows the development of a mixed model of technical assistance, through the coordination of SAG and the outsourced management of services; which promotes the generation of employment and income, particularly for women, the preservation of ecosystems and natural resources such as water, soil and biodiversity.	December 2022
6	School Feeding Programme strengthened with local purchases and food education Implemented the Expanded School Feeding Program, with a comprehensive approach to nutrition, health and education, with local public procurement, food education, technology and decentralized management.	June 2023
7	Boosting the design of public policy for access to credit in the agri-food sector.	December 2023

	Public policy of preferential attention for priority groups (MSMEs, women, young entrepreneurs) for access to agricultural and non-agricultural credit in the agri-food sector, including the offer by the State of specialized financial products, has been developed and implemented.	
8	State encourages direct marketing of nutritious foods Encouraged the development and implementation of a public policy for a short-circuit commercialization chain, linking information systems with producers and consumers, through popular markets, mobile fairs, supply centers, and digital platforms for trade and information, among others.	June 2024
9	Risk Management System Strengthens Food System Resilience Strengthened institutional capacity in the risk management and emergency response sector, from a food systems resilience approach, through decentralized food reserves, an integrated market information system.	December 2024
10	Digital Transformation energised in the food system Developed the use of digital tools among local food system actors in Honduras to coordinate the production, supply and consumption of healthy and sustainable food.	June 2025