

CONTRIBUTION OF THE SPANISH FEDERATION OF FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES (FIAB) TO FAO'S CONSULTATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION 2016-2025

What are the top three priority actions on nutrition within each of the six Action Areas that should be prioritized by stakeholders going forward, in order to make a difference in nutrition and contribute to ending all forms of malnutrition?

Priority focus areas are being tentatively proposed as per the table below. Please indicate if any key elements are missing.

CONTRIBUTION. Key elements that may be also included in the Action Areas.

Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

- Foster investment in research and innovation to make better use of resources, by-products and “waste”, across the different food production sectors, and among industry and the primary sector.
- Establish common safety, nutritional quality and sustainability standards for all the products —irrespective of their country of origin— in order to maintain their competitiveness.

Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

- Include a dietitian-nutritionist in all EU health systems (hospitals and health centres).

Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education

- Promote nutrition education from an early age. Provide training in nutrition and cooking so that children can become informed and responsible consumers in the future.
- Provide training in nutrition and healthy diets for parents or educational staff in charge of school canteens.

Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition

- Encourage innovation support for the development and/or improvement of more sustainable technologies or production processes, favouring the nutritional quality, and contributing to the commercialization of food products promoting healthier diets.

Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all

- Foster the engagement of dietitians-nutritionists, not only in school and institutional canteens, but also as essential supportive figures in the catering and/or hospitality industry and the distribution sector (supermarkets).

Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

* La información obtenida en esta Circular y documentos adjuntos tiene carácter confidencial y su transmisión está restringida a FIAB, a las Asociaciones Miembros de FIAB y a sus empresas asociadas. Si Vd. no es el destinatario de las mismas, considérese advertido de que lo ha recibido por error y que cualquier uso, difusión o copia están prohibidos legalmente. Si ha recibido esta información por error, le rogamos lo comunique por correo electrónico a fiab@fiab.es, y proceda a destruirlo.

CONTRIBUTION. Comments on the proposed actions.

Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets
<i>Scale-up the inclusion of nutrition objectives in food and agriculture policies:</i> increase production of context-appropriate fruits and vegetables for domestic consumption, and of legumes and pulses that contribute to healthy diets; raise production of oils in support of the elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply.
<i>Accelerate food reformulation:</i> provide reference ranges for sodium reduction level benchmarks for processed foods.
<i>Accelerate strengthening food control systems:</i> implement national programmes for surveillance of food-borne diseases in humans and contamination of food-borne hazards in the food chain.
Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions
<i>Scale up the integration of nutrition actions into health systems:</i> integrate essential nutrition actions into national Universal Health Coverage (UHC) plans.
<i>Address funding gaps:</i> increase investments for nutrition in UHC, including for integrated data systems for tracking coverage and quality of essential nutrition actions.
<i>Accelerate progress on wasting reduction:</i> implement the UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting and its Roadmap.
Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education
<i>Scale up the implementation of nutrition-sensitive social protection policies:</i> ensure coherence between social protection and other sector programmes such as with agricultural production, livelihood diversification and local economic development; national supplementary food bank programmes provide weekly vouchers to each user for purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers.
<i>Better leverage of schools as a platform for food and nutrition education and enabling healthy diets:</i> set and improve nutrition standards for school meals.
<i>Accelerate building nutrition capacity:</i> increase the number and quality of nutrition professionals; train healthcare workers to better deliver nutrition action across the life-course.
<i>Scale up the implementation of nutrition education interventions:</i> implement easily understandable nutrition (front-of-pack) labelling on food products that supports consumers' choices for healthy diets.
Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition
<i>Accelerate responsible and sustainable investments in nutrition:</i> a minimum percentage of the overall national governmental yearly budget is set for nutrition interventions.

Commented [CM1]: Include nutritional objectives based on specific dietary patterns, such as the Mediterranean diet or the concept of prudent diet.

Commented [CM2]: In order to determine/assess what type of measures are working and which ones are not effective.

Commented [CM3]: Nutrition and food education is essential. However, it should not be based —exclusively— on labelling. Instead, it should also be aimed at gaining knowledge on nutrition and healthy diets. In this way, consumers and users can make more informed and responsible decisions regarding their health, taking into account the information provided in food labels. Summarising this information in a simple way may be detrimental to the overall quality of the diet and generate more confusion among consumers.

* La información obtenida en esta Circular y documentos adjuntos tiene carácter confidencial y su transmisión está restringida a FIAB, a las Asociaciones Miembros de FIAB y a sus empresas asociadas. Si Vd. no es el destinatario de las mismas, considérese advertido de que lo ha recibido por error y que cualquier uso, difusión o copia están prohibidos legalmente. Si ha recibido esta información por error, le rogamos lo comunique por correo electrónico a fiab@fiab.es, y proceda a destruirlo.

<i>Scale up the implementation of nutrition-sensitive trade policies:</i> establish a national task force represented by different sectors for assessing the coherence between national trade policies and the implemented nutrition actions.
<i>Strengthen partnerships for data collection and development of tools:</i> global institutions to continue to improve data collection and develop methods and indicators to better understand trade policy impacts on nutrition.
<i>Accelerate investments in local food supply chains:</i> gradual increase yearly public sector government budget for investments in cold chain technology and post-harvest handling of perishable foods.
Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages
<i>Scale up the implementation of regulatory instruments to promote healthy diets:</i> introduce taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages and subsidies for fruits and vegetables; implement legislation of marketing restrictions of foods and beverages high in fat, sugar and/or salt to children.
<i>Scale up the implementation of nutrition-sensitive public food procurement policies:</i> set food and nutrition-based standards for the food and meals provided in hospitals, care facilities and other public settings.
<i>Scale up the implementation of national dietary guidelines:</i> include in national dietary guidelines for children, adults and elderly biodiversity and sustainability considerations.
<i>Scale up the implementation of nutrition-sensitive policies for improving local food and nutrition environments:</i> introduce zoning regulations and tax regimes to minimize food deserts and swamps
Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition
<i>Enhance political commitment through political dialogue and advocacy at national and sub-national levels:</i> establish and strengthen coordination mechanism through a multistakeholder consultation process for the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
<i>Address research funding gap:</i> increase investment for research on the adaptation of global recommendations to the country context to support capacity development for implementation.
<i>Scale up investments in national nutrition information system:</i> establish and strengthen a national nutrition monitoring framework in line with global guidance and the SDG monitoring framework in order to identify challenges and gaps for informed and effective policymaking.
<i>Accelerate global governance and accountability:</i> use global summits such as the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 for setting new commitments for action on nutrition and streamlining the global nutrition accountability infrastructure.

Commented [CM4]: Such measures have not proven to be effective in terms of health, and may have an impact on employment and value creation.

Commented [CM5]: Not only dietary guidelines, but also lifestyle guidance, taking into account the concept of personalized nutrition, preventive medicine and health.

Which are key cross-cutting actions that would facilitate interlinkages and create synergies between Action Areas?

- **Public-private collaboration** for the development and implementation of plans and/or actions contributing to the improvement of food (and nutrition).
- **Support research, development and innovation throughout the value chain** (from farm to fork) by developing **affordable funding schemes/systems for all, and by granting aid** (i.e. increasing allocated funding) to innovative projects.
- **Establish —with public and private support—networks** between research centres, universities, hubs and the private sector (including the entire agrifood chain), **to create collaborative working environments** that enable the development of synergic projects favouring the achievement of the different objectives of Action Areas.

What do you think are the top three emerging issues and/or trends likely to hamper the achievement of the global nutrition targets? What would you like to see done to address them?

Focusing only on food systems or agrifood companies might hamper the achievement of the global nutrition targets, as diets **are influenced not only by the products of these systems**, but also by other factors such as individual habits and customs (culture), individual preferences, socio-economic and educational level, time available for meals, etc. All these factors influence food choices.

Furthermore, nowadays **we also know that the impact of food on health is different for every person**. It depends not only on the food choices, but also on the genes, the environment and the surrounding factors, and the overall lifestyle.

This is why **focusing the improvement of nutrition in the way food systems work** —already providing, in many cases, a wide variety of safe, nutritious, and affordable food— **will not be the solution to the problems we face today**.

- **Lack of public funding to make the necessary changes and/or improvements to achieve the proposed objectives.**

Without the necessary investment, many agrifood companies —mostly SMEs— do not have the necessary resources —neither in economic terms nor in terms of training or innovation— to implement the measures that would contribute to the intended improvement of food systems.

- **Lack of nutritional and/or food education among the population.** This is essential when we want to change a paradigm or a specific way of doing things.

Without adequate training, changing deeply-rooted habits and customs is hardly possible in any society.