CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

From Foresight to Field: Exploring regional and multistakeholder perspectives to implement a foresight on emerging technologies and innovations in agrifood systems

In 2023, FAO’s Office of Innovation (OIN) in collaboration with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), published the Global foresight synthesis report "Harvesting change: Harnessing emerging technologies and innovations for agrifood system transformation"[1]. The report explores the critical role of technology and innovation in transforming agrifood systems to address future challenges in the attempt to shorten the time lag between research and investment innovation phases and the uptake of technology and innovation, thus creating preparedness an ensuring inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

Furthermore, the report explores five potential future scenarios for agrifood systems’ technologies and innovations in 2050 and beyond. These five global scenarios offer a glimpse into the potential futures of agrifood systems depending on the emergence of technologies and innovations and their enabling environment. By understanding these possibilities, stakeholders can make informed decisions about the development and use of technologies and innovations to create a more sustainable and equitable agrifood systems.

1 The work on the synthesis and full foresight reports is the result of the fruitful collaboration of the OIN’s multidisciplinary team under the guidance of the OIN Director, Vincent Martin, including Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova, Zofia Krystyna Mroczek, Kacper Nosarzewski, Norbert Kolos, Jieqiong Wan and Nikola Trendov, with CIRAD, namely Patrice Djamen and Sarah Audouin. Key contributions to the work have been made also by the International Agri-food Network, and diverse experts and stakeholders from around the globe.
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To deepen an understanding of the potential pathways of the agrifood system transformation at regional level, OIN team is calling stakeholders to contribute to the full foresight report that will build on the synthesis report and elaborate further on the regional pathways of transformation. The results of your submissions will be analysed and acknowledged in the full foresight report, but more importantly, will be used to inform anticipatory strategic planning at regional and national levels, equipping stakeholders with the capacity not only to envision possible future scenarios, but also to proactively influence them by concrete steps towards desirable future.

Since the global foresight synthesis report is published only in English, the OIN team has prepared the background document that is available in the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). This document can serve as a reference for completing the template for submissions.

The submission findings will be featured during FAO’s multistakeholder workshop "FutureFood-I Lab in action: Cultivating Innovation for Agrifood Systems’ Transformation” (June 2024, Italy). The full foresight report will help raise awareness about importance of anticipatory approaches, as well as contribute to a global discussion about the potential of the technologies and innovations to transform agrifood systems of the future.

Contributions are welcome in six UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Proceedings of the contributions received will be made publicly available on this webpage.

This call for submissions is open until 03 June 2024.

We thank participants in advance and sincerely hope that your contributions will also bring in valuable insights from diverse regions.

Co-facilitators:

- Dr Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova, Agricultural Extension Officer, Office of Innovation (OIN), FAO
- Ms Zofia Krystyna Mroczek, Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Specialist, OIN, FAO

How to take part in this call for submissions:

To take part in this Call for submissions, please register to the FSN Forum, if you are not yet a member, or "sign in" to your account. Please download the submission template in any of six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and upload the completed form in the box "Post your contribution" on this webpage. For any technical questions or assistance please contact fsn-moderator@fao.org.