



Questions and answers about the **UN Food Systems Summit**



What is the Food Systems Summit?

It is a global meeting convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to identify actions and policies that transform food systems, a concept that includes the production, processing, transportation, commercialization and consumption of food. The UN seeks to encourage world leaders and civil society to work towards “transforming the way the world produces, consumes, and thinks about food”.



What has the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) done in preparation for the Summit?

With the aim that the voice of the countries and agricultural producers of the Americas be heard at the Summit, IICA organized numerous debates with representatives from its thirty-four member States, where they delivered their conclusions from debates in their own countries and expressed their points of view about what the region’s priorities should be. It also initiated a large number of round tables with leaders and experts from public and private sector organizations. A document was thus agreed on with key messages that reflect the region’s position, based on three main principles: agricultural producers must be represented; the decisions and policies that are adopted must be based on science; and agriculture is part of the solution to the challenges facing humanity.



Why is IICA participating actively in this UN Summit?

IICA decided to join and participate actively in this instance of multilateral dialogue because it understands that agriculture and other sectors that generate goods and services for the world economy must be transformed. In the case of the agricultural sector, it is important to acknowledge the multiple contributions made in the last five decades, and seek to make adjustments that will lead to greater harmony with the environment, greater emphasis on safety, productivity and nutrition, while always recognizing the sector's trajectory, its essential contributions and its evolution.



What are the Summit's goals?

The Summit seeks to raise public awareness all over the world and reach agreements that ensure that food systems are healthy, sustainable and inclusive and contribute more efficiently to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by world leaders to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and attain a better future for people. Consequently, the Summit not only seeks to guarantee global food security but also to favor the healthiest food production to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promote a form of production that respects nature and protects ecosystems.



Why was the Summit convened?

Because although enough food is produced for the 8.2 billion inhabitants who make up the world population, there are 820 million people who are starving and around 2 billion who are overweight due to obstacles to accessing healthy foods. Global food systems have deficiencies that were exposed and aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is calculated that one third of food is wasted, while at the same time production is strongly affected by climate change, which causes extreme events such as droughts, floods and major forest fires.



How is the Summit organized?

The Summit will be led by the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the UN, Agnes Kalibata, former minister of Agriculture of Rwanda. She will work with an evaluating committee, made up of experts from international organizations and representatives of the Member States. They will be joined by a scientific group, led by Joachim von Braun of the University of Bonn in Germany, and a Summit Champions Network, with people and institutions who promote the transformation of food systems. One of them is the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA.) Between 26 and 28 July, the Pre-Summit or Preparatory Summit will take place in Rome. The main Summit, as announced, will take place in New York at the General Assembly of the United Nations.