



Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue: Boosting Nature Positive Agriculture at Scale Discussion Guide

Objective:

The Food Systems Summit is a global initiative led by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to help inspire a decade of action to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Independent dialogues are recognized by the Food System Summit as one of the primary ways of engaging with the summit in a meaningful way. They are designed to be a locally based, locally led discussion to crowdsource sustainable solutions to strengthen local and global food systems.

This independent dialogue, sponsored by Solutions from the Land and a cross section of collaborating food system stakeholders, will bring together a diverse range of U.S. producers to discuss the summit's third Action Track: Boosting Nature Positive Production. Through engagement and discussion, this dialogue will explore U.S. systems, practices and pathways for optimizing environmental resource use in food production and helping reduce biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Collaborating Partners:

Almond Board of California; Animal Agriculture Alliance; Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions; National Corn Growers Association; National Institute for Animal Agriculture; Solutions from the Land; U.S. Grains Council; U.S. Soybean Export Council

Format:

The format of this dialogue will include two parts: a plenary session and a breakout session. Participants will first join the plenary session and hear an introduction to the Food Systems Summit. Presenters will then provide three "Firestarter" presentations from producers on the following topics:

1. Animal agriculture and achieving net-zero emissions
2. Soil health and carbon sequestration
3. Sustainability in tree nut production

The intention of these presentations is to get participants thinking of all the ways they are (or could be) contributing to shaping the food system of the future. Participants will then "breakout" into discussion groups of their choosing, focused around their interest area or commodity preference:

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| 1. Grains, feed and oilseeds | 6. Sheep |
| 2. Dairy | 7. Fruits and Nuts |
| 3. Beef | 8. Vegetables |
| 4. Poultry | 9. Cotton and natural fibers |
| 5. Pork | 10. Sweeteners |

Breakout groups will meet for approximately 60 minutes. Breakout groups will provide farmer, rancher and grower participants the opportunity to discuss how they understand sustainable development, how sustainable development applies to their sectors and farmers, and how U.S.

agriculture can achieve sustainable outcomes. Following the breakout sessions, participants will reconvene in the plenary for a brief readout from each breakout group and closing remarks.

Breakout Groups:

While in the breakout groups, participants will have the opportunity to explore and share ideas around the sustainable practices taking place in their commodity sectors and discuss ways of further incorporating sustainable practices to reduce environmental impact and achieve outcomes that improve lives. Breakout group leaders will prompt discussion and engagement among participants and moderate as needed. Participants may consider the following questions for discussion:

1. What innovative practices are producers currently using to sustainably intensify production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deliver solutions to other Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What current incentives are most successful for scaling adoption of sustainable practices and what new incentives may be necessary? What action needs to occur to create those incentives?
3. What role does technology and innovation play in promoting sustainability on your farm?
4. What are some of the regulatory or research constraints or obstacles that need to be addressed to move this forward?
5. What information do you need to understand sustainable goals and how they apply to your farm?

Rules:

This dialogue will be off the record and follow the [Chatham House Rule](#), which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers, nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Plenary and breakout sessions will be recorded for in-house use only. In addition, participants will follow the principles of engagement for the Food Systems Summit:

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| 1. Act with urgency | 5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity |
| 2. Commit to the summit | 6. Complement the work of others |
| 3. Be respectful | 7. Build trust |
| 4. Recognize complexity | |

Outcomes:

Plenary and breakout session discussion will be summarized and contribute to an outcomes paper that will share our sustainability success stories and vision for a sustainable future and help inform coalition messaging and engagement on the Summit. The outcomes paper may also be shared with UN Food Systems Summit leadership and U.S. Government stakeholders as input into Action Track 3.