



UN Food Systems Summit Commitment September 10, 2021

There has never been a greater need for an Agricultural Renaissance. The many voices of farmers, echoing across centuries of scarcity and abundance, challenge us to find new ways forward, paths that produce abundance for expanding populations while rejecting wasteful destruction of resources. We must seek these new ways to collaborate and innovate together. For if we can create an unprecedented pathway of collaboration as many peoples who inhabit this small planet, we may be able to tell the remarkable story of our species as it re-learns to thrive sustainably.

As our human population approaches 8 billion, we have altered the landscapes on every continent to feed, clothe, establish and protect ourselves in a multitude of cultures, languages, technical waves and governing structures. We depend on the resources of those landscapes for our survival, but we are rapidly depleting these soils, seas, rivers and forests. Any prolonged collapse of global food systems would create a world of scarcity and struggle wherein nations fight for resources and face the greater threat of battling the inescapable forces of nature that we have tried to control.

Those of us who manage living systems and natural resources to produce food and fiber must understand and acknowledge the past in order to embrace the present and prepare for a challenging, less-predictable future. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 conjure a bold vision for humanity that is possible but has yet to exist. They lay out an ambitious framework for how humankind might come together in collaboration to build a better world, with systematic international cooperation and strategic design to bring our human systems into alignment and harmony with natural systems. **This vision requires participation and leadership from farmers, ranchers, foresters, and all their partners in agriculture to establish the social and environmental foundation for the successful achievement of the SDGs. For without successful agriculture humankind cannot thrive.**

In support of these outcomes, SfL commits to:

- **Inspire** agricultural and forest sector leaders to become leaders in the broader discussion of sustainable food systems and climate change, including adaptation and mitigation.
- **Mobilize** thought leaders to advocate for needed changes in food system land use practices, research, education and policy.
- **Educate** agricultural and forestry leaders on the potential impacts of climate change on food systems in ways relevant to their daily lives.
- **Equip** producers with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions and manage new risks under changing conditions.