

**OECD MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022**  
**U.S. STATEMENT FOR PLENARY SESSION I *TAKING ACTION TOGETHER FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY: LESSONS FROM RECENT CRISES***

Commodity prices have been rising for the better part of two years, putting global food security in the spotlight. Contributing factors include increased global demand, tighter stocks, adverse growing conditions, rising energy and input costs, and ongoing supply chain issues. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has only exacerbated the situation. The climate crisis too is disrupting food systems, worsening food insecurity, and negatively affecting the livelihoods of agricultural producers worldwide. Joint international action is key to ensuring global food security while enhancing agriculture's climate resilience and reducing its climate impacts.

The current global situation underscores the need for us to unite behind common principles and take action to end hunger and poverty, face the challenges of climate change head on, and build more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. We have learned a lot from recent crises and continue to find new ways to adapt. We have seen that liberalizing trade, through tariff reductions, suspension of burdensome regulatory requirements, and avoidance of unjustified export restrictions, can help alleviate inflationary price pressures and facilitate the efficient movement of goods to areas in need. We have also seen that resilience can be strengthened by a diversity of supply chains. Informed by this observation, the United States announced a framework in June 2022 to transform U.S. food systems by expanding the diversity of market opportunities available to small and mid-size producers and making access to nutritious diets more equitable.

These crises have also put the OECD competencies in perspective. We must continue working together to analyze how agriculture and food systems can better respond to crises. This includes focuses on agricultural policy monitoring and evaluation; innovations to enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience; market information and analysis; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and resilient food systems. We must come together in support of science-based, data-driven decision making. Only by leveraging innovation and science, including biotechnology, can we provide our farmers, fishers, foresters, and other producers with the tools they need to improve productivity, sustainability, and resilience. The need for market and policy transparency has also never been greater, which is why support for the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is critical, as reflected in the OECD Agriculture Ministers Declaration on transformative solutions for sustainable agriculture and food systems. The United States is currently supporting this effort through serving as the AMIS Chair. Through such efforts – and through our mutual commitment to keeping markets open, supply chains moving, and trade flowing – we can marshal the power of international cooperation to mitigate the impacts of crises, while at the same time building sustainable and equitable food systems that are more resilient to the effects of pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, climate change, and other shocks.

**OECD MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022**  
**U.S. STATEMENT FOR PLENARY SESSION II *ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION:***  
***ENHANCING INNOVATION, PROMOTING PRODUCTIVITY***

Agricultural productivity growth is fundamental to food and nutrition security, helping to alleviate poverty among the world's most vulnerable communities. With access to innovative tools and approaches, farmers can increase agricultural productivity, increase their incomes, and improve food affordability and access for their communities. According to the World Bank and *Harvesting Prosperity*, two-thirds of the globe's extremely poor citizens earn their livelihoods in farming, and productivity growth in agriculture is one of the major ways to reduce poverty.

Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity is essential to meet the needs of the current and growing global population. Improved agricultural productivity allows farmers to produce commodities with fewer resources, which can lower unit costs, reduce agricultural prices and land pressures, and improve food security. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, historical improvements in agricultural productivity led to an average annual decline of one percent in inflation-adjusted commodity prices from 1900 through 2000, even as the world's population tripled. However, innovation to improve agricultural productivity and contain food prices is not just about keeping up with population growth. [FAO's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022](#) report estimates that almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, 12 million more than in 2019. Adoption of new technologies and approaches to sustainably increase agricultural productivity growth is critical for billions of people around the world whose budgets are stretched by high food prices.

Agricultural productivity growth also supports food security by helping to sustain the long-term viability of agriculture by conserving resources and supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation. Without productivity growth, meeting growing global food needs would require expanding agricultural production into the world's remaining forests and other critical ecosystems, with associated negative impacts on biodiversity and GHG emissions. The [2022 OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook](#) report estimates that in order to achieve the Zero Hunger target while keeping agricultural emissions on track to reach the Paris Agreement targets, average global agricultural productivity would need to increase by 28 percent over the next decade. Despite the clear need to accelerate productivity growth, it is not being done in a sustainable way. The [2022 Global Agricultural Productivity Report](#) released in October finds that global agricultural productivity growth is in steep decline and that in order to sustainably produce food and agricultural products for more than nine billion people in 2050, productivity must increase from the current low of 1.12 percent per year to 1.73 percent. We must work together to reverse this trend.

There are several good models for sustainably growing agricultural productivity. For example, the United States and more than 100 partners, including governments, civil society groups, and stakeholders from around the world are working together through the Sustainable Productivity Growth (SPG) Coalition to accelerate agricultural productivity growth that is sustainable across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. New members are welcomed to join. Expanding the breadth and depth of the SPG Coalition will enhance its ability to identify, develop, and disseminate innovative technologies and approaches for accelerating sustainable agricultural productivity growth at all scales. The United States is also investing in research and innovation

through our domestic programming and leveraging partnerships with research agencies around the world to develop solutions that increase food security, support sustainable food systems, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), a voluntary global initiative launched by the United States and United Arab Emirates, for example, unites participants to significantly increase investment in and support for climate-smart-agriculture and food systems innovation over five years (2021-2025). AIM for Climate now has more than 40 government partners and more than 250 non-governmental partners worldwide and welcomes additional partners to drive more rapid and transformative climate action in the agricultural sector.

Trade is also a critical tool for enhancing food security. Open markets and science-driven regulatory regimes are critical to develop innovative new technologies. Trade improves access to diverse foods for healthy diets and, in times of disruptions to the food supply, open markets help smooth the distribution of food along supply chains and facilitate the movement of goods to where they are needed. Diversified supply sources allow firms along the food chain to adapt rapidly when specific sources are disrupted.

Preventing, recovering, and recycling food loss and waste (FLW) is also critical to increasing food security, promoting resource and energy conservation, and addressing climate change and related shocks to the supply chain. FLW costs the global economy \$936 billion each year and represents around 8-10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, when food is wasted, all the land, water, labor, energy, and other inputs used in producing, processing, transporting, storing, and disposing of the discarded food are also wasted. In 2015, the United States set a goal to reduce FLW by 50 percent by 2030, in line with SDG target 12.3, and has since worked with domestic and international partners towards this end. The United States was proud to support and announce the formation of the Food is Never Waste Coalition as part of the UN Food Systems Summit and welcomes new members to join.

The digital revolution can also help drive the transition to more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food and agriculture systems. Ending the information imbalance, by leveraging digital tools and technologies, can lead to many benefits for our agriculture and food systems and the people involved in them. In the United States, for example, we are investing in rural broadband, including in unserved rural areas and Tribal lands, as a catalyst for rural prosperity and to enable markets and customers around the world.

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**U.S. STATEMENT FOR PLENARY SESSION III *IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES***  
***AND ADJUSTMENT CHALLENGES***

We know that innovation is key to increasing productivity and profitability in agriculture, while providing benefits for the climate and the environment. But for this to be true, innovation must be inclusive and accessible to all participants in our food and agricultural systems – particularly vulnerable and underserved populations, such as women, youth, those with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples. Equity and environmental justice are vital considerations in the United States’ strategy. We are working to ensure that the programs we support and the investments we make are available to everyone, including taking special steps to ensure that investments fairly and equitably benefit communities that are disproportionately vulnerable and historically underserved. In formulating our Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy, for example, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted months of public outreach and consultation. Our *Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities* program requires funded projects to have a plan for reaching and working with underserved producers and the second round of funds will be awarded specifically to underserved populations. This demonstrates how the U.S. strategy will advance equity, environmental, and racial justice, and improve access that will benefit all farmers, landowners, land managers, Tribes, and communities.

The digital revolution can also help drive the transition to more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food and agriculture systems. It can also contribute to diversifying income sources on farm by expanding work and training opportunities. But for too long, the “digital divide” has left many people in rural communities behind, unable to compete in the global economy and unable to access the services and resources that they need to be successful. The success of the digital agricultural transformation depends on inclusivity through: listening to, and partnering with, underserved populations to fully understand their needs and deliver appropriate services and solutions; investment in research and development of new technologies; outreach and extension systems to include all producers; and a policy and regulatory environment that supports and fosters innovation, technology, and science. In the United States, for example, we are investing in rural broadband, including in unserved rural areas and Tribal lands, as a catalyst for rural prosperity and to enable access to markets and customers around the world.

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners around the world are on the front lines of climate change. At the same time, they are uniquely positioned to deliver climate solutions by implementing climate-smart production practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. In the United States, we are investing heavily to provide communities the resources and tools they need to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. The Inflation Reduction Act passed in August 2022, for example, provides USDA with nearly \$40 billion to invest over the next 10 years to improve life and livelihoods in rural communities, including by expanding programs for climate-smart agriculture and forestry, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and protection from wildfires. When we are asking farmers, foresters, and ranchers to implement climate-smart practices that contribute to adaptation and mitigation, we must ensure that these solutions actually work for agriculture. The United States is working to minimize the risk of the necessary investments producers must make, while at the same time creating market opportunities to ensure lasting transformation.

**OECD MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022**  
**U.S. STATEMENT FOR PLENARY SESSION IV *STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY: TRANSFORMING PRODUCTION, BUILDING RESILIENCE***

Transformation in our agriculture and food systems can only happen at the needed scale and speed if stakeholders across the agriculture and forestry sectors can reap the benefits of sustainable, climate-smart policies and practices as they strive to maximize their productivity and profitability. Toward this end, the United States is assisting farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in adapting and building resilience to a changing climate while sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes and managing natural resources for future generations. Throughout the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy, we employ an approach that is grounded in science, comprehensive, equitable, voluntary, and incentive-based. This includes implementing practices that address the causes and manage the effects of climate change, improving quantification and metrics to account for the greenhouse gas benefits of these practices, and improving energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. We are also expanding conservation program opportunities that support climate-smart agriculture and investing in projects focused on voluntary, market-based strategies.

The U.S. approach is a market-oriented and trade-facilitating one that recognizes the value of a rules-based multilateral trading system and its ability to contribute to addressing contemporary challenges in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable way. There is strong and growing interest for food that is grown in a climate-friendly way, creating a major market opportunity for climate-smart agriculture. Based on what we heard from our stakeholder outreach, USDA launched the *Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities* as the centerpiece of our strategy to position agriculture as a leader in delivering climate solutions through voluntary, incentive-based, market-driven approaches. When USDA launched the Partnerships earlier this year, we committed \$1 billion in support. But because of the tremendous interest from U.S. agricultural stakeholders, we have tripled that commitment to more than \$3 billion this year. For the first round of Partnerships funding, USDA received more than 450 proposals from stakeholders including farmers and farm organizations, energy and environmental groups, research institutions, state/local and Tribal governments, and businesses of all sizes. The initial awards are supporting 70 projects that will deliver significant impacts for producers and communities in all 50 U.S. states, resulting in the application of climate-smart production practices on more than 25 million acres of working land, with expanded market opportunities and revenue streams for producers of all sizes and types.

The United States recognizes that joint international action is key to ensuring global food security while enhancing agriculture's ability to address the causes and manage the consequences of climate change. We are proud to be part of many global coalitions and initiatives that are working towards that goal, including the Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition, the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, the Global Methane Pledge, and the Global Fertilizer Challenge. We look forward to discussions and announcements at COP27 and beyond, acknowledging that further ambition and action are needed to build more sustainable, equitable, and resilient agriculture and food systems.