



GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM



***Joint GDP/IDF Statement  
UN Food Systems Summit  
16 September 2021***

World leaders will be coming together on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for a landmark meeting on sustainable food systems.

All countries are facing the triple challenge of ensuring that Food Systems 1) deliver on food security and nutrition for the growing global population; 2) support the livelihoods of all those working along the food production and supply chain and 3) contribute to environmental sustainability of food systems.

Our hope is that in agreeing on commitments at the Summit, the Heads of States recognize that the only actions which will succeed long term in helping to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 are ones which:

- are inclusive of the diversity of agricultural systems around the world
- acknowledge that food production is inextricably linked with national economies, individual livelihoods, health and many other areas of life will succeed.

The global community needs the recommendations made by the Food Systems Summit to be balanced and not based on ideology or tradeoffs which could put long term food security and livelihoods at risk.

The global dairy sector is committed to nourishing the global population with safe and nutritious foods through sustainable production systems. This commitment is expressed in the [Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam](#) signed in 2016 between the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the FAO. Dairy contributes to several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly to Zero Hunger, Alleviation of Poverty, and Gender Equality.

Dairy foods are a staple in human diets with traditions deeply woven into societies all around the world. Billions of people worldwide rely on dairy for nutrition daily. Dairy products are naturally nutrient dense foods, supplying significant amounts of high-quality protein and micronutrients, including calcium, magnesium, selenium, riboflavin, and vitamins B5 and B12. [Strong scientific evidence](#) supports the critical role of milk and dairy foods in global nutrition and health. Although dairy provides important nutrition through the life course, it is particularly important for nourishing children, and at least [160 million children around the world](#) currently benefit from dedicated school milk programs.

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) and their members support the overall goal of the Summit to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs.

As such, both organizations have actively participated in all the preparatory work which has taken place in the run up to the Summit to increase the understanding of the significant contribution dairy makes to food security, nutrition, and livelihoods around the world.

We have consistently highlighted the fact that animal and plant-based foods are complimentary in a healthy diet, and that both have an important role in the development and maintenance of sustainable food systems.

In addition, GDP and IDF have submitted several Game Changing initiatives for consideration by Summit leadership. We are also proud of our contribution to the development of a country led Sustainable Livestock Coalition that intends to be active for years to come and will deliver well beyond the Summit itself.

IDF and GDP are supportive of the work of the Food Safety Coalition because we recognize that food safety is core to food systems and key to deliver on the UN SDGs. Good food safety is essential to guarantee public health, to strengthen the trust between consumers, farmers and the food chain and also to reduce food loss and waste.

It is clear that Food Systems are a highly complex and diverse space. There is no simple, single action blueprint that can be applied to food production. Rather, there are multiple choices and a variety of sustainable practices which can be adapted to suit local needs. With everyone adopting more sustainable solutions, collectively we will be able to deliver for healthy people and a healthy planet.

We urge the Heads of State taking part in the Food Systems Summit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize the role of dairy in the development of a more resilient, safe, healthy, and equitable global food system in the future



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For more details on the contribution of the dairy sector, please read our [March Statement](#)