

**MORE ABOUT FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY - PARALLEL SESSION:
FORESIGHT4FOOD – THE SCIENCE AND POLITICS OF EXPLORING THE FUTURE FOR
ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE**

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Overview

This interactive session will introduce foresight for food systems and explore implications for transformation pathways. The session will be opened by Dr Shenggen Fan Director General of IFPRI who will set the context. Dr Jim Woodhill will provide an overview of the foresight methodology and the Foresight4Food Initiative. An interactive panel discussions will explore implications for the issues and outcomes of the conference. The session will be facilitated by Joost Guijt.

Background

Knowing what the future holds is never easy. Yet to make decisions that can nudge transformations towards, rather than away from, a food secure future understanding how change might unfold is essential. Tackling this challenge is the world of foresight, scenario analysis and anticipatory governance. Foresight, from a broad perspective, is not simply about predicting the future, it is about asking “what if” - exploring how the world might be give different trajectories that result from choices and decisions we take. Foresight melds science and societal learning with the aim of enabling communities, businesses, societies and systems of governance to be more adaptive and responsive to future risks and opportunities.

Despite how critical transformations in food systems are to political stability, equity, health and the environment, from local to global, we lack the capabilities and processes for effective food systems foresight. Current food systems foresight efforts are often fragmented one-off and generally don't very well integrate the processes of science with processes of societal and political engagement. While faced with the risks of climate change and a food system under pressure, the world seems increasingly sceptical of science, with the promulgation of multiple evidence-free narratives and the challenges. At the same time, the challenge for wise and rational governance is made all the more difficult by the enormous complexity and uncertainty of the issues. Effective foresight is potentially one important way helping to drive systemic changes based on open dialogue underpinned by the use of scientific evidence and rational argument.

Recognising the importance for enhanced foresight for food systems, a network of leading international organisations, research institutes, development agencies and business platforms have engaged in the Foresight4Food Initiative. Foresight4Food aims to enhance capabilities for food system foresight from local to global. It will support processes for better analysis and synthesis of key trends and possible futures in global food systems and more informed dialogue between government, civil society, private sector and science.

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Objectives

The objectives of the session are to:

1. Introduce the Foresight4Food Initiative
2. Outline a methodological framework for foresight and scenario analysis for food systems
3. Explore the implications of the inputs and discussions in the conference for foresight and scenario analysis
4. Provide practical ideas and suggestions for the role of foresight in driving desirable transformations in food systems

Detailed Programme

14:05	Introduction to Session – Joost Guijt
14:10	Setting the context - Shenggen Fan
14:20	Foresight4Food and a framework for foresight – Jim Woodhill
14:30	Panel discussion and dialogue with audience: Panelists: Shenggen Fan (IFPRI) Sangeetha Rajeesh (LANSA) Fokko Wientjes (DSM) (tbc) Loes Masselink (Satelligence) (tbc) Paul Van de Logt DGIS (tbc) Jim Woodhill (Foresight4Food)
15:15	Closing comments – Shenggen Fan
15:20	Feedback on SDG conference E-Dialogue

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